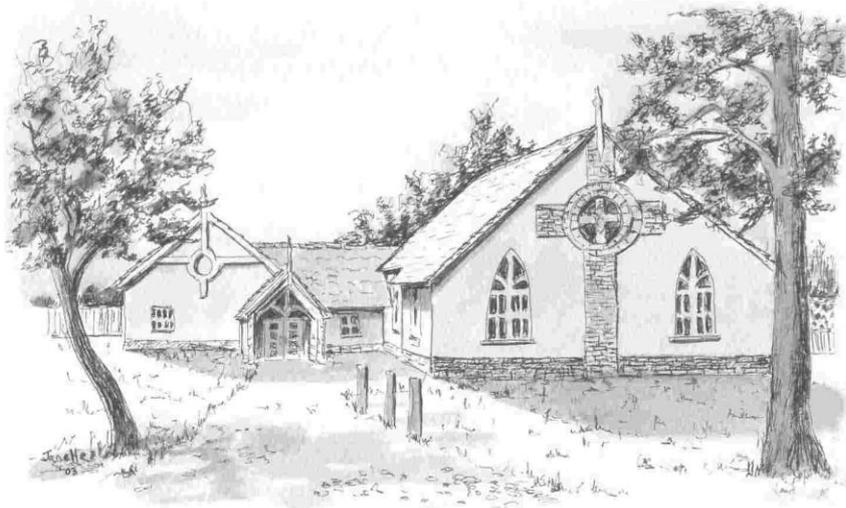


Sonning Parish Magazine



Serving the Communities
of Sonning and Charvil



25p

June 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	
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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
	Prof J. M. Stansfield (Emeritus), 3 Strathmore Drive, Charvil, RG10 9QT	934 1762
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Forthcoming Events

<i>Date</i>	<i>What's on?</i>	<i>Page</i>
Jun 4	“Summer Flowers” class	R
Jun 7	Living Faith: Conference, Oxford	R
Jun 8	Sonning Working Men’s Club race night, 8.00 pm	D
Jun 14	RNLI Sonning Garden Party	22
Jun 17	British Legion/RBCS Parents’ Arts lecture - X Craft	24
Jun 18	Pearson Hall AGM	R
Jun 22	Village Treasure Hunt	23
Jun 22	S&SES London Wetlands visit	25
Jun 24	Regatta 2009 Meeting	22
Jul 12	Twinning Association Bastille Day dinner	22
Sep 13	Village Produce Show	D

Notes: Deadline, Jul/Aug Magazine: 4.00 pm Fri, 27th June

R = Reminder from previous issue.

D = Diary entry.

Stop Press!

Bishop Stephens’ office has confirmed that there are sixteen (16) applicants for the post of our new vicar.

The PCC

23rd May 2008

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Next time you travel, think about this.....

Announcement from a senior conductor to the passengers on a High Speed Train:

"The bad news is that both engines have failed. The good news is that this isn't a Boeing 757!"

"Railway News", June 2008

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.

So the Vicar's left ...

After 11 years as Vicar of Sonning & Charvil and 40 years in the ministry, Chris Clarke has retired. As he looks back on his time here, he can be justly pleased with his many achievements in so many different ways.

Chris's first major project was to extend and refurbish St Patrick's Church to provide a much improved dual-purpose building. He met some strong opposition as it meant selling some adjoining land to fund the proposal. His tenacity won through and the work was completed providing a revitalised facility.

Some of the funds raised were spent on St Andrew's. There were no toilets in the church at the time. Neither was there a meeting room for coffee and fellowship. So, under Chris's leadership, the old mortuary was beautifully and sympathetically extended to create the facilities needed in what has become the St Sarik Room.

