

SC

SONNING COMMON MAGAZINE

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Come along and have
your say!
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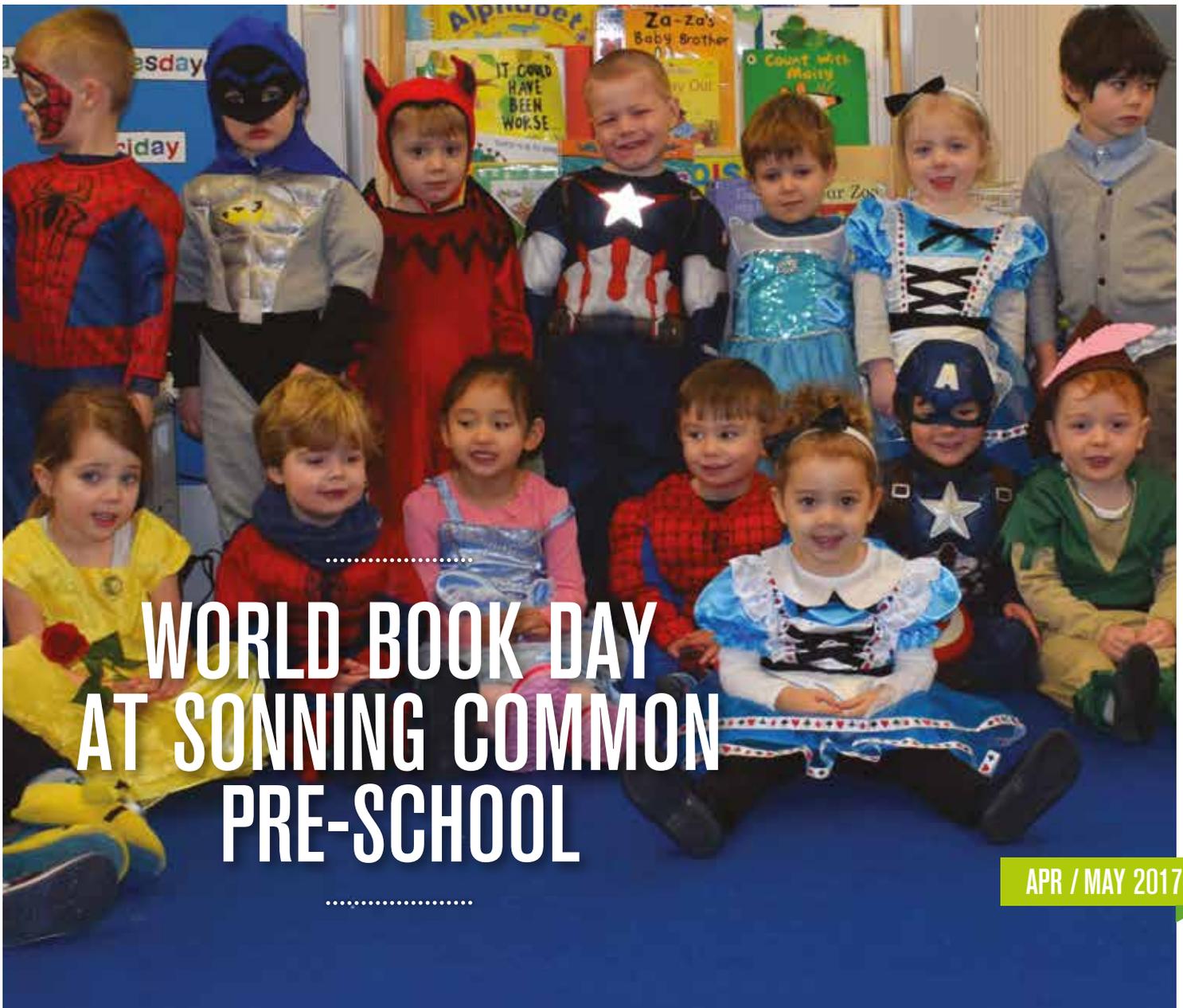
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APR / MAY 2017

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Afternoon sessions are 12.00pm - 3.00pm



FROM THE EDITORIAL TEAM

Spring is here and the daffodils around the village are looking good! An exciting new venture for the Sonning Common magazine has been proposed and will be led by Colleen Paviour. We are holding an evening discussion event 'What makes a village?' Please come and share your views. More details on page 4.

The In Focus pages, written by the Mick Stanyer (who developed the 'Urban Jungle' garden that you may remember in last September's issue) has written an update from the days of wireless radio 'Two Way Family Favourites' to the amazing technology now installed for the British Forces overseas. It will be serialised over the next couple of issues

Our much respected, highly regarded and well-loved Dr Andrew Burnett is leaving the Health Centre at the end of March and in an interview, he has shared his thoughts on how the practice has changed, driven by medical needs, and included some predictions for the future of the NHS.

Leah Tilley in The Edge has linked the Simpsons with the prediction of Trump's election. An amusing and fascinating piece. Finally, the 'piece de resistance', is the village protest against 95 homes on SON 6 which is described on the Parish page, celebrating our triumph for local democracy.

I have mentioned five notable articles but there is lots more in the magazine which I hope you will enjoy. If they stimulate you to write something I would be delighted.

Over the last four issues there have been extracts printed from 'The Village that Never was' by Fred Richens. His book has been republished by his daughters and is available for purchase in the library. It is a fascinating read. ●

Diana Pearman Editor

Email: editor@sonningcommonmagazine.org



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Design & Artwork: Kevin Taplin

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07887902376 / 0118 957 6929

Print: Rick Peedell

Xplor Ltd
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07766 254422 / 0118 9471955

Cover image: WORLD BOOK DAY AT SCPS

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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CHOPPER-MAD CYCLIST LAUNCHES ON YOUR BIKE!

“Cycling gives you a sense of freedom,” Henley cyclist, Matt Richardson, told children at Sonning Common Primary School. “You can’t beat the feeling of going fast in the open air, particularly on the flat or down hills. It’s like flying”.

Matt Richardson inspired children to sign up for this year’s On Your Bike, which is on Sunday 2nd April, with stories of pedalling his 1975 Raleigh Chopper bike up mountains, often overtaking cyclists who were much better equipped.

Matt also set a World Hour Record on his vintage chopper and his escapades have helped raise thousands of pounds to fight blood cancer.

“If you’re worried about the distance,” Matt told the children, “Don’t ride too

fast at the beginning. Don’t worry about how fast everyone else is going. The ride is about what you yourself can achieve.”

Claire Burnett, a senior staff nurse in the Emergency Dept at the Royal Berkshire Hospital, is a former pupil at the school and told everyone she’d cycled On Your Bike with her family at least 8 times. She urged the children to wear helmets.

100% of all entry fees and monies raised in 2017 will be shared between Sonning Common Primary School, Sue Ryder and the Emergency Department at the Royal Berks. ●

TOP RIGHT: Matt Richardson on his vintage Raleigh Chopper.

RIGHT: Joe Hybert, 9, Matt Richardson, Claire Burnett, Sam Archibald, 10, Rob & Geoff Bowen from AW Cycles.



WHAT MAKES A VILLAGE?

