

APR/MAY 2025

THE SOCO SPRING CLEAN 2025

WELL DONE TO THE 80 VOLUNTEERS!

SEE PAGES 18-19

IN THIS ISSUE

GRACE AND NICKI

Flying from the sky for
charity
P13

SOCO SPRING CLEAN

The frightening facts about
our rubbish
P18-19

POSTCARDS FROM THE PAST

Memories of a globetrotting
butler
P24-25



www.sonningcommonmagazine.org



[sonningcommonmagazine](https://www.facebook.com/sonningcommonmagazine)

Sonning Common's longest serving Estate Agency

Beville Estate Agency was established in 2002, and serves South Oxfordshire and North Berkshire. With excellent Google reviews and combined experience of over 65 years, Richard, Marcus, Karen & Arthur offer a personalised selling and letting service and would be delighted to talk to you about any requirements you may have.

If you are thinking of moving, call us for a free, no obligation, valuation on 0118 924 25 26 or e-mail info@beville.co.uk

Celebrating our most successful year in 2024, we currently have 70% of the market share for Sales Agreed so far in 2025



Kennylands Road

"Great team that helped us move to the area and our dream home"



Kennylands Road

"The best estate agent in the area. There is genuine honesty and integrity to Richard, his team within this family run business. Hardworking with great communication from start to finish. Highly recommend. ★★★★★"



Brinds Close

"The whole team were so professional, helpful and nothing was too much trouble. They are a truly local estate agency with local knowledge."



Peppard Road

"Thank you for all your support with this process and your care and help"



Lea Road

"We recently sold through Beville's and they were great from start to finish. The team are all extremely knowledgeable about the local area and market. Their communication was honest, transparent and yet friendly throughout. Richard, Marcus and Karen were excellent at driving our sale forward."



Shiplake Bottom

"Thank you for everything you've done to make the process as smooth and swift as you have."



Chestnut Gardens

"Well done on getting this over the line. Your commitment and helpfulness in this transaction is well appreciated."



Chalkhouse Green Road

"From our initial meeting through to completion we found dealing with all the Bevilles team a real pleasure. They have fantastic local knowledge & really help you navigate through the challenges of selling your home. We would have no problem in highly recommending their services."

- Sales & Lettings
- Free Residential Valuations
- Probate Valuations
- Relocation company sales
- Land & Planning advice
- New homes
- EPC'S



28 Peppard Road, Sonning Common, South Oxon, RG4 9SU

0118 924 25 26

www.beville.co.uk

info@beville.co.uk

FROM THE EDITORIAL TEAM

It is a lovely morning. The birds are singing, the sun is shining, and the light is in the sky. Surely Spring is on its way? The world news is very difficult now but luckily for us we live in a lovely part of the country and can enjoy the weather. It helps to boost our mood.

Certainly, the lightness in the sky, which we could call optimism, exists in the large number of photos submitted by residents for use in this issue. The children are collecting litter, attending Scout camps and receiving a good education in our schools. There is advice about plants from Eco Soco with more to come next time. The footballers and WI fund raising for village charities is much appreciated.

It is a very varied and picturesque magazine that I hope you will enjoy. We are so lucky to live here in Sonning Common.

Linsey Potter, who with her husband, so impressed us with their story in the last issue of the magazine, has written a few words here about their departure.

Kevin and Linsey at Springwater Church want to thank everyone in the Sonning Common and Peppard Common areas and around, who have supported us so much over the years we have been here. We will miss everyone so much and really love the way there is so much community spirit and involvement in everything that goes on.

A massive thank you with love from Linsey and Kevin ●

Future deadline dates for magazine copy

1 May, 1 July, 1 September, 1 November, 1 January, 1 March

We would love to receive your articles 😊

Diana and Christine

MEET THE EDITORIAL TEAM



Diana Pearman



Christine Atkinson



Joan Grumman

CONTENTS

- 3 Editorial
- 4-10 Community News
- 12-13 Noticeboard
- 16 Parish News
- 18-19 In Focus - SoCo spring clean
- 20-21 Library/ Tom Fort
- 22 Crime statistics
- 24-25 Postcards from the past
- 26 Health matters
- 27 The call of the sea
- 29 Puzzle Page
- 30-31 Scout group
- 32 Church news
- 34 Advertisers directory

Design & Artwork: Kevin Taplin

kevin@tensevennine.com

07887 902376

Print: Hobs Repro

www.hobsrepro.com/location/reading/

Published by:

Sonning Common Magazine CIC

Cover image:

SoCo Sprint Clean 2025

While every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of information printed in this magazine, the editor and the publisher cannot accept any responsibility for the consequences of errors that occur.

SC SONNING COMMON MAGAZINE

USEFUL CONTACTS:

Chair: Sue Rawlins

The Hoot 6 Woodlands Road Sonning Common RG4 9TE

chair.sonningcommonmagazine@gmail.com

Tel 0118 972 2565

Editor: Diana Pearman

editor.sonningcommonmagazine@gmail.com

Tel 07702 237956

Distribution: Helen Gavin

distrib.sonningcommonmagazine@gmail.com

Tel 0118 972 4680

Advertising: John Pearman

advert.sonningcommonmagazine@gmail.com

Tel 0118 972 2381

MECE NEWS

Focussing on hard work and opportunities



As we hit the mid-point in the school year I am delighted to share that Maiden Erlegh Chiltern Edge students continue to get themselves involved in a range of opportunities both within the school curriculum and through the ever expanding extra-curricular programme.

In January, local resident, Mr Manning, volunteered his time to share his life experiences with students and really brought History to life. Students were enthralled and we look forward to a second instalment next term. Then in February, three students from Years 10 and 11, Samuel, Toby and Emma, competed in the History Association Debate and have successfully progressed to the National Semi-Finals with their prepared talks on topics including "the History of Reading's train network" and "the role of Reading in the Slave Trade".

In early February, MECE hosted Primary School Athletics for students in Years 3-6 from Sonning Common, Kidmore End, Peppard Primary Schools. Young Sports Leaders from MECE's Y9 ran the event where students competed in relays and sprints to earn points for their team. Congratulations to all

involved for their enthusiasm and sportsmanship and we look forward to welcoming local Primary Schools for the last of the Cross-Country events in March.

Y11 student, Byron, is on the cusp of greatness having been spotted by the Olympic Talent Identification Programme. He is now involved in a series of weekend camps at the National Velodrome in Manchester and the potential of being invited to join the Olympic Cycling development squads. A huge thank you to Mr Caldwell (Head of PE) who has supported Byron in accessing this opportunity and to the Village's CECA fund that has provided a grant to Byron to enable him to attend the trials programme.

Over the next few weeks our attention turns to supporting Year 11 in their final weeks before GCSE exams begin as well as meeting our newest Chiltern Edgers who will be joining us in Year 7 in September. Our current Y10 students will be out in the Community on a day's Work Shadow in May – please do contact the school if you might be able to offer a placement.



Next issue I look forward to regaling tales from the school's Geography trip to Iceland to marvel at glaciers and volcanoes as well as the Annual Ski trip which sees almost 200 students from across Maiden Erlegh Trust on the slopes of the French Pyrenees at the end of this Half Term. ●

EMMA BLISS,
Interim Headteacher



SCPS NEWS

It's a team effort



They say that schools tend to reflect their headteacher and I worry about that most days! Of course, this is not entirely true, and I often find myself thinking (and I hope communicating) that running a school really is a team effort, and everyone plays their part.

So, this month I thought it would be good for you to meet four of my colleagues to give you a flavour of their own approaches to working with us, and the disparate roles they play in running the place. I often advertise our 'committed and enthusiastic staff' – step forward Robbie, Jordan, Gemma and Dave!

I'm Robbie. I work as a dedicated 1:1 teaching assistant, supporting specific children through their school journey. Having faced my own – behavioural and other – challenges growing up, I feel a genuine empathy with those who struggle at school, and I hope I can bring a measure of calm and support to their lives. Working at SCPS has really helped me understand aspects of child development, and dare I say helped me

understand myself too. I am passionate about football, both as a coach (UEFA A license) and as a fan (Wolverhampton Wanderers, come rain or shine!). I see the passion that young people (including my own children) have for the game as a useful metaphor in supporting their technical, physical and social development. I love working here.

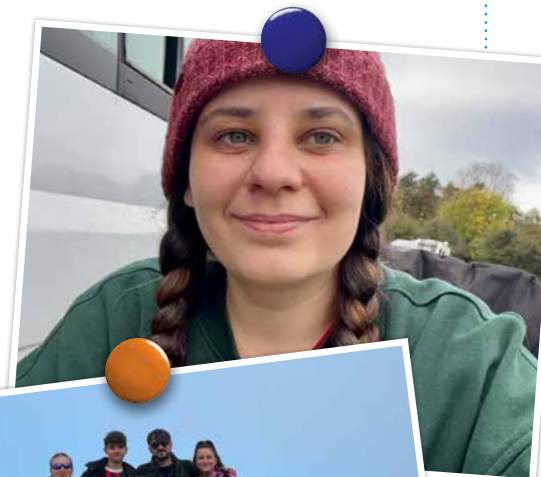
Hi, I'm Jordan. I am new to Sonning Common this year and this is my first teaching job. It's really hard, but it feels like I am doing something worthwhile – I never go home feeling the day was wasted. I have a previous life as a Biomedical Scientist, testing the compatibility of blood for transfusions, and checking for diseases like malaria and leukaemia. Unsurprisingly I'm pretty passionate about maths and science, and I love helping my Year Three children see how important these subjects are to their daily lives and their futures. Outside school I am happiest sipping a cup of tea outside in the open somewhere – most weekends are spent camping in my self-converted campervan, climbing a mountain, or plunging into the ocean.

