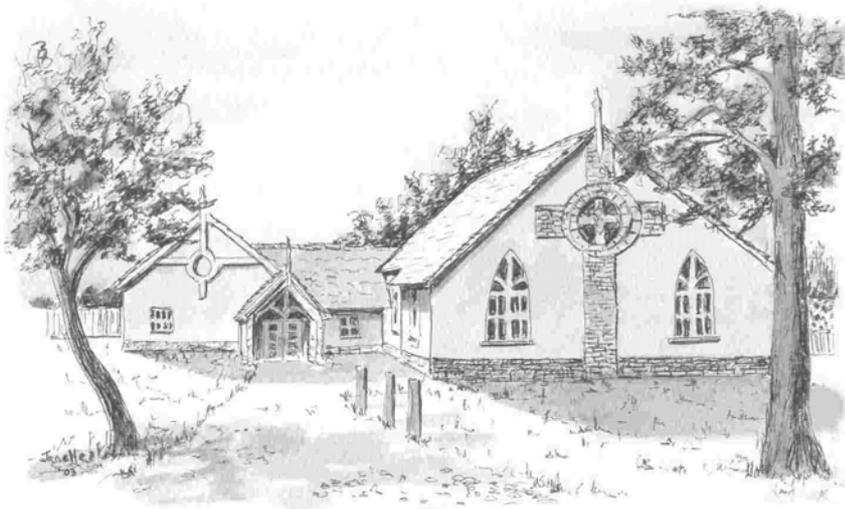


Sonning Parish Magazine



Serving the Communities
of Sonning and Charvil



25p

June 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>
Jun 1	RNLI A.G.M.	23
Jun 2	SWMC Live music night with 'Phil Solo'	23
Jun 4	Christian Aid Family Party, Pearson Hall	R
Jun 6	Little Fishes & Toddlers	26
Jun 8	Flower Club meeting	28
Jun 11	STA Regatta, Ligugé, France	R
Jun 16	SWMC Quiz & BBQ	23
Jun 17	RNLI Garden Party	23
Jun 18	S&SES Summer Luncheon, Eyot House	26
Jun 21	Pearson Hall A.G.M.	R
Jun 22	Flower Club summer tea party	28
Jun 22	Mission Open meeting, St Sarik Room	16
Jun 28	Sonning Book Club Meeting	25
Jul 7	SWMC Live music night with 'Chico'	R
Jul 7	Village Rounders Match, King George's Field	23
Jul 8	STA French wine & cheese tasting, Pearson Hall	R
Jul 9	Charvil Village Fête, Charvil Village Hall	-
Jul 14	SWMC Casino Night.	23
Jul 15	Sonning Conservative Association summer drinks	26
Jul 17	Village Rounders Match	21
Sep 9	Village Show	R
Nov 30	Sonning Royal British Legion A.G.M. St Sarik Rm	21

Deadline, July/August 2006 Magazine is 4.00 p.m. Friday, 23rd June.

Note that there will be no issue of the magazine in August.

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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

Reflections on the Mission

I know from many conversations and comments that most people were as much helped and inspired by the Mission in May as I was. No one who met Sister Chris, Brother Martin and Pam could fail to be impressed by them and their devotion to Our Lord. Goodness and holiness shone out from them in all that they did and said.

Thank you for supporting the various services, events and groups. It was good that so many were able to attend the various House Groups, come to the Taize Service and the Sunday Services. It was also very good that some were able to come to the daily services in St. Andrew's.

Thanks too for the wonderful hospitality that you offered to the Mission Team. I am particularly grateful to Wendy and Allan Williams, Barbara and Richard Jones and Julia and Brian Brooker who had members of the Team staying in their homes for the ten days of the Mission. (Heather and Bob Hine had Brother Martin to stay for the last two nights because Julia and

Brian were away). It is quite something to offer to have someone you have never met staying in your home for ten days and I do thank those who did so.

I was particularly pleased we were able to reach out to so many children during the Mission and I wish to thank Sonning School and the Reading Blue Coat School for allowing the Franciscans into their school on several occasions. The events arranged for children also seemed to go very well and I am grateful to those who arranged them.

None of this would have been possible without much encouragement from Sister Chris and a great deal of hard work by the Mission and Pastoral Committee of our Church Council. So many people worked so hard before the Mission and I know you join me in thanking them. I am particularly grateful to Jan and Bob, the Churchwardens, for all they did.