During his incumbency here, Chris has also overseen the restoration of the organ, the introduction of our associate vicar - Michael Forrer, the creation of FoStAC which has provided funds for the re-tiling of the church roof, the restoration of the east window and the interior decoration of St Andrew's. Through bequests left to the church, there has been restoration of the south west window, the moving of the old oak doors to the outside of the porch and the provision of new internal glass doors, also the installation of new lectern steps. Two more windows are soon to be restored and St Patrick's will be redecorated in the summer. The removal of some pews at the front of the church has created space particularly useful at weddings, funerals and family services.

More important than these material improvements has been the way Chris has given encouragement, support and pastoral care to so many in their hour of need, his faithful preaching of the Word with high quality, 10 minute sermons has seen the congregation numbers steadily rise. He has led by example by involving himself in the community through School governorship and the Sonning and Sonning Eye Society.

Involvement with the choir and the Seychelles cannot go unmentioned, neither can the Franciscan led Mission. We have much to thank Chris for and as we all know, behind many a successful man is a woman and we owe much to Christine's loyal support and wisdom too.

We trust Chris and Christine will look on their life in Sonning as an enriched, rewarding and happy time and we wish them every blessing on their retirement.

Jan Hammond & Bob Hine

**A typical Sonning send-off
for our wonderful vicar and his wife**

It was a bright day with a cool breeze; but the real warmth was in the atmosphere. Everyone who knows Chris and Christine were sad to be saying goodbye. Our vicar's planned retirement was suddenly here and now.

18th May '08 and Trinity Sunday. Forty years to the day that Chris was ordained St. Andrew's was packed for the 10.30am Parish Eucharist - as celebrant and preacher, this was his *finale*. The sheer numbers of the congregation, across every age bracket, showed the enormous support he has gained and, deserved. It was a very special service with Malcolm taking the lead. David Duvall's opening organ notes of the first hymn, "O praise ye the Lord!", signalled the entrance of a full choir. Malcolm Stansfield's leading of the service had us in no doubt that everything would run like clockwork - including John Russell's powerful voice with certain solo lines of the vibrant second hymn, "Glory to God, glory to God".

Chris's sermon was, as always, extremely well delivered, and straight from the heart. Among his messages was the plea for us all to, among other things, give his successor "a good chance".

Immediately after the service, 400 people attended a reception, in Chris and Christine's honour, at the Reading Blue Coat School, which was looking at its best. Volunteers from the school's "World Challenge Expedition Fund" were on hand to offer a variety of service support and this they did with enormous flair.

A drinks reception in the Science Centre's atrium and adjacent sunny courtyard enabled Sonning & Charvil parishioners to mix & mingle with visitors from outside the parish - most of whom had travelled long distances from Chris's previous parishes of Hemsby Norfolk, Sutton Courtenay and closer Bracknell.

Lunch was a terrific buffet spread, laid out in the school's dining hall. People then took their places at the 40 beautifully decorated tables arranged in the sports hall in which Malcolm took on the mantle of a first-class *maître d'hotel*. The large numbers needed to be seated in as quick a time as possible ready for The Grace to be said by associate vicar Michael Forrer.

After lunch, throughout which a cavalcade of photographs depicting Chris's 11 years at Sonning and representative of his 40 years in ministry, appeared on a giant screen.

Malcolm, followed by Bob Hine & Jan Hammond, made glowing and heart-felt tributes, interspersed with typical good humour. Presentations of gifts included a Parma Ham bone, squeaky toy and sausage roll dog biscuits for Murphy the dog who, as Jan reminded everyone, was always "the first to greet visitors at the vicarage". 'Travelling' and coffee table photograph albums were presented to Christine (soon to be augmented with photographs of the day's proceedings). A motor lawn mower and handsome cheque for £4,500 was presented to Chris; testimony as to the enormously high esteem and great affection in which his parishioners hold him. He replied with a wonderful account of his life in the church and of his 11 happy years in Sonning.

The venerable Norman Russell, archdeacon of Berkshire, proposed the toast to Chris. They have known one another for 40 years - both entering ministry and then ordained on the same day(s).

