

april | may 2014

# sonningcommon

magazine



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# From the editorial group

As I write the editorial for this issue of the magazine, the sun is shining and (dare I say it), spring is in the air.

For the first time, we have been able to put together a 36 page edition of the Sonning Common magazine. This is partly due to more advertisers taking space so we are able to afford to have it designed and printed. We are also grateful for the additional number of articles emailed in by you, the readers.

The main feature focusses on the charity work of the pupils of Chiltern Edge school and their sadness at the loss of a much loved member of staff; the good work and contribution of their Community Governors and the meetings that have been held, concerning the potential sale of school land. The primary school has enjoyed a project on Africa, producing some lovely art work and raising money for a school in Tanzania.

The Parish page has one theme for this edition, which is the boundary review explaining what has happened so far. Important public information has been provided by the Police and the interview is with Gwyn Arch. South Chiltern Choral Society is losing its much loved musical director after 48 years! The rest of the pages are full of what is going on in our busy community.

We hope you enjoy reading our extended edition?

*Diana*

**DIANA PEARMAN** Editor

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

PS...

Sonning Common Magazine is on sale at the village library in Grove Road for £1.50 a copy. Annual subscriptions are available for £15. Contact Geoffrey Adams. Email: [chairman@sonningcommonmagazine.org](mailto:chairman@sonningcommonmagazine.org) Phone: 0118 972 2134

Magazine contributions may be posted to:  
1 Woodlands Road, Sonning Common RG4 9TD

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.

## Contents

- 2 OYB/Skatepark
- 3 Club SC/PCSO and bike lights/Village Gardeners
- 4 SC Primary/CE school
- 5 Housing Development/LIONS/Local Buses
- 8 Noticeboard
- 11 Parish page
- 12 Police news
- 15 CE Community Governors
- 16 In Focus – charity work at CE
- 19 Just for kids
- 20 My latest project - Alan Goswell
- 21 Signs - Tom Fort
- 23 Gwyn Arch
- 24 Village travel/Rainbow Children's Centre/Health walks
- 27 Magazine news
- 29 Clubs to join?
- 30 Betty Brindley
- 31 Church News
- 32 Diary dates

### CHAIRMAN – Geoffrey Adams

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

### DIARY DATES – Helen Barker

1 Walnut Close, Sonning Common, RG4 9DG  
email: [helen.barker@tesco.net](mailto:helen.barker@tesco.net)  
tel: 0118 972 1241

### ADVERTISING – John Pearman

50 Kennylands Road, Sonning Common RG4 9JT  
email: [advertising@sonningcommonmagazine.org](mailto:advertising@sonningcommonmagazine.org)  
tel: 0118 972 2381 / 07794 291776

### DISTRIBUTION MANAGER – Helen Gavin

25 Woodlands Road, Sonning Common, RG4 9TD  
email: [distribution@sonningcommonmagazine.org](mailto:distribution@sonningcommonmagazine.org)  
tel: 0118 972 4680

### CONSULTANT EDITOR – Ros Varnes

### JUNIOR EDITOR – Zack Hawkes

email:  
[junior\\_editor@sonningcommonmagazine.org](mailto:junior_editor@sonningcommonmagazine.org)

### COVER IMAGE

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# On Your Bike launched by BBC Radio Berkshire's Ady Williams

**As a professional footballer, Ady Williams was a firm favourite with the fans. Now he has another enthusiastic fan-base among listeners to BBC Radio Berkshire.**

The former Reading Royals legend launched this year's village cycle ride in front of an audience of over 250 children at Sonning Common Primary School on Wednesday 5 March.

*"I love cycling," said Ady. "I really got into it myself about 8 years ago, after watching every Tour de France avidly with my team mates. I go to Spain now each year with a group of mates to cycle the hills high above Malaga. It's spectacular."*

*"It's a great sport for kids. It gets them fit, gets them outside and it's a fun thing to do with family & friends, as a bit of competition to spur you on. And if you do it properly, it's safe."*

Ady answered lots of questions about his career. Arnar Davenport, 8, told him, as a Royals fan, he often listened to and liked Ady's commentary on BBC Radio Berkshire.

If you register for On Your Bike 2014 before 9pm on 1st April, your name will be entered into a **free draw to win a bike**, kindly donated by AW Cycles. At the launch James Thompson, from AW Cycles, told the children *"I like cycling so much, I work with bikes every day. I'm a bit of a cycling nut."*

The children were impressed by James' account of a high speed downhill mountain bike race he did once, in which he reached a top speed of 62 mph!

The head teacher at Sonning Common Primary School, Chris Hirst said *"The event seems to grow every year. It's no longer just a school cycle ride. It's now a huge community phenomenon. It's great to see past pupils coming back to cycle with us. And lots of people who live in Sonning Common, but who don't have any connection to the school, have become keen On Your Bike regulars. The whole village can be proud of this event."*

On Your Bike 2014 is on Sunday 27 April at 10.30am. Enter now online [www.onyourbikesonningcommon.co.uk](http://www.onyourbikesonningcommon.co.uk)

100% of all entry fees and monies raised this year will be shared between Sonning Common Primary School, Sue Ryder and our local Air Ambulance. ■



**ABOVE:** Ady and James posed for a photograph with some of the pupils who've taken part in On Your Bike in previous years. Arnar is wearing one of Ady's Welsh caps, earned during one of his international appearances for Wales. Mary & Charlie are holding Ady's 1995 Wembley Royals play-off shirt.

## Boost for the skatepark

**Plans to build an exciting new skatepark at Bishopswood are a large step closer with the announcement of a major grant towards the project.**

The Sonning Common Skatepark working party has confirmed that it has been awarded a grant in excess of £60,000 towards the new skatepark and the enhancement of facilities at the Baskerville Road play area.

The group is also awaiting the outcome of an application to South Oxfordshire District Council for further funding while some community groups have also pledged money.

Carole Lewis, chairman of the working party, said: "This is great

news for the skatepark. While we are delighted with the progress made to date, we still need to raise more funds before we can begin building the skatepark. We hope that the village community will continue to support this exciting project for the benefit of our young people."

Sonning Common Skatepark is due to be built in the corner of the lower playing field at Bishopswood, near the public footpath between Woodlands Road and the sports ground.

The skatepark project is being driven by Sonning Common Parish Council. The working party will share current designs for the skatepark at On Your Bike at Sonning Common Primary School, Grove Road, on Sunday, 27 April. ■



# Club SC continues to receive tremendous support from local people

Donations have been received this year from Rotherfield Peppard and Kidmore End Parish Council and Phyllis Court Club's Charity Action Group. Sonning Common Parish Council are our most generous benefactor, indeed, they are our mainstay.

We are delighted that Nottakwire and Goring Lions are community minded organisations and both donate towards our activities. The bare minimum we need to raise each year to keep open is £14,500. This is solely for basic running costs and does not include any equipment or trips.

If any reader has a craft or hobby they feel our young people may find interesting, and they would care to offer a demonstration, please contact me. My contact details are:

Carol Viney, Chairman, Club SC Management Committee c/o The Bay Trees, 25 Wood Lane, Sonning Common, RG4 9SJ carolyviney@aol.com ■



## Village gardeners step up to the challenge but need your help!

By Joan Grumman

After winning 'Outstanding' in the 'It's your neighbourhood' category competition organised by the Thames and Chiltern branch of the Britain in Bloom we have decided, with some trepidation, to take the next step by entering the Britain in Bloom Competition which will be judged in July. We hope some better weather will inspire us all to get outside and enjoy some gardening but need some help from Sonning Common residents as well.