We are also deeply indebted to Bob Peters for taking responsibility for the publicity, arranging for the badges, wristbands and prayer cards and the leaflets, which went to every house. The Mission required considerable effort from lots of people including those who delivered the leaflets. Thank you for all that you did and for doing it so cheerfully!

It is important that we do not allow the events and experiences of the Mission to fade into history but that we learn from them and continue with those which have been helpful. To help this there will be an open evening in the St. Sarik Room on Thursday 22nd of June at 8.00pm. The Mission Team have written a feedback report, which will be available at that meeting, but I also want to hear from you about what you found helpful and what lessons can be learnt from the Mission. Do please come to the meeting.

Love & prayers,

Chris.

From the Diary

Baptisms

23rd. April Ruby Louise Danni Hotson, Dominic Charles Gardner,
Raphael Maurice Evans, Mina Ivy Evans.

Funerals

28th April Barbara Tew (Reading Crematorium)

4th May Robert Albert Frederick Fisher (Reading Crem. & Churchyard)

Pentecost

The third great festival of the Christian year, Pentecost or Whit Sunday, as it used to be known falls on Sunday 4th. June. Because of this the Family

Services in St. Patrick's at 9.30am and St. Andrew's at 10.30am that day will take the form of Family Communion. I do hope you will be able to attend and assure you we will try to keep them reasonably short and child friendly!

Chris.

St. Patrick's Jottings

As I put pen to paper the weather is anything but seasonal. June is the month when we particularly hope for fine weather so that the village fetes held up and down the country will not be washed out. The Charvil fete will be kicked off with the annual open-air service on July 9th. As in previous years we will be accompanied by the "Should be Banned" who always provide excellent backing for the service. The theme this year will be "Making Connections". This theme will emphasize that the Church is here for the community, not the community for the church.

The whole ministry of Jesus was about the need to love one another unconditionally. Our hope for Charvil and all who live in the village should always be expressed in service to the community with all the resources at our disposal. In order for this to happen we need the financial, moral and creative support of everyone.

St. Patrick's is here to strengthen the sense of community and that we belong to one another. Belonging to one another means fostering a spirit of service so "being one's brother's keeper", in other words, caring for one another is a reality. The Charvil village fete is an opportunity to express our sense of community with its different facets and resources. Don't forget to note July 9th in your diary.

Love and blessings,

Michael and Family.

What a Concert!

Well folks, we dun it. Last years record total was blown away, we made a massive £735 for the weak Christians. Actually I learnt something this time, it's not just the weak Christians that benefit, but the poor oppressed and downtrodden of every creed colour and persuasion. The bosses boss told us all about that in his introduction, and I reckon it inspired everyone to put that bit extra in, and what a evening we had as a result.

The boss's boss got us off to a flying start and kept the evening flowing along with his usual patter of jokes ramblings and a good bit of compèring,

we finished bang on time. There was a feast of music ranging from the 1920's banjo of Uncle Pat with Lady Jane (dressed up to kill) tinkling me ivories, some real bluegrass from Liz & Pete, a step back into the Shadows of the 1960's with Brian & Frank., and a bit of country in the form of a Jim Reeves look-alike. The Charvil nightingale put in appearance again, not only raising the blood pressure of some of the audience, but also tempting one of them out on the stage with her, fortunately he could sing a bit. Then there was that *Should be Banned* lot, not sure how to describe them, but they seem to go down ok.

Then there were the kids, always a joy. The seven uppers gave us an innocent look at sex education, and the Forrers provided their version of a mystery play, all done to music & mime, and a very moving. Strictly Come Dancing put in an appearance, one of 'em had legs, which caused a stir among senior management, P.C.C. meetings will never be the same. We had comedy. There was Hardy Amis illuminating different aspects of behaviour, Mel & Griff taking a break from the Friday night repeats on BBC 1 to take the lid off the Franciscans, and the latter firmly putting it back on with a lucid explanation of monastic life, probably the greatest surprise of the evening. If you weren't there you don't know what you missed. The entertainment rounded off with the vicar & the organ grinder explaining about the lure of the Seychelles and a community sing along.

