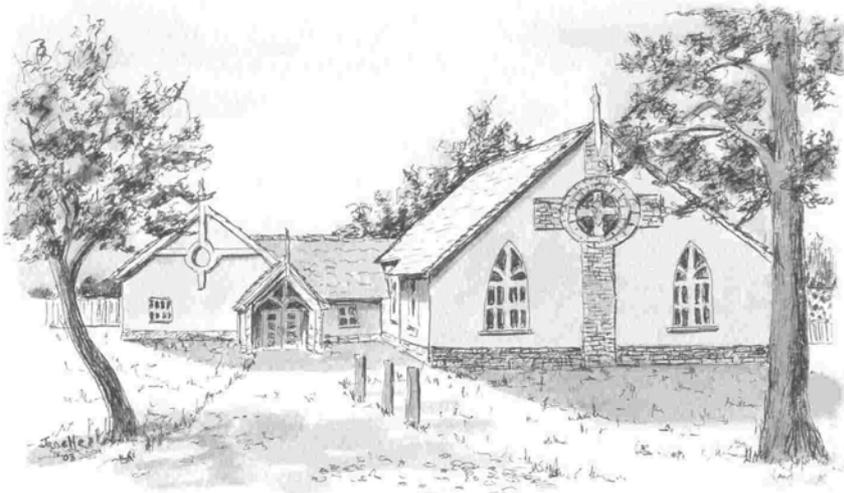


Sonning Parish Magazine



Serving the Communities
of Sonning and Charvil



25p

April 2006

The Parish of Sonning

The ancient parish of Sonning, originally extending from Sonning Common to Sandhurst was one of the great blocks of land handed over to the Church in the 7th century. In 909 A.D. Sonning with Ramsbury, became a separate bishopric, the Bishop of Ramsbury/ Sonning maintaining a riverside Hall in the village. In 1075 the see was transferred to Old Sarum, ultimately Salisbury, whose bishops had their own Palace on the same site as the Saxon Hall until 1574, when the manor was transferred to the Crown.

St Andrew's Church in the heart of the village was founded in Saxon times - probably by Birinus, first bishop of Dorchester-on-Thames. It was largely rebuilt in 1852, during the incumbency of Canon Hugh Pearson; it was he who founded the Sonning Parish Magazine in 1869.

The White Hart Hotel, now known as The Great House, and partly 17th century, stands on the site of older buildings including the home of 'Elias the Ferryman' mentioned in a deed of 1100. The French Horn Hotel, in Sonning Eye, was built in the 1880s in front of the original old inn - now Bridge House - and its farm buildings. The Bull Inn, belonging to the Church, was originally known as Church House, a guest house for pilgrims to medieval St Sarik's Chapel in St Andrew's. Also adjoining the church is Deanery Garden one of Sir Edwin Lutyen's best-known country houses built at the turn of the century, just above the site of the ancient residence of the Deans of Salisbury who regularly visited Sonning, the parish being a 'Dean's Peculiar'.

Sonning Mill produced a regular supply of flour from Saxon time until 1969, after which it was converted into a 'Dinner Theatre', the first of its kind in Britain. The Pearson Hall is the principal venue for village functions

Within the village boundaries lie the Reading Blue Coat School at Holme Park (once the home of the Lord of the Manor) Sonning Church of England Primary School, King George's Field and other sports grounds, and Reading University Farm - all of which help to preserve the rural atmosphere of Sonning, the centre of which is now a conservation area.

The civil parish of Charvil is of relatively recent origin but the land on which it lies has long been part of the ecclesiastical parish of Sonning. In the 18th and 19th centuries it consisted of Charville Farm and a few cottages, which lay between the villages of Sonning and Twyford and adjacent to the London to Bath highway.

The development of Charvil began between the two World Wars, particularly after the new A4 road was constructed in the 1920s by-passing Twyford, and was accelerated after 1945. To meet the needs of this increasingly large community, St Patrick's dual-purpose Church and Hall was

consecrated and opened in 1952; it remains within the ecclesiastical parish of Sonning, It was considerably extended and refurbished in 2001.

