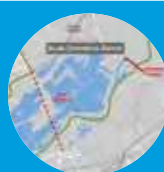


SC SONNING COMMON MAGAZINE



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DEBATE**
Still rumbling on
P14



**ELAINE'S GOLDEN
BABIES**
81 babies fostered and
still counting
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A PUZZLER**
Can you find the ad on
the back page?
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**SUMMER FUN
AT MEMORIAL
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FROM THE EDITORIAL TEAM

The 'season of mists and mellow fruitfulness' will have arrived by the time you read this magazine. There is little evidence of it so far in the trees but the mornings are cooler followed by hot sunny afternoons, a sure sign of the changing season.

This issue is varied as ever, with a profile of Elaine Louks who is currently fostering her 81st baby, an update on the 3rd bridge proposal across the Thames, a 75th celebration of the Normandy landings at the Oxford Museum, the superb results from Year 6 children and days of summer fun for village youngsters. Sadly, two key figures in the village history have died and are remembered for their contribution.

Our regular contributors are in fine fettle, Tom always makes me laugh and I hope this piece has the same effect on you all. Lyndsay continues to convince us that we need to make more effort with recycling, Sue updates us with important health information and Jackie entertains the children with her innovative craft ideas. There is lots more, too many to mention individually.

A puzzle page with a crossword or other word/number games would be new and something different. There is an advert on the back page, have a look and if you are interested I would be very pleased to hear from you. ●



Diana Pearman Editor

Email: editor@sonningcommonmagazine.org

MEET THE EDITORIAL TEAM ...



Diana Pearman



Christine Atkinson



Joan Grumant

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Cover image: Summer Fun at Memorial Hall Field

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**

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MAIDEN ERLEGH CHILTERN EDGE

At the end of our first year as part of the highly successful Maiden Erlegh Trust, Maiden Erlegh Chiltern Edge is moving into a period of stability benefitting from the support which has been provided by the Trust. The investment in the school is evidenced by the improvements in IT and the roofing project which is the first step in a complete overhaul of the buildings. This would not have been possible as a stand-alone school. Less visible is the support that the school has received to develop the curriculum and teaching and learning. This is vital in continuing to move forward so that we are the school of choice for the community.

We are once again delighted with how well students have performed in this year's examinations. Their dedication to their studies has paid off and we are proud of them. On top of the individual student successes we are proud to report fantastic results from across the curriculum with Grade 9s in Maths, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Art Textiles and Distinctions in both Btecs, Health and Social Care and Sport. The hard work and dedication of staff in supporting students over the course of their studies cannot be underestimated and for that we are grateful, however, we would like to congratulate all our students on their results and wish them well for the future,

wherever that will take them.

September welcomes a new cohort of year 7 students and we look forward to working with them to ensure that they are happy and successful. 2019 moving into 2020 is a key year for MECE as this is the pivotal year where stability and aiming for excellence in all that we do will provide the foundations for a long and bright future for the school. ●

MOIRA GREEN
Headteacher



MAIDEN ERLEGH
CHILTERN EDGE

SCPS SATS RESULTS

During SATs week in May, the school tried to keep things as stress-free as possible for the children. Each day started with some exercise at around 8.30am, so the children would be able to relieve some of their anxiety and stress and play some games on the field. Breakfast was then served (muffins, hot-cross buns, fruit, milk, juice). SATs only took place in the mornings and the afternoons offered a little light relief.

Headteacher Chris Hirst said "We thought that the content of the papers this year was challenging but fair. We feel that we prepared our children well for the week, with lots of teacher and teaching assistant input, and an encouragement to all to do their best. We are very proud of all of our children who have done their personal best." ●

SATs RESULTS 2019

	Meeting the expected standard		Greater Depth	
	School	National	School	National
Reading	83%	73%	43%	28%
Writing	83%	78%	42%	20%
Maths	87%	79%	36%	24%
SPaG	82%	78%	48%	34%
Science	88%			
Reading / Writing Maths	75%	65%	25%	10%

AWARD FOR MRS CONWAY!

Caroline Conway has worked at the school as a teaching assistant for 18 years and was nominated for Teaching Assistant of the Year by the reception teachers, who value her hard work supporting them in the classroom. The Community Education Awards are given each year in various categories rewarding those who work and help in schools around the country, and Mrs Conway won her award as Teaching Assistant of the Year from a field of nearly 600 entries.

The school said "As well as being a dedicated teaching assistant Caroline has always been a member of the PTA and helps to organise fundraising events every year. She also arranges all the trips and visits for the children. Congratulations Mrs Conway!" ●



POSTCARD FROM THE ALLOTMENT

The allotment has been mostly taking care of itself over the school summer holidays. A lot of sun and a bit of rain has encouraged the vegetables to grow. So the squash were doing great and the parsnips plants blooming. Also the cape gooseberry plants were thriving and the team had a good autumn tidy up at the beginning of September.

Looking forward to harvesting the winter crops. ●



GROVE ROAD

DEAR EDITOR

I despair. Grove Road is impassable. Driving down, that is if you can, is like a switchback. To the extent that one day this week I sat for 10 minutes waiting to proceed but there was a lorry trying to squeeze through the parked cars on either side of the road & couldn't get through, so he just sat there waiting for some of the cars to get out of the way. I ended up having to turn about, not easy in the very confined space of parked vehicles. The problem is getting worse, I dread to think what would happen if any emergency vehicle tried to get through, also the refuse collection etc. The entrance to Kennylands Road always has cars parked near the junction likewise the other end. Turning into Grove Road from Peppard Road meets a row of cars parked by the flats. What can be done about the Grove Road situation, before there's a nasty accident or someone cannot get emergency help (one of the first responder's lives in the road, and on most days would have had difficulty in getting out). ●

ANN DAYTON
38 Kennylands Road

SONNING COMMON & DISTRICT TENNIS CLUB

With the Summer over and the nights drawing in, there is still time for getting outdoors, keeping fit and having fun. Playing tennis achieves all of these.

For just a total of £20 single or £30 for a whole family you can play tennis any time you like between now and the end of March next year.

Our club aims to provide affordable tennis to the local community. We have 2 excellent quality hard courts that can be played on all year round located at the entrance of the Bishopswood Sports Ground between Gallowstree Common village and Peppard crossroads.

Our club is ideal for all beginners and young families, or anyone that wants to simply play tennis with their friends. You can just turn up and play in a casual and informal environment.

Interested?

Want to find out more about our club?

Then please visit our website

www.sonningcommontenniscub.org



FOSCL

Summer was a great success at the Library, packed with activities supported by the Friends, including two very popular space-themed workshops for younger children. The committee is hoping to do something similar in the October half-term, so pop into the Library to see what's on offer. Our fund-raising activities help to subsidise these events, so we can spend the Friends' subscriptions on new books, but

if you feel you can sponsor any future workshops please get in touch.

Tickets for the Friends' big fund-raising event of the year – the Quiz – have been on sale since the start of September but there may still be some left at the Library or Occasions if you want to take part on Friday 11 October. Tables cost £20 for six people; the doors of the Village Hall will open at 7pm for a 7.30pm start. There'll be a bar and a raffle.

