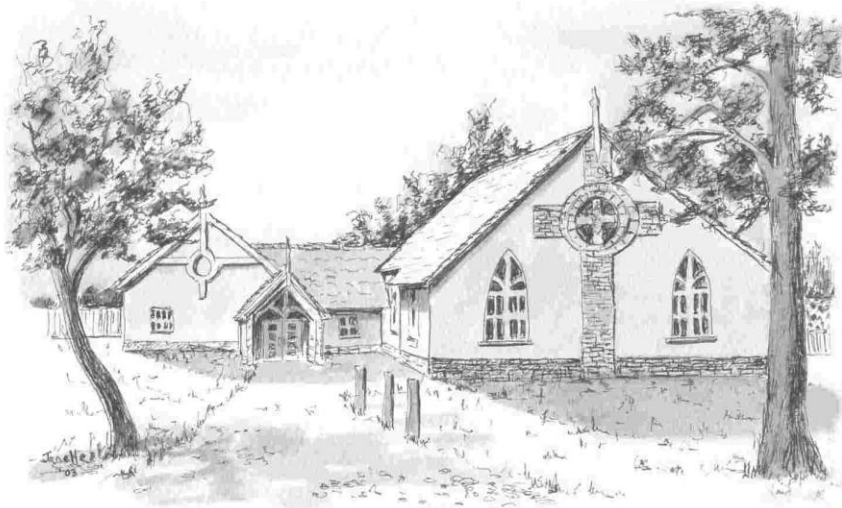


Sonning Parish Magazine



Serving the Communities
of Sonning and Charvil



25p

July / August 2010

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

| | | |
|---|---|----------|
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| Associate Vicar | Rev Michael Forrer, 6 Park View Drive South, Charvil, RG10 9QX | 934 1989 |
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Forthcoming Events

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| 9 Jul | Village Rounders Match | 21 |
| 13 Jul | 'Footprints' coffee morning | 22 |
| 17 Jul | 'Hope to Albania' Garden Party | R |
| 17 Jul | Parish walk | 27 |
| 18 July | 'Songs of Praise', St Andrew's church | 21 |
| 21 Jul | Exhibition, Lafarge proposals for Gravel extraction | 27 |
| 1 Aug | Village Cricket Match | 21 |
| 10 Aug | 'Footprints' coffee morning | 22 |
| 11 Sep | Village Produce Show | D |
| 12 Sep | S&SES Heritage Walk | 28 |
| Notes: | Deadline, September magazine: 4.00 pm Friday, 27th August 2010 R = Reminder from previous issue. D = Diary entry. | |

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Regular Services
The Parish Church

| | | |
|------------|----------|---|
| Sundays | 8 am | Holy Communion (Prayer Book) |
| | 10.30 am | Family Service, first Sunday of the month Parish Eucharist, second, fourth and fifth Sundays. Matins, third Sunday. |
| | 6.30 pm | Evensong, except third Sunday of the month, when it will be Holy Communion with the laying on of hands for those who wish it. |
| Wednesdays | 10 am | Holy Communion at St Andrew's |

St Patrick's Charvil

| | | |
|---------|---------|--|
| Sundays | 9.30 am | Family Service, Third Sunday of the month Holy Communion, second and fourth Sundays Worship Service other Sundays. Sunday School 9.30 am except third 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. Sonia can also be contacted by email at: standrews.sonning@btinternet.com. For Weddings and funerals, contact the vicar on 0118 969 3298.

The Vicar's Letter

Dear friends,

On Sunday June 20th the announcement was made that the Revd. Michael Forrer will be retiring from his role as Associate Vicar, and that this will happen at some stage next year. The Bishop had decided not to renew his annual licence at the end of 2011, and the wardens and I had hoped to announce this at the APCM this year. However, Michael understandably wished to delay the announcement until new housing had been arranged. Happily, this is now well on the way.

