

# SC

# SONNING COMMON MAGAZINE



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# HENLEY PLOUGHING MATCH

SUNDAY 4TH OCTOBER

.....

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OCT / NOV 2015

# FROM THE EDITORIAL TEAM

## Another summer on the wane

Another summer on the wane, another magazine to assemble and where have the last 2 months gone? Well the sun shone, maybe a quarter of the time and as ever the people of SC have provided a rich selection of material to populate our magazine.

There are fascinating stories, 'not whaling as you know it'; archaeology; Phillippa's blog and the usual favourites. Zack's page is even more exciting than ever. The community pages are packed full of happenings from all age groups in the village and the Noticeboard publicises those to come. The 'Did you know' page has useful advice and also a request for your response to the threat to close our re-cycling centre at Oakley Wood.

The work of the NDP is into its final stages - how many times has this been said before but on this occasion it has to be true!!

Let us hope this 'season of mists and mellow fruitfulness' will bring some glorious colours, so our lovely countryside can be further appreciated.

Diana Pearman Editor

Email: editor@sonningcommonmagazine.org



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

# SC SONNING COMMON MAGAZINE

## MEET THE TEAM ...



Christine Atkinson



Hannah Rice



Jo Stoves



Joan Grummant



Ros Varnes

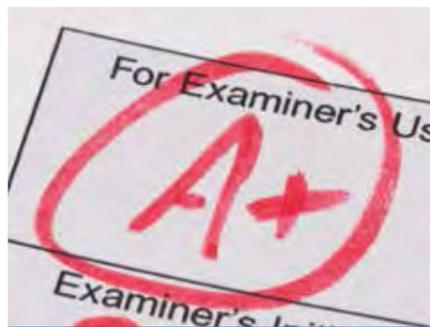
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## Chiltern Edge GCSE Results 2015

The days leading up to the GCSE results are a tense time for all students, parents and staff as they await the news. Students arrived at school between 10am and 11am to collect their envelopes and discover if their hard work had paid off.

There were many individual success stories at Chiltern Edge School this year. Amongst the highest scoring students were;

Joshua Hankins	9A* and 3A
Adam Butlin	7A* and 5A
Qamar Ayoubi	5A* 4A and 1B
Luca Babb	3A* 6A and 2B

Daniel Sadler Headteacher said, 'We are delighted that such a high proportion of students have hit their targets and will be heading off to their chosen Sixth Form places and apprenticeships in September. We always knew that the ability profile of this year group was very different from previous years and that is reflected in the headline figures. However, the progress scores for these results are very positive and that reflects the hard work of staff and students over the two years'.

5A*-C	58%
5A*-C with English and Maths	46%
5A*-G with English and Maths	97%

Students will be continuing their education at a variety of local 6th form colleges and through apprenticeships. Chiltern Edge School wish them all the very best and will hope to see them at the annual Presentation Evening in November. ●

# NEWS FROM SONNING COMMON PRIMARY SCHOOL

The Key Stage 2 results in SCPS were announced in the Summer Term. A Sonning Common Primary School pupil has again achieved 100% in their maths paper and they were also one of 3 pupils who gained 49/50 in their Level 6 maths paper.

Level	4+	5+	6+
Reading	93%	56%	
Writing	87%	48%	4%
Maths	93%	57%	19%
Spelling & Grammar	89%	63%	19%

Headteacher Chris Hirst said 'We are proud of all of our pupils most of whom superseded their targets. Well done to all of them!

Year 6 pupils are moving on to a variety of different schools: 30 to Chiltern Edge, 10 to Gillotts, 6 to Highdown, 2 to Kendrick, 2 to The Reading School, 2 to Reading Blue Coat, 1 to Langtree and 1 to The Abbey.

We wish them all good luck as they move on to the next stage of their education.'

Funding was granted at the end of the school year by Oxfordshire County Council to enable a refurbishment of some parts of the school. The work started over the summer, with the hall doors and windows being replaced. The rest of the block will be refurbished during September and October. At the same time, during the summer months, the kitchen underwent a substantial refurbishment with modifications made to ensure that the kitchen is fit for purpose. This work was also being funded by Oxfordshire County Council. ●

# NEWS FROM SONNING COMMON PRE SCHOOL

Back at the end of the summer term in July, we said goodbye to some of our children progressing onto primary school and we wish them all well for the future.

We also became proud winners of the potato growing competition set by Mr Hirst, Headteacher at Sonning Common Primary. It has certainly given us a boost to grow more vegetables in our raised beds.



We have welcomed lots of new children since September and have all been enjoying our all about me and transportation topics for this term.

Preschool always makes the most of our outdoor space no matter what the weather, and the children have been enjoying the mud kitchen which has finally been completed.

Older siblings and parents enjoy the Christmas Fair as much as the preschoolers, so please come along to support us on the day. We rely on these types of fund raising events to buy both fun and educational resources for the children which aren't covered by government funding alone.

Sonning Common Preschool is open to all local children aged 2.5 to school age, with sessions from 9-12am and 12-3pm Monday - Friday. Please contact our Manager Clare Saunders on 0118 972 4760 for more information. ●

# CHILTERN EDGE SUCCESS AT SOFTBALL

Following success at the South Oxfordshire U15 Mixed Softball Competition, Chiltern Edge advanced to the County Final held at Abingdon School in July.



The competition was made up of seven teams from across Oxfordshire. After early success in the pool stages Chiltern Edge faced The Oxford Academy in the Semi-Finals. It was a tight and exciting game with the Oxford Academy showing considerable skills in the field. Chiltern Edge also showed great skill with the bat and racked up what was to be the winning score.

The final against The Cooper school, unlike their previous encounter, this was not to be a walk over. Chiltern Edge had a fantastic inning in the field holding The Cooper School to a small lead. Chiltern Edge then played a tactical inning at bat before unleashing Harry Sayer to hit what was to be the winning shot, and running in a home run.

The U15 softball team played excellently during this year and demonstrated a real talent for the game.

Man of the Match: James Atkinson for his considerable skill and power in bat, and quick thinking and accuracy in field. ●

# Village enjoys a taste of Scandinavia

Seventy guests sat down to a delicious Scandinavian meal when the seventh Annual Village Lunch took place in Sonning Common Village Hall on Friday 4 September. The hall was beautifully decorated with Danish, Swedish and Norwegian flags and bunting and tables were covered in snowy white tablecloths representing the cold climate. The tablecloths were donated by Dunsden WI.

The lunch got off to a cracking start with Margaret Moola and Elaine Willaims entertaining everyone to some delightful piano duets.

The menu, written in Danish, was a source of much amusement and the meal consisted of a tasty smorgasbord followed by Danish meatballs in mushroom sauce and three vegetables. The dessert was Swedish apple cake and cream -all accompanied by wine,

fruit juice and coffee. Each table had the great fun of assembling the contents of their smorgasbord and were also entertained by a picture quiz and twenty questions between courses! The lucky guests at the winning table each received a chocolate frog as a prize.

This year Chrissie Phillips -Tilbury and Jill Vallis were joined by Sue Abbot in running this wonderful community occasion and they all deserve a massive vote of thanks for their hard work and ingenuity. The proceeds of the lunch, £600, will be donated to our village First Responders who provide such an excellent and often life -saving community service.

This annual themed lunch is an extremely popular community event and is always a sell-out. It happens on the first Friday in September so please put the date in next year's diary to ensure a place for next year. ●



# CLUB SC IS 4 YEARS OLD

Club SC, the Community run Youth Club is now 4 years old and opens 50 weeks of the year. Wednesday nights are for 10 to 13 year olds and Thursday nights are for 14 to 16 year olds. Both run from 7pm to 9pm.

On Wednesday 25 November this year, our young people are being treated to a performance and workshop by Sam Brown and the International Ukelele Band of Sonning Common. Sam's two children both attended Chiltern Edge School and she feels the youth club is of great value to the young people of our local villages. Her support is a wonderful boost for the Youth Club as Club SC and all its volunteers and supporters enter its 5th Year.

We offer activities for the young people, including, art, craft, music. We have also tried various taster sessions such as ultimate frisbee and shadow boxing. We have table tennis, billiard tables and an air hockey table. Our stereo sound system was kindly donated by the Goring and Woodcote Lions. We are first and foremost a safe haven for young people to meet, have fun and 'hang out'.