St Andrew's Sonning Contacts

Clergy: Vicar	Canon C. G. Clarke, The Vicarage, Thames St, Sonning	969 3298
Associate Vicar	Rev Michael Forrer, 6 Park View Drive South, Charvil	934 1989
Licensed Lay Ministers	Mr D. G. Sims, Vine Cottage, Pound Lane, Sonning	969 3151
	Mr R. J. Peters, Elm Gables, Parkway Drive, Sonning	969 3589
Churchwardens:		
	Mr Bob Hine, 28 Glebe Lane, Sonning, RG4 6XH	969 8653
	Mrs Jan Hammond	926 2365
	Mr J. M. Stansfield (Emeritus), 3 Strathmore Drive, Charvil	934 1762
Deputies:	Mr Mark Jordan	940 1431
	Charvil: Mr C M Easton, 8 Park View Drive South, Charvil	934 0795
Parochial Church Council:		
Secretary:	Mr Mark Jordan, 12 Manor Wood Gate, Lower Shiplake, RG9 3BY	940 1431
Treasurer:	Mr James Wilson, 3 Imperial Court, Henley-on-Thames, RG9 1NP	07721 690 524
Gift Aid:	Mr John Scoble, 8 Whitegates Lane, Earley, Reading RG6 1EE	926 5138
Parish Magazine:		
Editor:	Mr Gordon Barnett	969 6693
Advertising:	Mr Bob Peters	969 3589
Circulation:	Mrs Pat Livesey	961 8017
Organist & Choirmaster	Mr David Duvall, 39 Hudson Rd, Woodley davidduvallx@aol.com	07855 947 104
Bookings	St Sarik Room: St Andrew's Sonning: Mr D. G. Sims	969 3151
	St Patrick's Church Hall: Charvil: Mrs N. Potter	934 4961
Internet Addresses:	http://www.sonningparish.org.uk Editor's mailbox: gordonbarnett@btinternet.com Advertiser's mailbox: bob@rpassociatesuk.com Vicar's e-mail: chris@cgclarke.fsnet.co.uk	

Forthcoming Events

<i>Date</i>	<i>What's on?</i>	<i>Page</i>
Apr 6	Annual Church Meeting, 8.00 p.m.	17
Apr 7	SWMC Live music night	24
Apr 14	Fauré's Requiem	22
Apr 15	St Patrick's Easter walk & BBQ	16
Apr 16	SWMC Easter egg hunt from 12 noon	24
Apr 22	Festival Supper, Pearson Hall	R
May 4	Mission Commissioning Service, St Andrew's	R
May 5	Live music night with 'Allen Howard'	24
May 6	S&SES Walk on the Wild Side	26
May 13	S&SES Walk on the Wild Side	26
May 7	BBQ lunch, St Andrew's Vicarage garden	R
May 27	Sonning Regatta	R
May 27	SWMC Live Music (local band) and Fish & Chips	24
May 28	Elegant picnic	R
May 28/29	SWMC Pavement café	24
May 28/29	Scarecrow trail & open gardens	29
June 2	SWMC Live music night	24
Jun 4	Christian Aid Family Party, Pearson Hall	20
Jun 11	STA Regatta, Ligugé, France	R
Jun 16	SWMC Quiz & BBQ	24
Jul 7	SWMC Live music night	24
Jul 15	STA Bastille Day celebration, Sonning	R

**Deadline, May 2006 Magazine is 4.00 p.m.
Friday, 21st April.**

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Regular Services

The Parish Church

Sundays	8 am	Holy Communion (Prayer Book)
	10.30 am	Family Service, first Sunday of the month Parish Eucharist, second, fourth and fifth Sundays Matins, third Sunday
	6.30 pm	Evensong, except third Sunday of the month, when it will be Holy Communion with the laying on of hands for those who wish it.
Wednesdays	10 am	Holy Communion at St Andrew's

St Patrick's Charvil

Sundays	9.30 am	Family Service, first Sunday of the month Holy Communion, second and fourth Sundays Worship Service other Sundays Sunday School 9.30 am except first Sunday of the month
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If you would like to arrange a Thanksgiving for the birth of a child, a Baptism (please give at least one month's notice of your intention), a Marriage or a Funeral, please contact the Vicar. Please note that the Vicar hopes to take Monday as a day off, although urgent matters will of course be dealt with.

The Vicar's Letter March 2006

Easter

This month we celebrate the most important event in the Christian year. I know the birth of Jesus is also important. Even those who only very occasionally "nod to God" celebrate Christmas and large numbers do so by coming to one of our Christmas Services.

