

# PARISH MAGAZINE



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**40P**

**FEBRUARY 2012**

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**February**  
23 Clocks & Watches  
27 Furniture & Toys  
28 Books  
29 Ceramics & Glass

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1 Paintings  
2 Silver & Jewellery

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## The Parish of Sonning (serving Charvil and 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. St. Patrick's church was opened and dedicated in 1952 and in 2011 its worshipping life was discontinued, though it remains a hall for parish and community use.

## Sonning Parish Contact Details

<b>The Vicar</b>	The Revd. Jamie Taylor The Vicarage, Thames St, Sonning, RG4 6UR (day off Thursday) Email: revjaft@yahoo.co.uk	969 3298
<b>Licensed Lay Minister</b>	Mr Bob Peters. 26 Old Bath Road, Charvil, RG10 9QR. Email: shalom@robertjpeters.com	961 1188
<b>Wardens</b>	Mr Mark Jordan. Email: mark.jordan@talktalk.net Mr Terry Hunt. Email: twghunt@btopenworld.com	940 1431 934 1062
<b>Deputy Warden</b>	Mrs Molly Woodley	946 3667
<b>Parish Administrator</b>	Mrs Sonia Boyles Email: standrews.sonning@btinternet.com	969 2428
<b>Parochial Church Council:</b>		
Secretary:	Mrs Shirley Chard	969 8086
Treasurer:	Mr John Scoble	926 5138
<b>Parish Magazine:</b>		
Editor	The Revd. Jamie Taylor (temporary)	969 3298
Advertising:	Mr Brian Taylor. bitaylor@sky.com	
Circulation:	Mrs Pat Livesey	961 8017
<b>Organist &amp; Choirmaster</b>	Mr David Duvall Email: davidduvall@btinternet.com	07855 947 104
<b>St. Sarik Bookings</b>	Mrs Sonia Boyles	969 2428
<b>Charvil Hall Bookings</b> (Formerly St. Patrick's)	Raj	07956 423764
<b>Parish website</b>	www.sonningparish.org.uk	

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**The Parish Church of St Andrew, serving Charvil and Sonning**

Sundays	8.00 am	Holy Communion (Prayer Book)
1 <sup>st</sup>	10.30 am	Family Service
2 <sup>nd</sup>		Parish Eucharist
3 <sup>rd</sup>		Family Communion
4 <sup>th</sup>		Parish Eucharist
5 <sup>th</sup>		Parish Eucharist
1 <sup>st</sup>	6.30 pm	Holy Communion (Common Worship)
2 <sup>nd</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 4 <sup>th</sup> and 5 <sup>th</sup>		Evensong (Prayer book)
Wednesday	8:30am	Morning Prayer
Wednesday	10.00 am	Holy Communion (St. Sarik Room)

*Arrangements for services can be made with either the Vicar or Parish Administrator*

## Vicar's letter

Dear friends,

On February 6<sup>th</sup> I hope you will be in a position to raise a glass to toast the Queen's health, for that day is the actual diamond anniversary of her accession to the throne. Sixty years ago, in a tree top retreat in Kenya, Prince Philip had to break the news to his young wife that her beloved father had passed away and that she was now Queen. I am sure the day will hold mixed feelings for Her Majesty, but as we prepare for our community celebrations in June, this will be a good first step in our commemorations. The flag will be flying at St. Andrew's and I shall be taking our Emmaus group to the Bull at around 9pm (after their session) should anyone fancy coming along to join the toast. There is more information on events in the parish later in the magazine, so do make a note in your diaries of all that is planned. I do also commend the Pearson Hall's fundraising campaign to erect a Jubilee clock outside the hall. Let's all work together to provide Sonning village and all those who use the hall from beyond, with a lasting tribute to our Queen's life of duty and service.

