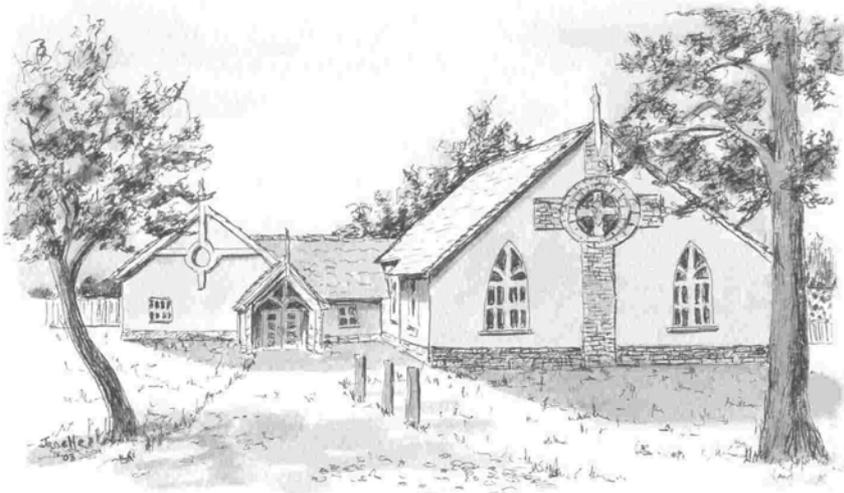


Sonning Parish Magazine



Serving the Communities
of Sonning and Charvil



25p

March 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
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	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
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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>
Mar 4	St Patrick's Fish (or chicken) chips and quiz	
Mar 18	STA A.G.M. & film evening, Pearson Hall	
Mar 24	Jazz, Fish & Chips, Pearson Hall	
Mar 29	FoStAC A.G.M., St Sarik Room	
Apr 6	Annual Church Meeting, 8.00 p.m.	
Apr 15	St Patrick's Easter walk & BBQ	
Apr 22	Festival Supper, Pearson Hall	
May 4	Mission Commissioning Service, St Andrew's	
May 7	BBQ lunch, St Andrew's Vicarage garden	
May 27	Sonning Regatta	R
May 27	SWMC Live Music evening	
May 28	Elegant picnic	
May 28/29	Scarecrow trail & open gardens	R
Jun 11	STA Regatta, Ligugé, France	R
Jul 15	STA Bastille Day celebration, Sonning	R

Deadline, April 2006 Magazine is 4.00 p.m. Friday, 24th March.

You could be advertising your business

or organisation in this magazine!

Contact Bob Peters

0118 969 3579

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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

Lent

Lent begins on Wednesday 1st March and in addition to the Holy Communion Service, which will be held at 10.00am that morning, there will be another Service at 8.00pm in St. Andrew's. The evening service will include the imposition of ashes and the choir have kindly agreed to attend so it will be a sung service.

Traditionally in Lent people gave things up and I know some still do so. Perhaps just as important is taking things on or doing something extra during the season of Lent. If nothing else would you consider attending one of the services on Ash Wednesday?

At one of the Sunday Services in January I quoted from a book, which I think is now out of print. It was called "The Christian Humanist Frontier" and written by Geoffrey Heywood. It is a book which made a deep impression on me and which I have returned to frequently. So many people asked for a copy of the quotation that I thought I would print it here.

The author was exploring how happiness eludes many people because they are so busy trying to get more they have no time to enjoy what they already have. He writes "Christians discover that as they grow less concerned with what they possess they become more and more conscious of what possesses them."

Geoffrey Heywood goes on to say they are eight types of people who experience this and they are represented in what are called the Beatitudes at the opening of the Sermon on the Mount.

In the Service I gave the following quotation from the book:

"Those who are ready to do without; they have found the secret of living.

Those who accept the experience of sorrow, for they will find strength and courage grow in their lives.

Those who are prepared to be unrewarded and unrecognised, for the freedom of the earth is theirs.

Those who are passionately eager for what is fine, true and generous, for they will find these things.

Those who understand and make allowances for others, for they will find understanding for themselves.

Those who are utterly honest with themselves, for they will know God.

Those who try to create good will and reconciliation where they go, for they rank as God's children.