Bart Guthrie 'anchored' the day's activity and was warm in his closing words of thanks and appreciation to the school and to the many, many people who worked so hard to ensure a successful day. He was particularly grateful to

everyone for adopting his earlier request to ensure that the show was “kept on the road” by not dithering too much at the buffet!

Chris and Christine will be missed enormously. As we go through the interregnum, we await the arrival of the new incumbent who we shall receive in the way in which Chris would want us to.

In honour of Chris and Christine, a quarter peal of St. Andrew's bells commenced at 4 o'clock. Lasting for some 45 minutes, the sounds greeted them on their return to the vicarage. We wish them both all that we can muster for a long and happy retirement in Upton Snodsbury.

The PCC

What do we tell our new Vicar about Sonning and Charvil?

During two weeks in May, The Church Times carried adverts for a job vacancy - Vicar of Sonning - and interviews will be held on 5 June. Those who were interested in applying for the role were offered the Sonning Parish Profile as part of an information pack (and you can see the Parish Profile in full if you look at our website: <http://www.sonningparish.org.uk>, or speak to one of the churchwardens).

So, what goes into a Parish Profile? The main purpose of our Parish Profile is to give a feeling of what our churches and our community are like in Sonning Parish - an idea of how things are now - together with thoughts about our goals and the challenges that lie in front of us. This is achieved through words and more than 30 photographs. Additionally, the Parish Profile includes a description of the type of person that we would like to become the leader of our Ministry Team.

If you would like to have a printed, shortened version of the Parish Profile (that covers about one third of the text and carries the same title as this article; *What do we tell our new Vicar about Sonning and Charvil?* please pick up a copy from the back of either of our churches.

Mark Jordan, PCC Secretary

Thank you

Christine and I find it very hard to express our thanks to you and hope you make allowance for these inadequate words. It was wonderful to see so many of you on Sunday 18th May at the Church Services and especially to see over 400 of you at the 10.30 Service. Thank you so much for making the effort to be there, it is something we will remember for ever.

Thank you too for coming in such large numbers to the lunch at Reading Blue Coat School. We are extremely grateful to Bob and Jan for the many hours of planning that must have gone into organising such a memorable event, which seemed to us to go without a hitch. We know that many others also put a great deal of time and effort into the day and the weeks that led up to it. From the flowers on the tables to the food we ate, everything was planned to perfection. Our thanks go too to Reading Blue Coat School for organising such a very good lunch for almost 400 people - wasn't the food good?

We were particularly appreciative of the kind things that were said. I had to pinch myself a few times because I wondered just who they could have been taking about, could all those kind remarks really have been about me?

We were also overwhelmed with the cheque, the lawn mower and the gifts to Murphy. Not surprisingly he likes sausage rolls! We seem to have been showered with so many kind and generous gifts and we are truly grateful. As most of you know we purchased a bungalow in Upton Snodsbury, Worcestershire some time ago. What we had not realised at the time was that the bath had a leak and the floor was rotten under it. The gift from the Church Council, which so many of you had contributed to, has paid for a new bathroom suite, the replacement of the floor and a complete make over for the room. Thank you. It has been such a help and when you come to visit, which we hope you will, you will be able to see how wonderful the bathroom now looks. It's the sort of bathroom that a bungalow in a village named "Upton Snodsbury" should have!

Much more than your gifts we want to thank you for your kindness, support and love over the last eleven years. We have been so happy here and for your part in helping bring about that happiness, Thank you.
May God continue to bless you all.

Love & prayers
Chris & Christine

From the Registers

Baptisms

4th May: Edward Roderick Mercer-Grey
11th May: Cleo Louise Simpson, Kathryn Clair Evans, Olivia Giselle Crooks, Emma Elizabeth Yeadon.

