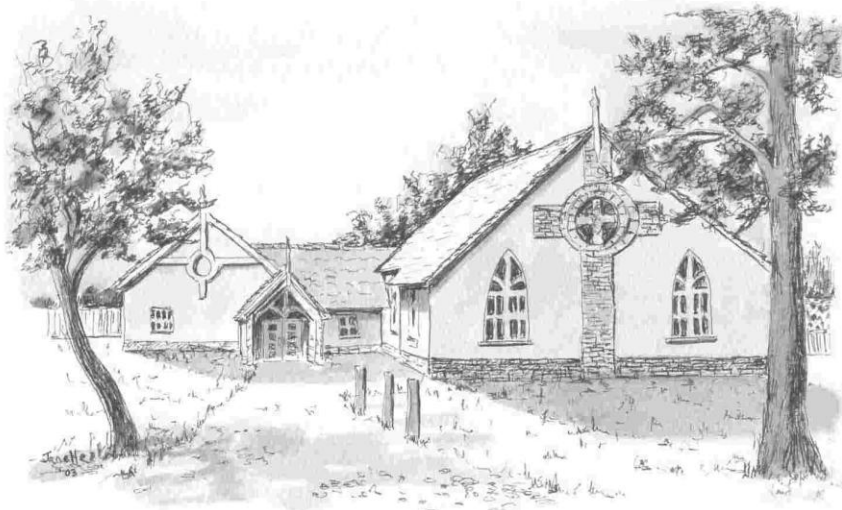


Sonning Parish Magazine



Serving the Communities
of Sonning and Charvil



25p

July / August 2008

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 bypassing 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	Vacant	
	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 (Emeritus) Vine Cottage, Pound Lane, Sonning, RG4 6XE	969 3151
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Churchwardens:		
	Mr Bob Hine, 28 Glebe Lane, Sonning, RG4 6XH Email: bob.hine@btopenworld.com	969 8653
	Mrs Jan Hammond, 28 Hilltop Road, Earley, RG6 1DA .Email: jan@jdhammond.com	926 2365
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Secretary:	Mr Mark Jordan, 12 Manor Wood gate, Lower Shiplake, RG9 3PY	940 1431
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Addresses:	Editor: gordonbarnett@btinternet.com Advertising: nickypryce@btinternet.com Vicar: Vacant	

Forthcoming Events

<i>Date</i>	<i>What's on?</i>	<i>Page</i>
Jul 6	Vicar's XI v. Sonning Club, King George's Field, 2.00pm	D
Jul 11	Village Rounders Match, King George's Field, 6.00pm	D
Jul 12	Sonning Conservatives Summer Drinks Party	R
Jul 12	Twinning Association Bastille Day dinner	22
Jul 31	Floral, Arrangement Society River Luncheon	22
Aug 14	Floral Arrangement Society Cream Tea	22
Aug 17	St Andrew's Bell Tower Opening	14
Aug 24	Vicarage BBQ, tickets available soon	D
Sep 11		
Sep 12	Village interest Walks	27
Sep 13		
Sep 13	Village Produce Show	D
Oct 5	Harvest Lunch, Bring & Share, Pearson Hall	D
Oct 14	Sonning RBL Lecture at RBCS: "WW1 Battles"	24
Nov 27	Sonning RBL AGM 2008	24

Deadline, Sep' Magazine: 4.00 pm Fri, 29th August

Notes: R = Reminder from previous issue.

D = Diary entry.

Opening of St Andrew's Tower!

- Sunday, 17th August 2008
- 2.00pm to 4.00pm
- See the village from the top of the Tower.
- Bring your camera.
- The ringing chamber will be open to give you an insight into Bell Ringing.

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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 Church Service in St. Andrew's Church you are asked to contact Sonia Boyles, the Parish Administrator. For Baptisms or Weddings she can be contacted by leaving a telephone message on 0118 969 3298. Sonia can also be contacted by email at: standrew's.sonning@btinternet.com If you are enquiring about a Funeral Service or a burial in the Churchyard she can be telephoned at home on 0118 969 2428.

The Next Vicar of Sonning.....