I trust parishioners have considered the invitation to join with us for a meal each Tuesday evening in Lent. This will be a very different type of gathering for Lent, and it will prove a good opportunity to join together as one parish. The sessions will follow different themes each week, and they will be related to the type of food and wine which will be served. Please sign up on the list in church. I sometimes feel we don't mix together enough in a social setting, but this will be a chance to combine socialising with growing together in our Christian faith.

Finally, a word about evensong. There is a core of parishioners who value a traditional choral evensong, and I count myself as one of them. We want to preserve this special service, but in order to do so need to ensure a reasonable choir turnout. In order not to overstretch the choir the PCC has decided to focus on the third Sunday of the month where we shall encourage a good choir presence and we will all enjoy a good sing. On the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays we shall still hold a prayer book service of evening prayer with hymns and a sermon with the congregation sitting in the choir stalls. This has been trialled in recent weeks and all have reported favourably. Evening services are very different in character from our main Eucharist service, and I do commend them as a good opportunity for peaceful reflection before a new week begins.

Warm wishes.  
Jamie

## CHURCH NOTICES

### **EAT YOUR WAY THROUGH LENT WITH US!**

For several years we have, as a parish, used the very successful York courses during Lent, but many of the participants have recently expressed the desire to try something different. And this year we are doing just this, something very different. Instead of meeting in separate house groups we will all be meeting together in St Patrick's Hall on a Tuesday evening when we will eat supper together and explore our faith together as a church.

There will be five Lent Suppers and each week we will eat a different course - soup, fish, meat, sweet, cheese - that will relate to our spiritual journey through life both as individuals and together as a church. There will be vegetarian options so when it comes to signing up remember to let us know your requirements. There is no charge for the meals.

If you have attended Lent courses in the past then we are sure that you will find our new approach a fresh alternative, and if you have not been on a Lent course because you have felt uncomfortable with the traditional format, then please do try to join us this year. And if you have never thought about doing a Lent course, then please do! Your ministry team is very excited about our new approach to Lent and we hope that you will be as well.

There will be five Lent Suppers on consecutive weeks beginning on Tuesday 28 February in St Patrick's Hall, Charvil, from 8pm - 9.30pm. Please sign the form at the back of church as soon as possible so we can start planning for the suppers.

If you have any questions please contact me, Bob Peters, on 9611188.

**CHRISTINGLE** The Parish Christingle service is on Feb 5<sup>th</sup> at 10:30am. Please bring Christingles to the service. There will be a collection in aid of the Children's Society. Details of how to make a Christingle can be found by visiting <http://www.childrensociety.org.uk/what-you-can-do/fundraising-and-appeals/christingle/what-christingle>

**CHURCH OPENING HOURS** Please note that the winter hours for opening are 11am-3pm.

**CHURCHWATCH** We are pleased that we have been able to open the church again, but still need more volunteers to fill the Church Watch rota. Can you spare a few hours a month to enjoy the peace and beauty of our church? Volunteers will have the benefit of a fan heater! Please contact Mark Jordan if interested. (mark.jordan@talktalk.net)

# The Parish of Sonning & Charvil

**JOIN US  
AS WE EAT  
OUR WAY  
THROUGH  
LENT  
WITH A  
FIVE WEEK  
SERIES OF  
SUPPER  
MEETINGS  
THAT  
EXPLORE  
FAITH AND  
THE  
CHURCH  
TODAY!**



28 February: Supper One — Finding God



6 March: Supper Two — Called by Jesus



13 March: Supper Three — Gospel Sharing



20 March: Supper Four — The Reward



27 March: The Last Supper — Serving God

Tuesday Evening, 8-9.30pm St Patrick's Hall, Charvil

Contact: Bob Peters 961 1188

## **YOUNG PEOPLE TO EXPLORE THE BIBLE TOGETHER**

Following the latest Confirmation course for young people we decided to continue meeting once a month in order to learn to read the Bible together. Our group will meet in the St. Sarik room on the first Tuesday of each month from 6pm-7pm. If you are of secondary school age and would like to join our group then please contact me, Bob Peters, on 9611188. We will be looking at the many different aspects of the Bible with a focus on how the Old Testament writings directly relate to those in the New Testament and how together they are both relevant to our lives today.