Most people mark Easter by giving eggs and although lots of people also attend one of the Easter Services and our churches are comfortably full they are not overflowing as happens at Christmas. The unique thing about Jesus was what happened after his death. We may not know all the details but we do know the events were so convincing and powerful that his followers faced ridicule, prison and death rather than deny them.

I hope you will be able to join us at some of the Holy Week and Easter Services this year. They are:

Palm Sunday (9th April)

- 8.00am Holy Communion (said 1662 Prayer Book) St. Andrew's
9.30am Worship Service at St. Patrick's
10.30am Parish Eucharist at St. Andrew's but starting at The Bull gates
6.30pm Evensong at St. Andrew's
Palm Crosses will be distributed at all services

Wednesday 12th

- 10.00am Holy Communion in the St. Sarik Room

Maundy Thursday

- 8.00pm Holy Communion and stripping the altar - St. Andrew's

Good Friday

- 2.00pm Children's activities & making Easter Gardens - St. Sarik Room
2.00pm Easter Liturgy - St. Andrew's (One hour Service of hymns, prayers and readings)
7.30pm Faure's Requiem (Composed 1887/89) - St. Andrew's

Easter Eve

- 4.30pm Easter Walk along the river from Sonning Vicarage to St. Patrick's
5.30pm Barbecue at St. Patrick's (See below for details of tickets)
7.00pm Easter Vigil - St. Patrick's

Easter Day (16th April)

- 8.00am Holy Communion (said 1662 Prayer Book) St. Andrew's
9.30am Family Communion - St. Patrick's
10.30am Family Communion - St. Andrew's
6.30pm Evensong - St. Andrew's

From the Diary

Baptisms

- 26th February Freya Helena Rebecca Falls
26th March Polly Ellen Mayhead
12th March Hayley Elizabeth Hughes
19th. March Cameron Armstrong Ellis & Olivia May Threlfall

Easter Barbecue

You are welcome to join us for the walk to St. Patrick's from Sonning Vicarage or to meet at St. Patrick's for the barbecue and/or the Easter Vigil, which follows it. If you are attending the barbecue **please purchase your ticket by Palm Sunday**. The cost of tickets is £2.00 for adults and £1.00 for children. Because this is a non-profit making event we need to know numbers in good time. Wine will also be available and those who would like a glass are asked to make a donation to cover the costs.

Easter Communion

If you cannot make your Easter Communion in church because of age or illness we will be happy to bring it to you. Where possible could you please telephone Chris or Michael a few days before Easter.

Matins & Evening Communion

Because Easter Day falls on the third Sunday of the month there will be a Communion Service in St. Andrew's that day and we have moved Matins and the Evening Communion to the fourth Sunday in April (23rd).

When we introduced more frequent Communion Services at St. Andrew's at 10.30 on Sundays and started having Matins only once a month I was asked by several people for reassurance that we would continue to have Matins as a main Sunday Service. I said at the time, and wrote in the magazine, that I was not out to "do away" with Matins and while there was support for it we would continue to have Matins once a month. I am sorry to say that even those who asked for Matins do not always attend and it is the worst attended of our morning services at 10.30am.

I hope no one will think I am threatening but that all those who like Matins will recognise this as an appeal to them! I know that many would be sad if we no longer had Matins at 10.30 on a Sunday so please "use it or you may lose it"! Last month, which was typical, 83 people attended Matins on the third Sunday but the previous week 138 people came to the Communion Service.

Annual Church Meeting

A note to remind you that our Annual Church Meeting will be held at St. Patrick's on Thursday 6th April at 8.00pm. Details were in last month's magazine but do please try to attend.

Love & prayers

Chris

The EASTER View from St Patrick's

As I put pen to paper Norman Kember and his two fellow Canadian hostages have been freed in Baghdad. That is really good news, especially as no one was killed or injured in the process of releasing them. The sad aspect is that the fourth hostage, the kidnappers killed Tom Fox, and his body dumped on a rubbish tip early in March. Our thoughts, prayers & condolences go to his family.

