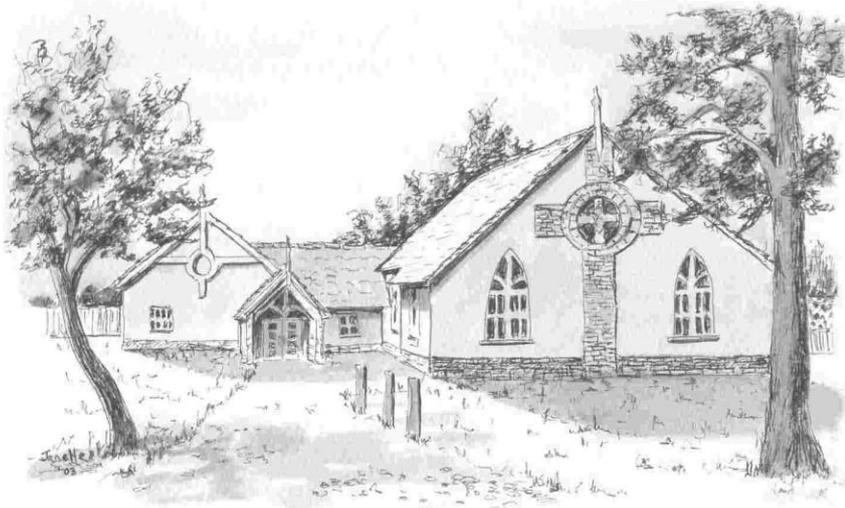


Sonning Parish Magazine



Serving the Communities
of Sonning and Charvil



25p

March 2007

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 guesthouse 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, RG4 6UR	969 3298
Associate Vicar	Rev Michael Forrer, 6 Park View Drive South, Charvil, RG10 9QX	934 1989
Licensed Lay Ministers	Mr D. G. Sims, Vine Cottage, Pound Lane, Sonning, RG4 6XE	969 3151
	Mr R. J. Peters, Elm Gables, Parkway Drive, Sonning, RG4 6XG	969 3589
Churchwardens:		
	Mr Bob Hine, 28 Glebe Lane, Sonning, RG4 6XH	969 8653
	Mrs Jan Hammond, 28 Hilltop Road, Earley, RG 61DA	926 2365
	Mr J. M. Stansfield (Emeritus), 3 Strathmore Drive, Charvil, RG10 9QT	934 1762
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Secretary:	Mr Mark Jordan, 12 Manor Wood gate, Lower Shiplake, RG9 3PY	940 1431
Treasurer:	Mr James Wilson, 3 Imperial Court, Henley-on-Thames, RG9 1NP	07721 690 524
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	Vicar: chrisclarke@vodafoneemail.org.uk	

Forthcoming Events

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Mar 9	S&SES Watermills in Thames Valley	24
Mar 10	Sonning Twinning Association A.G.M and film	25
Mar 11	St Patrick's "Songs of Praise"	19
Mar 13	FoStAC A.G.M. St Sarik Room	R
Mr 18	Mothering Sunday services	19
Mar 16	SWMC Irish Quiz Night	D
Mar 16	Sonning Glebe W.I. Quiz Night	21
Mar 21	Conservative Spring Luncheon	23
Mar 23	SWMC A.G.M.	D
Mar 23	"Jazz with Fish & Chips", Pearson Hall	23
Mar 24	"Walk of Witness", London	16
Mar 24	Primary School PTA Murder Mystery, Pearson Hall, 7.30 pm	R
Apr 1	Palm Sunday	19
Apr 6	Good Friday	19
Apr 8	SWMC Easter Egg Hunt	D
Apr 13	FoStAC Feast of St Sarik, Pearson Hall	20
Apr 14	SVP Mystery Play	24
Apr 19	Annual Church Council Meeting, St Patrick's	18
Apr 20	SWMC Disco/Karaoke	D
Apr 21	CE School PTA Fund raising parachute jump	D
May 5	St Patrick's Christian Aid concert	R
May 18	SWMC Quiz & BBQ	D
Jun 30	SWMC Summer Ball	D
Jun 23	FoStAC Sponsored cycle ride	R
Jun 23	CE School PTA Jazz Picnic	D
Aug 4	FoStAC Hog Roast	D
Sep 8	Village Produce Show	D

- Notes**
1. Deadline, April Magazine is Friday, 23rd March 2007.
 2. R = Reminder from previous issue.
 3. D = Diary entry.