Dave here! I am in my third year teaching Year Six. It is such a landmark year for our children, at the sharp end of public exams (SATs) and the transition to secondary school, but also with the rites of passage that mark the end of the primary phase, including multiple school performances, the Woodlands residential trip, and lots of post-SATs extension

activities. I used to run my own outdoor education company, taking groups out on the river (kayaking and canoeing) and running training courses for other coaches. I have a range of adventure sports qualifications and a maths degree – it is great seeing young people develop a love for maths and an understanding of how it might help them in the future. There is no sense of 'Maths is boring' in my classes!

Hello I'm Gemma. I work on the pastoral team. We have built up a commitment to supporting our children if they have tricky days or moments, and our pastoral facilities are great for gently nudging someone back on track if they need it. Often they don't, but we are always here if they do. My career leading to this has been varied but has always involved working with people – usually in some caring capacity. I've worked as a nanny, as a veterinary assistant, and in marketing. I also have three children of my own, all in different stages of life and with their own unique challenges. We bond as a family in various adventures and in our passion for music and festivals. ●

RACHEL SALMONS
Headteacher Sonning Common Primary School



SC PRESCHOOL NEWS

The year began very wet and cold but in the first half of the winter term the children enjoyed looking at birds and filling the display board with crafts. They celebrated National Storytelling Week in February using story sacks which are cotton bags containing the book and some props to help tell the story.

After February half term the children were busy printing images of their favourite book on t-shirts for World Book Day, celebrating Ramadan and Eid with crafts and stories, and thinking of acts of kindness and good deeds. Preschool held a stay and play to celebrate Mother's Day in March.

In Spring they will be organising a garden tidy so if anyone has any time to spare they are always grateful for any kind offers of help.



THE WISHING STONE

Those who played on Peppard Common as children in the 1950's and 60's will remember the wishing stone at the bottom of the steep hill. Our children were certainly taken to visit it by their grandmother.

A few years ago when taking our grandchildren to find it we realised it had fallen over and was rapidly being lost in the undergrowth. Not wanting it to be lost forever but unsure how to proceed we contacted Peppard parish council and now thanks to the persistence of parish councillor Ray Freeman and the expertise of Nettlebed and District Commons Conservators the stone has been reinstated and the area around it has been cleared.

The stone is mentioned together with a photograph in Michael Macleod's book

'Land of the Rotherbeast' and he surmises that it may have been linked to a nearby Yew tree as part of a pagan tradition.

The stone is thought to have been deposited during the ice age and according to Tony Rancombe, a member of the Conservators group, the stone is sandstone and was probably exposed during the quarrying of flint and chalk.

Whatever its true origin we found that by talking to friends it appears each family had its own story of the stone. Our children always knew it as the stone horse, others as a lion. If you sat on it and touched its eye you could make a wish.

It would be interesting to hear other memories and stories relating to the stone

but hopefully now this little piece of local history will survive and many more children will be able to sit on it and make a wish. ●

PETE AND HEATHER WICKHAM



WALKING FOOTBALL CLUB DONATES £5,623 TO CHARITIES

On January 23rd the members of Rotherfield United Walking Football club donated the funds raised during 2024 to their chosen charities - the British Heart Foundation and the Cardiac Rehab Unit at the Royal Berks Hospital. These are 2 very deserving charities that have provided much needed support to several current and past members. We presented cheques to them before we played our usual Thursday session at Bishopswood.

The money was raised during the year at a variety of events including a raffle and an auction and also by an extra £1



being added to every match day fee. We play twice a week on Monday evenings and Thursday mornings, normally at Bishopswood in Gallowstree Common.

All are welcome to join – whether you have played football before or not. For more info please contact wf@rotherfieldfc.com ●

Village Coffee Mornings continue to thrive

The Village Coffee Mornings, hosted by Sonning Common WI, have now been running for 13 years. It's a happy, welcoming event where anyone can come and meet friends or make new ones. If you come alone, we endeavour to come and sit with you if you so wish. Combatting loneliness was our initial aim and it still is.

At the Coffee Morning on 5 February 2025, we welcomed guests from 3 local good causes to each receive a cheque for £440. This amazing figure was raised from the generous support of everyone who attends.

The recipients for 2024 were FISH, Sonning Common Youth Club and Greenshoots (Ways and Means). A further donation of £440 was made in December to the voucher scheme organised by Diana Pearman, Editor of Sonning Common Magazine and Springwater Food Bank. The vouchers were distributed to local families in need of support at Christmas time. These donations would not be possible

without the support of everyone who attends whether just for a coffee and chat or treating themselves to something from our sales tables which offer gifted second-hand costume jewellery, wool and yes, three books for a £1. A tombola stall is also tempting and you may be lucky! Greenshoots also have a sales tables offering plants, produce and gifts.

We look forward to welcoming everyone. ●

The Village Coffee Mornings are on the 1st Wednesday of every month 10.30 to 12.00 noon



SAVE THE DATE SUNDAY 22ND JUNE

Now in its third year, Sonning Common Village Day is aiming to be bigger and better in 2025. Take a tractor ride to an afternoon of live music, food, drinks, games, shopping and other attractions. It promises to be a fun day with something for everyone so don't miss out on Sonning Common's big Summer Social - save the date now!

Many have already signed up but there's still time to get involved – we'd love to hear from local Community groups, crafters, traders, musicians/performers etc. who would like to join us for a fantastic party in the park! ●

Please contact: villagedaysonningcommon@gmail.com



NATURE NOTES FROM ECO SOCO

Green Alkanet

Those who walk the footpaths through Sonning Common may have noticed a plant with pretty blue flowers alongside many of the paths. The leaves are reminiscent of comfrey and foxglove and are coarse and hairy. The plant is Green Alkanet which reached England from western Europe (Spain and elsewhere). There is a yellow alkanet with yellow flowers so naming is not logical. The roots are the source of a red dye with many uses including as a substitute for henna. The plant is robust and a formidable weed in that small sections of root can regrow: if you wish to dig it out make sure you remove every last piece. The hairy leaves can cause irritation or even blistering – handle with care.



Hedgehogs

Sonning Common is home to a significant number of hedgehogs but they still need our help. Cut a hole about 120 mm diameter in your fence to allow hedgehogs in and out which will allow them to increase their feeding range. They should by now have left hibernation and you may see their signs in your garden in the form of lengths of poo about 8mm diameter which are dark and shiny when fresh. Hedgehogs are nocturnal so put out a handful of special food available from a good pet shop. If rats appear you might have to stop feeding or consider using a cage (live) trap or use traps which can be located to exclude hedgehogs eg with a small access hole, about 4cm diameter. For further advice and to register your garden on Sonning Common's Hedgehog Highway, please email: ecosococharles@gmail.com.

No Mow May

This is an annual campaign promoted by the Plantlife charity to encourages us to allow wild flowers in our grass. See their website to learn more; and encourage insects. We started doing this when we had a large garden. We adopted a once a year mowing regime and within 5 years the grass had become a colourful meadow with a few bluebells and violets in spring, in summer ox-eye daisies, musk mallow, birds foot trefoil and hogweed were adorned on sunny days with plentiful butterflies. We did not know just how good this would be. Our children moved out and we downsized so the meadow was lost to new owners.

By adopting the "No Mow" strategy you can encourage invertebrates, in particular butterflies, but a wide range of other creatures, spiders and more. Last year and for the first time we found grasshoppers in our tiny meadow as well as froglets which had just left our pond. This 'pond' was a large flexitub which we had used to incubate the tadpoles we had rescued from the main garden pond where the newts would have eaten them.

Wasps

Our wasps are suffering a large decline in their numbers. Few of us like wasps enough to do something to help them. Of course, they are a nuisance and to those who are sensitive to their sting it can be life threatening. I allowed them to build a nest in my shed and, although I passed within 500mm of it several times a day, they were never a threat and the nest had been abandoned by the end of September. In return they attacked cabbage white fly and even small caterpillars. The nest is a fascinating structure some 30cm long and 60cm across.



Bees and Spring Flowering Shrubs

You will have seen bumble bees already but their numbers are dwindling. You can help them by providing dry moss or grass which they often use to line their nesting chamber which may be underground in a compost heap or almost anywhere they can find shelter.

With global warming insects are having a hard time finding nectar, especially when temperatures are low so consider planting some spring flowering shrubs. Try *Sarcococca hookeriana* (Christmas or Sweet Box) an evergreen shrub which has white flowers on reddish stems and *Lonicera fragrantissima* – a shrubby, somewhat sprawling, honeysuckle with cream coloured flowers. You could enjoy the scents while enjoying the bumble bees. Both plants are easy to propagate from suckers.

Tree Planting

Eco SoCo is currently engaged in the planting of native trees around the village. This is as a result of our collaboration with Oxfordshire County Council. All the trees are native varieties. We invite villagers to water the trees near their homes this summer. To register interest, please contact Eco SoCo on ecosoco24@gmail.com.

And finally

Take time to enjoy the spring, get into the countryside, take a walk and admire the bluebells: our local woods usually host a magnificent display. The last week in April is usually the time it starts but climate change might adjust it either way. Alternatively visit a garden or a nature reserve. To find out about volunteering with Eco SoCo, please email ecosoco24@gmail.com.

DAVID LITCHFIELD



HEDGEROWS AND BIODIVERSITY?

Recently in January Eco Soco, members of the Parish council and representatives from interested village groups met to discuss the Mapping of Biodiversity opportunities in the village. From Land App maps provided as part of Treescape

Oxfordshire we now have a map of the hedges that exist across the village and maps reflecting where new hedgerows could be planted to maximise biodiversity. These maps will help inform any future Neighbourhood Plan and will kick start

the development of an Environmental Strategy for the Village. If you have any expertise and or think you could help with this, please get in touch with the Chair of the Parish Council Vickyboormanscpc@gmail.com •



In celebration of Great Big Green Week

Eco SoCo

Present a special screening of the hit movie

WILDING

Telling the moving and inspirational true story of a young couple that bet on nature for the future of their failing four-hundred-year-old estate.