**ST. ANDREW'S JUNIOR CHOIR** Places are available for young people to join. The choir sings at the monthly family services as well as special occasions. Members are paid for their attendance. Rehearsals are co-led by David Duvall, Shanti Windsor and Caroline Taylor. Please contact David if interested.

## **ST. ANDREW'S JUBILEE FLOWER FESTIVAL**

We will be decorating the Church to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, as part of the Scarecrow Trail, on June 4th and 5th. We want to depict some aspects of the Queen's life, using photos and memorabilia alongside beautiful flowers. We would love to have offers of any items for display which you would be willing to loan to us for this occasion. It would be good to be able to show how the Queen has touched the lives of the local people as well as her role as Queen of Great Britain and head of the Commonwealth. We promise to take care of any loans - we will have the Church manned all the time the Festival is open to the public.

We will have a huge number of flowers to deal with, so if you enjoy arranging flowers we would welcome you to come and help us. We are holding a meeting in St. Andrew's on 23rd January at 1pm to talk through our ideas so that people can choose to work on the areas that inspire them - all volunteers will be made most welcome.

I hope to hear from you! Barbara McGregor 01189783806 or email me at [banddmcg@gmail.com](mailto:banddmcg@gmail.com)

## **FRIENDS OF ST.ANDREW'S**

In 2001 the church organ, after a century of service, needed to be rebuilt. The cost would be more than £100,000 and considerable thought was given to the appropriateness of spending such a large sum when there are so many other pressing needs in the world. However, it was felt that the maintenance of St Andrew's was something which the wider community would support. A fund-raising committee was set up under the chairmanship

of Colin Pierce and through a very generous legacy and successful public appeal, the money was raised.

After that particular exercise, thought turned to the desirability of building up a fund specifically for repairs and maintenance of the church. Under Colin Pierce's chairmanship, the Friends of St Andrew's Church (FOSTAC) was established as a Charitable Trust in 2003. Its Patron is The Right Honourable Theresa May MP.

The first major project with which the Friends was associated was the refurbishment of the roof, completed in 2005 at a cost of £127,000. More recently, £62,000 was contributed to the repair of the church tower.

All in the parish recognise the beauty of the church, and many have experienced some of the happiest moments in the Church at weddings, baptisms and confirmations, or perhaps on a sadder note to say goodbye to loved ones. Whether or not they attend services regularly, many come to the Church to celebrate the great Christian festivals of Easter and Christmas, congregate there on occasions of national importance or perhaps just use it as a peaceful haven in times of personal difficulty.

There has been Christian worship on the site since 900 AD and it is our responsibility to continue the tradition of Christian outreach from the wonderful building that we have.

The Friends are very grateful to all who have contributed, both financially and organisationally. The recent Auction of Promises, an inspirational proposal of the Vicar's, raised almost £25,000, specifically for the tower. Other contributions include those from the Sonning Fire Brigade Trust, and income from sales of jams and cakes, Christmas cards, a concert at the Bluecoat school, etc.

A very significant source of income is from Standing Orders, which was just under £6,000 in the year 2011. Parishioners might also like to remember The Friends in their wills.

The AGM of The Friends will be held in the St Sarik room at 8 pm on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> of March. All are welcome to attend. There will also be a summer event, hosted by Wendy and Allan Williams (8 West Drive) on 30 June.

I am very happy to speak to anyone about The Friends; my telephone number is 0118 969 2422, or email [petergoodacre@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:petergoodacre@tiscali.co.uk).

Peter Goodacre  
Chairman

## PARISH WALK

Feb 18<sup>th</sup> Meet 10.15am Swyncombe Church GR682902 for snowdrops. Walk 4 ½ miles. Hilly. [ Not the same as last year.]