Preparations are in full swing for Sonning Common Magazines’ first-ever village talk to be held on Thursday 27 April in the village hall.

The event **What Makes a Village?** will kick off at 7.45 for 8pm with a short talk on the topic of villages, presented by SC Magazine columnist, author Tom Fort.

A small yet varied panel of Sonning Common residents will then explore a range of issues central to village life today before the discussion is handed over to our audience, who will be invited to join in the conversation. Magazine editor Diana Pearman will close the evening with a look forward to our community’s future.

Tickets are £3 each (or £5 for two) and include a glass of wine or beverage of choice. They are now on sale in Occasions, Wood Lane, or via John Pearman on 0118 972 2381. Tickets are limited, we suggest buying them early to guarantee a seat.

We look forward to seeing you, and hearing your voice on the 27th. ●



MY NEW BOOK, THE VILLAGE NEWS - WITH TWO CHAPTERS ABOUT SONNING COMMON - IS BEING PUBLISHED NEXT MONTH AND THERE WILL BE A LOCAL LAUNCH AT THE BELL BOOKSHOP IN HENLEY AT 6.30PM ON THURSDAY 6 APRIL 6 AT WHICH READERS OF THE MAGAZINE WOULD BE MOST WELCOME.

Tom Fort

SONNING COMMON PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

by Christine Atkinson

INTERNET SAFETY

Tuesday 7 February was national Safer Internet Day. Although the internet is mostly a fantastic asset to us all, there are apps and websites that are not so fantastic for our younger generation. Most of the time they are using social media and chat sites to discuss and share ideas, music, gossip etc, but sadly it can also be used for all sorts of cyber bullying. Stories are often in the news regarding young people who have suffered terribly from this, to the extent that they self harm, or even take their own lives.

SCPS wanted to have an open debate about using the internet safely, and arranged a gathering of parents (and a very good turnout of Year Five and Six children) for their first ever Internet Safety discussion.

A panel of ex-students also attended to help current students and parents

navigate their way through the joys and uncertainties of using the Internet and Social Media through to secondary school. The discussion was lively and interesting, with tweeted and texted questions in addition to those from the audience. Two of the school staff Mrs Rae (IT technician) and Dr Loader (teacher) organised the evening and thanked the audience for turning out, and especially the young panel.

Chris Hirst - Headteacher - said of the panel ‘you are a credit to yourselves and your schools, and your articulate and positive answers to questions from the floor sent us all home more informed, and with plenty to think about. Thank you all’

Some of the interesting questions received on the night:

What is the right age to have an email account?

Is musical.ly safe?

Have you had any problems with social media?

Has your phone ever been hacked into?

Should people tell a parent if something bad has happened on social media and why?

How do you stop your child playing games throughout the night?

Why are there age restrictions?

Have you ever had a problem with your friends on social media?

Should you or your parents check who is following you on social media?

Have you ever received a rude message?

Has anyone found out your password?

How do kids handle jealousy and bullying on social media?

For more information please see <https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/2017> ●

WORLD BOOK DAY AT SONNING COMMON PRE-SCHOOL

by Colleen Paviour

Sonning Common Pre-school celebrated World Book Day this year by focussing on *Dear Zoo*, by Rod Campbell and *What the Ladybird Heard*, by Julia Donaldson.

The children described the main characters and re-told the stories using crafted props.

Pre-schoolers were encouraged to dress up as their favourite book character

on the days surrounding World Book Day, officially on 2 March this year.

Pre-school Manager, Clare Saunders, said: “We saw a range of outfits from Winnie the Pooh, Funnybones to Alice in Wonderland and Beauty and the Beast.”

She added: “This term we’ve also been looking at animals and their babies. The children loved it when a fictional character, Delia the Dragon, visited and left them some dragon eggs to look after for a week.”

Sonning Common Pre-school, a charity run by a parent-led committee, is located next to the primary school in Grove Road. It has played a central role in child care in the village for over 50 years. ●



YEAR 5 GO EUROPEAN!

Year 5 had an exciting term 3 studying Ancient Greece. In February they had a whole day workshop where they all arrived on a chilly winter morning dressed in tunics and sandals! The children made mosaic tiles, designs in soap and learnt about life as an ancient greek.





Welcome to Puddle Common Potholeshire

Alan Goswell sent in this photo with this suggested rename of Sonning Common. The photo was taken on Wood Lane. If you are concerned please visit www.fixmystreet.com. Large numbers of complaints registered might effect a repair!! ●



CHARLIE JARVEST (Young Volunteer)

Charlie Jarvest is a 16 year old young man from Sonning Common who has been volunteering at Club SC for several months. He also attended the club for two or three years as a young member, where he distinguished himself by helping to run the tuck shop. He currently helps in the sports hall on Wednesdays for the 10 to 13 year old members, where he organises the ball games with great skill and ensures the young people enjoy their evening.

Charlie has recently undertaken a Young Leaders Course at Oxfordshire Youth and has been awarded a Young Achievers Award from South and Vale District Council, which was presented to him on 22 February by the Chairman of SODC, Paul Harrison, himself a Sonning Common resident. ●

OUR LIBRARY NEEDS MORE VOLUNTEERS

Friends of Sonning Common Library is pleased to announce that it has been recognised by HMRC as a charitable organisation for tax purposes. This means any donations to FoSCL are eligible for the Gift Aid scheme.

The Friends recently received two very generous donations of £100 – one from Sonning Common WI and one from an individual library user. Many thanks to both from the whole village.

We are still on the look out for more

volunteers – please speak to the library staff, contact FoSCL direct at friendsofsonningcommonlibrary@gmail.com or come and find our stall at Sonning Common primary school fair on 17 June. ●



THOSE WERE THE DAYS

I have been asked to write my memories of the time I ran the Sonning Common Youth Club in the early 1960's.

It started when a group of local people in the village advertised for someone to run a youth club and for better or worse, I volunteered. I was rather apprehensive as to how these young people and I would get on together. But I had no problems, they were a super crowd.

What happened in the early days of the club ie. 55 plus years ago is a bit beyond me, so I shall write what I think is relevant.

We used to meet Mondays and Fridays at Kidmore End Memorial hall and with a membership of close to 100 (I was told it was too many) but we got by.

When the club was established we got involved in endless activities, ranging from various sporting competitions, where we did rather well, to talks, films and demonstrations. Probably the most

prominent speaker was Sir John Hunt the first man to climb Everest. The hall was overflowing that evening.

We had a plentiful supply of Rock N Roll, three groups I remember 'The Trends' (local) 'The Raiders' and 'The Wild Ones'. Does anyone remember them? These dances went well – no trouble. There was a snooker table in the hall in those days which was quite well used.

The Youth group twice entered decorated floats at Gala days in Henley, people dressed up, although we did not win anything but it was fun. One year some of the members went on holiday abroad. Another year a group of young people from Norway stayed with families in the village including some of the club members.