Thursday June 5th 2025
Peppard War Memorial Hall

Gallowstree Road RG9 5JA

Doors from 6:30pm

Screening 7:00pm prompt

Tickets £5

Only available in advance
Please email ecosocofilm@gmail.com

CINEMA
FOR ALL

www.ecosoco.org.uk

WINE TASTING EVENING

Raises Over £1,000 for Sonning Common Primary School

On Friday, 7th March, Sonning Common Primary School hosted a wine tasting evening, generously sponsored by Abbeycrest, raising over £1,000 for the school's PTA.

Guests were warmly welcomed into the school hall with a glass of prosecco kindly donated by Californian wine giant, Gallo Wines before embarking on an evening of fine wines and delicious canapés. The first tasting featured De Chancery Crémant de Loire Brut, provided by Gavin at Purplefoot Wine Company, perfectly paired with salmon blini canapés provided by the PTA. Throughout the evening, guests sampled a carefully curated selection of wines, including a crisp Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc and a rich Chilean

Cabernet Sauvignon both donated by Baron de Rothschild. Canapés such as Thai chicken bites and rare roast beef nibbles complemented the wines beautifully. The evening concluded with a decadent Recioto, served alongside delicious chocolate brownies and a selection of cheeses from Nettlebed Creamery.

Guiding guests through the tasting was Lisa Baillie, a teacher at the school and a holder of the WSET Level 4 Diploma in Wines. Lisa's expertise and knowledge made the evening both educational and entertaining and guests have requested she returns to do another evening again soon. Guests also took part in a "Guess the Aromas" challenge and a wine-themed quiz.

A special thank you goes to our main sponsor, Abbeycrest, as well as to

Purplefoot Wine Company, Nettlebed Creamery, Tesco Henley-on-Thames, Waitrose Henley-on-Thames, and Co-Op Sonning Common for their generous contributions to the evening's food and drink.

In addition to ticket sales, a raffle featuring fantastic prizes from Forrester's Sonning Common, Little Village Candles, Holistic Flamingo, Brambles & Botanicals, Hundred Hills and Majestic Wines raised over £200, further supporting the school's PTA.

The event was a great success, bringing together the local community for an evening of fantastic wine, delicious food, and great company—all in support of a wonderful cause. 🍷

CATE STURGESS

AN ACCIDENT WAITING TO HAPPEN?

Many residents will not know much about Blackmore Lane apart from its unusual signpost which says it is a failed road. Unfortunately, it links Blounts Court Road with the B481. On many occasions recently, while the works on Inspired Villages continues there has been regular/frequent need for lengthy diversions signposted by the building company. Many motorists discovered that Blackmore Lane was a short cut.

Recently, because of the closure of Blounts Court Road for a number of days traffic was diverted down our lane making the reason to become a Quiet Lane more apparent and necessary. Large lorries were unable to turn, cars and motorbikes were hurtling past at

dangerous speeds and anyone out for a peaceful walk or cycle ride let alone on horseback would be taking their life in their hands.

Blackmore Lane is a single track road with very few passing places especially towards the eastern end of the lane where there are no passing places at all, not only does it make reversing a vehicle along a winding lane an inevitability but it also means any pedestrians and cyclist who are on the lane have nowhere to pull in to as the banks to the lane are steep. Blackmore Lane is used by many in Sonning Common for dog walking, Nordic walking, cycling and horse riding.

The residents believe that by making Blackmore Lane a Quiet Lane it

will bring a range of benefits to our community and countryside, and will improve our quality of life. By encouraging drivers to slow down and drive more considerately.

Add your voice to the need for residents to request a Quiet lane designation and write to the Head of transportation/ Chair of transport committee, OX1 1ND. You could make a difference? ●

Elisa Hitchcox and residents of Blackmore Lane

"The team currently have no plans, or funding, to designate Blackmore Lane as a Quiet Lane. However, now that it has been raised with the team, they will consider it if any funding opportunities come forward."

Highways response

Opportunities to grow confidence!

Garden therapy at Manor Farm

GREENSHOOTS

2025: celebrating 57 years

Open every weekday

9 am to 4 pm

Spring has sprung! We are busy readying everything for the new season - planting seeds, bringing on perennials and planning a riot of summer colour, ready for sale from April. In addition to our regular weekday openings, we will open on the following five Saturdays in May, from 9.30 to 3.30:

Saturdays: 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th and 31st May

For more information, please call 01491 628 933
Email: frances@waysandmeans.org.uk
www.facebook.com/greenshoots96
Manor Farm Rotherfield Peppard, RG9 5LA
The Ways & Means Trust ♦ Charity: 255074

Robin James

OPTICIANS

• Comprehensive eye examinations
• Full contact lens service
• Free specs for children
• Extensive range of designer frames
• Main agent for Zeiss and Rodenstock lenses
• Free parking

0118 947 2099
www.robinjames.co.uk
44 Church St, Caversham, Reading (opposite Waitrose)

Mike Dockree Window Doctor
Misty & damaged glass units, Cat flaps, Hinges, Handles & Locks

Checkatrade.com
madwindows62@gmail.com
Phone 07785928190 for free quotation

Property Maintenance
Plumbing, Electrics, Decorating, Woodwork
Roofing, Brickwork, Drains, Kitchens, Bathrooms
All Exterior, Groundworks and Garden work
Property Management and Lettings
Please call Roger on 07752759908

wood lane dentistry



Vikram Chugani BDS MFDS RCSEd MSc
Jessica Lee BDS MFDS RCS DipDSed
Claudia Wellman BDS MFDS RCSEng MSc MRD
James Mead BSc BDS
Vinesh Rajaram BDS DipRestDent
Zak Lee-Green BDS

Your local family friendly practice

- Routine general dentistry
- Affordable dental plans with Denplan
- Children seen on the NHS
- Tooth whitening
- Cosmetic dentistry and Implants
- Invisible braces
- Sedation for nervous patients
- Free parking

Now taking on new patients
Saturday and evening appointments available

Happy Healthy Smiles...



Wood Lane Sonning Common Reading
Berkshire RG4 9SJ Telephone 0118 9722626
www.woodlanedentistry.co.uk

tpo ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN CONSULTANCY
DESIGN + COST CONSULTANCY + PERMISSIONS + TENDER/CONTRACTOR SELECTION

EXTENDING?
REFURBISHING?
PLANNING A NEW BUILD?

18 YEARS Proudly celebrating 18 years based in Sonning Common

E-mail: enquiries@tpodesign.co.uk Web: www.tpodesign.co.uk Tel: 07747 561463

KILLPEST
Pest Control Services

Need to deal with a pest problem?
Covering Sonning Common, Peppard and surrounding areas
Wasps, Rats, Mice, Fleas, Ants, Squirrels
Fully insured 30+ Years Experience
Local Family Business
07748 060499 • 07391 995010
01189 478149
info@killpest.com • www.killpest.com

Whatever you want to store...

...for whatever reason - house sale and purchase not coinciding, travelling, house building work, paperwork overload or just "de-cluttering" to sell your house more quickly - we offer a friendly and flexible service at Shiplake.

With competitive rates, secure storage all on one level and hassle free 24/7 access, contact us now!

Only 10 minutes drive from Sonning Common in Shiplake



01189 404163

www.barn-store.co.uk

BONNER LOCKSMITHS

INSURANCE APPROVED

DOORS & WINDOW LOCKS SUPPLIED & FITTED, CHANGED OR UPGRADED (BS3621)

DOMESTIC & COMMERCIAL PREMISES DIGITAL LOCKS • BARS

FREE NO OBLIGATION QUOTE

ALL AREAS COVERED

CALL OUT SERVICE

01491 680216



CRESTWELL HOUSE

FULL MEMBER OF BRITISH LOCKSMITH INSTITUTE

Beech Lane, RG8 0PX • Woodcote Nr. Reading
PROPRIETOR: S. J. BONNER

T.C. FULLER PLUMBING & HEATING

Established 2006

• Installation • Maintenance • Service • Repair
Boiler replacement, heating system upgrade & adaptations, power flush.
Hot water cylinder replacement.
All plumbing work undertaken.

Bath/Shower rooms, water softeners-salt supplied.

• No call out charge • Free estimates • Fully insured

Email: t.c.fplumbheat@gmail.com

Tel: 0118 9724097

Mob: 07800 914 880



HENLEY GLAZING AND WINDOW CENTRE LTD

01491 629901

Glass Supply, Glazing Service, Mirrors, Shelves, Table Tops, sealed Units, Lead Lights, Locks, Secondary Glazing, Shower Screens

Suppliers & Installers of: UPVC, Aluminium & Timber Windows, Doors & Conservatories, Facias, Soffits & Guttering

FENSA

Registered Company

12, Manor Farm, Peppard Common, Henley on Thames RG9 5LA
Fax: 01491 629904 Email: andy@henleyglazingwindow.co.uk



KC IMPROVEMENTS

PAVING & DRIVEWAY SPECIALISTS

~ PATIOS

~ DRIVEWAYS

~ GROUNDWORKS

~ FOUNDATIONS

~ DRAINAGE SOLUTIONS

~ FENCING

Contact

07909 006369

kcimprovements@hotmail.co.uk

kcimprovements.co.uk

Checkatrade

facebook

WEE-COT SEATING

Upholstery, Loose Covers, Replacement Cushions, Roman Blinds, French Polishing & Furniture Repairs

LIZANNE SMITH

0118 972 4560

CURTAINS, CUSHION COVERS, BLINDS ETC.

ALL AT COMPETITIVE PRICES

CALL CAROLINE ON

0118 954 2448 or 07815 610007

Fed up with limescale?

