

SC SONNING COMMON MAGAZINE

IN THIS ISSUE



SPECIAL PEOPLE

Everybody can sing
P10



TRANSFORMATION

Breaking News
P12-13



GOOD NEWS!

Some good things did
happen in 2020
P31



OUR AMAZING COMMUNITY

PAGE 16

FEB/MAR 2021



sonningcommonmagazine

www.sonningcommonmagazine.org

J C GARDENING SERVICES

General Maintenance Gardener

Grass Cutting, Hedge Cutting,
Pruning, Weeding, Edging,
Leaf Clearance or General Tidy Up
for one off or regular maintenance

Call Jason 07775 564275

Email: jcgardeningservices20@gmail.com

Graham Blake soft furnishing

- Loose Covers
- Curtains
- Re-Upholstery
- Tracks & Poles

For personal, helpful service, please call

Tel: 01844 261769 Mob: 07802 213381

grahamblake123@btconnect.com

www.grahamblake.com

Ten Year Guarantee

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

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

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



FROM THE EDITORIAL TEAM

Patience is what we need to defeat this silent enemy. We have become a nation expecting instant gratification, but it does seem hard waiting for the vaccination to bring us out of this awful time. I remember when my children were growing up, research suggested that one of the best life-skills I could teach them would be to accept delayed gratification!

It is not the best start for 2021 but it would be so much worse without the vaccination!

There are three significant stories in this issue that will make a difference to life in our village. The first is that the groundworks to prepare the recreation ground will start in the next few months, the Neighbourhood Plan is making progress as is the village centre re-design. There are stories of special people who have contributed to benefit the community, the Lockdown views of children are revealed, and various acts of kindness are also mentioned.

Thanks to our regular contributors who loyally produce articles to inform and amuse us.

Hopefully, you will find something to enjoy reading in this issue of the magazine and dreary January will have ended. ●



Diana Pearman Editor

Email: editor@sonningcommonmagazine.org

MEET THE EDITORIAL TEAM



Diana Pearman



Christine Atkinson



Joan Grumant

CONTENTS

- 4-7 Community News
- 10-11 Special people
- 12-13 Transformation to...
- 16 An amazing community
- 18-19 In Focus – Grand designs
- 20-21 Lockdown views
- 22-23 Health Matters
- 24 Tom and Sandy
- 25 Birds of Kennylands
- 27 Puzzle Page
- 28-29 Church news
- 30 Chiltern players
- 31 Good news of 2020
- 34 Puzzle answers/
Thank you Sonning Common

Design & Artwork: Kevin Taplin
TenSevenNine.com
hello@tensevennine.com
07887 902376

Print: Rick Peedell
R.J.Peedell
rick.peedell@gmail.com
07766 254422
0118 9471955

Published by:
Sonning Common Magazine CIC

Cover image:
Christmas Treat Boxes by John 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

USEFUL CONTACTS:

Chairman: Geoff Adams
1 Woodlands Road, Sonning Common RG4 9TD
chairman@sonningcommonmagazine.org
Tel 0118 972 2134

Diary dates: Helen Barker
helen.barker75@outlook.com Tel 0118 972 1241

Distribution: Helen Gavin
distribution@sonningcommonmagazine.org
Tel 0118 972 4680

Advertising: John Pearman
advertising@sonningcommonmagazine.org
Tel 0118 972 2381

MOVING ON WITHIN THE COVID CONTEXT



MAIDEN ERLEGH
CHILTERN EDGE



Since I last wrote in October events have continued to shift and move on and the school has had to operate within the context of the Covid pandemic. However, throughout much of last term we were able to maintain a large degree of normality and only had one year group really disrupted by Covid with two cases in Year 11 during the final two weeks of term. It was frustrating that we got so close to a full term without disruption, however we were delighted at the way the students quickly switched to live online learning, for the whole year group, as they self-isolated. Indeed, attendance for the term apart from the final week was 95.5%, which is a wonderful representation of how well our learning community is engaging and staying focused.

One of the great frustrations of the last 10 months as a school leader has been the lack of opportunities for off site visits, fixtures and trips but we have done all we can to maintain extra opportunities through science lectures, debate club, our gifted and talented Brilliant Club offer and the Model United Nations conference. At the moment we aren't setting homework, but we are offering students the opportunity to explore the curriculum 'hinterland' with extra reading and research

opportunities. I am determined that as soon as is allowed our students will be given the opportunity for team building, offsite active learning, community activities such as the Sponsored Walk and a host of residential trips that are so important to the cognitive and social development of young adults.

Since we have returned to school this week, we are back to our second full school lockdown with key worker and vulnerable student provision occurring on site. It took a huge amount of work to transform the curriculum for this term to online, remote provision, and establish all the protocols and technology needed to make this work. However, we have been delighted at the feedback we have seen on the various social media forums. To quote from two of these:

"It is an amazing school full of dedicated and talented staff. So, reassuring in such a difficult time."

"Goodness knows how much planning and hard graft has had to be put in to set all this remote learning up. Spot on yet again MECE."

Alongside this we have been setting up and starting the testing of staff and students on site for Covid. Never did I imagine that when I began this role a year ago, I would have had to complete such an incredible variety of tasks going beyond the remit of education in the classroom. However, one of the

best parts of being a Headteacher and leading a learning community is that we can influence and support so many parts of peoples' lives in so many ways. I am proud and honoured to be able to support the fight against the pandemic and keep the school up and running but goodness me I will be so pleased when we can get back to being a normal school again!! ●

ANDY HARTLEY
Headteacher



UNUSED LAPTOPS

The school would be very grateful to receive any unused laptops. These would be used by youngsters who do not have access to them at home and would enable the on-line learning taking place at the moment.



MAKING A SPLASH IN COVID TIMES



Sonning Common Primary School is extremely fortunate to have its own 10m indoor swimming pool, and in these unprecedented COVID times we are beginning to realise just how lucky we are.

Swimming as a sport has been severely impacted across the country by COVID restrictions with many venues being closed. However, this is not the case at Sonning Common Primary school where

our pool was in constant use during the second lockdown whilst schools were still open to pupils. The school took the opportunity to give a life-saving and self-survival course to the older year groups of children; they would normally have their swimming lessons at Henley leisure centre but it has been mostly closed since the start of the pandemic.

The children had three half hour lessons in their class bubbles on self-survival, water safety and learning how to help someone else in trouble, whilst keeping themselves safe. Self-survival consisted of learning how to spot dangers when near water, learning what to do if they fall in accidentally (float on their backs), and the techniques of swimming with clothes on, amongst many other things. They learned the Royal Lifesaving Society 'Water Safety Code' - how to help other people and keep themselves safe should

an incident arise - through practicing land-based rescues.

The sessions were very successful, as not only did they provide the children with important lifesaving skills but it gave them the opportunity to have a swim. For some this was the first time they had been in the water for almost a year and it was lovely seeing them enjoy themselves back in the pool.

'Swimming is the one sport that can be accessed by all ages and all abilities and is part of who we are and what we do at Sonning Common Primary School. Being able to provide a unique 'lifesaving' experience is one that we have been happy to facilitate for the pupils of our school. I wonder what might be next?'
Chris Hirst, Headteacher ●

JULIE BARNETT

IDENTIFYING LAND OWNERSHIP IS THE NEXT STEP FOR THE SAFE CYCLE PATH

Having spoken to "Sustrans" who are involved with delivering the National Cycle Network, it was decided the way forward was to approach the landowners to seek their agreement to support the idea and then it would be possible to plan a route.

Currently the process of searching the land registry for details has begun. Anyone who has contact with the owners of the fields along the road - please get in touch.

Owners on both sides of the B481 need to be contacted. On the south-side, where the Rugby Club is sited, it has many different plots shown. There is a need to speak to any of those owners to seek a way forward. If you are in contact with any of them, please let us know. This would be a great help. ●

JONNY BIDGOOD
grantdesigns@talktalk.net



Sonning Common Parish Council have secured £5000 funding from the SODC Emergency Assistance Grant to allow the Sonning Common Foodbank at Springwater Church to continue to help local residents throughout the Covid19 pandemic. The foodbank operates from Springwater Church and supports a number of local families, many of whom have been affected by the pandemic. If you are able to contribute donations of food then these can be left in the box outside the church. Thank you.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

scnp SONNING COMMON
NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

It's now three years since work began on revising Sonning Common's Neighbourhood Plan – a good time to give readers of the magazine a progress report.

Our original plan came into force in 2016, after being overwhelmingly approved in the village referendum. It provided for around 200 new homes to be built on five sites. Of these one (Lea Meadow) has been completed, two (Sonning Grove off Reade's Lane and the T.A. Fisher development off Kennylands Rd) are nearing completion, and two (at Maiden Erlegh/Chiltern Edge and along Kennylands Rd) have not yet come forward.

The original Neighbourhood Plan has shown that it is doing its job, implementing the preferences of Sonning Common residents as to where new housing should go. But the government decided that neighbourhood plans in general should retain their full statutory weight for a limited period only – two years. Hence the decision to revise it.

In the background has been the tortured

saga of South Oxfordshire District Council's Local Plan (which determines how many extra houses we need to find room for). SODC now has a Local Plan and we have to accommodate significant numbers of extra homes. Thanks to the continuing rate of infill on smaller pieces of land around the village, this total has been steadily reduced and at the time of writing stands at a little under 100.

The revision working party – of which I am chairman – has laboured long and hard to find ways to meet this allocation in ways that benefit the village and cause the minimum of impact (a very tricky balance to achieve). Just under a year ago we presented our draft ideas at a public meeting in the Village Hall. We proposed a new site, the current Johnson Matthey staff car park at the junction of Blounts Court Rd and Widmore Lane; an increase in the allocation on the Maiden Erlegh/Chiltern Edge site; a development of about 40 extra-care apartments on the land currently occupied by Kennylands Gymnastics off

Peppard Rd; and a modest allowance for continuing infill.

