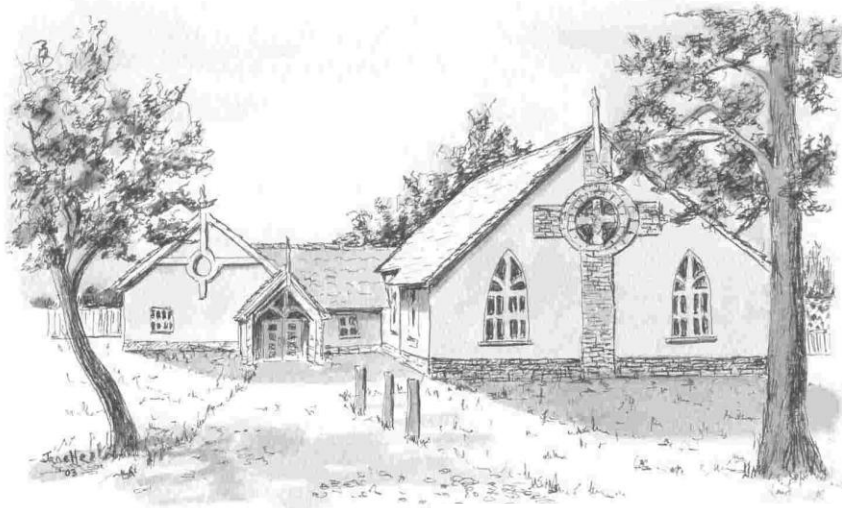


Sonning Parish Magazine



Serving the Communities
of Sonning and Charvil



25p

May 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:		
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	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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Forthcoming Events

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May 9	Sonning Parish Council, Annual Parish meeting	21
May 9	A.G.M. Twyford Volunteers	27
May 10	RNLI Sonning A.G.M.	24
May 12	PHSC Regatta Fund-raising dinner	R
May 16	Chiltern Air Abulance; Frogmore House	R
May 18	SWMC Quiz & BBQ	D
Jun 2	Christian Aid: Salsa Party, Pearson Hall	24
Jun 16	RNLI Sonning garden Party	25
Jun 20	Tamesis Chamber Choir concert, St Andrew's church	20
Jun20	Pearson Hall A.G.M	20
Jun 22	S&SES "Midnight at the Oasis"	R
Jun 23	FoStAC Sponsored cycle ride	D
Jun 23	CE School PTA Jazz Picnic	27
Jul 6	Village Rounders Match, 6.00 p.m. King Georges Field	D
Aug 4	FoStAC Hog Roast	D
Sep 2	S&SES Late Summer Luncheon	R
Sep 8	Village Produce Show	20
Sep 9	S&SES Heritage Open Day	R
Nov 10	RNLI Sonning Annual Dinner	25

Notes

Deadline, June Magazine is *Friday, 25th May 2007.*

R = Reminder from previous issue.

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

Changes in St. Andrew's

I know that many of you must be wondering what is happening about the re-ordering of St. Andrew's. As those who worship at St. Andrew's will know, a questionnaire was handed out to the congregation for four weeks, which invited people's comments. The Churchwardens made themselves available after each of the Services and lots of people expressed their views to them. Other people wrote emails and letters telling us what they thought.

The Archdeacon's Licence, which allowed for a period of experimentation, was for 15 months but there seemed little point in taking quite so long before making a final decision. The PCC held a special meeting to consider people's comments and views and agreed that everyone who wished to had been given the opportunity to make their feelings known.

We had recognised that removing some pews would be controversial but in the event there were only nine objections from those who said they wanted the pews replaced. After discussion the Church Council voted unanimously to apply for a Faculty, the churches equivalent of planning permission, to permanently remove the front pews. We are in the process of making this application.

The intension is to make a new altar which is slightly higher and longer than the yew alter used during the trial period and for the celebrant at Holy Communion to stand on front of the step near the pulpit. The stitchers have already started work on a new frontal for this altar. The yew table will then be placed in the St. Sarik Room to be used as an altar on Wednesdays.