A Water Softener

would be your solution

Compass Water Softeners

SALT, SALES, SERVICE, INSTALLATION

0118 972 3773 0118 941 0869 0796 700 9838

www.compasswatersofteners.co.uk

Email: martin@compasswatersofteners.co.uk

Sonning Common Pet Care

At Home Pet Care

when you are on holiday or at work

Cats

Daily visits to clean, feed and pamper

Small Pets

Home visits to care for your Rabbits, Guinea Pigs, Hamsters, etc

Dog Walking

Regular or occasional walks

Puppy Visits

To feed, play, toilet break and clean up

Please call Alison for further information

Tel 0118 9722948 / 07787 114536



HEIGHTS TREE CARE

- All Aspects of Tree Work
- Hedge Cutting • Stump Grinding
- Tree and Hedge Planting

TO ARRANGE A FREE QUOTE, CONTACT LAURENCE WILLIAMS

T 0118 9721003 • M 078135 86735

E info@heightstrecare.co.uk

www.heightstrecare.co.uk



FULLY QUALIFIED PROFESSIONALS
£10 MILLION PUBLIC LIABILITY INSURANCE

WE UNDERTAKE ALL TYPES OF BUILDING WORK

➤ BUILDING EXTENSIONS

➤ BUILDING RENOVATION

➤ BUILDING ALTERATION

➤ GAS AND CENTRAL HEATING

➤ LOFT CONVERSIONS

➤ PLUMBING

➤ BOILER INSTALLATION

➤ SERVICE AND REPAIR



BOILER
SAFE SERVICE, REPAIR & INSTALLATIONS
543250

AMAXS
PLUMBING HEATING ELECTRICAL
WWW.AMAXS.CO.UK

www.facebook.com/AMAXS

Tel: 01189 724 794 Mob: 0784 068 1057

E: info@amaxes.co.uk

Everyone needs something from...

Heath & Watkins

41 Wood Lane, Sonning Common, RG4 9SJ

Tel: 0118 437 5171

Eco Refills

Logs, Coal & Gas

Key Cutting

Seasonal Plants & Bulbs

Seeds

Haberdashery

Light Bulbs

Hardware

Gardening Tools

Water Softener Salt

Kitchenware

Kilner Jars

Painting & Decorating Supplies

Cleaning Sundries

Compost

& EVEN MORE!



Find us on Facebook for news on special offers, new stock arrivals and other good stuff.

PARISH NEWS

The content of this page is the sole responsibility of, and is paid for by, Sonning Common Parish Council

Dear Residents of Sonning Common



As we move into the first months of 2025, I want to take this opportunity to update you on some important changes on the horizon that could have a significant impact on our community and local governance.

Before Christmas, the Government published a White Paper on devolution and local government reorganisation. This is a top-down document, setting

out a vision for local authorities, telling them how they should structure and deliver services. The intention is to bring decision-making closer to local communities by giving councils more powers and larger budgets.

For Oxfordshire, this could mean greater control over key issues such as transport, housing, and public services. One of the possibilities outlined is the creation of a mayoral strategic authority that could cover the Thames Valley region, overseeing decisions on areas like health, policing, fire and rescue. In addition, there is potential for a single unitary council that could manage services such as housing, transport, social care, and waste with fewer councillors representing larger areas.

While I welcome the White Paper and the possibilities it presents, I believe that decisions on local governance should always be made as locally as possible, reflecting the needs and aspirations of residents. Devolution offers the chance to empower local communities and improve the services that matter most to you.

On a personal note, I am honoured to have recently been appointed as Vice-Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group focused on championing babies and as a Dementia Research Champion. These are causes I care deeply about, and I look forward to working on them in 2025.

My priorities for this year remain focused on improving NHS services, addressing the sewage crisis, and tackling the cost-of-living pressures that are affecting so many in our community. These are the issues I will continue to work on both locally and in Westminster, and I will keep you updated on any developments as they arise.

I will continue to meet with as many residents as possible. If you would like to get in touch or attend one of my surgeries, I would love to hear from you. ●

FREDDIE VAN MIERLO MP
Henley & Thame
Freddie.vanmierlo.mp@parliament.uk

Tony Parisi

Many of you might see our Village Warden, Tony Parisi when you are out and about whilst he diligently carries out his duties in all weathers and always with a smile. Tony has worked for the Parish Council for over 15 years and back in January celebrated his 80th birthday. He is an amazing asset to our Village and community, and we would like to not only say a big thank you but also wish him an amazing year ahead as he enters his octogenarian year.

Oxfordshire County Council elections will be held on Thursday 1st May 2025 and you will be able to cast your vote in Sonning Common Village Hall.

We have been notified by Oxfordshire County Council that Wood Lane will be closed 4.00am to 6.00pm from 21st to 24th April 2025 and 27th to 30th April from 4.00am to 6.00pm and Reade's Lane 21st to 25th April and 28th April to 1st May from 4.00am to 6.00pm. To check for road works and closures in our area you can look at <https://one.network/> and click on Live Map to which will show you current and upcoming road works and closures.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 14th April at 8.00pm in the Village Hall. In May the Council will hold its Annual Meeting of the Parish

Council on Monday 12th May from 7.30pm and the Annual Parish Meeting on Monday 19th May from 7.30pm. ●



ARBOCARE TREE SURGERY LTD

Qualified and Experienced Arborists

- Established over 25 years
- Contractors to the National Trust
- Crown reductions
- Thinning
- Felling
- Hedge Trimming
- Stump Grinding
- Decay Detection & Tree Reports

Free phone: 0808 1555815

Mobile: 07778811136

www.arbocare.co.uk

Graham Blake soft furnishing

- Loose Covers
- Curtains
- Re-Upholstery
- Tracks & Poles

For personal, helpful service, please call

Tel: 01844 261769 Mob: 0780 1182400

gblakefurn@gmail.com

www.grahamblake.com

Time 4 Pilates

Want to look and feel great!!
Try Pilates – controlled, yet gentle exercise

Classes in Sonning Common area
Including Ante and Post Natal

Mondays / Tuesdays / Thursdays
Beginners and Intermediates
Max 12 in Group (6 in Pregnancy classes)
Private sessions also available

Christine Brook – Member of Body Control Pilates® Association
Ring 07789 717017 or email chris@time4pilates.co.uk
Website at www.time4pilates.co.uk

Wallingford Tiles & Bathrooms
Are Delighted To Announce

**We Are
Rebranding!**

**THE BATHROOM
STUDIO**

01491 377 272

35 Wallingford Rd, Goring
thebathroom.studio

Beacon Flooring
A Family Run Business

**Carpet Wood
Karndean Vinyl**

Free fitting on carpet orders over £150

16 High Street, Goring. 01491 454095
beaconflooring@aol.co.uk
www.beaconflooring.co.uk

Caversham Aerial Services

TV Aerials Supplied and Fitted.
Poor Reception? Old aerials?
Can't get the new digital channels?

Give us a call - We can help!

Phone 0118 9673596

www.caversham-aerials.co.uk

Freeview

Freeview HD

THE SOCO SPRING CLEAN 2025

As the Great British Spring Clean, Keep Britain Tidy's annual national clean-up campaign, kicks off with events nationwide, we did our bit at the SoCo Spring Clean.

Over 80 volunteers did an incredible job on Sunday 2nd March, filling 90 bags with litter, making a visible difference to the curbsides, hedgerows and walkways around the village.

Our favourite finds this year include; 2 umbrellas, a tie, an Arabic coin and a rocket! After the pick Ronnie noticed the rocket on our pile and asked if he could give it a new home. Reuse in action!

A sad fact about the litter we collect, is that we see first hand the environmental damage that litter, especially plastic does. It takes anywhere from 20 to 500 years to decompose, and even then, it never fully disappears; it just gets smaller and smaller.

There is a special kind of litter picker who gets really excited to find litter we can date, but it stirs conflicting emotions. This year we found 15 and

45 year old crisp packets. Both were intact and could still hold water! It's satisfying to know they have finally been picked but depressing that they've been there all this time.

To date the litter, we can usually rely on the best before date, however on the older packet we had to do a bit of research. The faded print told us it was a Smiths packet of Quavers. Smiths were bought by Walkers in 1979, so we know that this packet must be more than 45 years old!

The Sonning Common Coop donated tea, coffee, drinks and the WI donated home-baked goodies and served volunteers as they returned from the pick. Special thanks to the WI team, led by Sue Frayling-Cork, we are so grateful to you all!

Thank you also to Leigh Rawlins for the use of his trailer and who collected full bags of litter from around the village.

The next SoCo Spring Clean will take place on Sunday 1st March 2026. Please like, share and follow us on Facebook [@soco.springclean](#) and if you'd like to get involved in any way, contact us at soco.springclean@gmail.com

#LitterHeroes

[@soco.springclean](#)

We'd like to thank the following organisations who helped support The SoCo Spring Clean 2025: South Oxford District Council, BIFFA, Sonning Common Parish Council, Davis Tate, Peppard Building Supplies and Sonning Common Coop.



A WEEK IN THE LIFE OF ...



Hello, you might not know me. I'm your local library and I live in Grove Road right next door to the primary school. Let me tell you about my week - you might be surprised at just how varied it is.

If it's the morning of the first or third Monday of the month my rafters are being rattled by the singing from adults and pre-schoolers who have come along for Rhymetime. They didn't need to book, they simply turned up and took part. Their embarrassment factor is minimal as I don't open for general use until 2pm on Mondays when my A-frame goes outside and my dropbox is emptied of all the books that have been returned while I've been catching up on some rest.

On some evenings my shelves are pushed to one side and I host author talks on all sorts of topics. In March my guest was Jasper Fforde, the fantasy writer of numerous novels including, "The Last Dragon Slayer" which was adapted into a film for TV and shown on Christmas Day 2016. And I can't wait for 15th May when Jim Donahue will be visiting to share the knowledge he gained while researching his new book, "The Thames Valley: Past, Present, and Future - A Snapshot of English Life". You can join me that evening for £5 and I'll even throw in a drink! Visit www.friendsofsonningcommonlibrary.org.uk for tickets.