Jean Milbourn 926 8035. Mob 07982 048387 email [jeanmilbourn@waitrose.com](mailto:jeanmilbourn@waitrose.com)

## FROM THE REGISTERS

### **Funeral**

5.1.2012 Hugh Gerald Digby

(Funeral of Vera Davies took place at Reading Crematorium on 20.1.2012)

## THE DIAMOND JUBILEE



### Events in Sonning

Saturday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June	Sonning Jubilee Regatta
Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June	Sonning and Charvil Parish Service of Thanksgiving
Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June	Village Street Party Lunch
Monday and Tuesday	St. Andrew's Flower Festival
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> June	Scarecrow Trail and Open Gardens
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> June	Scarecrow Trail and Open Gardens

# 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  
(14<sup>th</sup> February)**

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

## COMMUNITY NOTICES

### **PEARSON HALL QUEEN'S JUBILEE CLOCK:**

Some of you will have heard that the Pearson Hall were approached about the idea of a clock being installed outside the Pearson Hall to mark the occasion of Queen Elizabeth's Golden Jubilee in June 2012. The Hall Trustee's were pleased to agree to this and have looked at the suitability of a number of clocks. Smith's of Derby make good strong clocks that should give years of service, making them an ideal choice. An example of one of their wall clocks can be viewed from the Wargrave Road in Twyford on the building opposite in Church Street. The quality of the clocks makes them expensive and the Trustees agreed that a wall hanging clock (similar to the one in Twyford) should be purchased at a cost of £6,000 (plus VAT). However it has been suggested that, as this is a community project, other organisations and individuals might like to make a contribution in order for a freestanding 'pillar' clock to be purchased at a cost of £13,900 (plus VAT). If anyone would like to make a contribution towards the pillar clock would they please ring me to discuss the matter.

**Lesley Bates (Chairman PHMC) on 01189697753)**

### **NEWS FROM CHARVIL PARISH COUNCIL**

We are excited that construction on the Charvil Jubilee Multi Use Games Area has commenced and should be completed by the end of February. We are planning a formal opening to tie in with our "Charvil Jubilee Festival" in the summer. So what is the Charvil Jubilee Festival. We have 3 consecutive weekends of events that we hope will include something to meet all tastes and allow us to celebrate the Jubilee and Olympics in Style.

The "official Jubilee weekend" will be marked by a "Picnic in the Park" organised by the Charvil Village Society. On Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> June there will be a lunchtime and afternoon picnic with live music at the Charvil Village Hall and its surrounds. No charge, just bring your picnic and join in!

The following weekend, on the 9<sup>th</sup> June there will be free children's events in the afternoon, for children of Charvil residents, with Fred in the Shed at the Village Hall, and in the evening there will be a Hog Roast and Dance at the Village Hall. Details of how to obtain tickets for these events will be in our next Village newsletter in April.

On the third and final weekend, on the 17<sup>th</sup> June we have the "Charvil 5k run/walk" around the country park at 10.30am. This is a collaborative event organised by Charvil Parish Council and Purple Patch Running Club. Entry forms will be sent round in the Charvil Village newsletter or found on

the Purple Patch website: <http://www.purplepatchrunning.com/races>. The race will be supporting the very deserving local charity “Daisy’s Dream, so please dust out your trainers and join us.

Later that day we have the annual Charvil Village Fete under the title “Charvil Fete Gets Active 2012” so I’m sure you can all guess the theme. This will start at lunchtime and don’t miss the annual Parish Council BBQ!

**Alice Wilkinson, Chairman, Charvil Parish Council**

## **FEED THE CHILDREN**

This is a local charity based in Ruscombe, is holding an Antiques Valuation on 15<sup>th</sup> February in Charvil Village Hall, Park Lane, Charvil, from 10.00am to 12.30pm. Two experts from Bonhams Auction House in Henley will value your antiques and collectables for only £2 per item, which will be donated to Feed The Children. Please come along, bring your treasured objects, and find out more about them.

Feed The Children works worldwide to enable vulnerable children and their communities to alleviate poverty through humanitarian relief, promoting health and education and developing sustainable solutions.