The response at the public exhibition was, broadly speaking, extremely positive. Since then our efforts to pin down these allocations and to produce new policies reflecting the changes since the original plan was implemented have continued. We are now close to producing a draft set of proposals to be considered by South Oxfordshire District Council – known as a pre-submission draft, which we hope will be consulted on in the course of 2021.

The road has been a long one, and we are acutely aware that we still have some distance to go. We remain determined to see that Sonning Common gets its new Neighbourhood Plan, because we continue to believe that this is the best way to protect the village from the kind of opportunistic development that has disfigured so many other parts of the country. ●

Tom Fort
Chairman – Neighbourhood Plan working party

MEN'S SHEDS

Men's Sheds started in 1999 in Australia and since have spread worldwide. They are open to all ages including women despite the name. The idea of FISH starting one comes from experience of running social outings where the majority of passengers are women with the occasional man plus our tea parties are mostly ladies.



Men's Shed in Reading

I see establishing a local Shed as an additional part of our work in the community whereby like-minded people meet, share their worries, share skills, knowledge and gain a renewed sense of purpose and belonging. A place to pursue practical interests, practice skills and enjoy making, mending, creating plus it is about social connection and a bit of banter.

To enable FISH to start this venture above all else we need the help of the community to find a dry barn, large shed, large garage with electricity in the local area to get this off the ground.

Can you help please? If so, contact the FISH office on **0118 972 3986**. ●

Sheila Maughan
Trustee

JOHN'S LIGHTS SHINE ON

You will all remember the fantastic Christmas lights that used to shine in Kennylands Road. John Lambourne used to collect donations for them in aid of Great Ormond Street hospital every year. After John sadly passed away in 2019 and that Christmas Vanessa Stowell organised carol singing around the village instead.

This year John's son Gary took up the baton and lit up his own house in Emmer Green with his dad's lights and raised a fantastic £870. Vanessa organised an online virtual carol singing event and raised another £455! We are sure John would be proud of them both. ●

Christine Atkinson



LOOKING FORWARD TO MANY MORE ANNIVERSARIES



A councillor in the west Midlands was recently reported as saying that if something hasn't been used much for five or six months, the community probably doesn't need it. He was referring to libraries – and was rightly and roundly condemned. I think if he showed his face in Sonning Common, he might be lynched. Despite being closed for much of 2020 – and the frustrating red tape involved in getting it reopened after the first lockdown, our library continues to win new support. The Friends' online AGM in November heard that FoSCL had not only welcomed new members during the year, but also seven new volunteers. Alison Smith and Bev White also kindly agreed to

join the committee, which will lose three officers later this year. The zoom meeting was attended by thirty people – another sign that the library is still highly valued. Members expressed some concern that when the library was able to open, it was on reduced hours – some fear this might be a precursor to another attempt to close it. 2020 was to have been the library's 20th anniversary in the school building – the Friends are determined that the party will be held this year instead and that we will battle to ensure there are many more anniversaries. ●

Helen Fort

USED STAMPS HAVE A VALUE FOR GOOD

Used postage stamps have a value and are collected by charities. There is a collection point in Occasions for the benefit of the Dogs Trust. This made me wonder what the stamps were used for and what the Dogs Trust did. The stamps are sent to a volunteer specialist where they are sorted and then sold to dealers, who, in turn sell them to collectors round the world. The money raised from the initial sale is donated to the Dogs Trust. Margaret Macleod who manages the village collections explains "the stamps must be complete with all their perforation and affixed to the paper on which they arrived, but only the immediate surround". Over time several thousand pounds have been donated to the Trust as a result of the Occasions' collections.

The Dogs Trust is a national charity that helps dogs and their owners adapt to a constantly changing way of life with behaviour advice. The Trust also arranges rehoming where the owner has no other option but to give up their dog. They also try to stop anyone being tricked into buying a smuggled puppy. The Trust estimates some 40,000 dogs will have needed support in 2020 due to Covid – 19!! ●



LIBRARY CLOSED, OPEN, CLOSED ...

At time of writing the library is closed again under tier 4 restrictions. Officially only larger libraries (Henley being the nearest) are allowed to offer 'click and collect' for people who are desperate for something to read, but the guidelines are under review. So if you're in need of books, whether you're over 70 or under 10 (and anything in between!) please get in touch with the library at:

sonningcommon.library@oxfordshire.gov.uk to find out what the latest arrangements are (or try phoning **0118 972 2448** between 2pm and 4pm each afternoon) and we'll see what we can do to help....

Information about Oxfordshire Libraries and online services is available 24/7 at: **www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/libraries**

If by the time you read this the library has reopened, the opening hours will be these:

Monday 2 – 5pm
Wednesday 2 – 5pm
Friday 9 – 1pm; 2 – 5pm
Saturday 9.30 – 12.30pm

We will be open under 'Covid-secure conditions', meaning that masks should be worn in the library (unless medically exempt), books are quarantined for 72 hours, numbers allowed in are monitored, and short visits are encouraged. ●

Rosemary Dunstan
Library manager

HEALTH WALKS

There were tentative plans to restart the Health Walks in January 2021, but these have had to be postponed. Any information about starting points and times and days will be available on the website at www.sonningcommonhealthwalks.co.uk/timetable as soon as something definite has been decided. To talk to someone about any aspect of the Health Walks phone Chris Brook on 0118 924 2515. Meanwhile, Spring is on its way, so get out and enjoy our beautiful local countryside! ●

Rosemary Dunstan





Moores 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 Web: 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

www.beaconflooring.co.uk

Advertise in the sonningcommon magazine

Delivered to 1,850 addresses

Prices from just £27 per issue
for an advert this size

Perfect for local businesses
and tradesmen

Call John Pearman to find out more on 0118 972 2381
or email advertising@sonningcommonmagazine.org

PEPPARD
BUILDING SUPPLIES



FREE LOCAL DELIVERY

Competitive Trade Pricing
Specialist Insulation Stockists
Bricks/Blocks/Aggregates
Driveway Shingle
Landscaping Products
Paving Display
Trade Shop
Plenty of Parking
Web Offers!

Call **0118 972 2028** / Sat Nav **RG4 8XA**

Visit www.peppardbuildingsupplies.com



davis tate

ALL PROPERTY MATTERS

Our customer reviews say more about our service than we ever could...

“We had excellent service with Davis Tate. The marketing and selling of the house was efficient and effective. The real value of the service came later when the staff, and in particular Julie Norman, spent a lot of time and effort monitoring the progress of the houses in the chain towards exchange, 'encouraging' them to keep moving forward, and keeping us informed.”



If you're thinking of selling or letting contact Davis Tate
on 0118 972 4242 or email sonningc@davistate.com

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
44 Church St, Caversham, Reading (opposite Waitrose)

Red Kite Electrical 

Top quality electrical work for Sonning
Common since 2006.
OLEV registered

sparks@redkiteelectrical.co.uk
www.redkiteelectrical.co.uk
0118 907 1834
0788 273 7402
10 Onslow Gardens, Caversham



Rachel Masters MCFHP MAFHP
Foot Health Professional
Professional Foot Care In Your Own Home

Toe Nail Cutting, Diabetic Foot Care, Corns,
Calluses, Verrucas, Fungal Infections,
Thickened Toe Nails, Foot Care Advice.

07933 220500
0118 3282612

www.masterfootcare.co.uk
rachel@masterfootcare.co.uk



Member of The British Association of Foot Health Professionals

Kidbys Sheds
'Simply The Best'
Quality That Lasts a Lifetime

Sheds, Workshops, Studios & Summerhouses

Wide range of styles, sizes, window & door arrangements, colours. Full service inc removal of old shed, base building, design, build & erection.

www.kidbys.co.uk
Tel: **0118 9723380**
Email: **sales@kidbys.co.uk**

G B REMOVALS
DELIVERIES, REMOVALS, HOUSEHOLD CLEARANCES, STORAGE ADVICE

LARGE VAN WITH TAIL LIFT
IDEAL FOR PIANOS ETC.

GARY BUCKETT
7 GREEN LANE
SONNING COMMON RG4 9NA **0118 924 2763**
07990 707125

thebucketts@waitrose.com

SB Massage Therapy Room
Massage to balance
mind body and spirit

Tel: 07515122518
email: sbmassagetherapyroom@gmail.com
www.sbmassagetherapyroom.com



SPRUCE MAINTENANCE SERVICE

For all your property maintenance requirements:

- ◆Decorating ◆Paper Hanging
- ◆Carpentry – including door easing & hanging
- ◆Wall Tiling & Silicone Renewal ◆Plumbing, leaking taps etc.

Pass on your TO DO list
ROB SMITH Tel: 0118 972 4560

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
Website at www.time4pilates.co.uk


Adams Cars  

Are you going on holiday, business trip or just seeing friends and looking to travel home?

Adams Cars are your local Taxi and Private Hire company offering local and long distance journeys at a competitive price.

01491 62 8888 | 01189 66 4000
info@adams-cars.com

DOWNLOAD OUR APP!

 **BOOK YOUR JOURNEY WITH ONE TAP** 

LC Chauffeurs, Unit 9B Adams House, Manor Farm, Peppard Common, Henley on Thames, Reading, RG9 5LA

EVERYBODY CAN SING

By JOAN GRUMMANT



Nottakwire has been a much-loved feature of Sonning Common life for the last ten years and was the brainchild of Elaine Williams and Margaret Moola. It will be sorely missed by very many people and filled a need for social interaction as well as music making. Elaine and Margaret met thirty-four years ago as very successful music teachers in London and shared a passion for encouraging everyone to enjoy the benefits of singing, even without pre experience.

In 2004 they decided to move out of the London area and settled upon Sonning Common as a mid-way location between their respective families. They were attracted by the welcoming and friendly atmosphere they found here. They started Nottakwire with very few singers but it quickly grew as word got around about the friendly and lively meetings, and eventually the membership reached a total of 77 and provided an outlet for friendship and social interaction as well as the many recognised benefits of singing. It was a fantastic success and a tribute to the work, energy and commitment of these two musicians.

