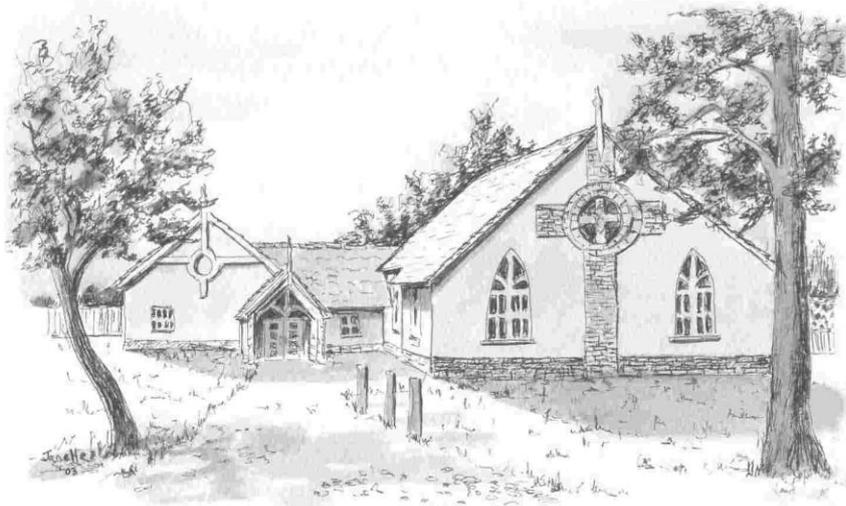


# Sonning Parish Magazine



Serving the Communities  
of Sonning and Charvil



25p

May 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

<b>Clergy: Vicar</b>	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
<b>Churchwardens:</b>		
	Mr Mark Jordan. Email: mark.jordan@talktalk.net	940 1431
	Mrs Jan Hammond. Email: jan@jdhammond.com	926 2365
	Prof J. M. Stansfield (Emeritus) Email: Copynook1@aol.com	934 1762
Deputies:	Mrs Molly Woodley.	969 2773
	Kay Cohen.	901 7693
	Ruth Warms.	934 9218
	Charvil: TBA	
<b>Parochial Church Council:</b>		
Secretary:	Mrs Shirley Chard	969 8086
Treasurer:	Mr John Scoble,	926 5138
Gift Aid:	Mrs Pat Livesey, Email: pat.livesey@yahoo.co.uk	961 8017
<b>Parish Magazine:</b>		
Editor:	Mr Gordon Barnett	969 6693
Advertising:	Mrs Nicky Clark	947 1312
Circulation:	Mrs Pat Livesey	961 8017
<b>Organist &amp; Choirmaster</b>	Mr David Duvall. Email: davidduvallx@aol.com	07855
<b>Bookings</b>	<b>St Sarik Room:</b> Mrs Sonia Boyles	969 2428
	<b>St Patrick's Church Hall:</b> Debbie Knox	969 4470
<b>Parish Admin Internet Addresses:</b>	Sonia Boyles: standrews.sonning@btinternet.com <a href="http://www.sonningparish.org.uk">http://www.sonningparish.org.uk</a>	969 2428
	Editor: gordon.barnett@talktalk.net	
	Advertising: nickypryce@btinternet.com	
	Vicar: revjaft@yahoo.co.uk	

## Forthcoming Events

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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
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*If you would like to arrange a Church Service in St. Andrew's Church you are asked to contact Sonia Boyles, the Parish Administrator for Baptisms. Sonia can also be contacted by email at: [standrews.sonning@btinternet.com](mailto:standrews.sonning@btinternet.com). For Weddings and funerals, contact the vicar on 0118 969 3298.*

**The Vicar's Letter**

Dear friends,

“If a time machine is invented, which day in history would you most like to experience?” This was a question I was once asked at an interview. Of course, as a priest I should probably have indicated a desire to be present 2000 years ago in Bethlehem or the Sea of Galilee or wherever, but I knew the answer straight away, and, as is my wont, gave a direct response. “I'd want to return to London on May 8<sup>th</sup> 1945-Victory in Europe Day”.

Some of you will have been there, and will have vivid, colourful memories of it. For me, the photos, news reels and written accounts of the celebrations are thrilling, having heard so much from people who lived through WWII of the terrible ordeal so many had faced. If ever there was a just war, this was it, and the defeat of fascism by those on the side of freedom and democracy was indeed a cause for profound rejoicing.