We receive grants and donations from Kidmore End and Rotherfield Peppard Parish Councils, Nottakwire and Chiltern Edge Community Association. The Co-op kindly allowed one

of its staff to fund raise earlier this year and we use the office facilities and staff of both Daisy's at the Dog and Doggy Dips, courtesy of the proprietor Beverly Dobson who is our Vice Chairman. She also allows us to use her premises for our committee meetings and AGM's. We do not take these benefits for granted and would like to pay tribute to all organisations who keep the youth club open and Beverly for her unwavering support and commitment. We particularly pay tribute to Sonning Common Parish Council, whose financial support is crucial and allows Club SC to be there for local youngsters.

We would like to recruit two more members to our Management Committee, particularly parents of school age or teenage children. We meet 7 times each year for approx. one and a half hours.

If you would like the opportunity to influence and encourage young people in the hobbies and leisure activities pertinent to them in the 21st Century, we would love to hear from you. Please contact me: [carolyviney@aol.com](mailto:carolyviney@aol.com) or telephone **01491 680887**.

Our AGM will take place at Daisy's at the Dog, Peppard Common on Wednesday 30 September at 6.30pm. It is an open meeting and everyone is welcome. ●

## PLANS FOR CHRISTMAS COMMUNITY CAROLS

FRIDAY 11 DECEMBER: Nottakwire plans to hold a Community Carol-Sing around the Village



We would like to extend an invitation to anyone in the village -young or old - or anywhere in between - who would like to join us on a pre-planned route around the village - singing Christmas Carols for fun! Carol sheets will be provided.

We will meet at the Village Hall at 4.30pm and return there for (free) mulled wine and mince pies after singing. We anticipate the evening will end at or before 7pm.

If you would like to be involved in this ad hoc group, we would love to see you.

Please email [margaret.moola@btinternet.com](mailto:margaret.moola@btinternet.com) or telephone (0118) 9721248 with your name and phone number, by 1st December, so that - if necessary - we can contact you prior to the event if, for instance, the weather is inclement or there are any changes.

We hope very much that you will bring a friend and join us. Margaret and Elaine. ●

## Health walking is for fitness

It's friendly, fun and free!

The new Health Walk timetables came out in mid-September - they are available from the Health Centre, the library and the Herb Farm, or at [www.sonningcommonhealthwalks.co.uk](http://www.sonningcommonhealthwalks.co.uk). The walks are for everyone, whatever their age and ability, and are graded accordingly. Not all of them are superfast: contact us for advice about which one is best for you. ●



# COME AND JOIN US!



### TABLE TOP GARDENING FOR THE OVER 50'S

- Meet new friends and have fun
- Discover more about plants and gardening
- Get some hands on experience

We are running a series of 8 FREE weekly indoor gardening sessions where you can meet new people, gain new skills and learn about tools and methods to help you carry on gardening. All ability levels from novice to experienced gardeners are welcome.

**When:** Wednesday 2 September to 21 October 2015

**Where:** Sonning Common Village Hall, Wood Lane, RG4 9SL

**Time:** 3.15pm - 5.15pm

For an application form or more details Contact Thrive. Telephone: 0118 988 4844, email: [SowAndGrow@thrive.org.uk](mailto:SowAndGrow@thrive.org.uk)

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

#### What is a Sow and Grow course?

A Sow & Grow course is a series of 8 FREE weekly indoor gardening sessions for people in their local community who are aged 50 years and over.

#### What can I gain from attending?

We hope that everyone who attends will:

- Learn new skills in a friendly supportive atmosphere
- Meet new people from the local community
- Find out how gardening can be made easier using adapted techniques and tools.
- Find out about further community based activities in the local area.

#### Where do courses take place?

Courses take place in local community centres such as libraries and parish halls across Berkshire, Hampshire and South Oxfordshire.

#### Do I need gardening experience?

The course is open to anyone interested in gardening. You do not need to have any previous experience. Everyone is welcome whether they are a novice or an experienced gardener.

#### What do I need to bring?

You don't need to bring anything. All plants and tools are provided by Thrive for each weekly session which is led by a Sow & Grow project officer. You might want to bring a plastic bag for taking things home.

#### Is the Sow and Grow course really free?

Yes, the Sow & Grow project has been fully funded by The Big Lottery fund. All Sow & Grow courses are completely free to participants. Participants can take home the results of their weekly activity e.g. a hanging basket.

#### How long do sessions last?

Sessions last for 2 hours and run once a week, on the same day at the same time, for 8 weeks. Each session includes time for refreshments. If you can't make a session for any reason, don't worry; just come along to the next.

#### Does it matter that I don't have a garden at home?

Each activity can be undertaken regardless of whether you have a window sill, a patio, a conservatory or a garden.

#### I am physically unable to garden.

Is the course suitable for me? All activities can be carried out whilst

seated and require very little physical exertion. We can also show you new ways to make gardening easier.

#### What do people say about Sow & Grow courses?

The feedback from Sow and Grow courses has been very positive. Here are a few comments from some people who have been on a course:

'This is really wonderful, I'm enjoying myself... feeling less lonely, everyone in my position should try this'

'The people on the course are lovely and I've made some new friends'

'The tips and techniques are really really useful . . . I have started using some of them at home'

#### How do I get on a Sow & Grow course?

Firstly you need to obtain an application form.

#### Telephone Thrive on 0118 988 4844 and ask for a pack to be sent to you.

If you decide that the Sow and Grow course is what you want, you need to fill in the application form and send it to the Project Officer at Thrive. The Project Officer will then contact you. ●



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Saturday special storytime is on 31  
October - guess what the theme  
will be?!

**Friendly Fridays**  
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**Rhymetimes for  
pre-school children**  
1st and 3rd Mondays of the month  
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**COFFEE & CAKE MORNING**  
*for Jane Proctor*

**Saturday 7 November**  
10 am until 12 midday  
Sonning Common Village Hall



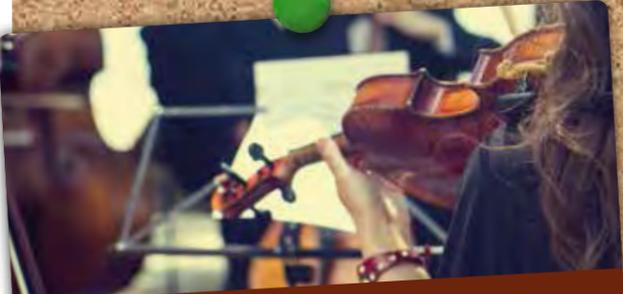
To mark my retirement after 25 years as a  
practice nurse at Sonning Common Health  
Centre. It would be great if my patients from  
the surgery could pop in for coffee! Raffle and  
any donations to go to The Macmillan Nurses.

**'Famished for Fiction'**

Monthly book group for mums in the  
Sonning Common and Caversham area for  
mums who love to read but probably don't  
have time to always finish the book!

Next two get-togethers  
**7 OCTOBER & 4 NOVEMBER 7.30PM**

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work and looking after children.



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Sonning Common Pre-school

**Christmas Fair**

**Saturday 14 November 10am - 12 noon**  
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# DAVID RICHENS FROM SKELETONS IN THE GARDEN TO KOI CARP IN THE BATH

By ROS VARNES

*If you believe in fate you might recognise its hand at work in the life of David Richens.*

David, who moved to Woodlands Road from Guildford three years ago, arrived by his fun and interesting career as a TV set designer by chance.

During his 22-year television career he worked on some of the most iconic shows of the 70s and 80s - The Benny Hill Show, Rumpole of the Bailey and After Henry - and counted the stars of the shows as close acquaintances.

But had it not been for a snap decision one day to buy the Daily Telegraph - which he had never bought before nor since - he would have missed an advertisement for a set designer for Thames TV and would not have set out on his particular career path.

At the time David was a student at the Central School of Art and Design in London, having accepted that his original career choice of becoming a chemist was never going to unleash his creative side.

David got the job with Thames TV and began working at the company's studios in Teddington Lock. As a set designer, he had to draw up plans for each set and then oversee its construction.

Said David: "I was responsible for everything in the room, from the furniture, carpets and curtains to the pictures on the wall.

"My early work was largely studio-based but later I shot many

programmes on location. I spent 10 years working on a police drama, The Bill. I would get to work and never know what I was going to be asked to do next.