If you look at my opening hours, you could be forgiven for thinking that I have a day off on Tuesdays, but that certainly isn't the case. During term time my young pals at the primary school come in: the older ones for lessons on how to use the library; the younger ones for stories. During their Tuesday break-time I let them in to borrow books, do my jigsaw puzzles, and play with my games. I miss my friends when the school is closed so often organise activities for them such as visits from ZooLab who will be coming back in April.

Although I'm not open to the general public on Wednesday mornings that doesn't necessarily mean I get a lie in, as on two of them a month I'm home to

reading groups. Tea and coffee flow, and biscuits are thoughtfully consumed while my book-loving friends discuss their latest reads. Then, during term time, at 1:30pm pupils from Bishopswood School drop by before my doors open to everybody once again at 2pm. They stay open until 7pm to accommodate those of you who work during the day.

It's a 9am start on Thursdays for me when all the usual facilities are available. But from 10am a board game session gets underway. Bananagrams, chess, Scrabble, Rummikub, cards and loads more - come along and take your pick! Hot drinks and biscuits are served. I take a breather at 1pm but only until 1:30pm if it's term time as more of my mates from Bishopswood School swing by until I re-open to the general public from 2pm-5pm. I never know who will come to visit or what they will want to do when they get here. Some parents bring their children to read to them, and do some colouring-in which is always available. Other people need to use my free wifi, or my printer; others sit at one of my computers taking advantage of the free access to Which magazine (a hard copy is available), or ancestry.co.uk.

There's a lot going on on Fridays so it's another 9am start which gives me just enough time to get organised before

the Scrabble players arrive at 10am to give their brains a workout. At 10:30am people start arriving for the weekly Social Morning - a hot drink and yet more biscuits. The air is abuzz with conversation. After a break for lunch, which lasts from 1pm-2pm, I re-open to random visitors. Perhaps one of them will be you popping in to grab a book, or jigsaw puzzle to take home.

Saturday opening is at 9:30am. I'm starting to feel the effects of my busy week now but there's nothing like the sound of children's laughter to spur me on. Storytime followed by colouring activities takes place at 10am but some weeks are extra special when there are also themed craft activities on offer, and home-baked cakes for sale. No need to book, just come along! At 12:30pm the A-frame is brought in, and the key turned in the lock as another week draws to a close.

I really am here for all of you. You don't have to be a member to visit and take part in activities, but you will need to become one if you intend to borrow books. For more details about what's on offer visit www.friendsofsonningcommonlibrary.org.uk or, better still, call in and take a look. I can't wait to see you! •

ALISON SMITH
FOSCL



NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY

Greetings from Sonning Common Library! I wanted to mention unsung heroes in this issue. When the Library is open, people see a lot of me as I work the most hours but I am ably assisted by Elaine Govett who is a valued member of staff. Elaine has many strengths including her desire to make your stay in the Library as positive as possible. The Friday morning Scrabblers and Social Group are lucky to have her behind the desk answering their enquiries and cheering up their morning. She is always a friendly face and happy to help whether it is a Wednesday, Friday or Saturday. Elaine is also an accomplished artist and uses her talents to provide wonderful displays about the hot topics of the month (April is the Natural World and the Environment and May is Local History and also Health, by the way).

Have you ever brought your children or grandchildren to a crafting session at the Library? Chances are, Elaine will have designed and prepared the activities (with help from our long-suffering volunteers who find themselves doing a lot of cutting out!). It is always lovely to see the joy on the youngsters' faces as they take home their creations with pride. So give a thumbs up to Elaine when you are next in and you come across her. She may not work a lot of hours per week but the Library could not run as well without her.

We also couldn't stay open without our volunteers. They do everything from shelving, Rhymetimes, packing up and unpacking our book deliveries, preparing craft materials, Storytimes, visiting housebound people and Abbeycrest, teaching digital skills, make cakes and running the Friends of Sonning Common Library (FoSCL). Always cheerful and willing to

get stuck into whatever weird or wonderful plan Elaine or I have come up with, they always like to get things done. If you see someone beavering around with a volunteer badge, they are happy to help you as well, especially if there is a queue at the desk.

So next time you pop in you will now appreciate it almost literally takes a village to keep the Library up and running and I send my thanks to all those unsung heroes! •

JULIET LEGG
Librarian



TOM FORT WELLYGATE

Rarely, if ever, in the history of the humble wellington boot can there have been such a farcical episode.

I was going into the garden to plant some new raspberry canes and because it was wet and muddy, I decided to put on wellies. I had managed to leave my own regular pair somewhere else, but I had a backup pair. The fit was a trifle snug but with a bit of heaving and stamping I got them on.

Having sorted the raspberry canes, I went to take off the boots and get ready for a medical appointment. We have one of those very handy boot jacks which has never let me down before.

I got the right boot off with a bit of a struggle and I noticed that quite a bit of earth had got inside the boot. I jammed the left foot into the jack, but the boot

would not come off. I pulled harder but my foot flatly refused to come out. My wife pulled at it without success.

By now it was getting serious. I had an idea - Sharona, who runs Heath & Watkins and is, in effect, my daughter-in-law and strong. With one boot off and the other half-on half-off, I hopped to the car, and we drove down to the world's best shop.

Shro came out and I explained the emergency. She fell about laughing. Various customers offered their views, and I got crosser and crosser. Shro had a go, but she couldn't shift it and we began to think that it would have to cut off with a Stanley knife. Then a brawny delivery man appeared and said he would try. He twisted the boot and at last it gave away, allowing my foot and

a good deal of wet earth to escape.

General hilarity reigned and when the incident was related on the Fort family WhatsApp group the laughter could be heard halfway across the world. I didn't join in - I actually felt somewhat humiliated.

And, no, I won't be wearing those boots again. •



CRIME STATISTICS - EPIDEMIC, OR SMOKE SCREEN?



When you switch on the news or look at internet or social media sources, it is easy to conclude that crime is at epidemic levels. There are certainly crimes that are rising. Primarily fraud, due to the meteoric rise of the internet. Online fraud comes in many forms including investment frauds, dating frauds, phishing and malware attacks. Don't forget phone scams, Mobile phones are after all hand-held computers. The list is limited only by the imagination of the perpetrator. It is faceless and has no geographic boundaries. It is expensive and time consuming to investigate and the penalties are low, and yet the proceeds of crime can be substantial.

So, what about traditional crimes? The perception of crime is heavily influenced by:-

Media Influence: Sensationalist headlines focus on high-profile crimes, reinforcing fears.

Selective Political Rhetoric: Politicians often highlight specific data points to support their agendas.

Personal Experience: where individual encounters with crime or anecdotal evidence can skew perceptions.

Perception and reality can however differ significantly depending on the source of the data and the agenda of those giving the message. Shoplifting is currently, exponentially increasing due to a mixture of economic pressures, a reduction in shop security staff due to the demise of the high street and in particular, high street Department stores, and rightly or wrongly, the de-prioritisation of shoplifting as an offence by the Police and courts. This can be seen as a flawed strategy as shoplifting inevitably funds the type of offences that the Police wish to prioritise, for example drugs, and a lack

of any effective deterrent encourages anti-social behaviour which creates the perception of all crime rising.

Violent crime and burglaries on the other hand have been steadily decreasing over the last decade. Why would anyone these days carry out an armed robbery on a post office when few people use cash, CCTV is everywhere and there is a high chance of being caught and receiving a substantial prison sentence? Compare this to an on-line fraud that is difficult to detect, cross-border and carries a low sentence.

Based on current figures, the Annual total crime rate in Sonning Common (ward) is 35.1 per thousand resident population. This can be rated as 2 out of 10 or low crime level compared to other wards in England and Wales.

Sonning Common (ward) is located within South Oxfordshire (borough). Annual total crime rate in South Oxfordshire (borough) is 50.9 crimes per thousand resident population, which can be rated as 1 out of 10 or low crime level compared to other local authority districts in England and Wales. Rest assured that compared to the National

average of 84 per thousand, we are living in a comparatively very safe area.

Remember, most crooks are not criminal masterminds. To ably illustrate this, two Welsh tourists landed themselves in court in 2012 after they got drunk and stole a penguin called Dirk from Sea World in Australia.

Rhys Owen Jones, 21, and Keri Mules, 20, from South Wales, broke into the park on Queensland's Gold Coast, swam with the penguins and let off a fire extinguisher in the shark enclosure, before making off with poor Dirk.

When they woke up - hung-over and with the Dirk, alive and well in their apartment - they tried "their incompetent best" to care for him by feeding him and putting him in the shower, the court heard.

They later released Dirk into a canal, but were spotted by locals who called police. A magistrate fined them 1,000 Australian dollars (equivalent to £637 at the time) each, and told them to drink "a little less vodka".

Dirk was rescued and returned to Sea World unharmed. Sleep well! •

Cllr Rob James



Computer Problems?

PC misbehaving?

Fault diagnosis, Maintenance & Upgrades, Networking, Data Recovery, Virus Cleaning, Broadband, Telephone Cabling & Extensions, TV, Mobiles, Website Design, Development & Hosting, and much more. Home and Business Support. Windows and Mac.

01491 680036 or 07961 476664
mail@influentialcomputers.com
www.influentialcomputers.com
Robin, Henry and Angus Piercey
Influential Computers Ltd - A Family Run Business Since 1984

PILATES IN SONNING COMMON + HENLEY



CONTACT Alyth Yealland
alyth@pilatesabc.co.uk

07521699265 www.pilatesabc.co.uk

al3d
STUDIO
DESIGN • DEVELOP • DELIVER

ARCHITECTURE & INTERIOR DESIGN
DESIGN - DEVELOP - DELIVER

Contact us on 01844 281715 or via email: info@al3d.co.uk
www.al3d.co.uk



Not all plumbers are created equal.

Same-day, fixed price, local heating & plumbing services you can count on!

