

# SC SONNING COMMON MAGAZINE

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AUG / SEP 2016

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# FROM THE EDITORIAL TEAM

As I sit here again to write this editorial (where have the last 2 months gone?) it is still raining on 12 July! What an unsettled summer. Let's hope the sun will shine for the school holidays!

The good news for the village is written up on the In Focus pages. The Examiner's report was very positive and, although changes to policies were made to our Neighbourhood Plan, they were not substantive. Please read more on pages 16 and 17 and put the Referendum date in your diary.

One of our significant contributors Zack Hawkes of Kid's page fame has decided he cannot continue with the commitment as he transfers to secondary school in September and will be involved with a lot more homework. He has developed an entertaining, different and special place in the magazine and many young people will miss his input, especially me... Thank you Zack and I am sure you will be very successful in your next school.

This edition has many new contributors and interesting articles, including the village that never was, the Sonning Common weather station, book reviews, library news as well as the usual range which is as always interesting. ●

Enjoy!



**Diana Pearman** Editor

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



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

**SC** SONNING COMMON  
MAGAZINE

## MEET THE TEAM ...



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# QUEEN OF SONNING COMMON

by JO STOVES

**Chrissie Philips-Tilbury, ably assisted by Jill Vallis and the usual team of helpers came up trumps yet again with a lavish Ritz-style champagne tea party, in the village hall, to celebrate the 90th birthday of her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.**

The hall was decorated with red, white and blue bunting. The planters outside the hall had been planted with red and white geranium and blue lobelia by Village Gardeners and an array of very smart cut-out soldiers, made by the pupils of Sonning Common Primary School, stood to attention inside to greet everyone.

On Sunday the 12 June guests arrived dressed up for the occasion. There was a sea of red, white and blue outfits, numerous glittering tiaras and ranks of ladies and gentlemen in outfits worthy of gracing any royal garden party.

The tables were laden with finger sandwiches of cream cheese and

cucumber, egg and cress, ham and mustard and smoked salmon. There were homemade scones with jam and cream and fresh strawberries and cake stands straining under the weight of dainties. All this was washed down with copious amounts of tea from an amazingly varied collection of teapots with red, white and blue teacosies and accompanied by the sounds of chatter and laughter and party poppers.

Chrissie, as chief organiser of the event and wearing a "gold, bejewelled" crown, told us she had written to Buckingham Palace to explain plans for the celebration and proudly read the official reply wishing Sonning Common well for the festivities. She also thanked Waitrose and Tesco for their donations, and everyone who had helped.

A free raffle was held for two hampers and several other prizes including wine and 90th birthday memorabilia. The afternoon concluded with a royal toast

being proposed by John Pearman and drunk in (only fitting) champagne.

Barbara Butler proposed a vote of thanks to Chrissie and her team saying how important it is to get together as a community. But nobody seemed in a hurry to leave – a sure sign of a very successful afternoon. ●



# SUPERHERO FUNDRAISERS REACH TOP AMOUNT

THE AGENTS: SONNING COMMON'S SUPERHERO BABIES

THEIR MISSION: TO SAVE BABIES' LIVES

**Members of the Baby Sensory group, which meets weekly in the village hall, donned superhero costumes to support medical charity Tommy's fight against the causes of miscarriage, stillbirth and premature birth.**

Parents, carers and babies took part in a Superhero Sensathon during their weekly Baby Sensory activity sessions at the hall. The sessions are specially-designed to help develop babies and toddler's brain growth, senses and motor-development through stimuli including balloons, puppets and messy play.

Bryony Jose runs a total of 12 sessions every week in Sonning Common, Henley and Tilehurst for 240 babies. She said: "One in four UK parents loses a baby during pregnancy or birth and 60,000 premature babies are born every year.

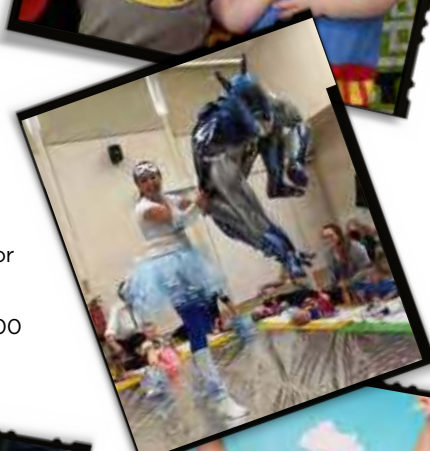
"That's why Baby Sensory is supporting Tommy's campaign. Our group raised about £10,000 towards Tommy's national target of £375,000 and we have been named as the top fund-raisers in the country!"

"I am so proud of the way in which everybody embraced the idea and raised so much money for this important charity."

To donate to Tommy's see: [www.tommys.org](http://www.tommys.org)

For more information on Baby Sensory classes see: [www.babysensory.com/en/ClassDetails/Reading](http://www.babysensory.com/en/ClassDetails/Reading) ●

ROS VARNES





# MIDSOMER MURDERS COMES TO SONNING COMMON

Excitement in the village as the camera crews set up outside Heath and Watkins

Some years ago Mick, the owner of Heath and Watkins, was contacted by the TV team who then decided against the site as the venue but 2 months ago the company decided they would like to use the shop for their next series. "They came and measured, discussed the general arrangements and agreed a price to cover the closure of the shop for 2 days and the disruption caused" Mick told me.

He found the experience very interesting especially the logistics of the camera team, how it was set up and managed by the 40 or so people. Filming went on until midnight with a gantry set up and a fake moon.

The filming took all day on the Tuesday and a half day on Friday and will produce probably 3 to 4 minutes of viewing time. It is expected that it will appear in the 19th series, 2nd episode of Midsomer murders in November December of 2016.

Mick found the team to be "very nice, friendly people to work with who were conscious that they were causing disruption to the village".

This disruption was probably acceptable for Sonning Common's few minutes of fame! South Oxfordshire villages provide about half of the film locations for Midsomer Murders. ●

DIANA PEARMAN



# Sonning Common Magazine PHOTO COMPETITION

## My Holidays ...

We are launching a competition for all the young photographers out there. Now that so many people have a mobile phone, or can hopefully borrow a parents, it's easy to take great pictures.

The theme is 'My Holidays' and we would love to see what your favourite places, events or days out are. Landscapes, beaches, festivals, airport – all of you will have at least 6 weeks off to enjoy your surroundings – so send us your best shots.

There will be 3 categories of ages – Under 9, Under 12, Under 18

We are looking forward to seeing them all. Closing date will be 1st September and judging will be by the editorial team with the winner and runner up being published in the 1st October magazine. ●



Sonning Common  
Magazine is now  
on Facebook

# Sonning Common Primary School

## Year 6 SAT Results (School Assessment Tests) 2016

As many of you will know, the year 6 tests have been drastically revised this year with a level of controversy, and have caused some concerns amongst teaching staff all over the country. The government have set a new standard within a more difficult curriculum which the pupils have been studying for the last two years.

Previously, attainment at the end of Key Stage 2 was measured in Levels – from 1c to 5a - with Level 4c being the expected standard for pupils in their final year of primary school.

However, in the new tests, the expected level is shown as a scaled score, and whilst the expected standard is set at 100, the scores can range between 80 and 120 - this means that anything at 100 or over is in effect a pass, meeting the expected

standard, and anything under is seen as not meeting the expected standard. The national overall figure of pupils achieving a pass in reading, writing and maths has been published as 53%. SCPS overall percentage is 74% which is significantly higher.

The results for SCPS are all above the national average % with many being 20% above and this represents at least a good level of achievement and possibly higher.

SCPS Headteacher Chris Hirst said "This has been a very challenging year for Year 6 staff and pupils with new tests being launched reflecting a new curriculum. There were several key unknowns: the format the tests were going to take; the grade boundaries for meeting the expected standard. There was also a level of frustration as pupils working well beyond the grade boundary would only

	SCPS	National
Maths	92%	70%
Reading	85%	66%
Spelling/ Grammar	81%	72%
Writing	85%	74%
Overall	75%	53%

be classed as meeting the expected standard. I am thrilled with the results, very pleased with all that has been achieved by the entire team here at Sonning Common Primary and immensely proud of our pupils' achievements. Also a very big thank you to all of our parents as these results could not have been achieved without your support." ●

Christine Atkinson

## Cbeebies help celebrate 50 years of SC Pre School

Big crowds and the sunshine came out for Sonning Common Pre School's 50th Anniversary Summer Fair on Sunday 26 June.

The fair boasted more attractions than in previous years to mark the pre-school's half-century birthday.