"One minute we'd be digging up a skeleton in a garden and the next I'd be persuading a householder to allow us to simulate a petrol-bombing of their house! I remember having to source koi carp for one particular episode and storing it in a bath.

"The job was constantly changing. I would look forward to going to work and it was my saving grace when my wife became ill."

Sadly, David's wife, Anne, developed a brain tumour in the early 80s, which led to severe epilepsy. As parents to two young children, this had a major impact on family life.

"My wife was a very brave lady and coped well with her illness," said David. "But it was like having a devil on her back. We never knew when the next epileptic episode was going to strike. Despite this, she carried on, catching the bus into town and continuing to work as an artist.

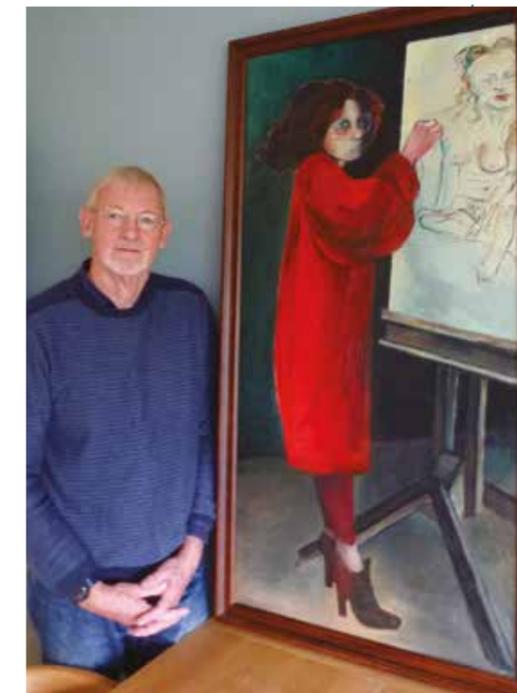
"The tumour caused blindness to the left-hand side of each of her eyes, which gave her a unique perspective as an artist. Her drawings were quite extraordinary. The illness brought out the best in her as an artist. People bought her paintings. I have masses of her work, which I treasure."

Anne died in 2003 after a long and brave battle with her illness.

The achievement of which David is most proud is setting up the Guildford branch of Epilepsy Action, a national charity which supports epilepsy sufferers and their families. He was chairman of the branch for nine years during which time he substantially developed its membership.

Since settling in Sonning Common, David has joined the parish council and taken on an allotment. He loves travelling and has been all over the Far East. His other great commitment is helping out with his three grandsons.

If you see him around, be sure to ask him what Benny Hill was really like! ●



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# COUGH TO HALF MARATHON

By PHILLIPPA TAPHOUSE

So here we are again, one month away from the Henley half marathon and I am having sleepless nights!

I have realised that in all the training I have done, there is one huge factor that I failed to realise would have a massive impact on my running and that is LIFE!

LIFE seems to get in the way of every step that I run. (Even as I am typing this, I am multi tasking by taxing my car having just realised that the tax ran out 9 days ago!)

LIFE is having three children off for the summer holidays for 9 weeks and entertaining them. LIFE is shopping, cooking, ironing, cleaning, tidying, walking and feeding the dog, having my parents to stay, gardening, looking for the remote control, finding batteries for said remote, acting as referee, being a taxi, and did

I mention having three children (and a husband) to entertain?

LIFE is fabulous but it does slightly get in the way when you are trying to dedicate yourself to a cause.

So my training hasn't so much as slowed down, but more ground to a complete stop which is the most probable cause for my sleepless nights.

After living LIFE, I fall asleep pretty quickly only to wake up in the early hours in a cold sweat worrying about how I am going to run 13 miles (without stopping and including Fawley Hill). I would go so far as to say it's all a bit of a nightmare!

The longest run I have done is just over 9 miles so what's another 4 between friends? It can be done and it will be done...and then maybe I can start to enjoy a worry free LIFE again!

Next time we meet, the deed will hopefully be done so watch

this space and in the meantime, please help me to raise money for Parkinson's. It is two years this month that I lost my amazing aunt to this cruel and horrible disease and that in itself will get me through. **Many thanks.**

[www.justgiving.com/Phillippa-Taphouse4](http://www.justgiving.com/Phillippa-Taphouse4)



# BOOKREVIEW

*Just Henry* by Michelle Magorian

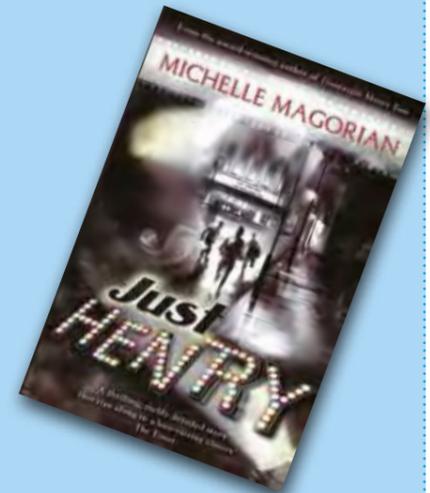
At the end of their last term in year 6 at the primary school I ask all of my reading groups to choose their favourite book from the 6 or 7 we've read together over the year. Somewhat to my surprise, 'Just Henry' by Michelle Magorian, the longest book we read at over 700 pages, came out on top for the 'Chubby Chocolate Bunnies' group (Tom Booth, Annabel Davis, Emma Dixon, Daisy Green and Eddie Handley).

Set just after the end of World War 2, Henry misses his father who died a war hero. His mother has married again, he has a young step-sister and his only distraction from his unhappy home life is going to the cinema.

Then a new teacher starts at his school and he has to do a project with 2 other boys about the history of films and the cinema. At the start of the book Henry is really not a very pleasant character, being influenced by his awful grandmother, who lives with the family. The way Henry changes as the story moves along, and the way things he believes to be true are slowly revealed to be something different make this a thought-provoking read. There are lots of plot twists and a very exciting ending!

'Just Henry' is in stock at Sonning Common Library (and other libraries) for anyone who wants to read it. ●

**Rosemary Dunstan**



*We Are Not Ourselves* by Matthew Thomas

This is the first novel by New Yorker, Matthew Thomas and was extremely well-received and nominated for a whole array of prizes. The story covers sixty years in the life of only-child Eileen Leary (nee Tumulty) and is set against a backdrop of the New York suburbs from the lowly Woodside to the multicultural and more affluent Bronxville. We are introduced to Eileen's character by her observations of her Irish-American immigrant parents, the larger-than-life Big Mike and her down-trodden, hardworking mother. From the outset, we see that Eileen is determined to use her considerable intellect to get more from the American Dream than she perceives her mother has done. Eileen will later discover that escaping from the values and traditions of her youth is not as easy as she would have hoped.

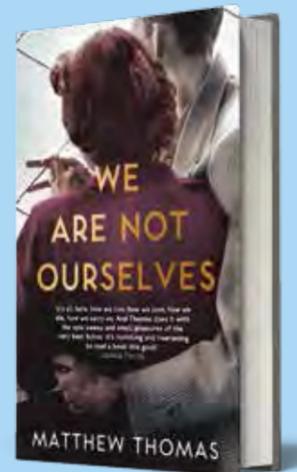
The story of these ordinary Americans draws the reader in from the very beginning which is testament to the excellent flowing prose and the author's attention to detail to the social changes in America in the second half of the

twentieth century. However, the novel really shifts up a gear when Eileen meets her future husband Ed Leary, a scientist specialising in the physiology of the brain. By now Eileen has completed her education and qualified as a nursing manager and has a very good job herself but her main hopes and dreams for a better future lie with the potential that Ed shows. As a result of his success in academic research, Ed is offered a high-powered position in the pharmaceutical industry which, to Eileen's surprise, he turns down in favour of a teaching position in a tertiary college. This is the first indication we have that all might not be well with Ed but we are kept waiting and guessing as the author skillfully charts Ed's decline in health by interweaving this key theme with the other story-lines, notably the birth of their son Connell.