We have a very strong team of volunteers but still need more help. You could help in the following ways:

- Sweep and weed outside the front areas of your business or home
- Put out tubs or hanging baskets if at all possible
- Fund a wooden tub and plants for £40 that we can purchase and plant for you
- Help on the first Sunday or third Thursday of the month at 10 o'clock outside the Village Hall
- Please give us any unwanted old green recycling boxes and green troughs-we can collect!
- Plant out any 'sad' looking areas around houses with bright shrubs

We have included a photograph of the last point. Mrs Barbara Butler has planted some primula outside her bungalow in Wood Lane. Some of you may already have noticed the difference this has made and there are lots of similar spots around that could benefit from a bit of TLC. If you can help, contact: Chrissie on 972 1058 phillipstilbury@gmail.com



## Safety is the priority

When patrolling the village, PCSO Colin Boyes identified that a large number of children were cycling along its roads without the benefit of any bicycle lights. The village's roads are dark at the very best of times and he was concerned that it was only a matter of time before one of these young cyclists might be injured or worse.

So he approached local businesses that generously provided prizes. These were combined to form a lovely hamper and raffled. This was drawn on 17 January. Rides on Air, light supplier to the Police Force also gave a heavily discounted rate to buy the lights, 27 sets in total.

Colin Boyes said "I believe that the above initiative demonstrates that the community of Sonning Common considers the safety of its young residents to be a priority and also conveys what can be achieved when a community unites for the benefit of a good cause. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the following local businesses and organisations: Brambles, Co-Operative, One-Stop, BB Wines, Mapledurham Club, Abbey Crest Care Home, Sonning Common Parish Council, FISH Bus and Rides On Air (Wallingford)."

PCSO Boyes attended the Sonning Common Youth Club to present the children with the 27 lights and installed a couple of lights whilst there. ■





# Charity as part of the curriculum

By Christine Atkinson

**At Sonning Common Primary school the children take part in national fundraising days like Sports Relief and Comic Relief, as well as collecting at harvest time and Christmas for local food collections. The PTA help run the annual On Your Bike event.**

During March the school held a special week long focus on Africa. The children were entertained by a drumming group, had visitors who were originally from Africa and even had a special African themed school meal from Kites Kitchen. Each class produced their own African art.

Year 1 and 2 have been recycling as well as learning about Africa. The children made an elephant out of the top half of a milk carton which was painted grey. Sounds a bit mad, but it did work as you can see from the photos.

Miss Woodford, Year 3 teacher said "Year 3 had a fantastic Africa week. We got inspired by a book about a little boy saving elephants from being poached and designed our own persuasive posters".

Year 4 explored how African plates and objects can tell stories.

*"In Art they looked at snake patterns and painted a wooden snake with lots of detail"* said Miss Durand.

As part of the week, the children brought in loose change to raise money for a school in rural Tanzania. The pupils showed great empathy towards the children in Tanzania and did a fantastic job in raising hundreds of pounds, which is being used to buy much needed new tables, benches, books, pens and lunch for the children. The money is being taken straight to the Tanzanian school in March and the children are really looking forward to seeing photographs of all of the new resources being used.

The school has also taken part in 'Walk to School week' which is a national school event. As part of this a competition was held to make a pair of shoes from materials at home. There were so many amazing entries as you can see from the photos. Well done to all those who took part. ■



## Potential sale of land for development; School seeks permission from the Secretary of State for Education

By Christine Atkinson

**Chiltern Edge School has gained Foundation status, is now self-governing and no longer managed by Oxfordshire County Council. It is in need of some investment funds to improve the facilities and infrastructure in order to provide "what is best for pupils education and their wider life".**

The school has identified a portion of the school's playing fields as potential for development, known as SON 15a. This is an area of 2.2 hectares and in May 2013 it was accepted as a Strategic Housing Location Allocation Assessment (SHLAA) site by SODC. It then had to be considered as a possible site for development by the Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) working party. The school site as a whole is over 10.7 hectares, and so the site is less than a fifth of the total.

Chiltern Edge was built during 1956 and opened in September 1957. It has ageing infrastructure, which the proceeds from any land sale could help to improve – for example

an energy efficient heating system, an all weather sports pitch, improved IT, lighting and other classroom facilities. There is also a need to improve basic building problems like drains and windows.

The Governing Body of Chiltern Edge has to request permission from the Secretary of State for Education before progressing with any sale of the land, and needed to consult with their partners including students, parents and the local community.

This six week process was started in January with a letter to all the parents of students attending the school, and followed by two meetings at the school which were open to the public as well as parents. As at publication of the magazine no valid objections had been received.

Permission from the Secretary of State only gives permission for the progression to land sale and does not mean that planning permission is sought nor given.

All the minutes from both meetings are available on the school website under the Community tab. ■

[www.chilternedge.oxon.sch.uk/neighbourhoodplan.html](http://www.chilternedge.oxon.sch.uk/neighbourhoodplan.html)



**Note:** Whole site shown in blue. Inner built site shown in black. **Son 15A+:** Inner potential development site Son 15A+ shown in red. Southern boundary from 2nd Oak Tree on Kidmore Lane to alignment with SW corner of most SWly school building.



# Village centre housing development

A new planning application has been submitted for the backland development of six houses in the village centre.

In May 2013 Elegant Homes secured permission - on appeal to a Government inspector - to build six new homes behind the Tandoori Connoisseur and Day Lewis Pharmacy in Wood Lane.

In January of this year they submitted a new application to increase the height of the two detached and four semi-detached dwellings from 1.5 to 2-storey. They also wish to build four large garages and two car ports on-site - contrary to what the inspector had previously ruled.

The access road in the new proposal has been re-positioned and now stops just beyond the fence of 19 Wood Lane (Maitlands), which could potentially open up the area for further backland development, should land become available.

Sonning Common Parish Council's planning committee considered the new application on 3 February and agreed, unanimously, to recommend to South Oxfordshire District Council (SODC) that it be refused.

A letter from the planning committee to SODC says: "The current application increases the scale of building on this site and adversely impacts on the amenity and privacy of existing neighbours and surrounding uses.

The design is inappropriate for the location, demonstrating over-development and excess height, mass, bulk and overall scale.

*Because of the over-development and provision of garages and proto-garages, which will all potentially become used for storage, there will not be adequate parking provision on the site - with consequent unwanted overspill in the sensitive and problematic environment on Wood Lane."*

Peter Neville, from Elegant Homes, attended the parish council meeting to speak in favour of the application. Mr Neville offered to meet with any concerned residents to discuss design modifications to reduce the impact on the potential loss of privacy to neighbours.

Mr and Mrs Smith, of 26 Grove Road, were present to object to the plans. SODC has received written objections from a number of other residents.

- Since the parish council's meeting on 3 February, Elegant Homes has amended the current application to include the reduction of ridge heights of the proposed properties from 8.7m to 7.5m and eaves heights by 1m. The consented plans allow for ridge heights of 6.7m.

For further information on the amended plans visit the Parish office or [www.southoxon.gov.uk/services-and-advice/planning-and-building/find-application](http://www.southoxon.gov.uk/services-and-advice/planning-and-building/find-application). Quote planning reference: P13/S3776/FUL. Or phone the Planning Department on: 01491 823740. ■



## Rugby Club win with Santa

In return for such great support during the Xmas run Shirehall RFC were given half of the £ 696 total amount raised during their enthusiastic door to door collection on three evenings in December around Sonning Common.

As a result the Shirehall Rugby Club elected to donate 50% of these funds to the Beating Bowel Cancer charity and the other half to the Duchess of Kent House hospice in Reading.



## New Lime Green bus service for Sonning Common

Since Monday 10 March, new gas-powered single-deck buses in a two tone green livery have replaced our buses on the 2/2a route. The new buses have very low emissions and provide a smoother quieter ride and feature more space for baby buggies and a dedicated wheelchair space - plus free wi fi.

The Lime bus will hopefully encourage new customers to leave their cars at home so that the service to our Sonning Common remains viable. An earlier start time of 5.56am from Peppard and a later return 8.30pm from Reading is a change to the timetable - otherwise it remains with a daily service every 30 minutes. ■

Colin Reynolds



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Henley Town Hall	08.30 10.40 13.48	08.25	

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## Kidmore End Pre School Easter Egg Hunt!