We shall have an opportunity to commemorate this momentous occasion on May 9<sup>th</sup> when we join together to mark its 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary. St. Andrew's will be hosting a service for the whole community to remember that incredible

day, and to give thanks, once again, for all those who fought in the defence of our nation. I warmly invite everyone to attend, whether a churchgoer or not, as the very survival of this country depended on that heroic struggle between 1939-1945, and taking time out of Sunday recreation is the least we can do in return.

However, there is something else we can do to honour the sacrifices of those to whom we owe so much. It is something that would be unheard of now, had the Battle of Britain been won by the Luftwaffe and Hitler's invasion of Britain taken place. It is something that men and women have died to gain, to protect and then to preserve. It is to vote. To take part in the democratic process. To have your say. To remember that individuals make up communities and each individual should contribute something. If nothing else, to bother to make use of this hard won right.

We are told that the public is cynical of politics and recent turn out figures at elections are indeed pathetic. That more people vote in pop music contests than in some elections is deeply depressing, not to say shaming for our nation. I leave it for others to speculate on why this might have come about. However I believe that being able to take part in an election is not just my right, it is also a privilege to be cherished.

I recently stood in the chamber of the House of Commons, something that has always excited me, and listened to the tour guide and other members of the group scoff at those who sit on the green benches. All the old jokes were rehearsed and of course some new ones connected to the expenses scandal. I was appalled, feeling that what I was listening to was akin to sacrilege. Men and women have died for that place, and we should hold it, and all it stands for in the highest esteem. What we have recently witnessed from some greedy parliamentarians has been shocking, and I imagine the electorate will punish them on May 6<sup>th</sup>. However, I have known M.P.s from various parties as friends, and all are hardworking and honest public servants. That so many people seem to feel that all politicians are rotten is absurd, and deeply damaging.

Cynicism, leading to electoral disengagement, will undermine the valuable legacy of freedom that was celebrated on VE Day. The logical consequence will be the devaluing of our democracy. We owe it to one another and to those heroic champions of liberty from the past to participate in this election, and have our say. As the big day finally approaches, let us all remember the inspiring invocation of Winston Churchill in his VE Day Broadcast: "Long live the cause of freedom."

Amen to that!

With love from all at the Vicarage.

**Jamie**

## Notices

**PCC Changes:** At the recent APCM, Jan Hammond retired as Parish Warden after five years of service. Warm tributes were paid, and she was presented with a gift on behalf of all the parish. Terry Hunt was elected as her replacement. Mark Jordan was elected as Parish Warden for another year and Molly Woodley at St. Andrew's and Ruth Warms and Kay Cohen at St. Patrick's were elected as deputy wardens. Heather Hine was elected to serve as the parish representative on the Deanery Synod and Tom Farncombe was elected to serve on the PCC.

**Climate change and Christianity:** Prof Sir John Houghton is a committed Christian who was head of the Met Office, and is a world expert on Global warming. Why not come and listen to what he had to say on this vital issue, and have your say? Bill Gothard will be leading a discussion group for anyone interested and invites you to join him on Thursday May 20th at 7:30pm in the St. Sarik room. Please let him know at [billgothard@aol.com](mailto:billgothard@aol.com)

**Annabelle Olivia Victoria Taylor:** We would like to thank everyone who has sent cards, gifts, flowers and good wishes following the birth of our daughter. We have been moved by the warmth of welcome for her to the parish, and look forward to showing her off!

**Stewardship Sunday:** On 13th June, there will be no 8.00am or 9:30am services as everyone is invited to a special service and presentation for the whole parish at St. Andrew's at 10:30am. This will be followed by pre-lunch drinks in (hopefully) the Vicarage garden.

**Memories of the Easter egg Hunt:**



**VE Day:** We are inviting veterans of the Second World War to join the procession from the St. Sarik room just before the service on May 9th, and then to sit together for the service. Please could you let Gordon Barnett (editor of this magazine) know if you would like to do this? His email address is on page 13 or his telephone number is 0118 969 6693. Also, please feel free to be accompanied by someone else.

