

PARISH MAGAZINE



SERVING THE VILLAGES
OF
CHARVIL AND SONNING



40P

JANUARY 2012

OPTIPIAN

MANUFACTURERS, RETAILERS & INSTALLERS
OF FINE HANDMADE KITCHENS

**SPECIAL OFFER AVAILABLE TO
READERS OF THIS MAGAZINE**
Present this advert when making your free design
appointment and we will supply with your new kitchen
a De-Dietrich integrated dishwasher for only £100 !

The South's Premier Kitchen Manufacturer

- ❑ Manufacturer and Retailer - No Middle Men!
- ❑ Bring in your own Measurement for an on-the-spot Quote
- ❑ Project Managed Installation Service
- ❑ 20 year Guarantee on Furniture
- ❑ Quality Kitchens from £3,000 to £30,000
- ❑ Kitchens Handmade to Any Size or Colour
- ❑ Granite and Corian Worktop Specialists
- ❑ Factory Visits Welcome

Over 17,000 satisfied customers
in this area

Telephone Reading 0118 940 6600
Wyevale Garden Centre - LARGE car park
Bath Road, Hare Hatch, Twyford RG10 9SW

Also at Reading, Basingstoke, Farnham, Swindon,
Thatcham, Wimborne, Windlesham and Wokingham
Open 7 days every week • Established in 1984 •
Monday to Saturday from 10am to 5pm
Sunday & Bank Holidays from 11 am to 3pm





The Hicks Group

Hicks Developments Ltd

Property Developers. Tel: Reading 0118 969 0595

Hicks Joinery Ltd

Joinery Manufacturers. Wood Finishing

Tel: Reading 0118 969 0595



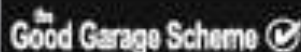
Hicks MOT and Service Centre

We offer a complete, well equipped, modern workshop for all your vehicle servicing or repair needs

**WHILE YOU WAIT
MOT TEST
AND SERVICE CENTRE**

- Private & Commercial Vehicle Repairs
- Air Conditioning Service
- Free Courtesy Car (subject to availability)

Tel: 0118 944 1808



Open 7.30am - 5.30pm (Weekdays)
15 Headley Road, Woodley RG5 4JB





A.B.WALKER

& SON LIMITED

FUNERAL DIRECTORS. EST.1826

An Independent family funeral directors and monumental masons. Proudly serving the area through five generations.

- 24 Hour assistance
- Modern and Traditional Options
- Competitive and transparent costs
- Full in-house monumental masonry service
- Funeral Flowers by telephone and on-line
- Client parking

Reading 0118 957 3650 Henley-on-Thames 01491 413 434
Bracknell 01344 303707 Wokingham 0118 978 4040



Golden Charter 
Funeral Plans

www.abwalker.co.uk



The Old Barn
Whittles Farm
Mapledurham
Oxfordshire RG4 7UP

Telephone 0118 972 3333
www.sonningflowers.com



MILES & DAUGHTERS

Independent Funeral Directors

Your local family owned and run complete funeral service

Adam Miles FRSA DipFD MBIFD

Serving Twyford, Maidenhead
and all surrounding villages

Free, no obligation home visits, advice and assistance.

“Our Family Serving Your Family”

Male & Female funeral directors,
available to help and assist you at all times

Please feel free to contact us or visit our homely
and discreet premises at any time.

The Old Clock House, Station Road, TWYFORD

0118 934 5474

Day & Night Service

TWYFORD WINDOWS

www.twyfordwindows.co.uk
 Kevin Brown 01189 344 600
 11 High St, Twyford, RG10 9AB

Winter Warmer 1

Change that drafty old door...



£850 inclusive & fitted

Winter Warmer 2

Fit the latest 'A-Rated'
 energy efficient windows

Winter Warmer 3

Be prepared & let us give you a
FREE quote for fascias, soffits &
 guttering for your home

Winter Warmer 4

Get ready for next Spring & Summer
 with a beautiful new conservatory
 Call in to arrange a
FREE design consultancy

- UPVC Soffits •
- UPVC Fascias •
- UPVC Guttering •



ROOFLINE
 SOLUTIONS
 HOME IMPROVEMENTS LIMITED

- Barge Boards •
- Flat Roofs •
- Cladding •



Sash Window Specialist
 Wooden Window Repair
 & Replacement

supporters of the...



Window & Conservatory Specialist

**Window, Door
 & Conservatory
 Repair Specialists**

Call in for **FREE** advice or to
 arrange a home visit

01189 344 600

members of the...



TWYFORD VILLAGE
 HOME IMPROVEMENT
 GROUP

**WE'RE BETTER
 CONNECTED...**

We are here to help you in 2011. Contact us NOW!

- Established local businesses. Owner-managed.
- Quality products, outstanding customer service and value for money – we often beat prices of the major suppliers!
- Businesses that are committed to making Twyford a better place to live – active supporters of the Twyford Village Partnership and local charities.