Visitors enjoyed vintage tractor rides, two bouncy castles, a corral with ride-ons for toddlers, gift stalls, face painting, a soft play area, silent auction, a bar and barbecue. There was a fun selection of fair games, such as hook a duck, jam jar ping pong and spin the arrow. The event raised £2700, which will be put towards creating a new forest school in the pre-school's garden.

Fair organiser and chair of the pre-school's committee, Viki Head, said: "The Golden

Anniversary was a big milestone for the pre-school so we envisaged a bigger, brighter fair.

"We pooled our contacts and used up all our favours to deliver a fun and relaxing fair for the whole family."

Star guests the CBeebies' Twirlywoos mingled and posed for photos with the children. BigHoo, Toodloo, Chickedy and Chick came to the fair after a teacher won a contest to have the much-loved characters visit their pre-school.

There was also a photo exhibition of the history of the pre-school, which opened in 1966 as Sonning Common Playgroup at Kidmore End Memorial Hall. ●

Colleen Paviour







## Despite the grey skies

**The Summer Fair at SCPS on Saturday 18 June was a great success, and raised around £4000, all of which will be spent on the children at SCPS. So thank you from the PTA to everyone who came and spent their money!**

"The SCPS PTA would also like to say a huge (and we mean huge) thank you to everyone who helped before, during and after the summer fair; please thank all your families that stepped in as without them we wouldn't have been able to run the stalls.

It was an amazing day, we had some lovely comments from people attending and everyone enjoyed the music and dancing too." ●

Christine Atkinson

"Listening to Nottakwire is always an enjoyable experience and this time the second half 'Captain Noah' was a true leap in performance. Well done to all the performers and to their directors." Editor

These performances raised £862 and supplemented by Nottakwire funds local charities will benefit. **Sonning Common Health Centre £200; Club SC £200; S.C. Magazine £150; Lunch Club £150; Skate Park £150 and the Village Gardeners £150.**

Nottakwire would like to thank everyone who supported our fund raising concerts on 1st and 2nd July. We had two lovely audiences who responded very favourably to our programme of "Rodgers and Hammerstein on Broadway" in the first half and "Captain Noah and his Floating Zoo" in the second half.

Margaret and Elaine (Directors) are particularly grateful to the following willing helpers who stewarded for us and served refreshments to our audiences: Peter Rickards, Alan Gibbon, Syd Jeans, Sara Hall, Janet Evans, Janet Weaver and Sheila Walker.

Margaret Moola

## Enrichment Week at Chiltern Edge

After the year 11 students have finished exams and left school to head onto their next ventures, Chiltern Edge run their Enrichment Week. For some – Year 10 – this means a week of 'end of first year' GCSE exams – but for others they get to experience the great outdoors and learn something outside the usual curriculum.

Year 7 set off to their camp week on a late June day which was more like late October! Horizontal rain brought monsoon type conditions for their walk to the site in Henley but it cleared up in time to pitch the tents. The students and staff had a great week of adventure and fun including a day on the river in big and little boats, with some students jumping into a chilly river for a dip! Many thanks to the staff for giving Year 7 some great memories to end their first year at secondary school.

Some Year 9 students also had a week away at Kilvrough Outdoor Centre near Swansea and had and

amazing time in Wales. One of the staff reported - "Though we left the school and made the entire journey in pouring rain, once we arrived and unpacked the sun broke through for an afternoon of scrambling on the seafront.

It has been amazing to see the students all band together and really support each other through the challenges and work as a team to achieve a collective goal. Yesterday took us cliff climbing and not only did every single person manage to scale to the cliff top, we had three students who took on the climb blindfolded!! So far ever single person here has faced a fear and taken in a challenge that they had originally said they were too afraid to do. We also went caving, so out of the very hot sun and into the darkness. Everyone is having a wonderful time and are looking forward what else this trip has in store for us; kayaking and surfing on the books for the rest of the week!" ●

Christine Atkinson





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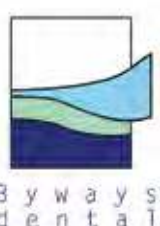


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**Sunday 7th August**  
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## RED CROSS OPEN GARDENS

### ENGLEFIELD HOUSE

**Sunday 21 August**

Theale RG7 5EN

Open 11am - 4pm

Price £5.00 per adult, children

under 12 free

This 12-acre garden dates back to 1600. A children's garden with hidden jets of water provides fun for younger visitors. Refreshments, teas, home-made cakes, gift and plant stalls all in the Long Gallery.

### JEALOTT'S HILL COMMUNITY LANDSHARE

**Sunday 4 September**

Wells Lane, Warfield, Bracknell  
RG42 6BQ

Open 2pm - 5pm

Price £3.50 per adult, children

under 12 free. This inspirational and multi-purpose garden is used and enjoyed by the local community.

Guided tours are led by volunteers.

There will also be garden bric-a-brac and secondhand tools for sale.

### SCOTLANDS

**Sunday 11 September**

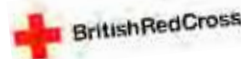
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## Henley and District Philatelic Society

As the Society is celebrating its 50th Anniversary this year, why not come to a meeting and find out what Philately is all about? The guests at our 50th 'do' were, we think, quite surprised that the society is actually all about 'things that go in the post', some of which date back 400+ years. We welcome new members and visitors, and are always happy to help if they want to start or re-start this fascinating and interesting hobby that has so many aspects.

**September 14 - Latest Acquisitions**  
up to 9 pages per member.

**September 28 - David Frome from Barnet PS**  
with his display on 'The Olympics'

Meetings are held the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month at Bix Village Hall at 7.45 p.m. Visitors and new members are welcome. Further details can be obtained by phoning 01491 681739 or on our website: - [www.henleyphilatelic.org.uk](http://www.henleyphilatelic.org.uk)



Sonning Common Primary School

## New Parents' Open Days

Tuesday 11th October  
2.00pm ~ 3.00pm

Thursday 3rd November  
2.00pm ~ 3.00pm

Presentation by the Head Teacher  
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# DAVE BROWNJOHN ALWAYS BUSY, NEVER BORED

By ROS VARNES

With his navy close-knit jumper and anchor-embossed captain's hat he looks like he would be more at home at sea - or, at the very least, the river - but when Dave Brownjohn met me at his Blounts Court Road home it was to talk about a much smaller stretch of water - Widmore Pond.

It wasn't long, however, before we got on to Dave's other great passion - his lifetime's work building and restoring wooden boats. But first things first, the pond and the aptly-named Duckingham Palace, which Dave built.

Upon entering Dave's conservatory, overlooking Widmore Pond, it's easy to see why he has contributed so much towards the pond's maintenance and improvement over the years.

Dave's garden shelves steeply to the road. The road is barely visible from the house. So, it looks as though the pond is in his garden!

When Dave and his wife Sheila moved to Sonning Common in 1988 the pond was unloved. It had a duck house, mounted on rotted wooden piles, and the structure was near collapse. Nobody knew who was responsible for the pond and no one took responsibility for it.

Dave and Sheila joined a small pond committee who arranged for fallen trees to be removed, the bank built and the pond to be landscaped.

In 1994 Dave constructed Duckingham Palace, which was named by Dave's sister. Built from hardwood, the duck house is floated on 50 large plastic drums, secured together with coat hanger wire and held down by chains attached to four cement-filled buckets.

Last year the duck house underwent

significant refurbishment, financed by Sonning Common Parish Council, which holds the deeds to the pond and is responsible for managing it on behalf of the community.

Says Dave: "Sometimes we see up to 200 ducks on the pond. They fly in and fly out again. We have moorhens, sometimes ducklings and herons too. The ducks come here a lot because people feed them - too much, at times. We don't feed them in the summer but give them chicken pellets in the winter. They do alright here."

At 77, Dave likes to keep busy and describes his current job as making tea, emptying the dustbins and sweeping the floor at his son Paul's boat-building workshop at Hobbs of Henley in Wargrave Road, where Paul is following on the trade of his father, uncle and grandfather.

In the past Dave worked for Peter Freebody at Hurley and Dick Hobbs at Henley before setting up on his own. Over the years he built and restored many vessels, including racing punts for the Wargrave and Shiplake regattas, coal-fired steamers, slipper launches, umpire's launches and clinker dinghies.