Saturday 26 April / 11am - 2pm

at Kidmore End Primary school (new venue)

A fantastic morning for all the family – Easter Egg hunt plus craft activities, lucky dip, pluck-a-duck, BBQ, cakes, refreshments, raffle and silent auction

**Tickets are just £3.50 per child and Adults go free**

Please contact Felicity at flickhaines@hotmail.com or the pre-school - enquiries@keps.co.uk

All the details are also on the Pre-school's website - [www.kidmoreendpreschool.co.uk](http://www.kidmoreendpreschool.co.uk)

This is always a popular event, so remember to let your friends and family know about it now to avoid disappointment!

## CHILTERN EDGE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY SPRING SHOW

Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2014  
2.30 – 4.30pm

at  
Chiltern Edge School  
Reades Lane  
Sonning Common

### Show Classes:

Flowers, Floral Art, Fruit & Vegetables, Domestic, Handicraft, Childrens Classes, & Photography

Refreshments, Plant Stall, Tombola & Raffle

Everybody is very welcome to attend  
**New Members Welcome**  
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## LIBRARY CLOSURE FOR EASTER

The library will be closed from Good Friday to Easter Monday inclusive. There will be no story time on Saturday 19 April.

## ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF RESIDENTS

Monday 12 May 7pm, Village Hall

A third Thames Bridge? What do you think?

### Speakers

Cllr. Tony Page, Deputy Leader Reading Borough Council: County Cllr.

David Bartholomew: District Cllr.

Paul Harrison: Parish Cllr. Leigh Rawlins.

## Traditional Folk Music Session

Hare & Hounds, Sonning Common  
Wednesday 9 April 8 - 11pm

Musicians and drinkers welcome!  
Facebook 'Hare & Hounds Session'

**Mandy - 07867785632**

## Nottakwire announces its Summer Concerts

Friday 27 June at 6pm and Saturday 28 June at 2pm. S.C. Village Hall, Wood Lane.

Programme: WW1; Les Miserables; Spirituals; Abba.

### PLEASE SUPPORT US

ALL proceeds will be donated to the following Sonning Common Organisations: S.C. Health centre / The Village Gardeners / S.C. Lunch Club / Club SC (Youth Club) / SC Scouts - newly formed.

TICKET PRICES (include refreshments)  
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If you can help us at all, please contact Linda Webb on 9722927 or June Fisher on 0721398.



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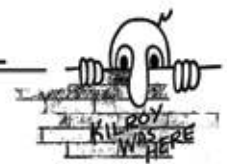
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# Sonning Common

## PARISH COUNCIL NEWS... The Parish Boundary Review

### Community Governance Reviews

Government recommends that every 10 to 15 years a Community Governance Review (CGR) into how local communities are governed should happen. In 2013 South Oxfordshire District Council (SODC) asked all 86 town and parishes to review how they were governed and to recommend appropriate changes, including to their parish boundaries. ■

### Sonning Common parish boundary

Our parish boundary was set in 1952 when the village was very much smaller.

The review criteria state firstly that: *'boundaries should be clearly defined, separating one community from another through natural or man-made boundaries'* and, secondly, that: *'boundaries should not straddle housing developments, resulting in neighbours being in different parishes from one another.'*

The present boundary between Sonning Common and Rotherfield Peppard parishes, on the northern edge of the village, does not meet either criterion as it runs between houses and along streets. Furthermore, some residents within the built area of Sonning Common are not represented on our parish council, yet the criteria say that: *'boundaries should provide for the effective representation of residents on local councils.'* ■

### Sonning Common Parish Council's proposals

1. To move Chiltern Edge School from the parish of Kidmore End into Sonning Common.
2. To move the tip of the triangle between Kennylands Road and Peppard Road from the parish of Eye and Dunsden into Sonning Common.
3. To reposition our northern boundary along the Stony Bottom ridge to bring in the whole Sonning Common settlement as defined by SODC for planning purposes and housing allocations.
4. To increase the number of parish councillors from 12 to 15 to handle our growing workload.

These proposals can be seen in the Parish Office or on our website [www.sonningcommonparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.sonningcommonparishcouncil.org.uk) ■

### Current position

SODC's working group has recommended acceptance of proposals 1 and 2 (above) but rejection of proposals 3 and 4.

In refusing proposal 3, the northern boundary change, they actually state that the present boundary is **'unsatisfactory in community governance terms'**. This would leave Sonning Common with an unfair and illogical boundary.

- **Unfair** because over 300 residents in the Sonning Common settlement use our services and facilities but don't contribute to parish coffers or have representation on the parish council.
- **Unfair** because SODC's allocation of 138 new homes to Sonning Common is based on the size of the whole settlement, including much of Rotherfield Peppard. Thus, 23 of the new homes (17%) that we have to find sites for are because Rotherfield Peppard homes are included in the calculations.
- **Illogical** because it does not properly separate Sonning Common from Rotherfield Peppard – missing a key SODC criterion.

This 'do nothing' proposal is open for public consultation until 31 May. Unless it is overturned, our northern parish boundary will remain unchanged and the first opportunity in over 60 years to establish a fair and logical parish boundary will be lost. ■

### Next steps

The parish council has protested strongly to SODC about its recommendation to reject proposals 3 and 4 - our letter to them is on our website.

SODC is asking for views on its recommendations by 31 May so we are asking our residents to support us by demanding a boundary that is 'satisfactory in community governance terms and logical and fair to this parish'.

Please send emails to: [cgr@southandvale.gov.uk](mailto:cgr@southandvale.gov.uk) or letters to: CGR, Legal and Democratic Services, SODC, Benson Lane, Crowmarsh Gifford, Wallingford OX10 8QS. If you could copy them to us ([clerk@sonningcommonparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:clerk@sonningcommonparishcouncil.org.uk)) it would be much appreciated. ■

### Extended opening hours

The Parish Office is now open to the public on Tuesdays from 1400 until 1800 as well as on Mondays from 0930 to 1230. At other times please phone 0118 972 3616 to leave a message or make an appointment. ■

### CONTACTING THE PARISH COUNCIL

For all matters please contact Philip Collings, Parish Clerk on 0118 972 3616 or email [clerk@sonningcommonparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:clerk@sonningcommonparishcouncil.org.uk)

This page has been paid for by the Parish Council.

# Police news



## Hare Coursing

With the introduction of the Hunting Act 2004 on 18 February 2005, all forms of hare coursing were banned in the UK. Under the Act, hare coursing is defined as 'a competition in which dogs are, by the use of hares, assessed as to the skill in hunting hares'.

A person commits an offence under the Act if they participate, attend, knowingly facilitate, enter or allow a dog to be used or if they permit land that belongs to them to be used for the purpose of hare coursing.

Hares are in decline and their destruction is a concern. But with hare coursing there is also associated criminal damage - to fencing/hedging to gain access, to the land with the indiscriminate use of vehicles, and in some instances intimidation of landowners and other users of the land.

If you believe hare coursing is taking place on your land call the police from a safe location. ■

## Courier Fraud

### Attention of all Private Hire Companies & Drivers

Elderly/vulnerable members of the public have been receiving unsolicited telephone calls from fraudsters purporting to be from their bank or police, stating that their systems have spotted a fraudulent payment on their card(s).

The fraudster then gains the person's trust and seeming to offer assistance will then explain that the bank will need to collect the card(s).

The fraudster will advise the victim to wrap the card(s) in tissue paper or bubble wrap to disguise its appearance in the envelope.

The fraudster will then arrange a courier or private hire company/mini cab driver to attend the person's address and collect the card(s).

The courier will then be directed to an address where they will be met by the offender outside of the address to collect the card.