I think that brings an end to my memories, although a little vague. Many thanks to those who helped and supported me in those early years. ●

C. A. Pryke

VILLAGE COFFEE MORNINGS GO FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH

At the Village Coffee Morning held in February, we were pleased to be able to distribute £700 from the proceeds of our 2016 fundraising efforts. This sum was divided between five worthy local community projects, which Sonning Common WI is proud to support: FISH; Club SC; Sonning Common Lunch Club; Thames Valley Air Ambulance and Friends of Sonning Common Library. The beneficiaries have told us how the local donations they receive can enhance the services they provide locally, which reward their aims and ours.

The atmosphere in the Village Hall was buzzing. Many local residents came to socialise and enjoy the presentations to representatives of the selected projects.

The 'Village Coffee Mornings' were first introduced in 2013 by Sonning Common Women's Institute, for the purpose of giving our members an opportunity to meet during the daytime and, of equal importance, to welcome the wider local community to join us for a monthly social event which involved simply enjoying an amiable chat over a tea or coffee in the

Village Hall. We have been so grateful for the support we have received from villagers over the last four years, and have received many positive comments, such as "we really look forward to this monthly coffee morning; the atmosphere is so friendly". The success, really has gone from strength to strength!

Sales tables were later introduced in order to raise funds for local community projects with items available such as costume jewellery, paperback books, craft items, and hand-crafted greetings cards, all at very reasonable prices. Greenshoots (Ways & Means Trust) from Peppard also support us by having their own sales table of produce such as seasonal vegetables, plants, jams etc.

The Village Coffee Mornings are usually held on the first Wednesday of the month from 10.30 – 12.00. The next one will be on Wednesday 5 April. Future dates are publicised on village noticeboards and in this magazine's diary page. We hope to see many of you at our next event, where you will receive a very warm welcome. Thank you all so much for your continued

support, which is very much appreciated by us and the community. ●

Gill Hayward, Chair, Fundraising Committee, Sonning Common WI

WI presentation

FISH: Fred Nickson
 FRIENDS OF SONNING COMMON LIBRARY: Jennifer Hutchinson
 THAMES VALLEY AIR AMBULANCE: Jose Huggins
 CLUB SC: Carol Viney
 WI FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE: Gill Hayward
 SONNING COMMON LUNCH CLUB: Freda Buckner
 SCWI: Jenny Ward, President



LOCAL ESTATE AGENT, DAVIS TATE, APPOINTS NEW MANAGING DIRECTOR

Davis Tate, has appointment Matthew Bates as its new Managing Director. Matthew Davis and David Tate, following 25 successful years at the helm will continue to play an active role in the business.



Matthew – who grew up in Reading and continues to live nearby – has worked for 12 years as Lettings Director within Davis Tate.

Matthew commented: "I am obviously delighted to have been promoted to this new position and look forward to building on the success of my predecessors who positioned Davis Tate as one of the most successful agencies in the region" www.davistate.com

We would like this opportunity to apologise to our valued advertiser, Davis Tate, for the printing error made in their advert in the last issue of the magazine. ●



NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY

For the first time in many years the library will be open on Easter Saturday, from 9.30am – 12.30pm. There will be a storytime at 10am as usual. With the recent demise of the Children's Centre, local health visitors are now holding their Baby Clinics in the library on Thursdays from 1 – 2.30pm. (The library is officially closed between 1 and 2pm, but the doors are open for those with babies)

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

A reminder of our regular activities:

- 1st and 3rd Mondays (except Bank Holidays) Rhymetime at 10am
- 2nd Wednesdays: Childminders and Nannies Group meet at 10am
- Every Thursday from 10am – 12 noon: Gadget drop-in sessions
- Every Thursday from 1-2.30pm: Baby Clinic
- Every Friday from 10am – 12 noon: Scrabble Club
- Every Saturday from 10am: Storytime

For more information about library activities phone: (0118) 9722448

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 9.30am - 12.30pm
 Storytime at 10am

The Holiday Club @ Chiltern Edge

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 Monday 10th April - Thursday 13th April
 Summer 2017
 Monday 24th July - Friday 18th August 2017

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FACEBOOK



By COLLEEN PAVIOUR

I randomly chose the next visitor to the Facebook page. Andrew William Morris is a freelance project manager in asset management. He lives with his family just over the Sonning Common boundary, in Peppard.

What are your ties to the area?

"I was born in Emmer Green and lived in Caversham my entire life until we moved to Peppard six months ago.

"I went to Chiltern Edge and over the years I've been involved with Rotherfield Peppard and Kidmore End Football clubs.

"My parents, Anne and Frank Morris (now deceased), lived in Sonning Common, near Kennylands Gym for decades. My mother Anne was involved with village

Green Gym and my father Frank was treasurer for the local charity FISH.

"My in-laws also live in Sonning Common. So I definitely consider myself a local."

How have you seen the village change over the decades?

"For many years there wasn't really much change in and around Sonning Common, but I think now it's hitting a turning point because the pressure seems to be all on development.

"Village life is what you make of it, and it certainly exists, not just in Sonning Common, but in Kidmore End, Peppard and Gallowstree Common.

"They're lovely little places, but things could change with the pressure to develop. If we're not careful we'll end up like Reading South where villages have

been lost, absorbed into one urban mass."

Favourite spot in Sonning Common?

"Probably the duck pond. I like that it's not on the main road. And I have fond memories of days spent on Millennium Green where we used to play an annual family game of rounders."

What's your view on the recent bid to create a so-called 'super council' that would cover all of Oxfordshire?

"I think it's a double-edged sword. You need to cut costs but if it becomes very Oxford-centric we'll start to come more under the sphere of Reading because Oxford is 20 miles away and Reading is three. I'm happy for them to combine services but local representation will be key." ●

20 RACES, 200 MILES TO SUPPORT DAISY'S DREAM

Over the coming months I have set myself the mammoth task of running over 200 miles in 20 half-marathons and 10k runs to raise money for the charity Daisy's Dream. I live in Gallowstree Common.

For someone who has only ever entered one race before I am aware that this is a huge undertaking - a couple of years ago I could never have imagined myself in this position. I always enjoyed sport when I was younger but I would always dread even running round the pitch to warm up and my exercising certainly dwindled after my school days. This all changed however, when I downloaded a run-tracking app on my phone and went out jogging last summer. Instantly, my competitive spirit was awoken; every

run I was determined to beat the target I had set myself on my previous run. This culminated in October last year when I proudly ran my first race, a half-marathon in 1hr45mins.

I hope that the challenge I have set myself encourages others to donate to a brilliant charity and helps Daisy's Dream to meet their increasing demand. I am currently training five times a week to ensure I am in good condition to complete the challenge ahead. The headline figure of the 200 miles I am running in races, only scratches the surface once I account for the miles I am running and cycling in training. I am very grateful for all the support I have received so far, and it certainly helps my motivation and makes the difficulty of

my task incredibly rewarding.

If you wish to donate and for further information please visit my fundraising page:

<https://www.daisysdream.org.uk/fundraisers/20-races-200-miles> ●

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ANDREW BURNETT A VERY SPECIAL DOCTOR WHO WILL BE MISSED!