Margaret and Elaine have always worked well together and their roles were interchangeable. Joint discussions enabled a very diverse repertoire to be

followed and they met in Sonning Common Village Hall every alternate week. Every other week they ran the smaller Notts Group and their current aim is to continue the Notts Group in the future, if and when possible. Their strong belief in the fact that anyone can sing enabled many that would not consider joining a choir to give it a try and to enjoy the experience of taking part in concerts. It was fun and the self-confidence to sing grew. With the encouragement of Elaine and Margaret, choral skills were gradually introduced and the medical benefits of good breathing, diction and good listening started to pay dividends.

Nottakwire has been a focus of work in the community and the strong bonds formed within the choir reflected its commitment to producing concerts in aid of local, National and International charities. Over the last ten years it has raised and donated £24,000 and one local organisation that has been supported continuously is the Sonning Common Youth Club. While the Summer

concerts have been a focal point much other work was also done by holding annual Christmas Concerts, community Carol singing, and entertaining at Sue Ryder and various Care Homes.

There is a great deal of sadness in the ending of the choir and many Sonning Common residents will miss the joy of singing together, making close friendships within our local community, and being part of something larger that brought joy to all. It has left a huge void but could never have happened at all without the enormous work and commitment of two remarkable ladies. Their expertise in planning, arranging, composing, conducting and accompanying was the foundation of something really special. The fact that many who considered themselves non singers can now confidently enjoy singing is testament to the success of Nottakwire. Our thanks and good wishes go to Margaret and Elaine for giving Sonning Common such a special and unforgettable Community Singing Group. ●



CECILY HUNT

FOUNDER OF FoSCL



Mrs Cecily Hunt, founding member of the original Friends of Sonning Common Library and long time supporter of Thames Valley Air Ambulance, passed away peacefully on 9th November 2020.

Cecily Baker was born in Swavesey, Cambridgeshire and grew up there until her father moved farms to one in Surrey. Subsequently she moved to Princes Risborough where she met Laurie Hunt who was to become her husband. When their son, Nigel, was 5 years old the family moved to Grove Road in Sonning Common and over the next few

years welcomed two daughters, Karen and Joanne. The family still live in the same house.

Cecily was a country girl at heart and loved to spend time in her garden which bloomed under her care. For many years she also tended the plants and hanging baskets outside the library. She paid for these herself as she felt it was important the library looked attractive and welcoming.

Cecily was a keen reader and a founding member of the original Friends of Sonning Common Library (FoSCL), an action group dedicated to keeping the village library open. She started the group in 1998 when the library was first threatened with closure after it was decided it could no longer be housed in the terrapin building, The Studio, in Grove Road where it had been since 1965. As chairman of FoSCL, Cecily organised a bus to take a group of campaigners to County Hall to explain why the library was needed not just by the village, but also the primary school. Data was gathered which proved how

many residents of Sonning Common and Peppard used the library and that the proposed replacement mobile library would simply not be able to cope with the demand. FoSCL approached Mr Marples, the then head of Sonning Common Primary School, to ask if there was space anywhere in the school to house the library. It was decided the old school hall would be suitable. This is where the library moved to and where it remains to this day.

Sonning Common has Cecily Hunt and her fellow committee members to thank for the existence of the village library which still provides an essential resource and meeting place for its residents. ●

ALISON SMITH



TRANSFORMATION FROM AN FIELD TO

We are thrilled to announce exciting news for Sonning Common. Planning permission has been granted for Memorial Hall Field (the field opposite Maiden Erlegh Chiltern Edge School and behind Kidmore End Memorial Hall) to be remodelled to create an active destination for our community with areas of level playing space for informal recreation, sport, physical activity and community events. The landscaping will, over time, enable this new community location to nestle in a setting which is in keeping with the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty ("AONB") in which it is located.

What it will look like?

The vision for our new recreation area was encapsulated in a cartoon picture, created for us by young illustrator Rory McNeill, and helped the planners appreciate the vision we are aiming to achieve.

The field will include an undulating wide footpath following the contours of the land, and a multi-use games area (MUGA).

Undertaking the site works requires the engagement of specialist contractors. These will be chosen soon, with the intention of work commencing as early in 2021 as ground and weather conditions allow.

Way in...

The central access opposite Maiden Erlegh Chiltern Edge, which was

created for the Linden Homes development, has also been granted permission to become the permanent public entrance to the Memorial Hall Field (as it is currently known)

- with footpath access from Reade's Lane
- with access from the new road off Reade's Lane to the housing development (Sonning Grove)
- with access from the centre of our village via Lambourne Road

Lighting

In response to the comments from our residents, who requested that the area should be well lit and safe, we have undertaken a detailed lighting survey with expert consultants, Sport England and the Chilterns Conservation Board. As a result, we have submitted a planning application to install wayfaring lighting around the perimeter footpath and lighting for the multi-use games area (MUGA) to enable it to be used year-round. This application was submitted before Christmas and we anticipate a response by spring 2021.

Our future vision

To reach this significant moment has taken 4 years of consultation, planning and relationship building. Key discussions continue to take place with Rotherfield United FC, Maiden Erlegh Chiltern Edge school, Sonning Common Tennis Club, the Health Centre, FISH, Green Gym, Health Walks and others because we know this is currently at step one, in a multi-

phased project which will develop over time.

The driving mantra for all our work has been to create an area which can be used, managed and maintained, for now and all future generations. We do not want to provide a site which rarely has any activity or which has to be out of bounds in bad weather. Our vision is to create a magnet for the community, which everyone cherishes and helps nurture. We want to expand the holiday activity programme, so successfully established in 2019 and continued despite all the restrictions in 2020. We wish to create activity opportunities for all residents and age groups. Very soon we need to establish a usage plan for the MUGA and a careful means of protecting it when it has been built.

Next step

Our work does not stand still. Our next phase is the development of built facilities – in the southern part of the site – which can offer expanded community activities, a place to enjoy a coffee and snack, storage for equipment and additional reasons to visit. Each new phase will build on the previous one so that we future proof all the planning and construction works, maximise economic efficiency and promote sustainability.

New name

A new name is needed for the site – and so we are inviting you to take part and give us your suggestions. Email editor@sonningcommonmagazine.org or phone 0118 972 2381. We would

AGRICULTURAL

love a name which reflects our vision for the site and which will stand the test of time.

So in 2021 ...

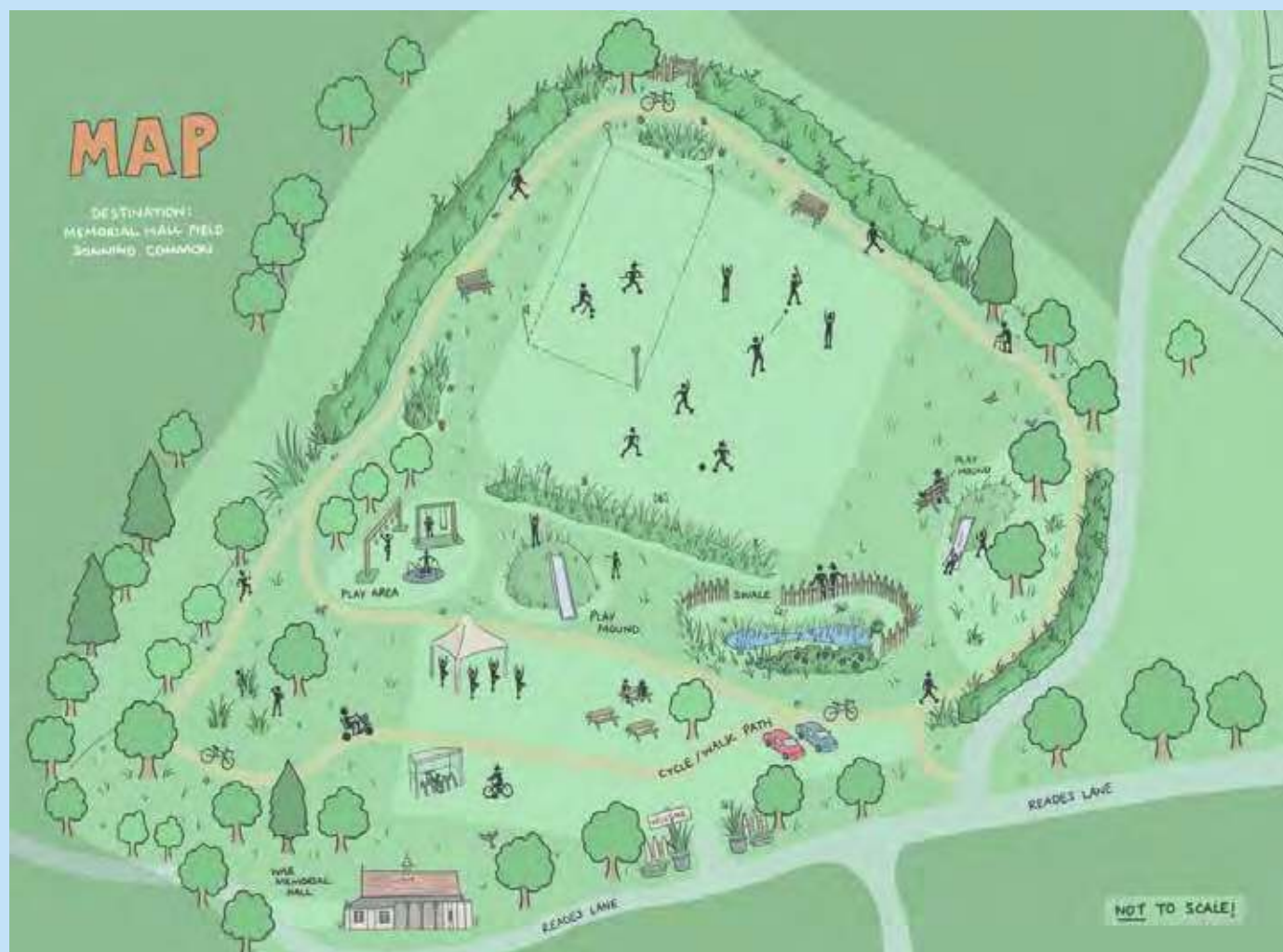
Our 'field' will no longer be a field – but an activity destination which offers something for everyone, is as beautiful as the countryside in which it sits, and creates wonderful memories of fun and happiness – perhaps the first time your

son/daughter rode his/her bike unaided, the first time you ran all the way round the footpath without stopping, your enjoyment of a village event in the open green space, or when you made a new friend by taking up a new sport. After we have decided on a name, we will create a logo and a sign so that when we have an opening ceremony, which we hope will be in Summer 2021, we can display it for all to see.