The terrible news that Ed is suffering from early onset Alzheimer's disease comes just as Eileen (and the reader) are losing patience with Ed's odd and erratic behaviour. The key strength of this book is that whilst no part of this cruel disease is ignored, the writing is so skillful that

we see the changes in Ed from many points of view. The tale also stays engaging as we find out more about Eileen and Connell and their life-stories. Throughout the 620 pages of this epic novel, the time, place and characters feel real and engaging. There are some hilarious and some tear-jerking moments and I thoroughly recommend you read this outstanding book. I look forward to seeing where Matthew Thomas will take his story-telling next. ●

**Sara Capaldi**



# NDP AN UPDATE

## THE NDP MAY NOT BE ABLE TO STOP THE STEAM ROLLER BUT LET US RESTRAIN IT...

The February pre-submission Plan has to be re-drafted and we have to go through the full consultation process again as a result of requirements from SODC which include:-

- redrafting of various policies
- reappraisal of allocated and reserve SON sites
- reviewing contingency plans to accommodate beyond 138 homes

The reappraisal of SON site status stems from SODC advice that the Plan needed to make more efficient use of the SHLAA (Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment) sites, in particular those outside the AONB. Not to do so would be to put the Plan in breach of district policy; risk losing much-needed recreational and sports facilities for Sonning Common and potentially fail at examination.

With SODC's approval the NDP Working Party is proposing the following changes:-

- SON 15a (Chiltern Edge Top) becomes an allocated site (previously a reserve) for an unchanged 37 homes;
- SON 5 (Kennylands Paddock) becomes an allocated (on a reduced area) site for up to 22 homes (previously a possible reserve for 20 homes);

- SON 8 (Kennylands Gymnastics) is proposed as a possible reserve site, whilst retaining the gymnasium until a future replacement provision is sourced.

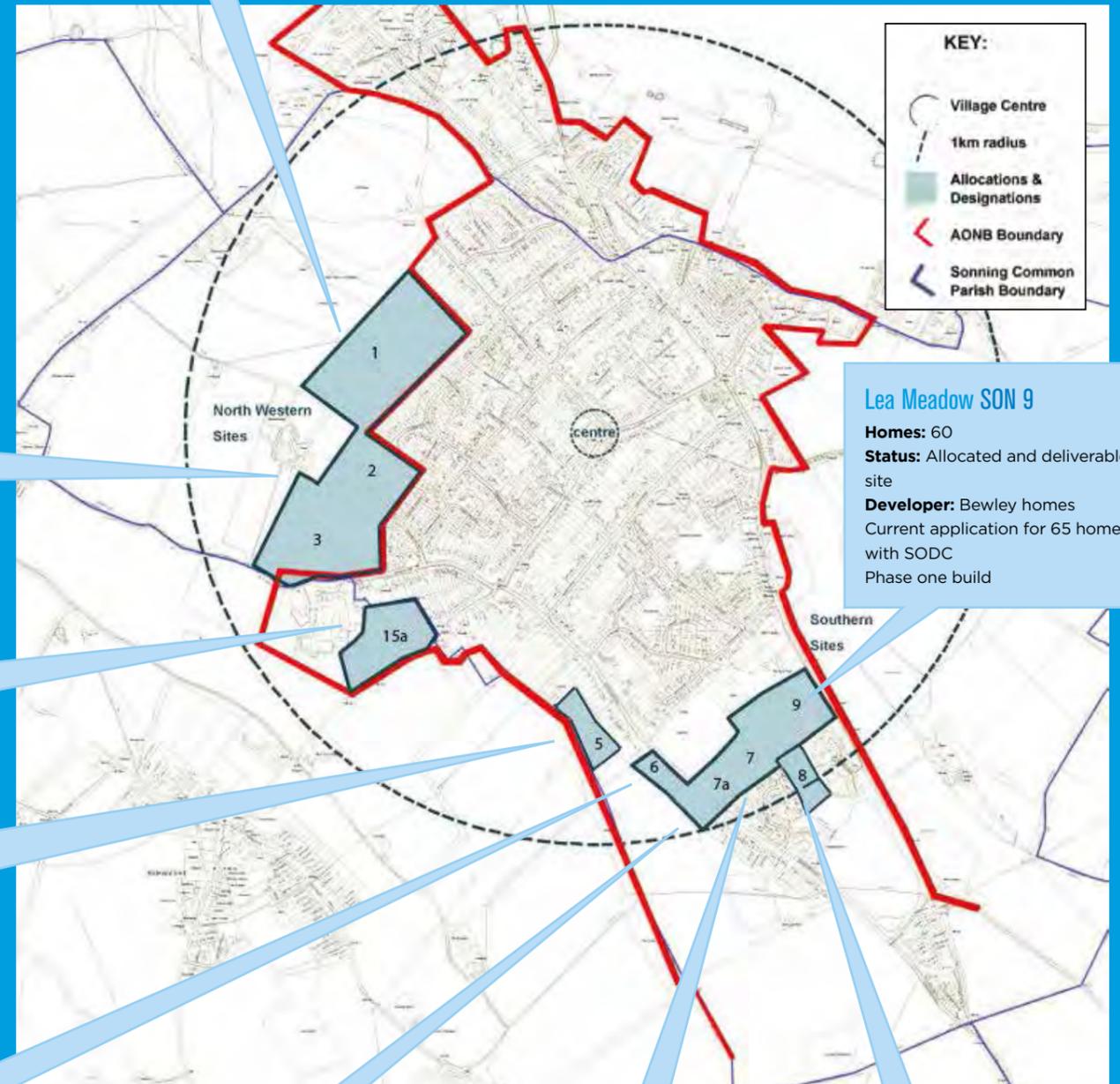
The Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) for Oxfordshire based on the 2011 Census clearly shows that our share of the additional homes allocated to South Oxfordshire would be, on a pro-rata basis, between 50 and 60. Thus our recommended increase of homes will cover for both our SHMA increase and our reserve. The information about the SHMA and the likely number of homes appeared in the February March edition of the SC Magazine.

We have worked tirelessly for 4 years on behalf of residents and the Parish Council and many of you have provided invaluable support in 'backroom' tasks. We do believe that our emerging Plan is moderating developers' plans for several of the sites but for that to continue it is essential that our proposals carry your endorsement and that our Plan ultimately is transformed into planning policy for Sonning Common.

BARRIE GREENWOOD  
gbgreenwood@hotmail.com



Old Copse Field SON 1  
Designated as Local Green Space



**Bishopswood Middle Field/Memorial Hall Field SON 2/3**  
**Homes:** 50  
**Status:** Allocated site, subject to approval by Chilterns Conservation Board  
**Developer:** Contract to be signed by Linden Homes for land to be transferred to Parish Council for recreation Phase one build

**Chiltern Edge Top SON 15a**  
**Homes:** 37  
**Status:** Allocated site, subject to DFEE approval  
 Phase two build

**Kennylands Paddock SON 5**  
**Homes:** up to 22  
**Status:** Allocated site (reduced no orchard)  
**Developer:** Agreement reached with agents for T A Fisher  
 Phase one build but not at the same time as SON 6

**Kennylands Infill SON 6**  
**Homes:** 26  
**Status:** Allocated site  
**Developer:** Agreement to be reached with Gallaghers  
 Phase one build but not at same time as SON 5

**Haggpits Orchard SON 7a**  
**Homes:** 5 (some self-build)  
**Status:** Reserve site  
 Phase two build if required by SHMA numbers

**Haggpits House SON 7**  
**Homes:** up to 25  
**Status:** Reserve site  
 Possibly Senior living/extra care homes  
 Phase two build if required by SHMA numbers

**Kennylands Gym SON 8**  
 Covenanted for sports and leisure use  
**Status:** Reserve site  
**Phase one homes:** 4 (one storey)  
 Gym is replaced in the future  
 Phase two homes: on whole site up to 18

**Lea Meadow SON 9**  
**Homes:** 60  
**Status:** Allocated and deliverable site  
**Developer:** Bewley homes  
 Current application for 65 homes with SODC  
 Phase one build

The PLAN will change before it goes to referendum due to;

- Consultation feedback from Landowners/Developers
- SODC requirements
- Examiner amendments

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By MIKE GRINSTED

They say that it's never too late to take up a new hobby, and inspired by Channel Four's long running series 'Time Team' I decided it was time to get my hands dirty after many years of being a 'couch' archaeologist.



In April 2013, on a dry bright windy day in Northumberland, I took my first steps towards realising an ambition which I had harboured for many years. I was one of a multi-national team of twenty who had volunteered for two weeks excavating at Vindolanda Roman Fort, located just south of Hadrian's Wall near the present day village of Bardon Mill. After a short game of 'Heads and Tails', a winner was declared and awarded the task of cutting the first turf on day one of a new five year excavation project within the fort boundary walls. The area was thought to be the Centurian's Barracks. No previous experience or archaeological qualification was required, but after a short briefing I was straight into my first excavation under the watchful eye of the resident professional archaeologists. It wasn't long before I had

my first 'find', a sherd of pottery which was identified as 4th century Huntcliff ware produced in East Yorkshire.