There will be many opportunities for us to express our appreciation for all that he has given to Charvil and Sonning, not least at the parish BBQ and special service, being held in honour of the 50th anniversary of his ordination on September 5th. His pastoral ministry, sense of humour and eagerness for the things of God have been in great evidence during his time here, and we shall look forward to benefiting from these in the months ahead. It is very helpful that we now have a long period of notice because it will give the PCC adequate time to review parish ministry generally, but with particular

reference to St. Patrick's, and the work of outreach in Charvil. We will set to work on this in September. The exact timings of the Forrer's departure from the parish will be announced later this year or early next year, when they make their decision.

Please keep Michael, Jing, Timothy, Mark and David in your prayers as they approach this time of transition.

Wising you a happy and hot summer.

Jamie

Stewardship Campaign - Funding the vision

All those on the electoral roll received a pack of information in late May related to our levels of giving in the parish. They were also then invited to a special presentation and service on June 13th. Whilst I am aware that this magazine is read by some villagers who have no connection with our two churches, I know that there are many people of goodwill who take an interest, albeit as Churchill described himself, as a buttress, supporting from the outside! The following is a shortened version of the Vicar's and Professor Malcolm Stansfield's presentations.

An extract of The Vicar's presentation, Sunday 13th June

The stewardship packs we have sent out, and the type of information we have shared with you is very much along the lines of what is used in most Anglican churches, and although they don't make comfortable reading, the PCC would be failing in its duty if it didn't share these matters with the wider church family.

Soon after I came to Sonning, the world went into recession. I don't think the two are related however! Stock markets plunged, savings investments shrivelled and things became pretty gloomy on the financial front. Once the dust settled, we began to realise that the parish's financial position was not as comfortable as had been previously thought. Historic endowments, which had been propping our parish up, were returning a very poor yield and giving was down, an inevitable consequence of a recession. As was presented in the pack, this left us with a £16000 shortfall in our accounts last year. However, I am happy to report that spending has not been increasing significantly; rather income has simply been dropping.

Of course, we also spoke in the packs of our vision for the parish in terms of beginning a new ministry to young families and children. Even if we had no such vision, I would still be standing here at a stewardship service, as the simple fact is that we can't even continue with the status quo in both churches if we carry on with such low levels of giving across the 442 on the

ER. Clearly there would be serious consequences for both churches and therefore both villages if we continued ambling along the road we are on at the moment. The Friends of St. Andrew's provide a most helpful support for maintaining the fabric of one of our churches, and the superb condition of this building is testament to that. But this service today is not about buildings or heritage; it is about our commitment to supporting the mission and future of the church family, not its bricks and mortar. We are here to evaluate where God is placed in the priority list of our lives, and part of this is where he is placed in our budgets.

When I was appointed, it was made clear to me that a big priority for this parish was to begin to seriously reach out to families and young people. The PCC then reaffirmed this in the PCC vision process that took place. If I just had to stand here and say that we need more money simply to pay the bills and keep going on exactly as we are, I would have a heavy heart indeed. Whilst we do need to increase our income, we are actually being called to do this in the context of some exciting plans for the future.

“Where there is no vision the people perish.” Wise words from scripture and a lesson for any congregation. There is so much that is good about our churches. So much to be grateful for and to value. However, there is an area where the PCC believe that we do fall short. It was highlighted before I came here, and it is a weakness that is shared by sadly too many other churches. It is this weakness that we are seeking to address, and we believe that God has given us a vision to do just that.

We in no way wish to sideline those who can't be referred to as young, not in the slightest, but we do need to realise that we have largely failed to reach out to those who are from younger generations. There will be a heavy price to pay for this, nationally and locally, if we leave it unchecked. We clergy do our best, with able and willing help from Sunday school teachers and others, but it is not enough. Across the parish we believe that we are called to bring in a new ministry, most probably from someone who is ordained, and who therefore can give good service in the usual priestly tasks in both churches, but who is trained specifically to engage in this targeted mission. That will be their primary purpose, unencumbered by the management of churches, and all the admin that comes my way. It is a big step, but one that has been discussed and prayed about for many months. It is envisaged that this new ministry can begin in either late 2012 or 2013, but much will depend on how we now respond to this call to greater commitment, and the PCC has not made any final decisions.