**65<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY**



**MAY 9<sup>TH</sup> AT 6.30PM**

**GUEST PREACHER**

**THE DEAN OF WINDSOR**

**THE RT. REVD. DAVID CONNER KCVO**

**FOLLOWED BY A  
VE DAY RECEPTION**



**“NEVER HAVE WE SEEN A GREATER DAY THAN THIS”**

**WINSTON SPENCER CHURCHILL**

# 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  
(May 11<sup>th</sup> 2010)**

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

## **A Charvil Thought**

In the Old Testament of the Bible the minor prophet called Micah wrote these words: 'What does the Lord require of you, but to do justice, to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.' That is what we would like to see put into practice by those we elect to be members of Parliament and members of the government on May 6<sup>th</sup>. It should affect and infuse the policies that the new government intend to embrace, especially resolving global debt, fair trade, climate change, the environment, poverty, unemployment, education and crime.

Some years ago I invited the then personnel manager of Jaguar Cars to come and speak to a group of Christian managers. Initially he declined because he claimed he had not met a Christian manager yet, but he went on to say that if I was inviting him to come and spend time with a group of managers who were Christian then he would be very happy to accept my invitation. In today's secular world I believe we need more members of Parliament who are Christian and men and women of both houses with integrity and impeccable values, members who will speak up on behalf of the marginalised for whatever reason and the poor and unemployed both at home and abroad,

Chris Easton was admitted to the Royal Berkshire Hospital last month in preparation for a triple by-pass heart operation. By the time you read this he will be well on the way to recovery. He will be out of action for the next three months. We wish him well and a speedy recovery. We owe Chris enormous gratitude for all that he has given in time and talents to St Patrick's in so many ways. The least we can do is support Chris, Monica and the family in our thoughts and prayers.

**Love from our family to yours**

**Michael & Family**

### **Bypass**

There I was, minding my own business when off goes my mobile (I am a very model of a modern pianner you know). "Hi Jo, slight change in arrangements for a month or so," said the boss. "You mean you're going to use more than two octaves and some of those fancy twiddles the organ grinder tries out on me?" Boss sighed at my lack of understanding: "No Jo, it's just that you're going to have different ivory tinklers for the next couple of months". "Why boss, where you off to? Another holiday or have you been banged up sewing mailbags or something like that?" Boss replied tartly, "Not exactly Jo, just a short stay confined to barracks while they do a bypass on my ticker." I thought about this for a moment, bypass and tickers aren't musical expressions, so I required further clarification. "Boss, I thought a bypass was something to do with highways where they spend

millions to move a traffic blackspot somewhere else, and ticker sounds like some sort of metronome.” “Sort of Jo, but I hope they eliminate this particular blackspot, not just move it.” I pondered awhile, “Boss, do you think they can sort out your dyslectic fingers at the same time?” “I really doubt it Jo, but I’ll make enquiries. Meantime be kind to the ivory ticklers and pass on my thanks for the good wishes to all and sundry. I’ll be back soon!”

Joanna (the St Patrick’s Pianner)

### Sonning Parish Council Annual Parish Meeting

The annual parish meeting will be held in the Pearson Hall on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30pm.

Following the reports by councillors, there will be a presentation and discussion led by Bob Hulley on reducing traffic in the centre of our village. For some months, Ken Peters has been leading brainstorming sessions by councillors, residents and Society members on how to return the centre of the village to the community, in effect; reduce traffic flow, improve pedestrian access and increase resident parking.

Last year the attendance for the hottest Sonning topic, a 3<sup>rd</sup> Thames crossing, was disappointing. If you want to have your say, book this date now.

Lesley Bates

### Twyford Volunteers

The **Annual General Meeting** of the Twyford, Wargrave and District **Volunteer Centre** will be held on Wednesday 5th May 2010 in St Mary’s Church Centre, Twyford, at 7-30pm. Our guest speaker this year will be Mr David Goodwin, curator of the Royal Berkshire Hospital Medical Museum who will speak about his work.

This is always a most interesting and enjoyable evening which gives drivers, office staff and the Committee a chance to meet up, air their views and listen to an interesting talk. All drivers, would be drivers and helpers are invited to the meeting at which light refreshments will be served. This is our way of saying thank you to all those who willingly give up their spare time to help other people who have difficulty in getting to hospital appointments, day centres, doctors, etcetera.

