

# SC SONNING COMMON MAGAZINE

## IN THIS ISSUE



### CHILTERN EDGE

Moira Green 'greenshoots  
of progress by October'  
P13



### TWO WAY FAMILY FAVOURITES

communicating with  
home and the world  
P27



### THE ENGLISH CIVIL WARS

Sonning Common  
and the civil war  
P31

**GETTING BACK  
ON TRACK**

**OPEN EVENING**  
Thursday 21st September

**Save Our E**

**www.saveouredg**

**AUG / SEP 2017**



sonningcommonmagazine

[www.sonningcommonmagazine.org](http://www.sonningcommonmagazine.org)

# CARPET FITTER

Fitted Carpets & Vinyl Specialist  
Underlays & Fixings Supplied  
Re-Adaptions & Restretches  
Measuring, Estimating & Planning  
Carpets ★ Vinyl ★ Ceramic Tiles

**25 YEARS EXPERIENCE**

**MICHAEL HODGSON**

TEL: 0118 901 1777 / MOB: 07841 586003

## Caversham Aerial Services

TV Aerials Supplied and Fitted.  
Poor Reception? Old aerials?  
Can't get the new digital channels?

*Give us a call - We can help!*

**Phone 0118 9673596**

[www.caversham-aerials.co.uk](http://www.caversham-aerials.co.uk)



wood lane dentistry



*Vikram Chugani BDS MFDS RCSEd MSc*

*Jessica Lee BDS MFDS RCS*

*Claudia Wellmann BDS MFDS RCSEd MSc MRD*

*Dipesh Kothari BDS MFDS RCSEd*

- Your local family friendly practice
- Routine general dentistry
- Affordable dental plans with Denplan
- Children seen on the NHS
- Tooth whitening
- Cosmetic dentistry and implants
- Invisible braces
- Sedation for nervous patients
- Free parking

Now taking on new patients  
Saturday and evening appointments available

**Happy Healthy  
Smiles...**



Wood Lane Sonning Common Reading  
Berkshire RG4 9SJ Telephone 0118 9722626

[www.woodlanedentistry.co.uk](http://www.woodlanedentistry.co.uk)

## Thinking of moving?

For a free valuation or to enquire about  
one of the properties in our varied portfolio  
please contact Richard Beville

**Beville**  
ESTATE AGENCY

info@beville.co.uk  
www.beville.co.uk  
+44 (0)118 924 25 26  
28 Peppard Road  
Sonning Common  
South Oxon RG4 9SU



**elements;**  
KITCHEN DESIGN

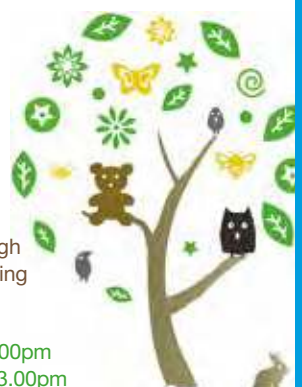
Visit our stunning showroom:  
8b Portman Road, Reading RG30 1EA  
Tel 0118 959 9919  
[www.elementskitchens.co.uk](http://www.elementskitchens.co.uk)

## SONNING COMMON PRE-SCHOOL

GROVE ROAD  
SONNING COMMON  
0118 972 4760

We are a happy friendly pre-school  
welcoming children from 2 years  
6 months, to come and learn through  
play. We have a purpose built building  
& extensive play garden.

Morning sessions are 9.00am - 12.00pm  
Afternoon sessions are 12.00pm - 3.00pm  
After School Club sessions are 3.00pm - 6.00pm





# FROM THE EDITORIAL TEAM

What a lovely summer – I think we have had more sunny days in 2017 than I can remember (dare I admit to remembering the summer of 1976)?

The main feature of this magazine is Chiltern Edge school; an interview with the new Headteacher Moira Green and stories from a past and present student of their personal experiences of the school, which it is hoped will add and inform the campaign to keep the school open.

There is a follow up to the 'What makes a village event' with personal stories from the panel of villagers who took part. Gardening features on several pages from infant children involved to senior citizens working very hard to enhance the look of the village and Bees.....

The two part story of the communication systems set up for our forces overseas concludes and a new one begins; the Civil War in the 17th century and how it affected the surrounding area of Sonning Common.

A book review, news of parish councillors and the library make this issue of the magazine very village focussed, which is what we hope to achieve. Keep sending in your contributions please. ●

*Diana*

**Diana Pearman** Editor

Email: [editor@sonningcommonmagazine.org](mailto:editor@sonningcommonmagazine.org)



## HIGHLIGHTS

- 4-7 Community news
- 10-11 Noticeboard
- 13 Interview with Moira Green
- 14 Ex Chiltern Edge student
- 15 Current Chiltern Edge student
- 18-19 In Focus/ What makes a village?
- 20-21 Bees
- 23 Parish news
- 24 The Edge
- 25 Book review of Village News
- 27 Two - way family favourites Part 2
- 28 Tom Fort/Cook's corner
- 31 Sonning Common and the Civil War
- 32 Church news
- 33 Village Gardeners
- 34 Diary Dates /Advertiser's directory

**Design & Artwork:** Kevin Taplin

[tensevennine.com](http://tensevennine.com)

[kevin@tensevennine.com](mailto:kevin@tensevennine.com)

07887902376 / 0118 957 6929

**Print:** Rick Peedell

Xplor Ltd

[rick@xplor-pm.co.uk](mailto:rick@xplor-pm.co.uk)

07766 254422 / 0118 9471955

**Cover image:**

Moira Green by Diana Pearman

While every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of information printed in this magazine, the editor and the publisher cannot accept any responsibility for the consequences of errors that occur.

**SC SONNING COMMON  
MAGAZINE**

## MEET THE TEAM ...



Christine Atkinson



Hannah Rice



Jo Stoves



Joan Grummant



Ros Varnes

## USEFUL CONTACTS:

**Chairman:** Geoff Adams

1 Woodlands Road, Sonning Common RG4 9TD  
[chairman@sonningcommonmagazine.org](mailto:chairman@sonningcommonmagazine.org)  
Tel 0118 972 2134

**Diary dates:** Helen Barker

[helen.barker75@outlook.com](mailto:helen.barker75@outlook.com) Tel 0118 972 1241

**Distribution:** Helen Gavin

[distribution@sonningcommonmagazine.org](mailto:distribution@sonningcommonmagazine.org)  
Tel 0118 972 4680

**Advertising:** John Pearman

[advertising@sonningcommonmagazine.org](mailto:advertising@sonningcommonmagazine.org)  
Tel 0118 972 2381

# SONNING COMMON PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

by Christine Atkinson



'Summer term is the best' said my daughter. 'Why is that' I asked, thinking she might be enjoying the athletics, rounders, tennis and other sports on offer at school. 'Because you can eat your packed lunch outside on the field!' she replied.

So she isn't too interested in competition, but many of the children are and have entered lots of competitions this term. Some of the highlights are pictured on this page ....

**Quad Kids** – On Thursday 8 June Mr Andrews (Year 5 teacher) took the Key Stage 2 Quad Kids team, representing all four junior year groups, to Chiltern Edge for the Quad Kids tournament. After lots of throwing, running and jumping, they were declared the winners and brought the trophy back to school!

Well done to the whole of KS1 and Kites who also did excellently and scored lots of points in the morning Quad Kids competition! ●



A year 5 cricket team entered a tournament at the Oratory in Woodcote and came away as joint winners in a highly competitive competition with other local schools. ●

Sports day was held on 27 June on a slightly drizzly day – good for sport as not too hot. The children all belong to one of 4 school houses – butterflies, wasps, ladybirds and grasshoppers – and battle it out with sprints, relays, throws and jumps to gain the coveted House Shield. The overall winning house was Ladybirds! But all the children love to take part and shout for their friends and houses, applauded and cheered on by the parents. ●





## SCIENCE GARDENING COMPETITION

The sixth Henley Schools Environment Science Competition award ceremony was held at the River and Rowing Museum in June. Organised by Henley in Transition, the biannual contest had two fantastic entrants this year from Sonning Common Primary School and St Mary's School.

Sonning Common Primary School had documented the two-year development of their 'Outdoor School' areas, which allow the children to work outside and learn about plants and gardening. The students placed a camera stand in each area to take daily photographs of the plants as they grew. The photos were then made into a video compilation which showed the changes through the season, as well as their outdoor activities.

The first prize of £700, along with a trophy, went to Sonning Common Primary School. St Mary's School was awarded the second prize of £500 for their 'Plants and Pollinators' project. The prizes were presented by Mayor of Henley, Councillor Kellie Hinton, who was full of praise for the imaginative competitors. ●



## SUMMER FAIR



A huge turnout as usual to the annual event with a theme this year of Wild West. It was a steaming hot day but the ice cream flowed and the bucking bronco proved very popular! A big thank you from the PTA to everyone who helped make the fair a special day. As well as everyone enjoying themselves they raised a fantastic £4000! ●

## AMAZING GARDENERS AT SONNING COMMON PRIMARY SCHOOL

We have been running a successful school garden for many years and, this year, we are celebrating our RHS Gardening for Schools level five award. This is the highest level award that a school can achieve.

The support from our friends the Village Gardeners really gave us a boost and they have taught the children so many skills whilst working alongside them. We were also fortunate enough to receive donations from Caversham Waitrose in the form of seeds, time spent working with the children from one of their partners and funds from the Community Matters collections.

So what happens in the school grounds? Well, we grow our own fruit and vegetables, snowdrops and daffodils and apple trees have been planted, poppy seeds were sown to create a Garden of Remembrance. Painted Lady butterflies have been hatched and released, bird nest boxes are everywhere.

The school art club create environmental sculptures made from natural and recycled materials. There is an annual inter class potato growing competition where prizes are awarded for the most potatoes and the greatest weight harvested.

We have involved pre-school groups in various growing competitions and we sell our home grown plants at the school Summer Fair every year.

We have a gardening club and all members of staff and children are encouraged to participate in the various environmental projects around the school.

On Saturday our Foundation stage children were awarded best in show at the West Woodhay Garden Fair for their window box.

We love gardening! ●

Jill Pound



# NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY

## SUMMER READING CHALLENGE

**By the time you read this the Summer Reading Challenge will be well under way!**

From mid-July to the end of September children across Oxfordshire can join the Animal Agents for the Summer Reading Challenge 2017. These furry, slippery and scaly friends are specially trained to use their skills and natural instincts to unravel the mystery – with a huge helping of fun along the way!

Read at least six library books of your choice over the summer holidays. As you read, you will collect stickers to help narrow down the suspects. Complete the challenge to crack the case and get your own medal and certificate.

**Join up at your library. It's fun! It's free! It's local!**

**At Sonning Common we're running special storytimes every Saturday in August, at 10am, with crafts to follow, and home-made cakes for sale.**

**Come and join us when you can!**

**(There is also a Summer Reading Challenge for adults)**

**For more information about any of these events, contact the library on 972 2448 ●**

**Rosemary Dunstan**  
Library manager



## WEDDING NEWS!

On a beautiful sunny day on Saturday 8 July Bernard Winnington of Grove Road married Barbara Butler of Wood Lane in front of friends and family, with three bridesmaids, at Peppard Church. A love story of the best kind with the happy couple finding each other later in life.

The reception was held at Peppard Memorial Hall and they are off on honeymoon to Dartmouth in Devon. Best wishes to them from the whole village. ●

## FRIENDS OF SONNING COMMON LIBRARY

**The Friends' short story competition is well underway – there are great prizes to be won so if you're 16 or under please get along to the Library to find out the details, or go to the website: <http://friendsofsonningcommonlibrary.org.uk> The winners will be announced at the end of National Libraries Week which runs from October 9–14.**

Other events are also being organised by the Friends during the week to celebrate the joy of libraries so please make a date in your diary.