It needs to be stressed that the excellent traditions of decent music and worship will be maintained. This is certainly no bid to sideline the choir, silence the organ and bring in the tambourines. We could do all these things of course, but I fear you'd be looking for a new Vicar in the process! In short, this new ministry will not threaten in any way the essential character

of our parish church. Worship at St. Patrick's will be reviewed on a separate basis as we move forward.

I believe that this parish is at an important stage in its life. There really is so much to give thanks for, but, and I don't say this flippantly, if we carry on just as we are, without seriously trying to engage with younger generations, where will we be in 15 or 20 years, and who will be left? The world has changed so much in the last few generations, and the church has become more and more marginalised. Teenagers and indeed twenty somethings today often have no clue about what we stand for, and about who we worship. Soon enough, they will be parents, and another new generation will come along that we are largely failing to reach. If we fail to counter this, I predict we will sleep walk into obscurity, still here, but an ever dwindling band, and a shadow of what we are today.

I have no intention of sleep walking anywhere, and I know the wardens and PCC are equally reluctant. Whilst we accept that no individual church has a guarantee of success and growth, if a church is open to the Holy Spirit's leading, and if the congregations are made up of Christians who are living out their faith in obedience, then great things can happen. We know the affection we feel for our buildings and our shared life together. We know what our faith means to us. We know what a tremendous gift a life walked hand in hand with Jesus is. We believe that the church of Jesus Christ offers a better way, and that we really can make a positive difference in people's troubled lives. The call this morning is to prayerfully consider how you can help us share this gift with those who have yet to hear of it, and who may never, if we fail to respond.

So, in summary, the deficit, the ever increasing essential costs of resourcing the parish and our buildings, and the requirement to build for the future, have highlighted the need for us to significantly increase our income. If even half the people on our Electoral roll could regularly commit to supporting the parish through standing orders, along with the benefit of gift aid, we would be well on our way.

Secondly, we need to expand. A church that rests on its laurels, without planning for the future, and drawing in others to be the church of the future will, sooner or later, pay a heavy price. We owe it to our children and grandchildren to safeguard the Christian heritage of this parish.

Thirdly and finally, this stewardship campaign is not primarily a means for telling you all to pay more money. Whilst only the treasurer knows what individuals give, I am told that there are some very generous givers in this church, equally there are some who give sacrificially, and are on modest incomes who couldn't possibly give more. Rather this is an opportunity for us all to review what we give, and to prayerfully consider where we place God in the priority list of our lives.

An extract of Prof Malcolm Stansfield's presentation

Having worshiped in the Parish for nearly 50 years, involved with 6 Vicars, warden for 18 years & now Emeritus, I have always been interested in the finances & am therefore pleased this morning to help explain the current situation - which seriously affects us all.

We keep our buildings looking great & in good repair - which is highly appreciated by the congregations, as well as the visitors.

Sunday attendance across the parish is very healthy. As well as the contemporary Parish Eucharists & Communion at St Patricks, we also offer Book of Common Prayer Communion at 8.00 am & Evensong at 6.30 pm & these are greatly valued, not least by the Vicar & Wardens (especially the Emeritus!!)

Anyone with finance & accountancy skills could look at our balance sheet & wish too that they were involved with such a strong business. We have numerous investments - which over the years have generated considerable income - but much less so recently! Many are specific/restricted funds for use such as the churchyard or purchase of flowers. Some recent legacies, left to the PCC have been used to undertake major projects - the Glass doors & renovation of the stained glass windows. We own The Bull & have it let at a good rent.

BUT - our Parish Share is linked to our income & so the real benefit to us in the parish is much reduced. The Parish Share, as many will know, is paid by each Parish to the Oxford Diocese to help pay clergy stipends/housing & pensions as well as training for clergy & lay ministers. The level of payment is also linked to the numbers on the Electoral Role. In business terms, we are "capital rich but cash poor".