The two weeks were hard work at times as can be seen above but very enjoyable. I went back last summer to an open evening to see that the project was progressing well and felt proud of the contribution I had made.

For further information go to the website: [www.vindolanda.com](http://www.vindolanda.com)

My plan was to follow the Vindolanda experience by getting involved in local archaeology and I have now been a member of South Oxfordshire Archaeology Group (SOAG) for a couple of years. SOAG is one of the most active independent archaeology groups in Oxfordshire. I found them to be very friendly and welcoming and I have since been involved in resistivity surveying at Ascott Park near Stadhampton, excavating a Roman villa near Goring and a new project which aims to determine the original function of another Roman site not far from Sonning Common. My favourite find this year was a sherd of Samian ware pottery where half of the original potter's stamp was visible.

Research which I carried out at Reading University Library revealed the full potter's identity and dated the item to 150- 175AD.

Being a member of SOAG has also given me the opportunity

of taking part in group visits to view professional excavations such as Roman burials in Dorchester-on-Thames, and the final days of a five month excavation project prior to building in Thame which revealed amazing evidence of earlier settlement all the way back to the Neolithic period.

Outside of the digging season SOAG presents a series of lectures in the winter and non members are welcome. They are usually held on the last Thursday of the month at Goring Heath Parish Hall, Whitchurch Hill starting at 7.45pm.

The next lectures are: **Thursday October 22nd** by Dr Alex Smith from Reading University titled 'New Light on the Romano-British Countryside: Current Results of the Roman Rural Settlement Project' **Thursday November 26th** Two 30 min lectures by SOAG members: Lindsey Bedford 'Revealing Roman Boxford' and Ian Clarke 'Ascott Park - a small house and a large garden'.

Further information about SOAG is available from the website: [www.soagarch.org.uk](http://www.soagarch.org.uk)



# NO WAILING, ONLY WHALING

BUT NOT AS YOU KNOW IT! AN 'INTERVIEW' WITH A FEW ODD TWISTS.

**"Start me off with a challenge."**

**- OK. Read this article without saying, "I wouldn't do that", perhaps followed by "at my age" (be that younger, or wiser).**

"When did you first do it?" - As a teenager. Other kids led me into it, you know. Said it was fun. I never got seriously involved, and after leaving school I developed less addictive habits.

"Then what?" - Later, aged 40-something, someone tried to inveigle me into starting again; said how much I'd enjoy it. I kept putting them off, giving

various excuses, but eventually caved in and met a small group of people in a quiet place down by the river.

These addicts were keen to show me the ropes; wanted me to join in. Well, reluctant at first, I just watched, and successfully resisted all persuasion. Then I thought "Why not? What's the harm? I'd done it as a kid and managed to give it up. Maybe just once ...."

Wow! That first re-acquaintance was such a rush! Exciting. In no time, I was really enjoying it again. Unreal! Like the world was flying past! In just a few weeks, this adult who ought to have known better, had become hopelessly hooked.

"Cut! Stop! All this smacks too much of something illicit." - Humour me; allow just one more dubious reference.

My mother-in-law was horrified when I told what I was doing. "It's illegal. And immoral." She really meant it. And from her perspective she was right. "Yes! Don't you know it's internationally banned? Whales are an endangered species!"

Well of course, we all know that. I hadn't sufficiently explained that this was not whaling as she (or you?) knew it.

**So ....  
COULD WHALING BE YOUR ULTIMATE SITTING-DOWN ACTIVITY?**

Whaling, in this context, involves a dozen people sitting side-by-side in a modern replica of a mid-nineteenth century Whaleboat. (Yes, like in the Moby Dick film.)

"Why do that?" - It's sociable.

"This is just too weird!" - No, really. You can just sit there and watch the scenery go by, while others ("daft addicts") row the boat.

"Did you say "row"? I wouldn't do that at my age." - Ha, ha! You said it!

Relax, this is not even ROWING as you know it. No sliding-seats, no sweat, no singlets; no lycra lovelies. (Hmm. Should an exception be made?)

"So what is it?" - It's sociable sitting-down exercise.

"I'm not going to join a gym or health club." - You don't sign up to a course or make a regular commitment. It is outdoors, and it can be as gentle or as vigorous as you like. You can even be a passenger at first if you prefer.

"Would I need to be fit before I start?" - No entry-tests or qualifications are required, though a liking for fresh air and moderate exercise is a distinct benefit. There is a real risk you might get fit.

"What ages do it?" - Younger participants are always encouraged. Many regulars started in their teens. Others are approaching or past retirement.

"What about disability?" - If you can step on board you can join in. Several regulars have minor health/ability issues, and one visiting rower had no legs!

Being "legless" in the other sense is not encouraged, though post-row "re-hydration" at the Dog's Head or the Ferret's Arms is an optional extra.

"Is it safe?" - The whaleboat is unsinkable. Wide and stable enough that you can stand up and walk around. Not like those narrow Henley Regatta things - "one sneeze and they capsize". This prize-winning beauty evolved to sail in the open oceans, in pursuit of whales.

"Is she heavy?" - Navy cadets and sea scouts may have "pulled" the monstrous

Montague with oars heavy enough to wrench arms from sockets. This whaler is only half that weight, with carbon fibre oars, and carbon fibre mast for sailing.

"Did you say "sail"?" - Yes, Molly can sail, like the whaleboats in "Moby Dick". The mast and sails are kept for special occasions, expeditions and certain races.

"Does the Whaler participate in any prestigious events?" - Yes, often. In September she will sail and row in a 4-day event near Plymouth.

Recently she accompanied the Royal Barge "Gloriana" from Marlow to Runnymede for the Magna Carta 800th Anniversary celebrations.

Earlier this year she competed in a major international rowing and sailing event, amongst 1,000 boats of all sizes, on the Golfe du Morbihan, France.

Last year she was in Venice for a week.

2013, her 10th birthday, she attended 10 events in UK, Ireland and France.

In 2012 she rowed at two events in the presence of HM The Queen!

"Tell me more about "Molly"." - She is rowed every Wednesday evening (year round) and about once a month on a Sunday.

She is often used as a spectator/picnic vessel at The Henley Regatta and the Henley Festival.

She is swift and sprightly. She was once described as "fun to sail, fast to row,

and a great way of involving people who have done little of either".

"What is the connection with Sonning Common?" - Two long-term members of the crew live in the village. Other Sonning Commoners are often visitors.

"Is this a commercial advert?" - No, just an introduction to "The Henley Whalers", a group of amateur sail-and-oar enthusiasts. "Molly" is owned by one of the members, and the others contribute toward her running costs.

## "HEALTH WARNING"

- Water levels can go down as well as up.
- Past performance will not necessarily be repeated in the future.
- You may not get home as soon as you expected.
- Whaler rowing is addictive and can be harmful to your wallet.
- More information at [henleywhalers.org.uk](http://henleywhalers.org.uk)

PAUL W  
[henleywhalers.org.uk](http://henleywhalers.org.uk)  
Sent from my aging PC.



## Your children are in danger

This letter is a plea to parents, grandparents and guardians of preschool and primary school children using Grove Road. At school times this road is potentially dangerous for children riding scooters as they are completely oblivious to anything or anybody as they scoot along the pavements at an alarming rate. (Where are the helmets?) Recently there have been at least two near misses between scooters and residents' cars as they attempt to get out of their drives, albeit very slowly. The children cannot be seen by the driver. Often the parents are well in the rear shouting to their children to stop. The bottom of the road is a steep little hill which presents frightening possibilities. Your children are precious. Please ensure you are beside them as they scoot. Better still, save the scooter for fun in the park. ●

JEAN WATKINS, JANE ARCH (Grove Road)

## KERBSIDE COLLECT TEXTILES

I am very disappointed to read in the latest edition of Outlook that the decision to kerbside collect textiles is a fait accompli.

Although the article has a caveat requesting that good quality clothes are taken to the charity shop or placed in a charity bag, I can assure you from experience of working as a volunteer in a charity shop that that this will not happen.