Friday 6 October: there will be a FoSCL Quiz in the village hall. Tickets are £20 per team (a maximum of six people). Doors open at 7.15 for the 7.30 start. Tickets will go on sale from September 1st and are available from the library, Occasions and from FoCSL direct at [friendsofsonningcommonlibrary@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofsonningcommonlibrary@gmail.com)

Tuesday 10 October: a talk, "The Writer's Life" by two local authors. Vera Morris specialises in crime novels and Tom Fort, who writes non-fiction. Come along to the library and hear about the practicalities of being a writer, the joys and the disappointments. Tickets will be £5 and include a glass of wine. 7pm for a 7.30pm start. Space will be limited so please book early. Please see above for buying tickets. The Friends had a successful stall at the SC primary school summer fete, making £170, which will help with craft resources in the

library as well as going towards new books.

It is now three years since a group of volunteers began supporting the library. We had a pleasant social evening in early July, getting to know each other a little better away from the toil of re-shelving. If anybody wants to join the band of volunteers please get in touch with the library or direct on the FoSCL email address above.

We have also just reached the first anniversary of our FoSCL subscription scheme, which raises much needed funds to fill the gap left by cuts in the county council's book budget. It costs only £10 a year to become a member of the Friends and to do your bit to support a vital and much loved facility in the village. We are now recognised by HMRC as a charitable organisation for tax purposes so can collect gift aid on any payments. If you would like to become a friend (which does not require any volunteering) please please get in touch. ●

**Helen Fort**





# 'THOSE WERE THE DAYS', NOTTAKWIRE SING THE SIXTIES

by Hannah Rice



A groovy time filled with plenty of 'peace and love' was had by all who attended Nottakwire's packed Annual Summer Fundraiser Concert - 'Those Were the Days'. Nottakwire which is now in its 8th year is a 'not posh choral society', sang a mixture of catchy toe-tapping hits and poignant numbers from the forward-looking decade. With flowers in their hair and peace signs around their necks, they encouraged audiences to enthusiastically sing lively choruses and refrains and to reflect on the meaningful covers. Songs heard included The Animals - 'House of The Rising Sun', Paul McCartney's - 'When I'm 64', 'The Sound of Silence' by Paul Simon, and a Beatles medley.

The choir sang an emotional rendition of Simon and Garfunkel's 'Bridge Over Troubled Water' dedicated to the Grenfell Tower victims, with Nottakwire donating

to the disaster fund in support. All proceeds, £1,125 from ticket sales went to Sonning Common charities. Cakes and a wine raffle were enjoyed by the audience.

The receiving charities are the Health Centre £200, First Responders £400, Club SC £200, SC Magazine £150 and Hearing Dogs for Deaf People £200. ●

*We wish to warmly thank all the people who supported us in this - our eighth summer of fund raising - for their enthusiasm, good humour and willingness to sing along when requested. Also, particular thanks to each one of our stewards and helpers who once more gave their time and skills so willingly to make sure our visitors were well looked after and made welcome and comfortable. ●*

Margaret Moola

Oh dear – is this your LITTER?

What a mess to leave in the middle of our village!



## STOP PRESS ...

We're sad to hear of the recent death of Dave Brownjohn, whose life and work as a boat builder was described by Ros Varnes in a recent feature in the magazine. Dave devoted an amazing amount of time and effort to looking after Widmore Pond, including making and maintaining Duckingham Palace."





**Moore's Painting, Decorating & General Maintenance Services**

**Spruce up your Home & Garden!**  
5% Discount when you quote: SCMAG

\*Interior/Exterior Painting, Glossing, Staining. \*Wall Paper Removal/Hanging. \*Damaged Walls/Woodwork Repair.  
\*Repair & Maintenance of Internal/External Fixtures & Fittings.  
\*Fences/Sheds Erection & Repair. \*Fence, Shed, Decking – Cleaning, Staining, Painting. \*Garden Clearance/Maintenance

**We invite you to contact us for a free, no obligation quotation.**

Call: 01189 722002 or 07595 906940  
Email: [info@moorespds.co.uk](mailto:info@moorespds.co.uk) Web: [www.moorespds.co.uk](http://www.moorespds.co.uk)



**Beacon Flooring**  
A Family Run Business

**Carpet Wood Karndean Vinyl**

**Free fitting on carpet orders over £150**

16 High Street, Goring. 01491 454095  
[beaconflooring@aol.co.uk](mailto:beaconflooring@aol.co.uk)  
[www.beaconflooring.co.uk](http://www.beaconflooring.co.uk)

*Studio One*



Pilates Matwork  
Group Reformer  
BarreConcept  
Ballet Barre  
Yoga

Studio One, Hayden Farm, Nuffield,  
[info@studioone.uk.com](mailto:info@studioone.uk.com), [www.studioone.uk.com](http://www.studioone.uk.com)

**PEPPARD** BUILDING SUPPLIES **FIRST CHOICE FOR THE PROFESSIONAL**



**FREE LOCAL DELIVERY**

- Competitive Trade Pricing
- Bulk Bags
- Specialist Insulation Stockists
- Indian Sandstone
- Bricks/Blocks /Aggregates
- Trade Shop
- Plenty of Parking
- Web Offers!

Call **0118 972 2028** / Sat Nav **RG4 8XA**  
Visit [www.peppardbuildingsupplies.com](http://www.peppardbuildingsupplies.com)

\*Terms and Conditions apply

**Spectacular**

**FAMILY FUN DAY**

**Events include:**

- ASSISTED DONKEY RIDES
- TOMBOLA
- LAND TRAIN (Sonning Common Garage & Moss End Roofing Supplies)
- COCONUT SHY (Lucas Plumbing & Heating)
- TRACTOR RIDES
- GUESS THE LEGO (Davis Tate)
- LUCKY DIP
- AFRICAN DRUMMER • CRAFT STALLS
- ROKE & BENSON BRASS BAND • FIRE ENGINES
- PROFESSIONAL FREESTYLE FOOTBALLER
- MEDIEVAL STOCKS (Woodley & JFI Roofing)
- BOUNCY CASTLE
- FACE PAINTING
- GLITTER TATTOOS
- TRADITIONAL FETE GAMES

**Refreshments will include:**

- HOG ROAST • LICENCED BAR
- REFRESHMENTS AND CAKE STALL
- CANDYFLOSS • ICE CREAM • HOT DOGS
- SELECTION OF VEGETARIAN HOT FOOD

**Abbey Rugby Club, Saturday 19th August 11am-5pm**






## Robin James OPTICIANS



- Comprehensive eye examinations
- Full contact lens service
- Free specs for children
- Extensive range of designer frames
- Main agent for Zeiss and Rodenstock lenses
- Free parking

**0118 947 2099**

[www.robinjames.co.uk](http://www.robinjames.co.uk)

44 Church St, Caversham, Reading (opposite Waitrose)

## HAVING A CLEAR OUT

Your local antique dealer is always keen to buy

*Clocks, Watches, Instruments, Silver Items,  
Walking Canes, Jewellery & Precious Metals  
And All Old & Unusual Items*

## HENLEY ANTIQUES

House Calls by Appointment

**0118 924 2582 07768 918501**

[frednickson@henleyantiques.com](mailto:frednickson@henleyantiques.com)

*"We turn feelings into flowers"*



42 Wood Lane • Sonning Common • RG4 9SL

**0118 972 1240 0777 179 0916**

[www.brambles-sonning-common.co.uk](http://www.brambles-sonning-common.co.uk)

## Kidbys Sheds Simply The Best

28 Kennylands Road – Sonning Common – Reading

**A Shed Should Be For Life**

Sizes from 4ft x 3ft Up to 30ft x 20ft

Bespoke doors and window arrangements with building colour choices. Fully Insulated Home Offices

[www.kidbys.co.uk](http://www.kidbys.co.uk)

Contact Michael Loades or Peter Kay

Tel: **0118 972 3380**

Email: [sales@kidbys.co.uk](mailto:sales@kidbys.co.uk)

## Red Kite Electrical



Top quality electrical work for Sonning Common and the South Chilterns since 2006.  
All sizes and types of work undertaken.

[sparks@redkiteelectrical.co.uk](mailto:sparks@redkiteelectrical.co.uk)

[www.redkiteelectrical.co.uk](http://www.redkiteelectrical.co.uk)

0118 907 1834

0788 273 7402

10 Onslow Gardens, Caversham



## Time 4 Pilates



Want to look and feel great!!  
Try Pilates – controlled, yet gentle exercise

Classes in Sonning Common area  
Including Ante and Post Natal

Mondays / Tuesdays / Thursdays  
Beginners and Intermediates  
Max 12 in Group (6 in Pregnancy classes)  
Private sessions also available

**Christine Brook** – Member of Body Control Pilates® Association  
Ring 07789 717017 or email [chris@time4pilates.co.uk](mailto:chris@time4pilates.co.uk)  
Website at [www.time4pilates.co.uk](http://www.time4pilates.co.uk)

## Adams Cars

### Your Local Taxi Service

Taxis - Chauffeurs - Minibuses - Executive Cars

*Rail & Airport Services / Parties / Weddings*

*Theatres / Hospitals / Sporting Events*

**0118 966 4000**

Office: Manor Farm, Peppard Common, RG9 5LA

[www.adams-cars.com](http://www.adams-cars.com)

[info@adams-cars.com](mailto:info@adams-cars.com)



## VILLAGE COFFEE MORNINGS

Sonning Common Village Hall

**WEDNESDAY 6 SEPTEMBER**  
10.30 – 12.00 noon  
(No August Coffee Morning)

**ALL WELCOME – PLEASE JOIN  
US FOR A CUP OF COFFEE/TEA  
AND BISCUIT**  
(donation welcome)

**MEET FRIENDS, MAKE NEW ONES!  
WE WOULD LOVE TO SEE YOU!**

**PLUS SALES TABLES & TOMBOLA**  
(profits shared with local community projects)

**BOOKSTALL CRAFT ITEMS**  
**HAND CRAFTED GREETINGS CARDS**  
**COSTUME JEWELLERY**  
**BARGAIN PRICES!!**  
**TOMBOLA PRIZES!!**

**GREENSHOOTS selling  
PRODUCE, JAMS AND CHUTNEYS**

Hosted by Sonning Common Women's Institute  
Contact: Sue Hedges, Secretary, 0118 9723678

## All the regular library activities continue over the summer:

- 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month at 10am:  
Rhymetimes for babies and pre-schoolers  
and their carers
- Thursdays from 10am:  
Drop-in gadget sessions for those with Smartphone/  
laptop/android/  
tablet/computer queries
- Every 3rd Thursday from 10.45am:  
an Age UK representative is on hand to answer age-  
related queries
- Baby Clinic from 1pm – 2.30pm every Thursday
- Friday mornings 10am – 12 noon:  
Scrabble Club. All welcome.
- Storytime every Saturday from 10am  
(with crafts and cake sale in August)

## ANTIQUES VALUATION

**CHRIST THE KING HALL**  
**WEDNESDAY 25 OCTOBER 10 – 12 NOON**

Professional Antiques Valuer Simon Jones  
Jones and Jacobs Auction House,  
Watlington  
will value your precious items for £3 per  
item

Refreshments available and a sale table to  
browse

Profits to St John's Kidmore End and Christ  
the King Sonning Common.

Further information  
**Sue Nickson 972 4520**

## Volunteer for Oxfordshire's Water-Blitz

**Volunteers needed for one day only!**  
**Monday 2 October**

Schools, local groups and individuals are invited to take part  
in the county wide water blitz. Check the water quality of your  
local stream, pond, ditch or river and help build a water quality  
picture for Oxfordshire.

For your free sampling pack register today by emailing [hilary@wildoxfordshire.org.uk](mailto:hilary@wildoxfordshire.org.uk) subject "Waterblitz"  
EarthWatch have volunteered to handle the data and map  
all results on their global water-hub with the resulting  
data available to everyone involved.

## Tiggywinkles

**SOMETHING DIFFERENT FOR A FAMILY VISIT?**

Hedgehog talks  
Skeleton exhibition  
Red Kite education centre

Viewing window into the hospital for injured animals

Haddenham Bucks HP17 8AF phone 01844 292292  
Free entry for under 4 year olds and over 65's  
<http://www.sttiggywinkles.org.uk>



## Save the date

### Nottakwire's Christmas Celebration

Village Hall  
Saturday 9 December  
2pm

Watch for our advertising - and get your ticket early as space is limited!!  
We look forward to your company again.