By DIANA PEARMAN

Modesty is the first striking quality which shines through any conversation held with Dr Burnett. When asked about the changes he has seen in the Health Centre over the years while he has been in charge, he claims there are very few things that he has worked on his own. "It is a team and so I cannot take individual glory." In 1985 he took over the practice from Dr Hemphill which was already very innovative with revolutionary ideas such as working as a team with community nurses and training GPs. So, it was good environment to start in and he thinks it probably took 5 years to really understand the practice to get under its skin and begin to think out of the box in a creative way. He is very proud of the of the young GPs he has trained and who have moved onto practices in Henley, Goring and Nettlebed.

He has taken responsibility for the two major developments of the premises, transforming it from small to a large hulking monolith. The space is needed as it houses other services such as district nurses, counsellors and physio. Medicine is more complex and is no longer a 'one man band'. He reminds me of one bright young doctor William Bird who introduced the Health Walks and Green Gym. The health centre is renowned for its encouragement of healthy activity and Dr Burnett commented that his "little part of that was to Introduce, 17 years ago, a cycling group every Tuesday evening from the time the clocks fall back until they go forward. We live in such a wonderful part of the world. The OYB village cycling day was an initiative I have always supported from its inception." As team doctor on a two-week cycling trip round Vietnam he was at the back mopping up, both physically and verbally. "Cycling is a wonderful way to see a country especially for meeting the people". Since then he

has cycled through Thailand, Laos, Sri Lanka (just after the civil war stopped) and Jordan. Asked if it is also a family activity he said "most of them cycle but I think one of my sons has been turned off by my enthusiasm. Recently my wife and I cycled in the New Forest and along the coast". He is very keen to do more cycling once he has more time. "I just enjoy it, as physically I am not the speediest".

"Recruitment of GPs is a national current concern. Training GPs has helped recruit to the Sonning Common practice. It reaps rewards but it needs space and time. The cost of housing is still an obstacle to recruitment in this area, even though GPs are well paid. The perception is that it is a hard job and less well informed politicians are highly critical which does not help. The NHS needs good quality care from GPs to stop hospitals being the first port of call. Not being on call makes life easier than in the past but demand during the day is much more intense. Expectations from patients are much



higher and patients want instant success. It is considered that UK has a world class health service. But this is arguable. There will never be enough money. We are living longer and have more productive lives in better health; not so many heart attacks or strokes and survival rates for cancer are improving. Alongside the better health care are the improvements in diet and housing. Maintaining people for longer is the next challenge as is the cost and supply of drugs. But it is what the health service should be doing".

So how does a Health centre become outstanding he replies "Leading an outstanding practice requires many ingredients and there are really good people working here. Additionally, we have a patient group who work with us. In consequence people feel very warm towards us".

Health care reforms and care in the community is much cheaper than in hospitals. But the NHS has put more and more money into hospitals rather than general practice and yet all the time it is expected that more could be done. "Sonning Common Health centre can absorb a lot of that but practices round the country are reaching the limit of what is possible".

So, if it cannot be done in other areas what is the answer? He predicts

"Other parts of the country are making increasing use of other clinicians such as nurse practitioners, pharmacists and paramedics as the first point of contact for urgent problems. Triage can work but many people come with multiple problems and if a doctor is not consulted then this could be missed.". Andrew Lansley's Health Act resulted in funding changes and patient choice. Therefore, GPs commission services and this requires more planning and organisation.

Townlands has been a big success. People's concern was the loss of hospital beds but now that it is fully open it has seen and helped a lot more patients. Research has shown that even one day in hospital leads to a huge loss of muscle and the start of dependency. By contrast in the Rapid Access Clinical Unit (RACU) the patient visits on the day and goes home to their own bed. They can then be cared for as an out-patient backed up by care at home. One of the public's anxieties was the move of resources from hospital and onto care in the community. RACU is much more effective and costs about the same as the hospital beds but the clinical care is much better with there is quick access to specialists. The other part of the resident's anxiety is the lack of social care and there will never be enough. Henley has the lowest need for social care in Oxon. When it is not there

the health service picks up the tab. In Manchester they are running health and social care together but this is difficult because social care is means tested but health care is not. "Lots of people are over 65 in this village but look at the great things that happen here. Many are powered by the older people FISH, Nottakwire, Christmas dinner and lunch clubs".

With a continuing huge enthusiasm for the job why go now? "I am tired. I start at 7.40am and leave at 7.30 or even 9pm. The job demands stamina and I want to stop while I have the physical energy, rather than when I am stressed and disillusioned." His term as Locality Clinical Director of the Clinical Commissioning Group, leading ten practices, is coming to an end but he has been asked to stay on to chair the group looking at the clinical aspect of the local transformation plans for the rest of the year. "I will do some out of hours work to keep up my clinical practice but nowhere could be as good as this".

The accolades abound for Dr Burnett's work and many appear in the Health Centre newsletter and can be found on line. <http://www.sonningcommonhealthcentre.co.uk/info.aspx?p=8> go to right hand side 3rd sub heading, Further information, Dr Burnett retirement. ●

EASILY-ACCESSED BLUEBELL WOODS IN SONNING COMMON

Both Bur Wood and Rudgings Plantation are beautiful sights in late April/early May when they are covered with masses of bluebells. They can be accessed from the footpath to Bur Wood which starts in Kennylands Road, beside property number 110. This is most safely reached from the Millenium Green, which has an exit through a metal kissing gate almost directly opposite the entrance to the footpath. Walking along Kennylands Road is not advised as there are no pavements along the section where the footpath starts. The footpath itself is flat and wide, with attractive country views on either side of it for most of its length. Access to the field which leads across to the woodland is now by a smart new wooden kissing gate, rather than by the old metal stile. The bluebells in the narrow strip of Rudgings Plantation on the right of the main path will soon be visible; those in Bur Wood on the left are better seen from lower down on the main path. ●

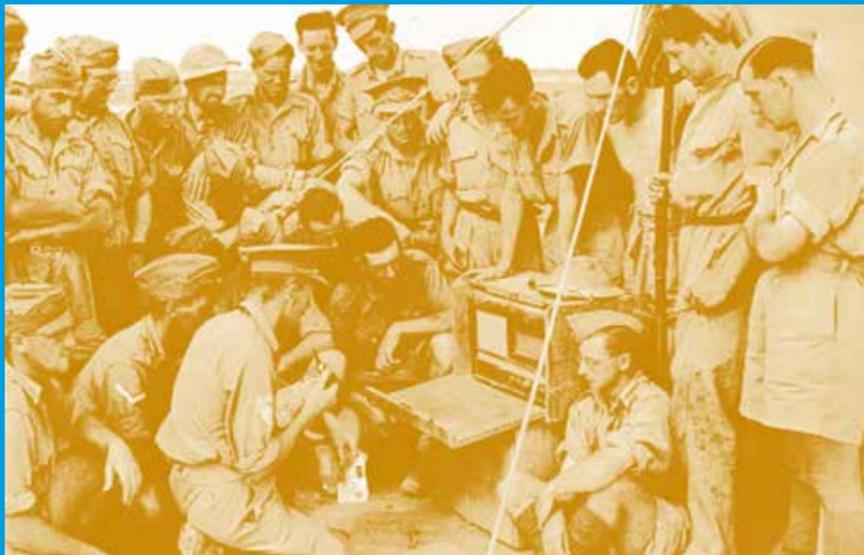
STAN RUST



DO YOU REMEMBER “TWO WAY FAMILY FAVOURITES”?