**Sue Thomas**  
**Volunteering Manager at Feed The Children**

**P.S. Join our Breakfast 2 Live campaign and help children to have breakfast in the UK and around the world. Text EGG21 £2/£5/£10 to 70070 to donate now. eg EGG21 £5**

## **HUGH DIGBY**

My family and I would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to all the people of Sonning who have shown us so much support and friendship in the recent weeks following Hugh’s illness and death.

We spent thirty five very happy years in the village, never once regretting our decision to settle there and we were sad to leave, but I am so glad that we did not have to move very far in order to find a home in which we could spend our remaining years. Sadly, those years were reduced to months but the last two have taught me the true value of friendship which has shown itself in so many ways. This to me shows a true community spirit which I shall never forget.

I am now trying to resume my life as I know Hugh would have wished, a task which has been made easier by the help of all my friends.

Thank you all very much indeed. Rosemary Digby

## **JAM JARS WANTED FOR CHARITY!**

With the making of this year's batch of Seville Orange Marmalade, I am now out of jam jars so I'd be happy to receive any that you have spare. Standard size or smaller preferred, washed and with labels removed. For each jar that I receive throughout 2012, I will donate £0.25 to the Multiple Sclerosis Society. Please ring on 969 2132 if you have any you would like to drop off so that I can be sure to be around to collect. Many thanks in advance.

**Diana Coulter**

## **SONNING FLORAL ARRANGMENT SOCIETY**

"Sonning Has Talent" was the title of the January meeting and what a success it proved to be. Poems by Rose Quantrill, including one about a two hundred year old oak, recently cut down in her garden. This was written as if the oak were speaking. Val Holgate read a story about evacuees in the Second World War and brought a photograph of the tapestry made by the evacuees, which included two of her older sisters.

Flower arrangements were done by Joan Wise who did a lovely imposed arrangement and another made up entirely of greenery. Deanna Lee did a contemporary arrangement with pink roses and pink wire and Anne Turner did a winter scene arrangement with iris and chrysanthemums and a hand-tied design.

Sharon Robinson kept us all very amused with tales about animals, winter travel and moving to Sonning. Sharon also provided a Flower Quiz, which members did during the tea break.

Rose Quantrill summed up the afternoon with a delightful poem written about the afternoon's events. We proved that Sonning has Talent in abundance.

Our next meeting will be on February 9<sup>th</sup> at 2.15p.m. when Emma Curtis will be the demonstrator. New members and visitors will be made most welcome.

**Brenda Jackson,**  
**Vice -President of SFAS**

## **THE SONNING CLUB**

The winter hasn't been as unkind this year but it can still feel pretty chilly outside. Why not come into the warmth of the Sonning Club and make new friends at the same time. We are very local to you all at the back of Pearson Hall and our joining and membership rates average out over the

year to an extremely reasonable weekly cost for all the facilities we have on offer.

The Committee work hard to provide a good standard to members and as we are non-profit making, every penny that comes in is put back into the Club.

Every month there is Bingo on the first Friday and a Quiz on the third Friday with other events organised and publicised in the club and on our website. [www.sonningclub.co.uk](http://www.sonningclub.co.uk)

We are moving ahead with plans to join the English Petanque Association and hope to have three playing areas up and running by the Spring. If the national game of France appeals to you why not come down and give it a try.

We look forward to seeing many of you at the Club this year.

**The Sonning Club Social Committee.**

## **CHARVIL VILLAGE SOCIETY**

The Charvil Village Society was established by a group of residents to conserve and enhance the character of the village of Charvil as a living community.

The general aims of the society are to:

- Protect the physical character and environment of Charvil
- Provide an independent focal point for the community
- Encourage a spirit of neighbourliness
- Foster communication with the Parish Council and other community groups

Membership is open to all who reside within Charvil or who have specific interest in supporting the aims of the Society.

A key part of the society is to arrange social events in the community. If you would like to join the Village Society then please call Paul Gregory on 0118 934 5419.

