

SC

SONNING COMMON MAGAZINE



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FROM THE EDITORIAL TEAM

Summer has arrived with glorious blue skies. It would be lovely if it lasted through to the school holidays but it did not even manage that in the exceptional summer of 1976! Fingers crossed...

Very good news is that SON 3, Memorial Hall Field has been transferred to the Parish Council for £1. At last Sonning Common will have its own recreation ground.

This has to be the highlight of this issue of the magazine, but does not diminish the varied contributions of interesting articles from many sources. From filming in Old Copse wood, to residents who shared their memories of protest at Greenham Common during the Cold War, to a visit to Vines Farm Open Day and a return to the subject of the beleaguered Mrs Tiggywinkle and her fellow hedgehogs.

The magazine has its usual array of regular contributors who continue to amuse and entertain me, and I hope yourselves as well.

I would like to thank the contributors who met my early deadline for this issue of the magazine. Equally I am extremely grateful to Christine Atkinson who has taken over the assembled draft and will see it through the final additions that come in late, the process of negotiation with the graphic designer, and the proof reading of two drafts before it heads off to the printer. ●

Diana

Diana Pearman Editor

Email: editor@sonningcommonmagazine.org



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MEET THE TEAM ...



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Joan Grummant



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PUPILS SHOW OFF MUSIC SKILLS AT SUMMER FAIR

The village primary school and pre-school came together once again for another successful (and sunny) fundraising summer fair.

This year the fair focused on entertainment with music, singing, and dancing from all years within the school, at the centre of the day.

There was also a traditional tombola, lucky dip, and stalls – and even a giant inflatable Hungry Hippo game.

Helen Orme, who helped to organise the event said: “In addition to our traditional stalls we love to invite willing, local stall holders and charities to our summer fair to get a real village feel.”

This year's grand total was an outstanding £6000, with the silent auction and raffle raising over £2300 alone. Lots of local businesses donated their time and services, and winners will enjoy everything from bootcamps to haircuts, and champagne dinners to family photography sessions. Following last year's fair, the school have purchased an interactive whiteboard and replaced all the wooden picnic benches for recycled plastic ones.

Chris Hirst, Head Teacher, said: “Yet another amazing day run by our wonderful PTA. Thank you to one and all who managed to come down and support us at our village fair. One of the joys of being a village head teacher is seeing so many

friends, ex-pupils and parents at the Summer Fair. So, thank you for all of your support this year and hopefully see you soon.”

The pre-school also had a successful fair running the bouncy castles, ice cream stall and face painting, with a new addition this year of Beat the Keeper, an assault course, and a performance from the two to four-year-olds. ●

Lauren Applebey



ROTHERFIELD UTD FC CHRISTOPHER CUP

RUFC held their annual presentation day on a very hot and sunny 1st July. A great time was had by all. In amongst the medals and trophies is a special one. Fred and Margret Kendrick (Fred was the chairman of Rotherfield for many years) presented this trophy to the club to commemorate their son Christopher who died of leukemia at a young age and loved his football.

It is a very special award presented annually to an under 9 player, who plays football in the right spirit and for the love of the game. As all sport should be.

The last three years the cup has been presented to Matthew Dipenaar, Josh Everett and this year to Bailey Perry. ●



NOTTAKWIRE SUMMER EVENT

More than 100 people were involved, either as singers or visitors, in Nottakwire's Event "Going For A Song" on Sat. 23rd June in the Village Hall. The whole day of fund raising activity proved to be a very convivial and relaxed occasion and a huge success. The target of £1000 was easily surpassed - a total of £1473 was raised. As a result, Nottakwire will split £1500 and make donations to approx twelve different local groups and charities.

There were six performances throughout the day with well known and loved songs. Programmes were varied, ranging through Gershwin, Rodgers & Hammerstein, Lionel Bart, The Beatles, Claude-Michel Schonberg and Abba and solos were sung by Susan Rusman.

The smaller Notts Group gave two performances during the day and many of the audience remarked on the very beautiful harmony and choral balance the group achieved and thoroughly enjoyed these performances.

A special mention is due to Jennifer Ellis - clarinet - who filled the lunch-time performance slot with a varied programme and the audience was

extremely appreciative of this up and coming local, young musician.

There were delicious home made cakes and lunch-time sandwich plates, a raffle and stalls to browse supported by many local businesses - the raffle raised a total of £326.

The following people deserve special mention. In addition to singing their way through the day, they made additional, selfless contributions to the huge success of the day:

Jennifer Fellner, Christine McKnight, Barbara Blackwell, Barbara Winnington, Barry Wood, Ray Noble, Graham Holt, Stephen Adams, Bernard Winnington, Nick Launders, Sue Hubbard, Imelda Phebey, Angela Morris - ALL the ladies who baked for the occasion - and our willing volunteer supporters who stewarded and took care of the refreshments and kitchen - Peter Rickards, David McKnight, David Rusman, Craig Henderson, Howard West, Sara Hall, Margaret Warrick, June Fisher, Jill Greenwood and Pat Gibbons.

Nottakwire is a Community Singing Group for all. The new term will begin on 7th September. ●

Contact: margaret.moola@btinternet.com or Telephone 0118 972 1248.

TRANSFORMING THE VILLAGE CENTRE

The Village Centre Grand Design Exhibition held on Saturday 16 June was a great success with over 300 people attending. So, a BIG thank-you to everyone who attended.

With such a radical vision, moving away from the perceived “norms” of urban design the exhibition was certain to garner attention and it didn't disappoint. The room was filled with noise as people moved around the exhibition expressing their views amongst each other and members of the Parish Council.

What did we find out?

- 96% of respondents thought it was a good idea to redesign the village centre.
- Stand-out concerns about the current state of the village were: inconsiderate parking and the safety of pedestrians and road users alike on Wood Lane; lack of parking; speeding on Kennylands and Peppard Road; aesthetics, village is looking tatty.
- Again 96% replied positively stating either all or some of these ideas would solve the problems identified.

What next? Watch this space, we're only at the start of what will ultimately be an exciting but long and winding journey. You will, however see a number of low key “transformation projects” popping up around the village in the next 3-6 months and don't forget, Ben Hamilton-Baillie will be presenting his vision with a Q & A session later. Dates to be confirmed but it will be sometime in September or October.

Once again, thanks to all who attended and don't forget you can download the report here. <http://hamilton-baillie.co.uk/projects/sonning-common/> ●

STUART HOWE
Parish Councillor



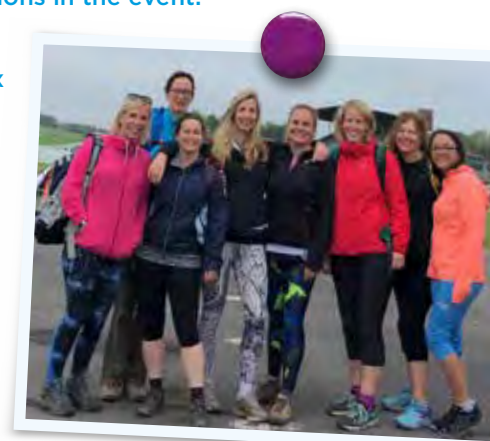
MUMS WALK 60KM TO RAISE £4,500 FOR SCHOOL'S CHARITY

Eight mums with year two children raised nearly £4,500 for Sonning Common Primary School's charity of the year, First Days, when they did a charity walk across the South Downs in May.

Andrea Jones, Deborah May, Katie Skilton, Aimee Laming, Kate Jones, Emma Lawrence, Laura Davis and Lauren Applebey walked 60km in twelve hours, bagging them top 15 positions in the event.

Having trained on flat terrain, in sunshine – the hills and almost six hours of torrential rain were somewhat of an obstacle!