By MICK STANYER

After World War 2 many British Forces remained overseas separated from their friends and families. Sundays in those days was a very quiet day, all the shops were shut and for some, midday was the highlight when families who could not meet up with those abroad could tune into the BBC's programme Family Favourites. A special edition of this programme called "Two Way Family Favourites" linked service personnel abroad with their families at home via requests.



INTRODUCING FORCES BROADCASTING

BFN or "British Forces Network" started way back in the 1940's, during the second World War when the then Military Commanders felt that troops deployed on operations needed entertainment and information. As such, a much needed boost of morale was injected into those who found themselves many miles from home. And so the British Forces Network or BFBS (British Forces Broadcasting Service) as it is known today was born, and where else better to start this journey from, other than a harem in Algiers, where it all began.

Dealing with members of the public, the military, radio and television presenters is a prerequisite for my work, as is a can do attitude towards everything. Engineering and presentation minds sometimes think a little differently and a sense of humour

is an absolute must. I recall on one occasion whilst in the role of the radio station engineer in Gibraltar, receiving a call from a somewhat flustered female presenter during the breakfast show. Somehow the presenter's microphone fader was stuck in the open position and every sound from the studio was going to air! A manic dash to the radio station in order to resolve this situation commenced. There was a ten-minute break in the live broadcast when the news was played out from the UK, I could fix this I told myself. Over patching the studio output, the mixing desk was frantically taken apart to find the problem. A hairgrip had mysteriously found its way in and was jamming the mechanical mechanism. Removing the offending item, the mixing desk was hastily reassembled, the show went back to air with seconds to spare. No

explanation was offered, and remains a mystery to this day. The sign on the studio door was amended to read, NO DRINKS, FOOD, OR HAIRGRIPS TO BE TAKEN INTO THE STUDIO.

My name is Mick Stanyer, a Broadcast Engineer working for the British Forces Broadcasting service, who lives in Sonning Common. Let me tell you what forces broadcasting is all about.

Today BFBS is part of a much larger and more diverse organisation known as The Services Sound and Vision Corporation (SSVC) whose single aim is to serve those who serve. Based out of our headquarters in Buckinghamshire SSVC is a self-supporting registered charity whose financial surpluses are donated as welfare support for the Armed Forces. An annual campaign called the Big Salute is undertaken that raises funds for

armed forces charities. Recently these have included Blesma, The Limbless Veterans, Blind Veterans UK, Combat Stress, FAB (Families Activity Breaks) and Veterans Aid.

The corporation has a board of trustees whose responsibility it is to ensure that we do what we were set up to do, and our Patron is His Royal Highness The Duke of York.

SSVC is contracted by the MOD to deliver television and radio to the UK Armed Forces. But this is just the tip of the iceberg as we will discover.

One of the many things that SSVC does is informing and educating the public about just what it is that the British Armed Forces actually get up to, and what better way to do this than by using the medium of Radio, Television, and social media and online. SSVC employ a small team of engineering staff, the best in the business of broadcasting, who use every conceivable form of technology and communication that is available to them. Some undoubtedly you will have heard of and maybe even used, others you may not have.

Let's take a closer look at how and where these services can be found.

BFBS FORCES RADIO

FM, AM, DAB, and Online, we broadcast everywhere that there is a British Forces presence, and yes that even includes onboard all Royal Navy and Royal Fleet Auxiliary ships around the globe. You can pick your favourite genre and listen live with BFBS Radio and BFBS Radio 2, listen again to catch up with



programmes that you may have missed, and get in touch with families and friends.

On land BFBS Radio have studios and transmitter sites throughout the world:

In the UK there is a network of UK Bases that also have studios and transmitters, from Edinburgh in the north to Portsmouth in the south with many others in between. These sites are all linked back to the radio headquarters in Buckinghamshire using MPLS, multi-protocol layer switching, and other networking technologies.

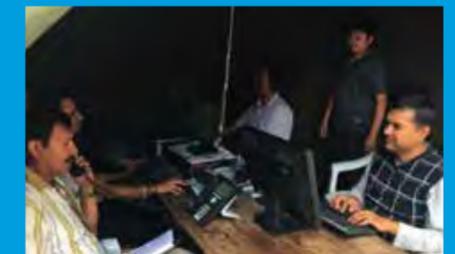


ABOVE: Keeping the armed forces in touch with home from BFBS's radio station at Camp Bastion in Afghanistan prior to drawdown.

BFBS Gurkha Radio is the voice of the Gurkha soldiers whether they are UK based or abroad. We broadcast this service both worldwide and also locally

from our studio in Kathmandu. This enables the Gurkhas to keep up to date with what is happening in Nepal and provides them with a vital link back to their families.

During the devastating earthquakes of 2015, the radio station in Kathmandu was kept on air by setting up a temporary facility outside of the building and away from the danger of falling debris.



ABOVE: BFBS Radio emergency facility Kathmandu.



ABOVE: Forces radio presenters hard at it entertaining the troops over the festive season from our UK headquarters in Buckinghamshire.

JACKIE'S CRAFT COLUMN

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- Paintbrush
- 2 novelty eyes
- 2 pipe cleaners
- Coloured paper
- Scissors
- PVA glue
- Sticky tape

Alternatives:

- Instead of pipe cleaners use concertinaed paper or string
- Paper cups can be covered in paper if your paint isn't thick enough to cover them
- Why not see what other animals you can make?

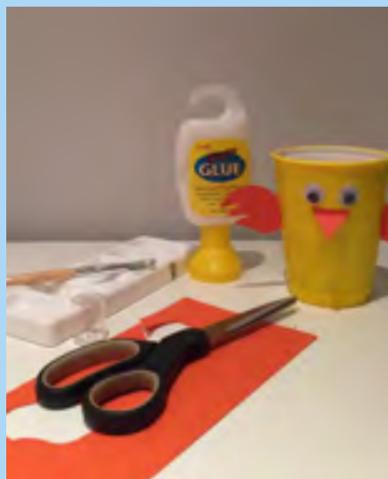
Please send in pictures of your creations, we would love to see them.



1) Before you begin, lay an old newspaper or wipe clean cloth on the table



2) Remove the lid from the coffee cup and paint the cup with yellow poster paint. Leave to dry, you may need to apply a few coats of paint.



3) Using the PVA glue, stick the eyes to the outside of the cup.

4) From the coloured paper cut a beak, wings and feet. Glue the beak and wings to the cup.



5) Using glue or sticky tape, stick one end of each pipe cleaner to the bottom of the cup. Then stick the paper feet to the other end.

6) Place your cup on the edge of the table and bend the pipe cleaners so the legs hang over the edge.

7) Fill your treat holder with sweets and pop on the lid.

