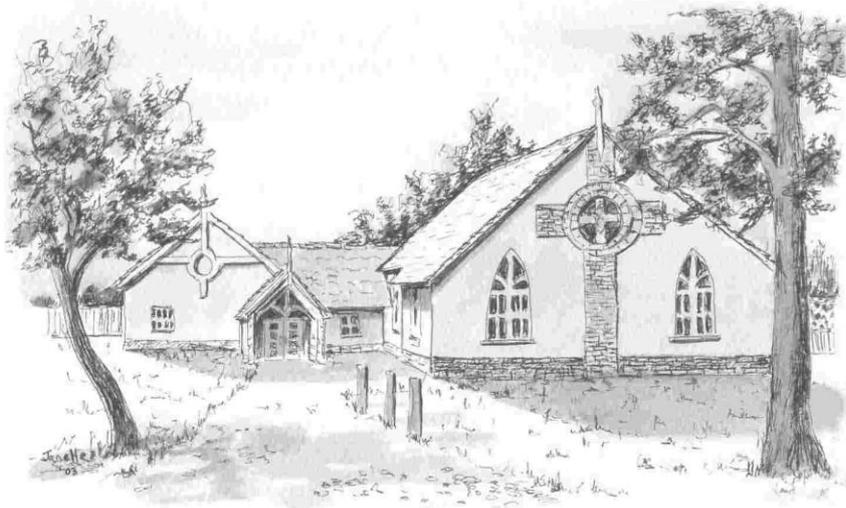


Sonning Parish Magazine



Serving the Communities
of Sonning and Charvil



25p

May 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	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 (Emeritus) Vine Cottage, Pound Lane, Sonning, RG4 6XE	969 3151
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	Mr Bob Hine, 28 Glebe Lane, Sonning, RG4 6XH Email: bob.hine@btopenworld.com	969 8653
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Forthcoming Events

<i>Date</i>	<i>What's on?</i>	<i>Page</i>
May 9	SWMC Bingo & BBQ	26
May 24	SWMC Music, Fish n' Chip evening	26
May 25	SWMC 'open doors' to all	26
May 26		
May 10	Christian Aid Concert, St Patrick's	20
May 10	Village Spring Clean	R
May 11	Village Spring Clean	R
May 14	Twyford Volunteer Centre AGM	R
May 14	Parish Council Annual Parish Meeting and presentation	21
May 18	Luncheon at Blue Coat School - farewell to the Vicar	20
Jun 4	"Summer Flowers" class	23
Jun 7	Living Faith: Conference, Oxford	R
Jun 14	RNLI Sonning Garden Party	R
Jun 18	Pearson Hall AGM	23
Jun 22	S&SES London Wetlands visit	25
Jul 12	Twinning Association Bastille Day Dinner	23
Sep 13	Village Produce Show	23

Notes: Deadline, June Magazine: 4.00 pm, Fri, 23rd May 2008

R = Reminder from previous issue.

D = Diary entry.

Do you live in or near West Drive?

A volunteer is required to deliver parish magazines once a month in West Drive, Sonning. If anyone is willing to do this, please contact Pat Livesey on 0118 9 618017 or e mail Pat.Livesey@yahoo.co.uk

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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

Thank you

As most of you will know my last Sunday as Vicar of Sonning will be on Sunday 18th May and I will preach at the 8.00am, 9.30am and 10.30 am Services that morning. There will **not** be an evening Service. It will be forty years since I was made a Deacon in Norwich Cathedral on Trinity Sunday and it seems as good a day as any other on which to retire.

The 18th May is the third Sunday of the month but I would very much like to have a Communion Service as my last one here so we have moved Matins and the evening Communion Service to Sunday 25th. I trust you will allow me that small indulgence!

Christine and I want to thank you for all your help and support over the last eleven years. We have been happy and blessed in every parish to which we have been called but none has been happier than here and for that we are really grateful - thank you. We hope to see many of you at the lunch which has been arranged at Reading Blue Coat School following the 10.30am Service and I will try to express more fully our thanks to you then.

Although we are moving from Sonning we hope not to lose touch with you and, from time to time, to be able to see you again. I will be careful, once my successor has been appointed, to give him or her time to establish relationships and not to get in the way!