Until last year we have usually had excess of income over expenditure or broken even. Collections, tax reclaim & fees covering our running expenses & I am confident we will soon get back to that situation. However it is financial support for our future plans that we are here to think & pray about this morning. I agree fully with Jamie that we need to **grow our church**. - attract & keep young families & children.

When Jamie was appointed 2 years ago, he was challenged to help us develop our youth & family ministry. He & the PCC are now well on with planning to make that a reality, but it will obviously add to our operating cost of staff & support. So our income needs to increase substantially.

Regular giving by we the members on the Electoral role is really the only way we can budget & have the confidence to proceed with this vital work. Of the 442 members on the ER only 93 of us are involved in planned giving. I find it difficult to believe, but my colleagues have checked and on average we give per member far less than any other neighbouring parishes.

As a trustee & former Chairman of “The Friends of St Andrew’s”, I know that many of you also donate on a regular basis to the Friends funds. This too is important if we are to keep the building in first class condition. But our regular giving to the PCC has to come first. Experience has shown that if we have a major capital cost - e.g. the organ or the roof, we can appeal to a much wider audience in the village & get good support.

Many of those donors only use the church for special occasions. Vibrant churches are so much more important to us; we want the pews to be occupied in the future as they are this morning. That future depends on today’s young. We therefore have a real responsibility to provide the resources for the vicar & his team to attract the young & keep them in the fold.

I guess I am here today because of a young curate who organised a church youth group when I was a teenager - & fun it was too! I was also a choir boy & am therefore so pleased that we now have a junior choir here in St Andrew’s. A fine example of the projects being planned.

The aim is to double our total giving in 2 years, some may find that a challenge others will agree with me that it is realistic, but more importantly it needs to be achieved. Our running costs go up each year, the Parish share last year by 3.5%.

Regular planned giving helps us to give as we want - not just the change we have when the plate comes around. If you are not part of the Planned Giving Scheme please join it. If you are already involved, please consider a possible increase. The ideal way is with a standing order. If you like to put something on the plate during the collection, just add a little extra.

Some may feel they were bombarded with paper about the Stewardship. I read it all, but the best quote for me was one from St Paul “We shall not all be rich, but rich enough to be able to be generous”.

Let us all give serious thought to our level of commitment. We have so much to be thankful for. The opportunity to respond is now. Please give it serious consideration.

More information on how to support our parish through planned giving is available at the stewardship stand at the back of St. Andrew’s.

Notices

Ordination: Julie Wearing has been selected to train for the ministry, and will be moving to Durham in September to begin residential training at St Johns College. This follows the usual long process of discernment, and a three day selection conference. Julie has been a much valued presence in the parish, leading Lent groups, the book group and singing in the choir. She will be missed by us all, but goes to Durham with our prayers and good wishes, and we shall all be pleased to follow her journey, once she is ordained into full time ministry.



Christian Aid: There was no collection for Christian Aid in May. This is regrettable, but mainly due to a paucity of street collectors. In many ways today, door to door collections are problematic, not least in getting volunteers to do it. Having consulted colleagues and others, we shall make Christian Aid our Harvest Festival Charity, and this is especially appropriate as they do considerable good work through agricultural aid in the third world.

Sonning Songs of Praise: the Reading Central Band of the Salvation Army will be leading this service on July 18th at 6:30pm. All are welcome. The morning service will be a Parish Eucharist, not Matins.

50th Anniversary of Ordination: All are invited to come and celebrate with the Revd. Michael Forrer on this significant anniversary on Sunday September 5th. There will be a parish BBQ from 2:00pm at the Vicarage, followed by a celebratory service, for all ages at 5:30pm in St. Andrew's. More details will follow in the news sheets.

The Village Cricket Match; Set for August 1st from 2:00pm. The Vicar's XI will be playing the Sonning Club at the King George VI ground. All are welcome to come and enjoy the day.