First Days, the school's chosen charity, provides support to families in poverty. This donation will help hundreds of families in the area. ●



THANK YOU

I was delighted to be the recipient of a beautiful bouquet of flowers quite unexpectedly. They were delivered from Brambles Floristry in Sonning Common. As a part of their 21st Birthday celebrations; local people are nominated to receive flowers as a Thank You. Not only were the flowers beautiful, but the message received with them had beautiful thoughts.

It read:

You have been nominated to receive these by a number of people in the village, in recognition of your tireless efforts to help children, learn and enjoy life, despite everything life throws at you.

I thoroughly enjoyed my time teaching and later volunteering at Sonning Common Primary school and have come into contact with many amazing children, some tackling their own challenges. Sadly I am no longer able to contribute as I would like to both to school and to our lovely village as a whole.

My aim has always been to keep smiling and cheerful whatever comes along and have a positive attitude to my Cancer challenges, and it is lovely that that has been recognised

Many thanks to my nominees and my friends locally who do so much to support me. ●

PAULA HUMM



*** STOP PRESS *** GALLAGHER APPEAL DECISION - 18TH JULY - WE ARE ALL VERY PLEASED TO REPORT THAT THE GALLAGHER APPEAL FOR THE SON 6 SITE HAS BEEN REFUSED! CAUSE FOR CELEBRATION. MORE INFO IN THE NEXT MAGAZINE ...

COMMUNITY SURVEY

Our Neighbourhood Plan is being reviewed to ensure that it accords with developing planning policy and can continue to shape development in the village in line with residents' wishes. A village-wide survey was recently conducted, the results of which will inform the Plan review.

88 volunteers donned their walking boots and visited every home in Sonning Common throughout April to collect completed Community Surveys which were distributed inside the Apr/May issue of the SC Magazine. The task was no mean feat given that it involved at least two trips to each household. The village owes these stalwarts a huge debt of gratitude because the pleasing final tally of 776 completed surveys (c50% of total households) was down to their spirited efforts.

The Community Surveys were processed by an independent third party. A report was also prepared on the results and is available on the Neighbourhood Plan website: www.scpc-ndp.co.uk

The findings below are considered to be the most significant:

Core principles of 2016 Neighbourhood Plan

Residents were asked if they agreed or disagreed with each of the five core

principles which underpinned the 2016 Neighbourhood Plan. While all principles received strong support, three really stood out:

98% agreed that the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) around the village should be protected
96% favoured the village being kept separate from Reading and the other villages
96% supported the priority of preserving the village's rural character

New housing

Asked what the priorities for new housing should be, respondents were asked to select two of the following four options:

78% favoured homes for first-time buyers
51% selected senior living apartments with support
49% supported housing for families with children
9% opted for care home places

As to the bedroom size of properties, respondents were asked to select two of the following four options:

84% supported two-bedroom
66% favoured three-bedroom
29% selected one-bedroom
9% opted for larger

Asked about their current housing need: 45% wished to downsize within the village, a reflection perhaps of the ages of Sonning Common's population.

The additional comments space on the survey provided the opportunity for further feedback as to how residents viewed the priorities for the future development of the village. Of the 776 respondents, 318 (41%) elected to express their wishes and opinions.

All of these comments form part of the results report filed on the Sonning Common Neighbourhood Plan website: www.scpc-ndp.co.uk

The comments broadly fell into three categories:

Infrastructure (village centre amenities, medical facilities, parking, utilities, roads) which unsurprisingly featured in 41% of total comments

Housing (more first-time buyer, less five-beds, more social and affordable, more bungalows, less backland (garden) development, more parking bays in new developments) accounted for 28%

Rural threat posed by new developments (loss of village's identity and its rural look and feel, the allocation of more new homes should be shared with smaller villages) (16%) ●

Julia Whitelaw



the first Sunday and 3rd Thursday of each month at 10 o'clock outside the Village Hall. We are very friendly and welcoming group and a knowledge of gardening is not necessary. Do try it!

Joan Grumant

VILLAGE GARDENERS GREAT SUMMER PLANTING

Sunday 3 June was a bright and sunny day for the Village Gardeners great summer planting. There was an extremely good turn out of volunteers and over two hundred geraniums and assorted bedding plants immediately transformed the village centre and surrounding tubs and troughs into bright and colourful displays. It was a very satisfying morning when the

rewards of our labour made a huge difference and were appreciated by many people passing by. At the end of the session the village centre was completed and many volunteers had also planted up their own individual projects around the village. It was a splendid result. This was a very happy occasion and we hope that new members may be enticed to join us on

THE BIG BASH 2



30th June was hot, hot, hot. The Big Bash 2 was held at The Butchers Arms and was a roaring success. Local bands, young musicians, Real Ale, Pimms, children's activities, and lots of people had a terrific day and raised £7000 for Sue Ryder and Beating Bowel Cancer.

This is what one attendee had to say....`#BigBash we had SO much crazy fun at that party today/tonight at the Butcher's Arms. We'd still be there now if we didn't have little ones.

Want to say THANK YOU to all who organised and participated. Had no idea it was going to be a party festival in SoCo! Our kids stayed up later than ever, dancing and having fun in our awesome fun village.`

A big thanks to Andy Houghton, Graham Field, Clive Robins, Rob Blues and all the team who helped to make it possible. ●

BISHOPSWOOD SCHOOL

Seven students from the secondary department at Bishopswood School had an amazing trip to Disneyland Paris in May. It was a brilliant experience for the staff and students. They stayed in a hotel on the site, met some Disney characters and went on some very hair-raising rides!

'We were all exhausted when we got home but the incredible memories that we made and the happiness on the faces of the students, says it all!' ●



AMAZING FOSSIL FOUND

My daughter, Otilie (6) found an interesting fossil/stone in our garden at Easter and a friend from the village (Dr Ben Cosh) asked a colleague at Reading University to identify it for us. It turned out to be about 100 million years old, around at the time of the dinosaurs! It is a flint which probably contained a sponge or sea urchin. In the Iron Age these spherical stones were sometimes used to hide coins inside; a 'hoard' was once found in Henley. See: <http://britisharchaeology.ashmus.ox.ac.uk/coins/henley-hoard.html>

Dr Hazel McGoff then invited Otilie in to the University to show her specimens and to look at some of the University's collection. She had a wonderful time, looking at dinosaur bones, mammoth teeth, meteorites and many other minerals and fossils. She has since been telling her classmates at Stoke Row Primary all about it in a week long show and tell! ●

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SUMMER READING

Have you joined this year's Summer
Reading Challenge for children yet?

The theme for this year is 'Mischievous
Makers', celebrating 80 years of the
Beano. Read 6 books and visit the library
3 times over the summer, getting stickers
as you go along - and a medal at the end!

There is also a reading challenge for
adults: ask in the library for more details
about both of these challenges. Also ask
in the library for special events going on
over the summer, including craft and art
sessions for children

All the regular library events continue
over the summer



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RICHARD WARRICK

is a former local Chiltern Edge student and ex member of Chiltern Players and Progress Theatre.
Amongst other things, Richard is now a professional actor and is looking forward to sharing his knowledge
and experience with us. He has run acting workshops for Chiltern Players before.
It is always great fun and we learn a lot!

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JOIN US AT KIDMORE END WAR MEMORIAL HALL FOR A SPECIAL CENTENARY EVENT

Kidmore End Memorial Hall was built by
volunteers to remember local people who fell
during the First World War and, later, those
lost in the Second World War.

On 15 September we will be bringing out the
bunting and hoping that as many of you as
possible can join us for a community event to
recognise the centenary of the end of the First
World War.

Refreshments, entertainment and a relaxing
environment in which to catch-up with friends.
Further information will be found on posters in
the village nearer the date.