Thames Valley Police will thoroughly investigate each case of this type of fraud and will prosecute any private hire company or individual facilitating this crime with being involved in a Conspiracy to Defraud. The advice from Thames Valley Police is if you have the slightest suspicion about a fare of this nature contact the Police immediately by phoning 101 or 999 if it is an emergency. To couriers / drivers: Do not deliver the package and advise the victim accordingly that this is a scam. ■

## Think Jessica, scam mail is blackmail

The charity Think Jessica ([www.thinkjessica.com](http://www.thinkjessica.com)) provides a lot of useful advice about scams. Their 12-page booklet, 'Scam mail is blackmail', is particularly useful and covers: lottery and prize draw scams, clairvoyant scams, catalogue scams, courier scams, bank / building society scams and

more. You can order a free hard copy of this booklet by writing to:

Think Jessica  
PO Box 4442  
Chesterfield S44 9AS

(Please enclose a 2nd class stamp)

Or by emailing:  
[advice@thinkjessica.com](mailto:advice@thinkjessica.com)

They also provide information packs, including a DVD, which cost £7 per pack, and free downloadable posters which you can access at [www.thinkjessica.com/posters.htm](http://www.thinkjessica.com/posters.htm).

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# COMMUNITY GOVERNORS *view*

By **CHRISTINE ATKINSON**

Chiltern Edge School is at the heart of our local community, and is run by a dedicated team of governors, Head Teacher and staff. We sought out the views of two of the Community Governors –

Simon Cuthbert, Deputy Principal at Henley College, and also Toby Greenwood who recently answered the advert for an additional community governor, tell us about their roles in the school



## Simon Cuthbert

I'm Deputy Principal at the Henley College. I grew up in Yorkshire and came down to live in Reading over 25 years ago. My main subject is Physics but I have also taught on vocational programmes in Electronics and Computing. I have been married for 20 years and we have 3 sons (the eldest are twins and are presently applying for university). I have been involved in Chiltern Edge for 9 years after hearing about it through a work colleague who had previously been a governor at the school.

Having been promoted on to the senior leadership team at Henley, I felt that it was very important to have close working relationships with, and to be able to support the school especially as so many of the Chiltern Edge pupils progressed onto courses at Henley.

The time spent on the role varies from week to week. There are main meetings every couple of months which last around 2 hours, in between there maybe visits/ other meetings, minutes and agendas to prepare and on my particular committee we get all the data on exam results and student progress through the year which can take some time to digest. It probably works out at maybe an hour a week if it was totalled over the year.

The enthusiasm and energy of the other governors who go out of their way to help the school improve and the chance to better understand education pre-16. Simon feels "It has been good to get a feel for what our future students will have been taught, and how. Seeing the dedication of the teachers and the managers as they strive to make the school outstanding (on the curriculum

committee we get regular feedback from different curriculum areas which is very instructive). One thing we have seen over the last few years is a definite sense of the school doing better (culminating in a good OFSTED grade recently) and that is very rewarding." ■

## Toby Greenwood

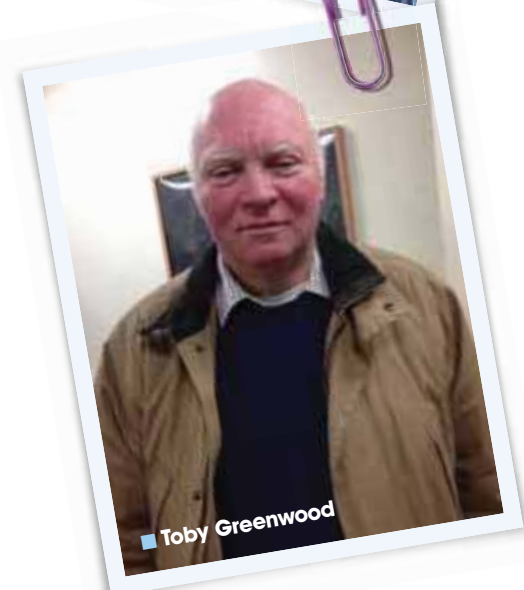
On 31 December I retired completely after some 40 years in and out of the law, but mostly in. I was a solicitor in Henley-on-Thames for 35 years with Cooper Son and Caldecott, until they were taken over by B Legal Limited. For 18 years I was senior partner and as such was helping to run the firm.

During this time I was also a Scout leader, squash player, singer and was involved with a number of charities. In my spare time I brought up three sons with my wife Judy.

After I retired I started to look for voluntary work and noticed the advertisement for a Community Governor of Chiltern Edge School. This was just what I was looking for as it involved both governance and young people. So far I have thoroughly enjoyed it, particularly promoting squash and encouraging the students to play it. Every Friday at lunchtime I give coaching and the number of takers seems to be growing.

Chiltern Edge seems to be a happy environment and I was pleased to see it divided into houses. In the school I went to the house system worked well, as it seems to do at Chiltern Edge.

I am looking forward to a long and happy association with Chiltern Edge School as a Community Governor. ■



# Chiltern Edge School *in our local community*

By **CHRISTINE ATKINSON**

*All of my children attended the village primary school, and two are now going to our local secondary school. I believe we should count ourselves very lucky that we have the use of two great schools in the village.*

Most people know they are there and see all the cars and buses going to and fro every day. No doubt some residents of Grove Road and Reade's Lane probably suffer from the traffic and look forward to the holidays!

What lots of villagers don't realise is that the students from Chiltern Edge get involved in all sorts of charity and community work that goes unseen. This includes charity fundraising, volunteering as part of the Duke of Edinburgh's award, Amnesty International club, and community involvement in year 8 where the students help out on the school reception, library, in the local primary school, Children's Centre and in Bishopswood School.

During February the Amnesty International lunchtime club received news that they have raised amongst the most funds over the last year of any school student youth group in the UK! What a great achievement considering there are only two students managing the group at the moment! They

also organised and hosted a concert, with students performing, to raise funds for the human rights charity which raised another £260 from ticket sales.



A lot of the students take part in the Duke of Edinburgh scheme each year which involves them having to volunteer for three or six months to help others. Some of the children go to help in local charity shops, or assist regularly at clubs for younger children (eg. after school clubs, table tennis). The scheme encourages them to try some new skills and also to go on an expedition involving a long walk and overnight camping. Students have to plan and find their own route, provide their food for two days – including washing up and tidying the site! – and carry it all, there and back.

There are four 'houses' within the school – Lyra, Pegasus, Draco and Orion and each pupil, staff member and governor belongs to one of them. Each house chooses a charity to support at the start of each year and then all of their fundraising goes there at the end of the year.

The main fundraising event is the annual 10 mile sponsored walk around our beautiful countryside which is held on the last day of term in October. Almost every student takes part and collects sponsorship for

their house. A lot of the students dress up in the house colour and quite a few run the whole route. This year the school raised over £3000 from the sponsored walk, which is split between the houses.

During the walk this year a huge tragedy occurred which has affected the whole school; staff, students, governors and many more.

One of my own friends, and a friend to the whole school passed away after suffering a heart attack during the walk. Martin Floyd taught in the technology department at Chiltern Edge and so all students had been taught by him, and counted him as one of their favourite members of staff.

The school held a memorial assembly for Martin in February. Staff and students were invited to wear red for the day in aid of the British Heart Foundation (BHF). Martin's family and friends, along with the people who helped him and were with him that day, attended the assembly. A fantastic £380 was raised for the BHF. Pauline Conway, vice chair of the Governors, attended the assembly and said it was very emotional. She told me:

*"The Head Teacher Mr Sadler talked about the British Heart Foundation and the importance of their work, of keeping a healthy heart and how the money raised will help the charity."*





"He announced that a prize for Design Technology will be awarded each year in Martin's memory. In the Spring a bench with a plaque and a tree will be bought for the school to commemorate him.

During the assembly the students were very reflective as it was a very moving occasion. Mr Payne (a member of the teaching staff) read some of the memories left in the book of remembrance and Mrs Casserly (the School Business Manager) read a poem written by the Facilities Manager Mr Lodge.