## Nettlebed Art & Craft Show 2017

will be held in Nettlebed Community School Hall  
Saturday 12 August 12 to 6 pm  
and

Sunday 13 August 10 to 5 pm

For Entry Forms to show paintings or have a craft table:  
email: [nettlebednas@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:nettlebednas@yahoo.co.uk)  
or phone Sarah on 01491 641136

Free entry and parking. Teas available all day.  
Disabled Access



## Drop-in

Saturday 19 August  
11am

local PCSO Will Pomroy  
drop-in session in the library

Come and see him if you have any comments or concerns about policing in the area.

## Health Walks

Walking is a normal, everyday activity - and that's partly why we forget it's actually exercise at all. It's good for us, for both our minds and our bodies - and it gives us energy, which makes us feel great.

There's really no other exercise like it! Walking as part of a group is a good way to start and keep going. You'll make friends, encourage each other, and discover new walks in and around the local area.

The current timetable of Health Walks, with 9 walks per week, is available from the library, the Health Centre and the Herb Farm, or on the website at [www.sonningcommonhealthwalks.co.uk/timetable](http://www.sonningcommonhealthwalks.co.uk/timetable). If you'd like to talk to someone about the health walks, phone Colin Davies on (0118) 9722527

## Henley and District Philatelic Society

Meetings are held the 2nd and 4th  
Wednesdays of the month  
Bix Village Hall

7.45 p.m.

Visitors have been very surprised to see the variety of topics and scope of this interesting hobby!

**13 September**

Latest Acquisitions - up to 9 pages of new material, per member.

**27 September**

Visiting speaker will give a display.

Further details 01491 681739 or [www.henleyphilatelic.org.uk](http://www.henleyphilatelic.org.uk)



# UNDENIABLY PODIATRY

## EXPERT HELP AND FOOT CARE FOR:

- Corns and calluses ● Cracked Heels ● Toenail problems ● Verrucae ● Foot pain (including heel and ball of the foot pain) ● Foot infections
- Bunions ● Hammer toes ● Orthotics
- **Clearanail™** treatment for fungal toenails
- Nail surgery for ingrowing toenails

Highly Qualified HCPC (Health and Care Professions Council) Registered Podiatrist (Chiropodist)

For Appointments Tel 0118 9572102

Fawley Surgery

12 Coley Avenue

Reading RG1 6LQ

[www.undeniably-podiatry.co.uk](http://www.undeniably-podiatry.co.uk)



The COLLEGE  
of PODIATRY

# Chiltern Beauty

*Outstanding Natural Beauty*

- \* Waxing
- \* Massage
- \* Electrolysis
- \* Eyelash Tinting
- \* Eyebrow Shaping
- \* Jessica Manicures
- \* Jessica Pedicures
- \* Makeup
- \* Aromatherapy Facials

Janet Copp I.H.B.C

9 Sedgefield Close, Sonning Common  
RG4 9TS

Tel: 0118 972 3157

Mobile: 07706 182 813

[www.chilternbeauty.co.uk](http://www.chilternbeauty.co.uk)

## Family Hairdressing any age & any style

*.....and all in the comfort of your  
own home.....*

Ring Maureen on

**0118 972 1074**

## Fed up with limescale?

*A Water Softener  
would be your solution*

Compass Water Softeners

SALT, SALES, SERVICE, INSTALLATION

0118 972 3773 0118 941 0869 0796 700 9838

[www.compasswatersofteners.co.uk](http://www.compasswatersofteners.co.uk)

Email: [martin@compasswatersofteners.co.uk](mailto:martin@compasswatersofteners.co.uk)

## Sonning Common Pet Care

At Home Pet Care

when you are on holiday or at work

### Cats

Daily visits to clean, feed and pamper

### Small Pets

Home visits to care for your Rabbits,  
Guinea Pigs, Hamsters etc

### Dog Walking

Regular or occasional walks

### Puppy Visits

To feed, play, toilet break and clean up

Please call Alison for further information

Tel 0118 9722948 / 07787 114536

## BONNER LOCKSMITHS

**INSURANCE APPROVED**

**DOORS & WINDOW LOCKS SUPPLIED & FITTED,  
CHANGED OR UPGRADED (BS3621)**

**DOMESTIC & COMMERCIAL PREMISES  
DIGITAL LOCKS • BARS**

**FREE NO OBLIGATION QUOTE**

ALL AREAS COVERED

01491 680216



CRESTWELL HOUSE

CALL OUT SERVICE

FULL MEMBER  
OF BRITISH  
LOCKSMITH  
INSTITUTE

Beech Lane, RG8 0PX • Woodcote Nr. Reading  
PROPRIETOR: S. J. BONNER



# MOIRA GREEN

HEADTEACHER OF CHILTERN EDGE SCHOOL

## GETTING BACK ON TRACK

By ROS VARNES

New Chiltern Edge headteacher Moira Green arrived in early summer like a whirlwind, determined to drive up standards and respect for the school after its devastating Ofsted report in April.

Her first month in the job was characterised by a relentless round of meetings with students, parents, teaching colleagues and those she really needed to convince of the school's bright future – the decision-makers at Oxfordshire County Council.

She knows the transformation challenge is great but her drive to achieve it is undeniable.

Miss Green is not new to the area. Fourteen years ago she was Head of Music at Langtree School in Woodcote. Since then Miss Green has taken on a range of leadership roles within school management teams around the country, most recently as Interim Headteacher at Darlington School of Maths and Science.

At the heart of her philosophy is the idea that a good education can reveal a plethora of opportunities for young people receptive to learning. She is keen to lead and inspire her students as she was led and inspired by mentors as a child.

Originally from Liverpool, Miss Green was the first person in her family to attend university. Her non-academic parents, who left school at 14, produced three Cambridge University scholars and a talented musician (Miss Green),

who went to the Royal Northern College of Music and Lancaster University.

At age of 16, jazz trumpet player Miss Green performed with the late drummer and bandleader, Eric Delaney, at the Royal Albert Hall in London. It was the generosity of spirit of her music tutors together with their encouragement and support that shaped her as a person and as an educator, she explains.

"If you really inspire a young person to find the talent within themselves and they have a positive experience of education, you create purposeful citizens who later want to give something back to the community."

Miss Green's first impression of Chiltern Edge was of a really friendly school where students were incredibly kind to one another.

When considering how much the education landscape has changed in recent years, Miss Green believes that by keeping pace with such changes Chiltern Edge could become great again very quickly. "If staff get the right training, we test students regularly and we focus our teaching and learning on key subject areas the results will come," she says.

Miss Green is clear on what she needs to do for the school to achieve greater success: develop a forensic knowledge of exam specifications in key subject areas so that it is clear how to improve grades; and to engage with the school and wider community to keep spirits up.

Events such as EdgeFest, where students display to the community their musical and creative talents, are

very important for morale, she believes. Last term she organised the first in a series school lectures by her brother Dr Andrew Green, a physicist and Director of the Institute of Nanotechnology.

The introduction of a new school uniform is another essential change, as far as Miss Green is concerned. From September 2017 students will wear navy blazers with grey trousers and skirts.

*"The school uniform is an outward expression of an inward attitude. A business-like uniform signals an expectation of professional standards. If you look at any school that has been on a transformational journey the first thing that was done was to change the uniform,"* she says.

Miss Green has been given until October for the 'green shoots' of improvement to appear. Then Oxfordshire County Council staff and councillors will return to the school to check that the school's action plan for improvement is delivering on its promises. ●



# MY NAME IS DUNCAN ANDREWS AND I'M A MUSICIAN IN READING

I have seen the trouble Chiltern Edge has been getting in the media recently and hope that my story can help change people's opinions of the school. I am now 20 years old but Chiltern Edge was the biggest help and support in the start of my musical career. Recently I left my job at Hickies Music Store in Reading town centre to pursue my dream of being a self sufficient musician.

Music has always been a passion of mine from the age of 10 when my parents got me my first guitar. I practiced for about 8 hours every day during my school years at Chiltern Edge learning all my favourite songs and techniques to make it as a professional musician.

I was performing on stages in London from the age of 14 with band members twice my age just to try get my name out there, as well as performing at every school concert and event in my local area and Berkshire. I have moved through all musical styles to help expand my knowledge of the guitar and music.

The teachers at Chiltern Edge all supported me through my musical development. They encouraged the thought of someone as young as me having my head set straight on what I wanted to do in life and helped me make a plan on how to get there.

After school, I went to Reading college to learn how to record music and get into the production side. Here I learnt the skills on how to set up my own studio but unfortunately did not have the funds at the time to do so. I managed to get a job at Hickies Music Store in Reading as a Sunday temp for a couple hours a week. I always believed in working harder than you get paid for, so I quickly learnt the trade of running a music store from my managers and they soon saw my hard work and the effort I was putting in around the store and offered me an apprenticeship in music retail. I completed the apprenticeship in 2 years and learnt all the knowledge of running a music shop, buying stock, managing staff, and how to better expand the company you work for. I worked my way up the employment ladder to managing the guitar end of the shop. All my wages I earned from working I put back into funding and setting up my own home studio to allow me to record myself and other musicians in Reading.

After 3 years of working at Hickies Music Store and now age 20 I decided the time had come to leave and put all my energy and effort into making it as a musician. As most musicians know there is not as much money to be made in the music industry as there used to be, so I had to come up with ways to support myself as a self-employed musician.

I started my own teaching business in Reading, teaching Guitar and Ukulele to people of all ages, taking them from beginners to intermediate musicians.

I also perform in session work for other musicians on their albums and singles.

Finally, my proudest moment so far is putting my first single Crossroads out on iTunes, Spotify and all digital stores. As I am a lone musician all instruments on my single were written, performed and produced by me.

I love to talk to my audience on the social media platform Instagram which I do daily, helping to inspire other musicians to shoot for their dreams and prove that when you put all your effort into something you love and care about you can achieve anything.

I am now working on my first album which I would like to come out by the end of September. ●

## DUNCAN ANDREWS







# A SCHOOL TO BE PROUD OF

**CHILTERN EDGE.** This name receives lots of different reactions from lots of different people.

Some people might think of it as a small, trashy school filled with small-minded, trashy people. Well, I can assure those people, with all my heart, that this assumption is far from the truth. In fact, many people would say it is absolute nonsense, myself included, as I am a pupil at Chiltern Edge.

To me, Chiltern Edge School has always been a grounded community, offering comfort, security and great joy throughout my time there. Naturally, someone who has not attended the school would not have experienced this and would be judging it from the

'appalling' Ofsted report which recently came to general attention.

Unfortunately, the Ofsted report was indeed a great disappointment to my school, especially since many consider that it is not at all an accurate representation of our school's work and students. But it is what it is and now our school is doing what it can to fix the situation with the support of many others, including a very capable and assertive new headteacher: Miss Green.



The whole school is well aware of the many changes that are being made and everyone is doing their best to fit in with these changes. One is the new school uniform which, personally, I am quite excited about as I would love to see our school look smart in blazers and a tie (even if it is a clip on). They are also offering us Summer School which I would be happy to attend as it is for the benefit of my education and GCSEs next year.

On the whole, things are looking quite positive for our school and I can't wait to start the next school year. And to those of you who might've made any negative assumptions about our school, I really hope I've made you look at it in a different light as it is truly a great school which I am proud to be a part of. ●

**LEAH TILLEY**



**CURTAINS,  
BLINDS, PELMETS,  
TIE BACKS ETC.**

**ALL AT COMPETITIVE  
PRICES**

**CALL CAROLINE ON  
0118 954 2448  
OR  
0781 561 0007**



**Kennylands Gymnastics**  
(formerly Thames Valley  
Gymnastics Club) offer  
a range of classes for  
boys and girls of all  
ages. Classes cater  
for preschool, recreation,  
freestyle gymnastics as well  
as competitive gymnastics for those who  
express the talent and desire. Parties are  
also available on weekends and we even  
provide an opportunity for adults who wish to  
have a go themselves.