The FoSCL AGM will be on Monday 11

November at 7pm in the Library. Everybody is welcome – members of the public as well as Friends and Volunteers; you can learn more about what we've spent your money on in the last 12 months and see the accounts in detail. ●

www.friendsofsonningcommonlibrary.org.uk



MICHAEL ANTHONY BRENNAN 1928-2019

Many residents will have fond memories of Mike Brennan in his role as Coordinator of the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme for Sonning Common. But this was only one of Michael's activities for the betterment of our local community.

Born in England, Michael had a lifelong quest to travel. While a teenager he joined the 'school ship' HMS Conway and saw many corners of the world which he revisited later as a member of the Royal Navy. Michael then graduated from the London School of Economics with an MSc.

Until his retirement, Michael held Senior Executive positions at the Royal Bank of Canada which was spent predominantly in the International Division with postings in Colombia, Puerto Rico, Montreal, London and culminated in his oversight of the bank's operations in Brazil.

On his retirement, Michael and wife Rosamond returned to England and soon

became active in the community of Sonning Common which they came to love dearly. Local conservation, the protection of birds, protecting public pathways and the initiation of the Thames Valley Volunteer Community Officer programme as well as the local Neighbourhood Watch previously mentioned brought them in constant contact with their neighbours and others in the local community. Michael was also a trustee of the Sonning Common Millennium Green Trust.

In his later years Mike spent much of the winter months in Florida visiting his daughters and it was there that he passed away on 25th May this year aged 90 years. Beloved widower of Rosamond, much loved father of Jennifer (Gary), Mark (Darcie) and Gillian (Struan) and grandfather of Matthew, Eloise, Cali, Jemma, Allegra and Felix.

Mike was very much a family man always available to instil wisdom and broader insight to his children and grandchildren

while maintaining a wry sense of humour and a sense of perspective.

His family remember him as a true gentleman and our community has lost a valued member. ●

JOHN PEARMAN



NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY

Our gadget sessions on Thursday mornings from 10am (for those with queries/problems with lap-tops, Macs, androids and Smartphones) are proving increasingly popular – it's a good idea to book a slot in advance, to make sure there's a volunteer on hand to help with your particular query: phone (0118) 972 2448.

On Tuesday 29 October there will be an Artpod event in the library.

For younger children (under 8s) we have storytimes every Saturday morning at 10am. Our next special storytime will be on 2 November, with a Bonfire night theme. There will be a craft session after the storytime, aimed at 3 – 8 year olds, and home-made cakes will be on sale.

We have rhymetimes for the under-3s on the first and third Mondays of the month at 10 – 10.30am, run with the help of able volunteers.

There is a Scrabble Club every Friday morning from 10am, and we have also

started Craft Sessions for adults at the same time on Friday mornings, **but only on the last Friday of the month** – bring your own project to work on.

The 'Space Chase' Summer Reading Challenge ended officially in the middle of September, but if your child didn't finish it, we still have enough supplies for him/her to complete the challenge (to read 6 books over the summer) if they want to. ●

ROSEMARY DUNSTAN
Library manager

CHILTERN EDGE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Sonning Common Front Gardens Competition Summer 2019

The annual judging of the summer front gardens competition took place at the end of July. The gardens looked really lovely and competition was strong. The results were:-

1st – Maureen and Charlie Stevens, Inglewood Close.

A colourful display of petunias, begonias and geraniums with lots of lobelia in pots on a raised bed.

Joint 2nd – Vera and Ron Strong, Green Lane.

A large garden with lots of variety of annuals and wonderful pink and white phlox.

Joint 2nd – Vivien and David Wardle, Ilex Close.

An immaculate garden with a mass of colour particularly the cosmos.

3rd – Joyce and David Brewer, Woodlands Road.

A wonderful cottage garden full of interesting plants and colourful pots.

Chiltern Edge Horticultural Society (CEHS) welcomes new members to their winter meetings, produce shows and summer visits. The next meeting is on 8th October 2019 "Private gardens in Cape Town and Johannesburg and the South African plants we can grow" with Victoria Logue. Look at www.cehs.co.uk or contact Nigel Crush **01189 722167** for more information. ●



NATIONAL COPPICE WEEK 12 TO 19 OCTOBER

Coppicing is a traditional method of woodland management which exploits the capacity of many species of trees to put out new shoots from their stump or roots if cut down. In copses young tree stems are repeatedly cut down to near ground level so that new growth emerges.

The Chiltern and Thames Valley Coppice Group are holding an open day on Saturday 19 October from 9am to 4pm and it is free to attend. It will be held at the Blue Tin Farm Shop – which is an award winning local farm shop providing traditionally reared pork and beef - between Stoke Row and Ipsden.

Coppice craftspeople will be showing the value of coppicing as a sustainable way to manage woodland, and help tackle climate change, with demonstrations of hazel and gate hurdle making and hazel basketry. You can learn how to make gypsy flowers and mini besom brooms, and some handmade products will be on sale.

See coppicing in action for yourself and learn more about the importance of this ancient form of woodland management.

For information about this event contact martinwise10@hotmail.com

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Tel: 01189722745 (appts line)



Flu Clinics 2019-20

Please book an appointment with Reception. Our clinics are by appointment only and are not walk in clinics.

All ages

Tuesday	24 th September	17.30-19.00
Wednesday	9 th October	17.30-19.00
Wednesday	30 th October	17.30-19.00

Under 65s

Sunday	6 th October	8-10 am
Saturday	26 th October	8-10 am

All ages – these clinics are 12.30-14.00

Monday	23 rd September
Wednesday	25 th September
Monday	30 th September
Wednesday	2 nd October
Monday	7 th October
Wednesday	9 th October
Monday	14 th October
Wednesday	16 th October
Monday	21 st October
Wednesday	23 rd October
Wednesday	30 th October

Clinic dates and times may change due to demand.
You are eligible for a free flu vaccination if you fall into any of these categories:

Children aged 2 and 3; Over 65s; Pregnant women; Registered carers; Care home residents; All aged 6 months and over and in a clinical risk group.
(If you are unsure of your eligibility, please ask your nurse or GP)

Health Walks

Just a reminder – the meeting places for all the walks changed on 30 September: the new timetable is available from the library, the Health Centre and the Herb Farm, or on the website at www.sonningcommonhealthwalks.co.uk/timetable.

To talk to someone about any aspect of the Health Walks phone Chris Brook on 0118 924 2515

Reserve the date



It may be the last thing in our thoughts and seems in the far distance BUT if you are on your own or fed up with cooking or would like to join some good company THEN Christmas Lunch will be served in the village hall

JOIN US

Sandy Onofrio on 07588 792200
Details in the next magazine

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1st & 15th October
5th & 19th November
3rd December

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Wednesday 6th November

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Saturday, 18th July 2020



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We'd love to invite you to our Reunion!

We joined in Sept 1973 and left in 1978
so we are 60 in 2020 and it's time to celebrate!

ANYONE who came to HGS before 1978 is welcome.

Please register your interest now
and we will share more details in time

SAVE THE DATE and SPREAD THE WORD!

Please email lynn@harttoheart.co.uk to register

Lynn Hart (Hurlstone) and Sandra Wickens (Mills)

Nottakwire

Traditional Carol-Singing outside the Village Hall
(inside if the weather dictates)
Saturday 7 December

2pm - 3pm and 4pm - 5pm.