The students applauded as a mark of respect and reflected on their own thoughts during some music and photos, chosen by his family. The occasion highlighted the great sense of community, care and family in our school. All the students behaved impeccably, reflecting their enormous respect for Martin." ■

The school is rightly very proud of the work that the students do for charity and the local community – some of the staff have also recently run the Reading half marathon for their houses, so there will be an increase in their totals before the end of the year!

House Charities so far...a fantastic grand total of over £4,000...

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## ODE TO MARTIN

By **DAVE LODGE**

OH MARTIN, DEAR MARTIN WE MISS YOU SO BAD  
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THE JOKES THAT YOU TOLD WITH STRAIGHT FACE AND SOME CRUDE!  
HELPED PASS THE DAY AND LIGHTEN THE MOOD  
MANY TIMES YOU HAVE HELPED US, CUTTING UP WOOD  
THEN CLEARING THE MESS WHERE STEVE AND I STOOD!  
THEN REMEMBER THE TIMES WHEN YOU BORROWED OUR TOOLS  
HELPING STUDENTS DO COURSEWORK MAKING THEIR STOOLS!  
IN OUR SCHOOL, MANY TASKS, YOU CARRIED OUT  
ALL CHEERFULLY DONE WITHOUT EVEN A SHOUT  
UNSEEN BY MANY, TAKING A FRIDGE TO THE TIP,  
DRIVING THE MINIBUS, TAKING STUDENTS ON TRIPS.  
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# JUST FOR KIDS

## Hello everyone,

I'm really looking forward to Easter and all the chocolate eggs. Every year at Easter I go down to Cornwall with my family and we roll hard boiled eggs down a big hill. What do you like doing at Easter?

Let me know at [junior\\_editor@sonningcommonmagazine.org](mailto:junior_editor@sonningcommonmagazine.org)



**ZACK**

## SKYLANDERS

## WORD PUZZLE

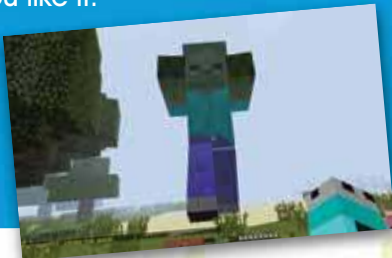
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**MINECRAFT**

### MY TIP

My minecraft tip this time is / summon (username) Giant, EnderDragon or Squid. You must have cheats turned on and you must have 1.7.2 update. I hope you like it.



## BOOK REVIEW

### THE GHOST OF GRANIA O'MALLEY by Michael Morpurgo

I really recommend this adventure story. Jessie dreams of walking to the top of the Big Hill, which is where the islanders believe there is hidden treasure. One day she makes it, and there she meets a kind, pirate ghost – Grania O'Malley. After a couple of months, the ghost gives Jessie and her cousin Jack treasure. They knew immediately what they were going to do with it. If you want to find out more, read the book yourself!

I liked this story because it was thrilling. It was addictive and I couldn't wait to find out what happened next. It has lots of new words I hadn't seen before, and I think girls and boys of all ages would like it.

**FINAL VERDICT: a great book**



## FILM REVIEW

### AFTER EARTH

After Earth is all about a boy and his dad. Everyone has left Earth because animals – and aliens – have evolved to kill humans. The aliens can't see, but they can sense fear. Unfortunately, the spaceship this boy and his Dad are travelling on crashes on Earth. The dad breaks his legs so it's up to the boy to go on a mission and find a rescue beacon. When the boy finds the alien is looking for him and the beacon can only be sent on a volcano, he starts to worry! I highly recommend this film and hope you will like it.

**FINAL VERDICT: a great film**





# My latest *project*

By ALAN GOSWELL

**Reading Tom Fort's treatise on geriatric cycling (I think he is 10 years younger than me) and his wailing about his weight prompted me to write this.**

I am losing weight, the spur is my health and my desire to make cycling easier. I love cycle touring but hate it when my diminutive pals streak ahead on hills, my weight is my impediment. I have dieted many times before and then slowly gained weight, I am determined to avoid that this time. I know what makes me lose weight it's very simple, count calories in a food diary. No points, no sins, no groups, just eat what I like, not as much, avoid snacks, and, add in more exercise which makes a huge difference to the rate of weight loss. After I reach my target weight I intend to continue my food diary so that I put in place a new, sustainable regime of diet and exercise that keeps me fit and sustains my reduced weight - that I have realised, is the thing that has been missing in the past.

My aim is to lose 30lbs, the weight of my cycling luggage, panniers, bar bags and camping gear. Thus when I go on a cycle tour it will feel as though I am carrying nothing!

I am using a very good free tablet app. My Fitness Pal is a food, exercise and nutrition diary with a database of 3 million foods, cardiovascular calorie values and a tracking section to monitor your progress. It runs on Android Tablets and phones, Apple iPads and PCs too. You can also scan barcodes to add in any new foods. It is simplicity to use. It takes a little setting up. You can list your favourite foods, store and retrieve meals and thus save a lot of clicks, a regular meal is accessed and recorded very easily. Since it works on a weekly basis if you sin one day you can make up for it the next. There is no starving, no need to eat repellent foods, no low fat regime, no embarrassing meetings, you just eat what you like within the confines of your calorie target. It will tell you if your diet is balanced.

When you start, you can set your rate of weight loss, in my case 1lb a week and this gives you a maximum calorie target per day. In addition to the 1lb weight loss I wanted to achieve 2lbs a week because I wanted to be fitter and because I am impatient. This meant doing 3500 calories of exercise every week. You can stop eating calories or you can burn them, or you can do both. Ignoring Tom Fort's treatise on geriatric cycling I set to. 5 hours moderate cycling a week would shift

that second one pound, but instead I chose a mixture of cycling, walking and rowing.

After 5 weeks it was working exactly as planned, by depriving myself of 3500 calories of food every week and putting in 3500 calories of exercise 10lbs had disappeared and I felt very fit. I interrupted the diet with a two week holiday abroad and picked it up on my return, no problem!

It's a myth that exercise won't budge weight, it will in conjunction with a diet. But! You must be careful not to overdo it. A 10 mile bike ride is OK if you are dieting, but for me 20 miles is too much, I get what cyclists call the bonk and runners call the wall. Be careful.

So, my message to Tom Fort and others despairing of the flab is to ignore the notion that old folk shouldn't cycle. Whatever your age, get on 'yer' bike, it's a cyclists heaven around here. On Your Bike is coming soon. Why not join the surgery's evening bike rides which involve beer? Meet in the car park at 6.30 pm on Tuesdays, and join a nice little 11 mile 700 calorie quiet lane ride to get you started.

See you in the woods! ■





# Tom Fort

## SIGNS

**Did you see that story about Cornwall County Council installing 63 'No Parking' signs along a one mile stretch of road in Newquay that already had double yellow lines all along it? Yet again, it made one wonder about what goes on in the minds of local authority busybodies.**

A few years ago Oxford County Council was at it, with their Quiet Lane signs suddenly sprouting along lanes that we all knew were quiet anyway. Now they don't even have the cash to repair potholes a foot deep.

Grossly extravagant deployment of road signs is a classic symptom of the busybody

mentality. One particularly revolting illuminated one appeared a few months ago at Lord knows what cost outside Queen Anne's School in Caversham advising people to be prepared for their winter journeys. I would never have thought of that.

When the London Olympics were on, there were suddenly signs on motorways all over the place telling people with tickets that it would be a good idea to plan how they were going to get to the venue. Do they think we are all halfwits?

I am particularly fond of those motorway signs warning motorists of the danger of encountering a deer. There is one on the M4

near Hungerford which specifies a 13-and-a-half mile danger stretch ahead – so at 14 miles, assuming you are keeping a tally, you are safe. I wonder if the deer can read the signs.