Please come along to the meeting and bring a friend who may be interested and might become a driver. Remember that our drivers need only make minimal commitment and **are not** required to give up a regular spot either

weekly or less frequently. By coming along on May 5th you can meet other drivers and members of the committee and learn more about what we do. Alternatively, ring me on 01189693277, or e-mail me on [rosemary.digby@talktalk.net](mailto:rosemary.digby@talktalk.net). I will be delighted to hear from you.

**Rosemary Digby, Publicity Officer**

### **‘Scope’**

**Join us for a fun filled Ceilidh in support of the charity Scope:**

Scope is a charity that supports people with cerebral palsy, and campaigns extensively to help disabled people achieve equality in our community. To raise awareness for this great work, and of course, funds, we are holding a Ceilidh (or Scottish barn dance) on Saturday 12 June, 7.30pm, at Shiplake Memorial Hall, Shiplake Cross. There will be a hog roast and local beers supplied by Loddon Brewery, and of course, a fun and entertaining band. Tickets (£15.00 each) and more information are available from me on 0118 947 7062 or [clairemurdoch@mac.com](mailto:clairemurdoch@mac.com).

**Claire Murdoch**

### **Charvil Senior Residents Club: Latest report.**

The St. Patrick’s Festival was a very pleasant experience for the club. Opened by Michael Forrer & Emma Hobbs our open afternoon on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> March was delightful. The hall was bathed in sunshine & still decorated with the Twyford & District Floral Art Club’s beautiful arrangements, plus chandeliers, from an earlier festival event, making the afternoon especially favoured! The free entertainment, generously provided by Jane Gascoine & her two tireless singers, was a lovely prelude to the very appetizing tea. We had on display a small exhibition of paintings by local artists (most members of Charvil Art Group) and photographs covering nearly 100yrs of local history. The raffle (many of the prizes kindly provided by the Sonning Monday Club) and sales from the craft & bric-a-brac stalls provided £50 for the club’s funds. Many thanks to everyone involved, we had a great time. We are considering holding another open afternoon sometime in the future.

Recently our meetings have been nicely varied. Anne Chalmers & her colleague (PCSO) resplendent in full uniform joined one of our meetings and provoked lively conversation. It was useful for members to have the chance to express any worries/concerns that they might have and to feel that they belong and exist & are part of the community. It is hoped that there will be periodic visits by a member of the PCSO team in the future & we promise them home-made cakes & tea.

A card making session initially provoked a look of horror on most club members faces and cries of “I’m not artistic!”. I said “What does being artistic mean?” &, artistic or not, everyone actually produced a finished & surprisingly attractive result. It was even suggested that we could make some Christmas cards later in the year. Members who are not well enough at present to come to the meetings were sent some examples of these cards, the feedback so far has been very good.

We are planning several outings during the summer months and due to a reasonably healthy credit balance most of these outings will be well subsidised. The first outing will be during the second half of May, the location is yet to be decided.

Our next 2 meetings take place in St. Patrick’s Church Hall at 2.00pm on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> May & continue fortnightly until Tues 27<sup>th</sup> July with a possible session in August if requested. We hope to be part of the Charvil Fete. If you would like to join us you will be very welcome & transport could be arranged; contact 0118 934 5059.

**Julie Bennett**

### **Sonning Art Group**

Our President, George Webster, attended the Sonning Church of England school in April to present the awards for this year’s art competition at the school assembly. From an excellent entry of 114 pictures from pupils aged 5 to 10 on the theme of my pet or favourite animal, first prize went to Charlie Hill, aged 10, second prize to Connie Weavers, aged 9, and third prize went to Edward Richardson, aged 8. George indicated that it had been a very difficult competition to judge this year and the Art Group had also highly commended the entries by Aulin Barton-Brown, aged 8, Alice Marsh, aged 7, and Scarlett Devery, aged 6. The three prize winners will have their pictures framed for display at the Sonning Show in September.

Also in April, one of the Group’s members, Helga Hanfling, who lives in the village but, as a renowned artist, works and exhibits with other art groups, among others, at Oxford and Cookham, gave an inspired demonstration to the Group, using unusual perspectives from everyday pictures to create inventive art designs.

The Chairman’s Cup competition was also held in April on an Egyptian theme to tie in with the planned Art Group Scarecrow exhibit at the end of May (30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>). Our “Mummy” is also taking shape!! Terry Butcher won with a superb detailed drawing of the Sphinx. Most of the entries will be on display at the Art exhibition alongside our scarecrow in the Pearson Hall. We will also have a range of Sonning and district pictures and general art

work completed by the Group this year - so keep that space on your wall free!!