As churchwardens, we are pleased to announce the new Vicar of Sonning. Having had 17 applicants for the post, 5 were short-listed and interviews took place on Thursday 5th June. It was a most enlightening and interesting day, which involved five tour leaders escorting the applicants to Sonning School, St. Patrick's Church and the Vicarage. The timetable included an hour at the Pearson Hall, which was the venue for a most welcome buffet lunch. Along with Bishop Stephen, and Judith Scott the Lay Chair of the Deanery, we reached a decision and the position of the Vicar of Sonning was offered to Reverend Jamie Taylor, who accepted without hesitation.

Jamie is currently at St Andrew's Church in Broadstairs, Kent where he has doubled the electoral roll in 6 years and has had the added responsibility of looking after another church during two long interregnums.

Jamie and his wife Caroline and their 1 year old daughter Alice, will be moving into the Vicarage during September. They will be taking a couple weeks leave to settle in and his service of induction will take place in St

Andrew's, Sonning on Sunday 28th September at 5pm. Bishop Stephen will take the service.

The following Sunday, 5th October will be our Harvest Festival and will be Jamie's first service. As in previous years, this will be followed by a Harvest Bring and Share lunch in the Pearson Hall and this will be an opportunity to meet and welcome your new Vicar.

We are delighted with this appointment and very much look forward to welcoming the new family in just 3 months time.

Jan Hammond & Bob Hine

From the Registers

Baptisms:

8 June: Hannah Edith Bairstow Cohen (St Patrick's)

Weddings

24 May: Matthew Spencer Fitzgerald and Helen Geraldine Clarke

6 June: Andrew Paul Simpkins and Marie Caroline Scoble

7 June: Mark Douglas and Louise Helen Joanna Selvey

14 June: Christopher David Eames and Rebecca Louise Fox

21 June: Mark Richard Shepherdson and Nicola Lesley Johnson

Funerals:

27 May: Noreen Eyres

30 May: Edward Westly

4 June: Eric Reeves

23 June: Frederick Smith

Charvil Chatter

Even though we have the media to keep us abreast of what is happening in different parts of the world, we only get a brief snapshot of the reality and what it means to those involved. The girl in China whose legs had to be amputated before she could be rescued; the man who asked for a mobile phone to speak to his wife, but who died before the rescue team could release him; the anguish of parents whose children were crushed to death by the collapse of jerry built schools - in many case their only child because the government had dictated a "one family, one child" policy in order to control population growth.

In Burma the suffering in some respects is worse than in China due to the obstruction of the corrupt government in preventing and then delaying assistance from outside aid agencies to those in need. Here in the UK, in spite of the rapid rise in the cost of food and fuel (compounded by the

selfish action of some of the tanker drivers) we are taken good care of by the emergency services in the event of any natural disaster such as the floods in the West Country and the Midlands last year.

We enjoy God's blessings of sufficient food, clothing and shelter most of the time. So it is our human and Christian responsibility to do everything in our power to help those less fortunate than ourselves in a world, which is virtually a global village.

Once again there is our annual opportunity to thank God for everything we enjoy in our community by supporting the open air service at 9.30 am on July 6th which kicks off the annual Charvil Fete. There will also be a St Patrick's caravan prominently placed with free activities and information for children and adults as in past years.

Love and Prayers,

Michael & family

Decorations

Boss came in the other day and said "Jo, it's good news; were going to be decorated". I thought about that for a minute, and visions swept before me. "You mean the Palace, the order of the Bath for me and a CDM for you? It'll be for services to music you know, I'll take the name of Dame Joanna of Charvil, what an honour, but I guess quality will out in the end. I'll need to polish the ivories, and maybe a few coats of scratch cover polish, a new cover in royal blue with "by appointment to HM the Queen".

I suddenly realised the boss was shaking his head sadly. "You've got it wrong, as usual. It's not that kind of decoration, we've got the painters coming in during the summer holidays, starting the 23rd Jul, so you'll have be hidden out of the way just in case they give you a coat of yellow paint.". I started to protest, not only was this a cruel dashing of hopes and aspirations, but I do have a role in life and that's to fill St Paddy's with harmony. Boss stopped me in my tracks. "Think on this Jo, we last had the decorators in was when the building was refurbished, and guess what happened to the pianner?" Trembling I muttered "What pianner?" "Your predecessor Jo, If I remember rightly he was craned out of here into the back of a lorry and taken off the great pianorium in the sky - so just relax and keep your head down!"