	Contact	Phone/website
Art	Terri Jones (portrait & mural commissions)	07717 532323 terrijonesart.com
Bathrooms	Gerry Jones	07973 173872
	Lisa at Tile & Bathroom Place	0118 9320089
Blinds & shutters	Lisa at Thomas Sanderson	0845 602 2731
Carpets & flooring	Steve at Twyford Carpets	0118 9343460
Cleaning	Kevin at Laundry Depot	0118 9345772
Deck cleaning & leaf clearing	Russell at Block and Deck Cleaning Services	0118 9344235
Decorating	David Chambers	07760 122129
	Gerry Jones	07973 173872
Doors & windows	Kevin, Twyford Windows (new)	0118 9344600
	David Hamilton (repairs)	07525 347079
Electrics	Chris at CPJ Electrics	0118 3260396 cpjelectrics.co.uk
	David Chambers	07760 122129
	David at Westgate Electrical Services	0118 9371277
Gardens	Graeme York Designs	07719 795312 graemeyorke.co.uk
Lighting	Paul at Twyford Lighting	0118 9344550
Moving house	Edwin at Ackers, Clayton, Reeve (Solicitors)	0118 9828800
	Mullie (Estate Agents)	0118 9461422
Picture framing & restoration	David at Century Framing	0118 9340122
Plumbing	Gerry Jones	07973 173872



Woodley Decor

Commercial & Domestic Decorators

- ✓ Established since 1969
- ✓ No job too small
- ✓ Quality work guaranteed

**For a free
estimate**
Contact us on
0118 9406888



Milley Lane, Hare Hatch, RG10 9TH

www.woodleydecor.co.uk



FOLLOW
WOODLEY
DECOR

Checkatrade.com
Where reputation matters



5101000000000000

DINNER THEATRE

The MILL at Sonning



This Eighteenth Century Flour Mill has been converted to provide a centre of entertainment and comfort beside the Thames. The original Mill on this site was established much earlier – being mentioned in the Domesday Book.

With much of the original still retained, the Dinner Theatre gives the Patrons an opportunity to enjoy a drink by the river and view the working wheel in the Waterwheel Bar. The oak-beamed restaurant is an ideal setting for our chef's freshly home-cooked food, with not a microwave in sight, before watching the play in our 215-seat air-conditioned auditorium.

BOX OFFICE 0118 969 8000

OPEN MON-SAT 10am – 8pm

Tel: 0118 969 6039 (Admin)

Fax: 0118 944 2424

Website: www.millatsonning.com

Email: admin@millatsonning.com

Evenings: Tuesday to Saturday

Matinees: Thursday, Saturday and Sunday

Jazz Concerts: Sunday Evening

THE MILL AT SONNING THEATRE, SONNING EYE, READING RG4 6TY

DOVERBROECK'S COLLEGE
Creative Holiday Courses at Leckford Place

Brighten up the long summer holiday!

Creative courses for ages 8–14 in ...

Art (ages 8–12), Singing (10–14), Drama (10–14) & Jewellery making (10–14), culminating in an art & jewellery exhibition, and performances of a play and a choral operetta on the Thursday evening.

15–18 August 2011

— taking bookings now!

01865 302620

doverbroecks.com/creative

ALL AERIALS

TV/FM/DAB aerials supplied and fitted

Extra TV points and system setups

Sky dishes installed, re-aligned, repaired

IRS systems for communal premises

- *Free Estimates* -

ALL WORK GUARANTEED

Tel: 0118-944-0000

Local Sonning business



Member of the Confederation
of Aerial Industries

Sally Miles

Photography

Weddings

Famous Faces

Portraits

07775 319010

www.sallymiles.com

Located in RG4



Claire Howells



Sew Sew

Blinds, Bridal Wear,
Costumes, Curtains and Sew on ...

Tel: 0118 9345372

Mobile: 07778 488975

Email: twyfordhowells@aol.com

Bonhams

1793

Henley Valuations

January
26 Chinese Works
of Art

February
2 Jewellery
9 Pictures

Please book an appointment for a complimentary auction valuation with our visiting Specialist or call in to see our General Valuer on Thursdays between 10am & 4pm.

01491 413 636
henley@bonhams.com bonhams.com/henley



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

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

Deadline, Feb issue: 12:00pm Fri 27th Jan
Contents

Vicar's Letter	.....	15
Church Notices	.....	16
Confirmation Photo	.....	17
New Choristers Photo	.....	18
Jubilee Flower Festival	.....	18
From the registers	.....	19
Footprints Group	.....	20
Prime Minster with Oxford Clergy	.....	21
Pearson Hall Jubilee Clock	.....	22
Royal British Legion	.....	22
Charvil Parish Council	.....	23
Pearson Hall Burns Night	.....	23
Conservative Drinks	.....	24
Sonning School	.....	24
Charvil Pre School	.....	25
Sonning Art Group	.....	25
Sonning Councillor		26
Charvil Society		27
Sonning and Sonning Eye Society		28
Sonning Floral group		29
Sonning Club		29
RNLI		30

The Parish Church of St Andrew, serving Charvil and Sonning

Sundays	8.00 am	Holy Communion (Prayer Book)
1 st	10.30 am	Family Service
2 nd		Parish Eucharist
3 rd		Family Communion
4 th		Parish Eucharist
5 th		Parish Eucharist
1 st	6.30 pm	Holy Communion (Common Worship)
2 nd , 3 rd , 4 th and 5 th		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,

Firstly may I wish all readers a very happy New Year. This will be a momentous twelve months in our nation's life, most especially because of Her Majesty the Queen's Diamond jubilee celebrations in May and June. There is much planned in the parish, with a grand Flower Festival at St. Andrew's, a Jubilee Regatta, Scarecrow Festival, Celebratory Service, Street Party in Pearson Road, a commemorative clock and much besides. It will be a great opportunity to come together in thanksgiving and celebration for our wonderful Queen's life of duty and service.