Those who are ready to see things through in spite of the consequences, they have found the secret of happiness".

I hope you will find Geoffrey Haywood's version of the Beatitudes as helpful as I have and they will provide you with something to ponder this Lent.

Love & prayers

Chris

From the Diary

Baptisms

5th February. George William Turner

Wedding Blessing

11th February. Colin Dawson and Worarat Domesrifa

Funerals

27th January. Michael (Mike) Jenkins. St. Andrew's & Reading Crematorium

3rd February. Maurice Wyatt (Burial of Ashes)

9th February. Richard Fred Savage & Dorothy Amy Savage (Burial of Ashes)

16th February. Winifred Mary King (Burial of Ashes)

Mothering Sunday

This year Mothering Sunday falls on 26th March and because of this the Family Service, which is usually held on the first Sunday of every month, will be moved to 26th March. At the 10.30am Service in St. Andrew's flowers will be distributed and there will also be a Baptism (Vicar's Granddaughter!). The Communion Service which would have been held on 26th March will be moved to the 2nd April and will take the form of a slightly less formal Family Communion.

Lent Groups

There are lists at the back of both churches and if you would like to join a Lent House Group please sign the list as soon as possible.

Mission

Hopefully you know by now there we are having a Parish Mission from the 4th to the 14th of May. Amongst other things we hope to run a number of groups to give people the opportunity of explore their faith. There are various pieces of paper at the back of both Churches giving information about these groups. I hope you will take the opportunity to join one of the groups and it would be helpful if you could sign up now and give us time to organise these.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Our Annual Church Meeting will be held on Thursday 6th April. It is an important event in the life of our Parish and I hope you will put the date in your diary now. One of the items on the agenda will be the suggestion to move a few of the pews, which I wrote about in the February Magazine.

This meeting elects those who serve on the Church Council and there are more vacancies this year than usual because of people moving away. Both Churchwardens have to be elected and both have indicated their willingness to stand for a further year. In addition to this we have to elect three new people to the Deanery Synod for a period of five years and six new people to the Church Council for a period of three years. Nomination forms are at the back of both Churches please give this matter some thought and propose someone. Those being proposed and those nominating MUST be on the Church Electoral Roll.

Chris

The View from St Patrick's

Anyone with a young family knows how difficult it is to keep home both clean and tidy; we are no exception. At the same time all hell breaks loose between siblings from time to time and parents endeavour to bring peace and reconciliation whatever the situation. "It is not fair" is a frequently cry from one child or another. Sad to say there are many broken homes where children can come off worse. In some respects the home and the community are sometimes a microcosm of the world we live in.

Today's world is for many not a peaceful and happy home. Holy places are destroyed, people are injured and killed, children are orphaned and die of malnutrition, and many are made homeless through natural disasters. Much of the suffering and unhappiness of mans inhumanity to man is brought about as a result of the seven deadly sins exercised in our relationships with one another. All sin or alienation from God and one another originates in the heart and the mind. To deny God's authority over our lives, His innate goodness, wisdom, justice, faithfulness and his support is to be adrift in the ocean of life.

The message of Good Friday and Easter Sunday is that every crucifixion experience brings with it the possibility of resurrection, - that out of death comes new life, new opportunities for good. This was only possible because on that first Good Friday Jesus, Son of Man and Son of God aligned Himself with our fallen nature and the mess individuals and the world get into. That first Easter day demonstrated the triumph and means of life over death, of good over evil.

If you are finding your way and want to find out more join us at Easter at St Patrick's.

The forthcoming events at St Patrick's are:

- Sun 19th Mar 6.30 pm - St Patrick's Day Songs of Praise
- Sun 26th Mar 9.30 am - Mothering Sunday service
- Sun 9th Apr 9.30 - Palm Sunday, format is going to depend on the donkey!
- Sat 15th Apr 4.00 pm on - Parish walk, BBQ and Vigil service
- Thu 4th May - start of the "Finding your way" mission.
- Sat 13th May -7.00 pm - Christian Aid concert

Love and prayers

Michael and Family.