This will very much be a community event
and we would be delighted if local businesses
would consider how they may be able to
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If you are a business that would like to be
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HELP THE HEDGEHOG (AND SPARE YOUR SEEDLINGS)!

Who likes slugs? Hands up! (Not many of you, it seems.)

Alright then; who likes hedgehogs?

But how many do you see?

They are mostly nocturnal, and their numbers are declining.

A major obstacle to the survival of hedgehogs is our tendency to surround our gardens with impenetrable fences and walls. Hungry hedgehogs wander up to a mile each night in search of food, but their travels are blocked by a man-made maze of barriers.



A great many gardens are off limits to hedgehogs, simply because we have installed fences. Meanwhile, we cultivate plants only to moan that they are ravaged by illegitimate slimy one-footed gastropod molluscs, (slugs).

Solution? Bring in the slug lovers!

Slugs are an important proportion of the diet of Hedgehogs. Invite them in. Make it easy for the slug-eaters to reach their food.

Ensure each of your property boundaries has at least one entry and exit point for hedgehogs.

This only needs to be a hole about 13cms diameter, say 5 inches in old English.

It can be cut in any new or old fence. It must be close to or at ground-level and can be round, or square. A wall might need just a couple of bricks removed. Your garden becomes a hedgehog highway!

We don't want to poison our prickly friends, so till you discover you no longer need slug bait, please cover it with something heavy to keep Tiggywinkles off. Your few remaining slugs will have no trouble getting to it, even under a brick or slab.

For more information, do a websearch for: "Link Gardens for Hedgehogs", or "CD-sized holes in garden fences".

Your privacy and security will not be compromised by these modest holes. Even mature cats will still have to go over the top, but hedgehogs will thank you, and you will be rewarded by fewer slug-eaten plants.

Just do it! ●

Paul W

(also known for his interest in "Henley Whalers" (relaxing fixed-seat rowing), "Village Gardeners", and "Sonning Common Health Walks".)

BEING AN AUTHOR IS HARD WORK

More than forty people turned up to the library for "The Writer's Life" talk by Vera Morris and Tom Fort. Their main piece of advice for would-be authors was that writing any book is hard – and not at all lucrative. The FoSCL committee has already begun discussing who to invite for next year's talk.

An interactive book has been donated to Bishopswood School (front cover photo) – the story of Chris who has a rather hair-raising visit to the barbers. The book was bought thanks to the

generosity of the sponsors of last year's short story competition. There's still time to enter this year's competition – which is open to both adults and children. The closing date is noon on Saturday 15 September. This year we're generously supported by TA Fisher and Stephen Anthony Developments. Full details are available from the library and on the FoSCL website: www.friendsysonningcommonlibrary.org.uk

Tickets for the FoSCL quiz on Friday 12 October will be on sale at Occasions and the Library from 1st September. Tables of



six will cost £20. Please come along – this is our main fund-raising event of the year.

As usual: a big thank you to our volunteers for their hard work in supporting our excellent library staff. ●

Helen Fort



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AIMING HIGH!

Dominic (Dom) Renshaw is one of our local heroes. He has recently presented the Thames Valley Air Ambulance with a cheque for over £12,700



How come I hear you ask? Well, he spent most of May climbing Everest with a group of mountaineers and sherpas fundraising for the charity.

Dom spent 18 months in training and had to gather sponsorship to help pay for equipment and the specialist training for extreme temperatures and altitude. Weeks were spent in Nepal before the attempt acclimatising, and then days on the mountain 'rotating' which involves doing daily climbs higher and higher to get used to the altitude and oxygen levels. Camping at different levels with howling, gale force winds and also, at the same time, very strong sunshine (the sun's rays get stronger the higher you go).

They started the actual climb on the 12th May, which happened to be Dom's birthday, and a week later was the night to attempt the summit. This is above 8,000 metres and at around only 40% oxygen levels (compared to sea level) the climbers need oxygen tanks and masks. It was pitch black and about -30 C – so a bit of a challenge! At about 9pm they started to get ready – this takes 2 hours putting on all the kit.

The climb is very steep and after about an hour Dom realised that something was wrong.....'I realise something didn't quite feel right, every step meant I was out of breath. I simply couldn't get a single breath. I was on 2.5 litres of oxygen per minute and should have had no problem breathing. Oddly it was easier to breathe with the mask off rather than having the mask on.'

Alarm bells were ringing and his sherpa quickly realised the oxygen wasn't getting through to Dom. They checked the mask, hitting it to release any ice, but no sound of gas. This is where it became serious and Dom had to make a big decision.

'I simply said "I'm going down", no questions,' said Dom. Khama, his sherpa, accompanied him back down to the base. This is a risk in itself and is not just a walk.'

Climbing down is as hard as going up when you are lacking oxygen. If you become unresponsive at this altitude sadly your options become very limited, as I knew this was a serious possibility if I didn't get oxygen soon.'

Back at the tent it took nearly 10 mins to get the oxygen working, but thankfully it did and Dom got a few hours to sleep before making his way down to the other camps. As Dom says 'it is funny how 6400m, or 6 times the height of Snowdon, all of a sudden feels a safe place to be.'

Dom had aimed to summit Everest at 8894m and hit 8500m before having to stop. It was an unfortunate end, but not a final end, which may have happened if they had not turned when they did.

'I certainly don't regret not standing on the summit. It was one hell of an

adventure that I'll no doubt be talking about for years to come. I didn't know I had it in me to make the hardest decision of my life, but it appears I do'

Another great decision was made as Dom came down the mountain – and we wish Dom and Jane many congratulations on their engagement!



FACEBOOK INTERVIEW

VIKI HEAD

By COLLEEN PAVIOUR



Viki Head lives in Newfield Road with her husband Peter, who works in London, and their 5-year-old twin daughters; plus their Jack Russell Maddie.

How long have you lived in Sonning Common and where were you before that?

We moved to Sonning Common two-and-a-half years ago from Binfield Heath. Originally I'm from Hurstpierpoint, West Sussex.

You're the outgoing chair of Sonning Common Pre-School's parent-led volunteer committee, which you've been doing with gusto for three academic years. What did you do before that?

I trained to be a teacher at Exeter University and then worked in a special needs school in Newbury for two years before working as a primary school teacher in Camberley for 8 years. When my twin girls were 18 months old I went back to work part-time at that same school in Camberley, in a temporary teaching role.

You took on the post of chair of the pre-school committee in September 2016. What has been the most interesting aspect of your chairship? And what, would you say, was your greatest achievement during those three years?

I'm proud to say the pre-school is now embarking on obtaining Forest School Qualification. Clare Saunders, the pre-school manager, really got this

endeavour off the ground, but since taking on the role of chair, starting a forest school is something I was very interested in and wanted to raise funds to make happen.

I did a lot of research, spoke to the person in Oxford who runs training for forest schools and attended the primary school's forest session. I thoroughly enjoyed all of it so it is definitely something I am interested in.

My proudest achievement has to be organising the 50th Anniversary Summer Fair in 2016. Admittedly, it was not my most enjoyable project - it was a big operation trying to coordinate everything and it was my first fair to organise.

It was the Golden Anniversary so it had to be bigger and better than ever. It was a daunting task and overwhelming at times, but it generated lots of money and raised our profile. The pre-school is very tucked away in the village, so the scale of the celebration and how we drew attention to the pre-school's half century of history in the village really brought us to the forefront.

You are a keen countryside walker. What is your favourite local walk?

From my house in Newfield Road I walk up past Widmore Pond and then make a right towards Blount's Court, left across the fields and down along the bottom of the valley. Then up to the church at Peppard. The view over the hills near there reminds me of the Downs in Sussex. There aren't many hills around here and I like to try and evoke

the feeling of walking on the Downs. I grew up walking up hills with views so it's where I go to for my thinking time. I then head down the hill and up through Spring Wood to home.