Boiler Installation, Service & Repair

Heat Pump Design, Installation & Service

Central Heating & Radiators

General Plumbing Works

From leaky pipes to heating repairs, dripping taps to old boiler nightmares, you can count on us to keep your home cosy & warm.

premierheatingsolutions.co.uk

0118 230 2855



“Excellent friendly service, very professional and reasonably priced. I'd highly recommend.”

Tori Yates, Google Review



POSTCARDS FROM THE PAST

evoked magical memories of a globetrotting butler

By JOAN GRUMMANT



Liz Parham who has lived in Sonning Common for six years experienced an uncanny fluke of fate when her family was reunited with postcards sent to the family by her grandfather while on the grand tour in the 1920's. Frank Hills, her grandfather, spent his working life as a butler or valet for various affluent people, he mingled with royalty and travelled extensively being in Egypt at the opening of Tutankhamun's tomb. How the Parham family were united with eight postcards sent during his tour is a fascinating story involving research, detective work and tenacity.

A group of eight postcards sent to his wife and baby daughter Avis who lived in Cardigan Street, London were bought by Jim Rayner for £15 at an Isle of Wight auction as part of a larger bundle. Jim had already set up a Facebook group called 'Forgotten Messages Project' to reunite families

with postcards and his team traced Laura Parham, daughter of Liz through this and sent a message to her on December 28th – a very welcome late Christmas present! Laura found the message from Jim in her Facebook Messenger junk file and discovered that it had been there for six months. It could have been missed very easily! Jim kindly gave the family lots of information as well as the postcards to the delighted family. Liz Parham now has the postcards safely in a folder in her house in Sonning Common alongside some stag antlers that were given to Frank Hills by George V when he was present at a Shooting Party in Scotland.

Liz and her two sisters were born in Bristol and Frank and his wife lived with the family for nearly ten years before he died in 1962. Liz has fond memories of a tall and dignified man of immaculate appearance with a gentle and kind disposition but not chatty. He was a devoted family man and the postcards he sent from exotic places around the world were his means of ensuring that they knew his whereabouts and of how much he missed them. Liz and her family enjoy travelling too and have visited some of the places he mentioned, Egypt, Monte Carlo and Lake Como, and this feels like a strong link to him.

Frank spent a large amount of his working life under Sir Charles Leopold Cust equerry to George V but in 1949 was working under Lady Cowley at Seagry House when a fire occurred, and

he became something of a hero. Lady Cowley unfortunately died in the fire, but Frank was able to go back unto the building and rescue other people. This bravery was not recognised at the time and that has always seemed a bit of a shame, but the family feel that Frank would have been thrilled to know that his postcards were back in the family and had brought such joy. Apart from being an important piece of social history reflecting vastly different times they now give a clearer picture of a quiet discreet man who was also an unsung hero. It has been a fascinating time for a family who can retell Frank's story to future generations and share a glimpse into a hugely different world. ●

15:33



Jim Rayner

21 JUL AT 09:33

Hello, I wonder if you can help me? I'm trying to locate a Laura Parham who is the great granddaughter of a Frank and Constance Hills. (Our research team believe this would have been on your mother's side of the family). It's a bit of a long shot I know but I should explain. I collect old postcards and I run an ongoing project on Facebook where any old postcards I pick up that have been sent, I try and return to the family of those it was addressed to so they can once again read a forgotten message for a loved one. We have a series of cards we're currently investigating that were sent by who we believe was your Great Grandfather, on his travels while serving as a butler to a rather noted family. Yes, it's a bit of a long story... I have quite



HEALTH CENTRE NEWS



New Receptionists: We are delighted to welcome Steph and Nathalie to our Reception team and we already know they will welcome you with a friendly smile. Both Steph and Nathalie come with a wealth of transferable knowledge that will help them settle into their new role and help assist our patients.

Staff changes: After working at Sonning Common Health Centre for many years one of our administrators, Julia, has decided it's time to retire and enjoy travelling the world with her husband. Julia will be retiring at the end of March and will be missed by the team.

Due to Julia retiring one of our Receptionists Terri, was successful in her interview for the Admin vacancy. Terri has been working in both Reception and Admin for the last couple of months while Steph and Natalie settle in. Terri will move

completely from Reception to Admin at the beginning of March to have a handover and training from Julia.

Spring booster Covid clinics: We will be offering the Spring Booster Covid vaccine on Thursday 03rd April 1400-1700 and Thursday 24th April 1400-1700. All eligible patients will be invited to book their appointment in March. The eligibility for the Spring booster is 75 years and over and severely immunosuppressed patients. Please do not call to book your appointment until you receive an invitation to do so.

NHS App: Do you already use the NHS App or does it feel a little daunting? The NHS App has a range of NHS services that can be accessed via your smartphone or tablet. It doesn't replace any existing services and you can still contact us in the usual ways. Once you have verified your identity in the app you will have

easy, 24/7 access to a growing range of health services and information. You can order repeat prescriptions, access NHS 111 online, find NHS services, book appointments, see test results and even view your health records. If you would like access to your health record you need to let us know. Please go to our website and click the large red box on the right-hand side 'Online access to your medical record'. Your request will be actioned within 2 weeks and will give you future medical access.

We would like to make patients aware that we cannot accept disused mobility aids. We do not have anyone suitably qualified to assess and measure patients for these aids and so we are not allowed to distribute them. ●

Sue Litchfield

HEALTH WALKS

Spring is surely here and it's good to get out into the beautiful local countryside for a brisk walk. The Health Walks timetable continues throughout the year with a programme of walks to suit all levels of fitness: it's fun and it's free!

The timetable changes after Easter with new routes and new starting points. Check the details on the website at: www.sonningcommonhealthwalks.co.uk/timetable. If you'd like to talk to someone about any aspect of the health walks, phone Chris Brook on 0118 972 2609 ●

Rosemary Dunstan



THE CALL OF THE SEA...



The Reading Offshore Sailing Club (ROSC) is a social club for all those interested in sailing and the sea, including non-boat owners. We hold a series of talks, usually on the first Monday of the month, at least one sailing rally on the sea, as well as social activities such as a summer BBQ, an autumn 'laying up supper', a New Year walk and pub lunch.

We are lucky enough to use the Upper Thames Motor Yacht Club premises on the waterside behind the Mill at Sonning for our meetings. It is a delightful spot to socialise with others with similar interests, share our experiences, make plans and enjoy the beautiful surroundings.

The talks last year were as varied as the story of the Vasa, a 17th century warship raised from the deep in Stockholm harbour, the work of the Marine Conservation Society, cruising in the Netherlands and amusing but

cautionary tales of sailing mishaps. The programme included a very enjoyable film review evening where six members each presented a film connected to sailing and the sea – the ROSCARS! At one of these meetings £244.36 was raised for the Royal National Lifeboat Institute.

We were fortunate with the weather both for last summer's BBQ and the May weekend rally in the Solent. The eight boats included two charter yachts skippered by qualified members of the club

which gave non-boat owners the chance to get afloat and develop or hone their sailing skills.

'Climate Change and Sailing: A Journey through Time' was the first in our series of talks this year, held on February 3rd. It was given by Tim Reeder, a Climate Change Consultant and formerly Senior Advisor at the Environment Agency.

On Monday 3rd March. Jane Williams, an accomplished sailor, will talk about her voyage from St John's Newfoundland to Greenland encountering humpback whales and icebergs along the way.

On Monday 7th April, Stuart Little, a Thames pilot who has spent his entire career in shipping, will give an insider's view of life as a pilot on the capital's estuary.

The Reading Offshore Sailing Club offers a warm welcome to visitors at this and subsequent meetings. Our meetings are held at the premises of the Upper Thames Motor Yacht Club. We normally gather for a chat and drink from 7.30, and our talks begin at 8pm. First time visitors can attend their initial talk for free.

Two weekend rallies in the Solent are planned this year. The first is from 9th May in East Cowes and the second in Lymington in September, again with an opportunity for non-boat owners to join in.

For further details of our activities and venue, please see www.readingoffshore.org.uk ●

Jacqueline Bignell, the Club's Commodore, at the helm





HAS RELOCATED AND IS NOW AT
64 WOOD LANE
SONNING COMMON RG4 9SL
0118 972 1240 * 0777 179 0916
(PREVIOUSLY THE DAVIS TATE OFFICE)
WEEKDAYS 9.30AM – 4.30PM
SATURDAYS 9.00AM – 1.00PM
SUNDAYS CLOSED



"We turn feelings into flowers"

Advertise in the
sonning **common** magazine

Delivered to 2,200 addresses

Prices from just £38 per issue
for an advert this size

Perfect for local businesses
and tradesmen

Call John Pearman to find out more on 0118 972 2381
or email advert.sonningcommonmagazine@gmail.com

Shaun Guard TV AERIAL & WIFI SERVICES

- Aerials - supplied, repaired & poor reception solved
- Satellite - Sky Q dish upgrades, discreet dish installations
- Internet / WiFi - blackspots cured, internal & external data cables installed in your home and outbuildings
- TVs - hung on your wall or set up and tuned

OXFORD AERIALS

Call us on 01182 055155
shaun@oxfordaerials.co.uk
www.oxfordaerials.co.uk

ZUMBA LATIN
Thursdays 11.15-12.45
Christchurch, Henley with free parking
£10 per session includes
1 hour ZUMBA + 30mins standing
stretches, breathing & meditation
Bring your water bottle, face towel &
smiley face
Sessions are fun and for all ages &
abilities – come and try it out
More details from Adrienn
07428 020113

HENLEY JOINERY
Manufacture through to installation



Tel: 01491 410 246
Email: info@henleyjoinery.com

FENSA
APPROVED
WINDOW & DOOR INSTALLER

Sonning Common

MOT

Test Centre

MOT SPECIAL OFFER
- All Makes All Models -
£10 OFF
your next MOT on production of this voucher