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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

Abolition of Slave Trade

The bi-centenary of the Act of abolishing the slave trade in the British Empire will be marked in this the anniversary month. As part of the Church of England's contribution to marking this event there is to be a "Walk of Witness" in central London on Saturday 24th March led by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York.

It will be a walk with two starts and the main one will be at Whitehall Place (close to the Embankment) at 12.15. There is another small walk but numbers for this are limited. The two walks will come together for an act of worship at Kennington Park, close to the Oval cricket ground, beginning around 2.15pm.

The walks three themes are *Remembrance*, *Repentance* and *Restoration* building on the apology for the role of the Church in the slave trade made by the General Synod of the Church last year. It will also give thanks for the roll of the Church of England through William Wilberforce and others in bringing the slave trade to an end.

It is a “walk” and not a demonstration or protest. Its purpose is to act as a reminder that those millions of people taken into slavery had to walk to the coast of Africa. The Archbishops of Canterbury and York, with representatives from other Churches will lead the walk through the capital.

The closing worship at Kennington Park will be an opportunity to re-commit to truly live by the values of the gospel, loving and respecting each other as human beings made in the image of God. As such it is hoped the walk will become an assertion of the power of the resurrection.

Those of us who went to Seychelles in 2005 had a reminder of slavery when we were taken to a derelict orphanage built by the Church Missionary Society for children of slaves who were dumped there when slavery was abolished. In many ways they were the fortunate ones because most slaves were simply thrown overboard when the traders heard the Act had been passed.

We will be remembering the abolition of slavery and those who suffered before the Act in prayers on Sunday 25th March. I hope you will seriously consider joining the Walk. If you would like further details you can see them on the website: www.makingourmark.org.uk

Love & prayers,

Chris

From the Registers

Baptisms

28th Jan: Lucy Ruth Wilkinson
4th Feb: Magnus Frederic Harold Bruce
11th Feb: Amber Elizabeth Moores

Funerals

26th Jan: Gary David Lawrence (Crematorium & Churchyard)
13th Feb: John Mclean Docherty (Pangbourne, Crematorium & Churchyard)
13th Feb: Beatrice Wiggington (Crematorium & Churchyard)
20th Feb: Eunice Mary Owen (St. Andrew’s Church & Churchyard)

New email address!

Please note that as from Wednesday 28th February the Vicar will have a new email address. Is it chrisclarke@vodafoneemail.co.uk Although he will try

to check the old address from time to time if would be really helpful if you could email him on the new all singing, all dancing, broadband address!

March Family Services

Because of Mothering Sunday there will be two Family Services in March. The first will be as usual on the first Sunday of the month in both Churches. The second Family Service will be on Mothering Sunday, 18th March, and at that service flowers will be given to children for their Mother or Carer. In St. Andrew's at 10.30am Mrs Green, the Headteacher of Sonning School will help lead the service and it is hoped that some of the children will lead the prayers.

Palm Sunday

An early warning that the first Sunday of April is Palm Sunday and the usual Family Service will take a slightly different format. At St. Andrew's people are asked to meet at The Bull Gates at 10.30 for a procession and the Blessing of the Palms. We will then proceed into church for a Family Communion similar to the one we have on Christmas Day with the address aimed at children.

Evensong 11th March

Because of the annual Songs of Praise at St. Patrick's on 11th March there will be no Evensong in St. Andrew's that day. I hope those who usually attend Evensong will join with the St. Patrick's congregation at 6.30pm.

