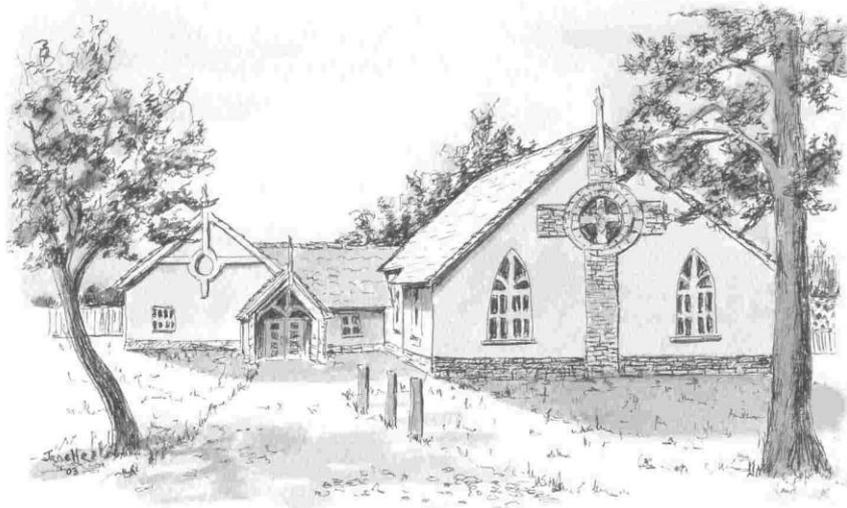


Sonning Parish Magazine



Serving the Communities
of Sonning and Charvil



25p

October 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	Rev Jamie Taylor The Vicarage, Thames St, Sonning, RG4 6UR (day off Thursday)	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
	Mr R. J. Peters, Elm Gables, Parkway Drive, Sonning, RG4 6XG	969 3589
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
Deputies:	Mr Mark Jordan, 12 Manor Wood Gate, Lower Shiplake, RG9 3BY Charvil: TBA	940 1431
Parochial Church Council:		
Secretary:	Mr Mark Jordan, 12 Manor Wood gate, Lower Shiplake, RG9 3PY	940 1431
Treasurer:	Mr James Wilson, 3 Imperial Court, Henley-on-Thames, RG9 1NP	07721 690 524
Gift Aid:	Mr John Scoble, 8 Whitegates Lane, Earley, Reading, RG6 1EE	926 5138
Parish Magazine:		
Editor:	Mr Gordon Barnett	969 6693
Advertising:	Mrs Nicky Clark	947 1312
Circulation:	Mrs Pat Livesey	961 8017
Organist & Choirmaster	Mr David Duvall, 39 Hudson Rd, Woodley, RG5 4EN. Email: davidduvallx@aol.com	07855 947 104
Bookings	St Sarik Room: Mr D. G. Sims	969 3151
	St Patrick's Church Hall: Mrs N. Potter	934 4961
Parish Admin	Sonia Boyles: standrews.sonning@btinternet.com	969 2428
Internet	http://www.sonningparish.org.uk	
Addresses:	Editor: gordonbarnett@btinternet.com Advertising: nickypryce@btinternet.com Vicar: revjaft@yahoo.co.uk	

Forthcoming Events

<i>Date</i>	<i>What's on?</i>	<i>Page</i>
Oct 5	Harvest Festival	
Oct 5	Harvest Lunch, Bring & Share, Pearson Hall	
Oct 11	S&SES visit to Mapledurham Mill	21
Oct 14	Sonning RBL Lecture at RBCS: "WW1 Battles"	R
Nov 4	Rehearsal for Remembrance at St Andrew's Church	21
Nov 8	'The Trends' are Rockin' again	26
Nov 9	Remembrance Sunday	21
Nov 22	Twinning Association; Beaujolais Nouveau Dinner	21
Nov 27	Sonning RBL AGM 2008	21
Dec 13	Pearson Hall Social Committee Christmas Supper	19

Deadline, November Magazine: 4.00 pm Fri, 24th October

Notes: R = Reminder from previous issue. D = Diary entry.

Important Notice

The editor is away for the whole of October and thus anything sent to him for the November magazine will NOT be published. Instead, please send all contributions to Steve Wilkinson at:

sws@1stadvance.com

Everything for the December issue should be sent as usual to Gordon Barnett.