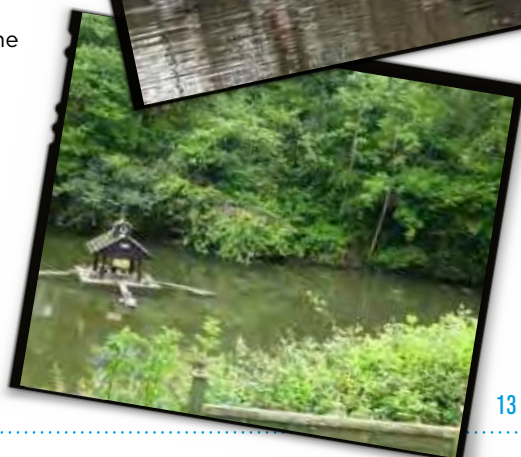
Dave also built himself a boat, modelled on a motorised Cornish harbour launch, calling it Alaura, after his parents Alan and Laura. When Dave is out on Alaura he often sees many boats that he had a hand in, including the beautiful coal-fired steamers, the Windsor Belle and the Alaska, both of which date from the turn of the last century.

Dave's favourite boats to build are the classic Thames slipper launches. A new, entirely wooden boat, built from scratch, takes up to seven weeks and costs a cool £100,000, according to Dave.

"Not many Rolls Royces are sold

because they cost so much and the same applies to wooden boats. You are always going to find someone who can afford them and want them. There are comparatively few of us (boatbuilders) working in a very small market, but we are always busy, usually with a year or two's work ahead of us.

"I find it hard to stay at home. After a lifetime of working on the river, I know so many people. Also, my wife is glad to see the back of me!" ●



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# THE VILLAGE THAT NEVER WAS

Ralph Peedell suggested that readers might be interested in a series of books that were written by Fred Richens in the 1970's. He will be choosing a section to feature in each of the next four issues and if any resident would like to borrow one of these books, 30 pages each one, to read in more detail then please contact the editor@sonningcommonmagazine.org

My first selection is below and includes references to my Grandfather who lived in Sonning Common from 1934 until his death.

1920 was a big year. The Thames Valley Bus Company was formed and double deckers were introduced with open top deck and no windscreen for the driver. The Peppard service was extended, twice daily, to Stoke Row where, to save dead runs, a dormy garage was built to stable the buses overnight and, as far as possible, local crews were employed for the early morning run and the last one back at night. For a time a 25 seater, one man bus (called the Pup) ran several trips a day between Stoke Row and Reading via Checkendon and Woodcote but was withdrawn as being a bad payer. The dormy was used until wartime difficulties caused its closure in 1940.

It was during the dormy period that Dick Peedell comes into the story. His experiences give a good impression of

life on the buses more than 80 years ago. In 1934 a new man was urgently required at Stoke Row and, being young and single, he was transferred there from Reading, which meant cycling out to arrive by 6.45 a.m. to bring the early morning bus in; or back to Reading just before midnight after taking the last bus out. Dick was soon saving up for a motor cycle and, when he married, came to live in Sonning Common. He spent most of his time on the Reading- Stoke Row/ Nettlebed route and, in his later years, one of his sons would meet the midday bus at Brind's Corner to hand him his nice, hot dinner and be there again to collect the empties when the bus returned from Stoke Row.

Frost, snow and fog were hazards not only for the cyclist but for the buses. Although the men prided themselves on their time-keeping – 'the clocks of the countryside' the buses were called – there were times during most winters when Dick would find himself walking through the fog in front of the bus with a newspaper tucked around his bottom to catch the light and guide the driver; or, when the fog was particularly thick, sitting on the bonnet signalling to his mate inside.

Those were the days when no driver or

conductor would appear without uniform and hat. A white shirt and tie were obligatory, as was a clean and tidy appearance. Smoking on duty was forbidden. The same crews were on the buses most days; they knew the regular passengers and would look out for them en route, which meant, of course, waiting for the girl who was always late. As Dick put it, it was a happy bus – as was shown by the whip-round for the crews at Christmas.

Often, the journey home was not uneventful. Drunken passengers were not unknown and Dick still recalls the woman who was put on the bus one night quite unable to walk. They stopped outside her home in the village, carried her in and shouted to her husband; then left. That could be the sort of journey rounded off in the early days by a midnight cycle ride from Stoke Row back to Reading. ●

**Ralph Peedell**



The first bus to serve Sonning Common  
– by House's, of Watlington.



# MATTERS OF LIFE AND DEATH THANK YOUS, FEEDBACK AND GOING FORWARD

On Wednesday 18th May, around 150 people came through the doors of Sonning Common Village Hall for the themed Open Day 'Matters of Life and Death'. Organised by Dr Ellen and nurses Rika Adams and Pam Alcorn, this followed on from the Advanced Care Planning workshops. We have had some really positive and encouraging feedback from the exhibitors, the general public and our colleagues. Our aim was to get people talking about 'death' in a positive and comfortable way, for it to be an uplifting experience rather than sad and depressing, and we all know that death is part of life for us all.

The weather was not in our favour, but we offered a warm welcome, refreshment and musical entertainment. The exhibitors were approachable and the talks were described as excellent, interesting and encouraging, making serious subjects accessible. Overall, the day was described as "an inspiring day, having a 'buzzy' energy, creating a feeling of trust".

Our 17 exhibitors were really impressed by the support from the local community and the genuine interest and enthusiasm shown by the public. They also commented on the opportunity to meet with others representing different areas of expertise surrounding the end of life and the importance of opening conversations around death, dying and bereavement.

Despite having only one hour to set everything up, Dr Burnett opened the day at 10.00 am as we had planned. Thanks to Jim, Clive, Sue, Chrissie, Tess and several stall holders for helping each

other. Thank you also to the team from Sue Ryder, for your help and support along the way and with printing the programmes and posters.

Thank you to our stall holder volunteers in the main hall - we had representatives from Sue Ryder Hospice, Age UK, Befriending Services (Carers Oxfordshire and Oxbel), Blandy & Blandy (Solicitors), AB Walker (Funeral Directors), Woodland Burial Ground, District Nurses, FISH, First Responders, Message in a Bottle (Henley Lions), Gardiners (Care), Cruse, Organ Donation, Motor Neurone Disease, Dementia UK, SCAS Ambulance Service and Advanced Care Planning.

Coffee, tea and biscuits were generously donated by the Co-Op and three loaves of bread by One Stop. The fantastic cakes and soups were donated by the staff from the health centre. Thank you to the ladies who set up and ran our kitchen during the day. We received over £150.00 in donations, which will go towards our running costs and any future expenses. During the lunch hour the Ukulele Band played; a welcome break for us! Thank you to Susan Rusman and Karen Guy for arranging the 12 players. And thank you to the men who spontaneously put the tables and chairs away, clearing the hall at the end of the day.

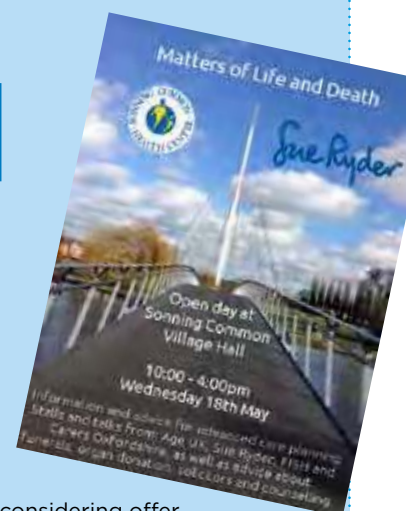
So, thank you so, so much to everyone who helped willingly - we could not have had such a successful day without the help of so many volunteers!

We will continue our Advanced Care Planning Workshops held at Sonning Common Health Centre. Places can be booked by contacting the surgery, the next being held on 21st September, 24th October, 16th November and 7th December.

We are also considering offer specialist workshops with visiting speakers covering similar themes that were touched upon during our open day. These speakers may include solicitors, funeral directors, organ donation and perhaps asking the ambulance service to run a first aid work shop focused on the elderly. Please contact Sonning Common Health Centre or look at our website for further information. Any feedback or suggestions from you would be gratefully received.

## Dr Ellen, Rika and Pam

(Please drop your feedback or suggestions into Reception, or send an e-mail to [schcreception@nhs.net](mailto:schcreception@nhs.net) - Ed)



'Talking about death does not bring it closer  
... it's about planning for life'

# EXAMINER GIVES THE

“It is clear that the planmakers went well beyond legislative requirements to actively engage with local people. Comments were proactively sought over a sustained period of time.”

Much to our delight the Examiner's report from Nigel McGurk, received in the middle of May, was very complimentary about many aspects of our Neighbourhood Plan.

## Consultation process

“I am satisfied that the consultation process was comprehensive and robust.

Taking everything into account, the Consultation Statement presents an audit trail to demonstrate that consultation was wide-ranging, comprehensive and transparent.

Comments received were duly considered and there is plentiful evidence to demonstrate that the Neighbourhood Plan reflects the views of local people.”



“People and organisations were provided with a fair chance to have their say and as a result, there is plentiful evidence to demonstrate that the local community shaped the Neighbourhood Plan”.