Weddings

3rd May: Leigh Nicholas Halabi to Melanie Eastwood
10th May: Matthew James Robert Smith to Susan Elaine Holcombe
17th May: Daniel Charles Skivington to Holly Elizabeth Toogood

Funerals

14th May: Susan Margaret Barnes. (St. Andrew's Church & Churchyard)

St Patrick's Viewpoint

I believe it was that great missionary Hudson Taylor who said "Expect great things from God. Do great things for God". To be an effective missionary a person has to take that saying to heart in order to rise to that expectation. Hudson Taylor was also a missionary in China. This past month we have witnessed two major natural disasters in Burma and China for which it is tempting to blame God for creating a world in which these things can happen, or for not intervening to prevent them. We cannot know the answer to the first which is due to natural law of cause and effect. However natural law is in that respect consistent and its consistency gives the governments of the affected countries the opportunity to respond immediately and comprehensively, which the Chinese authorities did and the Burmese government failed to do for political reasons. The one rose magnificently to the expectations of their people and the world, and the other has failed so far to meet the expectations of their people with the predictable suffering.

Most people do their best to meet the positive expectations of others. If we have negative expectations of others then more often than not they will rise to meet them and their response becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy. Young people in this day and age are often being given a harder time than they deserve, except in some instances where gangs terrorise a neighbourhood. Our expectations of young people should positively create an environment, which recognises their needs for encouragement and enables them to rise to meet our expectations. It entails developing relationships that enable them to relate positively to the adult community. The 'carrot' is almost always preferable to the 'stick'. The problem is that the adult world is often too busy and too preoccupied with its own agenda. A reordering of our priorities is needed so that more time is devoted to the needs of the young. One full time youth leader here and there cannot be expected to take the total responsibility on their shoulders,

A caring community is one where everyone's needs are addressed and realistic expectations of each age group are met.

**Love and Prayers,
Michael & family**

Gone

"So that's it boss, the bosses boss boss has gone. Gave him a good send off didn't we?" "Sure did Jo, and I even like to think he enjoyed it" "Shame we couldn't cram more in, next time the Albert Hall eh?" "Don't quite think

they'd let us past the tradesman's entrance Jo, but I could always enquire, would certainly swell the coffers, although we did ok, £850 in total. And if anyone who wasn't there wants to see/hear what went on we've got the usual dodgy CD recording and the excellent photos Jane 'David Bailey' Snell took. Grease my palm with £10 and I can run off copies". "You know boss, next year we might find some budding Stephen Spielberg to video the whole thing. Any volunteers out there? Contact the boss" (0118 934 0795)

Joanna (the St Patrick's Pianner)

Sonning Festival Committee 2009

Meeting - Tues 24th June, The Pearson Hall

So many Committees and individuals in the village have completed all the hard work for this year's event, it seems timely to now have a follow up Festival Weekend meeting. The reason for calling this meeting is to discuss the successes of course, but to also address any issues that may have arisen during this year's event. A Committee will be formed at this meeting to take forward the planning of the next Sonning Festival Weekend to be held in 2010. We welcome any interested local residents to join us at this meeting for nomination or to share their ideas for the future event.

Sharon Auld

RNLI Sonning Branch Garden Party 2008

This year, the Garden Party will be held at Bishop's Close, Sonning Lane on Saturday 14th June from 6.30 to 8pm, by kind invitation of Mr & Mrs M. McNeill.

Tickets are available from David Bates Tel. 969 7753, price £10.00. Please support this very worthwhile charity & have fun as well!

Lynn Woodhouse

Sonning Twinning Association

A reminder that our next event is the Bastille Dinner which takes place on Saturday 12th July in the Pearson Hall at 7.30pm. You are encouraged to enter into the spirit of this event by coming dressed in appropriate '*revolutionary*'/*Les Miserables* style attire! 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.