At the same time new oak steps with a handrail will be placed at the Lectern. We will also remove the divider from the pew under the Pulpit so people can get from the centre isle to the north one without having to go right round the Church. New carpet, to match the one down the main isle, will be laid over the brown tiles, which were under the pews. We will also put a small oak box with a door over the electric sockets, which can now be seen on the front step under the pulpit.

I want to take this opportunity to assure you that this is not the thin end of the wedge and there is no intention of removing any other pews. It will take some time to get the necessary permission to carry out these changes because the Diocesan Advisory Committee will have to be consulted again before anything can be done but I hope we can do the work within the next few months.

I am very pleased with the way people responded to the consultation we carried out and for the way all those who commented, including those who were against the changes, expressed their views. This could have been a very divisive issue but instead it has been a learning curve for everyone and we have been able to think out in a positive way in which we use such a wonderful building.

Love and prayers

Chris

From the Registers

Baptisms

15th April: Charlie Mark Joseph Willensen, Kirsty Ann Jennifer Roberts,
Lily May Astbury.

Weddings

21st April: Matthew Lawrence Hodge to Victoria Buckland.

Funerals

8th Feb: Agnes Teresa Walsh (Earley & St Andrew's Churchyard)
5th April: Celia McKaig. (St. Andrew's Church, Crematorium & Churchyard)
17th April: Lemuel Bevan. (St. Andrew's Church & Churchyard)
26th April: John Roy Dixon. (St. Andrew's, Crematorium & Churchyard)

Christian Aid Week

If you can please help with the House-to-House collection for Christian Aid, there is a list for people to sign at the back of both Churches. If you cannot help with the collecting do please give as generously as you can when the collector calls at your house. The work carried out by Christian Aid is one way for us to show our concern for those who are not as fortunate as us and for the poor of the world.

Indian Orphanage Appeal

Following the talk by Janet and Leslie Stephen in St. Andrew's during the morning service on 15th April I invited those who wished to give a donation towards the work of the Orphanage to put it in the collection. I was delighted that just over £1,000.00 was given and most of this was covenanted so we can claim the tax back and give that to the Orphanage too. Thank you for your generous support. Leslie tells me that £1,000.00 is enough to feed and cloth the children, pay the staff and all the overheads for three months!

Chris

St Patrick's Perspective

I came across a story recently, which I would like to share with you, the reader.

A burglar broke into a house and as he was turning everything upside down in his search for money and valuables, a voice from behind him commented, "Jesus is watching you". The burglar spun round and in the darkness he was unable immediately to identify where the voice was coming from. Then, as he peered into the darkness, he was able to make out the outline of a parrot chained to a perch. To check whether or not the voice came from the parrot he asked the parrot "What is your name?" to which the parrot replied "Anselm". The burglar commented, "That is a funny name for a parrot". The parrot replied "Yes, and Jesus is a funny name for a rottweiler". On hearing that, the burglar fled the house in double quick time.

From time to time we all need a parrot to remind us that what we do, think or say does not go unnoticed by God's son whose resurrection we celebrated last month. His spiritual presence is still very much alive with us and speaks to us if we are prepared to listen out for his voice speaking through our conscience, through other people, through experience, through prayer. He speaks both in the darkness of our world and in the daylight of the personal blessings we receive on a daily basis, if we only take time to count them and reflect on them. However such is God's love for us that He does not impose Himself on us, although He is ever present watching our every move and waiting for us to acknowledge His presence by active listening.

Talking of listening, and watching, I hope to see you at the annual Christian Aid Concert on Saturday 5th May, 7.00 pm at St Patrick's

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 of 0118 934 0795.

Joanna (the St Patrick's Pianner)

Friends of St. Andrew's Church

A talk on St Andrew's Stained Glass Windows, Monday 11th June at St Andrew's Church at 8 pm: An opportunity to hear Nick Easthope of Easthope Studios. Nick has been responsible for the restoration of our stained glass windows. This will be an informal talk about the history of the windows and the process of their restoration.