So that was it. Well not quite, the raffle (and what a good set of prizes there were) ended with a twist in the tail, the final prize of tickets for 2 to go swimming was won by our very own centenarian! It could only happen at the Christian Aid concert. Did you miss it? Never mind, there's always next year. Oh I nearly forgot, there is a recording (two CD's worth), so if you want to re-live the evening or listen to what you missed (and it's worth it for the Franciscans alone) give the boss a ring (0118 934 0795) and for a donation to Christian Aid he'll do you a copy.

Joanna (the St Patrick's Pianner)

Reverend Robert (Robin) Springett Brutton R.I.P.

Many of the Vicars of Sonning listed on the board in the North Isle of St Andrew's would no doubt have been well thought-of by parishioners of their time. Few would have been as highly respected and appreciated as Robin Brutton. Born in 1914 to mother Judy and father Harry, who was a member of the family brewing business in Yeovil, Somerset. Robin attended The Old Malthouse preparatory school in Langton Matravers, Dorset, Malvern College in Worcestershire, then he studied History and Law at Trinity College, Cambridge.

He too, joined the family brewery, meeting his wife to be, Elizabeth, in a chance meeting in a Taxi in Paris as they both returned from separate trips abroad. Soon after their engagement the war separated them, Robin being

posted to Burma and India and Elizabeth working for MI5 in England. Later, she engineered a posting to India and they were married in Bombay Cathedral in 1944.

After the war they settled in Somerset and he returned to the brewing business. Robin had responsibility for ensuring that all the brewery's Public Houses were well maintained and run and that their Landlords were happy and profitable. At Sonning, he enjoyed negotiating, with Sidney Paddick, He also had a great deal of interaction with the Brewery staff and did his best to ensure they got a "fair deal", which didn't always endear him to his fellow directors!

Robin left the brewery in 1954 and at the age of 40, much to the surprise of many, he decided to join the church, where it was considered his unique qualities would be to the benefit of all. He trained at Cuddesdon College, Oxford. First he was as a curate at Wendover, nr Aylesbury, in Buckinghamshire, then his first ministry as Vicar of Radley, nr Oxford. This role gave him the opportunity to use his extraordinary people skills and to positively affect numerous peoples' lives, whether they were churchgoers or not. His gift of listening, caring, and genuinely showing an interest in everyone he met meant he became a much loved figure and the novel approach he adopted in his ministries ensured that his church services were always full! His second ministry, nine years later, was here at Sonning where he established himself again as a firm favourite, filling the church with young and old alike. His trademark was a short sermon, usually no longer than 5-10 minutes. Years later people still comment on how powerful his sermons were and how they can still recall the wonderfully clear message that he was able to put across. He frequently used various props to demonstrate and drive a point home. He was always out and about in the village helping to cut someone's hedge or visiting the Scout or Brownie meeting.

He retired in 1973 and he and Elizabeth moved down to the Isle of Purbeck. He very much enjoyed being asked to take the odd service in the local parishes and of course had lots of visits from his children and grandchildren. Robin was a keen gardener, sailor and in his early years had a pilot's license. He also enjoyed walking and observing nature.

In their final years they were both very fortunate in being able to remain in their small cottage. Robin survived Elizabeth by 4 years and passed away, peacefully and at home, on Saturday 15th April 2006. Their ashes are interred in our churchyard, overlooking the small stained glass window, restored to mark his incumbency.

He was an extraordinary person who was an example to us all with his unflinching kindness, patience, tolerance, supportiveness and huge capacity to see the best in everyone. Truly a great man who has left a legacy of love. It

was a real privilege to be one who worked with him and to be invited to pay a tribute at his well attended Memorial Service.

Malcolm Stansfield.

The Third Order of the Society of St Francis

All people have heard of St Francis and the Franciscans, but not everyone knows that there are three distinct Orders of Franciscans: The Brothers and Sisters of the First Order who live community life under vows and by outward service to others. The Sisters of the Second Order who live under vows and maintain a life of prayer within the enclosure of their community, and the Brothers and Sisters of the Third Order who are vowed to lifelong commitment to Christ and bear witness to the Gospel life in their homes and in the occupations to which they believe God has called them.

The heart of Franciscan spirituality is expressed through the three vows of poverty, chastity and obedience, in the First and Second Orders and through a threefold vow to live daily in the spirit of these counsels in the Third Order.