It will be an inspiration to hear in due course how and in what ways their Christian faith sustained them during their ordeal. The good news aspect of the kidnapping is how it brought Christian and Muslim leaders closer together in their joint efforts over the past six months to persuade the kidnappers, the Swords of Truth, to release their hostages. This was possible as, for some years now, there has been a continuous inter-faith dialogue between Christians and members of other faiths. Christian congregations throughout the world, including we ourselves at St Patrick's and St Andrew's, have prayed Sunday by Sunday for their safety and their release. Our prayers have been answered.

So the Easter Day affirmation "Alleluia, Christ is Risen" is even more poignant this year with the release of Norman Kember and his two fellow hostages. We do not know what motivated the kidnappers to give up and flee after so many dire threats to kill their hostages if Iraqi prisoners held by the coalition forces were not released. Hopefully they, like the ETA Basque activists in Spain, saw the "truth" that violence does not achieve the end for which it is designed and initiated.

This Eastertide we pray that the release of the hostages will contribute to further progress in the peace process in Iraq, the Middle East and other parts of the world where there is ongoing conflict. Jesus said of His own ministry that he came to bring peace in body, mind and spirit, and not a sword.

A Happy Easter.

Love and prayers,

Michael and Family

St Andrew's Church Pew Cushions

We are planning to replace the seat cushions in the pews at St Andrew's later this year. We have one quote for the work to be done, but wondered if there were any upholsterers in or around the village who would be

interested in this work. Do please contact me on 0118 926 2365 if you would like more details.

Jan Hammond

Christian Aid

Christian Aid is actively working in 50 Countries across the World. Their wish is to help people who are living below the poverty line.

It seems that every day you can read about some country or another as it faces a truly desperate situation. With *Christian Aid* helping them the people in these countries have a good chance. Christian Aid has workers who go and live with the people. Helping them in any way they can. Convincing Governments to listen to the plight of the people.

Christian Aid believes in life before death.

This year *Christian Aid* week is May 14th - 21st 2006 *Christian Aid* needs Sonning and Charvil to help them in their work. Would you be able to help collect the *Christian Aid* envelopes from the people in your street? It is not only pop-stars who need to give up a bit of time. Can you help? You do not have to do very much, just a few minutes.

If you would like to help, please call Sue Butler Sejas on 0118 969 6327 and leave your name and your telephone number so that Sue can call you back. She can then give you some Christian Aid envelopes ready for delivery and collection in your street.

Thank you; if we all work together we can make a real difference.

Sue Butler Sejas

Conservative Association - Sonning Branch

Spring Luncheon

The Spring Luncheon will be held on Wednesday, 26 April, 2006, at 12 noon at Athelstan House, Holmemoor Drive, Sonning, by kind permission of Mr and Mrs Francis Byrne. The guest speaker is Gordon Jones, Trustee of Vision Aid Overseas. Tickets are £12.00 and can be obtained from Mrs Rosemary Digby (969 3277) or any member of the committee. We look forward to seeing you there.

Mary Jones

Christian Aid Fundraiser

**Children, Grown Ups and Everyone is
Invited to a
Family Party with a Bolivian Theme**

**Sandwiches, Cakes,
Tea, Coffee, Soft Drinks
Music, Dance, Fun!!!**

**Sunday June 4th, 2006
Doors open 11.30am until 5.00pm. Pearson Hall, Sonning.**

**Traditional Bolivian Dance Shows
12.30, 2.00pm and 3.30pm**

Fairtrade Goods & Home-made Cakes will be on sale all day.

**All proceeds will go to Christian Aid who helps people who are
living below the poverty line.**

Enquiries please call Sue Butler-Sejas (tel: 0118 969 6327)

Thames Valley & Chiltern Air Ambulance Trust

Appeal for volunteers in Sonning and Charvil

We urgently need fundraisers in the Sonning & Charvil area to assist with:

- The distribution and collection of donation boxes to shops, dentists, garages, and doctors' surgeries within their own locality;
- Collecting old mobile phones and toner cartridges for recycling;
- Assisting with running a stall at County shows, fairs and school fetes;

No pressure is placed on anyone and the support needed will be in the volunteer's own area.

The Air Ambulance depends greatly on the support of volunteers to raise the necessary funds to ensure this life saving service is maintained 365 days a year in Berkshire, Buckinghamshire & Oxfordshire.

Anyone who may be interested is asked to contact Tony Allerton, Volunteers Coordinator on 01628 822711 email tony@airambulancetvac.org to arrange a convenient time for an informal chat in the Sonning area.