Love and prayers,

Michael and Family

Songs of Praise

My word, doesn't time fly? It only seems like yesterday that I was recovering from sore keys after the organ grinder pounded me ivories at the last songs of praise. So we're doing again, and boss is away so there'll be no-one there to protect me! I jest really; the boss is so inaccurate that I'm never sure which key he's going to hit next and I get lots of nasty shocks. At least with the organ grinder it's musically logical so I can stiffen the sinews in time.

Anyway, I rabbit on as usual, let's cut the chase.

The St Patrick's Day Songs of Praise is on **Sunday 19th March at 6.30 pm**. If you'd like a particular hymn sung (we are looking for the usual baker's dozen) fill in the form at the back of St Patrick's, or give Sue Bilton a ring (0118 934 1980) and she'll put it on the list.

Don't forget, Sun 19th Mar, come and exercise your lungs and see if we can raise the roof like we did last year.

Joanna (the St Patrick's Pianner)

FRIENDS OF ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

to be held at 7.30 p.m.

on Wednesday 29th March 2006

in the St. Sarik Room

St Andrew's Church Pew Cushions

We are planning to replace the sat 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

Update on Loddon Vale Practice

Hay fever Season

Hay fever is the general term used to describe the symptoms many people get at this time of year caused by sensitivity to airborne particles, often pollen. The problems affect people in three main ways:

- (i) Runny or blocked nose.
- (ii) Itchy or watering eyes.
- (iii) Coughing or wheezing.

You may suffer just one, or if you are unlucky, several of the symptoms at once. There are several ways of helping hay fever, the mains ones being:

- (i) Antihistamine medication.
- (ii) Anti allergy eye drops.
- (iii) Nasal decongestants, either of the adrenalin type, or the steroid type.

Steroid injections for hay fever are now not used as such treatment may have serious side effects.

All of the suggested treatments are available to buy over them chemist's counter. Hay fever, while unpleasant, is a simple condition, with simple and limited treatment options. If you know you have hay fever, it is not necessary to consult the doctor before starting yourself on some treatment from the chemist. If you usually have a prescription for this medication you can request it in the normal way by using your repeat prescription slip.

Dr David Marshall

Sonning Festival 2006

Please note the change of date for the ticket day. We will be selling tickets and arranging regatta bookings at a Ticket Day to be held in the Pearson Hall on Saturday 22nd April from 10am until 12noon.

As the regatta is an expensive event to stage we shall have a fund raising supper in the Pearson Hall also on Saturday 22nd April at 7.30pm. We will be serving a welcome drink followed by a three-course meal. Tickets priced £12.00 will be available from Meryem Parker 0118 944 0000. The Box Office will be open from 27th March.

Regatta style dress preferred please.

Note that this will be a 'bring your own drink' event, as we will not have bar facilities.

The regatta will be held on Saturday 27th May 2006, again on the north bank of the Thames, opposite Blue Coat School Boathouse. Now is the time to get your crews organized and into shape.

There will be a Live Music Evening, in The Working Men's Club, on Saturday 27th May, following the regatta, tickets will be on sale at the Ticket Day.

The Gardens will be open with Scarecrow Trail over the Sunday and Bank Holiday Monday 28th & 29th May 2006.

Once again, on the Sunday evening, we will be holding an Elegant Picnic in the beautiful surroundings of the gardens at South Hill, by kind invitation of Marjie Thorne and Andrew Barker.

Lynn Woodhouse

2006 Scarecrow Trail

Enthusiasm is gaining pace for the third Sonning Scarecrow Trail to be held on 28/29 May. Many most interesting exhibits are already booked and those still intending to have an entry should now contact Barbara Carr on 934 5886 to avoid duplication. A Demonstration Evening to show how easy it can be to make a scarecrow will take place in the Pearson Hall on Monday 3rd April at 7.45 pm. Wine and nibbles will be provided. It will be a fun event; all are welcome. Thanks to several willing local residents, a series of gardens will again be open on both days and our sincere thanks are due to them, as they are to the owner of the car park.

The Church will also be open with, as always, splendid floral displays.

Help will be needed with staffing of the gardens, church, car park and refreshment locations. Cakes for the teas will be most welcome. Offers please to Pam Glasspool on 969 2800 or Malcolm Stansfield 934 1762.

Proceeds of the event will, this year go towards the provision of improved children's playground equipment at the Recreation Ground.