## Well-structured and presented Plan

“The Neighbourhood Plan is well presented. The structure is clear, the text is clearly set out and the Policies are distinctive from the supporting information. Plans, diagrams

and photographs combine to produce an attractive and easy-to-read Neighbourhood Plan. The Foreword provides a positive start to the Neighbourhood Plan, with a particular focus on the significant community input into the process.

Sections relating to background matters and the evolution of the plan-making process are clearly set out and supported by appropriate plans. In a similar way, pages 14-20 of the Neighbourhood Plan provide useful information relating to the history, demography and character of the area.”

## Land for recreation

Our Neighbourhood Plan has always been about more than just housing. Key objectives were also to provide for accessible Local Green Space and to address the identified significant shortfalls in recreation facilities for all age groups. To this end the working party is delighted that the Examiner has underwritten the designation of SON 1 as Local Green Space, the development of SON 2 for 50 homes and the allocation of SON 3 for public recreation.

“With particular reference to the allocation of land within the Chilterns AONB, the Neighbourhood Plan includes specific, relevant detail to demonstrate how the Plan has regard to the National Planning Framework and contributes to the achievement of sustainable development”

- **Site SON1 is designated as Local Green Space, where no development will take place other than in very special circumstances.**
- **SON 2/3 comprises 7.7 hectares. The land shaded blue on Map 4.3 is allocated for 50 houses. The land shaded green on Map 4.3 is allocated for public recreation.**
- **“The recreational area will be laid out and provided, together with suitable public access, prior to the sale of the first market house on site SON2/3.**



“The above ensures the essential delivery of the recreational area, having regard to national policy and the stated intention of the Neighbourhood Plan. It also has regard to Planning Guidance, which requires policies to be precise. The aspiration for built facilities is dependent upon Community Infrastructure Levy monies and may take a number of years to be collected, the above approach does not prevent this and importantly, it reflects the exceptional circumstances pertaining to site SON2/3.”

“I acknowledge that there are objections to the allocation of SON2/3, including from the Chilterns Conservation Board. However, I have found that the allocation meets the basic conditions. I note that it has emerged through a robust consultation process. I also note that, ultimately, were the Neighbourhood Plan to progress to Referendum, the decision to make it would lie with the local community. This reflects the power afforded to local communities in the Framework and referred to;”

## Policies

Some of the policies have been re-worded by the Examiner and for most of them, greater clarity is given and will provide for effective implementation. Some of the policies have been moved to Actions specifically for the Parish Council:



# GO-AHEAD

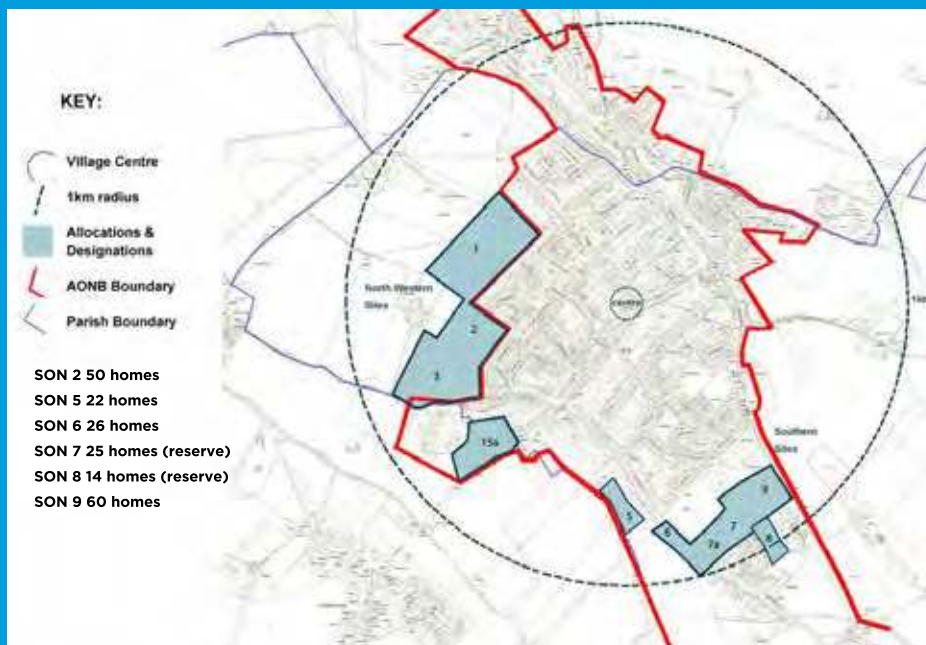
- Preferential access for local people to new housing
- Monitoring the continued improvement of broadband provision
- Sourcing a new library building
- Encouraging collaboration between educational facilities and the community
- Ensuring the bus service continues to Reading
- Traffic measures to reduce speeds
- Environment and wider planting across the village

The Gaps between villages policy has been removed “there is no substantive evidence to demonstrate that the creation of a new green gap Policy is in general conformity with the Core Strategy”, as has the car parking standards, where the Plan had increased the number of parking places per home for the allocated sites. The OCC parking standards will need to be adhered to instead.

The Examiner recognized that the working party took into account the likely additional housing arising from the Oxfordshire Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA).

“In providing for a minimum of 138 dwellings, the Neighbourhood Plan ..... goes further, by allocating sites capable of providing closer to 200 dwellings.

“The Neighbourhood Plan recognises that the Oxfordshire SHMA could lead to a requirement for more housing in the Neighbourhood Area than the minimum 138 homes referred to above. Whilst neither this, nor providing for Oxford City’s unmet housing need has translated into adopted strategic policies in a development plan, it is clear that, in providing for comfortably in excess of 138 homes, the Neighbourhood Plan has taken a positive approach to providing for future housing growth in the light of relevant information”.



The sites where the homes will be built are shown on the map + numbers

The Examiner did take into consideration all of the information provided by the Housing mix policy and acknowledged that there is some considerable community support for more-smaller homes to be delivered. This is reflected in the re-written housing mix policy. Car parking in and around the village centre is a local concern. Policy VC2 supports proposals for car and cycle parking in the village.

## The next step for everyone

“I recommend to South Oxfordshire District Council that, subject to the modifications proposed, the Sonning Common Neighbourhood Plan should proceed to a Referendum”.

When it goes to Referendum and achieves more than 50% of votes in favour, then the Plan would be made by South Oxfordshire District Council. The Plan would then be used to determine planning applications and guide planning decisions in the Sonning Common Neighbourhood Area.

## Dates for your diary

A display of the Final Submission version of the Plan will take place in the Village Hall on Sunday 25 September followed by the Referendum vote on Thursday 29 September. The Referendum will be conducted by SODC’s Electoral Officer as per a normal election and only residents of Sonning Common who are on the electoral role will be eligible to vote. Residents who wish or need to apply for a postal or proxy vote for the NDP Referendum should do so by contacting the election services team asap. The contact details are elections@southandvale.gov.uk, and the phone number to call is 01235 422407.

Copies of the Final Submission version of the Neighbourhood Plan and the Examiner’s Report are both on our website. ●

[www.scp-ndp.co.uk](http://www.scp-ndp.co.uk)

# THE MAGAZINE NEEDS YOU!

Your magazine is widely read throughout the village and is generally acknowledged to be a real asset to the village community. But it needs more help, especially on the committee and the editorial committee.

The magazine committee ensures the magazine runs smoothly, effectively and efficiently. We meet five or six times a year for about an hour and a half in the evening to review the finances, consider developments (such as our presence of Facebook) plan how we can support the editor and take whatever steps are necessary

to keep the magazine going. We really do need a secretary to prepare the agendas, take minutes and undertake any other correspondence. So if you can spare a little time and are at all interested please let Geoff Adams know: **chairman@sonningcommonmagazine.org**.

The editorial committee meets six times a year and collects, suggests, sometimes prepares, and appraises articles for publication. Diana Pearman would be delighted to hear from anyone interested in supporting the magazine in this way. **editor@sonningcommonmagazine.org** ●



## WEATHER STATION



Peter Dayton's recent article about the magnificent sunsets to be seen from his house has triggered me to remind the village that it has its own weather station which includes a live 24hr video camera of the western horizon and sky conditions. And yes, viewed from my roof the sunsets over Kidmore End can be superb, as can pictures of pouring rain!

The weather station is fully automatic (apart from my daily forecasts) and uploads to two websites, one for live streaming of the raw data from all the sensors, and one which logs the last 24 hours and has extra information such as gardening data and winter pavement temperatures (...for those that wish to clear/salt their bits of pavement snow – or not!)