Leaflets will be available for anyone who wishes
to come and sing carols with us in either, or both,
time slots.

Collection will be to support village groups - as is our
annual custom.

Refreshments will be on sale in the hall - hot drinks
and seasonal eats - throughout the afternoon.
Please come and join us and support your local singing
group and village charities.

Are you new to the village, or would like to join in with some local activities?

This is a very useful compilation put together by our
local Health Centre.

It gives information about clubs and activities suitable
for a range of ages, as well as helpful organisations for
those who might be feeling lonely, or in need of a little
extra help.

The librarians will access this information for you if you
do not have a computer.

[http://www.sonningcommonhealthcentre.co.uk/
website/K84020/files/Loneliness%20Help%20
Information.pdf](http://www.sonningcommonhealthcentre.co.uk/website/K84020/files/Loneliness%20Help%20Information.pdf)

SC SONNING COMMON MAGAZINE

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Sonning Common Magazine
will be held on 17th October 2019 at 7 30 pm at the FISH
office, Kennylands Road, Sonning Common.

All are welcome at the meeting but only residents of
Sonning Common may vote in the AGM.

Agenda

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the 2018 AGM
3. Matters arising
4. Chairman's Report
5. Treasurer's Report; Chair to sign accounts
6. Distribution Manager's Report
7. Editor's Report
8. Advertising Manager's Report
9. Election of Officers and Committee
11. Date of next meeting
12. Any other business

If you have any questions about the meeting please contact
Geoff Adams, Chairman.

Tel 0118 972 2134.

e-mail. chairman@sonningcommonmagazine.org

This is your opportunity to say how you would
like the magazine to look.

Chiltern Players Drama Group

main production

The Canterville Ghost

by James Reynard

Thursday 7th, Friday 8th and Saturday 9th
November 2019

Peppard Memorial Hall RG9 5JA

Doors are open 19.30 for a 20.00 start.
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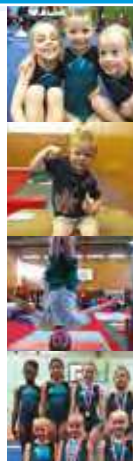
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PROPOSED THIRD READING BRIDGE

The Third Reading Bridge debate has ebbed and flowed over the years. The fact there has been little news over the last 18 months has led people to believe the issue has gone away – it hasn't. Before I update readers on the latest situation, I will re-cap on the background for the benefit of those who may have recently moved into the area.

Location and Traffic Route

On the Berkshire side, the bridge would be connected to Reading's Inner Distribution Road (IDR) and the M4 via the A3290 & A329(M).

On the Oxfordshire side, the bridge would land on the A4155 opposite Caversham Park Road.

HGVs and cars arriving on the Oxfordshire side would have three main onward options:

1. Along the A4155 into Reading Road/ Duke Street in Henley.
2. Along the B481 through Sonning Common, Rotherfield Peppard, Highmoor and Nettlebed.
3. Along the A4155 into Prospect Street, Reading.

Historically, bridge supporters have stated this will get 55,000 cars a day out of the centre of Reading.

A Sonning Common Parish Councillor jokingly, but perhaps with some prescience, commented to me that the proposal could effectively turn the B481 into the A481(M).

Recent project history

In 2015, Oxfordshire and Berkshire parties agreed to undertake a traffic modelling study to understand the traffic impact of the proposed bridge. With no political input from Oxfordshire, the traffic modelling study was morphed by the Berkshire parties into a Strategic Outline Business Case (SOBC), of which the traffic modelling study was merely a subsidiary part. Even before the SOBC was completed, Berkshire applied to central government for funding to take the project to the next stage (Outline Business Case). The bid was unsuccessful at that time.

The SOBC was completed in May 2017. Its findings were welcomed by Berkshire proponents but attracted limited challenge by Oxfordshire councils, which had little interest in the project. The cost of building the bridge was estimated at £110m. Critically, this excluded the cost of mitigation measures in South Oxfordshire.

The project stalled in early 2018 when the proponents were unable to identify funding of £750,000 to develop the Outline Business Case.

Latest developments

The proposal has recently gained new momentum and the situation can be summed-up as follows:

- A major commercial organisation is currently preparing a 'Buildability' report on behalf of Wokingham BC and this is due at the end of this month.

- Reading BC has confirmed the bridge is one of its top transport priorities in its Draft Local Plan.
- A new government organisation called Transport for the South East (TfSE) is applying to come into being in the near future and it shares the ambition to create the crossing.
- Oxfordshire County Council has objected to the scheme proposals as they stand because the £125 million costs have been significantly underestimated and mitigation measures for the South Oxfordshire road network have been neither specified nor costed – and these costs would be considerable.
- The Bridge Steering Group (led by local MPs) may reconvene in the autumn.

My view is that proponents of the scheme must be compelled to agree that the bridge and mitigation measures are one project and that to leave mitigation measures as a minor detail to be followed up at a later date is a deeply flawed and disingenuous position to take.

I urge concerned readers to write to John Howell MP expressing their concerns about the situation: howelljm@parliament.uk

Cllr David Bartholomew

County Councillor for Sonning Common Division, comprising: Binfield Heath; Bix & Assendon; Eye & Dunsden; Harpsden; Highmoor; Rotherfield Greys; Rotherfield Peppard; Shiplake; Sonning Common



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BABIES GIVEN A GOLDEN SECOND CHANCE

By JOAN GRUMMANT

Elaine and Christopher Louks from Sonning Common have been successfully fostering babies for many years, and are presently fostering their eighty first baby! This is testament to the commitment, care and dedication they have given to a very worthwhile cause.



Both Elaine and Christopher come from rural backgrounds of large families and spent much of their early years looking out for and after their siblings. When their own children were small Elaine saw a poster advertising the great need for people to foster and care for children. She responded immediately and has since cared for pre-adoption babies from 0-2 years old. It is a decision neither have ever regretted and they feel it is an experience that has enriched the lives of their own family, as well as giving a very important fresh start to many pre-adoption babies. They have changed the lives of many children and Elaine has always found the job to be a joy, and never stressful.

Within two months of applying to become a foster carer Elaine received the first baby who stayed with the family for two years. Elaine maintains very close contact with the birth families and has seen many changes over the years. The babies cared

for sometimes come with complex medical issues and the length of time they stay can vary considerably. Twenty years ago a new Act of Parliament was passed that enabled birth mothers to maintain links with their babies, and this has proved to be so valuable when there is no family support.

Every baby that is cared for by Elaine and Christopher has a Life Story Book – a record of events, photographs, people and information about their birth family and carer. About thirty children still keep in touch with Elaine and she has news of weddings, graduations and births. Elaine says she has never found the work stressful, but it can be emotional as she is very aware of the temporary nature of the undertaking. Her babies

become a very important part of her family for however long she has them, but the parting for her is very positive and special. She says she is able to give the 'best present in the world' to the adopters and the joy she witnesses makes it all worthwhile.

Elaine can often be seen pushing her pram around Sonning Common and is often stopped by interested passers-by. She is keen to raise awareness of the huge shortage of carers and the fact that it is more difficult to find adoptive parents for older children but it is very, very rewarding. Elaine and Christopher are a very special couple and share their time and love to enable these babies to have a 'golden opportunity for a new life'. ●



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SUMMER FUN

WATER SLIDES, MAGIC, CRAFT, DEN BUILDING AND MUCH MORE...