Joanna (the St Patrick's Pianner

Eye & Dunsden Parish Council: Report for 2007/8

It's been another active year for our small but busy parish council. Our exciting new community orchard is being created at Dunsden by an enthusiastic band of volunteers. Fundraising continues, with a supporters' scheme and a chance to 'adopt a tree' to be launched shortly. Do join in. More information at <http://orchard.blogspirit.com>.

Dunsden Village Hall thrives in the excellent hands of Chairman Chris Jensen and his committee. The ever-popular bonfire night was once again a great success. An extended car park will be built this summer, part-funded by some of the proceeds from a land swap with the Phillimore Estate.

We were finally able to commission a ditch to deter travellers from using the verge between Playhatch and Caversham Park Village. Enthusiastic members of the Green Gym also planted some new trees there for us. Reading Borough Council's plans for a one-way Inner Distribution Road, forecast to bring about a significant increase in traffic flows over Sonning bridge, seem to have been withdrawn, although the town continues to press for a new 'park and ride' scheme within our parish.

Higher speeds and ever more traffic have seen a number of accidents on the A4155, and on the B481. The weight limit over Sonning bridge is flouted on a regular basis. The parish council has been actively encouraging Oxfordshire Trading Standards to prosecute weight limit offenders – with some recent success. We have also been concerned that unsuitable vehicles are using Foxhill Lane between Playhatch and Dunsden. The Ordnance Survey has promised to improve the maps they sell to makers of 'satnavs'. There was a very mixed response from County Council officials to our requests for improved road signing and for safety improvements for vehicles, pedestrians and cyclists at the foot of Sonning bridge. The parish council will continue to press both Wokingham Borough and Oxfordshire County Council for improvements at Sonning bridge. Budget for anything but pothole repairs seems to be lacking, and trivial repairs requested several years ago still have not been completed. Improvements are hoped for in the coming year.

The council has concerns over the landowners' nomination of the 100 acre field between Playhatch and Caversham Park Village and at Lowfield Farm. A similar nomination of most of the land to the east of Spring Lane towards Shiplake for gravel extraction is similarly currently being assessed by OCC for possible inclusion in its much delayed draft plans.

At the annual council meeting parish councillors and County and District Councillors Carol Viney, Robert Peasgood and Malcolm Leonard were thanked for their hard work and support. Clerk Mandy Sermon can be contacted on 01491 412908. A full report is at www.eyedunsden.org.

David Woodward, Chairman

Scarecrows 2008.



It was abundantly clear from the preparatory meetings held earlier in the year, that the enthusiasm being shown by so many parishioners and friends would ensure another successful trail this year.

Despite the rain, particularly on the Monday, the event was a huge success - giving so much pleasure to the many visitors who descended on the village from far & wide. The splendid range of 'crows' once again created great interest - from the vote winning 'Shrek & Donkey' to 'Game, Set & Match' in the sky and the human 'Tales of the Unexpected'! There were in fact over 80 characters on display.

The small organising group of Malcolm Stansfield, Barbara Carr, Pam Glasspool, Heather Hine, Valerie Moncur & Geoff Harvey are extremely grateful to everyone in the huge team - who opened their gardens, allowed parking on their property, made scarecrows, decorated the church, marshalled visitors, sold maps, staffed car parks, helped with refreshments, baked cakes, sang in the choir, produced posters and literature or kept an eye on the loos! Thanks also go to *Maurice Ice Creams* for the large percentage of their profits made on the two days, which they donated to the fund.

It was, as usual, a great fun event for the helpers as well as the visitors. Income was, obviously, affected by the weather and costs were somewhat higher (e.g. posh loo hire) but the splendid sum of £9,250 will be available to improve Village amenities - particularly to upgrade the Thomas Feak centre at the primary school; a room used for children with special needs.

Well-done Sonning; another memorable event.