MASONS TRADITIONAL FAMILY FAIR

**DUE TO UNFORESEEN CIRCUMSTANCES
MASONS FAIR WILL NOT BE VISITING SONNING
THIS YEAR. THEY APOLOGISE AND HOPE TO VISIT
SONNING IN 2009**

Contents

Forthcoming Events.....	14
Contents.....	15
Regular Services.....	16
The Parish Church.....	16
St Patrick's Charvil.....	6
The Vicar's Letter.....	16
From the Registers.....	17
Baptisms.....	17
Weddings.....	17
Charvil Viewpoint	18
Welcome.....	18
Pearson Hall Social Committee Christmas Supper.....	19
Music is Coming.....	20
Sonning Glebe WI.....	20
Sonning Floral Arrangement Society.....	20
Sonning Royal British Legion	21
Sonning & Sonning Eye Society.....	21
Sonning Village Show 2008.....	22
Sonning Art Group.....	23
Sonning Twinning Association	23
Sonning CE Primary School.....	24
Royal Berkshire Fire & Rescue Service.....	25
"The Trends"	26
The perils of closed minds.....	26

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
---------	---------	---

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 Vicars Letter

Dear friends,

I have just returned from an early morning walk, where I was able to watch the sunrise from Sonning Bridge. The novelty value will wear off at some stage, and I probably won't make a habit of this, but I must say what a wonderful experience it was. The crisp air; the misty fields; the early morning chorus, competing with a not so musical flock of geese, all complementing the beauty and majesty of the river. I sit here now in my study and feel truly blessed to be living here.

October is a good month to begin a ministry, especially if your first Sunday is Harvest Festival. As we thank God for 'all good gifts around us' I shall be particularly thankful this year, not just for the beauty of this place, but also for the rich heritage of the parish, and indeed for all those who have laboured in God's harvest field in times gone by. Of course, many of them are now at rest in our churchyard, and as October draws to a close, we will be preparing to commemorate them at All Souls.

As we gather this harvest, we of course remember those who are less fortunate than ourselves. However, if we believe the daily diet of news at the moment, we could almost be forgiven for thinking that there isn't anyone in that position. We are hearing much about financial crises, of turbulent markets, of credit crunches, rising costs and all round misery. The price of bread is at an all time high, and my goodness, what a shock it is to fill up the car, so why should we be worried about anyone else? We've got a mortgage to pay, a family to feed, a car to run. Of course, if we stop and think for just a moment, we realise how ridiculous this is. We actually have so very much in comparison with most others in our world, and harvest is as good a time as any to thank God for that. However, as is often the way in the Christian life, words are not enough. Every Christian has a duty to care for the poor and hungry, and, as I suspect there aren't too many people in this position in Sonning and Charvil, we can direct our assistance through the vast numbers of charities and relief organisations.

Having said that, there will be many in our materially comfortable parish who are hungry and impoverished in another sense. Lives that are rich in so many ways, apart from in the most important: that is in a spiritual sense. Those who have worked out that we 'can't live by bread alone'; that is to say, that material comforts bring no lasting fulfilment, know that the Christian life brings meaning and depth. A life that takes faith seriously and that admits failings and tries to learn from them is a life that is rich in an incomparable way. This harvest let us remember that each of us who are Christians can sow seeds in the lives of those around us. Through our example of Christian living; through tolerance, forgiveness and love, we pass on this wonderful message.

Finally, I would like to thank all those who have given Caroline, Alice and myself such a warm welcome since we arrived. The Wardens and PCC have been so helpful and generous in assisting us make this house a home, and the many cards, presents and kind words have been greatly appreciated. We look forward to meeting you all over the coming months, but to help this, we would like to host a number of parish drinks evenings, probably every two weeks or so. It will take us a while to invite the whole electoral roll, but all those who are on it will be invited sooner or later.