Tony Allerton

Readers email Addresses

I am frequently asked for the email address of a member of the parish, which I do not normally have. However, if you are prepared to let me have yours, I am prepared to make and keep a list for reference purposes. If you would like your email address included, please email me at david@dgsims.force9.co.uk.

David Sims

Thank you

My sincere thanks to all of who so kindly sent messages, cards and telephone calls of support for me and for Carole when I was taken into the Churchill Transplant Centre on Saturday 11th March. We were both very touched and it was a great help to us both to know that we had such wonderful support behind us. So far so good and long may it continue.

Gordon Barnett

Mrs Barbara Day

Barbara Day, who has strong connections with Sonning, celebrated her hundredth birthday on Saturday, 18th March. Her father, Lt Col Deare Royal Berkshire Regiment, lived with his parents at Grove Cottage in Pearson Road and her mother, Margaret, had lived at Holme Park with her aunt. Lt Col Deare died in 1915 and was buried at St Andrew's with full military honours. His widow went on to marry Clement Williams of Shelvingstone, where Barbara lived in the 1920's with her brother, Thomas, and half-sister Armine. After Armine and her husband, John Edmonds, came to live at North Lodge in 1966, Barbara was a regular visitor there.

John Edmonds

Bellringers

Ringers throughout the country have been asked to mark the Queen's forthcoming 80th birthday with special ringing. So listen out for the bells ringing on Friday 21st April between 3-4pm as we attempt a quarter peal for this occasion.

area. Your GP will still be able to recommend a hospital for your care if you do not wish to choose.

Choose and Book

Choose and Book is an electronic system for sending referrals to hospitals.

When using Choose and Book patients will be given a sheet of paper which has their booking number at the top of the page. It will also include contact details of either the hospital the patient has chosen or a list of hospitals for the patient to choose from. There is also a phone number and web address to get more information on the appropriate hospitals.

The patient then phones the chosen hospital and makes an appointment for a date and time convenient to themselves. This can be done as soon as the patient is given the sheet of paper detailing all the information.

Karen Washbourn

Sonning Art Group

Poor Rolf (No 63 on the 2004 scarecrow trail), we didn't know he was going to be needed again and his life sadly ended in the corner of a garage, hung, drawn & quartered and beheaded by some sweet, angelic grandchildren!! However, appropriately enough at Easter time, resurrection is on the way and hopefully he will be back complete with paintbrush and easel ready to join his scarecrow colleagues back on the trail in May in support of the Children's playground fund.

Unfortunately the brilliant red and blue picture of the Australian Outback Rolf was working on in 2004 has been 'recycled' and he will have to think of a new subject to paint for the entertainment of visitors to the Art Group's exhibition area in Pearson Hall.

George Webster

Sonning Book Club

The book discussed by members this month was "Red Dust" by Ma Jian. This non-fiction book is a record of Ma's journey through China to Tibet. Ma had lost his desire to paint and sought to escape his mundane life in Beijing by travelling through villages and towns discovering Buddhist Temples and ruins whilst meeting up with friends and his parents on the way.

The next book for consideration is "Friday's Girl" a Novel by Charlotte Bingham which is set in Victorian England and will be reviewed at the club's next meeting on the 26th April.

The Book Club meets every 4th Wednesday in the month at the Sonning Working Men's Club at 10.15 a.m. finishing with coffee and biscuits at 11.00 am. New members are welcome. For more information please give me a call on 0118 944 0699.

Anne Webster

The Monday Club

The 'Laughter Lines' Troupe of Age Concern gave us a demonstration of line dancing, and even enticed some of us on the floor to have a go. Extremely good fun. The fact that I suffer with TLFS (Two Left Feet Syndrome) was overlooked. The demo ended with a fast dance (by the professionals only) that was exciting. Oh for the days when one could smooch on the dance floor and ask 'Do you come here often?' Mary Saunders, acting under the name 'Clearly Organised', is a declutterer of houses. She showed us 'before' and 'after' slides of her work. It is amazing that some people cannot get to their bed to sleep in it because of the junk. I am heartened to find that I am not so disorganised as I thought I was.