Of course, there is also a sporting event of some note taking place in London in the summer, and no doubt this will also be a good opportunity for those who are interested to enjoy the festivities. As I am planning to hibernate for the duration, I had better not say anything else on that subject!

In our parish there are some very significant developments afoot which will, God willing, be of great benefit to us all. We hope to advertise for our new full time priest very soon, and I do ask that we all keep that process in our prayers. If we are able to appoint someone, they will come here to specialise in ministry among young people and families, a new focus, which has been long in the planning. Of course, as well as this, they will also play a full part in the life and worship of the parish church.

I am most encouraged that a new teenage bible study has been formed this month, and much credit must go to Bob Peters, our Lay Minister, who has developed this out of the Confirmation group. We are also putting on a very different type of Lent course, and this will involve a communal parish meal every Tuesday night in Charvil. Following Lent, a new bible study will be formed for adults, and I know some of the Confirmation candidates will form the nucleus of this, but it will be open to all who wish to find out more about the bible and our faith.

So there is much to look forward to, and there will be many opportunities to get involved more deeply in both parish life and the life of our communities as the nation celebrates. Don't be a spectator; take the plunge and get involved!

Warm wishes.

Jamie

Ps Caroline, Alice and Annabelle join me in thanking the many who have sent us cards and gifts over the Christmas period. They have been very much appreciated.

CHURCH NOTICES

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, starting on 3 January. 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.

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.

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.

CONFIRMATION



The 17 candidates Confirmed by the Bishop of Reading on December 4th were:

Adult Group: Paul Edwards, Che Bond, Fiona Fisher, Paul Giles, Claire Holland, Janet Giles, Derek Smith

Young People's Group: Katherine Rennie, Kiki King, Rebecca Smith, Thomas Wilkinson, Callum Brown, Sophie Carr, Sophie Rahemanji, Oliver Smith, Sarah Giles, David Giles (6 are members of the Junior Choir)

CHRISTINGLE: The Parish Christingle service is on Feb 5th 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)

SERVICES: Please note that there will be no 8am service on Sunday 1st January. Holy Communion will take place at 6:30pm on that day, with the family service at 10:30am as usual.

OUTWARD GIVING: The PCC have gifted £11 480 to mission and local good causes which is 5% of annual income. Local charities supported include the Charvil Pre School (£480), Age concern (£300), Duchess of Kent Hospice (£500), Helen and Douglas House Hospice (£700) and Reading Salvation Army (£300). At their recent meeting the PCC also decided to set up a new designated fund for mission and development within our parish and in future, 5% of annual income will also be earmarked for this work.

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.



New choristers

On Sunday 28th November at a special Choral Evensong to celebrate St. Andrew's Day, three new choristers were admitted into the junior choir.

From left to right:
Charlotte Hill
Elizabeth Constanza
Steffi Carr

FORMER ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH BUILDING NEW HALL MANAGEMENT GROUP:

The PCC has asked Peregrine Chard, Perry Mills and Tom Farncombe (all PCC members) to form the core of the new management group. Others may be asked to join as needs are assessed. Hall users will be consulted in the coming months as the group seek to work towards making the hall self financing in the medium term. The PCC is committed to making the arrangement work for the benefit of all concerned. Raj Kettle has been appointed as the bookings clerk and cleaner of the premises and she and the management group are now responsible for the running of the hall, under the auspices of the PCC.

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

SPECTACLES:

I am pleased to be able to report that nearly three hundred pairs of spectacles have been collected in the past year. The collection is divided between hospitals in Kosovo and India. They are distributed once they are mended, cleaned and graded by the local charity Hope and Aid Direct. I thank you for thinking of this very worthwhile cause and look forward to the next collection in 2012.

Norma McGready

Deputy Warden: Kay Cohen has stepped down as Deputy Warden with responsibility for St. Patrick's Church. We thank her for her dedicated service over the last few years.

FROM THE REGISTERS:

Baptisms

4 December	Janet Giles
4 December	Lucy Dowling
11 December	Rose Georgia Lauren Botha

Funerals

5 December	Nora Hollingsbee
7 December	Vera Hillier

<u>Weddings</u>	Matthew Kendall and Victoria Cossey
-----------------	-------------------------------------

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
(10th January)**

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

Prime Minister speaks to Oxford clergy

Speaking to an audience of largely parish clergy at Christ Church Cathedral, David Cameron spoke strongly in defence of faith and the role of the Church in society.

Mr Cameron said that he was a committed but "vaguely practising" Church of England Christian who was "full of doubts" about big theological issues. But he stressed the importance of the Bible, and in particular the King James Bible, in shaping British culture, values and politics.

"We are a Christian country. And we should not be afraid to say so," he said.

"Let me be clear: I am not in any way saying that to have another faith - or no faith - is somehow wrong. "

But what I am saying is that the Bible has helped to give Britain a set of values and morals which make Britain what it is today.

"Values and morals we should actively stand up and defend.

"The alternative of moral neutrality should not be an option.

"You can't fight something with nothing. Because if we don't stand for something, we can't stand against anything."

Welcoming the speech, Bishop John said: "The Prime Minister spoke warmly of the debt our culture owes to the King James Bible and showed how much British and other societies have been enriched by this great text, and given direction by it.