For the majority of people the opportunity of "dumping" textiles outside their home will be an invitation to do so.

There is documented evidence that the charity packs put through the door are often used by commercial companies who give only a very small percentage to the charity.

On the whole donations to charity shops and to the charity bins have not been sorted by the owner who expects the recipient to do that. Witness the mounting black bags which are left outside charity shops despite exhortations not to do so, or left in the rain if the charity bin is full.

Is the council going to employ sorters to select what can or cannot be used?

I believe that this decision will have a very detrimental effect on our charity shop and the British Heart Foundation and Salvation Army bins in our village.

This is a very retrograde step and once again illustrates to me the lack of communication from SODC or the will to engage with local communities. ●

CHRISSIE PHILLIPS-TILBURY

# Just for kids

## HELLO EVERYONE

I am trying to use the skateboard park as much as possible before it gets too cold. My brother and I really like it there and we use our scooters and our skateboards. Every time we go, there are lots of other kids using it so I think it is a brilliant thing to have in our village. Do you like using it? Maybe I'll see you there!

ZACK



## CITY OF ZOMBIES THE BOARD GAME

I got this game for my birthday and I have been playing it loads. You become a hero, zap the Zombies before they reach the barricade, save survivors and try to escape the city on a plane. I really like it and think you will too. All ages can play from 5 up. It's the perfect game for Halloween as well! ●

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## BOOKREVIEW TIME RIDERS by Alex Scarrow

I have not been able to put this book down because it is so good. It's about three teenagers from the past, present and future that were saved from death and now travel through time to change the past - which also changes the present. Some of the historical characters - like Hitler and John F Kennedy - are real, which makes it even more exciting. It is a fast-paced book and I haven't finished it yet, so I'm looking forward to finding out what happens in the end. It's the first book in a series and I will definitely be reading more of them. ●



## Phoenix Comic

Every Friday, as soon as I get home from school, I rip open my copy of The Phoenix which is a comic packed with great characters. I love 'Bunny vs Monkey' and 'Star Cat', and I have been trying to make up my own characters and storylines too. Last week, one of the cartoons my brother and I made up, called 'Cake Boy', was featured on the reader's page - we were so excited! Have you every made up a comic character? Send it into me and I will feature it on this page. ●

## HALLOWEEN WORDSEARCH

N	O	T	E	L	E	K	S	R	L	B	H
G	O	O	S	E	B	U	M	P	S	F	W
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I	I	N	C	E	G	B	E	D	A	B	P
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- |              |            |            |
|--------------|------------|------------|
| APPLES       | GOOSEBUMPS | SPOOKY     |
| BATS         | HAUNTED    | WEREWOLVES |
| BONES        | MIDNIGHT   | WITCH      |
| COBWEBS      | OCTOBER    | WIZARD     |
| DEADLY       | RATTLING   | ZOMBIE     |
| FRANKENSTEIN | SKELETON   |            |

# TOM FORT HOLIDAYS

This is the season for asking people how their holidays were and then not listening to the reply. Have you noticed that no one ever seems to have a bad holiday? Everything is great, fantastic, huge fun, or – at the very least – very interesting.

It must a sure sign of what a bad person I am that I am only really interested in holiday disasters. When I worked at the BBC a friend of mine came back from a fortnight in Lanzarote with his family. When asked how it went, he replied memorably: "Well, if your idea of fun is being roasted alive on a lump of pumice stone, it was terrific."

That's the kind of holiday fun I want to hear about – camp sites flooded or blasted by gales, food poisoning from

that oh-so-characteristic little trattoria down the road from the villa, multiple cases of acute ear infection from the swimming pool, planes missed, passports nicked, the disco across the road that kept going until 4am every night.

Instead all I get is stories of how well the children got on, how thrilling the abseiling/water skiing/paragliding/snorkelling was, how fascinating and rewarding it was to traipse around the Vatican Museum or the Louvre in a temperature of 39 degrees Celsius, how jolly tramping twenty miles along the South West Coast path in a raging monsoon can be.

What about my own holiday, you may ask? Well, it was terrific, fantastic, huge fun, intensely interesting all the way

thank you. We went to the west coast of the USA. We saw whales. I drank buckets of delicious beer. We cycled across the Golden Gate Bridge. I went to a splendid fly fishing shop and had a riveting conversation with a man called Herb about Pacific salmon.

**We ... sorry, am I boring you?** ●



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## COOKS CORNER By SANDY ONOFRIO

As the nights are drawing in, or as a great and filling lunch on chilly days, here are a few satisfying soups to warm (and fill) you up. For an even heartier dish try serving in a soup bread bowl.

**LEEK AND POTATO - serves 4**

Knob of butter/ 2 fair sized leeks (chopped)/ 5 potatoes peeled and diced/ 900 ml chicken (or vegetable) stock/ single cream/ salt & pepper

Fry leeks in butter for 5 mins or until soft. Add potatoes, cover and cook for a further 10 minutes then add the stock, bring to boil and simmer for 15 minutes. Allow to cool slightly, blend, bring back to temperature, adjust seasoning. Add cream (optional) to serve. ●

**CARROT & CORIANDER - serves 4**

750g carrots - peeled & grated (or chopped small)/ 4 teaspoons coriander/ 2 cloves garlic (chopped)/ 2 onions (chopped)/ 4 potatoes (chopped)/ 1 litre vegetable stock

In a large saucepan soften the garlic and onions for 5 minutes. Stir in coriander and add all other ingredients. Bring to the boil and leave to simmer for 20 minutes. Blend, season to taste and bring back up to temperature. ●



**BREAD BOWLS FOR SOUP - serves 8**

2x7g sachets dried yeast/600 ml warm water/2 tspn salt/2 tspn vegetable oil/875g plain (or strong white) flour/1 tbsp polenta (or semolina)/1 egg white/1 tbsp water

Put all ingredients in a large bowl & mix initially with a wooden spoon and then with hands. Once dough has pulled together tip out on to floured surface and knead until smooth & elastic. Lightly oil the bowl, coat the dough by turning over, cover with a damp cloth & leave to rise, until doubled, for approx 40 minutes. Punch dough down, divide into 8 equal portions & shape each portion into a 4 inch round loaf. Place on a greased baking tray, sprinkle with polenta, cover & let rise again until doubled (approx 40 mins). Preheat oven to 200 degrees/Gas 6. Brush loaves lightly with half the mix of egg white & water. Bake for 15 minutes, rebrush with remaining egg/water mix and bake for another 15 minutes until golden. Cool on wire rack. Cut a 1cm thick slice off the top of each loaf, scoop out centre, fill with soup & serve immediately. ●

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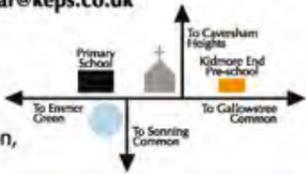
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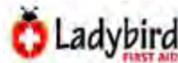
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On 28 September Reading WEA started its sixth year of providing adult education classes. Up to now, our short courses of 10 or 7 weeks (2 hours per week) have mainly taken place at the Hamilton Centre.

NOW weekday classes will now take place in classrooms provided by **New Directions in Caversham** (in the centre near Waitrose) or **South Reading (off Northumberland Avenue)**.

We are very grateful to New Directions and its Head, Barry Wren, and to Reading Borough Council for their commitment to adult education in the Borough. All our venues have access for disabled people, and most have parking on site or nearby.

This year we have an outstanding programme of courses in a wide variety of subject areas, including art history, local history (one of our strongest areas), architecture, literature, music, philosophy and much else. Our tutors are highly qualified in their subject areas, and encourage participation and a questioning attitude. There is no written work and no examinations!

The WEA is committed to a belief in education for life, and is a non-political body dedicated to inclusiveness and openness. Our charges are the same as last year and brochures are widely available. [www.weareading.org.uk](http://www.weareading.org.uk), where you can book online, or send completed booking forms to WEA Reading, 27 Derby Road, Caversham, Reading, RG4 5HE.

We look forward to your company. ●

**CITIZENS ADVICE OFFERS  
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Following pension reforms on 6 April 2015, people approaching retirement have greater freedom over ways they can use their pension savings. People will be able to take a lump sum, take out an annuity or a mixture of the two.

Pension Wise is a new government service designed to help people understand their pension options and empower them to make the right choices for themselves.