Despite 2020 having been such a challenging year, we feel confident and optimistic that 2021 will be a year of innovation, renewed connections and fantastic opportunity for our community. ●

Diana Pearman
Chair of MHF Working party

Penny Snowden
Project co-ordinator



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

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



Member of



Our windows and conservatories come with a comprehensive 20 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

10% discount on windows & doors
when you quote MAD2020

The Mobile Hairdresser

...from the comfort of your own home...
"at your convenience!"



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

Email: 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

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

ELL'S DECOR

No Job too Small



painter and decorator
inside and outside work
reliable and trustworthy
based in Sonning Common
call Elliot on

07879 478875 or 0118 972 3720

elliott1973@hotmail.co.uk

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



BOILER
SERVICE, REPAIR
& INSTALLATIONS

AMAXS

PLUMBING HEATING ELECTRICAL

WWW.AMAXS.CO.UK

www.facebook.com/AMAXS

Tel: 01189 724 794 Mob: 0784 068 1057

E: info@amaxes.co.uk

HEIGHTS TREE CARE

- All Aspects of Tree Work
- Hedge Cutting
- Private and Commercial

TO ARRANGE A FREE QUOTE, CONTACT LAURENCE WILLIAMS

T 0118 972 1003 • M 078135 86735

E info@heightstreecare.co.uk

www.heightstreecare.co.uk



FULLY QUALIFIED PROFESSIONALS
£10 MILLION PUBLIC LIABILITY INSURANCE

Everyone needs something from...

Heath & Watkins

41 Wood Lane, Sonning Common, RG4 9SG
Tel: 0118 437 5171

Eco Refills
Logs, Coal & Gas
Key Cutting
Seasonal Plants & Bulbs
Seeds
Art & Craft Supplies
Light Bulbs
Hardware
Gardening Tools
Water Softener Salt
Kitchenware
Kilner Jars
Painting & Decorating Supplies
Cleaning Sundries
Compost (including Peat Free & Spent Mushroom)
& EVEN MORE!



*Find us on Facebook
for news on special
offers, new stock
arrivals and other
good stuff.*

SONNING COMMON – AN AMAZING COMMUNITY

By **DIANA PEARMAN**

Once again, the generosity of Sonning Common residents was outstanding in 2020. An appeal was launched in the magazine to provide a Christmas treats box for the vulnerable and elderly of the village. The Christmas lunch team, Sandy, Chrissie and I met in November and agreed that there could not be a Christmas lunch due to Covid 19 restrictions.

It was a sad decision to make but what followed from it was way beyond our expectations. Financial donations arrived via a Just Giving page, donations of goods piled up in the FISH office, Chrissie worked her magic on the usual company donators, cheques arrived in the parish office. Sandy collated the lists of names, starting with those who regularly attended the lunch in the village hall. Names were provided by FISH, the food bank at Springwater and together with nominations from people who had seen the posters or read in the magazine that we were looking for people who might be on their own on Christmas Day. The list was soon at 90. The most challenging job was the collection of similar sized cardboard boxes, fortunately for us Julia took this on and sourced the lot!!

Once the food was purchased and Sandy had booked the village hall for the Saturday before Christmas, it was all systems go. In the week before we did have a panic, would we be allowed to use it in the new tier 2, as she had organised a huge band of willing helpers to fill and wrap the boxes. By that afternoon it was the turn of the delivery squad, John and Keith to move the boxes allocated to the Food bank, FISH office and the rest remained in situ for Paul, Michael and Tony to deliver to the doorsteps.

Paul has always lived in the village and his delivery round gave him the opportunity to reconnect with old acquaintances and share some memories. Tony and Michael delivered their boxes together to provide a duo of Christmas cheer to their recipients.

The responses on the doorstep were humbling, people were just so grateful. There have been multiple letters of thanks, to the team, to FISH and to Springwater.

Everyone thanked the team for keeping the Christmas spirit alive, here are a few of the messages.

On behalf of Sandy, Chrissie and myself I would like to say a huge thank you to

all our donors, individual or corporate, our sorting and packing helpers (too many to list) to those who made cakes, gingerbread and biscuits, for this who took hot Christmas dinners to neighbours, to the FISH volunteers and the Springwater team who did their deliveries on Christmas day. Also thanks to the Youth Club and Sunny for the production of a Christmas card for each box.

It was an incredibly worthwhile community venture. ●



J was moved to tears when we knocked on her door and was very grateful. She said that she will miss everyone on Christmas Day. I'm pleased to say that after a moment she cheered up and was the victim of our juvenile Christmas jokes.

A and D were absolutely delighted to receive a box this morning. Their words "full of lovely treats we normally wouldn't buy for ourselves."

J was very happy and appreciative to all and delighted that he would get a Christmas dinner as he didn't rate his own cooking.

P was pleased and said that even in the current circumstances he would still be having a couple of beers and wished everyone well. Indeed he said he'd be opening a bottle of rum this Christmas.

A hamper had been delivered to G's home. Her brother wrote "a big thank you to all the lovely kind people who think of others and arranged it's delivery."

BRIDGES

Independent Estate Agents

EST.1993

We continue to experience a high demand for property in and around Sonning Common

*If you're considering selling in 2021, please contact the
agents people are recommending.*

*We have the team, local knowledge and experience
to guide you at every step of your move and to ensure
you achieve the very best price for your property.*



Heather Close, Sonning Common



Peppard Road, Sonning Common



Rokeby Drive, Tokers Green



Cane End



Park Close, Sonning Common



Peppard Road, Sonning Common



Beech Road, Tokers Green



The Hamlet, Gallowstree Common



Shiplake Bottom, Peppard Common



Westleigh Drive, Sonning Common



Tanners Lane, Chalkhouse Green



Maple Close, Sonning Common

1 Church Road Caversham Reading RG4 7AA
post@bridgesproperty.co.uk

www.bridgesproperty.co.uk
0118 946 2121

VILLAGE CENTRE GRAND DESIGN UPDATE!



What do you notice when you walk up or down Wood Lane to the village shops? I see a vibrant community going about its business; whether it's appointments at the Health Centre, Doctors, Vets or Pharmacy, attending one of a multitude of classes and events held at the Village Hall, collecting or eating out at 4 food establishments, getting your haircut or clothes cleaned or shopping (2 food stores, 1 hardware store, an estate agent, post office and pet store).



Unfortunately, you only have to look at the number of posts people put on social media or mail into the Parish Offices to realise we have some problems that are not going away:

- Selfish and inconsiderate parking predominantly around the junction of Woodlands Road and Wood Lane.
- Parking on the pavements.
- Standing water along the level length of Wood Lane (especially on the Health Centre side). I've lost count of the number of times I've been soaked by a passing vehicle.

- Poor street lighting.
- Pedestrian vulnerability when crossing the road
- Difficulty driving through our village centre safely.
- Telegraph poles planted in the middle of the pavement. How are wheelchairs users or children in pushchairs meant to navigate that?
- Potholes and sinkholes in both the road and pavements, making it an obstacle course for pedestrians. The state of our "high street" is starting to look more 3rd World than 1st!

We need to maintain Sonning Common as an attractive centre with the vital infrastructure for residents and visitors alike. Access to essential services and amenities is central to the vitality of Sonning Common now and for the future.

We need to collectively do something to prevent its further demise.

We want Sonning Common to continue to thrive and balance the requirements of the local businesses whilst serving the needs of the community and visitors.

Taking the valued feedback gained

from our last Village Centre Open Day we've continued to engage with Peter Brett Associates of Reading and have consulted with SODC & OCC Highways via a pre-planning application. The great news is they are supportive of the proposed scheme with the obvious caveat nothing is final until it's formally approved.

So, what does the draft proposal give us? In a nutshell the aspiration is to create a safer place and support our retail businesses to thrive by creating a visually aesthetic uplift to the village centre's appearance. Promote the use of leg power (walking or cycling) for residents near or far to use its amenities and encourage people to enjoy their shopping experience here:

- Improved parking provision for vehicles along Wood Lane (see attached diagrams)
- Designated off road parking
- Mini Roundabout at the end of Woodlands Road (to stop inconsiderate parking)
- Two pedestrian crossing zones with coloured tarmac
- Drainage issues rectified
- Level pavement and road surfaces

- Planting of appropriate trees and shrubs to green and enhance the aesthetics of the village
- Pinch points to make drivers aware they're entering a vibrant village centre
- Declutter and remove as many unnecessary signs as possible
- Provision of bicycle stands
- Improved street lighting and furniture

By now you'll have realised this isn't going to be cheap and there's still an incredible amount of work to do. Apart from the sheer cost of it and getting it through planning approval, there are

legal issues to overcome; discussions to be had with the numerous business landlords and their tenants, drainage surveys to conduct; the list is endless.

If you happen to be a subject matter expert in anything relevant to the above and could donate some of your valuable time, please get in touch with Philip Collings, the Sonning Common Parish Clerk (clerk@sonningcommonparishcouncil.org.uk).

Better still, if you have deep enough pockets and can fund this project or part of it, get in touch. You never know

we may rename the village after you! On a more serious note, thank-you for reading. ●

Stuart Howe & Vicky Boorman
Parish Councillors and Chair and Vice Chair of Sonning Common Village Centre Working Party

The high resolution schematics (providing greater detail of the plans) are available from the Parish Council office or can be emailed to you via PDF (please email clerk@sonningcommonparishcouncil.org.uk asking for copies).



LOCKDOWN VIEWS

from children at Sonning Common Primary School...