The Organisers

Lost & Found: Scarecrow Weekend

- A rather smart gilet style ladies jacket was found after the event. If you are the owner, please call Pam Glasspool on 118 9692800 to arrange collection.
- A fire extinguisher was found on the Pound Lane embankment. To claim please call Steve Chapman on 0118 969 7398.

Sonning Art Group

One had to be amazed at the number of people who braved the elements to visit this year's Village Scarecrow Trail. It highlighted the attraction of the event and must be of some consolation to the organisers for all the hard

work that went into mounting it. We were very pleased to have a steady flow of visitors to the art exhibition all expressing considerable interest in the pictures on show. People were obviously happy with what they saw as a good number of pictures were purchased. The Group's scarecrow "Toulouse Lautrec" was well received - as well as the slightly scandalous 'Moulin Rouge' pictures our members produced to add to the fun!

Altogether it was a very successful event for the Art Group, giving pleasure to the public and satisfaction to the artists through appreciation of their work.

The Group's Annual Summer BBQ was again held in the grounds of the Working Men's Club and for the third year running was blessed with brilliant sunshine. The social aspect of the Group is one of its sustaining features and supports the concept that artistic ideas, information and views are best developed and communicated between people that are used to coming together to work and relax in pleasurable circumstances.

George Webster

The Sonning Club (formerly known as The Sonning Working Men's Club)

A Brief History.... Maybe all too brief....

For those of you that don't know I would like to give you a brief history into the Club.

Sonning Working Men's Club was founded by Canon High Pearson in 1876 and has run continuously other than during the Great War years 1914-1919. In 1904 the Club moved to its present site as a gift from Isabel and Louisa Dashwood. The Club garden and drive were acquired in 1967 and in 1969 and the Club was enlarged. Although Hick's builders carried out the structural work, the internal services, finishes and decorations were completed through the voluntary labour of about 30 of the Club members. The Club currently has around 300 full and affiliated members.

Now the all too brief part.....

We like many Clubs and leisure facilities have fallen on hard times and we are looking for 'new blood', and commitment and attendance from our existing members. We held a very successful EGM on Friday 13th June where over 130 members attended. 'We gave it to them straight' and explained the current financial position of the Club and the possibility that unless there was no significant improvement in the income generated the Club would be faced with closure in the not too distant future. Having served the community for over 100 years, this would not just mean the loss of licensed

premises; the history and all that the Club represents would also be lost. So we did what we had to do and asked for donations, which we are now extending to the rest of you. Whilst we appreciate this may not mean much to the majority of you, there are some past members out there that may be able to help us, not only by ways of donations, but also by way of coming back and rejoining. We would also like to invite the rest of you who may not even know about us. Come and see us, you will be pleasantly surprised. We also thought that the name 'Sonning Working Men's Club no longer painted a true picture of what we represented. So it was voted on and majority won that the 'Working Men's' part of the name was dropped and we shall now be known as "The Sonning Club", which better reflects the more family based atmosphere of the club today.

We look forward to seeing you all and for any membership enquiries please contact us on 0118 969 39.

Tracy Barrett

Sonning Glebe WI

We had a most enjoyable June meeting, which was Village Quiz Walk, kindly devised by Barbara Carr. Our partners were invited to join us and help solve the clues, the answers of which were mostly names of homes. On arriving back at the Pearson hall, we were treated to a hot-dog which was most welcoming.

Timothy Walker - Director of the Oxford Botanical Gardens talking on "Plants in Medicine" sounded like pretty heavy going for the subject at our group meeting but WOW - not a bit of it. Timothy Walker was the most hilarious and informative speaker, telling us the benefits of the yew tree and more recently daffodils as well as much, much more! At the end of his talk you realised you had sat through a side splitting botany lesson and come out wanting to learn more - what a splendid evening!

Our Garden meeting is being held at Jose Huggins home on 21st July and we look forward to having a barbecue in her garden, weather permitting. The August meeting will be held back in the Pearson Hall when Pam Morden is coming to give us a talk on 'To enter or not to enter?' - helpful hints for the Produce Show and encourage us to take part in this enjoyable village event. Visitors are welcome.