Memorial Hall field - a piece of agricultural land - was transformed by nine days of Summer Fun for primary age children. What a fantastic way to inaugurate the piece of land given to the Parish Council for recreation and sport. Ian Scholey who lives opposite the field sent this email:

What a rumpus!

I'd just like to bring to the attention of the committee some of the scenes witnessed on the Memorial Hall field earlier this week. There was some extremely raucous, nay rambunctious behaviour going on. Pirates indeed!

The sounds of laughter punctuated all too frequently by cheers, much running and chasing, colour and, dare I say, hilarity. Is such a performance to be condoned?

Indeed, one child was close to tears and her father was quite annoyed. She was desperate to go and join the gang on

the field and he had booked her into the sports club opposite. All she could do was look longingly across the road as the grey doors of the school closed on her chances.

Later in the day a procession of poor young souls could be seen skipping down Reade's Lane, chattering and bearing flags of many designs and colours. All exhausted mind you.

So, what's to be done?

The only solution I can possibly suggest - much more of the same please!

In admiration of all those involved.



The summer of 2019 brought much excitement to the younger residents of Sonning Common with three weeks of 'Summer Fun' at Memorial Hall Field on Reade's Lane. This new initiative was funded by the Parish Council, supported by CECA (Chiltern Edge Community Association) and made use of Sonning Common's newly acquired recreation and sport field.

Over 600 visits were made during the 9 days of activities – local children brought their friends and family, while parents and grandparents couldn't resist joining in with the crafts, games and even the giant water slide!

With only two weeks to plan the scheme, Penny Snowden, Amanda Watkins Cooke and Sophie Snowden gathered equipment, developed activities and organised a team to help prepare the field for the plethora of fun and games on offer. Trained local Active Leaders were recruited to lead the activity programme and Sonning Common Parish Council arranged for the field to be mown, brambles cut and safe access to the field created from the back of the Kidmore End War Memorial Hall.

The aim of Summer Fun was to encourage our local children to be active and explore the natural environment as much as possible, without any cost, as well as showcasing what Sonning Common's new outdoor space could offer residents.

Each day had a different title with special themed activities:

MAGIC - designed fairy doors and gardens, knight's training camp, dragon treasure hunt and built a huge enchanted castle!

SUPERHEROES - capes and masks were designed, children built superhero wigwams

WET N' WILD - water fights and a mud kitchen were on offer on Day 3 – attracting over 60 children and of course the 25 metre water slide proved very popular!

PIRATES - children made pirate flags, had a treasure hunt, built a pirate ship and took part in the 'sinking the ship' challenge!

NATURE DETECTIVES - creating a magnificent 'Bug Hotel', 'tree-mendous' den building, Woodland Olympics and bird and butterfly hunts.

SPACE - Astronauts v Aliens games, painting moonrocks and 'the sky', building rockets and fending off an 'asteroid attack' kept the children busy.

BUCKETS AND SPADES - The penultimate day of 'Summer Fun' saw the arrival of Sonning Common's own 'beach' complete with sand, ball runs, beach volleyball and ingenious beach-related arts and crafts.

The last day brought back the WET N' WILD for more water and mud fun!

As well as the field-based activities, Sonning Common Youth Club ran a Summer Vibes disco on Saturday 17th August for their members and organised t-shirt tie dying with natural inks.

Summer Fun could not have happened without the staff team, volunteers and generous donations from local businesses.

Staff and volunteers - Lynne Morris, Penny Snowden, Lucy Dawson, Lauren Marshall, Sophie Snowden, Dani Cranton, Amanda Watkins-Cooke, Claire Chaplin, Sunny Smithers, Emma Dawson, Magda Basinska; Adam Cramer, Emma Reynolds, Donna Gallimore, Sue Abbott and Chris Brook – Sonning Common's First Responders.

Field Working Party – Philip Collings, Jean and James Watkins, Phil Snowden, Diana Pearman, Howard Cooke, Alan Gibbon, Rod Hayward.

The following support was provided free of charge:

Logs, bark chippings, planks donated by Heights Tree Care

Plant pots, string and bags donated by Heath and Watkins and The Herb Farm

Sponges, bricks, pallets, bags, sand and a large tarpaulin for the water slide donated by Peppard Building Supplies

Tarpaulins and rolls of wallpaper donated by Gibbs and Dandy of Henley

Hose and sand donated by the Christian Community Centre

Frisbees, buckets and spades, paper donated by Helen White and Karen Wright

Advertising signs donated by Beville Estate Agency

Carpet for under the water slide donated by Dan King

Games and equipment donated by Tesco Henley

Fruit donated by Co-op

Gazebos and resources loaned by Sonning Common Primary School



The field is a wonderful gift but it does need a new name – please email your ideas to editor@sonningcommonmagazine.org



HEALTH MATTERS



By **SUE LITCHFIELD**

MEDICATION REVIEWS

Since the start of 2019 a pharmacist has worked at SCHC to help reduce the doctors' workload by conducting patient medication reviews.

His name is Murray (just that) and SCHC are pleased to announce that he will continue this work from September for one day a week at the Health Centre.

His responsibility will be to conduct

- **Medication reviews and queries**
- **Asthma and Blood pressure reviews**
- **Providing medication advice and support, as well as alternatives to out of stock medications.**
- **Hospital discharge follow ups**

For more information look at the SCHC website www.sonningcommonhealthcentre.co.uk or ask at reception.

CQC INSPECTION

On 24 June 2019 we were inspected by the CQC (Care Quality Commission). We are delighted to announce that following this inspection they have once again given Sonning Common Health Centre an overall rating of "Outstanding" and in addition are now rated as "Outstanding" for all population groups. To view the report and associated documentation in full, please follow these links:

<https://www.cqc.org.uk/location/1-543644798>, CQC inspection report, CQC inspection evidence table.



NAME CHANGE: DR WILD

In May Dr On celebrated her marriage and will now be known as Dr Wild.

NEW GP TRAINEES

Dr Phanida Fung and Dr Cranna Pinto joined the practice team on Wednesday 7 August. Welcome to them both and they will be with the practice for a year.

Dr Abi Taylor is at the health centre until February 2020, having joined us in February 2019.

We said farewell and good luck to Dr Walsgrove and Dr Matongo who both left the health centre in early August as their training periods had come to an end.

NEW TO THE AREA OR FEELING A BIT LONELY?



This leaflet might help anyone young or not so young if you are new to the area or feeling lonely, it gives ideas of activities, clubs and volunteering opportunities.

Just follow this link

<http://www.sonningcommonhealthcentre.co.uk/website/K84020/files/Loneliness%20Help%20Information.pdf>

Copies also available at the Health Centre in the entrance lobby

THE BRINDLEY HEALTH ASSESSMENT AREA

Sonning Common Health Centre received a generous donation in the will of the late Mr Ronald Brindley, known as Ron, with the instruction that the donation be used towards an item to benefit patients. The health centre team has purchased a health monitor with the donation funds.