"There was no doubting his conviction that if you don't stand for something, you can't stand against anything. This is what the Churches have always said to the nation and it was good to have this support from the heart of political life.

"The Prime Minister's speech in Oxford was warmly welcomed by a large audience. He affirmed the crucial role of the Church in both serving and shaping society. He demonstrated clearly that the generosity, compassion and desire for social justice which lies at the heart of the Christian faith, and of other faiths, is both a gift and a responsibility. We gladly take up the challenge.!"

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 Trustees 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). There is some urgency, as I need to apply for planning permission by the end of January. If anyone would like to make a contribution towards the pillar clock (or indeed to the wall clock) would they please ring me to discuss the matter.

Lesley Bates (Chairman PHMC) on 01189697753)

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION: Sonning Sub-branch

We held our AGM on 17th November, attended by 15 members. Gp. Capt. Colin Pierce was re-elected as President and Mr. Shaun Sheppard as Chairman. Shaun has been our Chairman since May and we appreciate his dedication and enthusiasm, despite his initially having had reservations about the amount of time he would be able to spend on Branch matters.

Mr. John Carnell continues as Membership Secretary and Miss. Daphne Payne is our Poppy Appeal Organiser, assisted by Miss. Penny Adams. They have worked hard during the Poppy Appeal and funds raised so far are very encouraging.

We are delighted that we now have our own Standard Bearer, Miss. Penny Adams, and it was good to see her in the Parade on Remembrance Sunday. The Remembrance Service was, as always, very successful, moving and poignant. We were pleased to be able to take part in it.

The main item raised at the AGM was that of communication. The Chairman wishes to improve communication with members, but there is a significant cost in postage and stationery. He proposed that I should collect e-mail addresses of as many members as possible to use as means of communication and also use the Parish magazine for regular up-dates. So, if you are a member, please let me have your e-mail address so that we can keep you aware of the latest news.

Our next committee meeting is on Thursday, 1st March, 2012, in the Working Men's Club, Pearson Road, at 7.30 p.m. All members are welcome to attend.

Mary Jones, Secretary
mary.p.jones@btinternet.com

CHARVIL PARISH COUNCIL:

After an interesting, and at times challenging, year, Charvil Parish Council are looking forward to supporting the new PCC management committee at St Patrick's Hall in any way we can and would like to wish all the Parishioners a happy and healthy New Year, continuing to enjoy usage of our important village facility. We would like to thank the PCC for making this possible.

We also look forward to commencement of ground works for our new Multi-Use Games Area in early January and to progressing our plans for a possible skate park for the young and energetic.

Alice Wilkinson
Chairman Charvil Parish Council

PEARSON HALL SOCIAL COMMITTEE BURNS SUPPER:

Christmas drinks? New Year's Eve parties? They're history for another year. Now you can take a good long break until Friday 27th January when we'll be holding the first Pearson Hall Social Committee Burns Supper. Starting at 7:30pm, we'll have a tasty traditional haggis supper, some entertaining songs and poetry to honour Rabbe Burns, and lots of dancing - dare I say Céilidh? - plus a pay bar and raffle. Don't wait, all you lads and lassies, make sure not to miss your neeps and tatties in this January celebration of the birth, life and works of the Scottish national poet. Please call Judy Baldwin on 969 2329 for tickets, on sale now, price £12.50 per person.

Andrew Barker

**MAIDENHEAD CONSERVATIVE ASSOCIATION:
Sonning and Warren Branch**

The January Drinks Party will be held on Saturday January 14th at 12noon at Athelston House, Holmemoor Drive, by kind permission of Mr. & Mrs. Francis Byrne.

Tickets £10, must be booked by January 6th. Obtainable from Rosemary Digby, 26, Sycamore Drive, Twyford Berks, RG10 9HP. Tel 0118 3276190.

SONNING CE PRIMARY SCHOOL:

The second half of the Autumn Term was very busy culminating in a hectic fortnight before breaking up for Christmas. It was lovely to welcome local representatives of the Royal British Legion, Colin Pierce, Daphne Payne and Penny Adams, as part of our special Remembrance Service on November 11th.

As well as the sleepover held in September for the Juniors we held a 'Book at Bedtime' event for the younger children in November. The monies raised are to support ICT developments in the school. We also held a very successful Puzzle Challenge Day and our new PTA worked extremely hard organising the Christmas Fayre on 3rd December; they also held a 'Breakfast with Santa' event the day after we broke up.

Christmas has been the main focus of school life at the end of term. As well as all the usual events such as Christmas lunch, parties and our Carol Service in St Andrew's Church we took additional time this year to make sure that we really thought about what we were celebrating. Parents and children were invited to come for a 'Walk through nativity' which involved visiting each classroom where a different part from the Christmas story was depicted. Once class even made a life size donkey, Mary and Joseph to show the journey to Bethlehem!

A very big thank you to the Ranmore Trust for funding our projector and screen in the hall. This has really enhanced our times of Collective Worship with the opportunity to show pictures and videos to support our weekly themes as well as being able to display all the hymn words much more clearly.

Finally, a special mention to our youngest class, Acorn, who all started school in September. They have all had a fantastic first term and, although very tired towards the end, should be proud of their achievements. When we return on 4th January there will be another very busy term ahead!

Lesley Green

CHARVIL PRE SCHOOL:

Park View Drive North, Charvil - OFSTED Registered.