The path to becoming a Tertiary is similar to that of all religious orders. A serious enquire, after interview with a senior Tertiary becomes an Aspirant and is allocated a Novice Guardian who introduces them to a Common Rule of Life made up of nine strands: The Eucharist, Penitence, Prayer, Self Denial, Retreats, Study, Simplicity, Work and Spiritual Direction. They then become a Postulant for at least six months, seeing their Novice Guardian quarterly. If all is well they are then Noviced and training continues with their Novice Guardian for at least another two years, during which time their Rule of Life may be adapted to suit their life situation, but still keeping the nine headings. At their wish and the Orders permission, Profession follows this time. As a professed Tertiary permission has to be sought to be able to leave the Order. Each Tertiary belongs to a small group, which meets together regularly and supports each other in prayer. The area belongs to a Cluster and the Clusters make up the Province. Within this there is a great sense of family and belonging to each other.

The Third Order has grown considerably over the last decade and there are now over 2,200 Tertiaries in the European Province, mostly in Great Britain, but also in Sweden and dotted about Europe. In addition there is the Province of the Americas (U.S., South America, Canada, Caribbean Islands) Province of New Zealand, which includes the Solomon Islands, the Province of Australia, which includes Papua New Guinea, Malaysia, Singapore, Hong Kong and Korea and the Province of Africa.

A huge variety of peoples bound together under our Lord and following the principles of the little poor man of Assisi, St Francis. Those principles Sonning Parish Council more about the Third Order or feel drawn to its way

of life, please contact Alex Calveley, 19 Nolan Street, Southport, Merseyside, PR8 6QQ. His email address is calveley@btclick.com

Pam

Village Rounders Match

This annual event takes place on Friday 7th July on King George's Field, with the competition starting at 6pm. There will be a barbecue, bar and raffle, so do come along and support the players.

Heather Hine

Royal British Legion - Sonning Branch (BR 1817)

Remembrance Sunday



After an unfortunate incident on the parade in 2005, it has been decided to remind everyone that this is a solemn occasion and not one to cause merriment and poor behaviour during the march to and from church. We are delighted to be able to welcome anyone wishing to participate in the parade, but would point out that:

- Only paid-up members may join the branch Legion contingent.
- It is unacceptable to attempt to leave, or join the contingent(s) once the parade has marched off.
- Those on parade should not encourage or request spectators to join the parade during the march.

Poppy Appeal and Collectors

We had a record year in 2005/6 and collected £5,265.57p and it would be good to maintain, or even beat, this in the coming season. To this end, we are looking for anyone willing to give up an hour or so to collect house-to-house in our part of Earley: If you would like to help, please contact the Poppy Appeal Coordinator (Malcolm Geater) on 0118 969 3132.

Veterans' Badges.

Until recently, the cut-off date for service to earn a badge has been 31st December 1954. However, from 27th June 2006, the date is being extended to 31st December 1959. If you were serving at that time and had at least 5 years service, then on or after 27th June, call the Veterans' Agency on 0800 169 2277 to register for your lapel badge. You will need to give your date of birth, service number, service period and if applicable, your British Legion membership number.

Roll of Honour

As you know, there are 32 memorial plaques in St Andrew's church to the memory of those who fell in the two World Wars and other conflicts. We have decided that we should produce a roll of those named in the form of a memorial booklet and the project is now underway. However, we need information about those named and would like to hear from you if you can give us any information (particularly their military service) about them. If you can help, please contact either Colin Pierce (969 3779) or Gordon Barnett (969 6693). The aim is to publish the booklet in time for the next Sonning Festival, probably in 2008, when we will set up a stall to promote the work of the Legion and to sell the booklet. Please do call; any information will be useful.

A.G.M.

Please make a note in your diaries: The A.G.M. this year will be on Thursday, 30th November 2006, 7.30 for 8.0 p.m. and will be held in the St Sarik Room, next to St Andrew's church.

Gordon Barnett

Update on Loddon Vale Practice

Back Pain

This is a very common problem, and most people at some time will have trouble with their back. The usual pattern with back pain is sudden, often severe pain in the lower part of the back, with stiffness and worse pain on moving around. Often the pain will travel down one or both legs, usually stopping above the knee. Sometimes the pain can start after an injury of some sort, like heavy lifting, or sometimes after a very minor injury, like sleeping in a funny position.