These snippets and poems were written by children aged 6 to 10 of their views and experiences during the first lockdown. Very sadly (especially for Scarlett) the children are now having to go through this again, and much harder in the winter without having all the sunny outdoor time. Let us all hope that it doesn't go on for too long and these lovely children can get to school, play with their friends, and the memories of this time will fade for them.

Emily

This has affected lots of people like me. I couldn't do the things I loved most. The good thing is that because I live in two houses, my sister and I could still see both parents, even though it was Covid 19.

When I first heard that I was not going to school for a while I felt sad and worried. But my sister was partying! Children got on-line learning and my school did Google classroom. It was confusing at first but we soon got the hang of it.

When I went into lockdown I was in year 4 and by the time we got out I was in year 5. Even though lockdown happened I still see a bright future ahead.

Scarlett

Lockdown was tricky for me because my cousins, my nanny and grandad, and my gran live a long way away and I couldn't see them. I was sad.

We had to stay home all day and we played in our garden. I had my birthday

in lockdown too and I had a video meeting with my friends. I missed my friends because I hadn't seen them for a very long time.

It was exciting going back to school and seeing my new teacher. I never ever, ever want a lockdown again!

Ruby

Lockdown was terrible

It was unbearable

We had to stay inside and we couldn't go and play

I just knew that it would truly be a terrible day

We couldn't go to school

And that was the rule

We had to do work from home which was stressful for me

We all just wanted to be free

Being stuck indoors was worst of all

I wish that I could just go to school

Being in lockdown made me forget what I learnt about in year 4

And now I think I'm dumber than before

It would be amazing to see our friends about

But we couldn't go out

In a kids imagination no one knows

What it's like to be stuck indoors I suppose

I wished and wished for things to get better

Maybe even write a letter

Saying if lockdown would end sooner or later

One day we could finally go back to school

And that's my poem of lockdown for you all

Lily-May

Twenty Twenty, The year of plenty.

Back in March, we all thought a bit harsh,

The guidelines were set, and rules to be met,

Bound to the house, which made me upset.

Lockdown was here, Covid please disappear!

No other friends and family allowed round,

And leaving the house was frowned.

We stayed at home with our one household.

Wow, did I miss no grandparents to hold.

Boris said again and again hands, face, space.

But still the frightening fear of hearing there is another case.

Thursdays we'd clap, Fridays we'd Zoom,

Some nights we'd just sit and look at the Moon.

Google classroom, bike rides and walks in the woods,

This became the new normal and then I understood.

We were protecting the NHS and our loved ones,

Thinking of this the easier it becomes,

For after all, I was with my Mum, Dad and Brother,

The year is not lost and there will be another.



And from an adult perspective Amanda Watkins-Cooke writes...

'Normal Days'

As Howard and I sit here drinking champers,
Reflecting on 2020,
We realise not all of it was bad,
Life lessons, there were a plenty.

We realise we are so lucky where we live,
Sonning Common is more than enough.
A village community that pulled together,
When times got really tough.

We are surrounded by beautiful countryside,
We certainly walked a few miles!
Lots of people out doing the same,
Eager for chats and smiles.

We realised how happy we are at home,
A very compatible pair.
During the Lockdowns, we didn't end up killing each other,
And arguments were rare!

We learnt new terminology: 'Furlough', 'Social-distancing',
'Self-isolation', 'Tiers 1,2,3,4' and 'Zoom.'
Friday nights; wine in hand, talking to friends on a screen,
Helped lift us from our gloom.

One of the biggest challenges,
Was losing our freedom.
We would like nothing more right now,
Than to sail off and find some sun!

But the hardest thing of all for me,
The thing I found the most sad,
Was pretty much a whole year spent,
Without a hug from mum or dad.

But there is light at the end of the tunnel,
And as the days get longer,
The vaccine being rolled out,
Will make our nation stronger.

So by the time the daffodils have bloomed,
And we have finally got to Easter,
At last we will be able to say:
'Bugger off Corona!'

Probably the best life lesson,
On days when we have had to be brave,
Is that 'normal days' are not dull or boring,
It is the 'normal days' we crave.

So this time next year,
Remember how all this felt.
Never again take those 'normal days' for granted,
And be thankful for the lives we have been dealt.

So to wish all our friends and family,
A very happy New Year.
Hoping that 2021 for all of us,
Will be full of fun, health, happiness and cheer.



COVID NEWS FROM THE HEALTH CENTRE

16th December 2020 was a historic day in Henley



A small number of Sonning Common patients were invited to have a COVID vaccination in mid-December as part of an initial pilot at the Bell surgery in Henley. The Bell and Hart surgeries in Henley, Sonning Common Health Centre and Nettlebed surgery were allocated a small amount of vaccines in this pilot. They were selected to be part of the first wave of 280 GP practices across the country as they have a higher proportion of people aged over 80 than other areas of Oxfordshire.

The SCHC team hope to receive more supplies in early 2021 and be able to invite more patients to have a COVID vaccination. Please note the following :

- contact will be made with you – do not ring to check
- attending your appointments – SCHC continue to deal with other health matters
- continuing to follow all guidance to control the virus and save lives, including the HANDS - FACE - SPACE messages.

There is more information on the topic table in the entrance lobby and on the SCHC website www.sonningcommonhealthcentre.co.uk or <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus> ●

PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP (PPG) CONSULTATIONS

The Health Centre continues to be open, as it has been throughout the pandemic, but things have changed to ensure safety for patients and staff. The practice is dealing with approximately 200 daily consultations, the majority on the phone or video. All patients need an initial telephone consultation and any who need to be seen face to face will be invited in for an appointment. Please do not come in to the surgery unless you are collecting from the dispensary or have a pre-booked appointment. Please also be patient with our receptionists who are having to work harder than ever to manage a huge influx of enquiries during these difficult times.

Please wear a face covering, respect social distancing rules, children should be accompanied by just one parent and



elderly or infirm patients needing carer or assistance come in with just one other. These actions will minimise footfall in the practice and there will be a need to continue to observe all the government advice for the foreseeable future to keep our practice and all our patients safe. ●

CALM CLINIC

The CCG (Clinical Commissioning Group) have arranged a Covid assessment unit in Wallingford called the CALM Clinic where any “hot”, possible Covid, patients can be assessed by a team of GPs and nurses. Patients who are unwell with a temperature may be booked an urgent appointment to be seen at this assessment unit. Details will be given to you at the telephone consultation.

We have also added a portacabin in our car park to the left of the practice. This will provide a safe area where we can assess any “hot” patients if there is no capacity at the CALM clinic and if extra safe space is needed. It is hoped that it will not be needed and only be required until April. ●

PPG

The Health Centre would like to thank the PPG for all their support and hard work during these difficult times. There may be a need to muster extra patient support to run the fuller vaccination programmes required when the bulk of the Covid vaccinations come through in 2021. ●

VIRTUAL BEREAVEMENT SERVICES

Support for those bereaved is provided by AGEUK. Virtual meetings and a telephone support line called 'In Touch'. ●



NEW
Bereavement Support telephone line
'In-Touch'

A new telephone support service has been launched by Late Spring Oxfordshire. Aimed towards all those aged 50+ who have been bereaved. Calls will be answered by experienced Late Spring facilitators who can provide a listening ear, as well as help link you up to all the support that is available to you.

Call 01235 426600
Available Monday to Friday 10am to 4pm. If the line is busy, please leave your name and number and we will return your call as soon as possible.
Late Spring Oxfordshire is a service delivered by Age UK Oxfordshire.
Registered charity number 1091529

Late Spring Oxfordshire
Virtual Meetings
An opportunity to come together online with others who understand

If you have been bereaved or know someone who has been bereaved, why not pop along?

These new virtual groups will run as follows:

- 2nd Monday of the month from 2pm-3pm
- 1st Tuesday of the month 11am-12pm
- 4th Wednesday of the month 2:30pm-3:30pm
- 3rd Thursday of the month 10am-11am

If you have a computer, tablet or smartphone but have never used Zoom, we can send you a simple 'how to' guide to help you feel confident to give it a go and be involved. If you don't have access to a computer, you can still phone in using your normal phone.

For more details and to book your place please contact 01235 849434 or email us at latespring@ageukoxfordshire.org.uk

#LoveLaterLife
Registered Charity Number 1091529

50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION AT SONNING COMMON HEALTH CENTRE

Details of this event for September 2021 will be in the next issue;

- to celebrate a new normal
- many having had the COVID vaccine,
- the end of social isolation and the 50th Anniversary

FLU JABS

Please contact the Reception team at the Health Centre for an appointment if you haven't yet had a flu jab ●

CANCER SCREENING

Cervical smear test appointments continue to be offered when due at the Well Woman clinic at the health centre.

If you are due a cervical smear please do book in for this. (screening women age 25-64) ●

BREAST SCREENING

Available to women every 3 years age 50-70. If you were invited for a mammogram earlier in the year you can still get this by contacting the RBH breast screening team on **0118 322 8282**. Mammograms are done only every three years and are vital to pick up changes early when treatment is more effective. Women over 71 are more at risk of getting breast cancer as the risk increases with age. ●

BOWEL CANCER SCREENING.

If you have been sent a testing kit for bowel cancer screening do complete and send the test off as many early bowel cancers can be picked up and treated early (men and women age 60-74). The kits only require one sample now rather than the three before. If you are over 75 and would like a FIT (faecal immunochemical test) kit, call the free bowel screening helpline on **0800 7076060**. You can ask for a kit every 2 years. ●



KEEPING YOURSELF WELL THIS WINTER

- It is important to stay healthy this winter with the COVID virus in the community. Make sure you have your flu jab....
- Be prepared, have a supply of cold and sore throat medication. Your local pharmacy can advise you.
- Make sure you have adequate medication on prescription. Reorder using the NHS app <http://www.nhs.uk/nhsapp> or Patient Access <https://www.patientaccess.com> or put your repeat medication form in the letterbox at the Health Centre.