We will move from Sonning on 18th June, which should give us time to make trips to charity shops and the tip, as we downsize our home. If you find yourself in the Worcester area do please come and see us. Our new address will be “Oak Lodge, School Lane, Upton Snodsbury, Worcestershire WR7 4NH”. We do not yet know the telephone number but will be taking our email address with us. Upton Snodsbury is a few minutes outside Worcester on the A422 Worcester to Stratford-Upon-Avon Road.

As you may know our daughter, Helen, is getting married in St. Andrew’s on Saturday 24th May at 3.00pm and I will be conducting that service. It would be wonderful to see you at it and if you could join us afterwards for a piece of wedding cake and a glass of bubbly! As you know Christine and I are only children and we have very few family members so there will be plenty of room on “our” side of the church. Do come and support us!

Our Love prayers & thanks for everything,

Chris

From the Registers

Baptisms

20th April: Joshua James Hayter, Anthony Simon John Godsell,
Samuel George Woodards.

Weddings

28th March: Robert John Graves to Susannah Mary Bromley

Funerals

18th April: Dennis Ellis (St. Andrew’s, Crematorium & Churchyard)

Important Interregnum Things!

To save confusion and the risk of things getting double booked, or not booked at all, we have put in place a few arrangements for the Interregnum and it would be really helpful if you could let anyone know about these who is trying to arrange a Service in St. Andrew’s Church.

If anyone wishes to arrange a Baptism, Wedding or Funeral they are asked to contact the Parish Administrator, Sonia Boyles. I know there will be a temptation for some people to speak to someone they think they know even better but no one else will be able to book Church Services. If someone asks you to do so *please* tell *them* to contact the Parish Administrator.

For Baptisms and Weddings a message can be left on the answer phone at the Vicarage (0118 9693298) and this will be listened to regularly. Alternately Sonia can be contacted by email at: standrews.sonning@btinternet.com

For funerals, when people often need an immediate answer, Sonia can be 'phoned at home on 0118 9692428. I will be writing to Funeral Directors to let them know these arrangements just before I leave.

I am sorry to be pedantic but do ask that everyone contacts Sonia when trying to make arrangements for Occasional Services. It is too easy for mistakes to be made if several people are trying to be helpful! If someone speaks to you do not be tempted to take messages. As Area Dean of Bracknell before coming here I experienced confusion in several parishes when there were too many people trying to be helpful during an interregnum!

Regular Sunday Services will continue to be held at the normal times and I am grateful to Michael Forrer and Bob Peters for the extra work they have agreed to do. David Sims has also kindly agreed to come out of retirement and help lead some Services and preach occasionally. It will be a very busy few months for them and I know that, like me, you are appreciative and thankful they are here. Our hope is that these arrangements, together with those we put in place earlier with the three Worship Leaders, will mean there is as much continuity as possible during the next few months.

Michael will continue to take alternate 8.00am Services at St. Andrew's and to be there for some of the 10.30am Services. Bob will also be helping with some of these but we have also arranged for other people to help with the 10.30am Services. Many of you will remember Bishop John Bone, who lived in Sonning when he was the Bishop of Reading, and he has agreed to preach and celebrate Holy Communion at the 10.30am Service on Sunday 8th June and Sunday 22nd June. Canon Ken Humphreys, who helped out in the last Interregnum, had agreed to help during July.

Churchyard Working Party

Each Spring we have a Churchyard Working party to help Stuart keep on top of the mowing, strimming and weeding and this years will be held on Saturday 10th May. Because of a Wedding at 12.00noon we will need to start at 9.00am and we would be grateful for any help you can give. With the Churchyard extension there is extra work to be done this year including weeding around the new hedge we have planted there.

Chris

St Patrick's Viewpoint

Life would be very dull if every day, every month, every year was exactly the same in every detail as the one before. However the exact opposite is true of life today and everything about us seems to change with ever increasing rapidity. Adjusting to change is not always easy especially as one gets older when 'the familiar' becomes increasingly important.

Do you remember the grocers Cullens? In Richmond (Surrey) there used to be a wonderful deputy manager called Mr Pope who sported a head of white hair and a walrus moustache. He was everybody's idea of a kindly and helpful father figure who was very good to young children whom he treated with a biscuit. Of all the things we would rather not have changed are the good and positive relationships we enjoy.