Annual Church Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Church Council will take place at St. Patrick's Church on Thursday 19th April at 8.00pm. Nomination Forms are at the back of both Churches now and anyone on the Church Electoral Role is invited to nominate people for Churchwarden, Deputy Churchwarden and the Deanery Synod. It would be really helpful if this could be done in good time before the meeting. The Annual Reports and Accounts will be ready and placed at the back of our Churches during March.

Chris

St Patrick's Viewpoint

Being a good parent these days is not the easiest of roles especially as there is so much pressure on ones time. Additionally there are the pressures from external commercial interests as well as worrying influences from the times in which we live, not least the drug culture. For some time I have been

thinking of testing the water to see, if we set up a parenting group, whether or not this might receive a positive response.

Recently I received a letter from the Diocese of Oxford Mothers Union Parenting Programme Training development worker Pennie Kennedy testing the water to see if there is sufficient interest to run a training group over four linked Saturdays to be held in Oxford. If you think you might be interested in being trained to run a group based on St Patrick's please contact me as soon as possible on 0118 934 1989. Incidentally if you have young children a crèche will be provided.

Lent is a time when we have the opportunity to take stock of ourselves as to the extent we live up to what God expects us to be in our relationships with one another. To enable us to do this effectively there are always a wide selection of Lent books especially written for each year. May I recommend this to you? St Andrew's bookshop in the London Road, Reading is well worth the visit.

Don't forget to put the following dates in your diary:

- Songs of Praise at St Patrick's - 6.30 pm on the 11th March
- Mothering Sunday family service - 9.30 am on the 18th March
- Palm Sunday (with donkey?) - 9.30 am on the 1st April
- Good Friday - 6th April (2.00 pm at St Andrew's)
- Parish walk (4.30 pm from St Andrew's to St Patrick's), BBQ followed by the Easter Vigil service (7.00 pm).

Love and blessings

Michael and family.

St Patrick's Day Songs of Praise

The Boss said that I ought to arise from my torpid slumbers (he does use some silly words at times) and remind everybody of the St Patrick's Day Songs of Praise on the 11th March. Yes, I know that's not actually St Paddies day, but he reckoned that coping with Mothering Sunday & Songs of Praise in one day would be beyond the stamina of a simple pianner, not to mention the long suffering punters.

So folks, put the date in your diary, Sun 11th March, 6.30 pm at St Patrick's. It's a joint service, there won't be an evensong at St Andrew's, and boss tells me the organ grinder is coming to give me a thorough work over, so make an effort and come along to exercise those vocal chords. Oh, and if you want to pick a hymn just give Chris Easton a ring on 0118 934 0795.

Joanna (the St Patrick's Pianner)

THE FRIENDS OF ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH

INVITE YOU TO

THE FEAST OF ST. SARIK

Friday 13th April

7.30 p.m.

Pearson Hall, Sonning

Hot Buffet

Wine Bar

Music by "Take Four"

Formal Dress (optional)

Tickets £20 each from:

Malcolm 934 1762, Barbara 375 9879, or Heather 969 8653

Mark and Jo Bodley Scott

Few people live in the same place for over 50 years, and fewer still leave as significant a legacy as Mark and Jo, who moved from Sonning in February. Soon after the two young architects married in 1953, they bought some land off Charvil lane and designed and built Uppfield, which they occupied in 1955. Although busy with their profession, and in time with three children, they soon became active in village affairs.

Mark's service included Independent District Councillor for Sonning 1970-75; Sonning Parish Council 1970-86 (Chairman 1975-84); Chairman, Sonning Working man's Club 1967-84; Trustee, Sonning Fire Brigade Trust 1975-84, Clerk to Trustees 1982-2002, Chairman, 2002-06; Pearson Hall Management Committee; Sonning Branch, The Royal British Legion. (He served in the RNVR in World War II and was wounded in Italy, later returning to active service in South East Asia). Highlights of his work included the designation of Sonning Conservation area in 1971; the transformation of the Working Men's Club in the 1970's; conservation and modernisation of the Pearson Hall and other buildings; and the energetic support of a host of village organisations and activities.