The health monitor is in a new patient assessment area on the left-hand side of the waiting room. The instructions for the health monitor are as follows:

- **Insert a token and follow the verbal instructions provided (available at reception)**
- **Patients can use the monitor to measure their height, weight, blood pressure and check BMI**

The machine does not speak a patient's weight - it provides two print outs (one for the patient and one to give the GP/ Nurse at the patient's appointment or post in the box with patient's details written on). The practice will soon be adding an automated system that will record the results directly into patients' records.

Please use a token provided in the area or ask for one or help at Reception and try the health monitor when you are next at the health centre.

Pharmacy appointments are now available for booking in Patient Access



SODC LOCAL PLAN - UPDATE

Councillors in South Oxfordshire have agreed to take a little more time to consider options for the district's Local Plan following a vote at a Council meeting.

They want to find effective and suitable ways to ensure the plan takes into consideration the substantial feedback from local residents, who have raised concerns about the approach to providing land for housing in the district. Councillors also expressed their wish to use the Local Plan process to help address the climate emergency issue.

Councillors agreed to:

(1) express determination to maintain

its housing land supply and avoid speculative development;

(2) express continued support for the Housing and Infrastructure Fund (HIF) funding and infrastructure projects that could be delivered by it;

(3) ask officers to explore with Oxfordshire County Council, Homes England and the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government options for protecting the HIF funding whilst enabling the council to address concerns about the current emerging Local Plan 2034 including (but not limited to) climate change issues, Oxford City's unmet housing need, and

to report back to Cabinet and Council;

(4) recognise that the Climate Change Emergency is all too real and is recognised to be of key and statutory importance under the Climate Change Act 2008 and the associated objective of "zero carbon by 2050", express its wish to do all that it can to respond through the Local Plan process;

(5) as soon as practicable, alongside satisfactory progress being made on resolving issues in the emerging Local Plan, start work on a subsequent Local Plan, strengthening climate change considerations.

CONTACT CITIZENS ADVICE FOR RAPID HELP WITH ONLINE SCAMS

Citizens Advice has set up a new Scams Action service to help people who have been scammed or defrauded online, or think they might have been.

Call a Scams Action specialist adviser on 0300 330 3003 if you want to report an online scam. You can also call us if you're acting on behalf of someone else who has been scammed. We'll let you know what to do next and give you support with any problems you might be facing.

The Scams Action helpline is open Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

(closed on bank holidays). We don't charge for calls to the helpline but check with your telephone provider for their conditions.

You can also use our "chat" service to talk to an adviser on the web. Chat is available from www.citizensadvice.org.uk Monday to Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For more guidance telephone Citizens Advice Consumer Service on 03454 040506 or visit Citizens Advice during opening hours. Details of office locations are on www.citizensadvice.org.uk/local/oxfordshire-south-vale



TURN IT OFF

Did you know that just one minute of sitting with your car engine running and the vehicle not moving produces the equivalent of 150 balloons of harmful pollutants into the air? Please make sure you switch off when you stop for more than a minute.



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WHY WHAT WE WEAR MATTERS



By **LYNDSAY HENDERSON**

NEWS

I hope you have had a wonderful Summer. In Eco SoCo we have been sharing tips to reduce our plastic consumption in #plasticfreejuly and in August the focus has been on what we wear – the theme of this issue's article. From October, we will be holding events or meet ups on a monthly basis, usually on the first Wednesday of the month, the dates for the rest of the year are in the events section below. These will usually be themed and have a talk or similar so if there are any topic you are interested in, do get in touch. We will continue to share information on upcoming local events and our plans, if you would like to be involved with any initiatives or have any ideas you'd like to share please do join our Facebook group (Eco SoCo) or email ecosoco@sonningcommonmagazine.org

WHAT WE WEAR

The clothing industry has a problem – and as a nation, we send a lot of clothing to landfill – 11 million items a week!

Production of cloth generates more carbon than international flights and shipping combined so it's a major

contributor to climate change. Each item of clothing needs energy, land, water and other resources to be created and delivered to the shops and your wardrobe.

To make a pair of jeans and one t-shirt requires the amount of water you would drink in 13 years!

In a recent report The House of Commons Environmental Audit Committee stated that there is a basic problem with an industry that relies on persuading people to throw away good clothes because they are 'last year's colour', noting that British shoppers buy far more new clothes than any nation in Europe, and that people are buying twice as many items of clothing as they did a decade ago. If the current clothes consumption continues it will account for more than a quarter of our total impact on climate change by 2050.

So, what can we do to reduce our own impact on a local level? The most important things are to think about what you are buying, whether you really need to buy new, and to consider how you dispose of unwanted items.

Fortunately, there are some great local options and initiatives!

1. Getting Started and using what you have

If you need some motivation to get yourself started, look for challenges like Oxfam's #secondhandseptember where you pledge to buy nothing new for 30 days. It's a great opportunity to save some money, look at what you already have and sort out the things you never wear or those that need altered or mended! Occasions in Sonning Common provide a clothing alterations service.

2. Buying second hand

We have a wonderful second hand shop in the village at Christian Community Action (which also accepts donations), and there are lots of shopping opportunities slightly further afield at the Sue Ryder monthly sale in Nettlebed as well as a wealth of charity shops in Henley, Caversham and beyond where you can pick up anything you might need and some amazing bargains.

If you fancy a bit more of a sociable occasion, you can join the **Eco SoCo Kids' Clothes Swap** or one of the **Clothing Swaps** run by **The Exchange Henley** (see the events section opposite).

3. Avoiding landfill

If you have clothing you no longer need, join a local clothes swap or support one of the following local charities:



Sonning Common resident, Katie Skilton, is a trustee of **First Days Children's Charity** which is based in Hurst (near Twyford). The charity believes that every child deserves the same start in life and works to minimise the effects of poverty on families through the redistribution of every day essentials for families in need including children's clothes, equipment, furniture, school uniform, toiletries, toys and books, saving tonnes of materials going to landfill every year! Families are referred by professionals working with families and there are no assessment criteria other than a perception of need from the professional. Please have a look at the charity's page on Facebook (@firstdayscharity) or the website (www.firstdays.net) and consider donating any great quality baby and kids clothes and equipment to First Days for a second life with a family that really needs them. If you would like any more information, please contact Katie (Katie@firstdays.net).

The Cowshed is a charity based in Hurst which provides support to people of all backgrounds in a time of personal crisis. Their aim

is to provide good quality cleaned and ironed clothes free to anyone in need. They take donations of clothes, shoes, bedding, curtains etc and pass on to people in need. Anything not suitable to be passed on is up-cycled into lovely bags, by the craft group, for their clients to take home items they have picked. They can be found on Facebook (@CowshedCharity) or at <https://www.thecowshed.org>

They have also just started a prom outfit free lending section in case you have any suits, dresses or accessories lingering in the cupboard that you'll never wear again!