We have all benefited enormously from the ministry of our Vicar Chris who retires from the parish scene on May 18th. St Patrick's under his guidance and tenacity has changed from being primarily a hall and secondly a church, into being primarily a church and secondly a facility for use by a wide variety of every age group in the community. It is thanks to Chris that an associate 'vicar' for the parish was found to focus on Charvil and St Patrick's. We thank God for all Chris has done the parish and us as a whole. We would rather that he wasn't leaving but we are grateful for his exceptional spiritual and down to earth ministerial legacy on which his successor has an enormous opportunity to build through God's good grace. We wish God speed and every blessing to Chris and Christine for the future.

One of the highlights of the year in the Parish is the Christian Aid concert on Saturday 10th May at 7.00 pm in St Patrick's. The talent is all home grown and organic! See you there. That Saturday is also the occasion when Charvil Village Hall celebrates its 20th birthday with several events, including a free party for children when Fred the Shed will be entertaining them.

Love and Prayers,

Michael & family

Going going

The boss said, "Jo, the vicar is leaving". "So? He only passes through once a month does the communion thing and rushes off during the last hymn." The boss looked rueful "Jo, you do realise that without the vicar you wouldn't be here". "Well where would I be if not here?" "Still languishing in David Baker's draughty garage I shouldn't wonder, who else would put up with your tantrums?" That's a bit near the knuckle I thought "Ok, so the vicar rescued me from DB's garage, what else has he done?" "Well Jo, how

about getting St Paddy's refurbished" I pondered that for a minute; I must say I do like it here; it's nice & cosy. "Ok, apart from rescuing me from DB's draughty garage and refurbishing St P's, what else has he done for us?" "Well Jo, he found Michael, and where would we be without him now? "Ok, ok, so he rescued me from DB's garage, refurbished St P's, recruited St Michael, which I have to admit was a good thing, but what else has the vicar done for us?"

The boss settled back on the Joanna stool, bashed a few chords out on the ivories and said. " He's ministered to us for over 10 years, done lots of things here and at St Andy's, is leaving the parish in a state of growth rather than decline, and he's supported Michael & Bob in all they do, well within reason anyway."

"Ok boss I'm convinced. So why is he going?" " He's retiring Jo, there comes a time when you need to move on, and I suspect he's had enough of the noise you produce when trying to compete with the Charvil nightingale." "I fully understand. Give him my thanks and good wishes for his retirement. What happens next?" "It's called an interregnum, Jo, and you'd better behave if want to survive it!"

Christian Aid Concert - 10th May

Don't forget the Christian Aid Concert, 7.00 pm on Sat 10th May at St Patrick's it's the entertainment event of the season, and all takings go to Christian Aid. Tickets are £5 each from Chris Easton (934 0795) or Bob Hine (969 8653) or just turn up on the night; we've never been known to turn anyone away.

Joanna (the St Patrick's Pianner)

So the Vicar's leaving - 18th May

In just over two weeks time we will be welcoming some 400 parishioners and friends to Chris and Christine's farewell lunch. It is very pleasing to report that a number of parishioners, who have moved away, will also be joining us together with 30 representatives from Chris's previous parishes of Hemsby, Sutton Courtney and Bracknell. For ease of parking and especially if you are attending the lunch, we recommend that you use the Reading Blue Coat School car park prior to the 10.30 service. We are grateful to the Headmaster for making this facility available. We look forward to celebrating Chris's ministry this Trinity Sunday.

Jan Hammond and Bob Hine

Sonning Parish Council

Annual Parish Meeting

Your opportunity to hear councillor's reports on achievements over the past 12 months and to ask questions.

All residents are warmly welcomed to attend the Annual Parish Meeting of Sonning Parish Council on Wednesday 14th May in the Pearson Hall. The doors open at 7.00pm when a welcome drink and nibbles will be provided - the meeting will commence at 7.30pm with reports by your councillors.

Hydro Power Presentation

At 8.30pm, Dave Holt of Goring Parish Council, will give a presentation on the Goring and Streatley hydropower project. He gave a fascinating presentation to the Borough Conference recently on how the Goring and Streatley Sustainability Group plan to convert energy from the River Thames into electricity. We are delighted that Dave has agreed to repeat the presentation for Sonning and to take any questions.

Lesley Bates

Sonning CE Primary School

We have just returned from our Spring break / late Easter holiday following a very busy end to our Spring Term. The Year 6 visit to the Isle of Wight mid March went very well and overall the weather was kind to us - however this did not stop the children from getting extremely muddy for some of the activities which they thoroughly enjoyed! Following on from the success of

our Christmas craft day we held one with an Easter theme, which was enjoyed by all.