Then there is Think Bike. Does that mean think about bicycles, or watch out for motorbikes; and either way, what is the earthly use of it? And finally, my favourite: Think Don't Drink. I like to think of all those drivers about to take a glug from their hip flasks when they see this sign and remember what a bad, bad idea that would be. In my head I always turn it round: Drink Don't Think. Now, that is what I call sound advice. ■



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*Autumn Leaf*

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## AN INTERVIEW WITH...

## Gwyn Arch

## His music plays on

By ROS VARNES

*Music maestro Gwyn Arch retire? He says he wouldn't contemplate it. At the age of 82, he is still running a music publishing company from his home in Grove Road and is professionally-employed by two international music publishing houses.*

However, Gwyn will step down in July after 48 years as musical director of South Chiltern Choral Society. He speaks with great affection of the Sonning Common-based choir group, which he began conducting in 1966. Now numbering more than 100 people, some members have been singing with Gwyn for over 40 years.

Says Gwyn: "I shall miss them and I am sad about that but I am very grateful to them for giving me a choir to conduct. I love them very much. I wouldn't have had it any other way. If I had my time again, I would do exactly the same thing.

"I hope that they progress and improve further in the future under a new conductor and that their repertoire is enlightened."

Although born in Southampton, Gwyn describes himself as being, "thoroughly Welsh", due to his parents' ancestry. His father was a Church of England priest and Gwyn began singing in the church choir every week.

He didn't have any formal music training until the age of 12 when he learned to play

the piano - far too late to be any good, he says! But he became better qualified musically when he began to teach.

It was while working as an English teacher at a school in Rickmansworth that he discovered music was "his thing". He wrote a musical, The Parker Plan, for his students to perform. It was first published in 1962 and became extremely successful, being performed in countries including Kenya and New Zealand as well as all over this country.

Gwyn describes the highest point in his career as being his time as director of music at Bulmershe College of Higher Education, Reading, from 1965 to 1985, where he formed Bulmershe Girls Choir.

The choir toured extensively, visiting the US seven times, among many other countries. They represented the UK seven times in the international rounds of BBC choral competition, 'Let the People Sing', and regularly appeared on national television.

In 1964 Gwyn and his family moved to Sonning Common, living first in Red House Drive before moving to Grove Road in 1985. Gwyn's wife, Jane, is a former deputy headteacher of Sonning Common Primary School and the couple's sons, David and Jonathan, were brought up in the village.

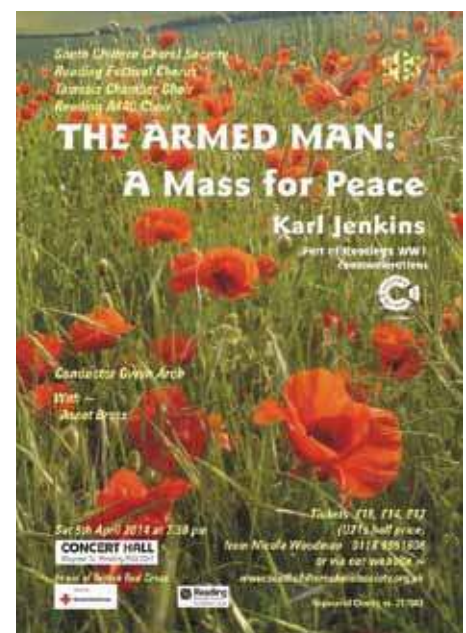
David Arch is musical director for the popular television series, Strictly Come Dancing, and arranges music for stars including Robbie Williams and Susan Boyle, while Jonathan Arch is a keen and talented amateur musician.

In 2006 Gwyn was awarded an MBE for services to music in Berkshire. During his distinguished career, he has shared and

enjoyed music with countless people all over the world.

He says: "Music has been a very important part of my life. It is a great escape for many people. It is therapeutic. When you are singing you are absorbing yourself completely in music. You haven't got time to think about where the mortgage is coming from."

\*Gwyn's last concert with the South Chiltern Choral Society will be on Saturday, 5 July at The Concert Hall, Reading. They will be performing Captain Noah and his Floating Zoo (Michael Flanders and Joseph Horowitz). Gwyn's other choir, the Reading Male Voice Choir, will join them and together they will sing a selection of their favourite music. For further information see: [www.southchilternchoralsociety.org.uk](http://www.southchilternchoralsociety.org.uk)





## Village Travel Group

With over 30 years' experience running trips for Civil Service sports and social clubs, village resident Andrea Golder, now retired, has begun running coach trips and air tours locally. Operating as 'Thames Valley Tours' on a non-profit-making basis, Andrea runs several short breaks per year using reputable tour operators to ensure quality and security.

Current trips on offer include: The West Coast of Scotland; Bristol & Bath Spa weekend; WWI Battlefields Centenary Tour, Barcelona (by air) and a lovely Christmas trip to Paris staying on a ship moored in the Seine. (There are more trips in the pipeline including Dubrovnik and a mini-cruise).

Details of Andrea's trips can be found in the information binder in the Sonning Common library, Sonning Common Parish Council's website or on [www.thamesvalleytours.net](http://www.thamesvalleytours.net). Alternatively e-mail Andrea on [amgolder@hotmail.com](mailto:amgolder@hotmail.com) for further information and/or to be put on an e-mailing list for regular updates.

It is hoped in due course to introduce theatre trips and possibly walking tours if there is sufficient interest.

Whether you are travelling as a group, a couple or an individual you can be sure that you will be made very welcome and well looked after. ■

## Sonning Common Health Walks (Spring 2014)

With Spring now here (we hope!) it's good to get out into the beautiful local countryside for a brisk walk to banish any lingering winter blues. I know there is still a lot of mud around, but I'm sure it will start to dry out soon, and the Health Walk timetable provides a programme of walks (10 in all, and all free!) to suit all levels of fitness and ability.

After Easter the new timetable will have new starting places, and we hope to include as many 'bluebell routes' as possible to take advantage of the natural beauty around us.

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

ROSEMARY DUNSTAN

## The Rainbow Children's Centre is based on the Chiltern Edge secondary school site, Reade's Lane, Sonning Common.

It provides services for children aged up to five and their families and supports people in the village and the surrounding areas including Woodcote, Goring and Shiplake. The centre is run by 'Action for Children' who also provide children's centre services in Henley, Wallingford and South Didcot as well as other locations across Oxfordshire.

The Sonning Common centre has been open for a few years now and is becoming a well-established service in the community. The centre offers guidance and support for local families and has a range of weekly sessions including 'stay and play'; 'music and play'; adult education classes and family support.

We are lucky enough to have good links with the Sonning Common library and we support it with running the twice monthly 'rhyme time' sessions at this venue. We also work closely with the local health teams to deliver baby weighing clinics; baby massage; post natal classes and speech therapy sessions at the centre.

Our links with local childcare and education settings in the community are good and we often work together to share good practice and provide support. We are also able to support families to access the funding for 2 and 3 year olds, so that they can attend pre-school settings where they can learn and thrive.

As our base is in Sonning Common we have use of the children's centre mobile bus which goes out to both Woodcote and Goring, on a fortnightly basis. This is a great play facility which includes book borrowing services for children.

We are currently looking for volunteers to help us run sessions and to support with providing advice, information and support to parents and carers of young children. If you are interested in helping in this way, please contact us.

For details of all our sessions or if you have any questions about our services please call 01189 724024 or visit our facebook page (The Rainbow Children's centre – sonning common) or website [www.oxonchildrenscentres.org.uk/wps/connect/micro/childrenscentres/rainbow+centre+sonning+common+area](http://www.oxonchildrenscentres.org.uk/wps/connect/micro/childrenscentres/rainbow+centre+sonning+common+area) ■





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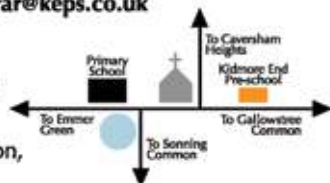
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# Volunteers required

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**HELEN GAVIN**

Distribution Manager for the Sonning Common Magazine

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## Sonning Common Magazine celebrates 40 years of publication

Around 60 of the volunteers who produce and distribute the Sonning Common Magazine met in January for a reception to celebrate 40 years of publication. This was an opportunity for the committee to say thank you to all the volunteers (there are nearly 100 of them) for their help. It was also an opportunity for people to meet one another and there was plenty of chat.