The Group meets every Friday in the Pearson Hall (1.00-4.00 pm), so if you fancy a bit of painting with some tea, cake and chat, do come along - you'll be most welcome.

Rob Farquhar

### Elegant Picnic - 30th May 2010

Come and enjoy an elegant evening picnic in the grounds of *Sonningdene* in Pearson Road which have kindly been made available for an evening of sociability and live jazz. Bring your own picnic and chairs/rugs only. Gazebos by arrangement when buying your ticket; limited plots available. Please note that no refunds will be made in the event of bad weather. Dress: Black tie, Tickets £10.00; contact me on 0118 969 2329.

Judy Baldwin

### Sonning Floral arrangement Society

The demonstrator for the April meeting was Sally Hardy and the subject was "Any Dream Will Do". Her first arrangement was entitled "What if....." and one couldn't help wondering what she had in mind for her to use monkshood - a very poisonous, albeit beautiful purple-blue coloured flower. In a lighter vein, "Celebration" was a table arrangement viewed from all round. "Tropical Paradise" made clever use of sea holly, sea shells and a very large piece of driftwood; these flower demonstrators don't travel light! "Modern Architecture" reminded us of Dubai and the spinnaker sails on a boat. The final arrangement was a dreamy effort of stargazer lilies, roses and orchids.

Whilst snipping away, she chatted on about this and that and gave us a useful tip on what to do about slugs. As they are on everyone's mind at the moment, here is her suggestion: Take a whole garlic bulb, crush it, boil and strain it. Use 1 part of the liquor to 3 parts water and apply in the early morning and at dusk - especially to your hostas. I'm not sure whether it kills them, or they just want to move away. If that doesn't work, I suppose you could always try them on monkshood.

Dates for your diary:

**8<sup>th</sup> May:** The club will be making posies for the VE Day anniversary and if you have any bay rosemary or myrtle, please bring it to the St Sarik room at 9.30am.

**13<sup>th</sup> May:** Next meeting of the club, with Sumie takahashi. The subject is "Ikebana" and the competition "Fun with Three Flowers" (won't cost a lot).

**Weekend 29<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup> May:** Scarecrow weekend. The club will be doing the Flower Festival in the church and young children are invited to enter a competition to decorate the outside of individual baskets, which will then be filled (by the club) with flowers for display in church.

**24<sup>th</sup> June:** Summer Cream Tea in Jane Gascoine's garden at *Winona*, Sonning Eye. Please bring a chair.

**25<sup>th</sup> June:** NAFAS Day School: Lois Gill at Benson Parish Hall. 10.00am - 3.30pm.

**12<sup>th</sup> August:** Summer luncheon. The venue is still to be decided.

Jane Gascoine

### Scarecrows 2010 Sunday/Monday 30<sup>th</sup>/31<sup>st</sup> May



Thank you to all those who have registered their scarecrows. If you haven't yet done so, there's still time. Final entries need to be sent by e-mail to [Barbara.carr71@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:Barbara.carr71@hotmail.co.uk) or phone 0118 934 5886 by Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> May. The more the merrier!!

Worzel

### Walks with Sonning Church

**Wargrave and Crazies Hill, 20<sup>th</sup> March:** This was a muddy walk but at least it was a dry day. We went through fields and over stiles; one stile in particular was almost impossible to negotiate as on its far side we had to decide where to step without getting too muddy or slipping. Our predicament was worth a photo for the record. We passed a field of bullocks and one was frightened of Andy, my Yorkie and ran away from him! We enjoyed some stunning views. Towards the end we walked through Hennerton Golf Course, where I met a friend (and her dog) who invited us eight walkers to coffee at her very nearby home. We thanked her but said "No" as we were running out of time: Jean had taken us on a slight detour earlier in the walk and had apologised for it. Towards the end I remembered a shortcut path. I made a few friends on the walk, it is good to socialise and keep fit at the same time. Perhaps even more of St Andrew's will join us.