J.M.Stansfield.

The Monday Club

Jacki Oversby talked to us about the HOME START organisation, one of the best-kept secrets in the charity world. HOME START volunteers support families with small children who may have problems. These can range from sleepless nights to children with disabilities, and support can be provided during marital break-ups. Margaret Harrison started the organisation over thirty years ago. It is humbling to come across yet another group of unsung heroes (or heroines) who do good work without fanfare. Penny Adams talked to us about candles and how they can be used for decoration. Seems not that long ago when we used them to see to climb the stairs.

R C A

Sonning & Sonning Eye Society

The craft of brick making and the romance of heraldry

Our winter lecture season got off to an entertaining start in late January, when Sonning resident, Nick Siney, gave a fascinating talk about bricks and brick making to a packed Pearson Hall. Visitors came from as far away as Wantage and Wokingham, which was very encouraging for our Society.

It seems incredible that a century ago there were 43 brick manufacturers in Buckinghamshire and 33 in Berkshire. Today there are three only located Buckinghamshire despite, for instance, the superior natural terracotta available around Bracknell. Nick illustrated his talk not only with slides, but also with examples of moulds, "swatches", and bricks old and new. At the end of an evening peppered with anecdotes from youthful stage appearances in the Pearson Hall, through strong views on Lord Hanson, to his discussion of extraordinary goings-on with the late John Peel on *Home Truths*, nobody could have gone away without being wiser about frogs and headers, scotch kilns and bottle kilns.

As we go to press we are preparing for what promises to be a no less a fascinating talk in early March about heraldry in Sonning and Sonning Eye. John Allen, a familiar figure to some of you as biology master at the Blue Coat School and as one-time rowing master also, has had a lifelong passion for heraldry. If indeed it is the last talk John ever gives, the Society will have been honoured. He will focus on the arms you can see in St Andrews, pub signs, and the wealth of heraldry visible in the Blue Coat School building itself. Heraldry is, however, far from being a moribund art - it is alive and well every time local government structures and boundaries change for instance. John's expertise is not only consulted by the fine art

and antique trade, but is also sought by District Councils as well as by individuals seeking personal arms. Heraldry being brought to life through examples almost exclusively from Sonning & Sonning Eye is a great treat.

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 our Membership Secretary on 969 6693.

Diana Coulter

Sonning Art Group

Murder! Members of the Art Group suddenly found themselves involved in a local murder scene when the Mill at Sonning invited them to produce a number of impressionist 'Monet style' paintings for the world premiere of "Strictly Murder" a play by Brian Clemens (creator of *The Professionals* and *The Avengers*). The play centers on an English artist residing in Provence who earns a living by painting and selling impressionist art. The Group accepted this exciting challenge and produced 25 paintings to adorn the set.

It was a stimulating task and a very good learning opportunity for the Group as few had previous experience of impressionist style painting and some were completely new to the use of acrylic paint (simulating the strong colours of oil paints without the long drying time). Monet would have been proud to see the attention given to his work as members of the group poured over his pictures of poppy fields, cottages and lily ponds in order to replicate the style. The Mill at Sonning could hardly have a more attentive audience than when members visited the theatre to see their work on stage, enjoy a first class performance and join the cast in the bar after the show!

After the excitement of theatre land it could be supposed that the regular Friday afternoon session would be an anticlimax. However we were fortunate to have a fascinating tutorial session given by Jenny Parkes on pen and ink drawing. Preconceived ideas on this subject were way off the mark and Jenny opened a window for us to see new dimensions on the capability of ink as an art medium. The use of simple chemicals obtained surprising and dramatic effects and a number of members will be experimenting with this medium over the coming weeks. It is no coincidence that the next Chairman's Challenge Cup will be awarded on the 7th April for the best pen and ink drawing.

George Webster

Sonning Book Club

The book discussed by members this month was "A Very Human Heart" by award winning author William Boyd. The novel written in autobiographical style took readers on an eighty-year journey through an interesting life of travel, which included social contacts with many of the great and the good in the world of art and literature and the exiled Windsors.

The next book for consideration is "Red Dust" a non-fiction book by Ma Jian, translated from Chinese and winner of the Thomas Cook Travel Book Award 2002. It covers a trek through China to Tibet and will be reviewed at the club's next meeting on the 22nd March.