Jo was also active in village life. She was a member of Sonning Glebe W.I. including a spell as President. She was Sonning's representative with Twyford

and District Volunteer Drivers and did other voluntary work. But probably her most memorable impact was in the realm of costume. For many years she dressed all the productions of the Sonning Village Players, sometimes with casts of about 50 (“A Midsummer Night’s Dream”, “Oliver”) to high standards of historical accuracy and visual effect.

As well as giving public service in many important ways, Mark and Jo were responsible for some highly enjoyable special events. One outstanding example was the four-day Sonning Festival in June 1976. The church was a central feature with an opening concert, a Festival of Flowers by day and a marvellous Son et Lumière of Sonning’s history every evening, and a final Festival service. Mark and Jo, with a small committee, spent 18 months preparing the Festival which truly succeeded in its aim of ‘a great deal of satisfaction and enjoyment for villagers of all ages’.

Sonning can count itself fortunate in many respects but it owes a great debt to Mark and Jo for many years of leadership and sheer hard work, which will have lasting good effects for the village and its people. May they enjoy a long and happy retirement.

John Edmonds

(Note: I am grateful to those who were able to help me with some of the facts, but I had to rely more than expected on papers kept by Armine and me. So my apologies for any errors or serious omissions.)

Sonning Glebe WI

We had a very successful February meeting which was run by the members, we had a talk on Scrap booking and the care of Photographs; explaining what type of materials will help to keep our photos in good condition and prevent them from fading. The Committee thank the members that organised and ran the meeting; it was good for the Committee to have a month off.

As usual there was a lot of Nattering and some Knitting at our Knit “n” Natter and we have held another successful Scrabble Evening.

Date for your diary - our Quiz night is on Friday 16th March 2007.

Diane Reeves

Sonning Art Group

Jenny Parkes paid a welcome return visit to the Group this month to give a tutorial session on ‘Perspective and Buildings’ supported with a generous supply of handouts on the subject. Her enthusiastic approach and optimistic encouragement of our efforts ensured we all produced creditable and satisfying results with pictures of cottages, churches, city office blocks and other architectural works.

Work is progressing slowly and surely with the second of the murals we are producing for Lashbrook House Nursing Home at Shiplake, which we have scheduled to finish this month. The 8ft x 4ft picture 'A Day at the Seaside' is giving plenty of opportunity for members to use their imagination as well as painting skills. If nothing else the project is proving to be a wonderful team exercise in group dynamics and interpersonal communication skills, which will, undoubtedly have lasting benefit!

George Webster

Masquerade Dance & Drama Club

Recent Events

We have had a busy and Creative time in both groups over the past couple of terms. We offer individual group classes in Drama on a Wednesday, and street jazz dance on Thursday in The Pearson Hall. The Drama and Dance group worked in their classes recently towards a production called 'Wishes' combining dance and drama skills to an audience of friends and family, the students chose to charge a small fee from the audience which they chose to send to the Berkshire 'Make A Wish Foundation Charity' which helps ill children live out a wish, whether that be a day at a theme park, or a holiday with their family. The group raised £120.00.

We are starting to choose our next production, and our charity, which will be performed at the end of the summer term in the Pearson Hall, combining dance and drama skills. If you would like more information or you would like to arrange a free trial to try a dance or drama class (our age ranges run from 4 to 16 years) do contact me on 0797 3918225. The aims of the groups are to be friendly fun and work in a small group environment, it does not matter how good you areenthusiasm is all that is needed.

Strictly Ballroom Comes to Sonning:

Ballroom dancing lessons for adults will commence in the Pearson Hall on Friday's at 8.15p.m. There will be a trial lesson on 9th March; the class is aimed at beginners. There is no need to bring a partner. The aim of the class is to be friendly and fun whilst being taught in a small class environment by a professional team. Please call for further information and to sign up for the trial.