**Hurley - Marlow and return, 17<sup>th</sup> April:** Eleven of us and my Yorkie, Andy, set off under a beautiful blue sky and in sunshine. Jean gave us some historic details of a bridge on the way, which was interesting. On our scenic route we passed a large field of sheep with their lambs which was all very calm and sweet. We met cyclists and dogs along the way. At Marlow we had a comfort break and some refreshments. The beginning of the return route was through fields and roads to rejoin the towpath. We had noticed that there would be filming by Bentley on the Sunday and Monday (for

“Midsommer Murders” series 13). Poor Andy, feeling hot and tired plonked himself down in the shade by a film location lorry for a well deserved rest and I gave him a drink from his bowl (the other walkers were ahead of us). Suddenly a large black Labrador came towards us and Andy growled and I gathered up our belongings and walked to quickly rejoin our group and told the dog to shoo away, which thank goodness, he did. The walkers group were concerned as to where we were and I explained how we were held up. Andy even had a drink from the Thames (much cooler). If this has inspired you, then why not join us? These walks usually take place on the third Saturday every month and the organiser is Jean Milbourn. Thank you Jean for arranging the walks.

**Kathleen Cosnett**

### **Sonning Twinning Association**

We are hoping to welcome a group from Ligugé for the Sonning regatta. If you are able to host any of our visitors please contact either Lyn Woodhouse or myself. Ligugé’s own regatta takes place the following weekend (June 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup>) Please contact David Bates if you are interested in taking part.

We are also looking for someone to kindly host the Ligugé bursary winner, a 17 year old girl who would like to visit Sonning for a week either between 11<sup>th</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup> July or the last week of August. The Twinning Association will make a contribution towards the costs of accommodation, travel etc. So please let us know if you can offer any help with this.

**Lesley Green**

### **Sonning & Sonning Eye Society**

Readers may recall that a surprise casualty of the recession in 2009 was The Civic Trust. This organisation began in the 1950’s as an umbrella for a host of societies large and small, be they based in large conurbations or rural towns and villages. When we started S&SES, there were aspects of membership that were most useful for us, e.g. a model constitution, advice on a range of topics, and a preferential insurance rate to cover our activities. The Civic Trust also championed a number of initiatives designed to foster pride amongst people for the place in which they live: Civic Trust Awards, Green Flag Awards, and Heritage Open Day Weekends jointly with English Heritage, just to name a few.

A commitment to the values of the Trust has been kept alive by a number of dedicated people, and a new umbrella organisation has emerged, entitled “Civic Voice”. It was formally launched on 17<sup>th</sup> April in London demonstrating “fresh evidence of our passion for making the places where we all live more attractive, enjoyable and distinctive”. We have joined

Civic Voice, because it is probably better to observe from within whether it will deliver for an organisation representing small communities like Sonning and Sonning Eye. For this reason the Executive is keeping a watchful eye on future developments. Why not visit their website to judge for yourself: [www.civicvoice.org.uk](http://www.civicvoice.org.uk)?

Our next event will be a summer luncheon party for members on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> June in the glorious gardens of *Sonningdene* in Pearson Road from 12.00 noon. This is the first lunch we have done for a couple of years, so we hope many of you will support it. *The Berkshire Gardens Trust* has kindly agreed to set up a display for us and there will be two of their members present to answer your questions. Tickets are available from Penny Feathers on 0118 934 3193 at £10.00 each. Penny would also love to hear from you if you can offer a gazebo to provide shade (fingers crossed for a sunny day).

As you will be aware this Society has actively and successfully participated in the Heritage Open Day Weekends since 2005. This year we are planning to re-run the Heritage Trail conducted last year. This was much enjoyed by all those who took part, so make a note of the date now - Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> September - and look out for further information in later issues of this magazine.

Diana Coulter

### And some Afterthoughts

*With our celebration of the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE Day approaching.....:*

The advent of WWII, so clear in hindsight, baffled many so-called experts at the time. In May 1938 the *Daily Express* announced that there would be no major European war in 'this year or next'.

More famously in September 1938, the then British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain returned from a 'peace' conference with Hitler in Munich waving a piece of paper and declaring: 'My good friends, for the second time in history, a British Prime Minister has returned from Germany bringing peace with honour. I believe it is "Peace for our time". Go home and get a nice quiet sleep'. Within a year, in September 1939, the Second World War had begun.

After the French had surrendered in June 1940, following a brief but stunning invasion, at least one French military leader predicted that Britain would be next to fall. General Maxime Weygand said 'In 3 weeks England will have her neck wrung like chicken.