Live streaming: <http://www.sonningcommonnet.uk/Weatherstation>

This is for anoraks as it gives lots of data that a meteorologists needs but is probably a bit beyond most people, but

still very informative as hovering the mouse over all the bits brings up information as to what it is or means. It also has a graphs section where all recorded history can be viewed. It is a live streaming site (a video in effect) which can be viewed on any computer type\*, but probably not on smart phones unless they are the expensive ones! This updates automatically every 30 seconds without any user input.

(\*Older computers might need to download Adobe Flash, which the website offers a link to – free of course!)

Data Log: <http://www.sonningcommonweb.co.uk/WebWeather>

This shows the latest and last 24hour rolling records plus loads of other interesting stuff like how your solar panels are working today, how much energy your wind turbine is producing, or how fast your allotment is dehydrating. This is effectively a screen shot of the computer command centre and updates every minute (manual update via refresh button) and from this site you can zoom in to the

sky video camera (a full screen picture).

Snow Team: <http://www.sonningcommonweb.co.uk/snow%20plan>

This is the Parish Council Snow Team website (in Winter!) which forecasts snow and the requirements to grit our pavements or not. This is an offshoot of the weather station from which it makes its forecasts using our own pavement and sub-pavement temperature measurements plus Met Office area snow forecasts and weather radar. This is a semi-automatic website updated as required as it needs my input as a meteorologist by training.

The weather station has been running for almost five years now and also feeds data automatically to the Met Office as they don't have enough weather stations of their own these days!

If anybody wants more information as to what everything means I am happy to answer them via my e-mail [dirk.jones@btinternet.com](mailto:dirk.jones@btinternet.com) and if there is enough interest I can set up a FAQ section.



# BOOK REVIEW

By PHILLIPPA TAPHOUSE

## I Am Pilgrim by Terry Hayes

My dad read this book. My mum read this book. My husband read this book. I read this book and it has to be one of the best books any of us have read. It's gripping, thrilling, exciting and nerve wracking and a totally captivating read. All the way through, you find yourself thinking this would make a fantastic film so don't be surprised to see it on our screens in the near future.

I read it on my Kindle so wasn't put off by the size of the book. It's 801 pages long which can be daunting but every page takes you on a twisting and surprising journey...none of which you see coming.

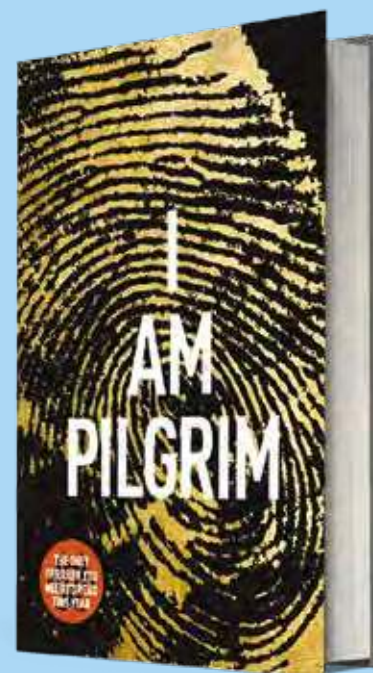
Pilgrim is codename for a man who doesn't exist. He headed up a secret espionage unit for US intelligence and before he retired, he wrote a definitive

book on forensic criminal investigation.

It's this book that New York detective Ben Bradley uses to track Pilgrim down to help him solve a murder of a young girl in New York. It's a textbook murder and Pilgrim wrote the book!

This murder leads him on a race-against-time to save America from terrorists. He travels the world tracking down a ruthless and faceless terrorist who, deeply affected by the execution of his father, is out for revenge.

It's difficult to write a review without giving too much away...so you really have to read it for yourselves. It's a great book for a holiday or when you have some extra time on your hands. You really won't be able to put it down. ●



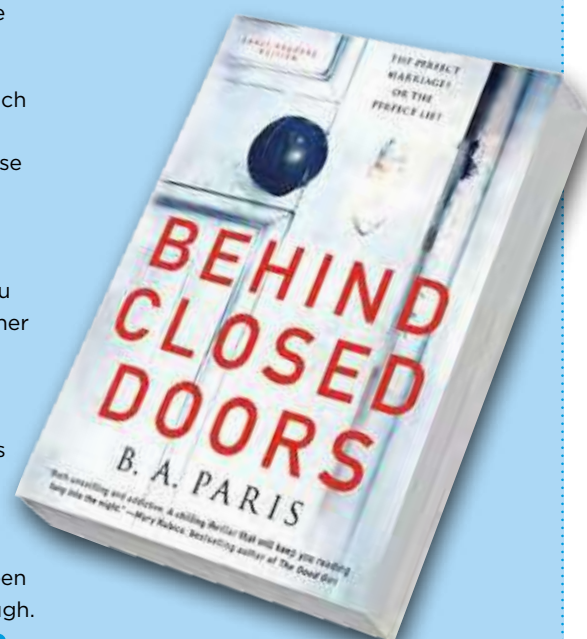
## Behind Closed Doors by B A Paris

This debut book by B A Paris was initially such a good read. It was incredibly tense and unnerving and I just had to get to the end of it. If you take your books very seriously, I could imagine that you would get completely frustrated and annoyed by this story, but I found it quite gripping and, until we put ourselves in Grace's shoes, how would we know what we would do?

On the face of it, Jack and Grace have the perfect marriage. Both successful, well off and attractive with a beautiful home and wonderful life but there is more to Jack than meets the eye. You want to know more...but how can you when Grace is never without him. Coffee with her friends...he goes too. Shopping with her friends...he goes too. Visiting her sister...he goes too. Attentive lovely and

caring husband, or ruthless vindictive and cruel husband?

The story line in this book was so much more than I thought it was going to be. I thought it was going to be a case of a woman being regularly beaten by her husband...but I was so wrong. It was nothing like that. It was much deeper and complex and at times you felt so frustrated with Grace...willing her to get some strength and walk away from her marriage but it's not that easy and sometimes this made for uncomfortable reading. I have friends who read it well into the early hours of the morning and just had to finish it. It's just one of those books. You feel by the end of it that you have been holding your breath all the way through. It was nice to finally breathe again! ●



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# Parish news

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## NEW LOCAL PLAN FOR THE DISTRICT

A new study has been published which says that South Oxfordshire will need at least 15,000 new homes between 2011 and 2031 to support planned economic growth in the region.

In response, South Oxfordshire District Council (SODC) has published its preferred options for shaping development in South Oxfordshire until 2032.

One preferred option under the Local

Plan 2032 is that large villages like Sonning Common will need to accommodate 10 per cent more new homes and small villages like Rotherfield Peppard five per cent more.

A public consultation is currently underway on the preferred options document.

The district council says that local knowledge and an appreciation of what residents and businesses want is important in determining where these

new homes should go and is urging residents to participate in the consultation.

For further information, see the Preferred Options for the Local Plan 2032 at: [www.southoxon.gov.uk/newlocalplan](http://www.southoxon.gov.uk/newlocalplan)

Copies of the Local Plan 2032 leaflet and comments form are available at Sonning Common Library.

The public consultation will close on Friday 19 August 2016. ●

## GET OUT, VILE WEEDS!

The parish council is planning to do what it can – within its resources – to remove the weeds which are growing from kerb stones on roadsides all around the village. The council is planning to initiate a weed-spraying programme this summer

and asks that residents also help to keep the areas around their property boundaries weed-free. More frequent cuts of the grass at the Lea Road, Baskerville Road and Churchill Crescent play areas will take place over the summer. ●



## WANT TO BE A VILLAGE GARDENER?

New blood is needed to help keep the Village Gardeners going strong. The voluntary group, which has transformed the village centre through the creation of colourful plant displays, meets twice a month for an hour on the first Sunday and third Thursday.

Councillor Chrissie Phillips-Tilbury, of Village Gardeners, said: "The Village Gardeners thank residents for their compliments on the planters and flower-beds in the village centre. We continue to work hard to maintain our standards.

"However, the group is feeling rather frustrated and demoralised about the continuing neglect of property frontages, including grass verges, hedges and weeds in kerb stone areas.

"The district council no longer sprays weeds along roadsides, so it is incumbent on us all to keep the village tidy ourselves."

For further information about Village Gardeners contact Councillor Phillips-Tilbury on: 0118 972 1058 or email: [phillipstilbury@gmail.com](mailto:phillipstilbury@gmail.com) ●

## NEW BINS FOR THE VILLAGE

The parish council has installed smart new bins in the village centre, the skatepark and the three play areas.

The tough metal bins are larger capacity than the ones they replace to cope with the amount of rubbish being generated.

Two double capacity bins have been installed outside the Co-op and the village hall, and single bins beside the Occasions and One-Stop bus stops.