Sonning's Strictly Salsa Classes

Salsa dancing for adults will begin on Wednesday, 7th March in the Pearson Hall at 7.15 p.m. This will be a beginners group, no need to bring a partner; call to sign up for the first weeks trial or more information.

Clare Hatfield Grove (0797 3918225)

Jazz with Fish & Chip Supper

Friday, 23rd March 2007

Please note new timings:

Pearson Hall, 7.30 for 8.00 p.m. start

Tickets from Jane Gascoine: 0118 969 3326

Little Fishes Baby and Toddler Group

Little Fishes will meet as usual this month on Tuesday 6th March from 10a.m. to 11.30a.m. in the St Sarik Room next to St Andrew's Church and we will be making Mothers' Day cards. All pre-school aged children and their parents/carers are welcome. We will also meet on Tuesday 3rd April for our Easter gathering. However thereafter I will not be continuing to run the group. If anyone is interested in taking over this role and keeping the group going please contact me.

Sarah Turner

1st Sonning Brownies

The Brownies have continued to work on their World Badge by learning a song from another Country and making a friendship circle showing uniforms from other Countries.

The Brownies enjoyed an excellent visit to Earley Fire Station where we had a safety talk and were shown around the Fire Engine. We finished the visit off by our "Koala" being dressed in a Fireman's Uniform.

Our new Brownies have continued to work towards making their Promise and we are preparing for our Greet A Granny evening.

For any information on Rainbows, Brownies or Guides in Sonning please phone Diane on 07813 433 493.

Brown Owl

Sonning & Warren Conservative Association

The Spring Luncheon will be held on Wed Mar 21st at Athelston House, by kind permission of Mr and Mrs Francis Byrne. Tickets, price £12.50 can be obtained from Rosemary Digby (0118 969 3277) or any member of the Committee. The guest speaker will be Mrs Penny Feathers, Mid Shires Emergency Services Manager, who will talk about the Emergency Services.

Alison Russell

The Monday Club

We are glad to welcome Ken back from his overseas trip. Adam gave us a talk about Reading and district street names and their derivation. An unusual hobby, but of interest to those with long memories. It does, however, remove some of the interest when speakers have to refer to books without tab markers. Alan Stockwell entertained us with stories and poems of his own creation. A man of literature at all levels.

R C A

Sonning Village Players Proudly present

‘MURDER AT FURTIVE MANOR’

Featuring the Famous “Hercule Peugeot”

Saturday 14th April 2007 @7.45pm

Pearson Hall, Sonning

£8.00 including light supper, B.Y.O. drinks

For tickets please call 0118 966 5081

Or email julie59106@yahoo.com

Cheques to ‘Sonning Village Players’

66 Hanwood Close, Woodley, Reading, RG5 3AB

with return address and/or phone number

Sonning & Sonning Eye Society

Nostalgia at the Races

After a very successful and entertaining film show provided by the Wessex Film and Sound Archive in January, the Society has asked the Archive to prepare a DVD that can be lent to Members who might like to pore over the films in their own time. It will contain Sonning Races, Wargrave Regatta and memories of a river trip from Sonning to Hambledon. Once we have the DVD we will make it available for loan to Society Members.

Watermills of the Thames Valley

Our next event on Friday 9 March is *Watermills of the Thames Valley*, a talk by Brian Eighteen. Brian knows Sonning Mill from its active milling days and has archive photos of it before conversion into a theatre. These may be used in a small exhibition if The Mill Theatre agrees to participate in the national Heritage Open Days Weekend in September. The talk will take place in Pearson Hall, 7.45 for an 8.00 pm start. Tickets cost £2.00 for Members and

£3.00 for non-members. They are available from Diana Coulter, 969 2132, or on the door.

Every Action Counts

This is a new, two-year Community Sector Coalition programme, representing over 30 national membership organisations including the Civic Trust of which the Society is a member. The idea is to encourage community organisations to work on issues such as; energy, transport and climate change; waste minimisation and recycling; local environmental improvements; and fair trade and ethical shopping. If you want to find out more, visit their website www.everyactioncounts.org.uk?