During the final days of term the 'S' Factor competition took place - this was our own version of that well known TV show and we were amazed by the singing gifts and talents of the twelve acts that took part in the final. On April 3rd a representative group of staff, pupils and Governors attended the Wokingham Church School's service at St Paul's Church, Wokingham. This was a real celebration of our family of local church schools living out our mission of 'Inspired by faith to serve' with a particular focus on supporting the Nandyal Diocese in India. Children in our school organised a penalty shoot out competition as our way of raising our financial gift for the service.

And so we look ahead to the very busy summer term ahead. I am delighted that we have re-established our links with the primary school in Ligugé and

a group from our school will be visiting Ligugé from June 15th - 19th. We will also be very busy preparing our entry for the scarecrow trail - just look out for some rather wayward looking pupils! On June 22nd I shall be taking a choir group to perform in a massed concert of Wokingham Schools at the Hexagon Theatre in Reading and later on this term we have visits and sports days to look forward to.

One of the results of a growing as school is that we continue to expand our staff team. We are particularly keen to have more lunchtime staff; this involves helping lunches to run smoothly and supervising the children. This is a paid role (1.25 hours a day but not necessarily for 5 days each week). This position is subject to the usual safeguarding procedures - CRB check etc. If you are interested in helping us in this role then please contact the school office (001 969 3399) for further details.

Lesley Green

Thank You

On behalf of myself, and my family I would like to thank all those who gave, and are still giving us such magnificent support when David died recently. Your help and prayers have been a great comfort to us and we are touched by the number of cards, letters and telephone calls we have received.

Catherine Penny

David Penny - Renaissance man

David was our next-door neighbour for many years. He was always ready with help or advice when needed on gardening matters.

On one occasion I managed to tread on a large nail in our garage and I was too scared to extract it myself. I telephoned to see if Catherine could help, but she was out. David was round within seconds. He extracted the nail and generally sorted me out. He was able to turn his hand to just about anything.

He was a very kind and gentle man with a great sense of humour. It was wonderful to see the great sense of community in the village as we gathered in the church to honour him.

He will be greatly missed.

Helen Clarke

Sonning Village Show

Plans are already being made for this year's Village Show, which will take place on 13th September at the Sonning CE Primary School. If anyone is interested in advertising their 'business' in our Show Programme, please phone me on 0118 969 8653 for further details.

Heather Hine

Summer Flowers

The first meeting of the 4 seasonal flower arranging days took place in March. Everyone taking part created 2 lovely spring arrangements, showing that there is plenty of talent here, and enjoyed a tasty lunch together.

The next meeting is on June 4th at Beech Lodge, Pound Lane, Sonning, from 9.39am until 2.30pm. Tickets £15 per day. If you took part in the first session you will automatically be contacted with a list of flowers and accessories to bring on the day. There are a few places vacant for June so if you are interested please contact:

Catherine Penny Tel: 969 3018 or Carole Barnett Tel: 969 6693

Carole Barnett

Sonning Twinning Association

Thank you to everyone who attended the AGM in March. The wine tasting event was a great success with some fine wines being sampled and enjoyed.

Our next event is the Bastille Dinner, which is being held 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.

Lesley Green

Pearson Hall Annual General Meeting

The Pearson Hall AGM will be held in the Hall on Wednesday 18 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

1st Sonning Brownies

In April Verity, Ceri, Anna and Lucy made their Promise in candle light, they all spoke up very well and it was a wonderful Promise Ceremony.

We finished last term by working together in teams doing various activities including making a musical instrument from a paper plate, making a hat from newspaper and a shelter to keep us dry. The Brownies started the new term with doing some sewing for their Scarecrows to go in the village display.

If you would like to come along and find out what we do at Brownies please give me a call.

Diana
Brown Owl

Sport For All

The **Sport for All** at King George's Field on the 20th April was a huge success with around 200 people taking part.

The Tennis club set the pace starting early and offering excellent coaching throughout. As a result they signed up many new members. They have use of the LTA Fun Factory for a few more weeks so if you missed out on the 20th you still have a chance to play it if you take out membership soon.

Charvil FC have fully qualified, junior football coaches and their varied activities resulted in the signing of several new members, and a hope that they might even run an under7 team at Sonning next season along with their other very successful age group teams.