Where possible, the parish council is re-using the original black plastic bins – by replacing some lamppost-mounted bins and adding bins to suitable new locations. ●

## NOTTAKWIRE THANKS

The parish council wishes to thank Nottakwire for its generous donation of £150 towards the landscaping of Sonning Common Skatepark. The money was raised at the community singing group's summer concerts. ●

# TOM FORT SCORCHED MEAT

It is the height of the (alleged) British summer and at weekends the air is filled with smoke and the smell of cooking – all too often over-cooking – meat. It is the season of the barbecue.

Barbecues are generally the province of men. Often this is the only kind of cooking the man of the house does. And because he's a man, it tends to be – not so much a deployment of a culinary art, which it definitely is not – but a test of manhood. So if it goes wrong, the social consequences can be serious.

And being a man, the barbecuer is likely to have a fatal weakness for technological advance. Admiring someone else's gas-fired barbecue with multiple knobs and functions, he will be

inclined to abandon the simple charcoal device that has served him perfectly well for years, and go down the techno route. More fool him – let me say without qualification that barbecues should be fuelled by wood or charcoal, and the gas-powered barbecue is an abominable impostor.

The food actually scraped off the barbecue grill is secondary in importance to the ritualistic aspect of the occasion. Just as well, generally, as more often than not it turns out to be, not so much a titillation of the taste buds as an assault. Sausages burned to a crisp, chick legs scorched on the outside and quivering pink around the bone, steaks like shoe leather – I shudder at what I have suffered.

I did my one barbecue of the year last Saturday. I cooked what I always cook:

butterflied leg of lamb. It's fun, partly because for the first ten minutes you have to leap around squirting water to extinguish the flames from the dripping fat. It looked good, it tasted good, and it was only slightly overdone (a mini-sulk only) and I drank a lot of beer while doing it, which was good. But once is very definitely enough. ●



## COOKS CORNER

By SANDY ONOFRIO

A couple of simple and light recipes to see out the rest of the summer, serve with new potatoes and a green salad. [both recipes require a 23cm pastry case]

### CHICKEN QUICHE (serves 8)

1 tablespoon olive oil	50g grated Cheddar cheese
1 tablespoon plain flour	30g grated Gruyere cheese
4 rashers streaky bacon/pancetta (chopped)	2 eggs, slightly beaten
140g cooked chicken (chopped)	180ml milk
pinch of salt & black pepper	180ml soured cream
1/4 teaspoon nutmeg	



Preheat oven to 200 C / Gas 6. Heat the oil in a good sized pan & add onion and bacon/pancetta. Cook for 5 minutes and then add flour and cook for a further two minutes, stirring frequently. Stir in chicken, salt, pepper and nutmeg. Tip into the bottom of unbaked pastry case, spread evenly and top with the grated cheese. Mix eggs, milk and soured cream until smooth and then pour over the chicken mixture. Bake for 20 minutes and then reduce temperature to 180 C / Gas 4 and bake for a further 35 minutes. ●

### SALMON & TOMATO QUICHE (serves 8)

3 eggs
100g cream or creme fraiche
200g Gruyere cheese (grated)
50g cherry tomatoes halved
3 slices smoked salmon, cut into strips



Mix the eggs with the cream and grated cheese in a bowl. Place the cherry tomatoes (flat side down) and the strips of salmon in the pastry case. Pour the egg and cheese mixture over the top. Bake for 30 minutes. Serve warm or cold. ●



# Just for kids

JUST FOR KIDS

## HI GUYS!

I just want everyone to know I have had a wonderful time creating this page and I hope you have had a great time reading it too! But sadly, I am now moving onto secondary school and so I need to make more time for homework, meaning that I can no longer write this page. I hope this last page makes up for it! Have a lovely summer,

**ZACK**



## THE BEST OF ONLINE

Because the weather has been so bad, I have recently spent a lot of time online. One of the things I have done is create a new you tube account for my Dad. Just look for Jason Hawkes Aerial Photography on you tube if you want to see.

I also created my own website called: **www.drawcartoon.wordpress.com** on which I post pictures I've made on 'Gimp' (I told you all about that in the last edition, remember? Did you give it a try? What did you think?) and sell them as cards for birthdays and things! ●

## THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS MOVIE

I haven't been to the cinema for ages but I'd like to see The Secret Life of Pets. It looks to be a great and funny movie about what really happens when you leave your dogs, cats or other pets alone in the house. It seems like it will be a great adventure for one little dog when his owner suddenly buys another crazy dog! Soon after, they get on a boat that takes them far away from home! Will they get back? Find out! ●



**Star rating: Absolutely no idea as I haven't seen it :)**

## BOOK REVIEW: HOUSE OF SECRETS BY CHRIS COLUMBUS

Three normal kids move into a new house in San Francisco, and strange things begin to happen... What would you do if your world was altered and you found your story in a dark book with untold powers? Funny and fast-paced, this is a great adventure book that I absolutely loved! Did I enjoy it? Of course! If you are 9 or older, you could read all three books in the series over the summer. ●

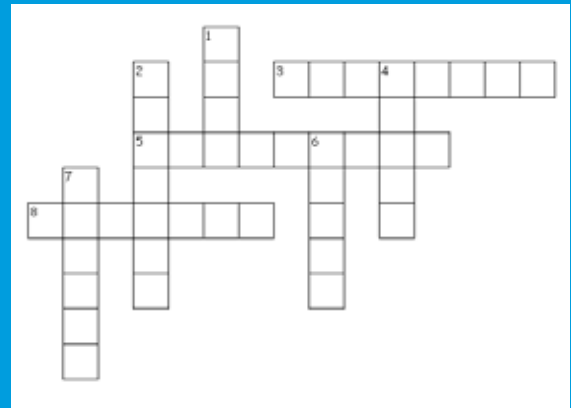
**Star rating: A definite 5 star for the whole trilogy!**



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# LIFE SKILLS TRAINING

## AT CHILTERN EDGE SHOOL

By CHRISTINE ATKINSON

**Year 9 spent one of the days of Enrichment Week learning basic first aid and had a session of CPR training. In the morning School Health Nurse Claire Smith took the children through the procedure when calling 999, recovery positions and how to treat burns. The afternoon was spent with Claire explaining the importance of learning how to perform CPR (Cardiopulmonary resuscitation) and how it can save lives. The equipment used was donated by the British Heart Foundation who have a mission to have all schoolchildren trained in CPR.**

Claire explained the process and then all the students got to practise on a

special mannequin. They realised that you have to press down quite hard to perform the compression properly, and that it is quite hard work to do. All of the students also learned how to perform a rescue breath (mouth to mouth), but also, most importantly, that if you call 999 and get an ambulance assistant on the phone, they will talk you through what to do. Another very important message was about using a defibrillator and that there is one situated at both Chiltern Edge and outside the library by Sonning Common Primary School.

As Claire said 'the worst thing is to do nothing' ... ●



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## AN UPDATE ON THE TERMINATION OF BUS SUBSIDIES, WHICH WILL END ON 20 JULY.

### UPDATES FROM OPERATORS

The majority of operators have now announced the future of their routes and this information is available on [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/subsidisedbuses](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/subsidisedbuses)

A number of operators will continue to run for a trial period. Therefore it is really important that the public use these services and support operators to run them commercially.

### LETTING PEOPLE KNOW ABOUT THESE CHANGES

Where services are discontinuing, or will no longer serve a certain bus stop, the Council will be putting posters up on bus stops to ensure the public are aware. Bus operators will also be putting information on their buses. ●

## DIFFICULTIES WITH UNIVERSAL CREDIT? CONTACT CITIZENS ADVICE

UNIVERSAL CREDIT IS A SINGLE MONTHLY PAYMENT FOR PEOPLE IN OR OUT OF WORK, MERGING BENEFITS AND TAX CREDITS.

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If you are having difficulties claiming Universal Credit, or you know of someone who is, call Advice line on 03444 111 444 or drop in to Citizens Advice Henley at 32 Market Place, next to the Town Hall. We're open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 10.00 am to 1.00 pm, and Wednesdays 3.00 to 6.00 pm.



## SONNING COMMON POLICE VOLUNTEERS a brief history

On 28 January 2002, a Ringmaster (predecessor to Alert police messages) was sent to all Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators stating that "Henley Police are requesting members of the community to assist as volunteers to staff Sonning Common Police Office for a limited number of hours every week to provide a point of contact for the community so that uniformed police officers can concentrate on visible and operational duties".

7 volunteers responded and interviews were held at Henley Police Station. They were inducted in April and commenced training at the front desk of Henley police station under the guidance of the Station Duty Officer, John Slade and continued for one year.