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 (Co-ordinator)

Little Fishes Baby and Toddler Group

Please join us for Little Fishes on Tuesday 7th March 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

Sonning CE Primary School

The past couple of months have flown by and we cannot believe that we have now moved into the second half of our school year. After great anticipation and excitement our 7th classroom is now finished and we are enjoying using it for some group teaching. After Easter it will officially become Oak Class for Year 6. The staff and children have been incredibly flexible and adaptable over the past 18 months having to use the hall for Year 5 Literacy and Numeracy lessons and working in very large mixed aged classes at the top of the school. We also look forward to welcoming back Gillian Kelsall, our Deputy Head, from her maternity leave at the end of this month.

Visits and Off Site activities have always been an exciting and fun way to further develop the taught curriculum and early in March I will again be taking our Year 6 group away for a week to the Kingswood Activity Centre on the Isle of Wight. We are all looking forward to the range of activities

that this visit holds and hope and pray for fine weather since many activities are held outside! Fir Class (Year 3) have had a very informative visit to the Museum of London to support their History work on The Romans and all our Infants will be visiting Rushall Farm before Easter.

Our French themed week was a great success; children participated in French breakfast, built Eiffel Towers in DT and created artwork in the style of French artists and this work is now displayed in the hall. The end of this term sees a break with our usual pattern for productions and performances with a Year 4 and 5 Arts based on the theme of myths.

Lesley Green

Sonning Cricket Club - young players wanted

Sonning Cricket Club are setting up a 3rd XI in the Berkshire League this year and are therefore looking to recruit more cricketers - especially youngsters - to help increase the numbers of players at the club.

We would therefore like to invite any players from the age of 13 upwards to come to our Tues evening indoor practice nets, which started at Reading Blue Coat School, Sonning Lane on 21st Feb and run from 6.45 to 7.45 p.m. These nets will be free to youngsters who attend school and £3 per session to others. If you need more information, please don't hesitate to contact me on 969 2698.

Alastair Driver

Sonning Glebe WI

Our February meeting was organised and run by the members, giving the committee a well-earned rest. Our speaker was a needlewoman who demonstrated her work.

We have lots of events coming up including our Quiz in Pearson Hall on 10th March, a knit and natter evening, scrabble evening and a spring walk. We now collect foreign coins for *Feed the Children* and our next meeting is on 20th March followed by an open meeting to which all are invited on April 24th when Mr Palmer will be bringing his owls. For more information about our lively WI call our president Heather Hine on 969 8653.

SS

Book of Graces

In order to raise funds for Farm Crisis Network (the equivalent of Samaritans for Rural people) Malcolm Stansfield has compiled a booklet with over 50 graces. Although some are for farming occasions, many are most suitable for general use. Copies are available from Malcolm at 3, Strathmore Drive, Charvil, at £5 each.

Malcolm Stansfield



Girlguiding

Guiding in Sonning



Sonning Guides are a wonderful group of girls, aged between 10 and 14, who like getting together each week to make things, have fun out of doors, do cooking and generally have a good time.

Being involved in Guiding is an excellent way of meeting people in your area.



Unfortunately, if we cannot find someone to come and help at Guides we may have to close the Guide unit.



Would you be interested in helping?

Even if you can't commit to a weekly meeting I would like to hear from you.



If you would like to know more please phone me.

Diane Reeves 0118 9692987

Loddon District Commissioner

Nature Notes

On one of those rather grey grizzly days in February, a small but determined gang of volunteers from Friends of Ali's Pond and Sonning Parish Council gathered for a tree-planting session at The Pound - the small area of woodland between King George's Field and Pound Lane. Here we planted a few native species which will become a feature of the site in a few generations' time, such a Scots Pine, Yew and Pedunculate Oak, along with plenty of smaller growing native "understorey" trees and shrubs, such as Holly, Dog Rose, Guelder Rose, Wayfaring Tree and Hazel. The majority of these are planted on the sloping bank, leaving the lower part of The Pound clear for grass and wildflowers to flourish and people to walk through. With spring on its way, now is the time to do just that, with the previously planted Snowdrops showing through and the self-sown buttercup-yellow Lesser Celandines and hooded spikes of Wild Arum on their way.