The talents of our **Wicked Wheelers** has grown considerably since our small skatepark opened last summer. It was good to see their display and sharing of skills with others having a go for the first time. Unfortunately the **Cricket Club** match was cancelled but this did not stop their new signing, a 19 year old super bowler from Australia, who coached from the nets. This was followed by a mixed ability group of boys and girls enjoying a game of Kwik Cricket.

Our multi talented Council Chairman, Steve Chapman, proved able to coach **Basketball** with balls flying everywhere and eventually being won by Sam Davis and Chris Watney who both gained 4 goals out of 6 in the final shoot. Highlight for many was to see a well disciplined **Sonning Football Club** return to Sonning after a break of many years playing against an enthusiastic team of Old Boys. The result was 4-2 to the Old Boys. It was a good spirited game showing much talent and at the end many were overheard saying "See you again next year".

Often Success depends on weather and refreshments. After a cold start when hot bacon butties were the order of the day the sun broke through and ice cream sales competed with the Scout BBQ.

Thank you to all the Club officials who joined the Parish Council in the running of this event, which proved so very enjoyable and worthwhile. We hope sufficient funds are found to improve drainage of the pitch and undertake necessary repairs to the Pavilion, which will enable both senior and junior league football to be played at Sonning in the future.

Cllr Pam Glasspool

Sonning Art Group

The highlight of the month has been the judging of some 85 entries from pupils of Sonning Church of England Primary School for the annual competition organised by the Art Group. The age range 7 to 10 was an obvious factor to be considered but there were some clear signs of talent, which helped with arriving at the final decisions. Francesca Keenlyside aged 9 was selected as the overall winner with Adam Colville aged 10 and Lauren Bruce aged 7 winning in their age group. Sue Bell, Secretary of the Art Group, at an appropriate school assembly, will present the awards.

Christine Rogers made a welcome return to the group to provide an interesting and challenging tutor session on the design and creation of collages (the art of sticking bits and pieces together to make a recognisable picture!). The session was surprisingly demanding, and for some a long distant reminder of past school days, but eventually artistic ability shone through and everyone produced exceedingly satisfying pictures.

George Webster

Sonning & Sonning Eye Society

If you would like to see what the Sonning Eye gravel pits might eventually look like, once extraction is completed, then come to The London Wetland Centre at Barnes for the afternoon of Sunday 22 June leaving Sonning at 11:30 and returning at 6:00.

The newest of 9 wetland centres owned and managed by the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust in the UK and opened in 2000 the centre is the brainchild of the late Sir Peter Scott. Alastair Driver advised on the overall design, management and monitoring of the site for many years and he and a volunteer warden will show us around. Situated on the Thames flyway for migratory birds the Centre is hugely popular with birdwatchers. Its state of

the art visitor centre and children's activities enhance this. Other features include a huge glass viewing observatory, several large bird hides, including a three-storey hide with lift for the disabled, an excellent restaurant, and an interactive discovery centre.

The 43 hectare site is split into the "Wildside" where birds are free to come and go and where native UK wetland habitats dominate, and the smaller "World Wetlands" area, where you can see very rare and exotic wildfowl from around the world in sympathetically designed enclosures.

The Society has organised a coach for door-to-door travel from Sonning to Barnes and back. It will leave at 11:30 am so that the group can have an introductory talk on the viewing platform followed by lunch. At 2:00 pm the group will be split into two, and while one party visits the Wildside, the other will visit the World Wetlands area. The parties will swap around after a tea break. The coach will depart from Barnes at 5:00, returning to Sonning by 6:00 pm. 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 0118 969 2132 or diana.coulter@mac.com.

And don't forget to come and see our scarecrow contribution.

Alastair Driver & Diana Coulter

Sonning Glebe WI

Now that our membership is over 50, we filled the Pearson Hall for Molly's first meeting as President. Malcolm Nelson gave us a most interesting and amusing talk on *The Life of a Modern Customs Officer*. He has spent most of his working life at Heathrow Airport and told us about the many ways people try to smuggle drugs into the country.

A couple of weeks ago, some of our members enjoyed a day out in London. They had a guided tour around the Houses of Parliament and then spent the afternoon as they pleased. Others are going to see 'West Side Story' at the Kenton Theatre. We have a lunch planned at the 'Potting Shed' at Hare Hatch Nurseries, as well as a walk from Binfield Heath to see the bluebells.