**All Makes Serviced & Repaired
at competitive prices.**

Free Local Collection
and Delivery available

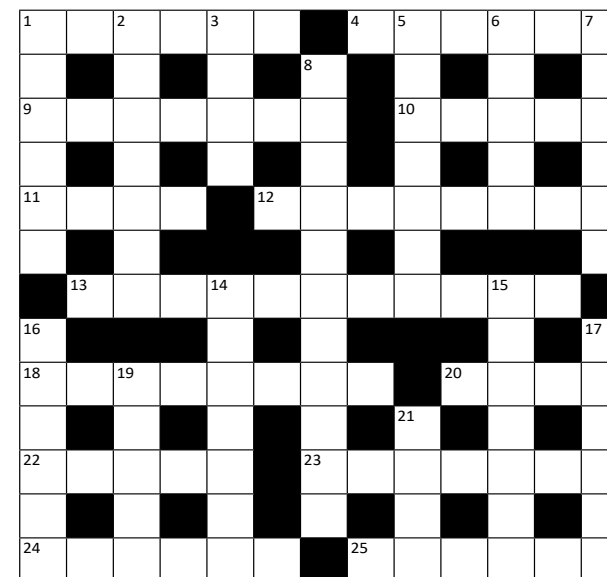
Sonning Common Garage
Looking after local customers for over 60 years
Peppard Road, Sonning Common RG4 9SU
0118 972 2021
www.sonningcommongarages.com

Service Opening Times: Mon-Fri 8am - 5.30pm • Sat & Sun CLOSED
Offers valid on production of this advert. Only 1 voucher per MOT. Offer not available in conjunction with any other offers. Sonning Common reserves the right to modify the terms of this promotion at any time. Correct at time of going to print.

PUZZLE PAGE

By **DAVID DUNSTAN**

Cryptic crossword



ACROSS

1. Route finder took a pew before vehicle returned (6)
4. Fast, taking in gravity, before hard stretch (6)
9&7 down. Hondurans head around to village pub (4,3,6)
10. Farewell and depart wrapped in gold (5)
11. Drove, by the sound of it, on the path (4)
12. Fashion in scarlet, given a makeover (8)
13. No art mimics fabricated sentimentality (11)
18&20. Londoner's look at weapons in village pub (8,4)
20. See 18
22. Frequently melt, losing head (5)
23. A dude in confusion, without help (7)
24&21 down. Robin, perhaps, under control in village pub (4,2,4)
25. Dilly's composed rustic poems (6)

DOWN

1. Sarah recreated a desert (6)
2. Fuss after pulled apart in storm (7)
3. A road is absent (4)
5. Cats lie about stretchy fabric (7)
6. Interrogate cook (5)
7. See 9 across
8. Enterprising tuna devours cocktail (11)
14. Newsflash: Antigua houses Ghanaian people (7)
15. Pastry rustled when baked (7)
16. Draw in tummy muscles with ball (6)
17. Whispered remarks when including team (6)
19. Teacher cooked trout (5)
21. See 24 across

See answers on page 34

Sudoku

Grading: medium

	6		1	2				
5	7							
4		1	6	9			7	8
7								
3		2		5		7		1
								5
1	4			7	3	9		6
							5	7
				4	6		2	

Cryptogram

The following quotation has been encoded using a simple letter substitution. What does it say?

ITT! SRT HUWSTO UI NEIS;
SRT OEUWI EOT AMTO EWV DAWT.
GFAHTOI ENNTEO AW SRT TEOSR;
SRT ITEIAW AG IUWUWD REI LAPT,
SRT LAUWD AG VAMTI
UI RTEOV UW ACO FEWV.
- IAWD AG IAFAPAW (WUM)

Quiz: Berkshire

1. Why is it the "Royal" County of Berkshire?
2. Which of these counties does not border Berkshire?
Buckinghamshire, Gloucestershire, Surrey, Hampshire
3. What is the maximum distance of any part of Berkshire from the M4? (choose from: 5.5 miles, 8.5 miles, 11.5 miles, 14.5 miles)
4. In 1998 Berkshire County Council was replaced by six unitary authorities. Which one is missing?
Bracknell Forest, Reading, West Berkshire, Windsor & Maidenhead, Wokingham.
5. Two rivers join the Thames at Reading; one is the Loddon; what is the other?
6. Which mobile network operator has its world headquarters on the outskirts of Newbury?
7. Which global confectionary company has its UK headquarters in Slough?
8. Which horse-racing course, closely associated with the Royal Family, is situated 6 miles from Windsor Castle?
9. What is the name of the ancient trackway, described as Britain's oldest road, which runs along the Berkshire Downs to the River Thames at Streatley?
10. What independent boarding school for boys in Berkshire was founded in 1440 by King Henry VI?

SONNING COMMON SCOUT GROUP

The group has grown by 40% since our last article in the Village Magazine in Autumn 2023 and we now have 46 children attending across our 3 sections - Beavers, Cubs and Scouts.

Our purpose is to actively engage and support young people in their personal development, empowering them to make a positive contribution to society and we have had a fun packed 15 months of activities doing that.

As a whole group we have:

- Attended two Full Group Summer Camps at Youlbury –Sept 24 & Sept 25
- Attended the Village Remembrance Day Ceremony at the Village Hall in both 2024 and 2025.
- Been presented with an Oxfordshire County Growth Award as one of the largest growing groups in the County.

- Had 13 children achieve Chief Scout Awards and be invited to the County Awards Day –9 Silver Award winners (Cubs) and 4 Bronze (Beavers) Award winners.
- Katanuung & Dragon boat racing and family BBQ in the rain!

The various sections have also been business individually and some of their highlights have been as follows:

- One of leaving Scouts achieved their Gold Chief Scout Award, which was the first for the group for several years and was extremely well earned after a lot of hard work from the Scout. This has become a great incentive for all the remaining Scouts to achieve the same.

- All the sections have earned themselves lots of badges (as their parents will be only to aware due to the amount of sewing!) which covered a variety of different challenge badges and +25 different activity badges.
- The scouts attended the first District Winter Camp (back in January 2024) - Spy Camp - which was a competition amongst all the District's Scout Group's. Despite having the youngest average aged team and the youngest scout on camp, the Scouts performed brilliantly and came second overall (there are 18 Scout Groups across the district in total).
- The cubs attended the District cross-country competition and came 3rd (out of 18 groups).

- The cubs and scouts attended a joint First Aid Session, learning how to assess casualties, perform CPR, bandaging wounds and dealing with choking.
- Visits from Hearing Dogs for the Deaf
- A Falconry visit and experience
- Visits to the wind turbine at Green Park
- Attending the Oxfordshire County Cub day at the Natural History Museum
- Visit from EcoSoCo

The group meets in our own Hut on Baskerville Road (next to the playground) and the sections meet at the following times and days:

- Beavers (ages 6-8) – Tuesday 4.30-5.45 pm – Leader: Charlotte Cant
- Cubs (ages 8-10.5) – Monday 6-7.30pm – Leader: Mike Harris (leaving at the end of Summer Term 2025)

- Scouts (ages 10.5-14) – Tuesday 7-8.30pm – Leader: James Buxton

All our sections are at full capacity for the number of leaders that we currently have, but if anyone would like to add their child to the waiting lists please contact the Group Lead Volunteer (the new name for the Group Scout Leader) Sarah Buxton.

Also, and most importantly we are on the lookout for additional adult volunteers to either support our individual sections or to help out behind the scenes, to supporting the whole group. Our Cub Leaders are both moving on from running the Cub Section at the end of the Summer term, as both their children will no longer be involved in cubs, so we urgently need to find some new leaders to run this section and to ensure we can keep running our Cub Group.

Volunteering is a great way to improve your skills, improve your wellbeing, and help make connections with friends, family, and your local community. As a volunteer with 1st Sonning Common you can be as involved as you want to be from spending an hour/hour and half a week to helping out just once a term - tell us what you're interested in, and we'll help you find something that matches your skills (and the time you have available). We'd love to give you the chance to try out different things, meet the team, and see what supports on offer before you decide whether to be involved. Again, if this is something that interests you, please contact the Group Lead Volunteer Sarah Buxton sarah_e_adams@hotmail.com



CHURCH NEWS

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST AND CHRIST THE KING

What a joy it is to have reached spring after the short days of winter! The countryside around our village is once again alive with signs of growth and new life.

Spring is also the time when we celebrate Easter in our churches. Lent continues throughout the beginning of April until Holy Week, which begins on Sunday, 13th April, Palm Sunday, and ends on Easter Sunday, 20th April, when we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Details of services throughout Holy Week:

(All services are being held at St John's, Kidmore End, whilst Christ the King, Sonning Common, is temporarily closed)

- **Sunday 13th April** (Palm Sunday): Sung Eucharist, 11.15am
- **Thursday 17th April** (Maundy Thursday): Sung Eucharist, 7.00pm
- **Friday 18th April** (Good Friday): Good Friday Liturgy, 2.00pm
- **Saturday 19th April** (Easter Eve): Easter Vigil & Eucharist, 9.00pm
- **Sunday 20th April** (Easter Day): Sung Eucharist, 11.15am

Building work, refurbishment and redecoration at Christ the King church is ongoing and excellent progress is being made. It is hoped that the church and adjoining hall will be open once more at the beginning of May. A rededication service is being planned; look out for details on the church pages at www.achurchnearyou.com.

Looking ahead, other events are planned for May and June, including a Plant

Sale in Sonning Common Village Hall on Saturday, 17th May (10.00am – 12.00noon) and, following its success in 2024, another Flower Festival, 'The Sweet Things in Life,' at St John's on 21st June (details to be confirmed, but save the date!) as well as a Parish Concert at St John's on Saturday, 14th June, 3.00pm (again, details to follow). Rounding off these events, Festal Evensong will take place at St John's on Sunday, 22nd June, 6.00pm. Please do come along to enjoy these events; refreshments will be available and all monies donated go towards the St John's fundraising campaign.