R C A

Sonning CE School PTA Ladies Night

Sonning PTA are holding a Ladies Night at the School on Thursday 11th May at 8pm, so if you feel stressed, need a little time to yourself, come and relax and enjoy a much needed glass of wine. Bring a friend along to have a girly night out and be pampered.

So why don't you come and do some relaxing shopping or even have a taster of a treatment. Also have a go on our fantastic raffle. Ticket price is £3.50 or £4.00 or the night with a glass of wine, so for a fantastic evening contact Penny Adams on 0118 932 1208 Email pennyjadams@hotmail.com or Ruth Wharley 0118 969 5849 Email Rswathome@aol.com

Little Fishes Baby and Toddler Group

Little Fishes Easter gathering will be on Tuesday 4th April. Please join us for toys, craft activities, songs and stories from 10am to 11.30am in the St Sarik Room next to St Andrew's Church. All pre-school aged children and their parents/carers are welcome.

Sarah Turner

Need help on how to build a Scarecrow?

Come along to the

**SCARECROW
IDEAS & BUILDING
EVENING**

At THE PEARSON HALL, SONNING

7.45 pm on APRIL 3rd

- with wine and nibbles!

REMEMBER

*You do not have to live on the trail to display a Scarecrow.
Characters are booked on a first come basis and need to be booked
in advance to be given a site and shown on the Trail Map -*

If you haven't already booked your idea call

Barbara Carr NOW to book yours.

PLANT STALL

We need plants to sell -

Please sow a few extra seeds, take cuttings and divide up borders.

ALL DAY REFRESHMENTS

We need donations of cakes and scones - please start baking now.

Have Fun - Get involved in this Great Village Event -

To book a Scarecrow, to offer Sponsorship,

To help for a while with Parking, Gardens or Church and

To offer donations of Cakes and/or Plants. Please contact :

Malcolm Stansfield - 9341762

Barbara Carr - 9345886 or Pam Glasspool - 9692800

In aid of the Village Playground Appeal

Sonning & Sonning Eye Society

Join Sonning's resident naturalist and S&SES member, Alastair Driver, for a walk along the Thames from Sonning Church to the Thames Valley Park Nature Reserve and discover the hidden treasures of this exemplary man-made wildlife haven. You will be able to see aquatic life and (weather permitting) butterflies, moths, dragonflies, all close up and personal, and you'll get the chance to polish up on your recognition of birds and wildflowers as we go.

Alastair has kindly agreed to do the same walk on two consecutive Saturdays giving people a choice of dates (and no doubt weather) to suit busy diaries. Each walk will be limited to c. 25 people. The dates are Saturday 6 May and Saturday 13 May starting from the Churchyard near the entrance from the High Street. The groups will meet at 2.15 p.m. for a 2.30 p.m. start. Refreshments will be available in The Bull after the walk. Tickets cost £1.50 (Members) and £3.00 (Non-members) and are available from Diana Coulter on 969 2132.

Preparations are in full swing for the Society to participate in Scarecrow Weekend in May, as well as for a members-only summer lunch in the garden of one of our hidden Arts & Crafts gems in June. Discussions are also under way about a small-scale contribution to Heritage Open Days Weekend in September.

If you are new to the parish or are generally curious about what we do, you can visit our website, www.sonning.org.uk to get a taster. Members receive *bridge*, our quarterly newsletter and are welcome to attend our bi-monthly Executive Committee meetings. If you would like to join, please contact Carole Barnett, our Membership Secretary, on 969 6693.

Diana Coulter

Sonning Working Men's Club Events

Friday 31 st March:	A.G.M. 8pm
Friday 7 th April:	Live music night
Sunday 16 th April:	Easter egg hunt from 12noon
Friday 5 th May:	Live music night with 'Allen Howard'
Saturday 27 th May:	Live music (Local Band) + Fish & chips. Tickets must be purchased prior to this event from the Pearson hall on the Regatta ticket day (Sat 22 nd April from 10am to 12 noon)
Sun 28 th /Mon 29 th May:	Pavement Café (Scarecrow Trail)
Friday 2 nd June:	Live music night
Friday 16 th June:	Quiz & BBQ
Friday 7 th July:	Live music night