Heather Hine

Sonning Floral Arrangement Society

The *Children's Story Book* arrangements in the church for the scarecrow weekend were a great success and as always, the Flower Club entry is a major contribution to the whole event. The Reverend Canon and Mrs Chris Clarke, whose daughter was married in the church that weekend also loved

the flowers and wrote a very nice letter of appreciation to the chairman. We wish them well in their retirement.

Mrs Glenys Smith was our demonstrator for the June meeting and her subject was *Summertime Special*. Among her displays were a 'picnic hamper' and a 'sailing boat'. Some lovely summer flowers were used that could easily be grown in the garden such as alstromaria, scabious, pink roses, foxgloves and carnations. She was a lovely jolly lady and we all enjoyed her company as well as the work she did.

Members are reminded of the cream tea on 14th August (£6.00) and the trip on the *Caversham Princess* on 31st July (£25.00) with hot lunch.

Mrs Janette Bell will be our demonstrator for the July meeting, her subject being *Plants for Life*. The competition, for those wishing to enter, is *Still Life*, an exhibit with or without accessories.

Jane Gascoine

Village Show - 13th September

Plans for this year's Show are well under way and programmes will be delivered to all homes in Sonning this month.

As usual, there will be many classes for you to enter in the 'Produce Show'. The success depends on the number of folk taking part, creating a fun competitive atmosphere amongst the entrants. For the cooks amongst you, you will see that many of the recipes have been supplied to save you time thumbing through your recipe books. Gentlemen, don't forget there are two classes especially for you - one cookery and the other a flower arrangement. If cookery doesn't appeal to you, there are plenty of other classes covering art, craft, photography, Bygone Days, flower arrangements, fruit, vegetables and flowers. The children will be pleased to hear that their prize money has been doubled, thanks to Sonning Landscape who sponsor their classes.

As many of you know, David Penny our Chairman and also fruit and vegetable judge for many years, sadly passed away in March. In his memory, an award is to be presented for the heaviest pumpkin entered in the Show, as each year he encouraged his grand-children to grow pumpkins. So, please have a look and choose a few classes to enter, it would be great to have a bumper 'Produce Show' to do David proud.

In the centre of the programme, you'll find details of the events and attractions taking place during the afternoon. Please put the Show date in your diaries and come along to this enjoyable village event.

Heather Hine

Royal British legion, Sonning Branch

X-Craft Lecture and After



The lecture by Chief ERA Vernon Coles DSM on 17th June was well attended and we were treated to a fascinating personal history of his time in the Royal Navy and particularly that with the highly secret midget submarines. Vernon is 88 years old, spoke without notes and stood throughout his 2 hour talk; a fitting tribute to a group of people of extraordinary courage.

The evening raised over £500.00 towards our contribution to the Poppy Appeal.

On Tuesday, 14th October, there will be a follow-up to the X-Craft talk, when Alan Knowles will talk about some of the more significant battles of the First World War. In due course, we will also hold similar events in which we hope to cover 617 Sqn RAF (the Dambusters) and Operation Franckton, (the Royal Marine canoe raid on German shipping in Bordeaux) both of which should prove to be a popular draw.

A.G.M.

The AGM will be held on Thursday, 27th November 2008, 7.30 for 8.00pm. Do come and join us for a glass of wine before the start of the meeting. More important, the future of the Branch might well be on the agenda and your presence is needed to help in this process: Branch officer nominations are required urgently.

Gordon Barnett

An Alien's Eye View of The Sonning Festival

The date 24th May 2008. Coordinates for Sonning set into the navigation system and off. I quietly landed the craft between the river and a sailing lake. On the river itself I saw slaves furiously rowing long wooden open boats, known locally as Dongles. Amongst a plethora of tents I soon came across one selling fine, cool and refreshing beverages, and another producing delicious hot snacks from smoke. The atmosphere was wondrous. Smiles, laughs, whooping and hollering, shouts of encouragement from friendly faces all along the river bank. Teams and individuals, dads, mums, daughters, sons and friends all vied for the hooter on the finishing line. Medals were finally and deservedly won and presented to the smiling, proud, yet modest winners by a jolly chap, another alien coming from somewhere far, far away. Thanks were given to a small group of stalwart villagers who had made the Regatta an even greater success than in 2006.