The Village Rounders Match: This will take place on King George's Field on Friday 9th July (16th if postponed from the 9th), with the competition starting at 6.00pm. We need a team of 9 players, four of whom must be female. As usual, there will be a raffle in aid of Thames Valley Air Ambulance. The ever-popular barbeque run by the PTA will be open for the duration, as will be the equally popular bar in the cricket pavilion. Please sign the list at the back of church if you would like to take part.

Jamie

Footprints



**For all those
dealing with the
loss of a loved one,
redundancy, divorce,
or separation**

**Come and join us at an informal coffee
morning on the second Tuesday of the month
at 11.00am in the St Sarik Room of
St. Andrew's Sonning
(July 13th & August 10th 2010)**

**An opportunity to meet with others facing the
many pressures of bereavement and loss**

Charvil News

Dear friends,

For everything its season and for every activity under heaven its time. So wrote the author of Ecclesiastes. So the time has come, as the Walrus said to talk of many things...

In consultation with the bishop earlier this year it was decided that I would leave my post as Associate Vicar at some stage next year. We have greatly enjoyed our time at both St. Patrick's and St. Andrew's and have appreciated all your love and support. The exact timing within that period we cannot say at the moment as it is dependent on our finding an appropriate home in the Reading area, outside of the parish. Happily the Church Commissioner's Pension Board and the Diocese are making provision for us, for which we are grateful.

We will be very sorry and sad to leave, but we know that under Jamie's leadership, God's work and mission will move ahead in leaps and bounds.

With love and prayers,

Michael & Family

From the Registers

Baptisms

6th June: Isobel Sofia Scott

Confirmations

9th June: Tom Farncombe, Esmond and Gillian Thoreau

Weddings

22nd May: Ben James Kimber and Rebecca Lianne Duffield

29th May: Gareth Edward Bishop and Elaine Joy English

18th June: Jonathan David Smith and Sian Louise Sweeney

Funerals

7th June: Gina Rogers

The Royal British Legion



Festival of Remembrance: The Royal Albert Hall; Sat 13th Nov. Open to members and their spouses. The branch will have 4 tickets and if you would like to bid, then contact the branch secretary no later than 30th June. Those who have not attended before will have first call on the tickets.

Next meeting: Wed 28th July, St Sarik Room, 7.30pm. All members welcome.

County Festival of Remembrance: Bearwood College, Winnersh, 7.30 pm Saturday 30th October; tickets £8.00 from County HQ, Tel 0118 976 1255.

Cenotaph Service: If you wish to participate in the Annual Service of Remembrance and 'March Past' in Whitehall on Sunday 14th November, call the branch secretary (0118 944 2877) and ask for an application form, which must be returned to County HQ no later than Monday, 19th July.

Do you remember.....? Were you in London on Saturday, 7th Sep 1940, during the Blitz in WWII? If so, and you have an anecdote or memorable event to tell, then contact *Testimony Films*, who are making a commemorative documentary about the first day and night of the Blitz. Contact Amy Dunn (your call will be confidential) on 0117 925 8589 or email her at amy.dunn@testimonyfilms .com, or write to; Blitz Appeal, Testimony Films, 12 Great George St, Bristol, BS1 5RH.

Poppy Appeal: Another superb year! The total collected on our patch (subject to confirmation by Poppy Appeal HQ) was £11,744.72p. Thank you to everyone who donated for their generosity and also to those helpers who gave their time to help Malcolm Geater in his quest to continue our upwards trend. If you would like to help collect at Remembrance time, contact Malcolm on 0118 947 1677. It is not an arduous task and you can do as much or as little as you wish, but anything helps.

Annual Dinner: Once again, Wargrave will be retaining 8 places for us at their annual dinner, to be held at the Woodcliff hall, High St, Wargrave, on Friday, 12th November. The cost will probably be £20.00 per person. It is an excellent evening and if you are interested in attending, then please contact me on 0118 969 6693 and I will register your name and advise you of the details once I have them.