**Contact us: Kennylands Gymnastics**  
Bird Wood Court, Sonning Common, Oxon, RG4 9RF  
T: 0118 9724 401 / 07846 185 905  
E: kennylandsgymnastics@hotmail.com



[www.kennylandsgymnastics.com](http://www.kennylandsgymnastics.com)


**WE UNDERTAKE ALL TYPES  
OF BUILDING WORK**

- ✚ **BUILDING EXTENSIONS**
- ✚ **BUILDING RENOVATION**
- ✚ **BUILDING ALTERATION**
- ✚ **GAS AND CENTRAL HEATING**
- ✚ **LOFT CONVERSIONS**
- ✚ **PLUMBING**
- ✚ **BOILER INSTALLATION**
- ✚ **SERVICE AND REPAIR**



**AMAXS**  
PLUMBING HEATING ELECTRICAL  
• WWW.AMAXS.CO.UK •

www.facebook.com/AMAXS



**Tel: 01189 724 794 Mob: 0784 068 1057  
E: info@amaxs.co.uk**



**HEIGHTS  
TREE CARE**

- All Aspects of Tree Surgery
- Hedge Cutting
- Stump Grinding
- Private and Commercial

**0118 9721003      07813 586735**  
[info@heightstreecare.co.uk](mailto:info@heightstreecare.co.uk)  
[www.heightstreecare.co.uk](http://www.heightstreecare.co.uk)





**Fully Qualified Professionals**  
**£10 Million Public Liability Insurance**

**SPRUCE MAINTENANCE SERVICE**

For all your property maintenance requirements:

- ◆Decorating - inside and out
- ◆Paper Hanging
- ◆Carpentry - including door easing & hanging
- ◆Wall & Floor Tiling & Silicone Renewal
- ◆Plumbing - leaking taps etc.
- ◆Patio's, Landscaping & Garden Design
- ◆Hedge Cutting & Planting

**Pass on your TO DO list**

**ROB SMITH    Tel: 0118 972 4560**

**Graham Blake**  
*soft furnishing*

- Loose Covers
- Curtains
- Re-upholstery
- Carpets

- Conservatory Blinds
- Quilted Bedspreads
- Tracks & Poles
- Plantation Shutters

**TEN YEAR GUARANTEE**  
*For personal, helpful service, please telephone*  
**01844 261 769**  
 07802 213 381  
[www.grahamblake.com](http://www.grahamblake.com)  
*Established Family Business*



*If you're considering selling, or are simply curious about the value of your property, contact Bridges for a free market appraisal*

*We continue to experience a high demand for all types of property in Sonning Common and surrounding villages. Situated within the heart of Caversham we have an extensive database brimming with prospective buyers searching for homes in your area.*

*For your convenience we're available for evening and weekend appointments, and look forward to hearing from you.*



1 Church Road Caversham Reading RG4 7AA  
Email [post@bridgesproperty.co.uk](mailto:post@bridgesproperty.co.uk)

[www.bridgesproperty.co.uk](http://www.bridgesproperty.co.uk)  
**0118 946 2121**

# WHAT MAKES A VILLAGE?

Three stories written as a follow-up to the evening held in the village hall in April 2017

## MY SUMMARY WOULD BE ...

**Sitting like a rabbit in a spotlight, I waited patiently for Tom to put the same questions to me as the other panel members - but he tripped me up with a new question. He asked 'What don't you like about the village?' Tom must have guessed that I fit the profile of 'disenfranchised middle-aged business man!'.**

This was really a hard question to answer, because in reality there is very little to dislike about Sonning Common - and this was reflected and amplified by the audience who unanimously reminded us all that - despite some minor gripes - this is a really thriving community with a heart and a spirit. Sonning Common doesn't seem to suffer with some of the negative issues of larger towns where the people are generally anonymous and can be relatively lonely.

Tom wanted to know what could be done to improve the village, and this brought

some quite interesting discussions and ideas. However, walking home from the meeting later I realised that this was quite a clever and leading question. It made me realise that Sonning Common is quite unique. It really has everything most of us need, and there are many areas where people can get involved with new and existing projects if they want to.

I was very impressed to learn about the volunteers that look after the community and our surrounding amenities. These people are all very passionate about the village and are professional in their approach. There is an ever present demand for more people to help - so opportunities exist for anyone with available time and skills.

Finally, Diana asked us all to spare the time and effort to welcome new people that settle in the village (possibly as a result of the current development going on around the perimeter). This was an inspired idea, and not something I had considered before. I'm guilty of feeling slightly resentful of the development that

has been forced upon Sonning Common - but the residents of the new homes still need to feel welcome. It can be hard to integrate when you first arrive in a village, and I am sure that we can really make people feel valued and appreciated within our growing community. All it takes is a friendly 'hello' when you pass someone in the street - and an effort to discover our common interests. ●

DAVID JERRAM



**I think what makes a village is the community attitude - friendliness, care for each other and pride in the local environment. The surrounding countryside is really important to me too - as is a sense of belonging. I went to secondary school in the village and was born three miles away in Caversham Park Village - for extended periods of time I have been far away and now really value being close to those who are important to me. Having had children in the village, I have built very strong friendships through ante and post-natal groups as well as toddler groups and the local pre-school and primary.**

I feel it also pertinent to say that the local amenities are absolutely crucial in cementing the community; when we can shop and attend doctors and schools nearby, our friendships and those of our children begin centrally, and encourage us to stay. My son is now ten; I count among my best friends the people I met on the ante-natal classes I attended at the Health centre. These classes were stopped by the time I had my daughter, now seven, but again, I have fabulous friends that I met through the post-natal classes I attended with her, again within the village. These too have now stopped. There is a slow encroachment on our fabulous local resources; the closing of the children's centre and now the threat to Chiltern Edge; I hope as a community, we can keep the services we need. ●

CAROLINE JONES





## IMAGINE THIS ...

**It's September 1959 and two young marrieds are looking for a house to buy within five or six miles of Reading University (London Road then), where he will be teaching. They have no car – just two old bikes – and, though they'd both been students at the university and know the town well, have never ventured far beyond the River Thames. They are on the top of a double-decker bus and heading into what feels like 'the sticks'. The viewing of a house in a village called Sonning Common has been arranged. It's quite an adventure.**

We knew we wanted to live in a village or smallish community and the house looked fine – at least on paper. We had both grown up in traditional picture book villages – me three miles south of Cambridge, near the famous Grantchester, and my husband had been evacuated in the war to Broadway, of incomparable Cotswold beauty.

I think it was that bus journey between Reading and Sonning Common that began to work on our imaginations. The lovely woods and hills in the distance looked so promising, and when we arrived we liked the houses, which seemed to be well spaced apart and ours was in the style that appeared all over the village: bays on either side of a central front door – very comfortable-looking. We liked the feel of the house and decided to buy it. The three-quarter-acre garden was the clincher if we'd had any doubts. It was, and still is, a wonderful space, with a huge lawn leading to an orchard of fruit trees, and near the house were three cherry trees. There was also a large black-painted wooden barn with a hayloft and room for a horse and cart below.

We explored the area and were amazed to find so many retail outlets and (a real bonus) two schools: one with a thriving community centre, newly built, and a much older primary school in our road. I wasn't to know it at this stage, but within the month I was appointed to teach art at

Chiltern Edge and run an evening class.

For such a small community, the convenience of the shopping was such a bonus. We discovered two small grocers and two larger ones. Mr West in Wood Lane was delighted to deliver whatever I ordered from my little notebook. Kew Bakery bread appeared two or three times a week, as did the milk. A cobbler worked away in his shed by the Wood Lane to Grove Road alley. Dr Hemphill's surgery was in the building now occupied by FISH. Kidby's fencing workshop was where it is now and Josey's coal outlet is now Josey Close. There was a motor workshop garage, a chemist, two butchers, a post office which doubled as a toy shop, a draper's shop, a hairdresser's and a newsagent. Heath and Watkins, glory be, was there too!

It's hard to imagine, but cows grazed in the field at the bottom of our garden; Westleigh Drive and Rowan Close had yet to be built. One morning we awoke to find that a whole herd of cows had broken in and wreaked havoc on our precious lawn by walking through to Grove Road, where people appeared to corral them eventually into the school playground!

One of the main topics of conversation back then used to centre around septic tanks and the lack of gas. We hadn't taken any of this on board when we bought our house. On Boxing Day 1959, with a houseful of curious relatives, we experienced the joys of an overflowing tank in the middle of the lawn! All these experiences made for an interesting life, at least.

The 1960s brought great changes. Roads were made up and street lighting installed. Kennylands Road residents gave up some of their front gardens to facilitate the widening of the road, and all manner of walls, fences and hedges were realigned. Grove Road had been just rubble, practically impossible to navigate in the dark, especially with a pushchair. Now, in 1963, we had a smart new road.

Sonning Common was changing fast! Red House Drive and the Pye estate

were built, and then the Wimpey estate miraculously appeared across the Peppard road. The population doubled and the newcomers were young and brought a vitality to the place and, what's more, lots of children for our own to play with. It had been an elderly community, but previously had been enlivened by the building of the Crowsley Way and Ashford Avenue estates, which had provided pupils for the primary school and Chiltern Edge, built to cope with the expected bulge. Now, in 2017, most of the smaller detached houses and bungalows have gone. Houses, ours included, have been extended and the spaces in between that we so enjoyed have been replaced with houses in all manner of architectural styles.

So, we have stayed put while our environment has totally changed. We, of course, now have a car and the old bikes have gone. Our garden still gives us much pleasure and even that has evolved. My husband still teaches part time in the University, albeit at Whiteknights now, and I am still painting away and teaching art to adult pupils at Christ the King hall. I taught part time at the primary school for nearly 30 years and I often see around the village some of those children I once taught, now looking increasingly middle-aged! Our three children attended our local schools. Two have chosen to bring up their families in large cities and one chose the 'real' old-fashioned village option.

In spite of the fact that Sonning Common is 'the village that never was', to us it feels like one, and as communities go this one takes some beating. ●

**PAULINE TWYMAN**



# THE BEES IN YOUR GARDEN



Did you know that there are more than 250 different species of bees? They fall into two broad categories – social bees and solitary bees.

As their name suggests, **social bees** live in groups. Honeybees are among the most sociable, with a single beehive accommodating 50,000 bees in the height of summer. Bumblebees are also social, but live in smaller groups of 50-150. In both cases the queen bee lays all the eggs. Social bees are a common sight in our gardens and if you look carefully you might be able to spot some of these species in the pictures on the right. ●



**Banded white-tailed bumblebee**



**Early bumblebee**



**Red-tailed bumblebee**



**Common Carder bee**



**Honeybee**

**Solitary bees**, on the other hand live on their own, sometimes underground, or in walls, on cliff faces, in old wood etc. A female solitary bee builds her nest and provides food for her young without the help of any worker bees. Although they are self-sufficient many solitary bees appear to live in colonies, because the bees like to make their nests close to each other in a suitable piece of habitat. Here are a few you might see in your garden. ●



**Hairy-footed flower bee**



**Morning bee**



**Leafcutter bee**



**Red mason bee**



**Tawny mining bee**



The majority of British species of solitary bees nest in the ground, excavating their own nest. The female builds the nest by herself. She adds pollen to the nest chamber, which has been moistened with nectar, and lays an egg. She then seals off that section of the nest before moving onto the next chamber.

Of all the bees found in Britain, the two species we probably talk about most are *Bombus* (bumblebee) and *Apis Mellifera* (honeybee).

Although honeybees are found in the wild, the majority are now kept in manmade beehives and are cared for by commercial and hobbyist beekeepers. There has been a considerable growth in beekeeping as a hobby over recent years, and in the Sonning Common area we are well supplied.

All species of bees feed by gathering nectar and pollen from flowers and in doing this they play a vital role in plant pollination. If you go into your garden on a sunny day you can watch the bees at work. You will quickly notice that different types of bees are drawn to different plants. For example bumble bees are particularly partial to lavender, whilst honeybees love nasturtiums. This variation is quite deliberate as the size of bee and the length of its proboscis determines which plants it can visit most productively.