Lesley Green

Sonning Floral Arrangement Society

It is a skill born of long practice; in this case some 15 years I believe, which is in fact, not so long compare to some other flower arrangers who have been doing it much longer. However, not only was the May demonstrator very skilful with flowers, she could also have done a 'stand-up' comedy act on its own. Combine the two and you have Liz Matheson, a very clever, artistic and funny lady.

Starting half an hour earlier than normal (I just scraped in on time) the theme was "The pleasure is mine". Everything Liz did was large. First a modern pedestal, then a pink extravaganza, which became a fantastic hat, thirdly a seascape, followed by a Japanese arrangement and finally a picture of a cottage garden.

All the time she was working, she chatted away in a clear Scottish voice, telling the funniest stories to accompany each arrangement. How she concentrated on both things at once we'll never know. It was a bit like rubbing your tummy whilst patting your head! But she had us all in tears with laughter. To be honest, I don't think we were paying so much attention to what she was doing as to what she was saying. BUT, we were staggered by the beautiful arrangements that resulted in the end. All I can say is "The pleasure was entirely ours".

Members are reminded of the boat trip on July 31st; ring Sue Doyle (969 3605) for details and travel arrangements.

The next meeting is on 12th June with Glen Smith, whose theme will be "Summertime Special and the competition, for those wishing to take part is "Seascape", an exhibit with or without accessories.

Jane Gascoine

Sonning Village Treasure Hunt - 22 June

A treasure hunt of approximately 1 mile will be taking place around Sonning village on Sunday 22 June starting at mid-day at Sonning Lock house. Dogs and children are very welcome and entry will be £3 per person (12 years and under free). Entries can be from both individuals and teams and there will be lots of prizes sponsored by QPSMR Ltd. There will be a raffle and refreshments at the Riverside Tea garden at the lock, and all profits from the day will be donated to the Thames Valley and Chiltern Air Ambulance Trust.

Please put the date in your diaries and we hope as many people as possible will be able to come along and join in the fun. For more information please call us on 07710 224008 or Rosi or Bob on 01865 407208.

Jo and Keith Burnage, Lock-keeper

**Royal British legion, Sonning Branch
With Reading Blue Coat School Parents' Arts Society**

X - Craft; or the Midget Submarine Story



The incredible story of real X-Men told by Chief Engine Room Artificer Vernon Coles D.S.M. ex RN, who completed 3 missions on Britain's most secret weapon, the Midget Submarine, during World War II.



Tuesday, 17th June at 7:30 p.m. in the Sports Hall of Reading Blue Coat School, by kind permission of the Headmaster and R.B.C.S. Parents' Association.

Admission is by ticket only; £5 each, with a free glass wine or soft drink. Available from: Gordon Barnett (0118 969 6693) Malcolm Geater (0118 9471677) or Mrs Lynda Toms, Mayfield House, West End Green, Stratfield Saye, RG7 2DP.

All proceeds will go to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.

Gordon Barnett

Sonning Glebe WI

Our speaker at the May meeting was from the 'Hearing dogs for the deaf' and he spoke to us about the charity and the training of the dogs. His talk was made all the more interesting by Daphne Payne who brought along her two 'hearing' dogs - Goldie and Minstrel (who has now retired) for us to meet and make a fuss of. She told us that without the dogs, she would not be able to lead an independent life.

The two Denman College bursaries were drawn and Mary Pook and Chris Kendal were the lucky winners. Weather permitting, on June 16th, our meeting will be a 'Village Quiz Walk' and husbands/partners are welcome to join us.

Heather Hine

Sonning & Sonning Eye Society

By all accounts, on 26th April Brian O'Callaghan gave us an excellent talk about the architectural development of St Andrew's, well illustrated to emphasise the hypothesis put forward. Brian opened everyone's eyes to things we can look out for as indicators of medieval architecture. Our

retiring Chair, Canon Chris Clarke, was led to wonder how much attention he would get during his sermon on the following day. Brian's talk, as it happened, became a fitting way for the Society to offer its thanks to Chris and Christine for seeing the Society grow into a respected and authoritative group in terms of planning and transport matters. The next 12 months will be challenging for the Society, and those of us left on the Executive will strive to keep the 'flame' alive.