John Hammond

Tamesis Chamber Choir

A popular summer concert - book now!

We are delighted to welcome Tamesis Chamber Choir to St Andrew's church at 7:30pm on Saturday 23rd June. It is a top class ensemble conducted by local musician Louise Rapple, and in pleasing contrast to their usual highbrow repertoire, will be performing an upbeat selection of popular hits in harmonious arrangements for mixed voices.

The concert, "Beatles and Beyond" is the last in the choir's 2006-07 season, which has focused on the works of English composers. As well as plenty of classics by the Fab Four, Tamesis will sing well-loved works by Elton John, Queen and Procul Harum, amongst others.

Last summer's light-hearted concert featuring songs from biblically inspired musicals attracted large audiences and great reviews, as have the choir's more traditional performances. According to The Reading Evening Post, Tamesis is 'a highly accomplished and vigorous chamber choir'.

Put the date in your diary now. Early birds can save £1 per ticket by purchasing online at www.tamesischamberchoir.co.uk or by phone on 0118 934 3200. Discounted tickets are £8 (standard) or £5 (concessions), while 'on the door' tickets are £9 and £6.

Louise Rapple

Pearson Hall Annual General Meeting

The Pearson Hall AGM will be held in the Hall on Wednesday 20 June, 7.30 for 8.00 pm. You are invited to attend or send a representative, and to take part in the elections. Light refreshments will be served. If you wish to raise any matters at the meeting, it would be helpful if you could let the Secretary know in advance so that any necessary research can be carried out before the meeting. We look forward to seeing you at the AGM.

Colin McEwen

Sonning Village Show - Saturday 8th September

Plans are underway for this year's Show. Now is the time to plant sunflower and pumpkin seed, should you wish to enter the largest sunflower head and heaviest pumpkin classes in the Produce Show. Please earmark the date in your diary and come along to this enjoyable Village event.

Heather Hine

Sonning Parish Council

Annual Parish Meeting, 9th May 2007

Your opportunity to hear Councillors report, meet your new Council, and to hear and to learn about the 5-year plan for Fire Services in this area.

All residents are invited to attend the Annual Parish Meeting of Sonning Parish Council, which will take place in the Pearson Hall. The doors will be open at 7.00pm, when a welcome drink and nibbles will be provided, and the meeting will commence at 7.30pm. This is an opportunity to meet your new Council (following elections on 3 May), to hear the 2006/07 Reports and to ask questions.

The Parish Council are also delighted to announce that Des Tidbury, Assistant Chief Fire Officer, and Area Manager George Cross of the Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service will give a presentation and take questions on the 5 Year Plan for the Fire Service and reasons for the proposed closure of the Sonning Fire Station.

Lesley Bates (Clerk to the Council)

Sonning Glebe WI

At our meeting in April we had a talk about the National Trust and Basildon Park, it sounds as if it is worth a visit to see the house and walk in the grounds. The Annual Spring Council Meeting for WI was held at the Hexagon during this awards are given out and Sharon Robinson was presented with the Jubilee Cup for her writing on Clean Water for Everyone. Sarah Swatridge received the Mavis Bendall Trophy for her story.

After waiting 3 years we have finally got a date for a visit to the Gardens at Highgrove, we will be going on the 3rd May and are looking forward to the trip very much. Our Knit n Natter and Scrabble evenings are continuing regularly, we have now completed 4 blankets for Feed the Children and are well on our way to the next one.

Our next meeting is on Monday 21st May at Pearson Hall at 7.30 p.m. we will be doing Scarf Tying so if you would like to come along please bring a scarf with you. We always look forward to welcoming visitors.

Diane Reeves

Sonning Art Group

A good surprise is always welcome so when art group members overturned my pessimistic predictions about their level of response to the challenge of producing abstract paintings on 'Thoughts of Spring' I was overwhelmed and delighted to find myself judging no less than 27 excellent and diverse entries for this quarters Chairman's Cup award. The task of painting a picture based on original thought and imagination is really quite difficult - especially for those who have spent a lifetime of only copying real scenes and images. However I shouldn't have doubted the enthusiasm, determination and competitive spirit of the Group!