What is something most people don't know about you?

I'm an avid BBC Radio 4 listener and have a secret ambition of being on The Archers (the radio soap opera). I'm a bit of a nerd when it comes to National Trust architecture and buildings. My favourite National Trust house being Waddesdon.

As the mother of twin girls, what advice would you give to new parents?

Don't be so hard on yourself, relax more, and try to enjoy it more. Don't get so caught up on the little things. When, in the end, children won't remember any of that, they retain just the feeling of a childhood.

Favourite easy family meal to cook?

Lasagne

What's next?

I'm giving up the chairship of the preschool to a strong group of committee members who will take lots of things forward. I'm now going to concentrate on my house which we're refurbishing.

Eventually I plan to get more involved at Sonning Common Primary (where Viki's twin girls are entering Year 1 in September) but I'm not jumping in.

I'm not jumping in, having just jumped out. ●

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'THE VILLAGE THAT NEVER WAS' -

AND NEVER HAD A RECREATION GROUND - WILL HAVE ONE AT LAST!

By **DIANA PEARMAN**

Sport, recreation, a place to play or all those and more? This is the exciting opportunity we now have as a village. If I talk about an amphitheatre around a playing space, a walking/running track through trees, outdoor fitness gyms and picnic spaces, multi-sport zones inside and out, a coffee stop, parking, rehab areas, hospitality space . . . could you really imagine this on an undulating field which has only just become visible to us all?

First thoughts on what the "Memorial Field" might look like have led the group to suggest that, rather than flattening all the land which would require substantial soil removal and possibly create a more urban look, the existing undulations could be embraced to create more of an amphitheatre style. Sensitive planting around an accessible peripheral track would provide an activity setting which is more in harmony with the surrounding landscape.

A first glimpse of what this might look like is here.

Sonning Common Parish Council has received, for £1, the gift of a field to the west of our village along Reade's Lane, just behind the Kidmore End Memorial Hall. This has been made possible by Linden Homes and the Pelly Family, as part of the permission granted for Linden Homes to build 50 houses on the land behind the gifted field.

Our Neighbourhood Plan identified shortfalls in the provision of sport and recreation facilities for our growing community, details of which you can find on the website <http://www.spc-ndp.co.uk> page 53. Much background research went into this work, which was subsequently verified independently for South Oxfordshire District Council (SODC) by the independent consultants Nortoft and recently updated in 2017. The Inspector who examined the NP agreed that the fields could be taken out of the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) to meet the objective in the Plan "to secure land for and encourage the provision of identified shortfalls in healthy recreation facilities for all age groups, and particularly for older children and adults".

With this gift comes a great opportunity for us but also a significant responsibility. Land and facilities must be protected, maintained and financed.



The Parish Council set up a working group comprising Diana Pearman (Chairwoman), Leigh Rawlins (Deputy), Penny Snowden (Co-ordinator), Alan Gibbon (Kidmore End Hall Trustee), Ian McGowan (Link with Chiltern Edge school), Ian Scholey (local resident) and Sue Biggs (Chairwoman of KE Parish Council). This group has overseen the land transfer and has drawn up some initial plans for the groundworks needed to create flat, usable areas. The land has been farmed for many years, so to develop playing space with appropriate drainage and utilities will take considerable investment and sensible planning. The working title for the land is 'Memorial Field' (because of its position behind Kidmore End Memorial Hall) but we would like to think of a new name for this space and welcome suggestions.

Naturally, car parking needs to be provided and the impact on Reade's Lane traffic is to be assessed to identify the most suitable point of access in

and out. The aim, however, is to create pathways from the village centre so that the recreation space can be reached on foot, mobility scooter and bike.

The Working Group has identified the various facilities and amenity spaces in Sonning Common and the groups which use them, which is shown on the map on page 18.

Additionally, it has looked at the sports and activities for which there are no facilities here in the village, but which might be desirable. A period of consultation and information gathering will take place throughout July with various focus groups, to help with planning for our community's needs and wishes, as the first stage in the creation of a robust business feasibility study. This study will be undertaken by Dougal Nicholl, who was recommended to the Parish Council for his wide-ranging industry experience in the financial feasibility of building and managing sport and recreation facilities. Penny Snowden will co-ordinate the

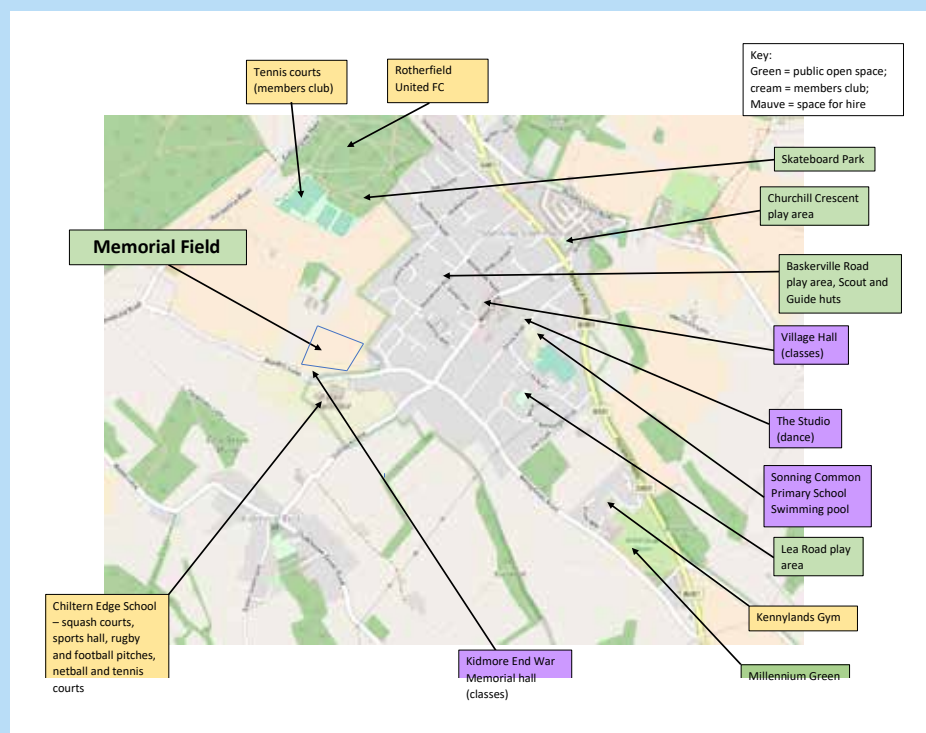
information gathering with Dougal. One of the over-riding factors in deciding on facility provision will be the enthusiasm and willingness of local people to support their use and maintenance.

On Saturday 8 September from 10am to 3pm in the village hall, there will be a meeting and display, open to ALL which will include the results of the consultations.

After the collation of all the information and the writing of the business plan there will be a full planning application submitted to SODC. This will cover permanent access, buildings and layout of car park.

Meanwhile it is hoped we will gain permission to start groundworks before the end of 2018.

Please do attend the meeting on 8 September as we would like to hear your views and ideas. Contact Penny Snowden on penny@psconsulting.uk if you would like to be part of one of the focus groups. ●



THE GOOD WORK OF GREEN GYM IS RECOGNISED



The Green Gym have been working at Park Wood Nuffield ((next door to Nuffield Place) for several years clearing holly and bramble to open up the area for bluebells and other wild flowers. Earlier this year the wood was used for filming and the film company paid Nuffield College, who own the wood, £800 for its use.

The Bursar of the College decided that this fee should be donated to Sonning Common Green Gym in recognition and appreciation of the hugely beneficial work

that we have done in the wood.