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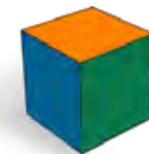
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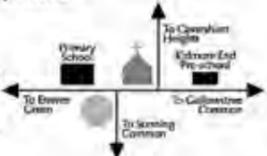
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Parish news

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A TRIUMPH FOR LOCAL DEMOCRACY

The unanimous decision to refuse planning permission for 95 homes to be built on SON 6 - instead of the 26 homes allocated under the Neighbourhood Plan - was a triumph for local democracy.



More than 100 residents attended a meeting of South Oxfordshire District Council's (SODC's) Planning Committee at Didcot Civic Hall on Wednesday 01 March during which the application was discussed.

Most had travelled to the meeting in two coaches laid on by Parish Council; others made their own way there in private cars.

Residents filed into the council chamber - many with homemade placards - to show their opposition to the Gallagher Estates proposal for SON 6, which was supported by SODC planning officers despite it contravening the village's adopted Neighbourhood Plan. After listening to arguments both for and against the proposal, SODC district councillors decided to uphold and respect Sonning Common's Neighbourhood Plan and voted unanimously to refuse the application.

Our Neighbourhood Plan - developed over nearly five years at a cost of £63,000 - allows for 26 new homes to be built on SON 6 along Kennylands Road in a similar format to existing housing, filling in the gap between 56 and 80 Kennylands Road.

Gallagher Estates wanted permission to develop a much larger site, adjacent to SON 6, that would have extended development into the countryside and closer to the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).

Parish councillor Tom Fort, who led the SON 6 campaign, said: "We produced a neighbourhood plan, proclaimed under

the Government's Localism Act as a way to strengthen local democracy by encouraging communities like ours to shape their own future. This plan, allocating suitable sites to new housing, was backed by 94 per cent of residents on a turnout of nearly 50 per cent in an official referendum last September.

"Yet despite this overwhelming public support and clear direction from Government to respect neighbourhood plans like ours, planning officers are treating our plan with blatant disregard."

John Pearman, speaking on behalf of residents, said he was "outraged" by the Gallagher Estates' application and the decision by SODC planning officers to support it. Councillor Iain Pearson, of Kidmore End Parish Council, said local democracy should be respected and the application refused. District councillor, Paul Harrison, urged colleagues to reject the proposal.

Well over 200 Sonning Common residents wrote to SODC's planning department to object to the proposal.

*The Parish Council wishes to thank every resident who protested against the Gallagher Estates proposal, either by attending the SODC planning meeting or objecting in writing, and to all those additional residents who supported the campaign 'in spirit'.

Sonning Common owes a big debt of gratitude to parish councillor Tom Fort, resident John Pearman and Iain Pearson, Kidmore End Parish Council, for their masterly presentations to the SODC Planning Committee regarding the proposed Gallagher development off Kennylands Road. The outcome speaks for itself.

Also our fullest thanks to Ros Varnes, Deputy Clerk, and Julia Whitelaw whose contributions at the forefront of our campaign have been expert and invaluable. We are very grateful for the strong support received from Paul Harrison, our district councillor.

The success crucially depended upon our having a first-rate, watertight Neighbourhood Plan (NP). Without this excellence, arguments based upon the NP could well have foundered. Again, our thanks to the NP Working Party, chaired by Barrie Greenwood, and to all involved with it over the years.

The whole local campaign has been a fine example of effective community action and teamwork.

DOUGLAS KEDGE
(Chairman Sonning Common Parish Council)

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E: clerk@sonningcommonparishcouncil.org.uk (Philip Collings)
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The Edge

HI GUYS! 😊

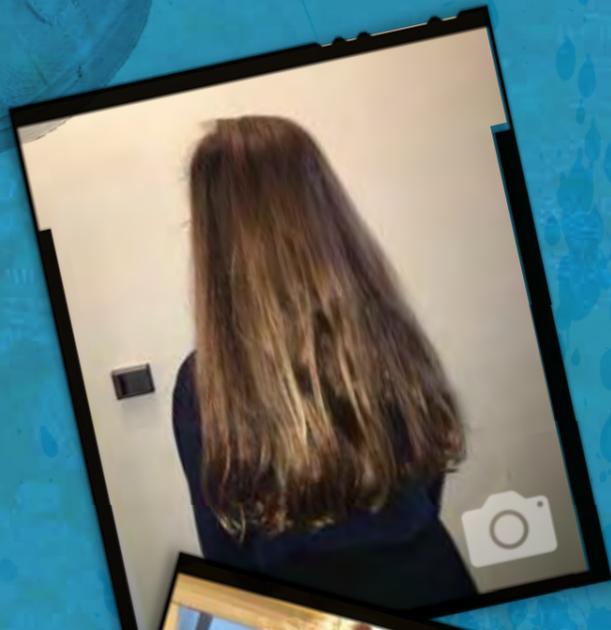
It's me Olivia again!! Today I am going to be talking about a number of different things, some of it is quite important though so let's begin!!

Okay so at the end of January, I donated my hair to charity that makes wigs for children who have suffered from cancer causing them to lose hair. I cut a lot of it off so it could be made into a wig and given to someone who really needs it. The way it works is you need to have quite long hair (at least 5 inches) and it needs to be dry and in good condition (no lice, dandruff, grease etc.) then you put it into two or three plaits and cut the plaits off, IT HAS TO BE IN PLAITS or they won't accept it. I really recommend donating your hair, if you're thinking of having it cut, because honestly even though you may not like it being short, someone out there is really going to appreciate it!

If you want to find out more, visit this website!
www.littleprincesses.org.uk

I also wanted to do a mini review or a 'favourites' and share a few favourite things I have been loving lately, granted some of them are quite girly things but it's just what I have been liking so far this year.

1. **Deep Sleep Pillow Spray**
This may sound odd but whenever I struggle getting to sleep, I simply spray some of this stuff on and, no kidding, it helps me fall asleep!!
2. **Looking for Alaska - John Green**
I actually read this book a long time ago but rediscovered it in February and honestly it's still one of my favourite books. A definite recommend, but it might not be suitable for younger kids.
3. **Skinny Dip London**
This one is a bit more girly but I have been loving the phone cases from Skinny Dip London recently, they're so cute and quirky so check out their website if you're interested!!
4. **Tiny Tower**
This is a game you can get on the app store (please ask parents' permission) it's so fun and addictive plus the characters are kinda cute so give it a try!



PROPHETIC SIMPSONS

By LEAH TILLEY

As most of you will know, The Simpsons is an American comedy TV show which has been going since 1989, featuring a weird yellow family living in the town of Springfield.

You will all know about the fairly recent presidency of Donald Trump. However, you may not know that The Simpsons actually managed to 'predict' Donald Trump becoming president in one of their shows back in 2000.



Of course, to the producers at the time, it all seemed like a hilarious joke, something so incredibly unrealistic that it couldn't possibly happen. But they woke up one morning to find that they were, in fact, prophecy-telling psychics.

The episode was called Bart to the Future and was about Bart - the main character in The Simpsons - being shown a vision of his future in 2030. In this vision, Lisa had just become President after the previous President, Donald Trump, had successfully managed to collapse America's economy, (surprise, surprise).