Our Police Office opened in May 2003 – one day a week, Monday, from 10am to

6pm. New volunteers joined, numbering eventually 20 and opening hours were extended to reach by October 2005, 5 days a week. In January 2004 the premises were totally renovated but to avoid closing we opened a Police Point in the Village Hall until the new premises opened in April.

The volunteers provided extended services: lost and found property, reporting of crimes and traffic accidents, production of driving documents even finger printing. They attended numerous courses including first aid, domestic violence, racial equality.

The structure of volunteers within Thames Valley Police was initially very informal but with the passage of time an organized structure was established. Stations run by volunteers became Tier 3 with only limited functions and more

recently the office became a Police Information Point and the functions are now limited to providing advice to the public. Many stations have now closed including the Henley office which is now staffed by volunteers. Our number of volunteers has declined to 8 but the office has remained mostly open from 10am to 5pm, five days a week, with occasional closure due to volunteer's holidays or commitments. Many of the original team continue and while their duties are no longer challenging they are satisfied to provide this link between uniformed officers and the village community.

Contact these days with the police is mostly through the 101 number but visitors to the office continue, often seeking advice or clarification before their trek to the nearest police station in Abingdon or Reading. ●



## KEEP BRITAIN TIDY

Having recently walked across Bishopswood sports field, Monday 13 June, I was appalled to see so much litter scattered over the whole area, more so around the benches and at the far end of the top football pitch. Why is it that people can carry a full 2 litre plastic bottle from the supermarket, but not take it home empty? I'm all for exercise and enjoyment, it's good to see that the space is well used, but please as witnessed beside motorways no litter out of the window or on the playing field!!

I noticed there were no rubbish bins in these vital areas, maybe that would help. By the way the skate park was relatively clear of litter. ●

James Watkins



## Beware - careless damage of car on Wood Lane

I would like to warn all drivers who use Wood Lane outside the Village Hall to take care when parking their cars.

I was correctly parked, facing the right direction, in the bay outside Lloyds Pharmacy, when I popped in for less than 5mins. On my return to my vehicle, I found that my driver's wing mirror had been smashed completely off and was shattered in the road. There was also a scrape along the front side of the car.

Wood Lane is increasingly congested and particularly difficult at the moment once again, as a result of further road works near the new development by the Tandoori Connoisseur. Buses and larger delivery vehicles are facing particular difficulties manoeuvring through a single narrow lane.

I have been left with a bill for an absolute minimum of £40 - and realistically quite a bit more, as well as inconvenience.

Please fold your wing mirrors in if you park in the bays on either side of Wood Lane outside the shops and the Village Hall. ●

Margaret Moola

## Thank You – from a Village Gardener

Having lived in Sonning Common for over sixty years I recently personally experienced the generosity and kindness of some members of our local community. I was given two very generous donations towards buying plants and trees in support of the dedicated work done by our team of Village Gardener volunteers and this brought back many memories of how the village used to be.

As a child I remember the buttercup fields where Churchill Crescent now stands and the lovely herd of Jersey cows that grazed there. The surrounding hedgerows were filled with wild flowers, cow parsley, dock leaves and nettles. The unmade roads were full of potholes, drains were cleaned out once a year and ditches emptied to take the surplus rainwater. A very different place to how the village is now!

I would like to tell everyone about the pleasure it gives me to see the village looking so cared for. The compliments and praise that volunteers receive while working away is really great, and most people respect the work we do by either making money donations for big projects and for replacing trees that have died or giving for bulb planting and summer bedding. It all truly makes a huge difference. The fact that we are so well supported by our Parish Council is also an added bonus.

Please carry on respecting the lovely village we have by picking up litter and dog mess. Making it a better place for us all and continuing to support the work we do makes volunteering so worthwhile. ●

June Fisher

## As Tommy Cooper used to say ...



**Whenever, I walk past skips I remember Tommy phoning his local builders' merchants. He asked "I wanna skip outside my house". "I'm not stopping you" came the reply. That is the amusing side to skips.**

The less amusing side is when neighbours decide the skip you have hired at your own expense is a communal facility to be filled up at will. Mine was filled up the other day .... pretty sure I know who did it but we were out and no-one challenged the miscreant.

Stealing space in skips is still theft. It is not a victimless crime. It costs the skip hirer either more money or inconvenience in fitting intended waste into less space. The Council provides dumps. If, like me, you do not have the facility to take your own home improvement waste to the dump please hire a skip, don't steal other people's skips. Theft is theft. ●

Name and address supplied

## Queen's English no more?

**Is it just me or are there any other readers fed up with the corruption of the English language? I do appreciate Queen's English was phased out long ago.**

**Since the referendum we seem to have lost the ability to pronounce the 'X' in our words and have chosen instead to replace it with a 'G' and a 'Z' i.e. egzit and Bregzit. Even some reporters and presenters in the media have adopted this pronunciation.**

**What hope is there for the English language of the future? ●**

Gillian Day



## Our caring community

Thank you so much to everyone who has sent me their good wishes and condolences on the death of my husband, Michael. I have been overwhelmed and very moved by such kindness. I count myself fortunate to live in such a caring community. ●

Chrissie Phillips-Tilbury

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# DID YOU KNOW THIS NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY?

Oxfordshire Libraries have just begun a subscription to Zinio, a new Reference Online service which allows customers to access electronic versions of current magazines for free!

This is available from the Reference Online pages and (together with the Press Display newspaper service) has a direct link: [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/enews](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/enews)

The magazines available on Zinio are identical to the print versions in newsagents, and the service has a small back catalogue covering the last 12 issues. Customers can create an account for free and either view the magazines on their PCs or via the Zinio App available for mobile devices.

There is a small collection of titles available at present covering a wide range of interests, but if there is sufficient use we may be able to expand the selection: if there is a title you're particularly interested in, please let us know as this will help us make the right decisions on what titles to take in future. ●

## The following titles are available on Zinio right now:

- Amateur Photographer
- Auto Express
- What Car
- The Economist
- Computer Active
- Gardener's World
- Women's Fitness
- Good Housekeeping
- Total Film
- BBC Good Food
- Men's Fitness
- Mojo
- BBC History
- RasPi
- Ideal Home
- Diva
- GT
- Esquire
- BBC Music
- Countryfile
- How It Works
- Marie Claire



## FRIENDS OF SONNING COMMON LIBRARY

Since August 2014, Sonning Common Library has been run with the help of enthusiastic volunteers.

The team supports the professional staff by, among other things, shelving books, running story-times, helping customers use the self-service machines and delivering books to people in the community.

The cuts to Oxfordshire County Council's budget, which made it necessary to find volunteers to help run the library, are now threatening the book fund.

The central library book fund is being cut and the S.C library manager's fund is being done away with altogether. To help make up

the shortfall, the Friends of Sonning Common Library (FoSCL) is being revived as a way of raising funds.

First set up in 1998, the Friends each paid a subscription to help buy books. Since then, the group has also helped fight two successful campaigns to save the library – the most recent in 2010/11 – but is no longer active.

To become a Friend please complete the application form overleaf. For an annual subscription of £10, you will be registered as a member. You will be sent a receipt and, in due course, an invitation to the Annual General Meeting later this year, when you can hear how the money is being spent.

Members of the Volunteers' Steering Group are currently running FoSCL but will stand for re-election at the AGM.

Subscriptions will be spent on books, which will all be identified with a FoSCL bookplate. ●



# THE LIFE CHANGING POWER OF A LIBRARY

**Adapted from an article in the Guardian  
8.6.16 by Diana Pearman**

Groups of older people who meet together to read found that it is 'a fantastic way to encourage the group to keep mentally active and engaged'. This study has been conducted by NHS North West and further researched by the University of Liverpool.

They found that shared reading in groups offers particular benefits. 'Almost 90% spoke of uplifted mood, better concentration and better long and short term memory'.

Much of this research was conducted in care homes but it is likely that there would be similar benefits and probably positive spin off effects to those who wish to read together in a community library. Reading encourages the use of imagination and provides points of discussion. Other benefits include reduced levels of agitation while older people's sense of connectedness to a wider community was also improved by taking part in reading groups.

If any resident is interested in joining a reading group please contact Rosemary Dunstan, in the library. ●

## Our library is working with Age Concern in Oxfordshire

- On the 3rd Thursday of every month an Age Concern advisor is available in the library from 10.45am – 12 noon for any age-related questions or problems
- On the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of every month an Age Concern trained IT adviser is available in the library from 10.00am – 11.30am for help with laptops, smart phones and tablet devices. (People should bring their devices with them)
- There will be a gadget drop-in session on Wednesday 21st September from 4pm – 7pm for anyone having problems with mobile technology. (Again, people should bring their devices with them)

## 'The Big Friendly Read'

### SUMMER READING CHALLENGE 2016

Storytimes, craft sessions and cakes for sale every Saturday morning in August

The challenge is to read 6 books between July and the end of September

The Roald Dahl themed certificate and medal will be presented to all 'finishers'.

