

# SC

# SONNING COMMON MAGAZINE

## IN THIS ISSUE



### MACMILLAN CAKE SALE

The Youth Club  
supporting charity  
P7



### TRICKS AND TREATS

Raising money for  
those less fortunate  
P21



### NHS THANK YOU DAY

Local people show  
their appreciation  
P27



.....

## THE HIDDEN JEWEL IN THE VILLAGE

IN FOCUS - PAGE 18-19

.....

DEC/JAN 2021/22

### Kingfisher Garden Maintenance

All general garden maintenance -

- Hedgecutting
- Mowing
- Strimming ... etc

Providing gardening services in the local area for nearly 30 years

Call Jan Raciborski on 0118 948 2736



### wood lane dentistry



Vikram Chugani BDS MFDS RCSEd MSc  
 Jessica Lee BDS MFDS RCS  
 Claudia Wellmann BDS MFDS RCSEng MSc MRD  
 Dipesh Kothari BDS MFDS RCSEd

- 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

# FROM THE EDITORIAL TEAM

It is the season to enjoy and let us hope it will be a happier one for us all.

My thoughts are already for those people in the village who have very little to look forward to at Christmas time. **Twelve Days of Christmas** is the theme for 2021 Treats boxes. If you would like to be involved in any way, making, wrapping, filling, delivering then please send me an email.

Hopefully an interesting magazine is presented for you. For the last 2 years the Noticeboard has not been in use due to the total absence of organised events. It is a reason for celebration to be publishing the fact that many of the community activities have returned.

In Focus features Old Copse, the hidden jewel owned by the parish and its development is being led by Cllr Vicky Boorman who is promoting the local history and organising the enhancement of the habitat.

Sadly, Sandy has moved away so no more Cook's Corner but Tom, another favourite will make you smile. Tom has updated us on the state of the Neighbourhood Plan review as has Jonny on the cycle path. Write ups include many happenings within the village from Halloween to Colour runs to the new play area on Memorial Park and many more.

So, to my final words for 2021 a year that I am not sorry to move on from but cannot leave it without sending best wishes from the whole magazine team in the hope we all to have a happy festive season. ●

Diana Pearman Editor

Email: [editor@sonningcommonmagazine.org](mailto:editor@sonningcommonmagazine.org)

## MEET THE EDITORIAL TEAM



Diana Pearman



Christine Atkinson



Joan Grummant

## USEFUL CONTACTS:

Chairman: Geoff Adams  
1 Woodlands Road, Sonning Common RG4 9TD  
[chairman@sonningcommonmagazine.org](mailto:chairman@sonningcommonmagazine.org)  
Tel 0118 972 2134

Diary dates: Helen Barker  
[helen.barker75@outlook.com](mailto:helen.barker75@outlook.com) Tel 0118 972 1241

Distribution: Helen Gavin  
[distribution@sonningcommonmagazine.org](mailto:distribution@sonningcommonmagazine.org)  
Tel 0118 972 4680

Advertising: John Pearman  
[advertising@sonningcommonmagazine.org](mailto:advertising@sonningcommonmagazine.org)  
Tel 0118 972 2381

## CONTENTS

- 4-7 Community News
- 10-11 Noticeboard
- 12-13 NDP review
- 16 Parish news
- 18-19 In Focus
- 20 Book reviews
- 21 Tricks and treats
- 22 Henley Lions
- 23 Did you know?
- 24 Tom/Harmony
- 25 Puzzle Page
- 27 NHS thank you day
- 28-29 Health matters
- 30-31 Church Pages/Katie Boyle

Design & Artwork: Kevin Taplin  
TenSevenNine.com  
[kevin@tensevennine.com](mailto:kevin@tensevennine.com)  
07887 902376

Print: Rick Peedell  
R.J.Peedell  
[rick.peedell@gmail.com](mailto:rick.peedell@gmail.com)  
07766 254422  
0118 9471955

Published by:  
Sonning Common Magazine CIC

Cover image:  
The Old Copse in the snow

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.