Joyce Hargreaves was one of the people involved in the very early years and has only just retired as a deliverer. She was presented with a bouquet of flowers and a certificate to mark her enormous contribution to the magazine.

The advertisers are the people and organisations that make the magazine possible. Peppard Building Supplies is the only firm to have advertised in every issue and to mark this valuable support John Butler, founder of the present business, was presented with a bottle of whisky and a certificate. He commented that the magazine helped local businesses prosper and confidently expected his firm and the magazine to be here in another 40 years.

Geoff Adams, Chairman of the magazine committee, thanked all who helped make the magazine the success it is. He invited people to volunteer to help, either on the committee providing copy or with delivering magazines. More people are needed to ensure that the magazine develops to meet the needs of the community. The commitment is only around 10 hours a year. Geoff can be contacted on 0118 9722134 or [chairman@sonningcommonmagazine.org](mailto:chairman@sonningcommonmagazine.org) ■

## A declaration of independence?

As a resident of Sonning Common since 1970, I return to our village through the mile of open fields from Reading and beyond with a feeling of relief and uplift. All the problems at national and world levels seem to fade to some degree into the background as the community atmosphere takes over.

Perhaps we should consider following the example of Pimlico in the 1949 film 'Passport to Pimlico' and declare independence. ■

Yours faithfully,  
**DOUGLAS KEDGE**



## Sonning Common Magazine AGM

The Annual General Meeting of the Sonning Common Magazine will be held on 9 May 2014 commencing at 7.15pm. in the Village Hall, Sonning Common. All who live within the delivery area are welcome.

Light refreshments will be served from 7.15pm followed by a short talk from Professor Michael Twyman. Mike, a long term resident in the village, has just completed what is already regarded as the definitive work on the history of colour printing. He has lectured and mounted exhibitions around the world and makes the topic absolutely fascinating. This is an opportunity to hear a genuinely world class specialist and an occasion that all will enjoy and remember. Don't miss it.

The AGM will follow Mike Twyman's talk

### Agenda

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of AGM held 10 May 2013
3. Matters arising from the minutes
4. Chairman's report
5. Treasurer's report
6. Editor's report
7. Distribution manager's report
8. Advertising manager's report
9. Election of officers and committee
10. Date of next meeting
11. Any other business

This is your chance to say what you think of the magazine and what you would like included in the future. ■





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# Join the club...

By **JANICE DANDRIDGE**

Chiltern Edge Horticultural Society is a friendly and local gardening club, serving members in and around Sonning Common. Formed back in 1959, CEHS currently has a membership of around 200 and offers great value for money together with the companionship of like-minded people. Recently the society undertook the opportunity to donate and plant up window boxes for the Peppard Memorial Hall which are now in full bloom, do have a look if you are passing.

We have newsletters and talks on gardening and related issues; the next talk is on Fuchsias being held on the **15 April 7.30 at Peppard Memorial Hall.**

There are two shows a year, one in the spring and one in the autumn. The next show is being held on the **5 April 2.30 to 4.30 at Chiltern Edge School.** All are welcome – come to view vegetables, flowers, cookery, handicrafts, photography plus children's class entries (competition on the day) tombola and plant stall. Refreshments - homemade cakes, tea and coffee

The society has three coach outings arranged for 2014 - Exbury Gardens, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew and RHS Garden Wisley

**17 May 9.30 to 12.00 in the local Village Hall – Table top sale**  
Look out for posters

So if you want to be part of the local gardening community and meet some like-minded people who are able to offer advice and guidance on gardening, come along to a talk, an event or visit us at [www.cehs.info/](http://www.cehs.info/) or contact our Chairman Mark Richards on 0118 9723939.



## Peppard Bowls Club is 85 years old

Originally a club for gentlemen, we now include ladies, some of whom are excellent players. We encourage players at all levels. We are looking forward to warmer weather, and the new season, when we can enjoy playing lawn bowls.

Why not join us in 2014?

**Try our Bowls Taster Days on 19 or 27 April at 2pm.**

Refreshments, together with help from experienced players will be available. All you'll need is flat soled shoes and perhaps a sense of humour, we'll take care of the rest. In addition to taking part in this surprisingly interesting sport you will have an opportunity to meet lots of new people from a wide range of backgrounds. Several social events have been planned and we are sure you would enjoy our company. We have some interesting friendly fixtures, League and County matches are arranged.

Just imagine you could abandon the household chores and gardening and join us for two hours on our regular Monday and Thursday Club Afternoons. You would, I am sure, enjoy the peaceful tranquil surroundings, light exercise, fresh air and a gentle game of bowls. Afterwards visit our Bar - in the "Clayton Room" - and enjoy a beer, soft drink or even a "cuppa", with fellow members.

You'll find us at the rear of Peppard Memorial Hall with lots of free parking available.

**Jenny, our Membership Secretary, would love to hear from you and she can be contacted on 0118 924 2617.**



## South Oxfordshire Probus Club



The club was formed in May 2012 and now has 39 member. We are retired or semi retired professional people who have held senior positions in industry, commerce or the public sector.

The club meets monthly at the White Hart Hotel in Dorchester on Thames where over drinks and lunch members hear talks on a wide range of interesting subjects included the railways of Oxfordshire,

the Bermuda Triangle, the history of Wallingford, British Waterways, the production of morphine plus a discussion with our MP on issues in Parliament.

Partners have been invited to a range of social events including a tour of the Palace of Westminster, a lunch and performance at the Watermill Theatre, a Thames river trip, a tour and tasting at a local vineyard and a tour of the Mini

Factory at Cowley and the Morgan Factory at Malvern.

Anyone interested in becoming a member the club should contact the Club Secretary John Edwards:

email [cs.soxprobus@gmail.com](mailto:cs.soxprobus@gmail.com) or Tel 01865 343062

# Betty Brindley

## A FRIEND TO ALL

*Betty Brindley, known to many as a brave, kind and gentle lady, died on 1 February 2014 at the Sue Ryder Hospice, Nettlebed. Her health had declined in recent years.*

Edinburgh-born Betty, 90, lived in Woodlands Road with her husband Ron, 92, for the past 14 years. Prior to that, they lived in Chalkhouse Green Road, Kidmore End, after moving to the area from south London in 1960.

Betty worked as a receptionist at Sonning Common Health Centre for many years where her warmth, humour and generous nature ensured she was a popular figure. She regularly attended Sonning Common Luncheon Club and was a keen supporter of Thames Valley Animal Welfare.

A well-attended celebration of Betty's life took place at St John the Baptist Church in Kidmore End on 14 February. In paying tribute to her, the Revd. Canon Graham Foulis Brown described her as one of the most active members of the congregation, even at the age of 90!

Her role as the church's sacristan saw her faithfully preparing the Communion table week in, week out, year in, year out, for 42 years, until shortly before she died.

Revd. Foulis Brown said: "Not one of us who knew Betty will ever forget her. Her stoicism, resilience and determination saw her through several illnesses that would have overwhelmed anyone else."

Betty's good friend Moira Lawrie gave the eulogy at her service. Said Moira: "Some people make such a difference to our lives by simply being who they are. We should not mourn that Betty died but praise God that she lived."

Betty was extremely proud of her Scottish heritage and loved nothing more than visiting Scotland. She was a true and loyal friend to many people from different generations and kept a special book so that she would never forget anyone's birthday or anniversary.