- If you need urgent advice and the Health Centre and Pharmacy are closed call NHS111.
- Keep warm at home, ideally 21 degrees during the day. Don't sit still for more than an hour; walk about if you are able. Eat a hot meal and enjoy warm drinks during the day.
- FREE AGE UK thermometers are available from the topic table at the Health Centre, or call Oxfordshire AGE UK 0345 4501276

During the pandemic FISH still provide transport, collect and deliver prescriptions, do essential shopping if you are unable to get out and telephone you for a friendly chat.

Phone **0118 972 3986**

Email: office@fishvolunteercentre.org.uk

Website: <https://www.fishvolunteercentre.org.uk> ●

Thank You

On behalf of all their patients I would like to say thank you to all the doctors and staff at the Health Centre for their continued hard work and dedication. They have continued to care for patients in very testing times with new ways of communicating but seeing patients when necessary. We still need to take precautions over the coming months to keep COVID-19 controlled and make their job a little easier.

SUE LITCHFIELD

Dear Editor,

Soon after our Health Centre received its supply of Covid vaccine, I was invited to attend for my injection. The whole procedure was impressive, particularly the precautions taken to protect staff and patients from possible infection. We are lucky to have an Health Centre of such quality in Sonning Common.

Yours faithfully,
DOUGLAS KEDGE

TOM FORT IF ONLY

Walking through Old Copse Wood with our dog Meg (she's fine, thank you – older but little wiser and just as annoying) I sometimes fantasise about being asked to assume absolute power in south Oxfordshire with the task of dealing with our major public nuisances.

First, I would form an enforcement taskforce, with access to the most advanced technology in the various fields, and train them rigorously.

Then I would deal with the issues:

Fly tipping. They are the lowest of the low. Offenders would be traced, using DNA if necessary. They would be fined, as now. Before having their vehicles confiscated, they would be required to pick up every piece of rubbish which would then be dumped as close as

possible to their own front doors.

Litter droppers (including those whose dump their rubbish in parish bins). Community service spent litter picking.

Parking across the pavement. For a first offence the vehicle in question would be moved onto the road and then have one wheel removed, to be reclaimed from the parish pound on payment of a fine. Second offence, two wheels. And so on.

Bad parking (on bends, in front of drives, on double yellow lines etc). As above. Particularly disgraceful cases – in bus stops, on the yellow lines in front of the Co-Op and so on – would mean having all four wheels removed.

Speeding. Offenders would simply be banned from south Oxfordshire. New technologies would enable their

vehicles to be immobilised if they crossed the parish boundary.

Dog fouling.

Village dogs would have to be registered with DNA details on the parish database. A first offence of not picking up their horrible deposits would prompt a warning letter. Subsequently they would be banned for a period from footpaths, bridlepaths and public spaces and required to go on a dog training course.

That would be a start. Then I might move on to leaf-blowers.

Do I have your vote? ●



COOK'S CORNER

By SANDY ONOFRIO

A really fast and simple recipe that suits meat eaters and vegetarians alike.

CREAMY MUSHROOM PASTA - serves 4



- 1 teaspoon olive oil
- 35g butter
- 2 cloves of garlic, finely chopped
- 350g mushrooms, sliced
- 300 ml vegetable stock
- 400g pasta of your choice
- 450 ml double cream
- 5 tablespoons grated cheese
- salt & pepper to taste

1. Heat oil and butter in a large wok style pan, add the garlic and cook for a minute.
2. Add mushrooms and cook until ready to eat. Pour in vegetable stock and reduce by half.
3. While simmering cook the pasta.
4. Once the stock has reduced add the double cream and

cheese. Simmer until the mixture thickens. Season to taste.

5. Drain pasta and mix with the sauce.



BIRDS OF KENNYLANDS



The reintroduction of Red Kites is not universally approved but it must be admitted that they add a flamboyant feature into our wildlife.

I should explain that for the past year I have been chairbound with a dodgy left hip (I have had the op finally thanks to our blessed NHS but am still largely immobile) so sit in the kitchen with a view limited to my bird feeder, the lawn and pond, and watch the birds. (I now have builders in the field behind but ignore them.) We get the usual collection of tits and finches, but my restricted eyesight prevents my ability



to distinguish between many of the SBJ's (small brown jobs) which accept my bounty, and I can only be certain of the larger species.



The biggest are the herons which try to steal my goldfish, become very frustrated at my precautions and trampoline on the netting. They are so beautiful I would allow them a ration if I could control it.

But did you know - they cannot swim! One fell in and when we hauled it out, waterlogged, it sat sulking on the grass until we called the RSPCA to remove it.

The scattered seeds inevitably attract rats and we have had to call the pest controller, but while waiting a large bird of prey, which I am convinced was a buzzard, pounced on a baby rat. We get occasional woodpeckers and, unlike most of my performers, they stay long enough for me to find my binoculars,



adjust them and check in my bird books so I am sure of lesser and middle spotted: in the past we have had green, digging for yellowjackets in the lawn and given a wide berth by the cat.

Jays, rooks, jackdaws, magpies come and go. For two days we had a massive herring gull, hardly a rarity but unusual in Sonning Common; and only last week a parakeet, nothing else could be that brilliant green, either escaped or possibly exiled from a flock I know near Maidenhead.

Winter comes. The blackbirds have stripped the grapes from my two vines



rendering the concept of "Chateau Kennylands" defunct for a further year and most of my friends depart, but while my feeders stay charged I can rely on a show and some surprises throughout virus times. ●

Peter Dayton



Photos: Dave Tyldesley

Is your dog
slowing down or
showing signs
of stiffness?



**Woozelbears Canine
Hydrotherapy Centre
now open in Didcot**



01235 506035
didcot@woozelbears.com
www.woozelbears.com

Woozelbears
HYDROTHERAPY & GROOMING

ARBOCARE TREE SURGERY LTD

Qualified and Experienced Arborists

- Established over 25 years
- Contractors to the National Trust
- Crown reductions
- Thinning
- Felling
- Hedge Trimming
- Stump Grinding
- Decay Detection & Tree Reports

Free phone: 0808 1555815

Mobile: 07778811136

www.arbocare.co.uk



CARL WOODS BUTCHERS LTD

Purveyors of High Quality Meats to the Retail and Catering Trade

www.carlwoodsbutchers.co.uk



Tel
0118 972
2228



Open
Mon – Sat
7.30 – 16.30



Imagine Dry Carpet Cleaning

"no soggy carpets or wet dog smell in your home"

- Spills & spots - gone
 - Smells & odours - removed
 - Deep cleans & lifts carpet pile - like new
- FREE spot & stain remover with every clean**

**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

We also clean...

Upholstery



Leather & Fabric
with super fast drying

Hard Floors with Anti Slip Coating



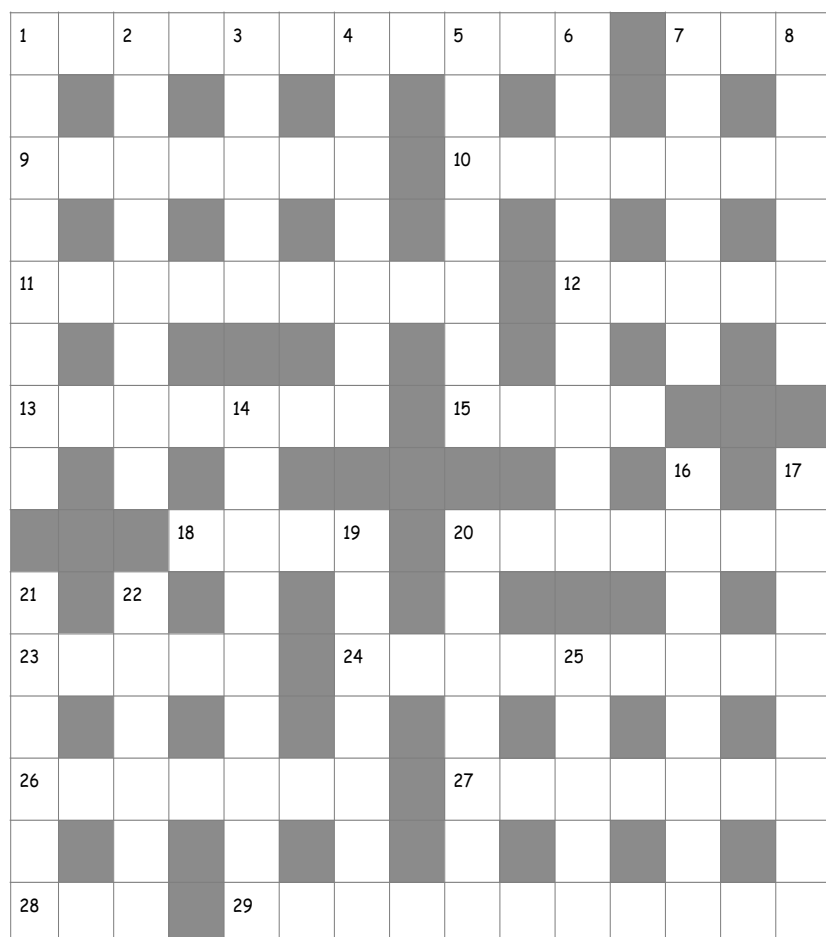
Tiles inc Grout • Stone
Karndean & Amtico

zero dry time
Dry Carpet & Upholstery Cleaners

PUZZLE PAGE

By SHEILA WALKER

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD



WORD QUIZ:

HOW MANY WORDS ... of 4 or more letters can you make from the word FLEDGLING? There are at least 30, including two animals.

WHO WROTE ... (a) The once and future king? (b) The man born to be king? and who is the king in each of them?