Meandering back I was drawn by the sound of loud drums and found myself in a watering hole behind the village hall. The evening sped by on the wave of familiar rock ballads performed by an excellent quintet. The music rolled on until the fish and chip supper arrived. Much munching and searching for tomato sauce provided the necessary energy for dancing as the band launched into another classic. What next ...Bed.

Wandering the village on the Sunday I found gates, normally shut, opening to winding paths, neatly trimmed and stunningly arranged flower beds and lawns tucked behind red brick walls. Words of amazement, admiration, jealousy and praise were whispered under grey to blue skies. Startled, this time by the inventiveness of the locals. I passed Shrek and Donkey, tennis players in mid air, an idle Scotsman with a faithful scruff, a Picasso-esq artist in a window, a Page in history, and many more too numerous to mention....pure brilliance. This was the famous 'Scarecrow Competition'. Sweet tones of a choir from the church emerged.

The clouds gathered the temperature dropped and out came the wheel barrows pushed by poshly dressed partisans sporting fancy trays of delicacies and gold topped bottles of joy. I found a garden filled with gazibo's, Jango music, candles, and a very elegant crowd nibbling to the sound of poppage and cheers. Flanders and Swan-a-likes amusingly entertained us. The descending Celsius was sternly rejected by the rising enthusiasm of this truly English scene. The Jango band warmed by gas lamp, we danced in heavy coats and jackets into the night.

A stupendous Festival of variety and colour, hard work, artistic genius of many types and above all a genuine and unique village spirit. My heartious congratulations to the whole of Sonning. The happy Alien wended his way back to Burnham Beeches not so far, far away.

David Kitching, Slough

Conservative Association - Sonning & Warren Branch

Summer Drinks Party

The Summer Drinks Party will be held on Saturday, 12th July, at 6.30pm at Athelstan House, Holmemoor Drive, by kind permission of Mr and Mrs Francis Byrnes. Tickets are £10 and can be obtained from Rosemary Digby on (0118 969 3277) or any member of the committee. We look forward to seeing you there.

Ali Russell

Christian Aid

The grand total collected for Christian aid this year for both Sonning and Charvil was £2,938.83. This includes the £850.00 raised from the concert. Thank you to both the house-to-house collectors and those who kindly made donations for all your efforts.

Pat Livesey & Olive Bratchell

Sonning Twinning Association

Bastille Day Dinner

A reminder that we are holding our Bastille Dinner on Saturday, 12th July in the Pearson Hall at 7.30pm. Tickets, which include a 3-course meal and a welcome drink, are £12.50 for members and £16.00 for non-members. Tickets should be paid for in **advance please** and can be obtained from Phil Parker on 0118 944 0000. You are encouraged to enter into the spirit of the evening by coming dressed in revolutionary theme!

Lesley Green

Sonning CE Primary School

Our Summer Term continues to fly past at great speed and there has been plenty of activity especially over the past few weeks. We hope that everyone enjoyed seeing our group of 'wayward pupils' in the form of our St Trinian's scarecrows. It was lovely to take part again in this event and we are very grateful that our Special Needs room (named after Tom Feak) shall be benefiting from this in the form of refurbishment.

We had a fantastic Science fortnight during the first two weeks of June. This was wonderful hands-on learning for everyone with a large number of activities taking place. There were eggs that hatched into chicks, a visiting star dome, a trip to Gray's Farm to pick fruit, visits from a number of scientists who shared some amazing experiments as well as our annual visit from the Life Education Caravan which encourages children to make healthy lifestyle choices especially where exercise and drugs are concerned. Both staff and pupils thoroughly enjoyed all of these experiences - having fun and learning science in an engaging and very interactive way.

I have just returned from Ligugé with a group of 12 Year 5 and 6 children; we were also accompanied by Julie Clays, one of our Governors who is also our French teacher. It was great to re-establish the links with the primary school there after a gap of 6 years. As always, we were made to feel very welcome. Our group stayed with host families and did a variety of things over our 4 days there. This included two mornings in the Ligugé Primary

School taking part in lessons and practising our French, a village walk with a visit to the abbey, a day at Futuroscope (an amazing theme park near Poitiers), a visit to Poitiers and a very warm welcome in the Mairie by the new mayor. We very much hope that this is the start of more regular exchanges between the schools with a return by the Ligugé group to Sonning hopefully taking place next June.