We were obviously very pleased and somewhat surprised by this generosity as it will enable us to update and replace part of our tool stock, some of which are second hand donations from when we first started 20 years ago.

It is very satisfying to receive these comments on our work in improving the environment whilst at the same time being aware that we are maintaining our own health and wellbeing. Why not, give it a try and join us?

Other tasks that we have completed recently include the installation of a fence for Natural England at Aston Rowant nature reserve, tree felling on Kingwood Common, rhododendron control, rehanging a kissing gate at Bishopswood Field, and many varied other jobs.

See our Web site <https://sonningcommon.tcv.org.uk> or phone 01189723528 for details of our current programme ●

BRIAN GARDENER

UNI GRADUATE MARKS SIX-YEAR-ANNIVERSARY OF HIS DAD'S DEATH

When Michael Legg, 23, started his computer science degree at the University of Plymouth in 2015, he set out to raise £2,740 for the Brain Tumour Research charity which supports sustainable research at dedicated UK Centres of Excellence – one of which is based at the University of Plymouth.

Two weeks after his last day as a student, and six years on from his dad's death, Michael's fundraising efforts were acknowledged at the Centre of Excellence. Along with his mum, Juliet, and brother, Jamie, Michael was invited to place a tile on the Wall of Hope with each

tile representing the £2,740 it costs to fund a day of research.

Since Nigel's death, the Legg family have raised over £6,000 for Brain Tumour Research, through a variety of events including fundraising walks and the charity's annual Wear a Hat Day event. Michael said: "Visiting the lab and placing a tile on the Wall of Hope has been a significant moment as I know Dad would be really proud. Vital research is taking place here and it's extremely important to me that it continues as this is the only way a cure can be found."

Brain tumours are indiscriminate; they can affect anyone at any age. What's more, they kill more children and adults under the age of 40 than any other cancer, yet just 1% of the national spend on cancer research has been allocated to this devastating disease.

According to the Brain Tumour Research charity, less than 20% of those diagnosed with a brain tumour survive beyond five years, compared with an average of 50% across all cancers.

<https://www.braintumourresearch.org/donation>



MEMORIES OF GREENHAM COMMON WOMEN'S PEACE CAMP

By JOAN GRUMMANT

It is thirty-seven years since thousands of women protested at Greenham Common against cruise nuclear weapons being sited there. Many women from Sonning Common were very much part of that protest and I spoke to two of the group, Lyn Wright and Pat Howard, about their recollections of that very intense, but active time in their lives. At that time Sonning Common had a very strong, and well-established, Peace Group that produced a monthly newsletter distributed locally among the 30 plus members which provided information and news. Some men from Sonning Common also played their part by supporting the women involved, and also supported the protest by organising a Soup Run providing food for those camping out at the base.



Lyn went to the first blockade of the main gate in 1982, when two hundred and fifty women sat there for a very long time, and there were 34 arrests. There was much publicity of this event. This was not always favourable and there was a lot of resentment from the press and some local residents. Many other women, including Pat, joined after the blockade and the numbers grew and grew. They remembered that some women members of CND who marched from London to Greenham were put up in Chiltern Edge Community Centre by the local

group. There was great mix of ages, class and religions and a huge sense of camaraderie.

Many events stood out and were very clear memories of that time. Lyn was arrested twice and taken to Newbury Magistrates Court. Both also remembered Night Watches that were set up to protect the camp around the base, and also the Cruisewatch nights when protesters were alerted when the gigantic missiles were going to be moved somewhere else. Lyn included the following description of a Cruisewatch Night in the Peace Group Newsletter of March 1982.

'Cruise came out on the 13th-returned to Greenham on the 21st. Sylvia and I drove out about 1.00am and this time managed to beat the police block. We joined the others on the roundabout and waited for the convoy to appear. It is an eerie feeling standing in the middle of the night, while the rest of the world sleeps, waiting for a convoy with its lethal load which could destroy a large proportion of the world.

I asked the policeman whose stomach I was nestling against at the time, what he thought of it all and got this surprising reply- 'It's all in the Book of Revelations – the world will eventually destroy itself'. 'Should we not protest and change the course of self-destruction?' I asked. 'No one can do that, only God,' he replied and

moved off to push someone in a ditch as featured in the Book of Revelations.

Soon we heard a dull rumble in the distance, the police started pushing against us and streams of light could be seen approaching in the distance. One woman tried to sit in the road but was dragged back as the convoy came roaring round the corner. Vehicle after vehicle tore past each with a grinning American at the wheel looking devilish in the flickering light. It was over in minutes. A truly awful sight. Of course I knew it existed but seeing it so close filled me with horror. We moved to the Yellow Gate and shared the contents of our flasks and returned home at 3.00am which meant one could get some sleep to go to work the next day'.

It was obviously a tremendously difficult task for the protesting women to juggle managing family life, often with small children and also going to work. Without their deeply held commitment to world peace the Greenham protest might never have kept going for nineteen years.

Another lasting memorable day occurred on 12 December 1982 when 30,000 women responded to a chain letter sent out and joined hands around the base. This became known as Embrace the Base event and sent a strong message to the government of the time. ●



STANDING ROOM ONLY

Over 120 people came to hear local GP Dr Ralph Drury give an enlightening informative talk about 'A Day in the Life of a GP' on Wednesday evening 6 June.

Dr Drury briefly explained that it takes 10 years to train as a GP and students often leave medical school with up to £70,000 debt.

After working in London for a time, he applied for a job at Sonning Common Health Centre, was interviewed by Dr Burnett, and started in 1999 as a partner GP. The journey to Sonning Common is a much better commute than he had in London! He thinks that the patients and staff at Sonning Common are great!

He then explained about all the different tasks that face a GP; starting work at the centre at 7.10 am to look at all the test results and making phone calls, and then from 8.15 am he sees his patients (each for just 10 minutes) until 11 am. A well-deserved cup of coffee is enjoyed whilst comparing notes with his colleagues.

When he is Duty Doctor, there may be interruptions during consultations, like phone calls or sudden emergencies. At lunch time he will make home visits, so no time for a sit-down meal.

Sometimes there are important meetings to go to, but he will still have patients to see until 6 pm.

Then there is all that paper work to be cleared and maybe referrals to be sorted and at 7.30pm, at last, the work is done and he can go home to have dinner.

So it is a long day, but Dr Drury finds it rewarding and varied work. As he said 'it is a vocation and anyone in medical care needs to have empathy, resilience, sense of humour and professionalism.'

'How can you as a patient help to get the most out of the 10 minute



appointment?' was his final question, showing a list of **'10 things to ask yourself before seeing your doctor.'**

1. What do I want from this visit?
2. What do I need to say to the doctor?
3. What do I need to know from the doctor?
4. What is my priority for this visit?
5. What am I already doing to help myself?
6. How am I feeling today?
7. How have I felt since my last visit and what difficulties have I had?
8. What have I achieved since the last visit? What is my next goal?
9. What else is happening in my life to affect my health?
10. Is there something I may find difficult to talk about today?

These **'10 things to ask'** cards will be available together with an article called **'Help your GP prior to an appointment'** in the waiting room and topic table in SCHC lobby.

Some interesting questions were raised. i.e. about DNA (Do Not Attend)

numbers, and Dr Drury stressed that it really helps to cancel if you cannot keep the appointment, so that someone else can be seen.

Dr Drury gave his audience an hour talk with lots of information, often with humorous pictures and photos. It was well received, as shown by some of the comments made:

'Dr Drury is a very good public speaker!'

'It was very useful and interesting'

Our sincere thanks to Sonning Common WI ladies for serving tea and coffee ●

RIKA ADAMS AND SUE LITCHFIELD



Parish news

The content of this page is the sole responsibility of, and is paid for by, Sonning Common Parish Council

ANOTHER LOOK AT HOUSING SITES

SODC have decided to take another look at the sites available in South Oxfordshire for major housing development as part of the process to finalise the Local Plan.