During the autumn term, we welcomed some new faces to the pre-school and we look forward to welcoming even more after Christmas as a couple of our older children move onto their new 'big' schools.

We are also pleased to have welcomed some new staff members who have brought with them new ideas which the children have loved. They have planted herbs and they've been hard at work cooking and making their own chocolate apples and mini pizzas. We have had lots of seasonal crafts including bonfire night pictures and making Christmas decorations. As usual at this time of year, the children have been working on their nativity play which was enjoyed by their families. They also had a visit from the 'man in red' at our Christmas party which all the children thoroughly enjoyed.

After Christmas we are going to be starting a lunch club twice a week for the over 3's which we are looking forward to offering again. As our numbers are very healthy for the foreseeable future, please don't forget to contact us to put your child's name on our waiting list. If you'd like more details or would like to visit, please call Sally Richards on 0118 932 1273 or you can email her at admin.charvil@weyfs.org.uk. We also have some information on our website www.charvilpreschool.co.uk

If you would like to support the preschool financially you can do so by texting 'CPSF11 £2' to 70070.

SONNING ART GROUP:

The year ended splendidly with a jolly Christmas dinner, held at the Best Western Moat House in Sindlesham and, on the following week, a party at Pearson Hall, with games, bell ringing, mince pies and a delicious cake, to celebrate the 90th birthday of one of our longest attending members - a lovely lady by the name of Barbara Sorrell. The cake was decorated in icing with a beautiful picture of Barbara in her twenties. Over the years Barbara has created lovely pastoral and village scenes using her favourite medium, colouring pencils.

And now onto 2012 - again we have a full programme of activities and, this year, six tutor sessions when we hope that some of the best local artists will lead us to improve our skills in a number of media areas. The first one is on February 10th, with Naomi White - using water-colour techniques to depict buildings.

Before that, we have our first meeting and AGM on January 6th and the group will be hard at work in preparation for the first Chairman's Cup award

of the year (20th January) - a still-life presentation. You can view our programme for the first half of the year on our web-site at www.sonningartgroup.org.uk

So, if you have made a New Year's resolution to do something more creative, then dust off those old paints and pencils and come and join the group - 1 to 4 pm in the Pearson Hall every Friday - you'll find a warm welcome, helpful encouragement and a cup of tea and cake - all for £2-50 - a real bargain!

Rob Farquhar

FROM SONNING'S BOROUGH COUNCILLOR:

Firstly I would like to start this article by wishing all the residents of Sonning and Warren ward a very happy and prosperous new year.

This month I feel it worthwhile to write about the ways we can contact and interact with Wokingham Borough Council (WBC).

WBC runs an award winning Call Centre. I was lucky enough to be given a tour and although I am a fairly experienced IT Support Specialist, I was impressed. It is possible to call one number **0118 974 6000** or email wokinghamdirect@wokingham.gov.uk. The call centre accepts calls or emails on a wide variety of subjects including Tenant Services, parks, local problems and Registrar Services. The calls are then routed to the appropriate department. The centre is staffed by local people.

For those of a technical persuasion, if you have a "Smart Phone" which would include the iPhone / iPad or any phone which runs "Android", there is a nice application "Looking Local" which can be downloaded from the "Application Store" or from "Market" at no cost. This allows you to report many things including pot holes, dumped rubbish, graffiti, abandoned cars, anti-social behaviour and more. It can use the phones map and camera to visualise the problem and to pinpoint the site of the issue to within 3 metres using GPS. The resulting report gets sent immediately to Wokingham Direct. It is also possible to access this service via interactive TV (Sky or Virgin) or even on the family Nintendo Wii.

The Council runs a very substantial web site, <http://wokingham.gov.uk/council/>. There is a huge amount of information available on a wide variety of subjects, many documents, agendas, committee memberships, the ability to search for planning applications both past and present, the "Apply For It" section, Councillor records, WBC financial information, and much more. If you have a spare moment it's worth spending time just browsing this site. WBC also uses Facebook and Twitter - I am still not sure if the plural is a Twit or a Tweet! It's possible

to subscribe to mail groups and to optionally receive texts about events held in the Borough based upon personal interest.

Residents are welcome to attend Sonning Parish Council meetings, (2nd Tuesday of the month in the Cricket Pavilion) or to visit Woodley Town Council (Oakwood Centre). It is also possible to present questions directly at Full Council in Wokingham and of course there is the option to contact me in my capacity as the ward Borough Councillor.

Cllr Mike Haines
07814 794014

mhaines.home@googlemail.com

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.

SONNING & SONNING EYE SOCIETY:

The Society held its eighth Annual General Meeting & Supper in the Pearson Hall on Saturday 26 November 2011. It proved yet again to be a very popular event and tickets sold out in record time.

The proceedings began with a brief report on the year by our Chairman, Bob Hine. He thanked the retiring Executive Committee members for all their efforts on behalf of the Society, in particular Brian O'Callaghan, the retiring Vice Chairman, and Diana Coulter, the Co-ordinator of the Education Panel. Both had completed seven years on the Executive Committee and, in accordance with the Society's Constitution, were standing down. Bob said that the Society had benefited greatly from Diana's ability to come up with interesting topics for talks and walks and he was delighted that she had agreed to continue as Editor of *Bridge*, the Society's newsletter.