It was a privilege for our school to be involved in the recruitment process for the new vicar. All the short listed candidates visited the school for a short time and in this way we were able to meet the person who would not only become one of our Governors but would also be very much part of our school life especially for Collective Worship. We are very much looking forward to working with Rev. Jamie Taylor in the Autumn Term.

We have a few weeks of term left with plenty still to happen; sports days, the Year 6 production of Alice in Wonderland, our music concert and finally our very special service in St Andrew's for our 21 Year 6 leavers who will be moving on to their secondary schools in the Autumn. We have a new website, which can be found on our learning platform at: www.sonningprimaryschool.couk so please do log in and have a look at what we have been up to!

Lesley Green

Sonning & Sonning Eye Society

Following Chris Clarke's departure, the Executive Committee invited our President, John Edmonds, to serve as Chairman until the AGM in November, a role that John was pleased to accept.

In September, our team of experienced Guides will be offering 4 architectural and historical walks as our contribution to the nation-wide Heritage Open Days Weekend. These will all start in the Churchyard near the entrance from The Bull and are free. Please book spaces by contacting Diana Coulter or Brian O'Callaghan on 0118 969 2132. There will be one tour each day:

- Thursday 11 September
- Friday 12 September
- Saturday 13 September
- Sunday 14 September

All tours commence at 14:00 and assembly at 13:45 is strongly encouraged. Group sizes are limited, so booking is essential. The walks last about 1.5 - 2

hours. Newer parish residents may find this a useful way of discovering more about the very interesting buildings we have here.

Sadly we cancelled the visit with Alastair Driver to the London Wetlands Centre in June. A number of circumstances appear to have conspired to prevent take-up of this interesting trip, which would have enabled us to envision Eye in the future. The Society will re-consider offering the visit at another time of the year.

Finally, don't forget to come and see us at the Village Show on Saturday 13th September. If you are not already a member, you can purchase 16 months' membership for the price of one annual subscription. If you love Sonning and Sonning Eye, at £5.00 for single membership and £8.00 for double, we are excellent value.

Diana Coulter

Sonning Village Treasure Hunt

The event held on Sunday, 22nd June raised the fantastic total of £1,250.00 for the Thames Valley and Chiltern Air Ambulance Trust. Many, many thanks to everyone who took part, made donations, purchased raffle tickets and donated prizes.

Jo and Keith Burnage and "clue setting" friends Ros and Bob

Owed to my Computer

1.

Ivor souper spelling chequer
It came with my Pea Sea
It plane lee marks for my revue
Miss steaks eye cannot sea

2.

Each thyme when aye have struck
the quays
I weight for it to say
If watt eye rote is wrong or rite
It shows me strait a weigh

3.

As soon as a mist ache is maid
It nose be four two late
And eye can put the err or write
As this rime demon straights

4.

I've run this poem threw it
I'm shore your policed to no
It's letter perfect in every weigh
My cheques telled me sew.

Now who put this in?

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	Sally Wilson	979 3328
St Patrick's: Sunday Club	Julie Easton	934 2590
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	Ruth Hulley	969 9431
Charvil Caterpillar Club	Sandy Moffatt	934 9794
Charvil Parish Council	Clerk: Mr I. Cohen	901 7693
Charvil Pre-School Playgroup	Nadine Doble	934 0418
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 Lawn Tennis Club	Membership: Ali Campbell	969 1101
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	ASG Leader: Mike Watts	962 8388

1 st Sonning Scouts Group	Scout Leader: Colin Giles	969 5849
1st Sonning Scouts Group	Cub Scouts: Alison King	962 1675
1st Sonning Scouts Group	Beavers: Judy Ricketts	969 3279
Sonning Table Tennis Club	Alan Tinson	969 0782
Sonning Twinning Association	David Bates	969 7753
Sonning Toddler Group	Emma James	969 5538
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 Club	Sec: Mrs Penney Mackenzie	07730 871959
Friends of Ali's Pond	Alastair Driver	969 2698
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	Sec: 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

Useful web sites:

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