Honeybees have a particularly interesting way of reproducing. The colony as a whole decide that they need a new queen. Steps are taken to convert a normal worker bee larva to a queen bee larva and when the time is right about a quarter or more of the colony population fly away with the old queen to set up a new home.

This is referred to as swarming. It is a wonderful sight to watch a swarm of bees emerge from a hive and fly away into a nearby tree or bush to regroup. The bees are calm at this time and are very unlikely to sting because they have gorged themselves on honey before departing as they don't know when they will get their next meal! Being so full of honey means they cannot physically bend their body in the right way to use the sting. A swarm usually pauses for a while in a location quite close to the hive and then flies onwards towards a suitable site to set up home. This might be in a chimney, under the eaves of a roof, or in a tree or a bush. Once happy with their new home the worker bees make some wax comb and the old queen starts laying eggs again.

**If you find a swarm please don't destroy it under any circumstance. Call Reading Beekeepers Association who will arrange for someone local to come and collect it (see resources right).**

If you find a bumble bee nest you should try not to disturb it. Bumble bees are not aggressive and only set up home for a season and so they will be gone by the autumn. They will not do any harm to buildings and so try to leave a small hole to allow them access to their nest and close it up in the winter when you are sure they have left (see resources below for more information).

If you see solitary bees, try to leave them alone. They will not do any harm and they will not sting. The red mason bee for example, which you will typically see in the pointing of your brickwork, is an endangered solitary bee and is a great pollinator, calculated to be between 120 and 200 times more efficient than the honeybee.

**We need all our bees and they are busy doing good things for us so it is important that we allow them the freedom they need.**

The links below are to a number of pictorial resources that you might like to use to help identify the bees you see in your garden. ●

SUE REMENYI

## RESOURCES

There is a great bee identification guide for bees you are likely to see in your garden from The Friends of the Earth  
<https://www.foe.co.uk/bee-count/great-british-bee-count-bee-identification-guide>

Download a colourful poster showing common British bee species  
<http://www.bbwt.org.uk/sites/bbwt.live.vt.precedenthost.co.uk/files/files/bees.pdf>

More about Bumblebee nests  
<http://www.buzzaboutbees.net/bee-nest-removal-bumblebee.html>

Contacting Reading Beekeepers Association  
<http://www.rbka.org.uk/swarms>



## Property Maintenance

Plumbing, Electrics, Decorating,  
Woodwork, Roofing, Brickwork, Drains,  
Kitchens and Bathrooms

All Exterior, Groundworks and Garden work  
Property Management & Lettings

Please call Roger on 07752 759908

[colbeckproperty@gmail.com](mailto:colbeckproperty@gmail.com)

## Computer repairs

Specialist in home-user & small business support:  
Virus removal, slow computer, data backup,  
data recovery, booting problems, hardware diagnosis

Over 10 years experience

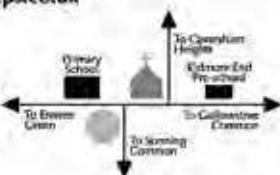
0759 898 3292 [jason@millwardit.co.uk](mailto:jason@millwardit.co.uk)

[millwardit.co.uk](http://millwardit.co.uk)



Set in an idyllic village location, our small, friendly pre-school creates a very special environment for children guided by a team of highly qualified, caring staff. Please contact us for details:  
[registrar@keps.co.uk](mailto:registrar@keps.co.uk)

With excellent links to Kidmore End Primary School and only 5 minutes from Caversham, Sonning Common, Peppard and Emmer Green.



Kidmore End Pre-School, Parish Room  
Wood Lane, Kidmore End, Reading RG4 9BB  
Registered Charity Number 104 6030  
[www.KidmoreEndPreSchool.co.uk](http://www.KidmoreEndPreSchool.co.uk)

## Laurence Hansen

### Household and Property Services

- Carpentry, Plumbing & Tiling
- Painting & Decorating
- Concrete & Brickwork
- Fences, Sheds & Greenhouses
- Irrigation systems
- Projects & Repairs

07792 477784 [info@thewoods.myzen.co.uk](mailto:info@thewoods.myzen.co.uk)

Wood View, Reades Lane, Gallowstree Common

## Whatever you want to store...

...for whatever reason - house sale and purchase not coinciding, travelling, house building work, paperwork overload or just "de-cluttering" to sell your house more quickly - we offer a friendly and flexible service at Shiplake.

With competitive rates, secure storage all on one level and hassle free 24/7 access, contact us now!

Only 10 minutes  
drive from  
Sonning Common  
in Shiplake



01189 404163

[www.barn-store.co.uk](http://www.barn-store.co.uk)

## PET COUNTRY SUPPLIES

We have been trading in the village for  
over 50 years

WE ARE PROUD SPONSORS OF

- THE LOCAL FISH BUS
- DOGS FOR THE DISABLED
- BINFIELD HEATH DOG SHOW

We have old fashioned friendly Service

We can't stock everything but we can  
get most things for your pet!

We deliver free on orders over £25.00

COME AND SEE US !!

43a Wood Lane

Sonning Common RG4 9SJ

0118 9723495

Email [interestedin@petcountrysupplies.co.uk](mailto:interestedin@petcountrysupplies.co.uk)

[www.petcountrysupplies.co.uk](http://www.petcountrysupplies.co.uk)

Open.....Mon to Sat 9.am to 5.30pm (5pm Sat)  
9am to 4pm Weds

Closed all day Sunday and Bank Hols

## SAVE MONEY WITH



CHECK OUT  
THE MONTHLY  
OFFERS AT  
OUR SHOP  
OR  
WEBSITE



# Parish news

The content of this page is the sole responsibility of, and is paid for by, Sonning Common Parish Council

## NEW ERA FOR THE VILLAGE



**Councillor Douglas Kedge has stood down as chairman of Sonning Common Parish Council after six years in the leading role. He remains a parish councillor.**

Councillor Carole Lewis was elected as the new chairman in May with councillor John Stoves remaining as vice-chairman.

Under councillor Kedge's six-year leadership the parish council was transformed. The process began in 2011 with the first elections to the council in 25 years, following a contested election.

New councillors joined the parish council as former councillors lost their seats, heralding a new area in local government.

"We were thrilled with the election result," said councillor Kedge, a former Head of English at Highdown School, Emmer Green, for more than 20 years. "That was the moment we realised that we could have a very different parish council.

"It was important to me to get back to how a parish council, a tier of local government, should be run, following proper rules and procedures. In addition, the new council began

the process of spending the annual precept (parish income) in areas previously neglected.

"The role of chairman, as I saw it, was to work with councillors and our excellent Parish Office to build up a proactive team spirit, and I believe we have succeeded."

Councillor Kedge, formerly a governor of Chiltern Edge School, considers the council's greatest achievements during his chairmanship to have been the sponsorship of the Sonning Common Neighbourhood Plan, the skatepark and the sale of parish council-owned land at Brinds Copse for a small housing development.

The preparation of the neighbourhood plan helped to bring together the community, he believes, while the introduction of the mostly grant-funded £100,000 skatepark was, "a marvellous achievement, led by Councillor Carole Lewis, which will benefit the young people of the village for many years to come".

Money from the sale of Brinds Copse will be put towards a planned re-modelling of the village centre to help alleviate parking and traffic problems. A project to develop new sport and recreation facilities on Memorial Hall Field, off Reades Lane, will also benefit from the funds.

"I have had some very interesting moments as chairman of the parish council and they have added to the enjoyment of it. It has never been boring," said councillor Kedge.

"With new projects coming forward now it is going to be a very exciting time. We shall need more councillors and probably more Parish Office staff to help us achieve our ambitions for the village." ●

## A FRESH PAIR OF EYES

**New parish councillor Mika Rinta-Suksi is looking forward to bringing his fresh perspective to the role.**

Mika, 43, was co-opted onto the parish council in June following the resignation of former councillor Anthony l'Anson due to pressures of work.

Originally from Finland, Mika moved to the area three years ago with his solicitor wife Penny and their twin boys Aleks and Luka.

He will be involved with the parish council's major new project to develop sport and recreation facilities on Memorial Hall Field, which is behind the Kidmore End War Memorial Hall, opposite Chiltern Edge School, on Reades Lane.

Mika is keen to help introduce a range of sport and recreational opportunities locally, suitable for all ages, which residents can walk or cycle to.

Said Mika: "At the moment there are few facilities in the village for sport and recreation but now that we have some land available that will change.

"I am keen to consult residents on the plans for the field as we go forward. I always like to talk to people to hear their points of view. I have my own opinions, of course, but it is useful to hear about people's daily experiences of village life.

"I am always looking at how things are done and thinking about how they could be done better. That is my nature." ●



# The Edge

HIYA! 😎

It's me Olivia, and I am back with another article! By the time you're reading this, it'll be the height of the summer, hot, sunny, relaxing... Unfortunately, right now, we have a couple of weeks left till the summer holidays 🙄🙄

Today, I will be doing pros and cons of summer plus how to enjoy it! Admittedly, British summers can't always be the nicest but there's always a way to make rainy days fun.

## PROS

No school! (duh)

Longer lie-ins!

Super light evenings so it doesn't get dark!

Time to spend with friends and family

You'll probably go on holiday

It's a perfect time to experiment with hair, makeup etc.

You can wear shorts and short sleeve tops without freezing to death

When it's raining outside but you're snuggled up in bed

Barbecues (barbecue food is the best)

Summer games; I love playing badminton in the garden!

## CONS

The nights can be unbearably hot

The days can be unbearably hot

There could be summer homework

Being bitten by mosquitoes 🦟

Lots of wasps and bees around to intimidate you

It gets light so early and the birds are awake at 4!

Things can be pretty miserable if there's nowhere to cool off

Sometimes school can be fun, and not having anything to do can be boring

## HOW TO MAKE THE BEST OF THE CONS

Enjoy sleeping without the sheets; in a few months' time it'll be FREEZING

Nothing is nicer than relaxing in the shade or in a pool

Summer homework won't take all summer; try doing it the day or two after you break up. NOT the day before it's due!

As for the rest, a little insect repellent and a paddling pool should do the trick 😎





# A REVIEW OF THE VILLAGE NEWS

Subtitled “The truth behind England’s rural idyll”, Sonning Common resident and parish councillor, Tom Fort, visited, talked to residents and cycled around 23 English villages in order to analyse and report on their condition in the early 21st century. The result of his labours, both physical and in what must have been many hours of research and background reading, is a work of scholarship spiced with the whimsical sense of humour, familiar to readers of his articles in the Sonning Common Magazine.

The Village News is a mixture of social history and historical geography. The author ranged fairly far and wide, from Troutbeck in traditional Westmorland and Chopwell in what was County Durham to Luccombe in Somerset and Chelsfield on Kent’s border with London. In addition to Sonning Common, Fort takes in other local villages like Twyford (where he lived as a boy) and Three Mile Cross in Berkshire, East Hendred, North Moreton and Juniper Hill in Oxfordshire, and Eversley, just over the Hampshire boundary. A common factor in his choice of many villages appears to have been dictated by the existence of written material, either of an historic or literary nature. Juniper Hill and Lark Rise to Candelford and Three Mile Cross and Our Village are two examples of

the literary connection, while Slad in Gloucestershire and Cider with Rosie is another. More interesting to this reader are some remarkable works of local history, exemplified by Foxton in Cambridgeshire and The Common Stream by schoolmaster, Rowland Parker.

Apart from writing, which it seems Tom Fort enjoys for he succeeds in conveying enjoyment to his readers, he is also keen on cricket and fishing. So if a village presents either or both of these possibilities, we soon learn about them. It is reassuring to know that there are still trout in Troutbeck and that village cricket survives and even flourishes in some places. He also tries his hand at bowls in Three Mile Cross. But the overriding conclusion is that the English village, often the response to agricultural requirements in earlier centuries, is no longer sustained or justified by agriculture. The major changes in agriculture which have undermined the village occurred in the 20th century, many about the time of the First World War. In some cases, the future of the village seems bleak. “To flourish” writes Fort, “a village must have at least a primary school, a shop, a well-used village hall, a pub, preferably a recreation ground cherished by an active football club and cricket club.”