Advance Warning: Thursday, September 30th at Reading Blue Coat School, a talk by Allan Braden, 30 years a Musical Director in television, writer, conductor and player. More information in the next issue of this magazine.

Gordon Barnett

Sonning Floral arrangement Society

Did you visit the church for the Festival of Flowers during the scarecrow weekend? It was a truly wonderful show and credit must go, not only to the flower club but also to the talented team of church flower arrangers for a truly remarkable depiction of *Over the Rainbow*. One passed through a rainbow on entering the door and was then taken on a momentous journey to the unforgettable *Emerald City*. You would not see better, even at Chelsea and all concerned should be congratulated. It is surprising what you can do with a bit of imagination; none more so than Susie Barwick when she demonstrated *Floating Flowers* at the June meeting.

A *water lily* was the choice of her first arrangement. Living on an island in the Thames, the obvious second choice was *A sailing Boat*, a pretty arrangement using red arthurium and mini gerberas. Then we set off into the sunset with *Clouds*, a picturesque composition of reds, blues and greys. Aspiring even higher, we visited the planet *Jupiter* for a modern arrangement, then down to earth for a ride on a *Maypole* complete with floating ribbons. The final element was the sea with a floating iceberg the biggest white hydrangeas imaginable, aptly named 'snowball'. The beautiful flowers and her clever use of accessories made it a truly wonderful journey.

On July 8th, Ann Anson will be demonstrating *Summertime* and the competition will be *Salad days*. Anyone can enter the completion; just think what you can do with a bit of imagination.

Dates for your diary:

12th August: Summer lunch at the home of Pam Byrne. Please book your ticket before 5th August.

11th September: The Sonning Show. Ten members are invited to take part in an 'Imposed class' and all are encouraged to enter not only flowers, but also some of the other classes such as vegetables, cakes, jams, art, etcetera.

Come on Sonning Floral Arrangement Society, here's your chance to show off! I shall definitely be entering my marmalade again.

Jane Gascoine

Reading & District Cigarette Card & Postcard Club

The meeting at St Patrick's Church Hall on May 13th saw Club stalwart, Cliff Maddock, entertain 34 members with a Powerpoint screen show of local views, sports, and personalities featured on old cigarette cards and trade cards, following the Thames along from Pangbourne & Streatley, via

Reading, Henley, Marlow Cookham, Maidenhead, Windsor and on to Kingston with a commentary on the cards used and the pictures depicted. Cliff illustrated that the hobby of collecting cigarette cards can be opened up beyond merely acquiring and realising the joy of completing sets, or 'type cards', or finding a rarity.

Several Club evenings have lately had illustrated talks on cigarette cards which appears to make the Reading Club unique among other Cigarette Card clubs?

As a contrast, the May 27th meeting at St. Patrick's Church Hall welcomed guest speaker, Chris Hollingham, who gave a brief talk on 'Scouting and Guiding', outlining the role of Lord Baden-Powell and his sister, Agnes, in the establishment of the Scouts and Guide movements in 1908 and 1910 respectively, which rapidly grew into a worldwide movement which is thriving today. An enthusiastic question time followed, with the opportunity to examine part of Chris's personal collection of Scouting metal and cloth badges, postcards, cigarette/Trade cards, crested china and books which he had brought along. Chris is still very active in the Scouts after 63 years!!!! He invoked many long forgotten memories and tales of earlier scouting and guiding days among most of the members, a night of nostalgia and immense interest to the members present.

The highlight of the Club's year is approaching with the Annual Fair and display competition being held on Sunday, July 4th at Rivermead Leisure Centre, Reading. This is the largest Cigarette Card and Postcard Fair of it's kind held in the country, with visitors and 93 dealers coming from all over the UK. The Club would be delighted to see new and established collectors at this truly remarkable event, as well as family historians, postal history and local history enthusiasts, not forgetting cartophilists (cigarette card collectors) and deltiologists (postcard collectors). Full details about the club and fair can be seen on the club website, www.readingpostcards.com or ring 01628 637868.