The group also planted a few large ornamental tree species along the field - edge of the car park, to fill in gaps in the tree line there. When the original trees were planted here in the 90s, little consideration was given to regular watering and consequently several perished. This time however, the Parish Council are much more aware of this necessity and so pipes have been installed into the root systems to facilitate this and local residents and groups have been asked to water them periodically.

As many will have heard, the nature reserve suffered the rather unwelcome introduction of about 35 large goldfish during February ! Not only was this illegal under at least 3 separate pieces of legislation, but it was also potentially disastrous for the plants, insects and amphibians in the pond, and indeed ultimately pretty bad news for the goldfish themselves! Fortunately my trusty "fisherman's friend" Stirk Pownall and I managed to remove most of the fish with a Seine net and recently the heron has been seen concentrating his attentions on the couple of Houdinis we couldn't get, so hopefully they'll all be gone before the tiny juvenile newts start to hatch in a month or so.

Alastair Driver

Sonning Lawn Tennis Club - 60th Birthday

The new season commences on 1st April when annual subs. are due, and our 6 week Saturday coaching programme, taught by LTA coach John Woodward and open to non-members too, starts on 22nd April.

In May it will be the 60th anniversary of the founding of the village tennis club in Sonning. To celebrate, we are holding an open day at the courts on Saturday 20th May to which all are invited. We will have some special junior

equipment (the Fun Factory) for children to try, a speed-gun to test the speed of your shots and, hopefully, plenty of members on hand for visitors to have a hit with. We would be delighted to see past, present and potential members.

In the evening we will be holding a dinner at a local hostelry and on Sunday 21st we will be digging out our old kit for a wooden rackets tournament; tight shorts and frilly knickers optional! Any profits from the weekend's fun will be donated to the Macular Disease Society, a charity for research into, and assistance for those suffering from, age-related sight loss.

For more information, membership & coaching application forms, please contact Ali Campbell, 969 2646, alic_sonning@hotmail.com or Hilary Moss, 962 3724, Mike_hilary44@hotmail.com.

Sonning Flower Club

The chairperson, Catherine Penny, welcomed new members and introduced Keri Harvey, our speaker for the February meeting.

Keri is no stranger to us; apart from being a busy florist, she holds flower-arranging classes at Burchetts Green College. So, it was "Valentine with a twist". It is amazing what accessories there are these days, as was aptly demonstrated in her first arrangement of red carnations teamed with rolled aspidistra leaves and black feathers. Another simple arrangement was two heart-shaped pieces of 'oasis' adorned with small bunches of tulips and linked together with steck grass. A more traditional triangle with red carnations was carefully explained and was understood by the most inexperienced novice, as was a lovely tied bunch of red tulips. Keri even showed us how to wrap them up in cellophane with an aqua-pack to keep them watered. Forget red roses - too expensive on Valentine's Day - carnations and tulips are just as good.

By way of a change, we had tea and cakes (home made, of course).

Next month's demonstrator will be Mrs Janette bell with " A passion for flowers". The competition for those wishing to enter will be " A mad Hatter".

In May, there will be a visit to Sonning by a group of Franciscans who have expressed a wish to meet members and it is hoped to welcome them for a short visit during their busy schedule.

Jane Gascoine

And another little bit of nonsense-----

School Teacher Arrested!

New York's Kennedy Airport, today. An individual, later discovered to be a schoolteacher, was arrested trying to board a flight while in possession of a ruler, protractor, set square and calculator.

At a morning press conference, Attorney General Bob Ashcroft said he believes the man is a member of the notorious Al Gebra movement. The FBI is charging him with carrying weapons of math instruction.

"Al Gebra is a fearsome cult," Ashcroft said. "They desire average solutions by means and extremes, and sometimes go off on tangents in search of an absolute value. They use code names like 'x and y' and refer to themselves as 'unknowns', but as we have determined they belong to a common denominator of the axis of medieval with coordinates in every country. As the Greek philanderer Isosceles used to say, "There are three sides to every triangle."

When asked to comment on the arrest, President Bush said, "If God had wanted us to have better weapons of math instruction, he would have given us more fingers and toes to count on."

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 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 Mouldsley	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