# FRIENDS OF SONNING COMMON LIBRARY

## APPLICATION FORM

Please fill in the form below and either deliver it, or post it, to:  
Sonning Common Library, Grove Road, Sonning Common RG4 9RH.

Name: .....

Address: .....

Postcode: .....

Email address: .....

Telephone Home: .....

Mobile: .....

Your details will not be shared with others without your permission

I enclose a cheque for: .....

(which includes an extra donation of) .....

Cheques should be made payable to Friends of Sonning Common Library. Receipts will be sent by email.

Please tick only if you require a paper receipt ☐

If you would like to pay online or require an additional application form please contact FoSCL by email:

**friendsofsonningcommonlibrary@gmail.com** ●



# Church *news*

## CELEBRATIONS FOR THE QUEEN'S 90TH BIRTHDAY

At Christ the King Church in Sedgewell Road, Sonning Common lots of people of all ages came and enjoyed a fun afternoon on 11 June, in the hall and garden, ably organised by Sue Nickson. The area was decorated with Union Jack bunting and balloons and there was a definite festive air. With outdoor games and crafts for children, cream teas, strawberries and cream and lots of lovely cakes as well as various sale goods. There was something for everyone.

It was great to see so many children enjoying simple activities in the warm summer weather. It cannot be said that the sun shone but at least it did not rain and it was warm enough to sit outside. We were pleased to raise some money for the Parish but the main objective was to put on an event for the community and we seemed to achieve that. ●



# MAINLY MUSIC

MORNINGS ARE THE VERY BEST TIME OF THE DAY!  
'CAUSE WHEN THE SUN COMES UP IT'S TIME TO PLAY!  
MORNINGS ARE THE VERY BEST TIME OF THE DAY!  
GOTTA GET UP! GOTTA GET READY!  
IT'S A MAINLY MUSIC DAY!

## A new group for pre-school children in Sonning Common has been launched.

Hosted by Sonning Common Free Church, 'Mainly Music' is designed for children 0-5 years old, and focuses on music and movement with lots of fun thrown in. Songs & rhymes focus on helping children to develop their gross and fine motor skills, language and basic maths concepts, and to enjoy playing with other children in the context of a warm and loving community.

Adults and caregivers participate in the session creating a special time when they can interact and connect one to one with their children, enjoying the music and having fun. After 30 mins of music and movement there's time for refreshments and chat while the children play with a range of toys.

Mainly Music opened its doors to welcome families & children at the end of June, and after a school holiday break will be open again from September onwards.

Samantha Seccombe leads the group. 'We want to welcome families into the church and serve the local community. Mainly Music is an opportunity to spend relaxed time with our children, celebrating the way God has made us and enjoying his world through the gift of music. We're looking forward to meeting you!'

Mainly Music will be open each Friday from 10.30 -12.00 starting again on September 9th. Cost is £3 / session.

Places are limited by space so please contact Samantha Seccombe at [sonningcommon.mainlymusic@gmail.com](mailto:sonningcommon.mainlymusic@gmail.com) or 0118 972 3822 to book yours! ●

<https://www.mainlymusic.org/>



# DIARY DATES

## AUGUST

**Sunday 7 - 10:00 - 16:00**

Felt makers get together. Bring lunch and a project to work on. Village Hall

**Monday 8 - 14:30**

FISH - Tea party. Village Hall

**Thursday 18 - 11:30**

FISH - Pub lunch

**Thursday 25 - 09:00**

FISH - Henley Farmers' Market

## SEPTEMBER

**Saturday 3 - 14:30 - 16:30**

Chiltern Edge Horticultural Society Autumn Show. Chiltern Edge School

**Sunday 4 - 10:00 - 16:00**

Felt makers get together. Bring lunch and a project to work on. Village Hall

**Monday 5 - 14:30**

Royal British Legion Women's Section - Branch AGM & Subs. Batten House

**Wednesday 7 - 10:30 - 12:00**

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

**Monday 12 - 14:30**

FISH - Tea party. Village Hall

**Monday 12 - 20:00**

Sonning Common Parish Council. Village Hall

**Thursday 15 - 11:30**

FISH - Pub lunch

**Thursday 15 - 19:30**

Sonning Common Women's Institute - "Associated Country Women of the World", a talk by Mary Gregory. Visitors welcome. Village Hall

**Wednesday 21 - 18:45 - 21:00**

Chiltern Edge School - Open Evening. Chiltern Edge School

**Thursday 22 - 09:00**

FISH - Henley Farmers' Market

**Wednesday 28 & Thursday 29 - 09:15 - 10:45**

Chiltern Edge School - Open Morning Chiltern Edge School

**Thursday 29 - 07:00 - 10:00**

Referendum on Neighbourhood Plan. Village Hall

# ADVERTISERS DIRECTORY

A B Walker & Sons Ltd Funeral Directors	<b>30</b>	Kennylands Gymnastics	<b>14</b>
Alphabet Day Nursery	<b>Back</b>	Kidbys	<b>9</b>
AMAXS Plumbing Heating Electrical	<b>14</b>	Kidmore End Pre-School	<b>22</b>
Barrs Insurance Services	<b>Back</b>	Milo Technical Support (Computers)	<b>35</b>
Barn Store (Secure Self Store)	<b>22</b>	Moore's Painting & Decorating	<b>8</b>
Beacon Flooring	<b>8</b>	Paul's Painting & Decorating	<b>26</b>
Beville Estate Agency	<b>2</b>	Peppard Building Supplies	<b>8</b>
Bondright Roofing Services	<b>8</b>	Pet Country Supplies	<b>22</b>
Bonner Locksmiths	<b>9</b>	Pilates ABC	<b>30</b>
Brambles Floral Service	<b>9</b>	Property Maintenance	<b>22</b>
Bridges Property	<b>15</b>	Red Kite Electrical	<b>9</b>
Byways Dental	<b>8</b>	Robin James Opticians	<b>9</b>
Carl Woods Butchers Ltd	<b>27</b>	S J Hinton Carpenter & Joiner	<b>35</b>
Carpet Fitter	<b>2</b>	Sonning Common Beauty	<b>35</b>
Caversham Aerial Services	<b>2</b>	Sonning Common Garage	<b>30</b>
Compass Water Softeners	<b>12</b>	Sonning Common Pet Care	<b>12</b>
Computer Repairs	<b>22</b>	Sonning Common Pre-School	<b>2</b>
Curtains, Blinds, Pelmetts,	<b>14</b>	Spruce Property Maintenance Service	<b>14</b>
David Walker Decorator	<b>22</b>	Studio One (Pilates, Matwork & Yoga)	<b>8</b>
Davis Tate Estate Agency	<b>26</b>	T C Fuller Plumbing & Heating	<b>12</b>
DK Builders	<b>12</b>	Tai Chi Classes	<b>Back</b>
E H Hamley & Son (Builders & Decorators)	<b>12</b>	Tandoori Connoisseur	<b>35</b>
Elements Kitchen Design	<b>2</b>	Tereena Hartin Personal Trainer	<b>Back</b>
Family Hairdressing	<b>12</b>	TexturePlus (Interior & Exterior Decorating)	<b>30</b>
Family Mediation	<b>26</b>	Time 4 Pilates	<b>9</b>
Functional Physio	<b>Back</b>	Tomalin and Son Funeral Directors	<b>Back</b>
Girl Power (Electrician)	<b>30</b>	TradeMark (Windows, Doors, Conservatories)	<b>26</b>
Graham Blake Soft Furnishings	<b>14</b>	TV Aerial Services	<b>12</b>
Gunning Plumbing	<b>12</b>	Village Barbers	<b>9</b>
Heights Tree Care	<b>14</b>	Wee-Cot Seating	<b>26</b>
Henley Glazing & Window Centre Ltd	<b>35</b>	Wood Lane Dentistry	<b>2</b>
Influential Computers	<b>8</b>		
Jefferies Accountancy Services Ltd	<b>26</b>		
Just Brickwork & Pointing	<b>35</b>		

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

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

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

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



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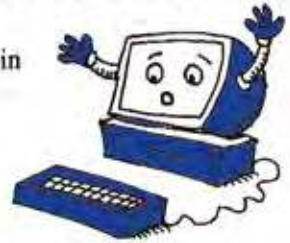
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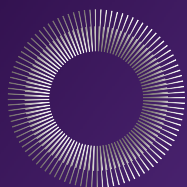
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Catherine Matthews MCSP  
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## Tereena Hartin

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



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