Bridge

Receive *bridge*, our quarterly newsletter, which over the past two years has covered fascinating articles from Sonning's lost palace through appropriate tree planting and the art of hedge laying to the Robert Palmer Cottages and St Andrew's bells. If you would like to join the Society, please contact our Membership Secretary on 969 6693.

Diana Coulter

Sonning Twinning Association

A.G.M.

The A.G.M. will be held on Saturday, 10th March 2007 at 7.30p.m. in the Pearson Hall, Sonning. Members are encouraged to attend. Our current officers and committee are:

Chairman - David Bates

Honorary Secretary - Denise Drew

Honorary Treasurer - Trefor Fisher

Committee - Mary Chapman, Steve Chapman (ex officio, Chairman Sonning Parish Council), Lesley Green, Ken Henderson, Phil Parker, Marjie Thorne, Lynn Woodhouse.

Ken Henderson wishes to stand down from the Committee but all the others above are willing to stand for re-election. Nomination papers are available from Mary Chapman, 15 Pound Lane, Sonning RG4 6XD (0118 969 7398).

After the meeting there will be a hot supper and showing of the film "Les Choristes" (in French with subtitles). Tickets for this event, £5 for members and £7.50 for others, are available from Phil Parker (0118 9440000).

Youth Award

We are delighted that again we have been given a bursary to enable a young person to visit Ligugé later this year. Applications are open to all young

people under the age of 18 living in Sonning or actively involved in a Sonning school, club or other organisation. The value of the bursary will cover travel costs (including those of an accompanying parent or friend) and pocket money, enabling both participants to enjoy a week or so staying with a family in Ligugé.

Applications should be personally completed, detailing in no more than one hundred words what the applicant hopes to achieve from the award, with a supporting statement from a teacher or club leader. They should be sent to David Bates, The Gatehouse, Sonning Lane, Sonning, RG4 6ST by Friday, 30th March and the winner will be announced by Thursday, 19th April 2007. For further details, please contact David Bates (0118 969 7753) or Mary Chapman (0118 969 7398).

David Bates

Wanted!

Garage to rent for up to six months. As a soon-to-be resident of Sonning (anticipate early April) I need a secure lock-up garage for one vehicle, which is not in daily use, until such time as a new garage is built at my own home. If you can help in any way do please give me a call on 0118 931 1823. Many thanks.

Mike Spencer

Sonning Floral Arrangement Society

For the benefit of newcomers to the village and indeed anyone who would like to get to know more people, the flower club is a good place to start. We meet on the 2nd Thursday afternoon of every month in the Pearson Hall at 2.00 p.m. Flower arranging demonstrations occur at most meetings and occasionally we have a "hands on" workshop. It is also a socially very active club. For instance there is a coffee morning at Ann Turners home on May 1st at 1030, a summer lunch at mine (Jane Gascoine) the second Thursday in August, and a BBQ at Sharon Robinsons, date to be advised.

There is also going to be flower arranging classes for beginners on Tuesday evenings for approx 6 weeks starting about the end of March; venue still to be arranged.

The February meeting was a stunning demonstration by Brenda Copas entitled *Floral Miscellany*. Brenda has arranged flowers in Westminster Abbey and had some very interesting tales to tell us while she worked to create 6 different designs, using an assortment of wonderful flowers which were then raffled off to a lucky few. Tea and biscuits followed. The monthly competition was won by Barbara McGregor. The next meeting, in March, will be a workshop. All you need to bring is 1 large coffee lid, a basket, and some foliage. The club will provide all the flowers and oasis. You will need some scissors as well. Should be fun.

Jane Gascoine

Royal British legion, Sonning Branch

News of Members



Ken Trimmings

Ken joined the Branch in November 1971 and thus celebrated 35 years of his membership last month. The intention was to mark the occasion at the A.G.M. but he frustrated that by arranging to go out to Australia to his family immediately after the Remembrance Sunday events, for three months. Consequently, after some head scratching and debate, it was decided that we should present him with a Branch *Certificate of Merit* at a suitable Monday Club event.