We next meet on Monday 19th May for our *Resolutions Meeting*, which will be followed by a talk about the Hearing Dogs for the Deaf. As always, visitors are most welcome.

Heather Hine

Sonning Working Men's Club

BINGO & BBQ Night on Friday, 9th May 2008, 8.00pm Start.

Local Live Band and Fish 'n' Chip Supper Saturday 24th May 2008 (After Regatta) 8 till late. Tickets available from Sonning Working Men's Club £7.00 each or contact either Linda Burns on 0118 9692584 or Mena Pownall on 0118 9698245. **Deadline for tickets is Sunday 18th May and NO TICKETS will be SOLD ON THE DAY.**

Sunday 25th and Monday 26th May 2008, we will be open from 12.00 noon for all. As well as being part of the Scarecrow trail we would like you to enjoy a drink in our picturesque gardens. BBQ and Ice creams will be available from 12.00 noon onwards.

Any membership enquiries please contact us on 0118 969 3939.

Tracy Barrett

Sonning CC - there's good news and there's great news !

The good news is that the 2008 season is underway and a sense of excited anticipation surrounds the club, not only because we have attracted 20 new players during the close season, but also because amongst them are current Australian Under 19 squad member Cameron Gannon and SE Transvaal Under 19 Retief van der Walt. Cameron is a 6' 6" opening bowler for Queensland Under 19s and having faced him bowling "gently" in the nets, I have no doubt that he is going to terrorise our opposition in the Thames Valley League this year. Retief is a young batsman with great technique who is highly likely to get a "shed-load" of runs for us this season, to coin a technical cricket term.

The great news is that the existing Charvil Junior Cricket Club is joining forces with Sonning Cricket Club for the coming season to establish children's cricket in the village. The club will meet at King George's Field every Sunday from 1st June until 31st August 2008 between 10.30am and 12.00 noon. This section of the club has been created to make cricket available to local children between 6 and 13 years old and we already have a list of about 30 youngsters who are interested. This year, we will be playing Kwik Cricket (soft bat and ball) for the youngsters, with older children getting the opportunity to play with harder bat and ball if they wish and are ready. We are also in the process of arranging some matches for the older children against comparable clubs. Both boys and girls are welcome to come along. No formal cricket dress or equipment is required, although we do ask for predominantly white clothing and no football kits

please. If you are interested in enrolling your children for this, please contact Nick Ray on cricket.charvil@ntlworld.com for a registration form and further details. For further information on Sonning CC visit www.sonningcc.co.uk

Ali Driver

David Penny Memorial Fund

Following David's funeral, various suggestions to create a lasting memorial to him have been made. Some of us felt there was a need to pull together the ideas so that the community and David's many friends and colleagues could contribute to a project agreed by his family. As a result, a small group has been formed from David's family, Thames Street residents, the Scarecrow Committee, Parish Council, Produce Show Committee and the Berkshire College of Agriculture, where David was Head of Horticulture, with Malcolm Stansfield as chairman.

Money has already been donated by Thames Street residents to plant a tree in the vicinity of Thames Street. The Parish Council has offered the area in front of the Great House beside the river should Thames Street residents wish to use this location.

As a councillor, David had been working enthusiastically on a major tree planting project to redress the loss of trees in Sonning due to age, disease, housing development, etc. The major element of this project was an avenue of Plane trees by the University Farm on the A4 from Hawthorne Way to the Wee Waif. In David's own words "it is an opportunity to do something for the benefit of future generations". This would need the Borough Council, with whom initial discussions have been held, to agree. This avenue would be a wonderful memorial to David and one which Catherine would dearly wish to see realised.

To benefit from tax relief, donations need to be made via a registered charity. The Charity Commission recommends using if possible an existing charity. The Sonning Fire Brigade Trust exists to benefit the residents of the Parish and its Trustees have agreed for it to be considered for this purpose.

To contribute to this important tree regeneration project in memory of David, please send your donation to the group's treasurer, Mrs Mo Hicks, Sonning House, Pearson Road, Sonning, RG4 6UL. Please make cheques payable to The Sonning Volunteer Fire Brigade Trust. If you are a U.K. taxpayer please enclose a signed note stating it is a Gift Aid donation, with your full name, address and date. Thank you.

The David Penny Memorial Group

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 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	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 <i>E-mail</i> vanessalouisejones@hotmail.com	934 1185
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 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	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