Free face to face Pension Wise appointments are available to book now at Henley bureau. The 45-minute appointments will be tailored to individuals, taking into account the value of their pensions and their plans for retirement.

A Pension Wise appointment could help you if:

- You are approaching retirement or are aged 50 or over;
- You have a defined contribution pension.

Guidance appointments are also available on the telephone, provided by the Pensions Advisory Service. Information and general guidance is also obtainable online at [www.pensionwise.gov.uk](http://www.pensionwise.gov.uk).

To book an appointment either on the telephone or face to face, call 0300 330 1001. ●

**AIR YOUR CONCERNS OVER  
RECYCLING CENTRE PROPOSALS**

We're concerned that thousands of residents could soon be left without a nearby recycling centre.

To help save money, Oxfordshire County Council is thinking about reducing the number of centres from seven down to three or four and reducing opening times by around 18 hours per week.

If you share our concerns please comment on the proposals by visiting the county council's website and encourage residents to do the same. The deadline is Monday 5 October.

**OAKLEY WOOD EXEMPLAR LETTER**

Under NO circumstances should Oakley Wood be closed or have its opening hours radically reduced. It is the ONLY centre serving South Oxfordshire.

UNLESS the public can dump waste legitimately, they will dump it by fly-tipping – not at the (closed) gates of an RC but in our beautiful countryside. The costs of recovering this dumped and fly-tipped waste will be VASTLY in excess of the minor savings of closing and constraining HW re-cycling centres. Such action will also have the irresponsible effect of transferring costs to the local District council. Please do not close Oakley Wood.

Responses needed by 5 October – the above might help!

**Compost giveaway**

If you want to get your garden in tip-top shape before the winter really hits, then make the most of compost giveaway days being provided by South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils.

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- Saturday 3 October, 9am – 11am – Rye Farm car park, Culham Road, Abingdon OX14 3NN
- Sunday 4 October, 9am – 11am – old South Oxfordshire District Council car park, Benson Lane, Crowmarsh Gifford, OX10 8ED ●

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# HIGH-SPEED BROADBAND ARRIVES

As part of the Better Broadband for Oxfordshire programme, seven fibre-enabled cabinets are now live and ready to take orders in Sonning Common.



The cabinets are in the following location and now sporting a large sticker declaring, 'Fibre broadband is here.' This indicates that the cabinet is live and ready to take customer orders.

### Kidmore Cabinet 1:

Located on Horse Pond Road, standing opposite Wood Avens, Reades Lane, Gallowstree Common, Reading RG4 9DP

### Kidmore Cabinet 2:

Located on Woodlands Road, standing opposite 2 Baskerville Road, Sonning Common, Reading, RG4 9LS

### Kidmore Cabinet 3:

Located on Wood Lane, opposite 62 Peppard Road, Sonning Common, Reading, RG4 9RP

### Kidmore Cabinet 4:

Located outside 41 Kennylands Road, Reading, RG4 9JR

### Kidmore Cabinet 7:

Located on Wood Lane, standing opposite 1 Kennylands Road, Sonning Common, Reading, RG4 9JR

### Kidmore Cabinet 8:

Located standing opposite 43 Ashford Avenue, Sonning Common, Reading, RG4 9LR

### Kidmore Cabinet 10:

Located on Widmore Lane, outside 2 Pond End Road, Sonning Common, Reading, RG4 9SA

### Kidmore 1: Serves 2 postcodes

RG4 9DG	RG4 9DR
---------	---------

### Kidmore 2: Serves 12 postcodes

RG4 9DG	RG4 9NB	RG4 9TJ
RG4 9LT	RG4 9TA	RG9 5HG
RG4 9LU	RG4 9TB	RG9 5HH
RG4 9LX	RG4 9TF	RG9 5HQ

### Kidmore 3: Serves 13 postcodes

RG4 9NJ	RG4 9RE	RG4 9SU
RG4 9NL	RG4 9SP	RG4 9SX
RG4 9NP	RG4 9SR	RG4 9SY
RG4 9NT	RG4 9SS	RG4 9SZ
RG4 9NX		

### Kidmore 4: Serves 18 postcodes

RG4 9JP	RG4 9LA	RG4 9LJ
RG4 9JR	RG4 9LB	RG4 9ND
RG4 9JS	RG4 9LD	RG4 9NE
RG4 9JT	RG4 9LE	RG4 9NG
RG4 9JX	RG4 9LG	RG4 9RF
RG4 9JY	RG4 9LH	RG4 9RG

### Kidmore 7: Serves 5 postcodes

RG4 9EF	RG4 9RJ	RG4 9SH
RG4 9RH	RG4 9RL	

### Kidmore 8: Serves 6 postcodes

RG4 9DH	RG4 9LL	RG4 9LW
RG4 9LF	RG4 9LS	RG4 9TL

### Kidmore 10: Serves 10 postcodes

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RG4 9RP		

Please note that improved broadband services are not turned on automatically. To access fibre-enabled broadband, please contact your chosen ISP or use comparison sites to find available packages. There is a list of ISPs on the Better Broadband for Oxfordshire website: [www.betterbroadbandoxfordshire.org.uk/broadband-providers](http://www.betterbroadbandoxfordshire.org.uk/broadband-providers)

If you contact an ISP, please state that you wish to order 'fibre-enabled / superfast broadband,' otherwise they may offer you a slower broadband service. Not all premises within a postcode area will necessarily be able to order superfast speeds (above 24Mb/s). Some will get superfast broadband and others will be able to get anywhere between 2Mb/s and 24Mb/s, depending on distance from the cabinet. ●

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\*Source Rightmove 1/1/14-31/12/14 for areas RG9 5, RG4 9  
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## FLASHY BROADBAND DEALS LURE CUSTOMERS INTO PRICE TRAP



New research from Citizens Advice finds that many broadband advertisements draw customers in with attractive discounted 'teaser deals' which last for a limited period and mask the real long-term costs.

Because of hidden charges such as line rental, starter fees and delivery costs, on average monthly costs are over three times the initial price advertised. Misleading broadband advertisements can make it harder for

consumers to shop around to get the best deal. Citizens Advice is calling on broadband providers to be forthcoming about the price that consumers will actually pay, and is asking the Advertising Standards Authority to introduce new rules ensuring that broadband deals are transparent.

Before taking out a new contract, customers are advised to ask their supplier for the average monthly cost over the full contract period, not just the promotional period. For further help on any problems stemming from misleading broadband deals, call Adviceline on 03 444 111 444 or drop in to your nearest Citizens Advice Bureau. For opening hours, see [www.ca.org.uk](http://www.ca.org.uk) ●

# Parish news

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

## CONTROL THOSE HEDGES!

**What a summer of growth we've had with luxuriant plants, trees and hedgerows the result of all that rain.**

The downside, of course, is that vegetation now needs to be cut back where it is overhanging pathways and roads around the village and obstructing people's movements.

Residents have a legal obligation to keep hedges alongside pavements cut back to their property boundaries. Trees, too, need to be kept trimmed so that pedestrians and traffic can pass by unhindered by overhanging foliage.

As a guide, a 1.2m wide clearance should be provided on pavements and foliage should be cut back to at least 2.5m above pathways. The required clearance for trees overhanging roads is 5.2m above the highway.

Allowing hedges and trees to grow across pavements - beyond property boundary lines - creates real problems for pedestrians, parents with pushchairs and wheelchair and mobility scooter users.

Please take a look at the trees and hedges around your property boundary and if they overhang, give them a prune this autumn.

## Weeds too

And while you're at it, you might consider removing any weeds from pavements around your property's boundary.

The parish council has been informed that Oxfordshire County Council will no longer be taking responsibility for weed removal, so, if we want the village to look tidy, it's up to us to take care of our own little patch.

Thank you. ●

## Resurfacing of Kennylands Road

**Work is to continue on the re-surfacing of Kennylands Road later this year and at the beginning of next year, according to the county council.**

The manhole covers will be raised to be level with the repaired patches and once the patchwork has settled, the road will be re-surfaced with granite chippings.