Judging was an even more difficult task than usual (even though the entries didn't include pickled sharks or unmade beds!) The range of work spanned from clever designs based on the double helical spring through wondrously spring coloured flower designs that would win favour from any fabric designer to a humorous collage depicting spring lambs! The winner was Helga Hanfling awarded for her beautiful, delicate and well-executed picture incorporating blue glass reflections and impressions of yellow daffodils.

If we can create a little extra space at our September exhibition at Sonning Village Show we will put the all the pictures on display for everyone to see.

Undoubtedly it has been a worthwhile exercise and has led to a better understanding of abstract art for all our members. It is to be hoped that the next challenge, 'A Water Scene' will not seem too dull after all this excitement and creativity.

George Webster

1st Sonning Brownies

We welcome some new Brownies to Sonning, Beth, Charlotte, Harriette and Rebecca.

At the end of last term Lucy came down the slide into Brownie Ring to make her Promise. We hope to spend as much time outside as possible during this term doing various activities and some time using the new play equipment. On the 16th May we will be walking twice around St Georges Field for our Walk Wonders, which is to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support. Everyone is welcome to join us we will be walking whatever the weather. All we ask is that you donate at least £1 to walk with us.

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

Brown Owl

The Monday Club

A most interesting talk by Doctor Martin Parsons concerning evacuees. Perhaps most of us have a mental picture of young East-Enders in the 1940s clutching gasmasks and boarding trains to that far-off place 'the country'. It was a revelation to learn that evacuation started in 1874 due to the fears of a French invasion. Of course, in retrospect, the evacuee situation during the last war could have been handled better, but, as people of my generation will recall, we expected the Nazis to be on the South Coast five minutes after war was declared. It is frightening to think that evacuees (or refugees; where does one shade into the other?) are still being displaced by the thousand in places such as Darfur.

R C A

Sonning Floral Arrangement Society

In February, before a full house at The Mill at Sonning, *Floratissimo* gave us a fascinating evening and the Society was able to donate £550.00 each to Daisy's Dream and Breakthrough Breast Cancer.

At the April meeting, the Chairman welcomed new members who picked a good day to join as we had best flower arrangers demonstrating that day. Jean Plashett's theme for the afternoon was "It's a snip" but it was much more than a snip; opulence comes to mind! This lady collects unconsidered trifles with which to make containers for her flower arrangements, and her first item was a gorgeous bridal bouquet on a stand made from a CD rack and a wire vegetable basket! (How many of us would have thought of it). Second was a picture frame, enhanced by bright orange Gerberas. A large round pot filled with Sunflowers, Tarsia leaves and other material was followed. For another, a white china container was the basis for a lovely sailing boat using spray pink roses and carnations. A tall willow basket pedestal displayed her finale of bear grass, carnations, anthuriums and glossy green leaves; her choice of flowers and colours was beautiful.

Although it is a skill born of long practise, Jean Plashett made it look so easy and gave us lots of good and useful advice. And that is why we go to the society. It is entertaining, sociable, we have a cup of tea and we learn something every time. The competition 'A Spring Basket' was won by Catherine Penny.

Dates for your diary: Coffee morning 1st May. 10.50am at Ann Turner's, 'White Roses', Holmemoor Drive, Sonning.

Next months demonstrator will be Linda Parfitt, her theme "Candle Light and Celebrations" and the competition will be "Tulips from Amsterdam" - an exhibit with accessories.

Jane Gascoine

Salsa Party

in

Sonning!!

Saturday 2nd June

7.00 - 11.30pm

The Pearson Hall, Sonning

All welcome.

Friendly beginners class (optional).

Class: 7 - 8pm

Party: 8 - 11.30pm

Bring a bottle

Tickets £5 each (including class) on the door
or from Susan: 07812 125 396

All proceeds to Christian Aid.