**With warmest good wishes,
Jamie**

From the Registers

Baptisms

24 September: Julie Cooper

Weddings

19 September: Simon Russell and Claire Delaney

Charvil Viewpoint

“It never rains but it pours”, and that has been true weather-wise this summer. Currently it is also true of the global economic climate that we are experiencing. It would also seem to be true that “It rains more on the just than the unjust because the unjust has the just’s umbrella”. Would the government use taxpayer’s money to bail out those who are finding it difficult to pay their mortgage or their credit card dues in the same way as they are bailing out the banks in trouble?

Yet compared with the peoples of Zimbabwe, Iraq, Afghanistan, Ethiopia, and the Congo we in the west have a lot to be thankful for. What has got us into this mess has been ‘greed’ (one of the seven deadly sins) on the part of those who operate large financial institutions and those who determine their marketing strategies. What is very clear is that in this situation that if one large institution over extends itself globally then the knock on effect affects everyone as trust and confidence break down.

Apart from the leaves on the trees changing colour the other feature of autumn are the still days which provide an opportunity for us to reflect and take stock. From a Christian and humanitarian point of view have we done enough for those who are less fortunate than we are? How could we be less self-indulgent and more generous or our time and talents to those who need practical expression of God’s love, care and compassion in our community and further afield?

Harvest festival is a time when we have just that opportunity.

**Love and Prayers,
Michael & family**

Welcome

Being a churchwarden is a very varied job with its own challenges and rewards. Of course, the biggest challenge of the past year came when Chris Clarke announced his retirement. He generously gave us plenty of notice and the ball was set in motion for his retirement celebrations, the interregnum and the process of finding a new vicar.

It was just 19 weeks ago that we waved goodbye to Chris and Christine. We have tried to keep you all informed through this magazine, of developments as they have happened and now we are very pleased to be welcoming Rev Jamie Taylor, his wife, Caroline and daughter Alice.

The interregnum seems to have passed relatively smoothly, largely due to the help and support of so many of you. As our parish profile said, we are supported by 'a cast of thousands' and for this we are enormously grateful. Special thanks must go to Michael Forrer and to Sonia Boyles our Parish administrator. Between them they have been quietly arranging baptisms, weddings and funerals all of which are essential day-to-day requirements. Our sincere thanks go to them both. It has certainly been a busy time for us but very interesting and we consider it a privilege to have been serving as churchwardens at such a significant time in the life of the church.

By the time you read this, Jamie's service of Collation and Induction by Bishop Stephen will have taken place and he will officially be our new incumbent. Jamie's first Sunday is when we celebrate our harvest festival, followed by a harvest lunch in Pearson Hall. Please do take this opportunity to introduce yourselves to our new family. Then there is an exciting time ahead as Jamie settles into the life of the church here. On Tuesday 14th October, the Bishop of Oxford will be visiting St Andrew's Church for a Service of Confirmation. November of course, sees one of our biggest congregations of the year at the Remembrance Day Service and then much to plan and look forward to as Christmas approaches.

I'm sure you will all make Jamie, Caroline and Alice very welcome and embrace them into this wonderful community that we all enjoy.

Jan Hammond & Bob Hine

Pearson Hall Social Committee -Christmas Supper

The Pearson Hall Social Committee will be hosting their Christmas Supper on Saturday 13th December at the Pearson Hall, 7.30pm. Join us for a welcome drink, four-course dinner and entertainment including carols, pay bar and a raffle.

Tickets priced at £14.00 per person will be available from Meryem Parker, Acre Cottage, Thames Street, Sonning, RG4 6UR (tel. 0118 944 0000) and the Box Office opens on Monday 3rd November. Please forward a cheque payable to PHSC together with a stamped, self addressed envelope for return of tickets. Please note this is a very popular event and tickets are on a first come-first-served basis

We look forward to welcoming you to this event.

Andrew Barker

The Music Service is Coming

Boss came in on Sunday and said “Well, the end is nigh Joanna”. I was somewhat alarmed, and asked if it meant the end of the credit crunch or civilisation as we know it. “No Jo, the end of the interregnum, the new bosses bosses boss starts in October, don’t you ever read the ewssheet”. I protested, pianners can’t read, unless they are the pianola variant like my late lamented predecessor, and even then it’s a form of Morse code. “What’s that going to do for us then?” I ventured. “Well Jo, the new Vicar will be appearing here from time to time, and all I know about him is that he’s big and reads music, not only that, but it’s rumoured he plays the organ, so we won’t be able to pull the musical wool over his eyes. Those bum notes are going to have to go.” “That’s not my problem” I retorted, “You’re the driver and I just go up, down, loud, soft, chord, discord at the whim of your dyslexic fingers and twinkle toes. What you need is help. Did you get any response from the ad in last month’s parish tabloid?”