The conclusion of the book is a brave chapter on Secrets of survival in which Fort pretends that he has been “put in charge of nurturing village life”. He becomes the national (or notional) Village Tsar or Commissioner for Rural Communities and what he writes should be brought to the attention of politicians. He would wipe out conservation areas (and is mildly critical of the dead hand of the National Trust); he would encourage house building in large existing gardens (back land) rather than on village peripheries; he would seek ways to encourage local builders to work in local materials; he is highly critical of major housing developers with their uniformity of housing so that developments in Wick look like those in Penzance; and “it would be critical for speculative companies of the likes of Gladman to be frozen out of this process”. Finally, he would mobilise the reserve army of granddads and grannies and retirees to help run the vital aspects of village life which are so necessary for the common good. ●

K B ATKINSON

**The Village News by Tom Fort**  
(Simon & Schuster, London, 2017  
ISBN 978-1-4711-5109-5) £14.99

## MIKE DOCKREE WINDOWS

We provide and fit

- Windows
- Doors
- Conservatories

In a colour of your choice and also

- replace misty and damaged glass
- hinges, handles and locks

We can also give your conservatory roof an upgrade both in material and colour.

We also provide and fit:

- Fascia
- Soffits
- Guttering
- Cladding



Our windows and conservatories come with a comprehensive 10 year guarantee, full independent inspection with all certificates

Mike Dockree has over 30 years' experience

For your free quotation

**Ring: 01189724376  
or 07785928190**

Email: [madwindows62@gmail.com](mailto:madwindows62@gmail.com)

10% discount on windows & doors  
when you quote MAD2017

## Book-Keeping & Payroll Services

for the Small Business & the Self-employed

Call Val Ogilvie for Competitive Rates

**01491 681235 or 07768 732439**

[val.ogilvie878@gmail.com](mailto:val.ogilvie878@gmail.com)

## E. H. HAMLEY & SON

*Builders & Decorators*

Tel: (0118) 9573894

Mob: 0774 392 9649

Email: [ehhamleyandson@gmail.com](mailto:ehhamleyandson@gmail.com)

**Property repairs a speciality**

14 Sheridan Avenue Caversham Reading RG4 7QD



ESTABLISHED OVER 100 YEARS

## WEE-COT SEATING

*Upholstery, Loose Covers,  
Replacement Cushions, Chair Caning,  
French Polishing & Furniture Repairs*  
LIZANNE SMITH Tel: 0118 972 4560

**Paul's Painting and Decorating.  
Plastering. Carpentry.**

**Property and Garden Maintenance.**

**07583 623040 or 0118 9473735**

Friendly, Local, 30+ Years Experience, Free Quotes



## CARL WOODS BUTCHERS LTD

*Purveyors of High Quality Meats to the Retail and Catering Trade  
BBQ and Spit Roast Specialists*

Visit our new website

**[www.carlwoodsbutchers.co.uk](http://www.carlwoodsbutchers.co.uk)**

*The finest Local Produce, at surprisingly affordable prices*

**\*\*Free Local Delivery\*\***



5kg Minced Beef just **£24.90**

Free Range Shoulder of Pork just **£11.99**

5kg of Chicken Fillet just **£23.90**



*Call us on*

**0118 972 2228**

*Supporting British Farmers*





# DO YOU REMEMBER “TWO WAY FAMILY FAVOURITES”?

## Part Two



British Forces News is the Forces window on the world, transmitted every day and can be seen here in the UK on Forces TV, online and in social media, the programme covers all issues of warfare, defence, policy, and military strategy, as well as welfare, family topics, and sporting events.

The Forces News teams work around the clock 24/7, bringing in material from all around the forces world, back to our studios in Buckinghamshire.

Material can be in the form of conventional video and audio, digitally compressed data streams or files. Here it is ingested and stored onto a server for immediate use or archived for future use.



As with most News studios we take advantage of the most up to date technologies and use chrominance keying, sometimes referred to as chromakeying, this enables us to superimpose our news anchor onto any background.

Data that is now stored on to the server is used to produce Forces TV and Forces news programmes, and scheduled for playout at the appropriate times.

All the different departments that work together getting these programmes to air are glued together with literally miles of cabling. After this it's off to the dish farm for transmission across the globe and to an eagerly waiting audience be that on land or at sea. ●

MICK STANYER



# TOM FORT HANNAH

It's a sad day when you and whoever does your hair part company. And that day has come for me. Hannah, the lovely girl who has been applying the scissors and razor to my thick, wiry locks for as long as I can remember is off to somewhere in Lancashire and I doubt if I'll ever see her again.

What I most admired about her professionally was her speed. My hair does not require much in the way of shaping or styling or sculpting. It grows fast and dense and unruly, and – like an old hedge full of brambles – has to be kept under control. This Hannah did with the minimum of fuss.

So we never had the time to get into in those 'have you been anywhere nice/ how was your weekend/got any holiday

plans/terrible weather isn't it?' kind of conversations that so many of those in the hair business feel obliged to initiate. On the whole, in the seven or eight minutes it took Hannah to reduce my thatch to manageable proportions, we exchanged news about our respective dogs.

I would tell her about Meg's latest displays of anti-social behaviour: scoffing a half-eaten sandwich in the Co-op car park, chewing the bottom of my fishing magazine as it came through the letter box, rolling in fox poo and having to be put in the sink for a bath.

And Hannah would, humorously and half-despairingly, relate her animal's exploits. On one occasion, I remember, she described how it caught a grey squirrel and swallowed it, defying her frantic efforts to extract the wretched animal by the tail, and how sick her pet was for



days afterwards. All the time scissor blades and razor edges would be flying around my head in a blur of motion, while the silver hair on the floor grew like a snow drift. The last time was a couple of weeks ago, and after I paid her we exchanged a hug and I wished her well in pastures new. Lucky Lancashire, unhappy Sonning Common! ●

## COOK'S CORNER

### Uno, Dos, Tres ... it's TAPAS TIME!

By SANDY ONOFRIO

#### PATATAS BRAVAS - serves 4

1 onion/ 1 clove garlic (peeled)/ 1 dried red chilli/ 100ml olive oil/ 200g Serrano ham/ 2 tablespoons plain flour/ 2 tablespoons paprika/ 5 tomatoes (peeled and cut in wedges)/ 1 teaspoon salt/ 1 teaspoon sugar/ 5 tablespoons white wine\* (optional – use water with 2 tablespoons tomato puree)/ 4 large potatoes, peeled and cubed/ olive oil for frying/ salt and pepper to taste

In large pan, heat oil and add onion, garlic, red chilli & ham. Cook for 10 mins and add paprika and flour. Cook for 1 minute and stir in the tomatoes, salt, sugar & wine\* (if using).

Bring to boil, reduce heat and simmer for 10 mins. Using a hand-held blender blend the tomato mix until smooth. Set aside.

Heat oil in saucepan/deep frying pan, until very hot. Add potatoes and fry until golden. Drain on a plate lined with kitchen towel. Season with salt, serve with sauce drizzled over the top. ●

#### ALBONDIGAS (MEATBALLS) - serves 4

675g Minced Beef/ 140g dried breadcrumbs/ 1 tablespoon dried herbs/ 1 tablespoon paprika/ 2 tablespoons parsley/ 2 cloves garlic/ 1 onion (chopped)/ 1 egg, beaten/ 1 tablespoon olive oil/ 1 x 750g pasta sauce/ 1 x 400g tin chopped tomatoes/ 1 x 400g jar/ carton passata

Preheat oven to 160/Gas 4. In a bowl mix mince with breadcrumbs, herbs, parsley, garlic, onion and egg. Shape the mixture into 16 meatballs. Bake for 40 minutes. In the meantime heat the sauce, tomatoes and passata. Spoon the sauce over the meatballs to serve. ●

#### TORTILLA (SPANISH OMELETTE) - serves 2

4 eggs/60ml milk/ salt & pepper, to taste/ 60ml water/ 1 tablespoon olive oil/ 2 cloves chopped garlic/ 2 thinly sliced medium potatoes/ 1 vegetable stock cube/ 1 sliced courgette/ ½ can sweetcorn/ 1 sliced green pepper/ 125g grated cheese

Beat eggs, milk and salt & pepper. Heat oil in a heavy frying pan over a medium heat and fry garlic and sliced potatoes for 5 minutes. Add water and stock cube and cook for 10 mins when most of the water will have evaporated. Pour in the egg mixture and arrange the vegetables over the top. Sprinkle with cheese. Turn heat to low, cover and cook for 15 minutes. From time to time use a blunt knife to release the edges from the pan. Place pan under pre-heated grill to finish off the cooking. Let stand for a couple of minutes prior to slicing. ●





# NATHAN COX PLASTERING

**All aspects of plastering work undertaken**

- Plastering
- Dry lining
- Flat Rendering
- Coving
- Pebble dashing
- Plaster & hole repair

**Over 15 years experience**

**Tel: 0118 9723010**

**Email: NJCox.plastering@hotmail.com**



**WHEELERS** ECA

**ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS**

DOMESTIC INDUSTRIAL COMMERCIAL

"call today for a free estimate"

**01491 651356**

www.wheelers-electrical.co.uk

Est. 1939



**LANGLEY ARB LTD**  
ARBORICULTURE SERVICES

**Experts in Commercial and Domestic Tree Surgery**

**Tree Reductions & Thinning | Hedge & Shrub Trimming**  
**Arboriculture Consultations | Supply & Planting**

Telephone 0800 0385434 • Mobile 07775 959579  
Email: Enquiries@Langleyarb.com • www.Langleyarb.com

Langley Arboriculture Ltd are an Environmentally, Friendly Company Specialising in Customer Service whilst Providing a Professional Approach to Modern Tree Surgery. All our Staff are Highly Skilled Tree experts who know and understand your Regional Habitat.

Proud members of

**Checkatrade.com**  
Where reputation matters

 APPROVED CONTRACTOR

**Computer Problems?**  
**PC misbehaving?**

Fault diagnosis, Maintenance & Upgrades, Networking, Data Recovery, Virus Cleaning, Broadband, Telephone Cabling & Extensions, TV, Mobiles, Website Design, Development & Hosting, and much more. Home and Business Support. Windows and Mac.