CHALLENGE FOR THE MONTH

Set yourself a goal over the Autumn to make do with what you have or only buy second hand:

- Can you fix an item that's been stuck in the back of the wardrobe unworn - come to our 'Make do and Mend' workshop if you need some help!
- Sign up for a clothing challenge like Oxfam's #secondhandseptember
- Before you buy new, look around a few second-hand shops

UPCOMING EVENTS

Eco SoCo Events

- 8pm, 2 October 2019, The Butcher's Arms - Kids' Clothes Swap - bring along your pre-loved kids' clothes that are no longer required and swap for something new
- 8pm, 6 November 2019, The Butcher's Arms - meet up and 'Make do and Mend' workshop -

we will have some special guests talking through some basic tips to mend your clothes or turn them into something new. Bring along something that's been hiding in the back of your wardrobe that needs fixing so you can wear it again

- 8pm, 4 December 2019, The Butcher's Arms - meet up, further details to be confirmed

The Exchange Henley are holding their second Womens' Clothes Swap on 10 October 2019 at The Three Tuns at 7pm. Tickets can be purchased at <https://www.seetickets.com/tour/ladies-autumn-winter-clothing-swap-shop>



TOM FORT GRIT OF THE BRIT

It's no wonder that people from warmer countries regard us – and in this case the Irish – as more than slightly mad. Our shared determination to make the best of it when on holiday – whatever the weather – could be seen as a form of derangement.

Our family hols beside the seas in County Kerry proceeded along normal lines, meteorologically speaking. Glimpses of the sun were as rare as a genuine apology from today's politicians. There were gales, there were downpours. The temperature never rose above the brisk. More often than not the morning opening of the curtains revealed a thick, all-enveloping blanket of grey wetness.

But no one was in the least daunted. We sloshed through the puddles and smiled cheerfully at everyone else in shorts and waterproofs. We went down to the sea and scooped fat prawns from the pools and cockles from the wet sand and had seafood feasts in the evening. The TV in our warm and dry rented house was never switched on – we played board games and letter games and read books and generally behaved as if the insidious world of endless electronic communication had never been invented.

And we swam in the sea (at least some of us did – my niece, who lives in Seville, was entirely disdainful of the idea). One day I checked the sea

temperature – it was 16.3 Celsius, just above 60 Fahrenheit. Which is damn chilly, believe me. But it's amazing what you can do when you put your mind to it, and my eldest brother, aged 74, having plunged in, I was not going to be beaten. The shock of immersion was appalling, the first few minutes testing, but thereafter it was exhilarating. How brave I am, I thought, but was shouted down for daring to say so.

There is nothing to beat the English, or Irish, seaside holiday. But you have to have the right attitude. ●



COOK'S CORNER

By SANDY ONOFRIO

Two popular and traditional Greek dishes that are fabulous Autumn and Winter warmers.

BEEF STIFADO – 6

- 2 tablespoons butter • 1 tablespoon olive oil, divided
- 1kg beef stew meat, diced • 1 medium onion, chopped
- 2 cloves garlic, minced • 100ml red wine • 1/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/4 teaspoon ground nutmeg • 1 strip fresh orange peel • 400g passata • 100ml water
- 1 tablespoon olive oil • 500g pearl onions, peeled



Heat half of the butter and half of the first tablespoon of olive oil in a large frying pan over medium heat. Brown half of the beef on all sides, and place into a large saucepan. Repeat with the remaining butter, olive oil and beef. Stir the onions and garlic into the oil remaining in the skillet, and reduce heat to medium; cook and stir until the onion has softened and turned translucent, about 5 minutes. Pour in the red wine, bring to a simmer, then scrape the onions into the saucepan with the beef. Season the beef with cinnamon, nutmeg and orange peel. Pour in the passata and water then cover and simmer for 1 hour. Meanwhile, heat the remaining tablespoon of olive oil in the frying pan over medium heat. Stir in the pearl onions, and cook until they are well browned, stirring frequently, about 20 minutes. After the beef has simmered for an hour, add the pearl onions, recover, and continue simmering 25 minutes. Remove the lid, and simmer uncovered until the stew has reduced and slightly thickened, about 10 minutes. Remove the orange peel before serving. Serve with crusty bread and green vegetables. ●

GREEK BAKLAVA – 20

- 225g unsalted butter • 1/2 (500g) packet filo pastry
- 220g chopped pecans* • 1 1/2 tablespoons whole cloves • 5 tablespoons caster sugar
- 350ml water • 1 cinnamon stick • 350g honey

*walnuts are more traditional



Preheat oven to 180 C / Gas 4. Melt the butter over low heat. Pour 2 tablespoons of the butter into the bottom of a 20x30cm baking dish. Layer 3 sheets of the filo pastry in the dish. Trim pastry to fit. Sprinkle 2 tablespoons of the pecans* over the filo. Layer 3 more sheets of filo, brush generously with the melted butter, and sprinkle with 2 tablespoons of pecans. Continue filo-butter-pecan layers until dish is 3/4 full. With a sharp knife, score filo to form diamonds. Press a clove into the centre of each diamond. Pour remaining butter over the whole lot. Bake 45 to 50 minutes in the preheated oven, until golden brown. Meanwhile, combine the sugar, water and cinnamon stick in a medium saucepan, and bring to the boil, stirring constantly. Simmer for 10 minutes. Add the honey and simmer for 2 minutes longer. Remove from the heat and discard cinnamon stick. Pour honey mixture over hot baklava. Let cool on a wire rack. Cut into diamonds. ●



BOOK REVIEW

SONNING COMMON PRIMARY SCHOOL YEAR 6 READING GROUPS

SILVERFIN

by Charlie Higson

Synopsis: It's James Bond's first day at Eton, and already he's made his first enemy. This is the start of an adventure that will take him from the school playing fields to the remote shores of Loch Silverfin and a terrifying discovery that threatens to unleash a new breed of warfare...



Review by Sam Moore: The story was amazing as it has brilliantly planned plot twists, well thought-out characters and a multi-layered villain who is mad and crazy but tries to hide it.

it because there was so much action and description, and I never knew what was going to happen next! It is one of the best books I've ever read.

(Note from Mrs Dunstan - I agree!)

WOLF BROTHER (BOOK 1 OF THE CHRONICLES OF ANCIENT DARKNESS SERIES)

by Michelle Paver

Synopsis: Set in the Stone Age, Torak is alone, wounded, terrified and on the run. His father lies dead, slaughtered by a demon bear. His only ally is an orphaned wolf cub.



Review by Alice Burton: I really liked this book because it was adventurous and really gripping, so I barely put it down. I think it's not the sort of book most girls like, but I quite like reading something different once in a while.

The king of the gods and his noble steed are needed – but instead they get a chubby Zeus and his high horse Pegasus. Are the gods really ready to save the world – and is the world really ready for the gods?

Review by Ben White: I thought the story was exciting and humorous. I thought the word play was very good. The story released a range of emotions, making me tearful at one moment, and bursting with laughter at the next. I would recommend it to others.

MYSTERY OF THE WHISTLING CAVES

by Helen Moss

Synopsis: The Story is about 3 children (and a dog) who meet for the first time in a place called Castle Key in Cornwall. Emily (who lives in a lighthouse) wants to show off the Whistling Caves to Scott and Jack – but they're not whistling any more...

Review by Sophie

Vickers: I loved this story because it had adventures in, and I would recommend it to anyone who likes adventures and mysteries. Who knows what these 3 children get up to!



RANGER'S APPRENTICE BOOK 1: RUINS OF GORLAN

by John Flanagan

Synopsis: Set in fictional Araluen in the Middle Ages, Will is chosen to become a Ranger's apprentice: the Rangers are an elite Special Forces Corps, and are the eyes and ears of the kingdom. Will and his master Halt have to go on a perilous quest to prevent the assassination of the king.