DISENTANGLE these Oxfordshire locations: SLYECHO; WYRUBBLE; NOBLAMEHD; DTNBEETLE; ARCHWORMS

FIND THE ANIMAL; Add a 3 letter word between each pair of words; the first letter of each will spell the name of an animal:

CROW ... KING; CORN ... LAND; HEAD ... BACK; CAST ... LOAD;
HAIR ... BALL

CROSSWORD CLUES:

ACROSS

1. Enigmatist? (6,5)
7. Chew up a tree (3)
9. Protects against animal, or falling (7)
10. Will not heal drunkenness! (7)
11. Not the position for comedian who wishes to retire (5,4)
12. I too can change! (5)
13. Have a pleasant time in France (4,3)
15. 'Do not store up treasures on earth, where moth and consume' (Bible) (4)
18. Gain from Islam, but prefer woolly jumper (4)
20. Precious drink (3,4)
23. Some of 20D's works (5)
24. Uses Latin to shut oneself off (9)
26. Like 20D, or could be more arty (7)
27. Middle Eastern isle seen from the air? (7)
28. Sounds like the right time for moisture (3)
29. See 1A, 20D (11)

DOWN

1. Illegal, except for photographers? (8)
2. A new card for hostile customers? (3,5)
3. Colourful work ensures climbers' safety (5)
4. Yearning for a drink brings disorder (7)
5. Less experienced but more colourful (7)
6. Practised what 1A, 20D and 29 did (9)
7. Fetch a bird a bird! (6)
8. Perhaps he has a complaint (6)
14. Similar to 1A, 20D and 29 but only plays (9)
16. Support, however, with hair (8)
17. His catty take on abstinence (8)
19. 1A, as opposed to 20D or 29 (7)
20. See 1A, 29 (7)
21. Depressing, at the centre of the circle (6)
22. Cowardly shout? (6)
25. 1A, 20D, 29 in slow motion (5)

Church *news*

SPRINGWATER CHURCH

These are difficult times but that makes it even more important that we recognise and appreciate that good and encouraging things do still take place. However, we never forget that many people are suffering from great sadness and loss. Friends have been plunged into unemployment and insecurity as well as being impacted by health issues and our hearts and prayers go out to them.

A thoroughly joyful time which blessed many people was the beautiful outdoor carol service held at Springwater on Christmas Eve, I think there were fifty or sixty people of all ages there and the singers and musicians were wonderful, in spite of the cold!

The Good Neighbour Foodbank has been a Godsend to many, and it has been great to be involved with other local churches and community organisations in this project. It would not, of course, be possible without the help of the dedicated volunteers plus the amazing generosity of so many.

Compassionate Loaf is back on lockdown, but they have continued to support one another via 'Zoom' while still managing to supply bread to the foodbank and others. We do so miss the smell wafting through the church on Monday mornings during their absence though.

The women of the Aspire group are still meeting on 'Zoom' and The Steering Wheel Fellowship have held another light-hearted Quiz via the same facility.

The exciting 'Spring Cafe' project is coming on well, so look out for that when the restrictions are lifted.

For the latest on that most important local resource 'The Ark' group for parents and their little one, please phone the office or check out the website.

God bless you and keep you now and always. ●

Chris Girdler

If you would like more information on any of the above please call **0118 9724519** or email the church office **contactspringwater@gmail.com**

THE SPRING AT SPRINGWATER

New community café opening soon

Promising to be 'refreshingly different', The Spring at Springwater intends to be a welcoming, comfortable and affordable place for all.

Based at Springwater Church, on the Blounts Court Road, the café will focus on creating events and group activities to help isolated and vulnerable people in Rotherfield Peppard and Sonning Common.

Louise Colam and Ruth Elwell are running the cafe with help from volunteers. Louise, who set up the Good Neighbour food bank at the church, said: "There is a real need for people to be with one another. The past year has brought that into focus for many. It has been a very tough time for everyone with an increase in poverty, mental health problems and loneliness. Making the cafe affordable, safe and comfortable is really important to us. We

want the community to know that this is a safe space for everyone."

Initially the cafe will run alongside existing church groups, including baking workshop Compassionate Loaf, and popular toddler group, The Ark, before being opened to the wider community.

By Spring time it is hoped that the not-for-profit café - serving tea, coffee, home-baked bread and cakes and simple soup and sandwich lunches - will be open daily to the wider community, even if just for a few hours.

Where possible, food will be sourced locally, including fruit and vegetables from charity Greenshoots and bread and cakes from in-house bakers, Compassionate Loaf. Sustainability is another key focus and involvement with the Co-op's food share scheme will help to make sure that good food isn't wasted.

Ideas for café-based workshops and groups include a dementia cafe, a crotchet/knitting workshop, family

games evenings and live music evenings.

Springwater is currently fundraising for the café's launch and has so far secured help and donations from the Co-op, the Menza café in Henley and local construction firm AMAXS.

For further information and to donate contact: **contactspringwater@gmail.com** or follow the café's journey on: **Instagram. com/thespringcommunitycafe** ●



CHRISTINGLE 2020

It was a different formula from past years' services but Christingle celebrations at Christ the King church went ahead on Christmas Eve to the delight of those who attended. Joan Lamprell and her team of helpers worked hard to produce a memorable drop-in event from 3pm to 5pm, hoping to raise some much needed money for the Children's Society.

Observing strict Covid rules, family groups were shown into the church to experience the story of Christmas told through the media of children's Bible, printed verses, stars, angels, candles and nativity scenes - knitted, wooden or porcelain. Surrounded by beautiful Christmas music, families took their time reading and enjoying the peaceful

ambience of the church. Posters on the walls explained how the Christingle is put together and that each component part has a symbolic meaning.

As they emerged into the lantern-lit cold, past the festive Christmas tree they made their way to the tables at the gate where chilly helpers kept warm with mulled wine. On each of the tables: Do It Yourself packages of Christingles to assemble at home with the customary bright orange and red ribbon, symbolising the world and the blood sacrifice of Jesus. Also, in the bag - cocktail sticks with raisins and sweets to represent the four seasons and its fruits. Finally, the candle showing Jesus' light of the world which forms the centre piece. All the families received at least one of these pre-packed bags so the children could make up their

Christingle at home and use it as a table centre for Christmas dinner. The rest were distributed at the Carol singing event on Peppard Common or Springwater church.

Families were able to make donations by card or cash and at the last count £251.18 has been raised for this worthwhile charity which assists children with particular problems and needs, including homelessness, abuse and drug addiction.

How poignant this all is in the dark times we are experiencing with the pandemic affecting everyone's lives. Let's focus on this light shining in the darkness and leading us out of the gloom, on to joy and hopefully a much better 2021. ●

Rosemary House



ST MICHAEL'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

At the time of writing cases of Covid-19 are rising rapidly in our area but at the same time there is hope that things will start to improve in the near future as the vaccine programme begins to unfold. This means parish life continues to be disrupted but not extinguished. Our Christmas plans were thrown in to disarray when Reading went into Tier 4 while Sonning Common remained in Tier 2. We used a booking system for the first time to control the numbers at our Christmas Masses and each was at or close to capacity. However, Reading's change to Tier 4 meant our parishioners who live in Caversham, Caversham Park

and Emmer Green were unable to come to St Michael's for Christmas. As a result, many more people were celebrating Christmas in their homes following our Christmas Masses on YouTube than were actually inside the church. Once Oxfordshire entered Tier 4 then people were able to resume attendance again.

Despite the difficult circumstances our Advent Tree attracted many gifts that were distributed to housebound members of the community and the remainder to the Drop-in Centre for the homeless in Reading. St Michael's was very pleased to be able to support the local food bank run from Springwater Church as they distributed hampers to those in need on

Christmas Day.

It is not only the new vaccines that give Christian communities hope for a better future this year but that the Christ child who came amongst us at the first Christmas is still with us to guide us on our way. Amongst many things we are looking forward to is the day when we are able to embrace those of our parish who are vulnerable and either reside in a care home or have had to shield at home.

The parish of St Michael's wish all readers every blessing for 2021. ●

Parish website:

www.saintmichaelsonningcommon.org.uk

THE DRAMA CONTINUES: THE ROLE OF THE DIRECTOR



Before a production hits the boards, it goes through many stages. Firstly – a suitable play must be chosen. This may sound easy, but of course, not all will be suitable.

The decisions for the director -

..... will I be able to cast it? No point in considering Peter Pan if you have no children available to play the parts (even though we may have lots of members who are quite resistant to growing up!)

..... do we have the resources to stage it? Mounting a chariot race for Ben Hur in Peppard Memorial Hall could prove a little tricky.

..... would our audience like it? We might decide to try something experimental or extremely risqué but would anyone actually want to see it? It has to be something we think our spectators will enjoy.

..... will we be allowed a licence to perform the play? Recently we wanted to produce Gaslight but were refused permission because it was already being performed professionally in Windsor. It seems that even if your chosen play is mounted in Timbuktu the answer to a

request for a licence will be no. Still, on the bright side it was quite gratifying to think that we must have been considered competition to Windsor Royal Theatre. Perhaps we're better than we thought!

To bring a play together, one person is needed who will guide the production, and the process of direction is usually an evolutionary one. The director's role is, I like to think, facilitatory, certainly not dictatorial. But in the end, it is the director's decisions which must prevail otherwise everything dissolves into chaos. There is a lot to do!

The director assembles a cast, arranges a rehearsal schedule to suit everybody, costumes, props, the design of the set, technical effects amongst others – oh and, I nearly forgot, there is one more small consideration for the director: money.

Every production must of course have a budget and be costed out. You'd be surprised at how many expenses there are from paying the licence fee, hiring the hall and rehearsal rooms, paying for props, costumes, scenery, and publicity and printing materials. (Fortunately this is not usually a problem for us as we

have a healthy bank balance thanks to good ticket sales by our appreciative audiences.)

Seemingly magically, out of nothing but a book and a group of like-minded individuals, the production starts to take shape. The actors begin to know their lines and their moves, the props appear at the appropriate times, an actual play rises from the initial nothingness and suddenly, the job of the director is made worthwhile.

Of course, if the director has done their job well, it's the actors who get the applause and plaudits. As director you do carry the responsibility but you also get the credit and you can bask in the knowledge that but for you the production would never have happened. For sheer job satisfaction, there is nothing like being a DIRECTOR. ●

Ian Miles

Chiltern Players are always looking out for members for acting, directorial or backstage roles. Previous experience is not a requirement, just lots of enthusiasm. If you'd like more information please contact us.