In the election that followed, Bob Hine, Andy Bell and Alan Furness were re-elected as Chairman, Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer respectively. Mike Hart took on the role of Vice Chairman and Penny Feathers was re-elected to the Executive Committee. Two recent co-options, Lesley Heaney and Colin McCulloch, were formally elected, Lesley as Membership Secretary and Colin as Chairman of the Planning & Traffic Panel. Pauline Simmonds and Jeremy Gilmore were also elected to serve on the Executive Committee. Although new to the Committee, both have contributed significantly to the work of the Society, Lesley as a long-standing member of the Education Panel and Jeremy via his vital technical support for the *Village Voices* project.

Once the Annual General Meeting was over, everyone tucked in to an excellent three-course supper that had been prepared by Penny Feathers and her team. The meal of hot smoked trout pâté, sautéed chicken with cider and tarragon and lime and lemon curd ice cream was very much enjoyed by all those present.

Over coffee, the Sonning Hand Bell Ringers, under the leadership of Helen Price, entertained us. It was a joy to hear the magnificent sound of these century-old St Andrew's hand bells. The ringing team played a number of well-known tunes and carols, which put everyone in the mood for Christmas.

As we enter the New Year, may I remind members that the renewal of membership subscriptions is now due. Subscription rates have been held at the same price for yet another year, which represents tremendous value for money. Cheques, made payable to *Sonning & Sonning Eye Society*, should be sent, with a completed renewal form, to Lesley Heaney, 3 Sonning Gate, Sonning, Reading, RG4 6GQ. Please note that if you have already set up a standing order, or joined at or after the 2011 Village Show, there is no need for you to do anything at this time.

Andy Bell

SONNING FLORAL ARRANGEMENT SOCIETY:

The December meeting is always a treat, with mulled wine and Christmas dinner, and very nice it was too! And we showed our appreciation to the Committee for all their hard work in making it such an enjoyable occasion.

This was followed by the AGM. You could tell by the prolonged round of applause that Brenda Jackson had been an excellent Chairman for the past three years. The new Chairman is now Sue Holmes and the Vice Chairman is Angela Selley. Catherine Penny had come to the end of her term as President and received a sincere vote of thanks for all she has done despite it being a difficult time for her. The new President is Ann Turner and Brenda Jackson has agreed to be Vice President. The rest of the committee remain the same.

Pam Sims won the yearly competition with the most points and Joan Wise won the Christmas competition. So well done everyone!

It is to be noted that the annual subscriptions have been increased to £20 plus a monthly attendance payment of £1.50 (£5 for visitors).

There will be no demonstration next month but we will be collecting subscriptions, as well as something a bit different entitled "Sonning has got talent". So come along on 12th January and see what it's all about. Should be fun.

Jane Gascoine

THE SONNING CLUB:

After all the excitement of celebrating Christmas perhaps you feel ready for an opportunity to unwind a little.

Why not call in at The Sonning Club in Pearson Road and see what we have on offer. We are a non profit members club, but you can sign in as a guest to start with, and we offer a comfortable lounge area with bar, a lovely garden for the better weather, a full size snooker table plus a pool table, bar billiards and darts.

Every month there is Bingo (all money is returned as prizes) on the first Friday and an interesting, stimulating, but not too difficult QUIZ on the third Friday. This month we also have a Race Night on Friday 27th so come along for a flutter on the horses and dogs.

The Winter League is just about to start with all the indoor sports and there are also regular darts, bar billiards and cribbage teams playing each week and looking for new members. It is a Village Club open to all people in this area so we would really like to see you. Membership Enquiries contact 0118 9693939

RNLI SONNING BRANCH - Photographic Competition Dinner



The dinner held to announce the winners of our Photographic Competition in December at the Pearson Hall was a great success and raised in excess of £2,000.00 for this worthwhile cause. The committee wishes to thank The Rt Hon Theresa May MP, the sponsors and the judges for their input.

Following this success, we urge you to start looking for your perfect shot for the next RNLI Photographic Competition, date to be advised.

David Bates Chairman, Sonning Branch
RNLI

Will Turner "Sonning photographer of the year"

Holiday in Mallorca

Apartment to let

Privately owned

Comfortable with all mod Cons

On sea shore overlooking

The Bay of Palma.

Swimming Pool.

Two Twin Bedrooms - one en-suite

From £350 per week.

Over 75% are repeat visits

For further informatin phone

Daphne & Keith Nichols

0118 969 4628

Look no further.

**Advertisements,
books, brochures,
cards, copywriting,
digital printing,
exhibitions, leaflets,
letterheads, logos,
newsletters, photos,
web design +more.**

Fast, efficient, local.

Design for Print

david@designforprint.org

T 969 3633 · F 969 3626

JANETTE HAMMOND
BEAUTY THERAPY



- ❖ Waxing
- ❖ Manicures & Pedicures
- ❖ Facials
- ❖ Make-up
- ❖ Lash & Brow Tinting
- ❖ Perfume making
- ❖ Massage

28 Hilltop Road, Earley,

Reading. RG6 1DA

Telephone: 0118 926 2365

There is a difference between:

Someone completing your
tax return

and

Having a
Chartered Accountant
looking after your tax affairs

Richard Arnold is a Chartered
Accountant, based in Wargrave.