With most back pain, the pain and stiffness are far worse than the actual injury. Serious back injury or slipped disc is actually very rare. Most back pain will slowly get better over one or two weeks. The best way of dealing with back pain is to take a painkiller like Ibuprofen or Neurofen, and to get yourself moving again as soon as you can. Resting for more than a day or so will allow your back to stiffen up, delaying your recovery. Bed rest is bad for backs. It is very unlikely you will cause any trouble by using your back, even if there is some pain.

To keep your back painless and flexible in future, regular activity is advised. Take some regular exercise to keep your back strong and mobile. This is the best way to prevent back pain.

A word about painkillers for back pain

Ibuprofen (also called Neurofen) is a good painkiller, but needs to be taken three times per day for a few days at a time to really work well. You can take Paracetamol as well if you wish, at a dose of two adult tablets four times per day.

Some people cannot take drugs like Ibuprofen or Neurofen, because of allergy, stomach problems, or asthma. About one in ten people with asthma are made wheezy by these drugs; so don't use them unless you know they do not make your asthma worse. Almost everyone can take Paracetamol.

Dr David Marshall

Sonning Working Men's Club

Friday 2nd June - Live music night with 'Phil Solo'.

We will be hiring a big screen for the World cup in June and will be showing a selection of games. See notice board in club for more details. We are also running a sweepstake for this event, so to be in with a chance of having a team drawn in your name you need to enter your name by Saturday 3rd June, when the teams will be drawn.

Friday 16th June - Quiz and B.B.Q. 8pm.

Friday 7th July - Live music night with our very own 'Chico'.

Friday 14th July - Casino night. Tickets to be purchased at £10.00 per head by 14th June. This price will include one free drink, canapés and betting chips.

There will be no music night on the first Friday in August. Hope you can join us at some or all of these events.

Mena Pownall

RNLI Sonning Branch

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the RNLI will be held on Thursday, 1st June 2006 at 8.00p.m. in the Sonning Working Men's Club.

Garden Party

The Garden Party will be held on Saturday, 17th June 2006 from 6.30 to 8pm at The Old House, Thames Street, by kind invitation of Mr. & Mrs. J. Duffield. Tickets are available, price £10 (to include a complimentary raffle ticket) from David Bates, tel. 969 7753 or any committee member. We look

forward to seeing you there, once again, supporting this very worthwhile charity.

Annual Dinner

The Annual Dinner will be held in the Pearson Hall on Saturday 11th November. More details will be published at a later date.

Lynn Woodhouse

The Monday Club

Pam, from the Franciscan mission that visited Sonning, gave us an interesting talk about the order of Franciscans, which was founded 800 years ago. We were told how small groups live in the real world, rather than living in seclusion. A general discussion followed about milestones that changed our lives. The Royal Agricultural Show, started in 1839, was the subject of a slide presentation by our old friend Brian Eighteen. His vast collection of cigarette cards and postcards ably supported his enlightening talk.

R C A

Sonning Art Group

Those that think pen & ink drawings are plain and uninteresting would certainly change their mind if they saw the 15 entries submitted for the recent quarterly Chairman's Cup Award. The variety of techniques, styles and colours, plus the choice of subject, served to illustrate the potential this medium has for artists. They also presented the Chairman with a significant challenge to single out one of the entries for the award.

The final choice came down in favour of Peter Finch's interesting view of the Berlin Reichstag which features modern open style architecture with people silhouetted as they moved along the walkways set at different levels in front of the big expanse of glassed walls. Peter's picture will be included in the exhibition of work on display at Pearson Hall during the two day Scarecrow Trail event 28th and 29th May. By popular demand celebrity artist 'Rolf' will be back on the trail with a paintbrush in his hand at the exhibition

Local artist John Yeo gave an interesting demonstration of pastel landscape painting earlier this month and showed some of the brilliant work he has done when painting in Iona. Members tried to follow his lead with a modicum of success, although it's true to say most members put more pastel on themselves than on the paper! However it was an excellent

session and gave a good insight into what can ultimately be achieved with that medium.