## **RNLI SONNING BRANCH - Sounds of Sonning**

We are holding another of our very popular Music Evening's on 3<sup>rd</sup> March. The Sounds of Sonning is held each year as part of the RNLI Save Our Souls fundraising initiative.

The format of the evening, held in the Pearson Hall, will be similar to previous years and will consist of two sessions of assorted musical acts with supper served in the interval (*vegetarian option by advance request*), and a pay bar serving beer and wine.

Tickets costing £12.50 per head include supper can be purchased by sending a cheque with a stamped self-addressed envelope to:

David Bates, The Gatehouse, Sonning Lane, Sonning, RG4 6ST or from members of the committee.

### **FROM SONNING'S BOROUGH COUNCILLOR**

I thought this month I would begin a series of occasional articles looking at the work of some of Wokingham Borough Council's committees. Some committees have a very clear purpose, for example "Planning", however the purpose of other committees is less clear although they all conduct valuable work.

All elected members sit on committees. As a new councillor I was interviewed by my Group Leader to determine where my interest and experience lies. The group leader then assigns members to committees. However it doesn't become a firm appointment until the full council has voted on it in June. Membership duration of a committee lasts for 1 year although it is possible to be reselected and continue or to change committees and gain experience. Members usually sit on 2 or 3 committees at a time.

I thought I would start with work of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee. It has 10 members plus a number of substitutes that may be called upon to ensure full attendance. I need to add that I do not serve on this committee although my wife Kate (Councillor for Coronation) does.

The primary goal of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee is to review and scrutinise arrangements made by local National Health Service (NHS) and other bodies to secure hospital and community health services for the inhabitants of Wokingham Borough and whose services we all need, although hopefully not too often!

The committee can call upon the advice of expert witnesses if required and it may question members of the Council Executive, other Committees, Officers of the Council, and the NHS Chief Executive (or nominees), amongst others, about their views, proposals and decisions on health-related issues and services across the Borough. Its brief is very wide ranging.

Currently this group is investigating in detail how individuals aged between 16 and 70 who develop a mental illness for the first time may then go on to access the health care services that their condition may require. Some of last year's work included members of the committee visiting the Maternity unit at Royal Berkshire looking in depth at how the department is run and the service it provides.

Finally I have become aware of discussion and detail about a number of events planned to be held in Sonning in 2012 partly to support the Diamond Jubilee. I believe and hope that 2012 will be a memorable year for the residents of Sonning ward. I would encourage you all to become involved in whatever capacity you can. As Borough Councillor I will of course play my part to promote and support these events.

Please feel free to contact me if you have issues that I may help with.  
Cllr Mike Haines [mhaines.home@googlemail.com](mailto:mhaines.home@googlemail.com)  
07814 794014

## **SONNING ART GROUP**

We started 2012 with our Annual General Meeting, where the existing committee was re-elected, with the exception of Brenda Nicolaou, who had decided to stand down. Sue Bell, our Chairman, reported on the group's busy year with six tutor sessions and two exhibitions. She also spoke of the continuing enthusiasm shown by the members for the Chairman's Cup, which was awarded four times in the year.

Jean Hutchinson, the Treasurer, reported on the group's financial position. She said that expenses over the year had slightly exceeded income. Despite this, the financial position of the group remained strong and there was good provision to purchase equipment or materials that members might feel could be of benefit to the group as a whole. Fees would remain at £2-50 a session.

The highlight of the meeting was the presentation of the Tom Baldwin Trophy for the most improved artist over 2011. This went to Janet Robson, whose work, particularly some of her recent Galapagos Island pictures, had been outstanding.

The first Chairman's Cup of 2012 was awarded on Friday 20 January and was for a 'still life'. This attracted a good entry of some very fine pictures. All members of the group voted and the winner was Maggie Hollidge for her excellent composition.

The first tutor session of the year is on Friday 10th February, with Naomi White returning to show us some watercolour techniques for depicting buildings. If anyone is interested in joining the group for this session, you would be most welcome – 1.00 to 4.00 pm in the Pearson Hall.