If you would like help with any aspect
of your personal or business tax affairs,
call him on 07769 642 702

Resolve
TAX & ACCOUNTS

In Association with



Dr Cosmetic Clinic at Spire Dunedin Hospital

Look and feel rejuvenated with increased confidence

Our treatments include:

- Wrinkle reducing injections(known as Botox™)
- Dermal fillers to replace lost volume
- Chemical peel skin rejuvenation
- Hair loss advice and treatment
- Removal of moles, warts and other skin lesions
- Rapid and flexible Private GP consultations
- Access to full range of tests, X-Rays and Specialist Consultants
- **All treatments undertaken by qualified doctors only**

Dr Cosmetic offer a wide range of modern cosmetic treatments that are non invasive, safe and can produce dramatic natural looking results by enhancing your natural features, smoothing fine lines and wrinkles and removing blemishes, bringing back your natural beauty

All our cosmetic doctors are regulated by the GMC, undertake regular training and fully insured with the MDDUS

A service you can trust

Clinics held at:

Dr Cosmetic Clinic
Spire Dunedin Hospital
16 Bath Road
Reading
RG1 6NS
Tel: 0118 955 3491

Radiance Clinic
Within Asda Mall
Lower Earley
Reading
RG6 5TT
Tel: 0118 987 4620

Permanent Beauty Clinic
52 London Street
Reading
Berkshire
RG1 4SQ
Tel: 0118 958 5558

Visit our website at: www.drcosmetic.co.uk

Small job needs doing?

A couple of roof tiles missing?
Re-fix or repair guttering?



Give me a ring on
0118 944 0000

I will see if I can help you

CANON TREE CARE

EXPERIENCED QUALIFIED INSURED

- Pruning, Felling & Planting • Reductions, Thinning
- Dead Wooding • Dangerous Trees Saved & Made Safe
- Modern Noninvasive Cable Bracing • Stump Grinding
- Tree Problem Diagnosis • Japanese Ornamental

MON-FRI 8.45-5.30: OFFICE **0845 034 0962**
OUT OF OFFICE HOURS: MOBILE **0779 931 5661**

Call Julian Clarke of Canon Tree Care
a locally trusted name for all your arboricultural needs.

Pilates

By Veena Chadda
Qualified Pilates Teacher

The gentle way to transform your body

www.pilates.chaddas.co.uk

veena@chaddas.co.uk

07985 591588 or 01189 660380

3 Erleigh Court Drive, Earley, Reading, RG6 1EB



I.S. CURTAINS GALORE

Transform your Home with Handmade Curtains, Blinds,
Wall and Floor Coverings, Soft Furnishings, and Fabrics

07710 528274 or 0118 958 1013

www.innersanctuary.co.uk

BW Electrical

From New Plugs to total rewire

General plumbing

General handyman

Based in Sonning

Call 07760420923

Bob



Sonning Auto's

MOT, servicing, bodywork

Welding, recovery, breakdown

New tyres, paintwork,

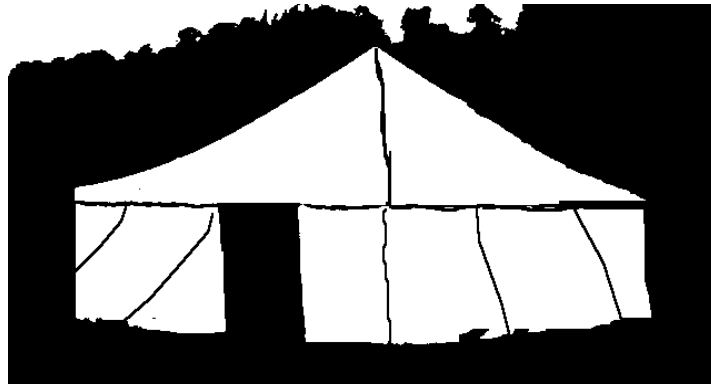
insurance work.

07741096811

Andy



WHITE MARQUEES



All proceeds used for funds of **1st Sonning Scout Group**
Suitable for all events, parties, fetes etc.

We Deliver, Erect, Take Down and Collect!
Suggested donation of only £175 - *Discount for Registered Charities*

Tel. Billie 07718 679827 - email : Marquee@sonningscouts.co.uk

Your Local Village IT Support Service

Home users & small businesses in the Walthams, Twyford,
Hurst, Binfield, Bray, Wargrave, Henley and Cookham area.

PC Health-Check, Tune-Up, Advice and Installation.

Virus & Spyware, Data Recovery, Email & Office, Broadband,
Wired & Wireless Networks, Skype/VOIP & Webcams.

Windows, XP & Vista Operating Systems

**Independent advice regarding options available
for residents outside BT's Broadband service area.**



😊 No job too small or too large 😊



Katie Sarsfield MBCS 07981 600726

Message Service 0118 932 0061

katie@kimservices.co.uk

Meadvale-Bays MOBILE BIKE SERVICES

- Local home-based service
- FREE local collection & delivery
- Services, refurbishment & custom builds
- Punctures repaired
- Cables & brake blocks replaced
- New tyres, pedals, chains, bar grips, lights, child seats & racks fitted
- Cytech certified mechanic
- Located in North Earley / Shepherds Hill

Contact us at:

0118 9353536

john@meadvale-bays.com

www.meadvale-bays.com



Caring for *your* bicycle



The Ivy Of Sonning

Fine Indian Dining
Tea Rooms

6 High Street
Sonning
Berkshire RG4 6UP

0118 969 7676

To avoid disappointment, please reserve your table in advance.