What interests me is what exactly the writers were thinking when they made Donald Trump their future President in this episode? One of the writers, Dan Greaney, said: "It was a warning to America. It was consistent with the vision of America going insane." He added: "What we needed was for Lisa to have had problems beyond her fixing, that everything went as bad as it possibly could, and that's why we had Trump be President before her."

This shows us the view of how ridiculous Trump's presidency had seemed back then and yet the people of America have voted him in as their leader for the next four years of their lives.

This, though, was not the only 'prophecy' The Simpsons made. I looked it up and over 16 other things that happened in The Simpsons, later happened in real life.

One of these predictions was in an episode based in the future where Lisa was shown a vision of her future husband on a smart watch and where she was seen video chatting on her phone (this technology hadn't been invented at the time).

The horse meat scandal, believe it or not, was yet another prediction when the dinner lady of the elementary school was caught putting horse meat in the school lunches. This, of course, happened when horse meat was added as a secret ingredient to pies that were sent to 47 schools across the UK.

Then, there is the scariest one of them all: their accidental portrayal of the

date 9/11 with the twin towers on a New York magazine that Lisa held. This specific detail was called by conspiracy theorists a previous 'warning' to America about the tragic terrorist attack that destroyed America's World Trade Centre in 2001.



Basically, what I'm trying to say is if ever you're in need of some fortune-telling, all you need to do is watch a couple of episodes of The Simpsons. It will be very interesting to see what their next prediction might be. Maybe there will be an episode about Joey Essex becoming England's next Prime Minister ...? ●

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Picture this... Blazing sun, a clear blue sky, a slight warm breeze, swallows darting across the sky, a tractor humming in the distance, the sound of leather on willow...

No this is not an advert for the local ramblers or the English Tourist Board, this is Village Cricket. This is Sonning Common Village Cricket Club!

The scene is not always as surreal as it sounds as anyone who has played on the hill at Ipsden (no better place to play when the weather is good!) in April will testify!

We play around a dozen games a season, mostly against other local village sides such as Ipsden, Whitchurch, Nettlebed, Peppard and Kidmore End. There is also the annual game against Highmoor in September where we play for the Roger Choules Memorial Cup (Roger was captain of both clubs). At present, we have no home ground so we play all our matches away.

The highlight of the year is in June when we embark on our annual tour and this year we think it is the 25th visit to the Broadwindsor area of Dorset.

We love our cricket but that is not the main reason we play. It's for the camaraderie, the friendships and the banter that make our club unique. For us, both before the game and

'afterwards' in the pub are as important as the match itself. Some of the games become real 'occasions' with partners, families and friends turning up. We have even been known to take our own barbecue!

The present club started in 1988 as the Red Lion Rabbits playing out of the Red Lion on Peppard Common. The pub was like a clubhouse for us and for the first couple of years, we were known as the club with more social functions than fixtures!

The first recorded game was against The Five Horseshoes (Remenham Hill) and our first victory.

The name Sonning Common was first used in 1990 in the game against Great Haseley.

Since then we have played local teams and some of the players who played at the start are still there now!

We have a number of social events each year including an end of season do and who can forget that misty, drizzly November evening at Greys Village Hall when John Inverdale and now BBC cricket correspondent Jonathan Agnew were our guests.

This is Village Cricket at its rawest but also its best, so why not come and give us a try? Yes, we have made over 200 runs on occasions but we have also

been out for 13! So, there is room for everyone.

This could be exciting times for this club, with the possibility of playing in the village again, hopefully in the future.

If you would like to get involved, as a player or supporter, please contact either

Keith Davies (Chairman)
0118 972 3313

Or Chris Pitson (Captain)
07775 604932631

Or come to one of our games or social events. We try to meet on the first Friday evening of each month in the Butchers Arms. Commitment can be as much as you want it to be.

We are also compiling a more detailed history of cricket in the village. We have lots of information since we started in 1988, but would like to know more of any Sonning Common team that has been before us. We know there was a team 1908 (they played Nettlebed) and again in the 1930s. In Fred Richens book, 'The Village That Never Was' there is a brief mention of cricket being played on where Westleigh Drive is now and at Kidmore End turn.

Can you help? Have you any information or artefacts that you would be willing to share with us? If so, please contact Nick Pitson at welsh366@hotmail.com



TOM FORT WEATHER

They're easy targets, our weather forecasters, with their chirpy greetings and sunny smiles and the strange things they do with the English language.

Why do they insist of referring to cloud "bubbling up"? Why does thunder invariably come in "odd rumbles"? What on earth do they mean by "a few drops of rain" - is that a few thousand, a few million, a few tens of millions? Would someone please tell me what "organised rain bands" are and what a disorganised rain band would be like if I met it?

One of them - Philip Avery, who often does the Radio Four forecast - has a fatal weakness for the word "fare". He gives us "mixed fare", "frosty fare", "showery fare". What in God's name can he mean?

And why do they have to try and nanny us - tell us to take a brolly, slap on the factor 50, pull on the wellies, even check the anti-freeze - as if we were children who couldn't work out these things for ourselves?

But my main gripe is not over the horrible injuries they do to our mother tongue. It concerns geography - or is it topography? I can forgive them their fondness for locating phenomena in the Cheshire Gap or the Great Glen, because I don't live in Cheshire or Scotland and am therefore not worried that I have no idea where these places are.

What I object strongly to is the way they divide the southern part of Britain into east and west, which happens most of the time. Where is Sonning Common? Is it west, or is it east?

Of course it's neither - it's central. But how often do they pause to tell us what is in store for Central Southern England? They leave it to us to work how long it will take for whatever is happening in the west to reach us on its progress east.

It's simply not good enough. ●



COOK'S CORNER

By SANDY ONOFRIO

HOT CROSS BUNS - makes 12

- 175ml warm water
- 1 egg white
- 50g butter
- 375g plain flour
- 1 tablespoon dried milk powder
- 1 sachet yeast
- 100g currants
- 50g caster sugar
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1 egg yolk
- 1 egg
- 2 tablespoons water



SIMNEL CAKE - serves 12

- 250g butter (softened)
- 225g light brown soft sugar
- 4 eggs
- 250g self-raising flour
- 225g sultanas
- 150g currants
- 100g glace cherries (quartered)
- 4 tablespoons mixed fruit peel (chopped)
- 2 tablespoons lemon zest
- 2 teaspoons mixed spice
- 500g marzipan - divided into 3
- 2 tablespoons apricot jam
- 1 egg (beaten)



Place all the ingredients, apart from the egg yolk and 2 tablespoons of water, into a bowl, mix well and tip onto floured surface and knead for a minimum of 5 minutes. Cover and let the dough rest for 10 minutes

Shape into 12 balls, place in a greased tin, cover and let rise in a warm place - approx. 40 minutes - until doubled in size

Mix egg yolk with water and brush on dough to glaze

Bake at 190/Gas 5 for 20 minutes, remove from pan and cool on rack

For the icing cross - 50g icing sugar/ 1/4 teaspoon vanilla/ 1 tablespoon milk

Mix ingredients together to form a thick paste. Brush a cross on to each bun once cooled ●

Preheat oven to 150/Gas 2. Grease and line a 20cm springform cake tin

In a large bowl cream together the butter and sugar until light and fluffy and slowly add the beaten eggs. Mix in the flour, fruit, zest and spice. Pour half of the mixture into the tin

Roll out 1/3rd of the marzipan to a 20cm circle, place over the mixture and cover with remaining mixture

Bake for 2 1/2 hours, cool in the tin for 10 minutes then turn out on a wire rack to cool completely

Preheat grill. Brush the cake with warm jam and roll out 1/3 rd marzipan to a 20cm circle place on top of the cake

Divide the remaining 1/3rd into 11 pieces, roll into balls, brush with beaten egg and place around the outside of the cake

Place under the grill for 8 minutes until golden ●

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Church news

ST MICHAEL'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, PEPPARD ROAD, SONNING COMMON

Fr Michael Sharkey, our new parish priest, is settling into life in Sonning Common having spent eighteen years as a parish priest in Lichfield, Staffordshire. In January, we were delighted to host the Christian Unity service and welcome many people from the other churches in the local area. The service was developed by the churches in Germany and somewhat unusually involved the building and dismantling of a brick wall.