Pownall

Nature Notes

Hopefully by the time you read this, the truly “boring” weather of February and March will be over and it will have started to feel like spring is here. As you will be aware, this has been one of the driest winters on record and as a result the nature reserve pond water levels have been so low that it was in serious danger of drying out in mid-summer - long before young newts would be mature enough to crawl off into the undergrowth and dragonflies could emerge and take to the wing. Fortunately the cavalry arrived in the form of the Sonning Fire Brigade under the tutelage of Steve Maskell and they very kindly filled the pond from the mains (before the hosepipe ban came into force I hasten to add!). This is the first time a top-up has been required at this time of year, since the pond was created 9 years ago, but this should just see the site through until August, even if we have a dry summer. Incidentally this is a good example of how a local volunteer fire brigade can be so much more than just a rapid response fire-fighting service - they can provide many other services to the community of much wider benefit, which simply would not happen if the service was not based in the community itself. Something to bear in mind when the forthcoming consultation on the possible shutdown of Sonning Fire Station commences soon!

The “official” Great Crested Newt surveys have now started, as required by Defra, as part of Blue Coat School’s proposal to convert part of “Russell’s Field” into sports pitches. The first survey on 21st March revealed that the “GCNs” had returned to all 4 large ponds close to King George’s Field, and that egg-laying had started, as evidenced by the folded-over leaves of underwater plants. (The female newts carefully fold over the underwater leaf tips of broad-leaved pond plants like Water Forget-me-not and Water Mint and then lay a single egg in the fold and glue it together into a little parcel, still attached to the plant.)

Still on the subject of protected species, Chris Clarke reported to me recently that he had seen a Badger in his garden and wondered where it was coming from. An inspection of the churchyard confirmed his suspicion that there was a small and fairly new “satellite” Badger sett in the grounds. It is likely that this animal is starting a break-away group from a larger group that probably resides in Blue Coat woods. The only other setts that I am aware of in the village are in woods on the University Farm and alongside Sonning Cutting. Badgers are unusual in that they have their own piece of legislation - The Protection of Badgers Act 1992. This was set up not because they are particularly rare (there are app. 300,000 badgers in the UK), but to protect them from persecution, primarily Badger-baiting. Right now they are in the news again because Defra is proposing targeted culling of badgers in areas afflicted by bovine tuberculosis (bTB). The Defra reasoning is that both badgers and cattle carry and spread bTB amongst

themselves and to one another, and that the known reservoir of the disease in wildlife needs to be tackled to reduce the costs and scale of the problem. The jury's out on that one, as cattle to cattle transmission appears to be the main pathway for the disease.

Alastair Driver

And even more nonsense-

Poem from the modern day version of 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' read by Theo (the Theseus character) to his wife Polly (based on Hippolyta) when all confusion is overcome and happiness ensues.

Yours is the voice I hope to hear when the phone says "One missed call"

Yours are the hands I want holding my ladder when papering the stairs in the hall

Yours is the face I long to see when I'm delayed at Waterloo

Yours is the duvet I long to share when my Calor gas is through

Yours is the sartorial eye that I crave when I am having last minute suit doubts

Yours is the hand I want to hold during funerals and penalty shoot-outs

Long before my mind was made up, my heart belonged to you

At last I am listening to all that is said and I hope that you are too.

November 2005

Sonning Village

SCARECROW TRAIL

28th - 29th MAY

11 am - 5.00 pm

GARDENS OPEN

CHURCH FLORAL DISPLAY

PLANT SALE

ALL DAY REFRESHMENTS

FREE PARKING!