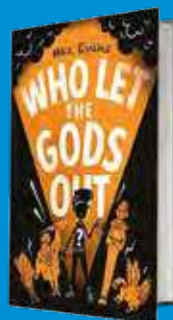


Review by Emily Williams: I loved

WHO LET THE GODS OUT?

By Maz Evans

Synopsis: When Elliot wished upon a star he didn't expect a constellation to crash into his dung heap. Thanatos, the evil demon of death, is released.



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FROM OXFORDSHIRE TO THE ORNE: NORMANDY 75TH ANNIVERSARY EXHIBITION COMES TO THE SOLDIERS OF OXFORDSHIRE MUSEUM



The new exhibition, *Normandy 75: Oxfordshire to the Orne*, will go on display at the Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum from 7th August – 3rd November 2019. This exhibition will combine a travelling exhibition from the National Army Museum with stories that staff at the museum have collected from around Oxfordshire. These stories will be told through objects, a map of key locations, and quotes from Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire-born soldiers who served on D Day and beyond.

The National Army Museum's touring exhibition marks the 75th anniversary of the Normandy Campaign. The exhibition will tell the courageous stories of soldiers who fought in Normandy and during D Day, and will detail the events that helped secure an allied victory.



To enhance the National Army Museum exhibition, staff at the museum have been working to collect stories of World War 2 from around Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire.

Peggy Ainsworth, Collections Manager explains, 'In addition to our own regimental stories, we wanted to use this exhibition as a way to represent the local soldiers who contributed



to the Normandy campaign. There have been many fascinating stories coming in from the public, which we will be telling through artefacts from our collection and information gained through our Stories of Conflict and County campaign launched last year.'

Soldiers from the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry were some of the first to set foot in Normandy 6 June 1944, and were perhaps most famous for the capture of Pegasus Bridge in the early hours of the morning, prior to the beach landings. Visitors can put themselves

in the shoes of these soldiers and sit inside a life-size reproduction of a Horsa Glider's compartment and listen to recorded interviews of D Day veterans.

The exhibition will run from the 7th August – 3rd November 2019 and will end with a special collecting day on the 2nd November. SOFO's 'We'll Meet Again' Collections Day will encourage members of the public to bring objects to the museum and tell their stories of Oxfordshire from the Second World War to the 1970's. Any objects donated or loaned on the day will be used to form our Second World War and Reminiscence displays.



The Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum is open from Tuesday-Friday 10am-5pm, Saturday 11am-5pm and Sunday 2pm-5pm. The county's only military history museum is located in the grounds of the Oxfordshire Museum, Park Street, Woodstock.

For further information: **01993 810 210**
Email: duncan.parsons@sofo.org.uk
Website: www.sofo.org.uk ●



JACKIE'S CRAFT COLUMN

EGG BOX GARLANDS

Brighten up any room with these recycled decorations.

What you'll need:

- Egg boxes
- Scissors
- Paint and paintbrushes
- String and darning needle
- Pipe cleaners



1) Take your egg box and remove the lid. Cut the base into its separate egg holders using the scissors (ask an adult for help). Egg box shapes vary but I found the central 2 holders were perfect for making butterflies and the 4 end holders great for creating flowers.



2) Snip triangle shapes from the sides to shape 4 wings/petals from each holder. Any pieces being used to make butterflies should be flattened out, those being used as flowers can be left as a cup shape.



3) Paint and decorate your butterflies and flowers. You will want to paint at least the front of the butterfly shapes and the outside of the flower cups. Leave to dry.
TIP: Why not use glitter, sequins and stickers to add detail?



4) Tie a double knot at the end of a length of string. Using the darning needle (ask a grown up for help here), string one of the flowers onto the string and pull down until it reaches the knot. Tie another knot further up the string and thread on the next flower. Repeat until all flowers are threaded.



5) Now take your butterflies. Bend a pipe cleaner around the middle of each butterfly, twist the ends together at the top and curl to create antennae.



Once each butterfly has a pipe cleaner attached, thread them onto a length of string to form a garland.



WHAT OTHER CREATIVE SHAPES CAN YOU MAKE FROM EGG BOXES?

DONALD PAVY NAISH

2ND APRIL 1928 – 1ST JUNE 2019

Donald was born on the 2nd April 1928 in Reading where he lived with his parents and sister.

Although too young to be part of the 2nd World War, he became a “spotter” looking for German aircraft flying over Reading and heading north. He attended Alfred Sutton School and Reading University, where he developed an interest in special purpose optical and measurement instruments and this resulted in him going to Manchester to become a design engineer, before returning as an engineer to Reading where he worked for many years. He worked on specialist diagnostic equipment as well as a solar panel deployment system for satellites that is still used today.

He met his wife Janet in Reading. They married in September 1958 and bought a piece of land in Sonning Common, on which they had the family house built, and it was here that their daughters were born.

Not long after moving to Sonning Common Don joined the local Parish Council and spent many years as Chairman. He was also a councillor for South Oxfordshire District Council for many years supporting and advising on both Licensing and Planning. Don was a councillor for more than 45 years and as a thank you the council in Sonning Common named a path after him. Naish Way runs between Kennylands Road, through a small

over 50s development to Peppard Road.

In 2007 Don and Janet moved close to their daughter in South Derbyshire and he became a Governor on the Derbyshire Hospital Trust. They celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in September 2008 and Janet sadly passed away a couple of months later.

Don never really retired from engineering. Even after he moved up to Woodville he continued to go down to Reading to offer assistance on the Quality Procedure System for Gemini Technology. He also liked to travel as much as possible, particularly to warm countries. He visited Argentina and Brazil and had another visit to Africa for a safari.

In 2014 Don moved with his daughter to Lincoln and announced he was becoming a governor on the Lincoln Hospitals Trust! This lasted about 2 years but due to his health starting to become more of an issue he reluctantly had to give this up. While living in Lincoln he pursued his love of foreign holidays visiting Morocco, Mauritius and Australia to see relatives and friends. He did go on a cruise but didn't think much of this as, according to him, “it took too long to get anywhere”.

In April 2018 Don decided to treat himself to a 90th birthday present and take himself off to India for 4 weeks.... he thoroughly enjoyed

the holiday, but the heat, and travelling around took its toll on him, and on his return the skin cancer on his head became more of an issue resulting in weekly trips to the hospital for a variety of treatments. As his health started to be of more concern, he became a regular at the local doctor's surgery and bookies where he was well looked after by the staff in both places. He would not miss his visit on a Saturday morning at Corals, as in his words “it's the best banter of the week”.

Don's health deteriorated very quickly over the two months prior to his short stay in the care home and where he had numerous conversations with his family about his 91 years and the many things he had enjoyed. His fond thoughts about Sonning Common were mentioned many times. ●

Contributed by the family



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Funeral Plans**

Parish news

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MEMORIAL HALL FIELD

The application to complete the Groundworks on SON 3 has been submitted to SODC.

This is the first stage of a 10-year project to develop a recreation and sports hub in the area. It has started already, as many young people in the village spent 9 days of summer fun on this piece of land.

VILLAGE CENTRE

The Village Centre Grand Design is gaining momentum. After the successful Open Day displaying Ben Hamilton-Baillie's vision for Sonning Common last year, we've now instructed Peter Brett Associates of Reading to turn it into reality.