Boss sighed. “Sadly no, but there’s still time I guess. So for the second time - **Are there any musicians out there who fancy playing with Joanna at the Sunday morning services in St Pats?** If so give me a ring on **0118 934 0795**. We’ve got the Music Service coming up on the 7th Dec so it’s a great opportunity”

Joanna (the St Patrick’s Pianner)

Sonning Glebe WI

In September, Rita Beck gave us an interesting and amusing talk about how she started her Cottage China business. After the meeting, we were able to buy bone china items that she’d decorated. Our Harvest Supper is on 11th October and on 20th it’s our Birthday Meeting, when we’ll be having a light supper and our speaker Alison Riches will be entertaining us with a talk titled ‘An evening for the ladies!’

Heather Hine

Sonning Floral Arrangement Society

It seems I missed a treat, as I was unable to go to the September meeting. Graham King amazed everyone using clever accessories to emphasise the titles of his arrangements: Straw ducks for a river theme, rope and driftwood with beautiful mauve and blue flowers for the seaside and finishing with a hand-tied arrangement including candles and fruit; all accompanied by music. He also brought with him mounted photographs of beautiful landscapes, which many of the members were keen to buy.

I did attend the Produce Show. I turned up to do the “Imposed” class, but found every place taken (shows how popular this class is proving to be).

Rose Cottrell who won would have beaten me anyway. Sharon Robinson, won the “Masterpieces” class with her Van Gogh, Catherine Penny (Van Gogh) was second and Ann Turner (Flemish Style) third. Ann Deprato won the novices class with her horizontal arrangement.

The next meeting, on October 9th in the Pearson Hall is a workshop entitled “Flowers, Fruit and Candles”. You are requested to bring everything with you; all plant material, fruit and accessories, including a big black bag and scissors. The sales table will be available for bases etcetera.

If you are not already a member it is a good way to start. It should be good fun - and we have a cup of tea as well! See you there.

Jane Gascoine

Royal British Legion, Sonning Branch



Remembrance Day Rehearsal

The rehearsal at St Andrew’s Church for those participating in the ceremonial will take place at 6.00 pm on Tuesday, 4th November. This is a change from our normal Wednesday evening to take into account that the 5th is bonfire night.

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 will be on the agenda and your presence is needed to help in this process: Branch officer nominations are required urgently.

Gordon Barnett

Sonning & Sonning Eye Society

Heritage Walks

The Society Guides took a total of 81 people around Sonning during Heritage Open Days Weekend. There was extravagant but welcome praise for their tours and the sun shone warmly on Thursday, Saturday and Sunday - rain, thunder and lightening only stopped play on Friday. Visitors came from as far afield as South Africa and Leeds and all seemed to enjoy the opportunity to view our hidden treasures - the brasses in the chancel of St Andrew’s, the Rich Memorial and the site of the Bishop’s Palace. A nice touch is that,

arising from the walks, we have been asked to do a walk for Reading East Probus Club, which will happen in early November.

Cancelled!

Sadly, rather like the aborted June visit to the London Wetlands Centre, the proposed Heritage Trail on Sunday 21 September was postponed. The Social Committee put a lot of effort into developing the questionnaire that would have been issued to participants, and have decided to store it for use on a future occasion. So watch this space in 2009!

Mapledurham House Visit

Tickets are still available for the exclusive visit to see Mapledurham Mill in its full working glory on Saturday 11 October. The Estate Office has asked us to slip the start time so that we meet in Mapledurham Church Car Park at 2:30 for a 2.45 pm start in the Mill itself. This is a wonderful opportunity to appreciate how Sonning Mill would once have worked albeit on a larger scale. Mildred Cookson will talk us through the history of the Mill, show us some of the machinery, and get the Mill working for us. Tickets are priced as follows: £4.00 each for Society members, and £5.00 for non-members. Further details for this event are available from Diana Coulter on 969 2132.