It is still possible to buy tickets for the visit to The London Wetland Centre at Barnes on Sunday 22 June. There is a coach leaving Sonning at 11:30 and returning at 6:00 or door-to-door travel to Barnes and back. Tickets include coach travel and entrance into the Centre (but not lunch and tea). For Society members the cost will be £14.00, while for non-members the cost will be £20.00. Two children can attend for the price of one adult according to membership status. Tickets are available from Diana Coulter on 969 2132 or diana.coulter@mac.com.

Our team of experienced guides will be offering free architectural and historical walks during Heritage Open Days Weekend, 11-14 September. There will be one walk per day, meeting each day in The Churchyard near The Bull at 1.45 pm for a 2.00 pm start. Booking will be essential for these walks, as we need to keep groups to a safe and manageable size. More details will follow in future issues.

Diana Coulter

Village Spring Clean

Pam Glasspool and I would like to record our appreciation to the thirty parishioners who kindly collected some sixty bags of litter and rubbish around your Parish, including an old toilet (thanks Chris Fry) and a supermarket trolley (thanks Shaun Shepherd). Many thanks also to the hardy mariners who collected riverside along the towpath.

Collecting should be a continuous practice, not only once a year, so please help to keep our village smart! Once again thanks to all who helped and see you in 2009.

Tony Farnese, Sonning Parish Council.

1st Sonning Brownies

The Brownies have been working very hard this term to make their scarecrows for the village Scarecrow Trail, which are now finished and look fantastic. All the Brownies are looking forward to taking them home! We have also been continuing to prepare for our Pack Holiday at half term.

In the week before half term, the Sixers ran the evening as their last before leaving Brownies. Lydia, Abigael, Maddy, Georgia, Eleanor and Victoria ran a busy evening of outdoor games, cake decorating and crafts followed by a

treasure hunt on the field. The Brownies loved it, and the leaders enjoyed a very stress-free evening!

After the holiday, we will be welcoming seven new Brownies.

**Fiona Hulley
Bluebird**

Two Glasses of Wine

When things in your life seem too much to handle, when 24 hours in the day are not enough, remember the mayonnaise jar and the two glasses of wine.

A professor of Philosophy stood in front of his class and he wordlessly picked up a very large and empty mayonnaise jar and began to fill it with golf balls. He asked the students if it was full. They agreed that it was. He then picked up a box of pebbles and proceeded to pour them into the jar. He shook the jar slightly and the pebbles rolled into the open spaces between the golf balls. He asked the students again if the jar was full? They agreed it was.

He then picked up a box of sand and poured this into the jar. Of course, the sand filled up everything else. He asked once more if the jar was full and the students responded with a unanimous “Yes”. He then produced two glasses of wine from under the table and poured the entire contents into the jar, effectively filling the empty spaces between the grains of sand. The students laughed.

“Now” said the professor, “I want you to recognise that this jar represents your life. The golf balls are the important things like your family, children, health, friends and your favourite passions - things that if all else were lost and only they remained, your life would still be full. The pebbles are the other things in life that matter to you such as your job, home and car. The sand is everything else - the small stuff. If you put the sand in first,” he continued, “there is no room for the pebbles or golf balls. The same goes for life. If you spend all your time and energy on the small stuff, you will never have room for the important things. Pay attention to things that are critical to your happiness. Play with your children, go for that check-up, take your partner out to dinner, play another 18 holes. There will always be time to clean the house or fix the garden. Take care of the golf balls first; set your priorities. The rest is just sand.”

One of the students raised his hand and asked what the wine represented. The Professor smiled and said: “I’m glad you asked that.... It just goes to show that no matter how full your life may seem, there’s always room for a couple of glasses of wine with a friend”.

Editor