Roy Sheppard

'Mad About Clothes'

Don't Miss this opportunity to refresh your wardrobe.
Simply come along to one of our sales
to pick up some amazing quality items!

For further details and event dates email: madaboutclothes@gmail.com
or call: Sharon 01189 475 853 or Adrienne 07850 535 190

Supporting Cancer Research 400345671

Parish Walk

July 17th meet at 10.15am, Finchampstead Ridges, B3348 roadside, GRSU808633. Walk via village and Church; 5 to 5½ miles. Queries to me on 0118 926 8035 or 07982 0483.

Jean Milbourn

Scarecrows 2010



Well! What a wonderful effort from everyone involved - many thanks for ANYTHING you did towards this year's Scarecrow trail - the scarecrows were tremendous and greatly appreciated by all the hundreds of visitors who came.

The favourite was Sonningosaurus - closely followed by (in no particular order) Nigel and..., Peter Pan, Hung Parliament and World Cup! The High Street and the display in the church were also constant talking points. Hopefully after expenses approximately £17000 will be available for village projects - more news in September - but for now THANK YOU!!

Worzel

Sonning & Sonning Eye Society



It was with some relief that the north wind dropped during our summer lunch on 18 June, bringing the Society's events for 2009/10 to a successful close in the gorgeous gardens of Sonningdene. Good food, good company and glorious surroundings meant people went home feeling content.

We were delighted to welcome Ben Viljoen of the Berkshire Gardens Trust, who was able to answer queries about the Trust and its work. Society members are able to get discounted entry to any events that the Trust organises including talks and special visits to gardens in the area. If you would like to know more, please contact Penny Feathers on 0118 934 3193.

We will kick off the new 'season' in September with a brand new heritage trail organised by Penny Feathers and her colleagues on the Social Committee. Entitled *Sonning exposed*, the trail starts at the St Sarik Room any time from 1.30 - 4.30 pm on Sunday, 12th September. If you would rather be guided around Sonning by one of our experienced guides, there will this year be one walk only on the same day, which will deliver you back to the St Sarik Room in time for tea. The heritage trail and walk are this year's offering under the Heritage Open Days Weekend banner. You are welcome to turn up for the trail, but if you would like to attend the walk, please book on 0118 969 2132.

On the day before the trail, as ever we will be at the Village Show. If you are not familiar with our work, do please come and talk to us about what we do. People joining for the first time at the Show get 16 months membership for the price of 12 months - and at £5.00 for single/£8.00 for double membership, our rates represent exceedingly good value and have been held at the same level for 6 years. So do come and find us if you think you might be interested in:

- Promoting high standards of planning and architecture.
- Educating the public about our history, natural history and architecture.
- Securing the preservation, protection, development and improvement of features of historic, natural or public interest.

In the meantime the Society wishes everyone an excellent summer!

Diana Coulter

Editors Notes

Advertising: 'Anchor At Home'

The advertisement for home maintenance services show on page 33 of the June issue of this magazine has been withdrawn from this and all future issues. This is because the home maintenance service has been wound up and is no longer available.

The personal care service advertised on page 10 remains and the facility is still available.

Gravel Extraction, Sonning Eye

On the next page (29) is an item at included the request of Lafarge Aggregates Ltd Environmental Services. It is about an exhibition of their proposed work in the future and is to be held on 21st July at Reading Rugby Club. This proposal affects us all and it is for that reason that I am drawing this event to your attention.

Lafarge Aggregates Ltd is developing a planning application to extract sand and gravel from the extension to its Caversham site, known as Phase C, East of Spring Lane.

Before submitting an application, the company is holding a public exhibition to present its proposals. This will be held on Wednesday 21st July between 3pm and 8.30pm at the Reading Rugby Club, Holme Park, Sonning Lane.

Representatives from the company and some of its specialist consultants will be on hand to answer questions and discuss areas of interest.