This will be done as long as the extra time it takes does not significantly impact on a countywide deal made with other councils and the government to bring extra money to support housing growth and infrastructure, such as roads, in Oxfordshire.

15 sites will be part of the review process:

• **current proposed sites:** Culham, Wheatley, Berinsfield and Chalgrove Airfield

• **previously considered (but not progressed) sites:** Thornhill, Wick Farm, Lower Elsfield, Grenoble Road, Northfields, Harrington and land at Great Western Park

• **additional sites submitted by developers:** land at Emmer Green, Reading, Reading Golf Club, Playhatch at Reading, land off Thame Road, North Weston.

We are in discussion with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government about the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal. If it becomes apparent that there will be a significant impact on the Deal, we will retain Chalgrove Airfield in the Local Plan and add a reserve site or sites. ●



IN RESPONSE TO THE ARTICLE ON CUTTING BACK HEDGES IN THE PARISH NEWS

As a regular walker around the village it is noticeable that there are many people who take good care of their gardens and border hedges and shrubs, but sadly this is not always the case. I use a rollator (like a walking frame but with wheels) and have sight and mobility challenges. I will need to use my wheelchair increasingly in the future, but I am already struggling to access parts of the village due to over grown hedges, particularly those with growth at eye height or so wide into the path, which necessitate walking in the road or very near the edge of the path. I am aware that there are seasonal issues related to the wrong and right time to carry out hedge maintenance but if some people can manage their hedging it should be possible for others to as well. ●

Name and address supplied



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E: clerk@sonningcommonparishcouncil.org.uk (Philip Collings)
deputyclerk@sonningcommonparishcouncil.org.uk (Ros Varnes)
W: www.sonningcommonparishcouncil.org.uk

Reminder to all readers to use the Parish website for information

FUNDING SECURED FOR RE-SURFACING PLAYGROUNDS

Sonning Common Parish Council have agreed to re-surface the three village play areas at Baskerville Road Park, Lea Road Park and Churchill Crescent in sequence. We are delighted to announce that we have been able to secure funding from the Tarmac Landfill Communities Fund in order to first re-surface the equipment areas at Baskerville Road. The park will be closed from 9 -16 July for this essential work, but we look forward to it being open again with the improved surface in time for the school summer holidays. ●

The Edge

HIYA! 😊

It's me Olivia again and for this article, I present you some mug cake recipes. Now I know what you're thinking... what is a mug cake? Well to put it simply... it's an easy way of making a little cake for one, served in a mug.

RECIPE 1 MUG BROWNIE

IN A MUG, COMBINE:

- 4 tbsp of flour
- 3 tbsp of sugar
- 2 tbsp of cocoa powder
- 1/2 tsp of baking powder
- 3 tbsp of milk
- 1 tbsp of any kind of oil
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 1 tbsp of Nutella

Combine all the ingredients except from the Nutella in a mug until smooth, then add your Nutella and microwave for 1 minute or until cooked and top with more Nutella and dust with icing sugar!



RECIPE 2 STRAWBERRIES & CREAM

IN A MUG, COMBINE:

- 4 tbsp of flour
- 3 tbsp of sugar
- A handful of strawberries, chopped
- 1/2 tsp of baking powder
- 3 tbsp of milk
- 1 tbsp of any kind of oil
- 1 tsp of vanilla extract
- Whipped cream (for the topping)

Mix together all the ingredients in a mug, except from the cream and once again microwave for a minute and add the whipped cream as well as extra strawberries on top.



RECIPE 3 COOKIES 'N' CREAM

IN A MUG, COMBINE:

- 4 tbsp of flour
- 3 tbsp of sugar
- 3 crushed sandwich cookies or Oreos
- 1/2 tsp of baking powder
- 3 tbsp of milk
- 1 tbsp of any kind of oil
- 1 tsp of vanilla extract
- 2 tbsp of icing sugar
- A little water

In a mug, combine all the ingredients, not including the icing sugar and water then microwave for a minute. Meanwhile, in a separate bowl, stir together the icing sugar and add small amounts of water until you get the desired consistency. Drizzle the icing over your mug cake.

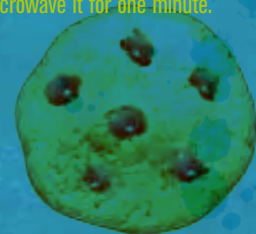


RECIPE 4 COOKIE DOUGH

IN A MUG, COMBINE:

- 4 tbsp of flour
- 2 tbsp of brown sugar
- 2 tbsp of chocolate chips
- 1/4 tsp of baking powder
- 3 tbsp of milk
- 1 tbsp of vegetable oil
- 1 tsp of vanilla extract

Mix the ingredients together in a mug and microwave it for one minute.



Hope you'll try out these easy mug cakes, remember to leave them for a minute or two before eating because they'll be hot!

VISITORS FLOCK TO OPEN FARM SUNDAY

Vines Farm at Cane End opened its gates to over 500 members of the public on the 10th June 2018. It was one of hundreds of farms participating in the annual Open Farm Sunday event. The weather was glorious and visitors were able to see a variety of crops that will eventually be incorporated into breakfast cereals and crunchy bars, made into flour, or, in the case of rapeseed oil, be used for human consumption.

Roddy Young, manager for the owners, Aubrey and Angela Adams (no relation to the author) explained that, due to the relatively poor soil, high yields were not possible so the farm concentrated on high value grain and oil seed rape crops. He and his team had arranged displays of crops and a demonstration of a self-steering tractor, that also controls

the position of the implement with an accuracy of 2 cms! This means efficient use of seed and agrochemicals as gaps and overlaps are all but eliminated.

The farm's agronomist explained why the chemicals were necessary if reasonable yields were to be obtained. A colleague demonstrated use of a drone to identify how a field crop could be mapped to show where treatment of the crop was necessary. Ten per cent of the arable area of the farm is given over, as a condition of a contract with a client, to conservation areas of grass and wild flowers. Three owl boxes have been erected and last year at least two barn owls fledged.

In the barn local beekeepers showed their produce and explained how they have hives around the farm and beekeeper and farmer work together

to ensure bees are not damaged by farming operations.

Visitors saw a new wood of 100 trees established in 2014 on land gifted to The Royal British Legion to commemorate those who died in the First World War.

The tractor trailer rides were popular with young and old and took people to see the magnificent herd of pedigree Aberdeen Angus cattle (and an excellent view of roadside gardens). Agricultural student Nathan demonstrated how a young bull is being trained to walk and display for the judge at Henley Show.

There was no charge for the visit. £1000 was raised for the Thames Valley Air Ambulance from donations given by the visitors. ●

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By JO STOVES

BODGING IN OLD COPSE

It all began with a phone message. Neil was looking for a beechwood location to film a bodger at work in the woods as part of an episode of *Celebrity Antiques Road Trip*. He had been informed that Sonning Common Parish Council had recently purchased a piece of woodland which might be suitable. That was on the Tuesday. On Wednesday it was agreed that Neil would visit Old Copse the following day to determine whether it was a suitable setting for filming.

After a brief visit with only a few paces into the wood and establishing there was convenient parking it was agreed filming would take place on the following Monday beginning at 2pm.

Monday morning the 4 June was warm with a beautiful blue sky but, by 2pm the temperature had dropped more than several degrees and a few clouds had come across. At 2pm Stan Rust and John Stoves (representing the PC) were waiting at the entrance to Old Copse. Shortly after a white van with a wheel back Windsor chair strapped into the passenger seat pulled up. Alistair Phillips, the bodger for the afternoon had arrived. Alistair lives in Peppard and is a woodturner and coracle maker. He runs woodcraft courses and does pole lathe demonstrations at various local shows. He also has a broad knowledge of local woods. He told us that the film crew were running late due to heavy traffic in Reading!