Inclusive Trail and Open Gardens ticket £3.00

In Aid Of The Village Playground Appeal

Local Organisations

St Andrew's: Creche	Alice Wilkinson	932 0264
St Andrew's: Little Fishes	Mrs Sarah Turner	944 8154
St Andrew's: Sunday School	Jan Hammond	926 2365
St Andrew's: Tower Captain:	Mrs P. Elliston	969 5967
The Friends of St Andrew's	Wendy Williams	969 6609
St Patrick's: Sunday School	Catherine Balchin	934 2840
1st Charvil Rainbows	Guider: Brenda Cowdery	934 5698
Charvil Art Club	Secretary: Mr W.G. Crane	934 5791
Charvil Branch Conservatives	Mrs E. Hobbs	934 0528
Charvil Brownies	White Owl: Rozanne White	901 7818
Charvil Guides	Naomi Simpson	934 1392
Charvil Gym Club	Sally Jones	966 5480
Charvil Caterpillar Club	Sarah Thompson	901 7608
Charvil Parish Council	Clerk: Mr I. Cohen	901 7693
Charvil Pre-School Playgroup	Secretary: Helen Myers	934 2144
Charvil Senior Residents Club	Miss C. Edwards	969 2114
Charvil Women's Club	Mrs S. Newman	934 0589
Charvil Youth Club	Rachel Sale	932 0853
Sonning & Charvil Baby-sitting Circle	Mrs Vanessa Jones <i>E-mail</i> vanessalouisejones@hotmail.com	934 1185
Sonning & District Chernobyl Children's Lifeline Link Group	Maria Gee maria.gee@ntlworld.com	962 7721
Sonning Art Group	Chairman: Mr G.B. Webster	944 0699
Sonning Book Club	Mrs Anne Webster	944 0699
Sonning Branch, British Legion	Chairman: Gordon Barnett	969 6693
Sonning Brownies	Leader: Miss D. Reeves	969 2987
Sonning C of E Primary School	Head Teacher: Mrs L. Green	969 3399
Sonning Conservatives	Secretary: Mary Jones	944 2877
Sonning Cricket Club	Membership: Ali Driver	969 2698
Sonning Flower Club	Secretary: Mrs A. Thomas	986 7550
Sonning Glebe Art Club	Julian Toms	969 0100
Sonning Glebe WI (eve mtgs)	Mrs D. Mouldsley	961 8829
Sonning Guides	Leader: Sue Jones	969 6628
Sonning Lawn Tennis Club	Membership info: Ali Campbell	969 2646
Sonning Liberal Democrats	John Edmonds	969 0017
Sonning Neighbourhood Watch	Sec: Sue Bell	969 6924
Sonning Parish Council	Clerk, Mrs L. Bates	969 7753
Sonning Rainbow Guides	Leader: Mrs Debbie Knox	969 4470
Sonning RNLI	Chairman: David Bates	969 7753
Sonning School PTA	Chairman: Mr Ian Clark	375 9119

1st Sonning Scouts Group	GS Leader: Wendy Cherry	926 2363
1st Sonning Scouts Group	Scout Leader: Mike Watts	962 8388
1st Sonning Scouts Group	Cub Scout Leader:	
1st Sonning Scouts Group	Beaver Scout Ldr: Trefor Fisher	969 3279
Sonning Table Tennis Club	Alan Tinson	969 0782
Sonning Twinning Association	Ken Henderson	969 3027
Sonning Toddler Group	Elizabeth Tonge	969 2080
Sonning Village Players	Secretary: Mr S. Atkins	969 1134
Sonning & Sonning Eye Society	Secretary: Mrs P. Feathers	934 3193
Sonning Village Show	Secretary: Mrs Heather Hine	969 8653
Sonning Working Men's Club	Secretary: Bob Hulley	969 9431
Friends of Ali's Pond	Alastair Driver	969 2698
Masquerade Drama & Dance Group for Young People	Clare Hatfield	07973 918225
Monday Club	Leader: Ken Trimmings	969 1072
Pearson Hall	Caretaker & Bookings: Mrs Jenny Adams	969 7692
Pearson Hall Mgmt Committee	Secretary: Mr Colin McEwen	934 0300
Badminton Club	Mrs P. Pardoe	934 5643
Fitness Training	Chris Banks	934 0832
Longmead Bridge Club	Chairman: Tony Cowling	969 5181
Rotary Club, Loddon Vale	Secretary: Norman Mousley	961 8829
Serinette Ladies Choir	Suzanne Newman	934 0589
Short Mat Bowling Club	Mrs S. Newman	934 0589
Tuesday Club	Mrs Marjorie Bennet	934 5059
Vivace Girls Choir	Suzanne Newman	934 0589

Ali's Pond	E-mail: ali@sonningdrivers.plus.com www.sonning.net/alispond.html
Sonning & Charvil services	www.sonningparish.org.uk/docs.htm
Sonning Working Men's Club	www.btinternet.com/~sonning_club/news.html
Sonning-on-Thames	archive.museophile.sbu.ac.uk/sonning www.sonning.net
Sonning & Sonning Eye Society	www.sonning.org.uk
Sonning Art Group	www.sonningartgroup.org.uk
Sonning School	www.sonning.wokingham.sch.uk