RNLI Sonning Branch

Following a successful year in 2006, Sonning Branch was able to forward to RNLI Headquarters, a very respectable amount in excess of £4,000.00. Many thanks go to all our generous supporters in and around the village.

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday 10th May at 8pm in the Sonning Working Men's Club.

Start the Summer Season Here! The Garden Party

The Garden Party will be held this year on Saturday 16th June, from 6.30 to 8pm at The Rose Garden, Pitts Lane, Thames Street, by kind invitation of Mr.& Mrs. J Gilmore. Tickets are available from Monday 14th May, 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 10th November. More details will be published at a later date.

Lynn Woodhouse

Sonning CE Primary School

The past few years have seen our school grow and develop and in response to this our planned admission number (the number of pupils we are allowed to take into each year group) has gone up. From September 2007 our admission number will increase from 27 to 30 and this will be applied to each year group which means that we will have some spaces in year groups that were previously full. Anyone who may be interested in a place in Years 1-6 should contact the school office on 0118 969 3399 and speak to Mrs Amanda Carne, our Admissions Clerk.

Places for next academic year (September 2007 - August 2008) into our youngest reception class have already been allocated through the co-ordinated admissions scheme and a number of you will have already been offered places at our school on behalf of the Governors by Wokingham. We look forward to welcoming you to our school family in the next school year; I shall shortly be writing to you with information of our meeting for new parents later this term and induction arrangements for our new children.

The Governors are also seeking to appoint a handy person for our school. This paid position is for 7 hours a week and the post holder will be responsible for some repairs and maintenance tasks both inside and outside the school as well as carrying out some routine checks. For further information please contact our bursar, Mrs Sue Worthington, in the school office.

Lesley Green

The Tale of Little Bear

One of the joys of being the local "*bloke wot does nature 'n' that*" is that you get phoned when people find weird creatures. My most recent call came from Chris Gibbs who had stumbled across a tiny frozen animal in Russell's Field, now called Sonning Field. Off I hurtled on the bike (speed-pottered would be a better description, given the icy northerly into which I attempted to hurtle). On arrival I identified it as an unusual newborn puppy, and we proceeded to curse the heartless unmentionable that had obviously abandoned it.

Being soft, I agreed to take the tiny chocolate-brown, snub-nosed fur-ball home, and revive him. “*Aah can we keep it?*” asked my wife (unsuccessfully!). However local authorities are duty-bound to collect reported strays, so we called the friendly WDC animal warden, Mandy, who on arrival immediately asked “*are you sure it isn’t a baby fox? - ‘cos they’re chocolate brown*”. A search on t’internet immediately revealed a photo of what appeared to be Little Bear himself! Mandy was delighted because she’d never seen one before and I was suitably embarrassed, being a country boy, and feared that I would immediately be stripped of my “*bloke wot does nature ‘n’ that*” status. We surmised that a vixen had been disturbed whilst carrying her cubs across the field to another den site and dropped one of them. In this situation cubs can easily become abandoned, especially in public places during daylight.

And so it was that Little Bear, by now fighting fit, found his way to St Tiggywinkles Wildlife Hospital near Aylesbury. I ferried him up there in a bobble-hat and just like a baby he slept on the motorway and grumbled on the country lanes! While there I was shown round by the admirable Les Stocker MBE, and was amazed with the scale of the operation - over a thousand animals and birds, including 500 hedgehogs - all of them orphaned or injured, but remarkably, some 65% are returned to the wild. They are however reliant on donations and membership fees, so if you want to support their worthy cause then I recommend you visit their website at www.tiggywinkles.com. As for Little Bear, well in a few months he and his new “siblings” will be released as a family group into the Chilterns where he will get to enjoy the freedom of the wild that he was always due.

Ali Driver

Charvil Girls' Choir

A new choir is starting in September for girls between the ages of 11 and 18 years of age. The choir will meet at Charvil village hall on Sunday evenings at 6.15 p.m. for an hour and a half. A wide variety of music will be rehearsed. Plans for 2007/8 already include a concert at the hexagon as guests of the central band of the White Russian Army and the Jersey International Choral Festival. Informal auditions are being held in July. For more details contact me on 0118 934 0589.