Our thoughts are now turned to Lent and Easter. As a community, we have decided that during Lent we will once again support ReadiFood, Reading's food bank. As we try to make sacrifices during Lent, donations of food and cash has been collected for ReadiFood.

Our Holy Week services will be as follows:

- Monday 10 April - 7.30pm
Lenten Reconciliation Service
- Maunder Thursday 13 April - 7.00pm
Mass of the Lord's Supper
- Good Friday 14 April
10.00am - Walk of Witness starting at Christ the King

Noon - Stations of the Cross for children
3.00pm - Celebration of the Passion of the Lord

7.00pm - Stations of the Cross
Holy Saturday 15 April - 8.00pm
Easter Vigil Mass

Easter Sunday 16 April - 9 & 10.30am
Easter Masses

Check the parish website www.saintmichaelsonningcommon.org.uk to access our weekly newsletter for up to date information.

We are conscious that there are people who have been away from the Church for some time or are new to the area and are either hesitant or uncertain of how to get involved again. If you are in this situation please visit St Michael's at 10.30am, Saturday 29 April for a look round and an informal chat or give us ring or email at any time.

Contact details: phone 0118 972 3418
email stmichaels.rc@hotmail.co.uk

KIDMORE END AND CHRIST THE KING

Maunder Thursday - 8pm
Benefice Service at St John's Kidmore End

Good Friday - 2pm
Benefice Service at St John's Kidmore End

Easter Day - 9.30
Eucharist at Christ the King, Sonning Common

11.00 - Eucharist at Christ the King, Sonning Common

SONNING COMMON FREE CHURCH

Easter day 4.30pm - service for the whole family, all welcome.

BREAD AND SOUP LUNCH TO SUPPORT OXFAM'S WORK IN SYRIA

Come and join us at Christ the King Church Hall, Sedgewell Road, Sonning Common, RG4 9TA at 12.15pm on Wednesday 8 April for delicious home-made vegetable soup, bread, fruit, tea or coffee and listen to Oxfam representative James Webb talk about the crisis in Syria. He will include accounts of individual families who've lost so much but are now being supported by Oxfam to survive and rebuild their lives. The lunch is free and there will be an opportunity to make a donation to Oxfam. BOOKING ESSENTIAL.

Phone Ann Butler-Smith 0118 972 1871, Jenny MacGregor 0118 947 2855 or Sue Nickson 0118 972 4520. You will be made very welcome! Lifts can be arranged.

FOOD OF THE WORLD

Sonning Common Free Church is hosting a 'Food of the World' evening at the village hall on Saturday April 1st, 5.30 for 6pm, finishing at 8pm.

We'd love to welcome as many people from the village as possible - it will be a mix of family orientated games, international food, and items of cultural interest.

We had 78 people join us last year and had a very enjoyable evening •

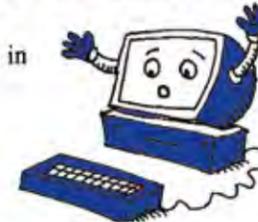


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APRIL

Saturday 1 - 10:00

Storytime - every Saturday, SC Library

Sunday 2

On your bike, SC Primary School

Monday 3 - 10:00

Rhyme time - 1st & 3rd Mondays (except Bank holidays) SC Library

Wednesday 5 - 10:30 - 12:00

Coffee Morning hosted by Sonning Common WI. Raising funds for local community projects, Village Hall

Wednesday 5 - 12:15

Lent lunch, Christ the King

Thursday 6 - 10:00 - 12:00

Gadget drop-in sessions - every Thursday, SC Library

Thursday 6 - 13:00 - 14:30

Baby clinic - every Thursday, SC Library

Friday 7 - 10:00 - 12:00

Scrabble club - SC Library

Saturday 8 - 14:00 - 16:00

Chiltern Edge Horticultural Society Spring Show, Village Hall

Monday 10 - Thursday 13

- 08:30 - 15:30/17:30
Holiday club, Chiltern Edge School

Monday 10 - 19:30

Lenten reconciliation service, St Michael's Catholic Church

Monday 10 - 14:30

FISH - Tea party, Village Hall

Tuesday 11 - 19:15

Chiltern Edge Horticultural Society - "Hanging Baskets & Containers" by Christine Leary, Peppard Memorial Hall

Wednesday 12 - 10:00

Childminders & nannies group - SC Library

Thursday 13 - 19:00

Mass of the Lord's supper, St Michael's Catholic Church

Friday 14 - 10:00

Walk of witness around Sonning Common, St Michael's Catholic Church

Thursday 20 - 11:30

FISH - Pub lunch

Thursday 20 - 19:30

Sonning Common WI - "Forty years of catching smugglers", by Malcolm Nelson, Village Hall

Monday 24 - 20:00

Sonning Common Parish Council, Village Hall

Thursday 27 - 09:00

FISH - Henley Farmers' Market

Thursday 27 - 20:00

SC Magazine presents "What makes a village?" by Tom Fort, Village Hall

MAY

Wednesday 3 - 10:30

Sonning Common WI Coffee Morning, Village Hall

Saturday 6 - 10:00 - 15:00

Greenshoots sales, Manor Farm, Rotherfield Peppard

Monday 8 - 14:30

FISH - Tea party, Village Hall

Saturday 13 - 10:00 - 12:00

Chiltern Edge Horticultural Society sale, Village Hall

Monday 15 - 20:00

Sonning Common Parish Council, Village Hall

Thursday 18 - 11:30

FISH - Pub lunch

Thursday 18 - 19:30

Sonning Common WI - Resolutions followed by a Beetle Drive, Village Hall

Friday 19 - 15:30 - 20:00

Open Day, Wood Lane Dentistry

Monday 22 - 19:30

Annual Parish Meeting, Village Hall

Thursday 25 - 09:00

FISH - Henley Farmers' Market

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Kidmore End Pre-School	22		
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Langley Arb (Tree Surgery)	29		
Laurence Hansen	21		
(House & Property Services)			

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

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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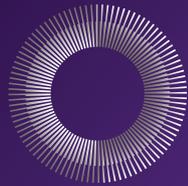
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