Open 7 days a week, including Bank Holidays



Monumental and Masonry Craftsmen

A.F JONES

33 Bedford Road, Reading

Telephone: (0118) 957 3537

Established since 1858

and

E.T. SHEPPARD

36 Reading Road, Henley-on-Thames

Telephone: (01491) 574644

Established 1906

Specialists in all stone work and restoration, memorial work and garden materials.

E^t Before 1879

TOMALIN & SON

FUNERAL DIRECTORS

A Family Run Independent Funeral Service For The Sonning Area

ANDERSON HOUSE, 38 READING ROAD, HENLEY -ON-THAMES

Telephone: (01491) 573370

**GOLDEN
CHARTER**
FUNERAL PLANS

GOLDEN CHARTER Prepaid Funeral Plan

Gardiner's

Established 1968



Our reliable and dedicated **nurses and carers** have provided care at home for over 40 years. We are always keen to speak to nurses or experienced carers. Even just a few hours can make the world of difference to our clients

Please call

www.gardinersnursing.co.uk

0118 9476666

10 Church St., Caversham, Reading RG4

FourJays Historic Buildings Consultancy

Expert advice by qualified architectural historian/conservationist

Building Recording (historical survey and analysis)

Renovation/Restoration (materials and best practice techniques advice)

Conservation Principles and Guidelines advice

Planning and Listed Building Consent advice

Recommendations for Skilled Craftsmen (including SPAB scholars)

Contact: Nancy Sheridan Dip (Oxf) BA (Hons) MSc (ArchCon) PhD (in progress)

Tel: 0118 947 2457 or 07736 364722



Dennis & Christine
Mason look forward
to welcoming you
to...

The Bull Inn

Great food, award-
winning cask ale and
service with smile,
always.

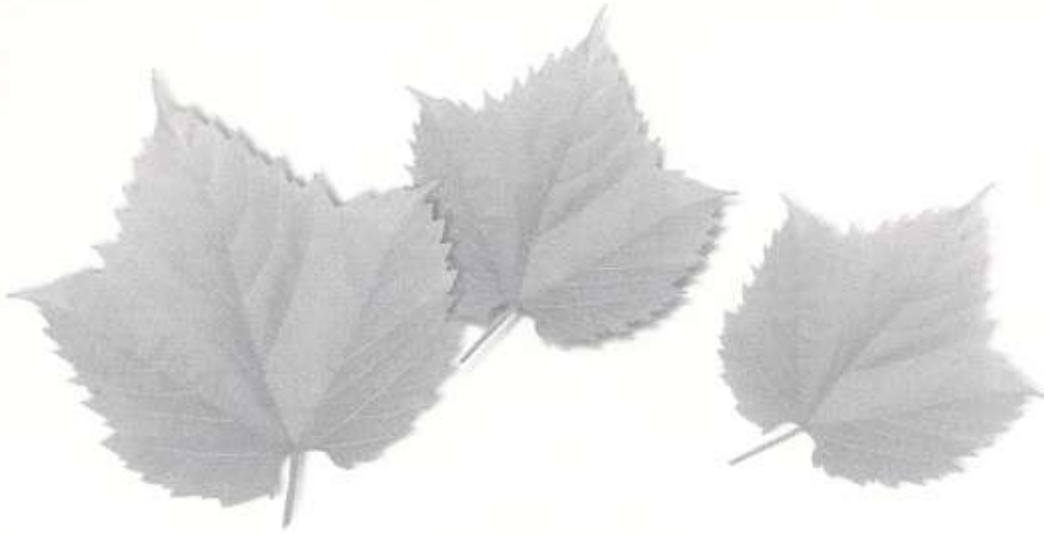
Seven stylish bedrooms

Present this advert and receive
a complementary homemade
chocolate brownie.

www.bullinnsonning.co.uk

The Bull Inn | Sunning on Thames | Berkshire | RG4 6UP

Email: bullinn@fullers.co.uk | Telephone: 01189 693901



KYRENIA

Greek Restaurant

- Authentic Greek cuisine prepared from the best ingredients •
- Friendly service and atmosphere •
- Parties welcome •
- Special lunchtime menu •

t : 0118 947 6444

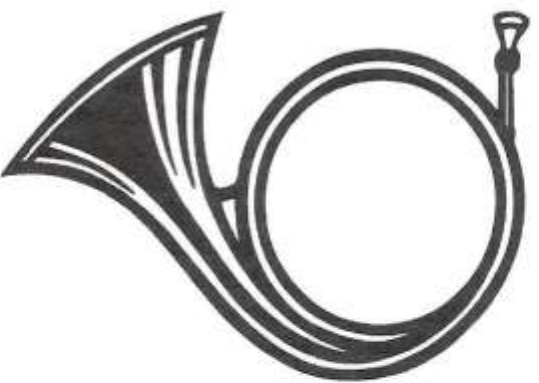
w : kyreniarestaurant.com

6 Prospect Street Caversham Reading

Open 12 - 3pm Tuesday - Saturday

6 - 11pm Tuesday - Sunday

Take a fresh look at *The French Horn*
Hotel & Restaurant: the finest food
and wine at the 'prettiest spot' on the Thames.



www.thefrenchhorn.co.uk
Sonning-on-Thames · Berkshire RG4 6TN
Telephone 0118 969 2204 · Fax: 0118 944 2210