A.G.M.

Soon it will be our Annual general Meeting - this year it will be held on Saturday 15 November in the Pearson Hall. As in previous years an excellent meal will follow the business part of the meeting, and we are delighted to welcome Sally Hughes, Managing Director of our own Mill, as our after-dinner speaker. More information will be available next time.

Diana Coulter

Sonning Village Show

Thanks to the weather, there was a great attendance at the Show and we all enjoyed the afternoon sun. As usual, our village organisations ran stalls for their own fundraising, while various events took place in the arena. The school children entertained us with some Maypole Dancing followed by the Fire Brigade's hose reel relay, children's sports day races, tug-of-war and Pegs Water Balloon Challenge.

It was great to see so many entries in the Produce Show classes this year, creating an interesting display and healthy competition. Thank you to all of you for making this years Show a successful Village event.

Heather Hine

Sonning Art Group

There was certainly a Wow! Factor with this year's Sonning Village Show. Wonderful weather. Outstanding successes for our members in the show competitions, and another Well attended and successful Art Group exhibition.

It was particularly good to enjoy a day of sunshine especially when treasured pictures and exhibition stands had to be transported in and around the site. Besides submitting pictures for the exhibition most of our members also entered other work in the various categories of the show competition, including art, photography, needlecraft, cake making and flower arranging. As a result members of the Group achieved no less than 23 awards including 12 first class awards, 2 silver cups and a silver salver!

We were fortunate to have over 150 people visiting the exhibition during the two and a half hours it was open. As usual great interest was shown in the variety of pictures on display and it was good that every one of our artists scored at least one of the visitor's votes in the 'Best Picture' competition. The outright winner of that competition was Terry Butcher for his picture of a 1929 Foden Steam Lorry.

A new feature of the Art Group's exhibition this year was the display of winning pictures from the Art Group's Sonning School competition giving parents and public the opportunity to view the work of Adam Colville aged 10, Francesca Keenlyside, aged 9 and Lauren Bruce, aged 7. With 78 entrants for the 2008 competition the Group is very pleased with the growing extent of interest in art shown by young people in the Sonning area.

George Webster

Sonning Twinning Association: Beaujolais Nouveau Dinner

Our next event will be the popular Beaujolais Nouveau Dinner on Saturday, 22nd November, in the Pearson Hall. This will be a 2-course meal (including a glass of Beaujolais on arrival) and a pay bar will also be available. Tickets for this event are available from cost £10 for association members and £12.50 for non-members.

Applications for tickets (including a cheque payable to Sonning Twinning Association and self addressed stamped envelope) should be sent to David Bates, The Gatehouse, Sonning Lane, Sonning, RG4 6ST. Please indicate any specific dietary requirements with your ticket order. The box office for this event opens on October 6th and will close on Saturday 15th November.

We are delighted that a number of friends from Ligugé will be joining us for this event including M. Bernard Mauze (Maire of Ligugé) and Jean Poudou

(Chair of the Ligugé Twinning Association) as well as a representative from the primary school.

During the evening there will also be an opportunity to hear from the Sonning bursary winners who will share their experiences of their visit to Ligugé. We very much hope you will be able to join us for this special evening.

Lesley Green

Sonning CE Primary School

It is a privilege to write this, my first ever contribution as Acting Headteacher at Sonning. As you may know our glorious leader, Lesley Green, has been seconded to Shinfield St Mary's for a term and therefore it is I who have the honour of leading our amazing school through the autumn term. We have already had a brilliant first few weeks: playing host to the spectacular Sonning Show; cheering on our ducks at our PTA Duck Race; welcoming three new members of staff and learning and laughing a lot.

We are equally excited about the coming months and in particular the arrival of our new Vicar - I'm not sure what he'll make of us but he'll be guaranteed a warm and enthusiastic welcome. We shall be visiting St Andrew's for Harvest, St Andrew's Day and our Carol Concert. In addition we are all working hard to organise our 'Heroes Week' (19th - 24th October) in which we intend to celebrate the superheroes in society. So if you know of anyone who would like to inspire our children, please get in contact - we hope to make this a memorable event.