You can view our complete programme for the first half of the year on our website at [www.sonningartgroup.org.uk](http://www.sonningartgroup.org.uk).

**Rob Farquhar**

## **SONNING SCARECROWS Monday/ Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> June 2012**

The year of the Scarecrow is upon us! As this is such a momentous year for Her Majesty and for the country we would like to make the Scarecrow trail particularly special. In the past the village has benefitted in a variety of ways from the funds raised by the Scarecrow Trail and it is hoped the 2012 Trail will be just as successful. Thank you to those who have already registered a Scarecrow! If you have a place on the route for displaying a Scarecrow do please let me know or if you would like to open up your garden.

To find out more, register an entry, offer help with refreshments (making or serving), manning a garden or generally helping in any way or if you have a suggestion as to how the 2012 funds raised can best be spent for the benefit of the village, why not come along to Pearson Hall on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> March 7.45pm.

Further information from: [contact@sonningscarecrows.co.uk](mailto:contact@sonningscarecrows.co.uk)

### **SONNING GLEBE WI**

Good gracious - where does the time go!? Here we are in February 2012 and nothing has been heard of Sonning Glebe WI since October 2011! However you may rest assured we have not gone into winter hibernation - far from it - we have continued to play Scrabble and Rummikub, Knit 'n' Natter and have a play reading evening! We have also been to play skittles at the Jack o' Newbury, had a TWO splendid Christmas lunches, one at Henry Street, the other at Denman College and we were once again delighted to prepare the Christmas tea for the Monday Club. At our November meeting a speaker from "Thrive", the gardening charity based at Beech Hill, fascinated us with his presentation of the work undertaken there. At our own Christmas party after a pizza supper and a glass of mulled wine, we were entertained by the St Nicholas Hurst Handbell Ringers, before concluding the evening with coffee, homemade mince pies and a visit from Father Christmas! In January we learned some of the intricacies of resuscitation and the defib machine - so as you can see we have been extremely active! We are now looking forward to Ten Pin Bowling, lunch at the Horse and Groom and on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> March a Supper and Quiz evening. Want to find out more? Come along to Pearson Hall - 7.30pm on the third Monday in the month - you can be sure of a warm welcome.

For further information contact 9694897 / 9345886.

**Barbara Carr**

### **SONNING TWINNING ASSOCIATION**

Our next event is the Annual General Meeting on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> March in The Pearson Hall at 7.30pm. After this short meeting (usually no more than 20 - 30 minutes!) we will have a games evening, which has proved to be very

successful in the past. More details next month but please put the date in your diary and come and join us.

The committee are currently looking at the bursary applications and the winner will be decided later this month.

We welcome the opportunity to work with Liguge to discuss ways to further develop links and friendships between our two communities. Every other year the two committees come together to discuss and plan activities and events to further the work of the twinning. In mid April we shall be travelling to the Loire region in France to meet with the Liguge Committee. We also look forward to welcoming visitors from Liguge during the Jubilee celebration weekend.

Lesley Green

## Sonning & Charvil Parish Magazine Copy Deadlines for 2012

Issue for	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday Of month	Deadline for text to Editor (Always 4.00 pm)	Intended last date printed
March	4 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Fri 24 <sup>th</sup> Feb	+ 24 hours
April	1 <sup>st</sup> Apr	Fri 23 <sup>rd</sup> Mar	+ 24 hours
May	6 <sup>th</sup> May	Fri 27 <sup>th</sup> Apr	+ 24 hours
June	3 <sup>rd</sup> Jun	Fri 25 <sup>th</sup> May	+ 24 hours
July/August	1 <sup>st</sup> Jul	Fri 22 <sup>nd</sup> Jun	+ 24 hours
August	No issue		
September	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sep	Fri 24 <sup>th</sup> Aug	+ 24 hours
October	7 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Fri 28 <sup>th</sup> Sep	+ 24 hours
November	4 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Fri 26 <sup>th</sup> Oct	+ 24 hours
December	2 <sup>nd</sup> Dec	Fri 23 <sup>rd</sup> Nov	+ 24 hours
January 2013	6 <sup>th</sup> Jan 13	Wed 19 <sup>th</sup> Dec 12	Fri 21 <sup>st</sup> Dec 12