01491 680036 or 07961 476664  
mail@influentialcomputers.com  
www.InfluentialComputers.com  
Robin, Henry and Angus Piercey  
Influential Computers Ltd - A Family Run Business Since 1984

**Shaun Guard**  
**TV AERIAL SERVICES**

- Poor Reception Solved
- Aerials Repaired & Supplied
- TVs - Hung on your wall and tuned

- Extra TV Points - For aerial and Sky (In HD!)
- Sky TV - Also Foreign Language TV

 **OXFORD AERIALS**

**Call Sonning Common**  
**01189 639113**

**Imagine**  
**Dry Carpet Cleaning**  
*"no soggy carpets or wet dog smell in your home"*

**We also clean...**  
Upholstery  
Leather & Fabric with super fast drying  
Hard Floors with Anti Slip Coating  
Tiles inc Grout • Stone Karndean & Amtico

**Have 3 PIECE SOFA CLEANED get One FREE room cleaned of your choice + free Stain Guard**

**You can call us FREE on**  
**0800 180 49 82**

**zero dry time**  
Dry Carpet & Upholstery Cleaners

**FREE spot & stain remover with every clean**

- Spills & spots - gone
- Smells & odours - removed
- Deep cleans & lifts carpet pile - like new

**We have dry cleaned carpets & upholstery in over 100,000 homes**

## ALL MAKES SERVICING

*Caring for all your motoring needs for over 50 years!*



- ✓ BOSCH Diagnostics
- ✓ Service & Repair
- ✓ Air Conditioning Service & Re-Gas
- ✓ ATA Highly Qualified Technicians
- ✓ Free Collection & Delivery
- ✓ Courtesy Cars Available

**Sonning Common Vauxhall**

**0118 972 2021**

Peppard Road, Sonning Common, Reading RG4 9SU

**CUSTOMER EXCELLENCE WINNER**

Service Open: Mon-Fri 8am - 6pm • Sat 8.30am - 12.30pm • Sun CLOSED

[www.sonningcommonvauxhall.com](http://www.sonningcommonvauxhall.com)



**£10.00 OFF**

your next MoT on production of this voucher



## TEXTUREPLUS

Free Estimates

Interior & Exterior Decorating

Artexing & Coving / Solving Artex Problems

Floor & Wall Tiling / Wallpaper Hanging / Plastering

Kitchens / Bathrooms / Roof & Guttering Maintenance

Carpentry – Doors + Architraves + Skirting

**COMPLETE HOME IMPROVEMENTS**

(Quality Comes As Standard)

30 Years Experience / NHBC Awarded / PPL Insured

Insurance Work Undertaken

**Tel: 0118 972 1442 or Mobile: 07880 542363**

Based in Sonning Common

## GIRL POWER

**Female Electrician**

*Local - Honest – Reliable*

Please call Jess

**07870 507749**

for all your  
electrical needs



A. B.

# WALKER

THE FUNERAL PEOPLE

PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICE  
FROM A FIFTH GENERATION FAMILY BUSINESS:  
LATER LIFE PRE-PLANNING,  
BESPOKE TRADITIONAL AND CONTEMPORARY FUNERALS,  
MONUMENTAL MASONS AND BEREAVEMENT CARE

[www.abwalker.co.uk](http://www.abwalker.co.uk)

HENLEY 01491 413434

CAVERSHAM 0118 9477007

READING 0118 957 3650



**Golden Charter  
Funeral Plans**



# SONNING COMMON AND ITS NEIGHBOURS DURING THE ENGLISH CIVIL WARS

FIRST OF A 3-PART SERIES

The name 'Sonning Common' derives from the area's ancient history as the grazing – 'common' – land belonging to Sonning parish. In the mid 17th century, the area the village now covers was a sparsely inhabited pocket of land, split across the northern end of Sonning and Shiplake parishes (the boundary ran along the west of Shiplake Bottom, then east of Peppard Road). These 'long parishes', strung out between the Chilterns and the Thames, enjoyed both pasture in the hills, and a vital river frontage.

Sonning Common's village did not emerge until the 19th century, but when Charles I fell out with his parliament two centuries earlier, the landscape was already dotted with larger dwellings: notably the early 16th century Reddish Manor on Peppard Road, and the Blount's Court estate, then owned by the Blounts of Mapledurham.

Although Peppard Road is now a significant route, if it existed in the 1640s it was undoubtedly little more than a track. The principal route for commerce and communication between Reading and Oxford lay to the west, a 'pack road' beginning at Caversham and winding north via Wallingford along the route of the modern A4074.

Sonning Common's inhabitants would have been surrounded by military activity after the outbreak of the First Civil War in 1642. To the north, Oxford became the King's headquarters, while Wallingford was also garrisoned for Charles; three miles to the west, the Blounts at Mapledurham House also readied themselves to defend the King. To the south the Royalist Lord Craven owned an estate at Caversham Park (the present site of BBC Monitoring). To the east, Henley fell under the influence of local Parliamentarians, and nearby Greys Court was owned by the Parliamentarian family Knollys'. Fawley Court and the now lost Greenland House were also garrisoned,

the former for Parliament and the latter for the King. Most local action focused on Reading, however, which was garrisoned throughout the wars but frequently changed hands. Although we know little of South Oxfordshire's micro-politics at the time, the presence of so many significant local players, evenly split across the political divide, must have caused much local tension. Garrison soldiers were frequently billeted on local populations, and it is highly likely that some based at Reading were allocated bed and board in properties to the north. So, whilst not directly part of the fighting, Sonning Common was surrounded by it and its scattered inhabitants in all likelihood left out of pocket by the forcible hosting of troops.

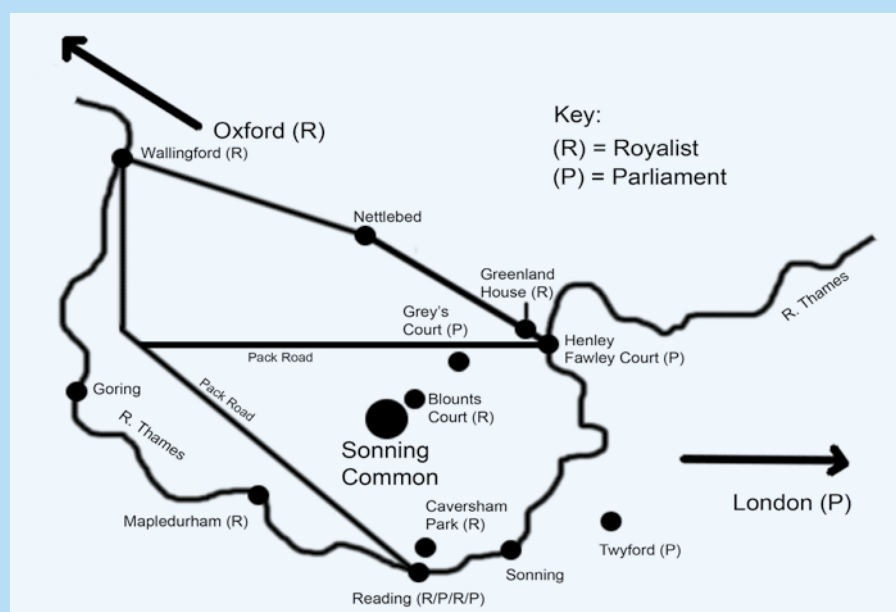
Reading's strategic importance as a garrison and its close proximity meant that soldiers would have regularly passed by or through Sonning Common. In April 1643 the Earl of Essex reportedly made a close pass with his army on his way to siege Reading's then Royalist garrison;

shortly afterwards King Charles, coming to relieve the town, quartered at Nettlebed with his forces. He then moved on to Caversham; his route is unknown but he headquartered at Caversham Park, so must also have passed very close to Sonning Common, if not through it.

Part 2 will explain how the wars affected nearby Henley-on-Thames, and its volatile relations with neighbouring Reading. For part 2 I'm planning a piece about Henley and its frequent skirmishes with Reading; part 3 (and possibly a part 4), will be about the various garrisons of Reading and the proliferation of troops in the local area. ●

SERENA JONES

Serena is the daughter of Dirk Jones the well-known Parish Councillor. She lived in the village and attended Chiltern Edge school.



# Church *news*

## EHLERS-DANLOS SYNDROME (EDS)

My name is Charlotte, I am 19 years old and have lived in Sonning Common all my life, attending Sonning Common Primary School and Chiltern Edge. I enjoy singing and playing the recorder, cooking and crafts. I also have Ehlers-Danlos syndrome.

Ehlers-Danlos syndrome (or EDS) is a genetic disorder in which the structure of connective tissue is abnormal because of a gene mutation. This means that tissues throughout the body are abnormally fragile and hyper-extensible. Typically, people with EDS have stretchy skin, loose and flexible joints and fragile body tissues, both inside and out. People with EDS can suffer regular joint dislocations, fragile skin which bruises and scars easily, chronic fatigue, heart problems, gastrointestinal difficulties and chronic pain. It often takes a long time before diagnosis and EDS is often misdiagnosed or dismissed.

Since my diagnosis in September 2016, I have found help and support from Ehlers-Danlos Support UK ([www.ehlers-danlos.org](http://www.ehlers-danlos.org)), the only EDS charity in



the country. Their aim is to help people with EDS, like me, to live a full, active and positive life. EDS UK believes that nobody should be left to fight on their own and that every person with EDS should have access to the appropriate medical services and care. They also fund vital research to further understand EDS, including research to identify the gene responsible and to work towards a cure.

In March, I took part in a concert at St John the Baptist church, Kidmore End, to raise money for EDS UK and parish funds. Under the direction of Frances

Brewitt-Taylor, organist and musical director at St John's, I sang a number of classical, folk and operatic duets with my mother, Karen. Frances also played some fantastic organ pieces. We were very pleased with the support from the community and congregation and the concert raised over £700! I will continue to fund raise in whatever way I can to support the work of EDS UK and to raise awareness of this disabling condition

Watch this space for more events to raise awareness and funds for this condition which affects many young people. ●

## MEDLEY FOR MAY CONCERT

A Parish concert was held at St John the Baptist Church, Kidmore End, on Sunday 7 May. Several pieces were performed by the church choir with visiting singers from Christ the King Church, Sonning Common, under the direction of Frances Brewitt-Taylor, Musical Director at St John's.

Soloists from the Parish also performed on a variety of instruments including organ, piano, recorder, trombone and ukulele. There were solo singers too, and the Rector of Kidmore End & Sonning Common, Revd James Stickings, made his singing debut in the Parish.

The concert was very well-attended and enjoyed by all. Tea and cakes were served and a retiring collection in aid of Parish funds raised over £800.

It was a wonderful occasion and a great way to showcase the considerable talent in the Parish and local villages. ●





# CAN YOU HELP?

## YOUR VILLAGE GARDENERS NEED YOU

Can you spare an hour or two of precious time per month to join a happy band of volunteers that is in dire need of some new recruits? Age is no barrier and this free healthy therapy can be a real bonus for you, your loved ones and for our lovely village! We are frequently stopped and asked questions by members of the public when we are working on the flower beds in the centre of the village and the following information might enable you to feel you would like to come and join us! Come on! Give it a try! We are a group of about 25 volunteers of mixed ages and sexes and you will be welcomed by all with open arms.

### Why do you volunteer?

We want to make the most of the assets we have in the village and enhance our green spaces. It can be very satisfying to be part of a group that gets on with practical work and the results are usually welcomed by all. The amount of time required is very manageable and it can be a therapeutic experience to work and laugh alongside a group of people with common interests. We all have an input and share ideas.

### When do you meet?

We meet for one hour between 10 and 11am on the first Sunday and third Thursday each month. You do not need to commit in advance and we meet outside the Village Hall. All we ask is that people just commit to whatever they are able to do. We welcome people who would be willing to be responsible for watering or keeping up a tub or bed – or any small job!

### Do I need to know about plants?

No. Some people cannot tell the difference between a Dahlia and a Dandelion but there is always someone on hand to help. You will learn as you go and it is good fun. We welcome anyone who is interested and we usually work in groups on the various beds.

### What about tools and equipment?

Most people choose to bring their own tools but we also have a selection of tools in our garden store that can be borrowed.

### How are you funded.

We have some funding from the Parish Council and also some from local business. We have also received

generous donations from individuals, donors and organisations. We usually have two big planting days – a bulb planting day in the autumn and a summer planting on the first Sunday in June. These are always good fun!

There are many changes in the pipeline in regard to the development of the centre of the village. As a group we are committed to ensuring that we continue to work towards enhancing our local environment to ensure that members of the community derive great pleasure from seeing the changing planting and the care given. We get a lot of compliments but would dearly love some more manpower to help us continue to make Sonning Common a place that takes pride in its surroundings and community.

If you would like to find out more please come and speak to us on our gardening days or contact Joan Grummant at [joangrummant@gmail.com](mailto:joangrummant@gmail.com) or the magazine editor and give your details.