Watch this space.

YOUTH CLUB

ClubSC has re-branded to 'Sonning Common Youth Club'. The club is open in term time on Tuesday nights (years 9-11; 7-9pm) and Wednesday nights (years 6-8; 6.30-8.30pm). Find us above the Sports Hall at Chiltern Edge. For details of what's on, follow us on [Facebook.com/sonningcommonyouthclub](https://www.facebook.com/sonningcommonyouthclub)

ENVIRONMENT

This working party will plan and budget for and then oversee the management, maintenance and development of the natural environment of the village. This covers Widmore Pond, our new woodland alongside Old Copse and trees in all areas. The working party will meet at least quarterly, consult with residents about requirements and will decide on projects.

PLAY AREAS

The Parish Council have been awarded a grant from SODC for 50% of the cost to re-surface Lea Road play area, in a similar style to Baskerville Road. This will include a new surface under the basketball net, which gets very muddy at present.

Work is expected to commence in the autumn.

HEDGES

The Parish Council has been issuing 'hedge notices' to owners of properties where hedges are overhanging the footpath. Thank you to the residents who have acted swiftly to trim hedges and clear the paths.

Several notices are still outstanding and we would be grateful if they could be acted upon as soon as possible.

If interested in joining any of these working groups please contact the Parish Office on 0118 972 3616 or email clerk@sonningcommonparishcouncil.org.uk.

Church news

ST JOHN'S KIDMORE END

You can't help but feel for the man - or was it a woman? who, after a gruelling time at work, said 'After this week I really need to be taken out - on a date, or by a sniper: either is fine with me at the moment'.

For many of us, autumn brings a farewell to holidays and a return to work, school, commuting and just too many demands on that work/life balance. It's so easy to spend too much time on the urgent at the expense of the important: and to feel guilty when we dare to put our own wellbeing at the top of our to-do list.

A friend of mine is fond of quoting that 'any action not born of silence is mere technique and diminishes those involved'. And it's true that often we need to take a step back, draw breath

and recover our perspective: just who am I? Who do I want to be? What might I need to change in order to get there?

It's not always easy to find the time or the place for such quiet reflection: but many of our local churches, including St John's at Kidmore End, are nearly always available during the day, often in lovely, peaceful settings, where everyone is always welcome: to come, sit, pray, be still... and draw inspiration from places where, as T S Eliot said, prayer has been valid.

If you haven't already visited, please do. ●

SHEILA WALKER

(Associate Priest, Kidmore End & Sonning Common)

ST MICHAELS

At the end of July, Deacon Brian and his wife Frances walked 230 km of the Camino de Santiago in Spain when they joined their son Luke who covered a total of 1700 km. They shared their experience of the journey with the parish, by giving an illustrated talk.

They slept in hostels and carried all they needed in rucksacks.

The feast of Saints Michael, Gabriel and Raphael, the Archangels is celebrated on 29 September. Since St Michael is our patron saint we try and do something a little special on the closest weekend. As this copy of the magazine is being distributed, we will have just celebrated this year's St Michael's weekend. If all has gone to plan Fr Michael Miners, the parish priest at Watlington, will have led us in a series of talks on Friday evening and on the Saturday, reflecting on the role of prayer in the life of the Christian. The Friday evening session will have concluded

with a fish and chip supper. Traditionally the weekend closes with a shared 'bring a dish' parish lunch but this year a four-course traditional Italian lunch is planned. During the lunch we will have our parish AGM where we are able to reflect on the year that has passed and look to the future.

With 1st November being All Saints Day, and the 2nd All Souls, November is the month where we make a special effort to remember those who have died. A parish visit to Kidmore End cemetery on one Sunday afternoon in November is arranged to pray at the graves of family, friends and acquaintances. Anyone is welcome to attend. Please check our weekly newsletter for details nearer the time.

Details of our Advent and Christmas services will be given in the next issue but will also be found on our website: www.saintmichaelsonningcommon.org.uk ●



WINE AND SONG EVENING

Plans are underway for this year's Wine and Song evening at St. John's on the evening of 12 October. A bring and share supper and a wide-ranging selection of wines will form the convivial framework for this popular evening of music and wine tasting. Wine expert Nick Room will be the presenter and the music is to be provided by the church choir and other local musicians.

Tickets available soon!!!

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DIARY DATES

OCTOBER 2019

Tuesday 1

2 - 3.30pm

Late Spring Bereavement
Support Group. Fish Volunteer
Centre

Tuesday 8

7.30pm

Chiltern Edge Horticultural
Society: "Private Gardens in
Cape Town and Johannesburg
and the South African Plants
We Can Grow" by Victoria
Logue. Peppard Memorial Hall

Monday 14

2.30pm

FISH - Tea party. Village Hall

Tuesday 15

2 - 3.30pm

Late Spring Bereavement
Support Group. Fish Volunteer
Centre

Thursday 17

11.30am

FISH - Pub lunch

Thursday 17

7.30pm

Sonning Common Women's
Institute: "Great Farmers, Great
Food", talk by Emma Hamer
(NFU). Village Hall

Saturday 19

9am - 4pm

Chiltern and Thames Valley
Coppice Group. Blue Tin Farm
Shop

Monday 21

8pm

Sonning Common Parish
Council. Village Hall

Thursday 24

FISH - Henley Farmers' Market

NOVEMBER 2019

Tuesday 5

2 - 3.30pm

Late Spring Bereavement
Support Group. Fish Volunteer
Centre

Wednesday 6

10.30am - 12noon

Village Coffee Morning hosted
by Sonning Common WI. Open
to all. Village Hall

Thursday 7

8pm

Chiltern Players present "The
Canterville Ghost" 7th - 9th
evenings Peppard Memorial Hall

Monday 11

2.30pm

FISH - Tea party. Village Hall

Tuesday 12

7.30pm

Chiltern Edge Horticultural
Society: Gardening the Oxford
Project Way" by Robert
Longstaff. Peppard Memorial Hall

Monday 18

8pm

Sonning Common Parish
Council. Village Hall

Tuesday 19

2 - 3.30pm

Late Spring Bereavement Support
Group. Fish Volunteer Centre

Thursday 21

11.30am

FISH - Pub lunch

Thursday 21

7.30pm

Sonning Common Women's
Institute: "Let's Get Digital", talk
by Louise Kelly. Village Hall

Thursday 28

FISH - Henley Farmers' Market

Please see noticeboard for Flu
Clinic Dates

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Kennylands Gymnastics	13	TV Aerial Services	33
Kidbys Sheds	9	Wee-Cot Seating	26
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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 from the FISH Volunteer Centre, Sonning Common Library, the Christian Community Action shop, Pet Country Supplies and on request from Day Lewis Chemist. The monthly programme of trips is posted on noticeboards in both Peppard and Sonning Common and is also sent to individual email addresses. If you would like to receive a regular monthly copy, please email busmanager@fishvolunteercentre.co.uk with the message 'bus programme please' and your name.

Details of all minibus trips can also be found on the FISH website www.fishvolunteercentre.org.uk

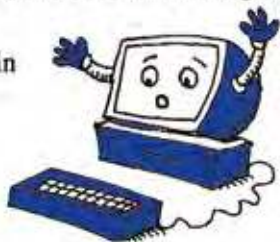
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