We managed to fit this in on Monday, 13th November and a group from the committee paid a surprise visit before the club meeting started. We think we took him by surprise, but if not, then he hid it very well!

It is worth mentioning that Ken has served the Branch with great dedication in various positions over the years and also has raised significant amounts of money by organising functions and events outside the remit laid down by the committee. This last year he even raised of the order of £300.00 on a sponsored walk only a few weeks after receiving a new hip!

It is a fitting tribute to his work that seven members of the committee turned out on a rather cold afternoon to join in the brief presentation ceremony, led by our President Gp Capt Colin Pierce.

Mrs Phyllis Wright.

Phyllis was an active member of the Branch for many years and at one time was President of the Ladies Section. She is now in long-term care, but expressed a wish to continue her membership of the Branch. As a result, and in recognition of her support, it was proposed and passed at the A.G.M. to invite her to become an honorary member. She has accepted our invitation and is looking forward to receiving news of our activities in the future.

Gordon Barnett

Spring is nearly with us.....

Church Daffodils

He wandered lonely as a cloud
Into his church with great elation
Because, all at once, he saw a crowd
God's house was full - his congregation
Standing in the aisles were queues
And not a space amongst the pews.

Continuous as the stars that shine,
Some were kneeling at the altar;
They stretched in a never-ending line.
He knew at once he's never falter;
With such support he'd ne'er abandon
God's ship, and chose a hymn at random.

They sang and tossed their heads askance
He'd never seen such happy faces -
The angelic choir began to dance;
There was no show of airs and graces,
He gazed amidst the crowd and thought
What happiness his flock had brought.

Then, all began to kneel and pray,
When they were in pensive mood -
To thank the Lord for every day,
His gifts, and all things good.
'And when my heart with pleasure dwells'
He said: 'tis time to ring the bells.

And to conclude.....

The Final Word on Nutrition

1. Japanese eat very little fat and suffer fewer heart attacks than us.
2. Mexicans eat a lot of fat and suffer fewer heart attacks than us.
3. Chinese drink very little red wine and suffer fewer heart attacks than us.
4. Italians drink excessive amounts of red wine and suffer fewer heart attacks than us.
5. Germans drink beer and eat sausages and fats and suffer fewer heart attacks than us.

Conclusion:

Eat and drink what you like. It seems that it's speaking English that will apparently kill you!

Local Organisations

St Andrew's: Sunday Club	Heather Hexter	946 1316
St Andrew's: Little Fishes	Mrs Sarah Turner	944 8154
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	Tawny Owl: Claire Howells	934 5372
Charvil Guides	Naomi Simpson	934 1392
Charvil Caterpillar Club	Sandy Moffatt	934 9794
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	Jo Holden	934 4701
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 & Warren Conservatives	Sec: Alison Russell	972 1495
Sonning Cricket Club	Membership: Ali Driver	969 2698
Sonning Flower Club	Sec: Ms S. Robinson	969 0748
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	Coling Lawley	961 8536
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	Penny Adams	932 1208
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	David Bates	969 7753
Sonning Toddler Group	Elizabeth Tonge	969 2080
Sonning Village Players	Sec: Mr S. Atkins	969 1134
Sonning & Sonning Eye Society	Sec: Mrs P. Feathers	934 3193
Sonning Village Show	Sec: Mrs Heather Hine	969 8653
Sonning Working Men's Club	Sec: Mrs Penney Mackenzie	07730 871959
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	Sec: Mr Colin McEwen	934 0300
Badminton Club	Mrs P. Pardoe	934 5643
Longmead Bridge Club	Chairman: Tony Cowling	969 5181
Rotary Club of Loddon Vale	Secretary: Norman Mouldsley	961 8829
Serinette Ladies Choir	Suzanne Newman	934 0589
Short Mat Bowling Club	Mrs S. Newman	934 0589
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