The film crew (director/cameraman and two assistants) arrived about 2.30pm accompanied by the two celebrities, Tom Heap and Phil Serrell in another white van

and closely followed by an open topped classic sports car. After a quick discussion as to which were beech trees, an appraisal of the adjacent wood established a suitable clearing – a glade which the Parish Council had recently had cleared of holly and undergrowth.

Whilst Alistair's gear, the filming equipment and the Windsor chair were transported to the clearing in several wheelbarrow runs, a short burst of filming of Tom and Phil walking to the car and driving off down the road for a short distance took place. Once completed, and with the woodland scene set with pole lathe, draw knife, block with mallet and axe, short lengths of timber, wood-shavings and the chair they were a step nearer to filming. They did not have a script. The idea was to make it seem like a chance encounter in the woods. However, they did have a 4-page document which detailed the information to be included in the natural conversation.

With one shoulder held camera and a tripod camera for filming closeup sequences, short pieces of filming began. Phil Serrell, walking up to Tom Heap while he was working the pole lathe, was filmed several times from different directions; as was each component part of the piece. Each time they repeated roughly what they had previously said, sometimes adding information as directed; all the time being totally natural with plenty of banter between them.

Filming continued until the story of the beech woods and the life and work of the bodgers (the itinerant craftsmen who made chair legs close to where the trees were felled) and how a length of timber

was turned into a leg for a Windsor chair had been told in full. By now it was nearly 6.20pm. The bodger's workshop was dismantled and transported back to the van in the wheelbarrow while the cameraman panned up the trunk of a beech tree to the canopy for a final piece of atmosphere. By the time they were ready to leave, they had been at work for almost 3 hours.

All for a piece which will be edited down to about 5 mins.

It was very interesting to watch the process. To the layman it seemed somewhat disjointed, but it was certainly professional, relaxed and spontaneous.

When all the programmes in the series have been completed the running order will be decided. The aim is to provide the best viewing sequence and best entertainment value. But we do know that we can look forward to seeing Old Copse's five minutes of fame in November or December. ●



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TOM FORT ICON

I had thought of calling this contribution to the magazine *My Life as a Fashion Icon*, but I realised I wouldn't be able to get away with it. The fact is – as my wife, daughters, and anyone else who is familiar with my appearance will tell you – I couldn't really care less about my clothes.

It was not always so. In the 1960s – the Swinging Sixties as the decade is known to historians although there wasn't much swinging where I was concerned – I ventured hesitantly into the London fashion scene. I had my hair "styled" at vast expense at Sweeney Todds by a "stylist" with a huge swathe of ringlets on his head and very modish yellow sunglasses.

I went to Herbie Frogg in Jermyn Street and bought a ludicrous shirt with frills

down the front and a pair of highly flared hipster trousers which – because I have no hips – constantly slipped down leaving the tail of my frilly shirt flapping in the wind. Subsequently came a succession of bell-bottomed velvet numbers – I recall one in pleasing bottle green – which inevitably split at the crutch whenever I bent down.

My interest in smart clothes waned when I became a journalist on a provincial newspaper in Slough. Conventionally journalism and scruffiness go together – think tie at half-mast, unpolished shoes, shabby, ill-fitting suit, fag ash and beer stains on the lapels.

Since those distant days I haven't really bothered. These days I shamble around in variations of beige, mostly purchased from that fine Reading emporium of the cheap and useful, Decathlon. My



friend, Jason Hawkes the eminent aerial photographer and Sonning Common luminary, spends more on a single pair of jeans than I do on my entire wardrobe in a year. The result, I accept, is not inspiring – "why do you have be so dingy?" my daughters ask me with typical lack of respect.

But as I say to them – not that they pay any attention – it's the inner man that counts. ●

COOK'S CORNER

By SANDY ONOFRIO

CLASSIC PAVLOVA – SERVES 6

4 large egg whites / 200g caster sugar / 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract / 1 teaspoon vinegar / 1/2 tablespoon cornflour / 240ml whipping cream / 2 1/2 tablespoons caster sugar / fresh fruit to decorate

Preheat the oven to 120 C / Gas 1/2. Line a baking tray with baking parchment, then draw an 18cm (7 in) circle. Beat the egg whites on medium speed until light and beginning to form soft peaks. Switch to high speed adding the 200g sugar (a tablespoon at a time) and continue until the mixture is stiff, shiny and smooth. Beat in the vanilla then sprinkle with vinegar and cornflour and gently fold in with a spatula. Spoon the meringue into the centre of the circle drawn on the parchment; using the back of a spoon spread the meringue out to the edges and build up slightly to make decorating your pavlova a lot easier. Bake for 1 hour 15 minutes in the preheated oven. Turn the oven off, prop the door slightly ajar and leave the pavlova to cool completely in the oven. Beat the cream with the sugar until forming soft peaks, spread over the cooled pavlova and decorate with your choice of topping. ●



MACAROONS – SERVES 12

125g ground almonds / 175g icing sugar / 100g egg whites / 75g caster sugar / a pinch of yellow food colouring powder

Preheat the oven to 175/Gas 3. Line a baking tray with baking parchment. Mix the ground almonds with the icing sugar and sift over a sheet of baking parchment. Whisk the egg whites until stiff. Add 1/4 of the caster sugar, then the remaining caster sugar, whisking on high speed. Stir in the almond mixture into the egg whites and gently fold together with a spatula. Lift and flatten a few times. Finally, add a pinch of the yellow food colouring. Fill a pastry bag with the macaron mixture. Squeeze small rounds onto the parchment-lined baking tray. Leave some space between each macaron and then tap the tray on a table/work surface to remove any air bubbles. Set the macarons aside for 15 minutes (the macarons will become crusty) and bake in the preheated oven for 12-15 minutes. To see if the macarons are cooked: press lightly on them – if they are soft and moving when pressed give them a few more minutes. Transfer to a cooling rack. Once cooled sandwich together with lemon curd. ●



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CRIMINALS SETTING UP FAKE WI-FI HOT SPOTS CITIZENS ADVICE WARNING

Citizens Advice has warned that just connecting to free wifi can be targeted by criminals, who are setting up their own Wi-Fi hot spots to try to get you to connect to them.

Typically, the fraudsters broadcast a Wi-Fi connection with a vague name like "free_wifi" or "coffee_shop_wifi". If you connect your phone to this, any data you are sending can be captured.

Even if you log into emails using an "app",

without typing in the password, the phone will still send your password over the Wi-Fi and it could be intercepted. If you use automated passwords and do not enter your user name and password manually, these details can still be intercepted.

* Make sure you are connecting to a trusted Wi-Fi hot spot, operated by the venue - ask staff if you are in doubt.

* Do not use public Wi-Fi for online banking or anything else sensitive, but use your 3G, 4G or 5G connection instead

(data sent over these connections is always encrypted).

* Use a VPN (virtual private network) when connecting to public Wi-Fi.

The updated Little Book of Big Scams at <https://www.met.police.uk/globalassets/downloads/fraud/the-little-book-of-big-scams.pdf> has more details about this and other prevalent frauds. ●

<https://www.met.police.uk/globalassets/downloads/fraud/the-little-book-of-big-scams.pdf>

citizens advice

AGE UK OXFORDSHIRE'S COMMUNITY INFORMATION NETWORK

My name is Rachel Poole and I work with the Community Information Network, which is part of Age UK Oxfordshire. My role involves visiting communities like Sonning Common, bringing along with me information on where people can get advice on a whole range of subjects. We have information about activities that take place in your local area such as lunch clubs, coffee mornings and exercise classes. We provide IT lessons and gadget Drop In's around the county and also bereavement support groups called Late Spring.