George Webster

Sonning Book Club

The book discussed by members at the book club meeting on 26th April was "Friday's Girl" a novel by Charlotte Bingham which is set in Victorian England. When Napier, a famous portrait painter, comes across a beautiful woman Edith working in a London Inn, he determines to marry her. Once married and whisked off to Napier's country home it becomes apparent to Edith that she is wanted only as his muse. The next book for reading was 'The Hours' by Michael Cunningham (and will be discussed at our next meeting on 24th May) set during the 1920s in London as Virginia Woolf attempts to start on her new novel about *Mrs Dalloway*.

Our new book for consideration is 'Brick Lane' by Monica Ali and will be reviewed at the club's next meeting on the 28th June.

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 a.m. New members are welcome. For more information please give me a call on 0118 9440699.

Anne Webster

Sonning CE Primary School

Do you have a child born between 1st September 2001 and 31st August 2002? If so they will be due to start school next academic year. We are a popular and high achieving school in the village and have recently opened our 7th classroom. This means that we can now offer smaller classes that are taught in year groups. We also now have an interactive whiteboard in every classroom, which is making learning even more exciting! In addition we have a very highly skilled and professional staff team who work together within our caring and very supportive Christian ethos to provide a high quality education for all pupils, whatever their needs and abilities.

For the next school year there is also the opportunity for summer born children (born between April - August 2002) to start school with us in January instead of as a Rising 5 in April. We currently have a few places still available for next year so if you, or someone you know, would like a place at our school please contact the school office on (0018 969 3399) for further details; we would be delighted to hear from you.

Lesley Green

Little Fishes Baby and Toddler Group

Little Fishes will meet on Tuesday, 6th June this month. 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

Conservative Association - Sonning Branch

Summer Drinks Party

The Summer Drinks Party will be held on Saturday, 15th July, at 6.30 p.m. at Sonningdene, Pearson Road. Tickets are £9 and can be obtained from me (944 2877) or any member of the committee. We look forward to seeing you there.

Mary Jones

Sonning & Sonning Eye Society

Walking on the wild side

Those who have lived here for more than 15 years will probably remember the Nature Reserve area when it was still Earley power station. How it and the hay meadow have matured providing natural habitats for an astonishing array of wildlife and plants. The wetlands consist of a number of linked ponds surrounded by reed beds, while dog rose, hawthorn and other shrubs provide scenic and environmental variety.

Alastair Driver began the walk on 13 May by showing the results of a moth-trapping exercise near the village's own reserve, since the number and variety of moths are good indicators of the health of the local environment. The dull afternoon prevented us from seeing many butterflies but May Flies danced for us and a few damselflies were glimpsed. Pond dipping in the reserve flushed out an amazing array of insects from the larva of an Emperor Dragonfly down to microscopic red mites.

Bird life was noisy if not massively visible. The constant chuckle of the Reed Warblers in the reed beds was very noticeable. The pretty picture of a pair of Canada Geese with five goslings forming a small flotilla across the river was however a stark reminder of their invasiveness as a species. As always there was a mild undercurrent of loss and extinction in what we learned.

We learned about indicators of ancient woodlands near the towpath, while one of the ponds was well stocked with Bogbeans, bull rushes, Pond Sedge

and White Water-Lilies. There were fleeting glimpses of grass snakes as well as an inflatable Common Toad. Mussels of all sizes, yielded in a dip into the Thames, masked as they are by gravelly deposits could be confused easily with stones, but their striated shells will be better known now.

Luncheon in the gardens of The Eyot House, Sonning Eye

Don't forget this special event to be held on Sunday 18 June. Please contact Penny Feathers on 934 3193 for tickets - quickly.

Diana Coulter



Twyford & District
The Lady Elizabeth Centre
Polehampton Close
Twyford RG10 9RP

Volunteers Required: Drivers & Kitchen Help

We are currently looking for volunteer drivers to pick up our elderly members from their homes and drive them to and from the day centre. Can you spare half an hour on a Monday, Tuesday or Friday; morning or afternoon 9.30 a.m. - 10.00 a.m. and 3.00 p.m. - 3.30 p.m. We are also looking for volunteers to help out in our kitchen, same days, between 12.15 p.m. and 1.45 p.m. (If you would like to find out more details I would love to hear from you). If you can help on a regular or occasional basis, please call into the centre or telephone Lyn on 0118 934 4040.