As Winston Churchill later commented, 'Some neck, some chicken'.

*But we all have our problems.....:*

The former owner of the *Daily Express*, Lord Beaverbrook, refused to employ Winston Churchill in 1932, declaring that the politician, historian, and prolific writer was a ‘busted flush’.

In 1939 Beaverbrook went even further. ‘This man Churchill is the enemy of the British Empire,’ the noble Lord insisted. ‘This man Churchill is a warmonger. He is turning the thoughts of the British Empire to war. He must be stopped.’

Not long afterward Churchill became Prime Minister in a war-time coalition government and helped lead Britain and the Allies to victory over Nazi Germany.

Perhaps to make amends, the press baron insisted in 1945 that Churchill would lead the conservatives to victory in the imminent General Election. In fact, it was a Labour landslide and Clement Atlee became Prime Minister.

*And finally, children!*

After putting her grandchildren to bed, a grandmother changed into old slacks and a droopy shirt and proceeded to wash her hair. She heard the children getting more and more rowdy and her patience grew thin. Finally, she threw a towel around her head and stormed into their room, putting them back into their beds with stern warnings. As she left the room, she heard the three year old say with a trembling voice, “Who was THAT?”



A grandmother was telling her granddaughter what her own childhood was like: “ We used top skate outside on a pond. I had a swing made from a tyre hung from a tree in the back garden. We rode our bikes. We picked wild bluebells in the woods.” The little girl was wide-eyed, taking it all in. At last she said “I wish I had known you sooner!”

A little boy was pounding away diligently on his grandfather’s computer. He told him that he was writing a story. “What’s it all about” grandfather asked. “ I don’t know ,“ the boy replied. “ I can’t read.”

*You cannot fault the logic of this one.....*

When my grandson asdked me how old I was, teasingly I replied “I’m not sure.” ”Look in your underwear Grandpa, mine says I’m 4 to 6.”

## Local Organisations

St Andrew's: Sunday Club	Heather Hexter	946 1316
St Andrew's: Little Fishes	Mrs Sarah Turner	944 8154
St Andrew's: Tower Captain:	Mrs P. Elliston	969 5967
The Friends of St Andrew's	Sally Wilson	979 3328
St Patrick's: Sunday Club	Julie Easton	934 2590
1st Charvil Rainbows	Guider: Brenda Cowdery	934 5698
Charvil Art Club	Secretary: Mrs Joyce Wray	969 8098
Charvil Branch Conservatives	Mrs E. Hobbs	934 0528
Charvil Brownies	Tawny Owl: Claire Howells	934 5372
Charvil 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> <a href="mailto:vanessalouisejones@hotmail.com">vanessalouisejones@hotmail.com</a>	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

1st Sonning Scouts Group	GS Leader: Wendy Cherry	926 2363
1st Sonning Scouts Group	ASG Leader: Mike Watts	962 8388
1 <sup>st</sup> 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
Longmead Bridge Club	Chairman: Tony Cowling	969 5181
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

### Useful web sites:

Ali's Pond	E-mail: <a href="mailto:ali@sonningdrivers.plus.com">ali@sonningdrivers.plus.com</a> <a href="http://www.sonning.net/alispond.html">www.sonning.net/alispond.html</a>
Sonning & Charvil services	<a href="http://www.sonningparish.org.uk/docs.htm">www.sonningparish.org.uk/docs.htm</a>
Sonning Parish Council	<a href="http://www.sonning-pc.gov.uk">www.sonning-pc.gov.uk</a>
Sonning Working Men's Club	<a href="http://www.btinternet.com/~sonning_club/news.html">www.btinternet.com/~sonning_club/news.html</a>
Sonning	<a href="http://archive.museophile.sbu.ac.uk/sonning">archive.museophile.sbu.ac.uk/sonning</a> <a href="http://www.sonning.net">www.sonning.net</a>
Sonning & Sonning Eye Society	<a href="http://www.sonning.org.uk">www.sonning.org.uk</a>
Sonning Art Group	<a href="http://www.sonningartgroup.org.uk">www.sonningartgroup.org.uk</a>
Sonning School	<a href="http://www.sonning.wokingham.sch.uk">www.sonning.wokingham.sch.uk</a>