Through the hard work of the PTA and the generosity of people at various events, our new Ball Games Area is almost complete and the children are chomping at the bit to get back in there! We have more projects that we would like to fund and so the staff are organising a Ladies Shopping and Pamper Evening on 21st November in Charvil Village Hall from 7pm. We expect at least 40 stalls so come along for a little retail therapy and maybe have your nails done at the same time. The PTA are busy too planning the Quiz Night on 17th October which should be fab as our very own Gary 'The Governor' Brooks is our man on the mic.

The children too have a fun filled term: trips are planned to the planetarium at Winchester; to Stratford to learn more about William Shakespeare; Year 3 and 4 are enhancing their swimming skills and we play host to Image Theatre in December when they come to perform 'The Selfish Giant'.

I hope I have given you a flavour of what our school might be enjoying over the next few weeks. It might be true that the dark nights are approaching but the bright lights of Sonning CE Primary School burn ever brighter -what a smashing bunch of kids they are!

Gill Kelsall

Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service

Now that autumn is officially here, and we are all switching on the heating and digging out the electric blankets, Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service (RBFRS) is urging people to take extra care to avoid the risk of fire. Faulty electrical items and portable heaters continue to be the cause of serious house fires, so it is vital to make sure they are safe and in proper working order. You can help to reduce the risk of fire in the home by following these simple tips:

General Electrical Safety

- Always check that you use the right fuse to prevent overheating.
- Make sure an electrical appliance has a British or European safety mark when you buy it.
- Certain appliances, such as washing machines, should have a single plug to themselves, as they are high powered.
- Never overload sockets. Try to keep to one plug per socket.
- Keep electrical appliances clean and in good working order.
- Look for signs of dangerous or loose wiring e.g. scorch marks, hot plugs and sockets, fuses that blow, circuit-breakers that trip for no reason, or flickering lights.
- Check and replace any old cables and leads, especially if they are hidden from view - behind furniture or under carpets and mats.
- Unplug appliances when you're not using them or when you go to bed.

Electric blankets

- Don't fold electric blankets, as this can damage the internal wiring. Store them flat or rolled up instead.
- Unplug the blanket before you get into bed, unless it has a thermostat control for safe all-night use.
- Try not to buy second hand blankets and check regularly for wear and tear.

Portable heaters

- Try to secure heaters up against a wall to stop them falling over.
- Keep them clear from curtains and furniture. Never use them for drying clothes.

RBFRS can provide a **FREE** Home Fire Safety Check, give advice on making an escape plan and fit **FREE** smoke alarms where necessary. To book yours, call **0800 587 6679** or e-mail community.safety@rbfrs.co.uk

For more fire safety advice and information, log on to www.rbfrs.co.uk or call **0118 932 2734**.

THE TRENDS

Are Rockin' again in Sonning on
SATURDAY 8th NOVEMBER
at

The Pearson Hall & Club

£6.00 ticket includes a
Cold Pie & Pickle Supper

The Trends have raised thousands of pounds in Sonning alone for such
good causes as Arthritis Research, Our Church Roof,
Cancer Care and Air Ambulance.

Like the great early rock they play

Their music just seems to get better and better.

It's always a great evening and the hall is limited for numbers

So please get your tickets now.

Funds raised this time will go to supporting our Sonning (WM) Club

Tickets from Pam Glasspool tel; 0118 969 2800

Email: pam_glasspool@yahoo.co.uk

The Perils of closed minds.....

Do you ever wish 'the box' had never been invented? Or complain about the way the media handle news? Try this:

Newspaper offices are often visited by people who claim to have important information or to have made a discovery. So it was with a certain weariness and also wariness that a senior editor on the *Daily Express* addressed a junior reporter back in 1925, on hearing that a visitor had arrived at the offices that day. "For goodness sake, go down to reception and get rid of that lunatic down there," said the editor. "He says he's got a machine for seeing by wireless! Watch him, he may have a razor on him."

Later that year, the 'lunatic' John Logie Baird demonstrated his invention - something called television.

And closer to home:

A Scottish engineer was described at school by his masters as 'dull and inept' and was bullied by his fellow pupils at school. The object of all this scorn - James Watt, whose development of the steam engine paved the way for the Industrial Revolution.