Suzanne Newman

Twyford Volunteers

The A.G.M. of the **Twyford, Wargrave & District Volunteer Centre** will be held on Wednesday, 9th May 2007 in St Mary’s Church Centre, Twyford, at 7-30pm. Our guest speaker this year will be from the *Air Ambulance Service*,

and will give a talk about the service, which helps to save the lives of so many accident victims, receives no government funding and is entirely staffed by volunteers. Our A.G.M. is the yearly opportunity for the drivers, volunteer office staff and the committee to get together and discuss any problems that might have arisen. It is also the chance for potential new drivers to come along and hear what is involved. We are always looking for new people to join us so if you have just a few spare hours now and then, please join us. We would love to hear from you.

Rosemary Digby

Sonning CE School PTA Jazz Picnic

The PTA is back into the swing of the summer term and have we got a busy couple of months coming up. Last weekend, our very own Mrs Painter did a tandem parachute jump. A very big that you to Jacqui, I hope you will now keep you feet on the ground. On **Saturday 23rd June**, the PTA is organizing at Jazz Picnic. It will be on the school grounds, the evening's entertainment will start at 7.30pm why. Please come along and enjoy the music and lots of socialising. Tickets will cost £10 each and will be on sale at the beginning of June. For tickets please call Penny Adams on 0118 9321208 or Heather Hollingsworth on 07799 345129. We are working towards raising approx £3000.00 for some shading in the playground.

Penny Adams

The Trends Rock Group

Aboard

The Caversham Princess

On

Thursday evening, 17th May 2007

£20 ticket includes Supper, Band and Boat Trip

All funds raised in aid of

The Royal Berkshire Hospital Cancer Centre

To book a table call:

Pam Glasspool - 0118 969 2800

Sonning & Sonning Eye Society

Occasionally there appears to be confusion about the purpose of the Society. Some seem to think we are one and the same as parish councils, or that we are responsible for the same issues. While there may be a shared interest in matters affecting Sonning and Sonning Eye, the organisations work independently and in different ways but often in partnership.

Parish councils are the first unit of local government in England with which people normally deal. The next tier up is the district or borough council to which each household pays council tax. A modest precept is levied from this to fund the work of parish councils. Sonning Parish Council comes under Wokingham Borough Council, while Eye and Dunsden comes under South Oxfordshire District Council.

Typically parish councils are responsible for the provision of public seats, street lighting and recreation facilities. They might maintain footpaths or contribute funds towards traffic calming measures. They serve as a channel into larger local government bodies for residents' opinions on decisions that might affect the parish, e.g. on housing or traffic.

Parish councillors are all volunteers who are elected to serve for four years. They are not normally politically aligned. Councillors serve on working groups dealing with planning and highways through to police and security. They are in a strong position to influence how the District or Borough Council might spend its money in Sonning or Sonning Eye.

By contrast we are a *civic society* with no legal authority or powers to manage facilities. We have been established for the public benefit in the area comprising Sonning and Sonning Eye to:

- (i) Promote high standards of planning and architecture.
- (ii) Educate the public in the geography, history, natural history and architecture of the area.
- (iii) Secure the preservation, protection, development and improvement of features of historic, natural or public interest.

Our Officers and the members of our Executive Committee are volunteers elected from our membership. We work through three Panels (Planning & Environment, Traffic & Transport, and Education) to achieve these objectives. Our role therefore is advisory and promotional. We are consulted on planning matters, just as parish councils are, but our views are those of an independent civic organisation. These will often support and reinforce those of the parish councils.

If you would like to join the Society please contact Carole Barnett, our Membership Secretary, on 969 6693.

Diana Coulter

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: Mrs Joyce Wray	969 8098
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	934 1185
	<i>E-mail</i> vanessalouisejones@hotmail.com	
Sonning & District Chernobyl	Maria Gee	962 7721
Children's Lifeline Link Group	maria.gee@ntlworld.com	
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	Emma James	901 4685
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