Go on! Be Daring and give it a try!! ●

JOAN GRUMMANT



# DIARY DATES

## AUGUST

### Saturday 12

12 - 6pm

Nettlebed Art & Craft Show.  
Nettlebed Community  
School Hall

### Sunday 13

10am - 5pm

Nettlebed Art & Craft Show.  
Nettlebed Community  
School Hall

### Monday 14

2.30pm

FISH - Tea party.  
Village Hall

### Thursday 17

11.30am

FISH - Pub lunch

### Monday 21

9am - 2.30pm

Village Market Antique &  
Collectors' Fair. Village Hall

### Thursday 24

FISH - Henley Farmers'  
Market

## SEPTEMBER

### Saturday 2

2 - 4pm

Chiltern Edge Horticultural  
Society - Autumn Show.  
Village Hall

### Wednesday 6

10.30am - 12noon

Village Coffee Morning  
hosted by Sonning Common  
Women's Institute. Open to  
all. Raising funds for local  
community projects.  
Village Hall

### Monday 11

2.30pm

FISH - Tea party. Village Hall

### Monday 18

9am - 2.30pm

Village Market Antique &  
Collectors' Fair. Village Hall

### Monday 18

8pm

Sonning Common Parish  
Council. Village Hall

### Thursday 21

7.30pm

Sonning Common  
Women's Institute - Floral  
demonstration by Sue  
Hedges. Visitors welcome.  
Village Hall

### Thursday 21

11.30am

FISH - Pub lunch

### Thursday 28

FISH - Henley Farmers'  
Market

# ADVERTISERS DIRECTORY

|   |         |   |      |
|---|---------|---|------|
| A B Walker & Sons Ltd<br>Funeral Directors              | 30      | Milo Technical Support<br>(Computers)           | 35   |
| Adams Cars  | 9       | Mike Dockree Windows                            | 26   |
| AMAXS Plumbing<br>Heating Electrical                    | 16      | Moore's Painting,<br>Decorating & more          | 8    |
| Barrs Insurance<br>Services                             | Back    | Nathan Cox Plastering                           | 29   |
| Barn Store<br>(Secure Self Store)                       | 22      | Paul's Painting,<br>Decorating and more         | 26   |
| Beacon Flooring   | 8       | Peppard Building Supplies                       | 8    |
| Beville Estate Agents                                   | 2       | Pet Country Supplies                            | 22   |
| Bondright Roofing<br>Services                           | Back    | Pilates ABC                                     | 35   |
| Bonner Locksmiths                                       | 12      | Property Maintenance                            | 22   |
| Book-keeping & Payroll<br>Services                      | 26      | Red Kite Electrical                             | 9    |
| Brambles Floral Service                                 | 9       | Robin James Opticians                           | 9    |
| Bridges Estate Agents                                   | 17      | S J Hinton Carpenter<br>& Joiner                | 35   |
| Carl Woods Butchers Ltd                                 | 26      | Sonning Common Beauty                           | 35   |
| Carpet Fitter   | 2       | Sonning Common Garage                           | 30   |
| Caversham Aerial Services                               | 2       | Sonning Common<br>Pet Care                      | 12   |
| Chiltern Beauty   | 12      | Sonning Common                                  | 2    |
| Compass Water Softeners                                 | 12      | Pre-School                                      |      |
| Computer Repairs  | 22      | Spruce Property<br>Maintenance Service          | 16   |
| Curtains, Blinds, Pelmetts,<br>Davis Tate Estate Agency | 16<br>8 | Studio One (Pilates,<br>Matwork & Yoga)         | 8    |
| E H Hamley & Son<br>(Builders & Decorators)             | 26      | T C Fuller Plumbing<br>& Heating                | 35   |
| Elements Kitchen Design                                 | 2       | Tandoori Connoisseur                            | 35   |
| Family Hairdressing                                     | 12      | Tereena Hartin<br>Personal Trainer              | Back |
| Functional Physio                                       | Back    | TexturePlus (Interior<br>& Exterior Decorating) | 30   |
| Girl Power (Electrician)                                | 30      | Time 4 Pilates                                  | 9    |
| Graham Blake Soft<br>Furnishings                        | 16      | Tomalin and Son<br>Funeral Directors            | Back |
| Heights Tree Care                                       | 16      | TV Aerial Services                              | 29   |
| Henley Antiques   | 9       | Undeniably Podiatry                             | 12   |
| Henley Glazing & Window<br>Centre Ltd                   | 35      | Wee-Cot Seating                                 | 26   |
| Influential Computers                                   | 26      | Wood Lane Dentistry                             | 2    |
| Kennylands Gymnastics                                   | 16      | Wheeler's Electrical<br>Contractors             | 29   |
| Kidbys Sheds  | 9       | Zero Dry Time<br>(Dry Carpet Cleaning)          | 29   |
| Kidmore End Pre-School                                  | 22      |   |      |
| Langley Arb (Tree Surgery)                              | 29      |   |      |
| Laurence Hansen<br>(House & Property Services)          | 22      |   |      |
| Mike Farina Auto<br>Services Ltd                        | Back    |   |      |

**The FISH Volunteer Centre** runs regular door-to-door shopping trips to Tesco in Henley every Monday morning and to Henley Waitrose, Henley Farmers Market, Morrisons in Reading and Reading Town Centre every month.

The programme of shopping and leisure trips for each month is published and distributed on 20th of the preceding month and bookings are taken from that date. Copies of the programme are available the FISH Volunteer Centre, Sonning Common Library, the Christian Community Action shop, Pet Country Supplies and on request from Carson's Chemist. The monthly programme of trips is posted on noticeboards in both Peppard and Sonning Common.

Details of all minibus trips can also be found on the FISH website [www.fishvolunteercentre.co.uk](http://www.fishvolunteercentre.co.uk)

For more information and to book any trip call **0118 972 3986** any weekday between 09.30 and 11.30 a.m. ●

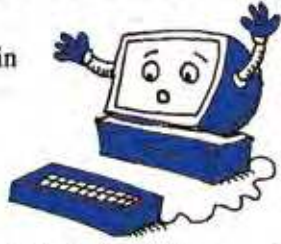


## Computer Problems?

*Free quote, no fix no fee, no call out charge*

Over 200 happy customers in  
Sonning Common.

Milo and Michael Harper



**Milo Technical Support**  
22 Sedgewell Road

0118 972 4905

## HENLEY GLAZING AND WINDOW CENTRE LTD

**01491 629901**

Glass Supply, Glazing Service, Mirrors, Shelves, Table  
Tops, sealed Units, Lead Lights, Locks, Secondary  
Glazing, Shower Screens

*Suppliers & Installers of:* UPVC, Aluminium & Timber  
Windows, Doors & Conservatories, Facias, Soffits &  
Guttering



12, Manor Farm, Peppard Common, Henley on Thames RG9 5LA  
Fax: 01491 629904 Email: [andy@henleyglazingwindow.co.uk](mailto:andy@henleyglazingwindow.co.uk)

## PILATES IN SONNING COMMON + HENLEY



**CONTACT Alyth Yealland**

[alyth@pilatesabc.co.uk](mailto:alyth@pilatesabc.co.uk)

**07521699265** [www.pilatesabc.co.uk](http://www.pilatesabc.co.uk)

## T.C. FULLER PLUMBING & HEATING

• Installation • Maintenance • Service • Repair

Boiler replacement, heating system upgrade &  
adaptations, power flush.

Hot water cylinder replacement.

All plumbing work undertaken.

Bath/Shower rooms, water softeners-salt supplied.

• No call out charge • Free estimates • Fully insured

Tel: 0118 9724097

Mob: 07800 914 880



225032

# TANDOORI

## Connoisseur

21 Wood Lane  
Sonning Common  
**0118 972 3104 / 972 1054**

*Come & Experience authentic  
Tandoori & Bengali Cuisine*

- ★ Fully Air-Conditioned
- ★ Large Groups Catered For
- ★ Open 7 Days a Week

**TAKE-AWAY MENU**

**We Guarantee Prompt Service on All Orders**

## S J HINTON Carpenter & Joiner

Wide range of high-quality carpentry  
services delivered by skilled craftsman

Built-In Wardrobes, Cupboards, Shelving.  
Kitchen Fitting, Doors, Floors, Windows,  
Stairs, Roof Construction.

**Telephone Steve on 0118 972 3602**  
**or 07887 653866**

## Sonning Common Beauty

12 Newfield Road Telephone 0118 972 3059

[www.sonningcommonbeauty.co.uk](http://www.sonningcommonbeauty.co.uk)

- MANICURE • PEDICURE • ORGANIC FACIALS
- MD FORMULATIONS GLYCOLIC PEELS
- WAXING • LASH AND BROW TREATMENTS
- SPRAY TANNING • MAKE-UP • MASSAGE
- BRIDAL HOLIDAY AND MUM-TO-BE PACKAGES AVAILABLE

Gift Vouchers Available

Some reduced price treatments available each  
week please ring to check availability



**Sonning Common Health Centre**  
Wood Lane, Sonning Common,  
Reading, RG4 9SW

- Back & Neck pain
- Muscle / Joint Strains
- Ligament Sprain
- Sports Injuries
- Whiplash Injuries
- Shoulder Injuries
- Post-Operative Rehabilitation
- Pre / Post Natal Exercise
- Respiratory Conditions
- Lower Limb & Foot Problems

- Appointments available every day
- Pilates classes throughout the week

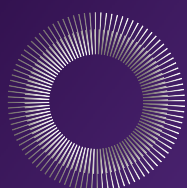
Jo Pereira MCSP  
Catherine Matthews MCSP  
Chartered Physiotherapists

T: 01189 722 745

E: [info@functionalphysio.co.uk](mailto:info@functionalphysio.co.uk)

[www.functionalphysio.co.uk](http://www.functionalphysio.co.uk)

The team at Functional Physio are Chartered Physiotherapists registered with the Health Professions Council and are recognised by all major insurance companies, including Bupa and Axa PPP.



**Tereena Hartin**

PERSONAL TRAINER

For information on personal training, lifestyle and nutrition advice, please contact Tereena:

T: 07702 296210

E: [tereena.hartin@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:tereena.hartin@yahoo.co.uk)

**Mike**



**Autoservices Ltd.**  
Tel: 01189 724036

**...Competitive Prices**

**...Excellent Service**

***Servicing and Repairs on any make***

**Tyres ♦ Batteries ♦ Exhausts**

**MOT ♦ Car Sales**

**Mike Farina Auto Services Ltd,  
21 Sedgewell Road, Sonning Common,  
Reading, RG4 9TA**

***Your Long Established Local Garage***

**0118 972 4036**



Find us on:  
**facebook®**

**T&S**

**Tomalin & Son  
Funeral Directors**

**Henley-on-Thames family run  
Independent Funeral Service**



**Golden Charter**  
Funeral Plans

**£40** John Lewis voucher or  
**£40** donation to Sue Ryder Care  
with each pre-paid funeral plan taken out on production of this advert

**Tel: (01491) 573370**

**[www.tomalins.co.uk](http://www.tomalins.co.uk) [tomalin@btconnect.com](mailto:tomalin@btconnect.com)**  
Anderson House, 38 Reading Road, Henley-on-Thames, RG9 1AG

**Fed Up With Call Centres**

**Barrs Insurance**

**Mark & Helen Richards**  
**Your Local Insurance Brokers**  
**For The Unusual & The Usual**  
**Let Us Take Care Of Your Insurance**

- House & Contents • Business • Liabilities
- Travel • Landlords • Professional Indemnity
- Horse • Shops • Sickness / Accident
- Commercial / Unusual Vehicle

If It's Not listed We Still Can Help  
All Types Of Insurance Enquiries Welcome

**0118 924 2603**

mail: [info@barrs-insurances.co.uk](mailto:info@barrs-insurances.co.uk)

**[www.barrs-insurance.co.uk](http://www.barrs-insurance.co.uk)**

Unit 2, Kidby's Yard, Kennylands Road, Sonning Common RG4 9JT  
Authorised and Regulated by FCA

**Your Local Roofing Company**

**ROOFING PROBLEMS?**

- ♦ Flat roofs – all types of long term systems
- ♦ Slate/tile work
- ♦ Chimneystack works
- ♦ Re-roofs
- ♦ Lead works
- ♦ Roof repairs & surveys
- ♦ Dormer & Velux windows
- ♦ Upvc soffits & fascias
- ♦ Insurance backed guarantees
- ♦ Free quotations
- ♦ CHAS Registered



**Bondright Roofing Services**

Freephone: 0800 1692361 or Henley 01491 579659

[www.bondrightroofing.co.uk](http://www.bondrightroofing.co.uk)

[admin@bondrightroofing.co.uk](mailto:admin@bondrightroofing.co.uk)

Mercurial Systems Ltd.