Prior to the road repairs this summer, there were 69 serious holes or cracks in the road in need of urgent action as the road base cannot cope with heavy traffic. ●

## DISABLED PARKING SPACES

**Disabled residents may apply to the county council for a disabled parking space on the public highway near their home or place of work, subject to certain conditions.**

To qualify they must be a blue badge holder, find it impossible or extremely difficult to walk more than 100m and have no

access to off-street parking. They must be able to identify a suitable location for the proposed parking space that is not on private property. Oxfordshire County Council advises that the application process could take up to 18 months and involves consultation with the police and other emergency services and neighbouring residents. For further information visit: [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/disabled-parking-places](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/disabled-parking-places) or phone Oxfordshire County Council on 01865 792422. ●

## TEAM SKATEPARK



The hunt is on for a team of people to help with the day-to-day running of Sonning Common Skatepark. The parish council is looking to recruit users, parents and other interested residents to help:

- organise workshops and other fun sessions
- shape the park's development
- keep the area tidy
- fund-raise

To join Team Skatepark please contact: Ros Varnes, Deputy Clerk, Sonning Common Parish Council. Phone: **0118 972 3616**. Email: [deputyclerk@sonningcommonparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:deputyclerk@sonningcommonparishcouncil.org.uk) ●

## FIX MY STREET

**Residents often drop into the Parish Office to report potholes and other road problems.**

These issues are the responsibility of Oxfordshire County Council and residents can report problems directly to the county council via its user-friendly website [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk) or by phoning 01865 792422.

The website has a Fix My Street facility which allows residents to easily identify on a map of Sonning Common the area requiring attention, describe the problem, provide photos (if desired) and request that the issue is dealt with.

The status of repairs on previously-reported issues can also be checked.

This facility can be used to report potholes, trip hazards on pavements, street light and traffic light faults, overgrown roadside vegetation and flooding.

From the website's home page detailed above, go to Roads and Transport then Street Maintenance where you will find an A to Z of road and street-related issues with advice on who is responsible for each area and how to get problems resolved.

To report road problems, from your internet search engine, go to Fix My Street. ●

# Church news



## Farewell to our Rector Fr Graham

**By the time this article appears, we will have said a fond farewell to our Rector, Fr Graham - his last service having been held, for the whole Benefice, in St John's Church, on 20 September.** Some time after that date, and before 31 October (the formal date of his retirement), he will be moving to Newbury. After 25 years as our Parish Priest, we will miss him enormously, but we wish him good health and a long and happy retirement.

Until Fr Graham's successor is appointed, the Benefice will be in what is commonly called an 'Interregnum', during which the Churchwardens of both Parishes work with our Associate Priest, the Revd Susan Cooper and Diocesan advisers to find a new Rector; and, in the meantime, it is hoped that our church life will continue along familiar lines. It is suggested, however, that those wishing to keep up-to-date with church news (including services and events), should access our church website ([www.lamandflag.org](http://www.lamandflag.org)) and click on the 'Weekly Parish Notices' link. ●



## Harvest Festival

**Sunday 4 October**  
at 11am St John's

Afterwards there will be a bring-and-share Harvest Lunch in the school. FREE - BUT, you need a ticket, so that the number attending is known in advance.

## All Soulside

**Sunday 1 November**  
at 4.30pm St John's

A special service for those who wish to remember dear ones who have died. Those present at the service, whether regular churchgoers or not, will be able

to light a candle in memory of someone/ those whom they love but see no longer.

A list of names of those asked to be specially remembered, will be read out and should be submitted to one of the Churchwardens: Mr Robert Lynch 0118 972 4699 or Mrs Karen Broadbent 0118 972 4606.

## Remembrance Sunday

**8 November** at the War Memorial  
(in Kidmore End) at 10.50am

Followed by a service in St John's Church, at which the British Legion colours are received into the sanctuary.

**All are welcome at these services**

## St Michael's Catholic Church

18 Peppard Road, Sonning Common, RG4 9SU Tel: 0118 972 3418  
Email: [stmichaels.rc@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:stmichaels.rc@hotmail.co.uk)  
Website: [www.saintmichaelsonningcommon.org.uk](http://www.saintmichaelsonningcommon.org.uk)

**Priest in Charge Fr**  
Paul Rowan PhL STD

### Mass Times

Saturday Vigil 5.30pm  
Sunday 9.00am  
Sunday 10.30am

**Morning Prayer & Holy Communion**  
Monday to Friday 9.30am

**Confessions** every Saturday from 4.45pm to 5.15pm or by appointment

# OCTOBER 2015

SATURDAY 3	Royal British Legion Women's Section - Nearly New Sale plus lots more - Village Hall	9.30am - 11.30am
SUNDAY 4	Felt-makers get together. Bring lunch and a project to work on - Village Hall	10am - 4pm
MONDAY 5	Village Coffee Morning hosted by Sonning Common Women's Institute. Open to all. Raising funds for local community projects - Village Hall	10.30am - 12noon
SATURDAY 10	Primary Cross Country - Chiltern Edge School	9am - 12 noon
MONDAY 12	FISH - Tea party - Village Hall	2.30pm
TUESDAY 13	Chiltern Edge Horticultural Society - 'Curiosities in the Chilterns', a talk by Alan Copeland - Peppard Memorial Hall	7.30pm
WEDNESDAY 14	Chiltern Players - play readings - Butcher's Arms	8pm
THURSDAY 15	FISH - Pub lunch	11.30am
THURSDAY 15	Sonning Common Women's Institute - 'The Beatnik Beatles', a talk by Simeon Courtie. Visitors welcome - Village Hall	7.30pm
MONDAY 19	Sonning Common Parish Council - Village Hall	8pm
THURSDAY 22	FISH - Henley Farmers' Market	

# NOVEMBER 2015

SUNDAY 1	Felt-makers get together. Bring lunch and a project to work on - Village Hall	10am - 4pm
WEDNESDAY 4	Village Coffee Morning hosted by Sonning Common Women's Institute. Open to all. Raising funds for local community projects - Village Hall	10.30am - 12noon
SATURDAY 7	Primary Cross Country - Chiltern Edge School	9am - 12 noon
MONDAY 9	Royal British Legion Women's Section - Group Meeting. For details call Pam 0118 9723750 - Batten House	2pm - 3.30pm
MONDAY 9	FISH - Tea party - Village Hall	2.30pm
TUESDAY 10	Chiltern Edge Horticultural Society - 'The Royal Landscape and the Saville Garden', a talk by Harvey Stephens - Peppard Memorial Hall	7.30pm
WEDNESDAY 11	Chiltern Players - play readings - Butcher's Arms	8pm
MONDAY 16	Sonning Common Parish Council - Village Hall	8pm
THURSDAY 19	FISH - Pub lunch	11.30am
THURSDAY 19	Sonning Common Women's Institute - 'Spinning a Yarn: from Banker to Farmer', a talk by Linda Scurr. Visitors welcome - Village Hall	7.30pm
SATURDAY 21	Felt-makers Exhibition. Free entry, refreshments available - Village Hall	10am - 4pm
SUNDAY 22	Felt-makers Exhibition. Free entry, refreshments available - Village Hall	10am - 4pm
THURSDAY 26	FISH - Henley Farmers' Market	

The FISH Volunteer Centre runs regular door-to-door shopping trips to Tesco in Henley every Monday morning and to Henley Waitrose, Henley Farmers Market, Morrisons in Reading and Reading Town Centre every month. The programme of shopping and leisure trips for each month is published and distributed on 20th of the preceding month and bookings are taken from that date. Copies of the programme are available the FISH Volunteer Centre, Sonning Common Library, the Christian Community Action shop, Pet Country Supplies and on request from Carson's Chemist. The monthly programme of trips is posted on noticeboards in both Peppard and Sonning Common. Details of all minibus trips can also be found on the FISH website [www.fishvolunteercentre.co.uk](http://www.fishvolunteercentre.co.uk)

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



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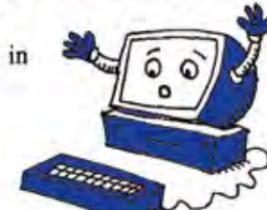
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**Christine Ullah - Nail Technician**  
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Northam House, Main Street, Stoke Row, RG9 5QR  
[chris@talullahnails.co.uk](mailto:chris@talullahnails.co.uk) [www.facebook.com/TalullahNails](http://www.facebook.com/TalullahNails)

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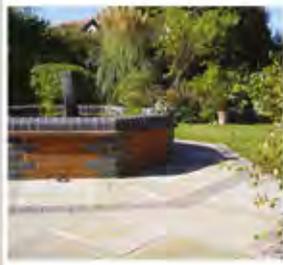
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