She will be sadly missed by her dear husband Ron, whom she met at a Butlins holiday camp in Ayr in 1950. The couple married in 1952 and celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary in 2012.

**ROS VARNES**



**ABOVE:** Betty and Ron Brindley celebrating their Diamond Wedding Anniversary with a card from the Queen.

## Thank you ...

**I would like to say a big thank you to everyone who has been so kind after the loss of my dear wife Betty.**

During her illness the staff at Sonning Common Health Centre and the Sue Ryder Hospice, Nettlebed, could not have been kinder and more helpful to Betty and me.

Judging by the many cards I have received - close to 100 - Betty was well-liked in the

community. Many people say that Betty always had time for a chat with everyone she met.

The generous donations to Betty's chosen charities were overwhelming and will be shared between the Sue Ryder Hospice at Nettlebed and Thames Valley Animal Welfare.

**RON BRINDLEY**







## EASTER SERVICES at ST MICHAEL'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, Peppard Road, Sonning Common

**Palm Sunday 13 April:** Blessing of Palms at 9.00 and 10.30 am Masses (and 5.30 pm Saturday)

**Monday 14 April:** 7 pm Service of Reconciliation

**Maundy Thursday 17 April:** 7 pm Mass of the Lord's Supper

**Good Friday 18 April:** 10 am Walk of Witness (through Sonning Common, gather at Christ the King Sedgewell Road); back at St Michael's: Stations of the Cross: 12 Noon, Good Friday Liturgy 3 pm

**Holy Saturday Vigil 19 April:** 9 pm (no 5.30 pm Mass)

**Easter Sunday 20 April:** Mass at 9.00 and 10.30 am

## All Saints' Church, Rotherfield Peppard Services on Good Friday and Easter Day

### Good Friday 18 April

10 am - Morning Prayer and Litany

2 pm - Devotional Hour of Music and Readings

### Easter Day 20 April

9 am - Holy Communion

10.30 am - Sung Eucharist

6.30 pm - Festal Evensong

## Welcome to the new vicar at All Saints

At the time of writing, we look forward to welcoming The Revd Susan Cooper, arriving, with her husband, from New Zealand. She is due to be licensed by the Bishop of Dorchester at a benefice service, to be held at St John's, on 16 March.

**18 April is Good Friday, the day of the Crucifixion.** All are welcome, young or old, to join the **Procession of Witness**, which starts from **Christ the King car park, at 10am**. Hot cross buns and coffee, afterwards!

Please note that, this year, in the afternoon, our **Good Friday Service of Meditation, with Music**, will be at **All Saints' Church, Peppard**, at **2pm** - for an hour.

Easter is the Feast of the Resurrection of Christ, the oldest and greatest feast of the Christian church - and the day when all Christians attend church.

### 20 April Easter Day

**9.30am Eucharist at Christ the King**

**11.00am Sung Eucharist at St John's**

Everybody welcome; we expect full churches. Our clergy and church members wish all readers a Happy Easter.

**Thursday 29 May Ascension Day**, the fortieth day after Easter, is the day we remember the ascent of Christ into heaven.

We will celebrate it with Holy Communion at **All Saint's Church, Peppard**, at **8.00pm**.

## 200th anniversary of Stoke Row chapel

In 2015, we shall be celebrating the 200th anniversary of the building of Stoke Row Chapel. Construction began one month after the Battle of Waterloo. We should like to mount a small historical exhibition, but, unfortunately, nearly all the Chapel archives were destroyed by fire in the 1970s. We wondered whether any of your readers might have any pre-1980 photographs or documents relating to the Chapel that we could copy and use. We realise that this request is a very long shot, but who knows what might be resting in someone's attic or undisturbed drawer? We can be contacted on 01491 680793 or at [stokerowchapel@btinternet.com](mailto:stokerowchapel@btinternet.com)

**DAVID AND SONIA JACKSON**  
(Joint Ministers, Stoke Row Chapel)



# April 2014

TUESDAY 1	Whist Drive. Tea & biscuits available - Batten House, Lea Road	2pm
WEDNESDAY 2	Village Coffee Morning hosted by Sonning Common Women's Institute. Open to all. Raising funds for local community projects - Village Hall	10.30am - 12noon
THURSDAY 3	Sonning Common Society - Illustrated talk on Red Kites by David Glover. Refreshments available. All welcome - Library	7.30am - 8.30pm
FRIDAY 4	Nottakwire practice - Village Hall	9.45am - 11.30am
TUESDAY 8	Whist Drive. Tea & biscuits available - Batten House, Lea Road	2pm
THURSDAY 10	Chiltern Players "Marking Time" a comedy by Michael Snelgrove - Peppard Memorial Hall	8pm
FRIDAY 11	Chiltern Players "Marking Time" a comedy by Michael Snelgrove - Peppard Memorial Hall	8pm
FRIDAY 11	Notts group - Village Hall	9.30am - 12noon
SATURDAY 12	Chiltern Players "Marking Time" a comedy by Michael Snelgrove - Peppard Memorial Hall	8pm
MONDAY 14	Royal British Legion Women's Section - Bring a flower to be judged - Batten House, Lea Road	2pm - 3.30pm
MONDAY 14	Sonning Common Parish Council - Village Hall	8pm
TUESDAY 15	Whist Drive. Tea & biscuits available - Batten House, Lea Road	2pm
THURSDAY 17	FISH - Pub lunch - 11.30am	
THURSDAY 17	Sonning Common Women's Institute - "Donkey Sanctuary" talk by Judy Gibbons. Visitors welcome - Village Hall	7.30pm
SATURDAY 19	Peppard Bowls Club - Taster Day - Peppard Memorial Hall	
TUESDAY 22	Whist Drive. Tea & biscuits available - Batten House, Lea Road	2pm
THURSDAY 24	FISH - Henley Farmers' Market	
FRIDAY 25	Notts group - Village Hall	9.30am - 12noon
SUNDAY 27	Peppard Bowls Club - Taster Day - Peppard Memorial Hall	
TUESDAY 29	Whist Drive. Tea & biscuits available - Batten House, Lea Road	2pm

# May 2014

FRIDAY 2	Nottakwire practice - Village Hall	9.45am - 11.30am
TUESDAY 6	Whist Drive. Tea & biscuits available - Batten House, Lea Road	2pm
WEDNESDAY 7	Village Coffee Morning hosted by Sonning Common Women's Institute. Open to all. Raising funds for local community projects - Village Hall	10.30am - 12noon
FRIDAY 9	Notts group - Village Hall	9.30am - 12noon
MONDAY 14	Royal British Legion Women's Section - Talk on Africa by Nigel Gloverwright - Batten House, Lea Road	2pm - 3.30pm
MONDAY 12	Sonning Common Parish Council - Annual Meeting - Village Hall	
TUESDAY 13	Whist Drive. Tea & biscuits available - Batten House, Lea Road	2pm
THURSDAY 15	FISH - Pub lunch	11.30am
THURSDAY 15	Sonning Common Women's Institute - Resolutions followed by Beetle Drive. Visitors welcome - Village Hall	7.30pm
FRIDAY 16	Nottakwire practice - Village Hall	9.45am - 11.30am
MONDAY 19	Sonning Common Parish Council - Village Hall	8pm
TUESDAY 20	Whist Drive. Tea & biscuits available - Batten House, Lea Road	2pm
THURSDAY 22	FISH - Henley Farmers' Market	
FRIDAY 23	Notts group - Village Hall	9.30am - 12noon
TUESDAY 27	Whist Drive. Tea & biscuits available - Batten House, Lea Road	2pm
FRIDAY 30	Nottakwire practice - Village Hall	9.45am - 11.30am

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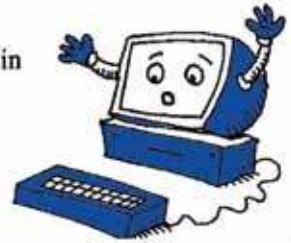
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