Meanwhile, you are most welcome to visit St John's at any time for private prayer or to have a look around (the church is open during the day) and you can be sure of a warm welcome at any of the church services. Wishing everyone a Happy and Blessed Eastertide. ●

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2025 - THE COOK ISLANDS

"I made you wonderful" Psalm 139

Kia Orana!

It means: May you live long and may you live well. May you shine like the sun. May you dance with the waves.

Springwater Congregational Church was bursting at the seams on the evening of Friday 7th March as people from all around the area came to join in this beautiful service of praise to the Living God. It was deeply moving with lovely songs led by the choir, made up of members from the 6 churches who come together to organise the service. 2 of the songs were specially written for the service by Ruru Maeve from the Cook Islands and the choir even sung some parts in Maori!

The Service was prepared by Christian



ladies from the Cook Islands with the theme, "I made you wonderful". Every one of us is valuable, precious, unique and unconditionally loved by God. It is knowledge we can cling to in all circumstances. Do read Psalm 139 for yourself.

There were over 30 people participating - as readers or choir members as well as the congregation, an interdenominational

unity of people renewing friendships and making new ones.

After this uplifting service, which is used all around the world on this first Friday in March, there was supper for all and a friendship bracelet, made prayerfully, with love, for each person to mark the occasion and take home.

What a privilege to share in this. ●

Enhance the appearance of your property with our quality assured friendly service

Moss Removal & Roof Cleaning - Roof Maintenance & Repairs
Render & Brickwork Cleaning - Patio & Driveway Cleaning
Installation of Bird Protection - Fitting of Chimney Caps & Cowls
info@mossinator.co.uk - 01865 362797

A . B .
WALKER

Local, independent, family-run funeral director
supporting Sonning Common



"...understanding and sympathetic and smoothly helped us through all the decisions to be made. This made the whole experience easy and reduced our anxieties."

Excellent ★★★★★ ★ Trustpilot

Local branches in Henley-on-Thames and Caversham.

01491 413434 | www.abwalker.co.uk



PUZZLE PAGE ANSWERS FROM PAGE 29

1. It is the location of Windsor Castle.
2. Gloucestershire. 3. 8.5 miles. 4. Slough.
5. Kennet. 6. Vodafone. 7. Mars. 8. Ascot.
9. Ridgeway. 10. Eton College

Quiz: Berkshire

SEE! THE WINTER IS PAST;
THE RAINS ARE OVER AND GONE.
FLOWERS APPEAR ON THE EARTH;
THE SEASON OF SINGING HAS COME,
THE COOING OF DOVES
IS HEARD IN OUR LAND.
— SONG OF SOLOMON [2:11-12] (NIV)

Cryptogram

9	8	7	5	4	6	1	2	3
2	3	6	8	1	9	4	5	7
1	4	5	2	7	3	6	8	9
6	1	4	7	3	2	8	9	5
3	9	2	4	5	8	7	6	1
7	5	8	9	6	1	2	3	4
4	2	1	6	9	5	3	7	8
5	7	9	3	8	4	6	1	2
8	6	3	1	2	7	5	4	9

Sudoku

S	L	L	Y	D	I	N	I	D	R	I	B
E	E	N	S	T	O	R					
D	E	D	A	N	U	N	E	T	O	F	O
I	U	H	O	A	U	S					
S	M	A	R	S	E	H	C	T	B	U	S
A	T	U	S								A
S	M	I	C	I	T	N	A	R	O	M	A
S											A
D	E	L	Y	S	R	E					R
N	L	S	V								A
U	E	A	D	N	A						H
O	R	L	A	W	O						A
H	T	G	N	L	A	V	A	T	N	A	S

Cryptic crossword

ADVERTISERS DIRECTORY

A B Walker & Sons Ltd Funeral Directors	33	Heights Tree Care	15	Property Maintenance	11
al3d Studio (Architecture & Interior Design)	23	Henley Glazing & Window Centre Ltd	14	Robin James Opticians	11
AMAXS Plumbing Heating Electrical	15	Henley Joinery (Bespoke Joinery & In-house Installation)	28	S J Hinton Carpenter & Joiner	35
Arbocare Tree Surgery Ltd	17	Influential Computers (Computer Problems)	23	Serviced Office Available in Sonning Common	35
Barn Store (Secure Self Store)	14	KC Improvements (Driveways & Patios)	14	Sonning Common Garage	28
Beacon Flooring	17	Kingfisher Kindergarten (Pre School)	2	Sonning Common Pet Care	15
Beville Estate Agents	2	Killpest (Pest Control Services)	14	T C Fuller Plumbing & Heating	14
Bonner Locksmiths	14	Mike Dockree Windows	28	The Bathroom Studio (formerly Wallingford Bathrooms)	17
Brambles (Florist)	28	Mossinator Roof Cleaning Systems	17	Thermostat (Refrigeration & Air Conditioning)	Back
Caversham Aerial Services	15	Paul's Painting, Decorating and more	14	Time 4 Pilates	17
Compass Water Softeners	15	Peppard Building Supplies	Back	Time for You (Home Cleaning Service)	35
Curtains, Cushion Covers, Blinds, etc	14	Pest Wizards (Pest Control Services)	Back	Tomalin and Son Funeral Directors	Back
Farina Auto Services Ltd	Back	Pet Country Supplies	35	TPO (Architectural Design Consultants)	11
Functional Physio	Back	Pilates ABC	17	TV & WIFI Services	28
GPC Training & Construction	35	Premier Heating Solutions (Heating & Plumbing Services)	11	Wee-Cot Seating	14
Graham Blake Soft Furnishings	17		23	Wood Lane Dentistry	11
Greenshoots (Local Garden Produce)	11		23	Zumba Latin (Dance & Exercise)	28
Heath & Watkins	15				

Sonning Common Magazine cannot be held responsible for the quality of the products or services advertised in the magazine. Residents should be aware that companies or traders whose advertisements appear in the magazine have not been checked or vetted by the Magazine. We suggest you ask advertisers for references if you need reassurance.



PEST WIZARDS
YOUR LOCAL PEST CONTROL SERVICE

WASPS & ALL INSECTS
RATS, MICE, MOLES & SQUIRRELS
PROMPT SERVICE

MARK DEARLOVE • 07446 377816
(01491) 833282 • info@pestwizards.co.uk

S J HINTON
Carpenter & Joiner

Wide range of high-quality carpentry services delivered by skilled craftsman

Built-In Wardrobes, Cupboards, Shelving.
Kitchen Fitting, Doors, Floors, Windows,
Stairs, Roof Construction.

Telephone Steve on 0118 972 3602
or 07887 653866



PEPPARD
BUILDING SUPPLIES

***FREE LOCAL DELIVERY**

Competitive Trade Pricing
Specialist Insulation Stockists
Bricks/Blocks/Aggregates
Driveway Shingle
Landscaping Products
Paving Display
Trade Shop
Plenty of Parking
Web Offers!

Call **0118 972 2028** / Sat Nav **RG4 8XA**
Visit **www.peppardbuildingsupplies.com**

Would you like an honest, reliable and **AFFORDABLE** police checked cleaner to care for your home?



“Hi, I’m Dayna; I’ll help you reclaim your time by providing a trusted, reliable domestic cleaner.”

- ✓ All cleaners are vetted in their own home
- ✓ You’ll have the same cleaner each time
- ✓ The clean is insured for £2m
- ✓ Typically £20 per hour

Call TODAY: 0118 430 1430
email: **caversham@uk.timeforyou.cleaning**
www.timeforyou.cleaning





Sonning Common Health Centre
Wood Lane, Sonning Common,
Reading, RG4 9SW

- Back & Neck pain
- Muscle / Joint Strains
- Ligament Sprain
- Sports Injuries
- Whiplash Injuries
- Shoulder Injuries
- Post-Operative Rehabilitation
- Pre / Post Natal Exercise
- Respiratory Conditions
- Lower Limb & Foot Problems

- Appointments available every day
- Pilates classes throughout the week

Jo Pereira MCSP
Catherine Matthews MCSP
Chartered Physiotherapists

T: 0118 405 0089

E: info@functionalphysio.co.uk

www.functionalphysio.co.uk

The team at Functional Physio are Chartered Physiotherapists registered with the Health Professions Council and are recognised by all major insurance companies, including Bupa and Axa PPP.



Autoservices Ltd
Tel: 01189 724036

NOW OPEN

The Paddock
Kidby's Yard
Kennylands Road
Sonning Common
RG4 9JT

**Competitive Prices
Excellent Service**

Servicing and Repairs on any make

- ◆ Tyres ◆ Batteries ◆ Exhausts
- ◆ MOT ◆ Car Sales



THERMOSTAT
REFRIGERATION & AIR CONDITIONING LIMITED

AIR CONDITIONING
INSTALLATIONS
MAINTENANCE
REPAIRS

REFRIGERATION
ALL COMMERCIAL REFRIGERATION
COLD ROOMS
WALK IN FRIDGES & FREEZERS
CELLAR COOLERS

We also hire
refrigerated &
freezer
trailers!



info@thermostatltd.co.uk

07402968008



**SC SONNING COMMON
MAGAZINE**

Please mention the
magazine if you
respond to any advert



Kingfisher Kindergarten



*Thriving Pre School
for children aged
2 years and above*

We accept all Government Funding and
have immediate spaces available

Contact us for a visit 07894 966562

laryne@kingfisherkindergarten.uk

www.kingfisherkindergarten.uk

T&S

**Tomalin & Son
Funeral Directors**

Henley-on-Thames family run
Independent Funeral Service



Golden
Charter
Funeral
Plans

£40 John Lewis voucher or
£40 donation to Sue Ryder Care
with each pre-paid funeral plan taken out on production of this advert

Tel: (01491) 573370

www.tomalins.co.uk tomalin@btconnect.com

Anderson House, 38 Reading Road, Henley-on-Thames, RG9 1AG