We also have leaflets on many subjects such as how to go about setting up Power of Attorney, claiming Pension Credit and Attendance Allowance, how

to go about finding a Care home or Care Agency and how to get support as a Carer or if you've been bereaved, to name just a few.

We can also signpost to other organisations such as Carers Oxfordshire and Dementia Oxfordshire and offer a free Information and Advice Helpline which can organise home visits where appropriate, to assist with benefit forms.

I attend the WI run coffee morning at Sonning Common Village Hall on the 1st Wednesday of the month 10.30am-12.00pm. Please drop in for free advice, information and support and come and see what is going on in your local area. Alternatively feel free to contact me on 07827 235 460 or by email rachelpoole@ageukoxfordshire.



OXFORDSHIRE VOLUNTEERS CELEBRATED

Oxfordshire County Council would like to thank our volunteers and all volunteers across Oxfordshire for the difference they make every day!

Volunteering in Oxfordshire is thriving with one voluntary organisation for every 289 people in the county and around 4,500 voluntary and community organisations across Oxfordshire - that's significantly higher than the national average.

Oxfordshire County Council has approximately 3,000 volunteers who do an amazing job in their communities - delivering books to people who can't get to libraries, teaching children how to code, organising activities for adults with disabilities, and much, much more!

Councillor Mark Gray, Oxfordshire County Council's Cabinet Member for Local Communities, said: "Volunteering is clearly something that goes to the very core of who we are in Oxfordshire and we should definitely be proud of it and sing it from the rooftops.

"Volunteering offers you the chance to gain new skills - whether you're hoping to improve your confidence, develop an interest, or even change career. The wellbeing benefits of volunteering, from increased self-esteem to improved social connections, cannot be overstated."

Get involved - visit OxonVolunteers.org

SPRINGWATER CHURCH NEWS

There have been some significant changes at Springwater over the last few months, these include the election of a new leadership team but most importantly the appointment of Kevin and Linsey Potter to the role of our new pastors.

Kevin and Linsey had been guiding and looking after the church for a couple of years, so were already well known to the members. They have a background of Christian service, mostly due to working with people who had been victims of human trafficking in both India and the USA, for an organisation called Oasis.

They are a warm and lovely couple who are excited by the potential role Springwater could and will have in our local community and beyond. They are already beginning to forge positive and friendly relationships with the other churches in the area.

Due to their links with Oasis we were recently privileged to be given a talk by Jessica, a leader from the Oasis hostel in Mumbai, which many local people attended, it was a real eye opener and very moving. Jessica gave talks all over the UK helped and hosted by Kevin and Linsey.

The 'Ark' which caters for parents with babies and toddlers continues to meet at 10.00am on Wednesdays. It is a friendly and welcoming group which is flourishing. Please give the church a call if you are interested. The number is 0118 972 4519.

'Aspire' is a friendly and safe gathering for women and meets at 9.45am on Tuesdays, to discuss a relevant book, share life, pray and encourage one another in a supportive group.

On Monday mornings all are welcome to 'Compassionate Loaf' or 'Compassionate Creative'. These are free workshops in bread making or art, both are interesting and fun but without pressure, come along at 10.00am if you are interested.

The Steering Wheel Fellowship meets in Henley once a month to discuss classic cars, share life experiences, often with much humour and talk about faith when people feel they want to, all over a curry and a pint (or similar) in a relaxed atmosphere.

So there's lots going on, plus other things such as home group, young people's film nights, the 'Biblical Garden' (well worth a visit) all of which are components that make Springwater and hopefully will help us grow, so that more people come to share in the love and freedom Jesus Christ offers us all.

Our friendly and relaxed Sunday service takes place at 10.30am and children are welcome. When you come do feel free to join us for coffee, a biscuit and a chat afterwards. ●

CHRIS GIRDLER.
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MORRIS CLEGG

On Sunday, 10 June a very special evensong was held at All Saints' Church to mark the retirement of Morris Clegg.

Morris served as Lay Minister in the Benefice for ten years and his retirement, at the age of 88, coincides with a remarkable 60 years of service as a licensed lay minister.

The church was full for the occasion and many attended from all three churches in the Benefice, as well as old friends, including Revd Canon Graham Foulis-Brown and Revd Barry Olsen.

In his sermon, Morris talked about how he felt moved as a young man to become a lay minister and his eventual licensing in June 1958 in Rainhill, near Liverpool, where he was living at the time. He also spoke of his long association with the Samaritans. Those who have met Morris will know him to be a wise, witty and kind gentleman who has led a very varied and interesting life.

A reception was held after the service in the parish room where those present had the opportunity to reminisce and chat to Morris. Happily, this is not a goodbye to Morris as he will continue to worship in the Benefice, so we can look forward to his good company for some time to come. ●



REVEREND STEWART MORGAN

Stewart Morgan has been ordained Priest at a service held in Dorchester Abbey on Sunday 24th June, following his ordination as a Deacon last July. Stewart has served as a Licensed Lay Minister in the Benefice of Rotherfield Peppard, Kidmore End and Sonning Common since 2012 and has lived in Sonning Common with his wife, Val, since 1987.

Stewart was one of ten Deacons from across the Archdeaconry of Dorchester to be ordained. A huge congregation filled the Abbey for the service which was led by The Right Reverend Colin Fletcher, Bishop of Dorchester. It was a wonderful occasion for all who were involved and those that were able to attend. ●



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AUGUST 2018

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12 - 6pm

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Nettlebed School Hall**Sunday 5**

10am - 5pm

Nettlebed Art & Craft Show
Nettlebed School Hall

2pm

SC Village cricket vs Kidmore
End**Saturday 11**

11.30am - 5pm

Bishopswood Family Day.
Abbey Rugby Club**Sunday 12**

2pm

SC Village cricket vs
Hambleden**Monday 13**

2.30pm

FISH - Tea party. Village Hall

Thursday 16

11.30am

FISH - Pub lunch

Saturday 18

3 - 5pm

Strawberry teas. Christ the King
Church Hall**Thursday 23**

FISH - Henley Farmers' Market

2 - 4pm

Cinema Club. Village Hall

Sunday 26

2pm

SC Village cricket vs Peppard
Maharajahs

SEPTEMBER 2018

Saturday 1

10am - 4pm

Chiltern Players - Drama
workshop. Peppard Memorial
Hall

2 - 4pm

Chiltern Edge Horticultural
Society - Autumn Show. Village
Hall**Sunday 2**

2pm

SC Village cricket vs Highmoor

Wednesday 5

10.30am - 12noon

Village Coffee Morning hosted
by Sonning Common WI. Open
to all. Village Hall**Sunday 9**

2pm

SC Village cricket vs Moulsoford

Monday 10

2.30pm

FISH - Tea party. Village Hall

Monday 17

8pm

Sonning Common Parish
Council. Village Hall**Thursday 20**

11.30am

FISH - Pub lunch

7.30pm

Sonning Common Women's
Institute - "Mindfulness for
Older Groups", a talk by Dr
Trudi Edginton. Village Hall**Thursday 27**

FISH - Henley Farmers' Market

2 - 4pm

Cinema Club. Village Hall

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Kennylands Gymnastics	16		
Kidbys Sheds	9		
Laurence Hansen	12		
(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 from 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 and is also sent to individual email addresses. If you would like to receive a regular monthly copy, please email busmanager@fishvolunteercentre.co.uk with the message 'bus programme please' and your name.

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

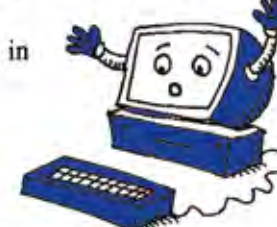
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