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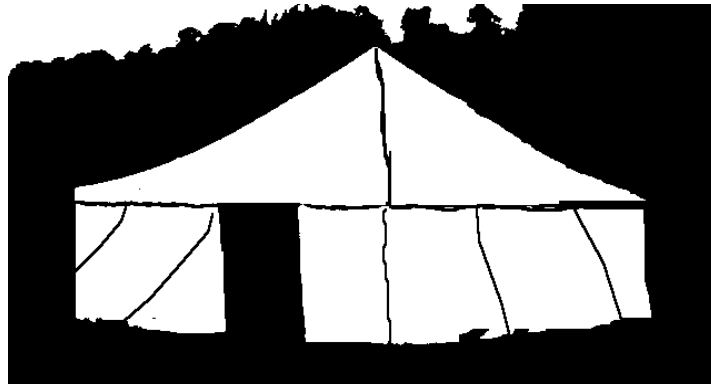
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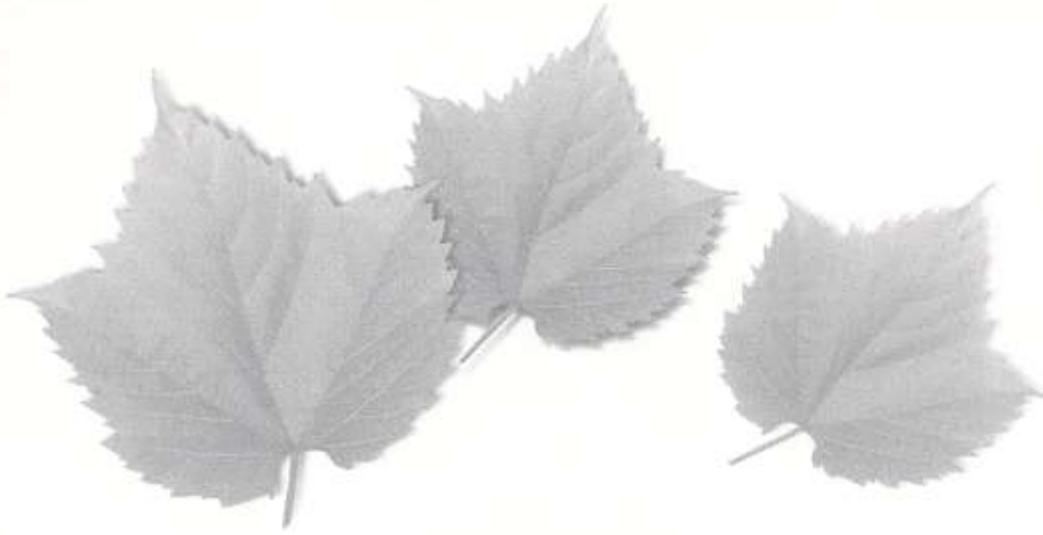
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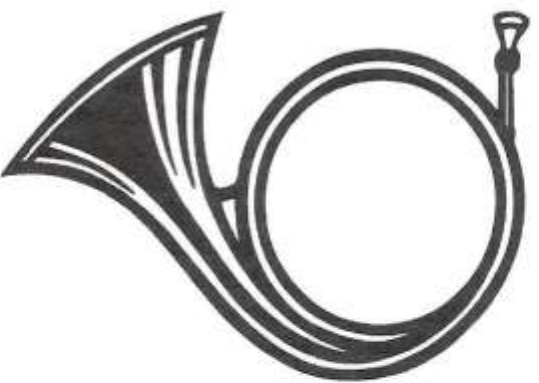
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