For further information, please contact the 24 hour Information Hotline: 01992 512764



Local Organisations

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| St Andrew's: Sunday Club | Heather Hexter | 946 1316 |
| St Andrew's: Little Fishes | Mrs Sarah Turner | 944 8154 |
| St Andrew's: Tower Captain: | Mrs P. Elliston | 969 5967 |
| The Friends of St Andrew's | Sally Wilson | 979 3328 |
| St Patrick's: Sunday Club | Julie Easton | 934 2590 |
| 1st Charvil Rainbows | Guider: Brenda Cowdery | 934 5698 |
| Charvil Art Club | Secretary: Mrs Joyce Wray | 969 8098 |
| Charvil Branch Conservatives | Mrs E. Hobbs | 934 0528 |
| Charvil Brownies | Tawny Owl: Claire Howells | 934 5372 |
| Charvil Caterpillar Club | Bridget Mundy | 934 4253 |
| Charvil Girls | Suzanne Newman | 934 0589 |
| Charvil Guides | Ruth Hulley | 969 9431 |
| Charvil Parish Council | Clerk: Mr I. Cohen | 901 7693 |
| Charvil Pre-School Playgroup | Emma James | 969 5538 |
| Charvil Senior Residents Club | Julie Bennett | 934 5059 |
| Charvil Voices | Suzanne Newman | 934 0589 |
| Charvil Village Society | Margaret Gregory | 934 5419 |
| Charvil Women's Club | Shirley Newman | 934 0589 |
| Sonning & Charvil Baby-sitting Circle | Mrs Vanessa Jones <i>E-mail</i> vanessalouisejones@hotmail.com | 934 1185 |
| Sonning Art Group | Chairman: Sue Bell | 969 6924 |
| Sonning Beech Lodge | Bookings: Tim Pascall | 969 6935 |
| Sonning Book Club | Mrs Anne Webster | 944 0699 |
| Sonning Branch, British Legion | Chairman: Gordon Barnett | 969 6693 |
| Sonning C of E Primary School | Head Teacher: Mrs L. Green | 969 3399 |
| Sonning CE School PTA | Heather Hollingsworth | 0779 934 5129 |
| Sonning Charvil & Hurst N.A.G. | Contact: Bob Hulley | 969 9431 |
| 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 Football Club | Tony Farmer | 956 6536 |
| Sonning Girlguiding (age 5 -14) | Diane Reeves | 969 2987 |
| 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 RNLI | Chairman: David Bates | 969 7753 |

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|--------------------------------------|---|-----------------|
| 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 & Sonning Eye Society | Sec: Andy Bell | 969 6924 |
| Sonning Village Show | Sec: Mrs Heather Hine | 969 8653 |
| Sonning Club | Sec: Mrs Penney Mackenzie | 07730 871959 |
| Friends of Ali's Pond | Alastair Driver | 969 2698 |
| Monday Club | Leader: Ken Trimmings | 969 1072 |
| Pearson Hall | Caretaker & Bookings: Mrs Jenny Adams | 969 7692 |
| Pearson Hall Mgmt Committee | Ms Sharon Robinson | 969 0748 |
| Badminton Club | Mrs P. Pardoe | 934 5643 |
| Rotary Club of Loddon Vale | Sec: Richard Ward | 966 9348 |
| Short Mat Bowling Club | Mrs S. Newman | 934 0589 |
| Thames Valley(Wokingham) Link | Chris Liebert Chris.liebert@hotmail.com | 978 4487 |
| Twyford Bridge Club | http://www.twyfordbc.co.uk | |

Useful web sites:

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| Ali's Pond | E-mail: ali@sonningdrivers.plus.com www.sonning.net/alispond.html |
| Sonning & Charvil services | www.sonningparish.org.uk/docs.htm |
| Sonning Parish Council | www.sonning-pc.gov.uk |
| Sonning Working Men's Club | www.btinternet.com/~sonning_club/news.html |
| Sonning | 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 |