GOOD NEWS STORIES OF 2020

Although 2020 was not a good year for most of us, and the news, for the most part, was downbeat and very sad, there were a few good news stories around the world that a couple of our village friends have found:

- A Paris exhibition hall has converted its roof to a farm. Over 2 football pitches in size and growing 35 different varieties of fruit and vegetables. No pesticides or fungicides and the water is recycled!
- Worldwide the proportion of girls in primary and secondary schools has increased from 73% to 89%.
- Professor Christopher Jackson was the first black scientist in nearly 200 years to lecture at the Royal Institution Christmas lectures.



- It has been discovered that if you paint one of the four blades on a wind turbine black, it reduces the number of birds killed by them by half. Birds can't see well looking forward so the black help them to spot the danger.



- Kenya reported in August that its elephant population has more than doubled from 16,000 in 1989 to 34,000 today – with only 7 killed by poachers versus 80 in 2018.



- May 2020 was the first month of coal free electricity production in the UK since 1882.
- Huge white tailed eagles, with 8ft wingspans, are being reintroduced in southern England, and have been released in the Isle of Wight.
- Britain's woodland cover has almost returned to medieval levels (around 15 per cent in the Domesday Book) thanks to 20th century forestry and the "rewilding" trend. It now represents 13 per cent of the land area, up from 5 per cent nationwide in 1919.



- More people than ever had access to electricity. Numbers without dropped to a record low of 770 million
- With many people confined to their local areas in 2020, a silver lining of lockdown life was renewed enthusiasm

for gardening. Many people enjoyed outdoor life, with growing your own vegetables proving very popular.



- Africa was declared free from wild polio – great news.



- The emergence of Covid-19 has led to loss and heartbreak all over the world, but it also prompted a wave of unprecedented global collaboration. Within the space of a year, several vaccines have not only been developed, but authorised for use, and have begun to be administered. As one scientist put it: "In the last 11 months, probably 10 years' work has been done." ●



Sonning Common's only



Test Centre

MOT SPECIAL OFFER
- All Makes All Models -
£10 OFF

your next **MOT** on production of this voucher

**All Makes Serviced & Repaired
at competitive prices.**

Free Local Collection
and Delivery available

Sonning Common Garage

Looking after local customers for over 55 years

Peppard Road, Sonning Common RG4 9SU

0118 972 2021

www.sonningcommongarages.com

Service Opening Times: Mon-Fri 8am - 5.30pm • Sat 8.30am - 12.30pm • Sun CLOSED

Offers valid on production of this advert when booked before 31st December 2020. Only 1 voucher per MOT. Offer not available in conjunction with any other offers. Sonning Common reserves the right to modify the terms of this promotion at any time. Correct at time of going to print.

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

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

**ALL AT COMPETITIVE
PRICES**

**CALL CAROLINE ON
0118 954 2448**

**OR
0781 561 0007**

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

HENLEY 01491 413434

CAVERSHAM 0118 9477007

READING 0118 957 3650



**Golden Charter
Funeral Plans**

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

Shaun Guard TV & WIFI SERVICES

- Aerials - supplied, repaired & poor reception solved
- Satellite - Sky Q dish upgrades, discreet dish installation
- Internet - blackspots cured, data cables to your TVs / computer
- TVs - hung on your wall or set up and tuned
- CCTV & Door Entry - domestic installations

 OXFORD AERIALS

Call us on 01189 639113
shaun@oxfordaerials.co.uk
www.oxfordaerials.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
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**

 **WHEELERS** 
ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS
DOMESTIC • INDUSTRIAL • COMMERCIAL
"call today for a free estimate"
01491 651356
www.wheelers-electrical.co.uk
Est. 1939

LC CHAUFFEURS
Luxury Simplified

**BOOK YOUR EXECUTIVE TAXI & CHAUFFEUR SERVICE
DIRECTLY WITH US TO GET THE BEST VALUE FARES!**

SERVICES WE OFFER:

- Airport Transfers
- Personal & Corporate Travel
- Weddings & Functions
- Events & Conferences

WHAT YOU GET:

- Luxury Vehicles 0-2 Yrs old
- PAYG & Account Options
- Monthly Itemized Billing
- iOS & Android Apps

GET YOUR QUOTE OR BOOK YOUR RIDE NOW!



01491 526 444 | 01189 400 400 | reservations@lchauffeurs.com | www.lchauffeurs.com



DOWNLOAD OUR APP!



LC Chauffeurs, Unit 9B Adams House, Manor Farm, Peppard Common, Henley on Thames, Reading, RG9 5LA

"We turn feelings into flowers"

 **Brambles**



42 Wood Lane • Sonning Common • RG4 9SL
0118 972 1240 0777 179 0916

www.brambles-sonning-common.co.uk

PUZZLE PAGE ANSWERS FROM PAGE 27

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

Y	K	S	V	O	K	I	A	H	C	T	.	W	E	D
T	.	S	.	G	.	N	.	S	.	S	.	O	.	I
I	L	E	A	R	S	I	.	I	N	I	L	E	L	B
T	.	R	.	A	S	.	T	.	T	.	L	.	R	.
S	E	T	A	L	S	N	I	.	A	R	E	O	P	.
A	.	T	.	.	.	O	.	R	.	W	.	Y	.	W
H	S	U	B	D	E	R	B	W	A	L	.	.	.	.
C	.	B	.	E	.	.	.	.	R	.	E	.	E	G
.	.	.	T	S	U	R	.	A	D	E	C	I	N	.
Y	.	T	.	R	.	E	.	P	.	.	.	N	.	I
D	N	E	W	A	.	N	W	O	D	D	N	A	S	T
A	.	N	.	E	.	E	.	R	.	E	.	D	O	.
L	O	N	A	H	T	E	.	T	E	P	A	R	A	P
A	.	A	.	E	.	R	.	N	.	O	.	A	.	.
W	U	G	.	A	R	E	L	E	D	A	R	W	A	E

WORD QUIZ:

bar; ice; set; off; net; = bison

FIND THE ANIMAL:

Crommarsh

Choisey; Blewbury; Hambledon; Nettled;

DISENTANGLE:

(a) TH White; (b) Dorothy L Sayers; Arthur and Jesus

WHO WROTE:



A LETTER OF HEARTFELT THANKS

THANK YOU SONNING COMMON



Val Evans, wife of Gwyn Evans, and resident of 18 Baskerville Rd since 1953, died on July 4th last year. Alun and I would like to thank all those friends and neighbours, who sent us comforting and uplifting letters of condolence and tribute to Val, and particularly Nin Twyman for her personal memory of Val in the August 2020 issue of the magazine.

I would also like to express my thanks and gratitude to all in the Sue Ryder Community Palliative Care service, led by Sylvia Thomas, and to the Health Centre, in particular Dr Shams Aljibouri, for their professional and personal support while Val was ill and nursed at home for many months.

Following Val's death, we reluctantly decided to sell 18 Baskerville Road, sooner than later, given the economic disruption of the pandemic. The family had many

items, but the challenge of finding a good home for Val and Gwyn's carefully conserved collection of domestic goods of 7 decades was greatly helped by the practical support of many friends and neighbours in the community, notably Ian Burgess and Cath Adams, Alison and Peter Bishop, Sara Prior and Ron Hayes, Jenny Ward and Ruth Whittaker, to name but a few. Val had always valued the village community and contributed to it as a teacher at SC Primary school, an official and member of numerous village groups, particularly the WEA Literature class, as well as by being a good neighbour and friend to many. My stay in the village this year showed me how well the village community still works, with many public-spirited people, such as those named above, donating their time and efforts.

Sonning Common looks different from my childhood memory of it in the 1950s. Then, we knew and routinely passed the time of day with everyone. Milk

was delivered along the grassy track of Baskerville Road by a horse and cart (Ellis and Heading Dairy, Emmer Green) and car spotting at Kidmore End Turn was actually a pastime, such was their rarity in the village then! Although the village is now busier and appears more anonymous, in fact, thanks to the residents, enabled by the SC Magazine, FISH, the clubs, groups and classes, the web-based networks for information and activities, the Henley Standard page and so on. Sonning Common is clearly a more vibrant and caring community than ever....

Although 2020 was difficult for everybody, it was lovely to be part of the Sonning Common community and as my close link of 67 years comes to an end, it is great to know that 18 Baskerville Road is now in the good hands of a local family and I can always keep in touch by visits.... or by following the local news online! ●

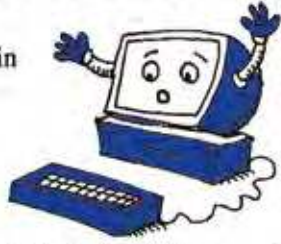
Caryl MacFarlane

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, Sofits &
Guttering



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

PILATES IN SONNING COMMON + HENLEY



CONTACT Alyth Yealland

alyth@pilatesabc.co.uk

07521699265 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

- MANICURE • PEDICURE • WAXING
- LASH AND BROW TREATMENTS • SPRAY TANNING
- BRIDAL • HOLIDAY • MUM-TO-BE PACKAGES
- MEDIK8 ESSENTIAL FACIALS • MASSAGE

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: 0118 405 0089

E: info@functionalphysio.co.uk

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.

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

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 tomalin@btconnect.com

Anderson House, 38 Reading Road, Henley-on-Thames, RG9 1AG

Fed Up With Call Centres **Petherwick Insurance Brokers**

(formerly Barrs Insurance)

Mark Richards Your Local Insurance Broker

For The Unusual & The Usual

Let Us Take Care Of Your Insurance

House & Contents • Business • Liabilities

Landlords • Professional Indemnity

Shops • Sickness / Accident

Commercial Vehicle • Property

If It's Not listed We Still Can Help

All Types Of Insurance Enquiries Welcome

01844 273250 / 01273 822222

Email: mark@petherwicks.com

www.petherwicks.co.uk

Authorised and Regulated by FCA

Kingfisher Kindergarten



*Thriving Pre School
for children aged
2 years and above*

We accept all Government Funding and
have immediate spaces available

Contact us for a visit 07894 966562

laryne@kingfisherkindergarten.uk

www.kingfisherkindergarten.uk