Pensions Clinic

We are holding a Pensions Clinic at the Day Centre on the last Monday of every month, the first being held on Monday 26th June, 10.00 a.m. - 1.00 p.m. If you have any questions you would like answered come along and ask our Pensions Advisor Steve Scarrot. If you would like to book an appointment please call Lyn (Centre Coordinator) on 9344040.

Lyn Buddell

Sonning Flower Club

Our demonstrator in May was Mrs Alex Graham. Horticulture had been her chosen profession and the *Constance Spry School* had added the finishing touches. She was proud of what she had achieved in her 80 years. Her line of patter was interesting, or rather, would have been, but like a lot of little old ladies, whilst concentrating, she often didn't finish the sentence. But, no matter, it didn't make any difference to the end result.

Country Gardens was the theme.

A rose arch: Tiny yellow ramblers and large yellow tea roses looked so natural.

A water garden: 3 glass tubes with silver grey foliage and orchids tumbling down was most effective with a touch of blue delphiniums.

A vegetable garden: This would be the basis of a brilliant idea for the produce show. Leeks, carrots, tomatoes, herbs, all arranged to create a wonderful display.

An orchard: Pink rhubarb, apple blossom the pink repeated in yellow-pink antirrhinums, green bells of Ireland, ornamental pineapple and apricots to garnish.

Her herbaceous border: Just a mass of wonderful flowers. Pink lilac (foliage removed makes it last longer) cherry blossom, blue delphiniums, pink larkspur, pink stocks, stargazer lilies, blue ecrinox, pink peonies (a lovely bunch to win in the raffle).

As a finishing touch *The shrubbery:* Solangia magnolia. One stem with large flower, one seed head and just some fallen petals. (aahh)

As always, a very enjoyable afternoon finished off with a cup of tea and biscuits. The competition (a basket of flowers) was jointly won by Catherine Penny and Yvonne Drawater.

Future Events:

8th June (the next Flower Club meeting) will be a workshop. The club will provide the flowers, containers and oasis. You just need to bring foliage, tools and black plastic bag for the theme *I did it my way*.

22nd June: *Tea at the Ritz* our summer afternoon tea in Sharon Robinsons garden. More information at the next meeting.

Finally, we were privileged to be visited by Brother Martin of the Society of St Francis who gave us an interesting talk prior to the flower demonstration about his life and creed. Let us hope he comes again.

Jane Gascoine

Sonning Parish Council

Third Thames Crossing

Frank Browne, Leader of Wokingham District Council, attended the A.G.M. of Sonning Parish Council on 10th May 2006 to set out his position on the much-discussed third Thames Crossing. It is his intention that WDC make a formal planning application for a major crossing over the Thames from the A3290. The work of the combined four authorities Wokingham, Reading, Oxfordshire and South Oxfordshire has led to no real progress to alleviate Sonning's congested crossing and now Wokingham will make a planning application on a standalone basis. If Oxfordshire opposes the application, it is expected to go to an appeal, which will be decided upon by a Regional Planning Inspector. Given the moves by Oxfordshire to restrict traffic through Henley, and those of Reading to restrict its cross-Thames traffic, the appeal may stand a chance of being supported on regional development grounds. Councillor Browne also stated that it was Wokingham's intention to oppose the new IDR scheme proposed by Reading, having not been fully consulted on the matter. He also said that Wokingham will be studying new means of reducing the traffic through Sonning, but had no firm proposals to discuss yet. Watch this space!

Bridge Watch

It is some time since the last (very successful) *Bridge Watch* and the number of Heavy Goods Vehicles passing over the Sonning bridges and consequently through the village, contrary to the regulations in force, has increased to an unacceptable level again.

It is intended therefore, to organise a Bridge Watch for about mid-September, but without the willing assistance of members of the Parish, it will not work. If you would like to participate (preferably with a partner) we would like to hear from you. It will involve attending a briefing session before the event, probably lasting 45 minutes, and a daytime stint on the bridge for two hours (between 10.00 a.m. and 3.30 p.m.). If you are able to fulfil more than one stint, that would be even better. The briefing will cover all aspects of the duty, including safety issues and legal aspects. Documentation to record transgressions will be provided to the watchers

If you are willing to join in and help, please call Gordon Barnett on 0118 969 6693 and register your name with him.

The Parish Council

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