## Thinking of moving?

For a free valuation or to enquire about one of the properties in our varied portfolio please contact Richard Beville



# Beville

ESTATE AGENCY

info@beville.co.uk  
www.beville.co.uk  
+44 (0)118 924 25 26  
28 Peppard Road  
Sonning Common  
South Oxon RG4 9SU

### 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



## elements

KITCHEN DESIGN

Visit our stunning showroom:  
8b Portman Road, Reading RG30 1EA  
Tel 0118 959 9919  
www.elementskitchens.co.uk

# HEAD'S REPORT



Schools are social places and educating our students in how to behave towards each other is such an important part of our 'mission'. Therefore, as a part of this pursuit, I was delighted to sign our agreement recently to become a Duke of Edinburgh Award school. Students who embark on this programme will volunteer, learn new skills, perform physical activities and complete an expedition. We can't wait to get going after Christmas!

Our social side has also been seen in some of our recent events. In the last few weeks we have attempted to restore the school to a near normal way of working. It has been so much better for our sense of community for all the students to mingle together, to queue with each other and work together. The contented noise of the quad at the centre of the school, with Year 7s playing table tennis through to Year 11s sitting or standing in groups discussing the day's events, is so much better than the 'bubbles' and partitions we had before the summer.

It has also meant that we have been able to host visitors back on site for the first time since early March 2020. In recent weeks we held six open mornings and an open evening. During these events we welcomed over 300 families of prospective students from Year 5 and 6 in the local area and this bodes well for the school and its future. We will have to wait a few months to get an idea of our numbers for next September, but the levels of interest suggest a much fuller Year 7 come the autumn of 2022. One thing that stood out in all these events was the feedback our student guides received as they were complimented for their eloquence, appearance and enthusiasm. I am so pleased that so many of our students share the pride we have in our school and its rapid progression.

I was also fortunate enough to hold a meeting with our local MP, John Howell when he came to visit us. During the appointment I was able to discuss a number of topics with Mr Howell including some issues we are having working pro-actively with Thames Valley Police and also how the government could support schools to operate in a greener and more sustainable manner. John also met some Year 7 students who held a Q&A session asking him about his varied career, his work as a Member of Parliament and how the government makes laws and how it functions. John finished his visit with a tour of the school,



and I was so pleased that he reported that the school had been 'transformed' from his previous visit four years earlier.

In addition, I invited our local primary headteachers for a coffee and tour just before half term. We were delighted to welcome representatives from six local schools. I thought it would be a great idea to get their thoughts on how our school is being viewed by local parents and teachers so that we can understand how to move forwards and satisfy the demands of our catchment area parents.

Who knows what the next few months will bring but it has been so much better to run the school in more normal circumstances since September and I know that our students and staff have shared these feelings of positivity and opportunity. ●

**ANDY HARTLEY**  
Headteacher



# SONNING COMMON PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS



by Christine Atkinson

## DONATIONS

As part of the school Harvest Festival staff and pupils were asked to bring in a donation for the local food bank at Springwater Church. There was a fantastic response to this request as you can see in the photo.

The school received a letter of thanks from Jayne Hill, who is the Springwater Food Bank Manager which read: 'Thank you so much for your very kind donations to Springwater Food Bank, it is much appreciated. Your donation will help

to feed 30 families and individuals in Sonning Common to be able to eat some treats and food that will help them to spend less on their weekly shopping when they don't have enough money to buy everything they may need. We are a small food bank and we don't have much funding to buy food, so we are really happy to receive any donations. If you have anyone who may need help with food, a listening ear or help with benefits, please do not hesitate to contact me.' ●



## COLOUR RUN



A big THANK YOU from the Parent Teacher Association (PTA) to all staff, parents and children who came to support the 'Colour Run' held in September. This event sees runners having paint powder thrown at them by the spectators. It was the first fundraising get together in a long time and was a brilliant afternoon. Lots of mess and laughter. Thank you everyone! ●

## CHRISTMAS TREES

With the dark evenings and the chill in the air it will soon be time to order your Christmas tree. Sonning Common School have been growing trees on site for almost three years now as a fundraiser for the school. They can be ordered from the PTA by emailing them at [pta@sonning-common.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:pta@sonning-common.oxon.sch.uk)

The PTA will also be selling cut Nordman fir trees which can be ordered in the same way. ●



# SONNING COMMON LIBRARY

The library is back to its normal, pre-Covid hours – but I'm afraid we're not back to our normal level of visitors. If you're working from home and tired of your own company, why not pop in for a chat and a browse? We'd love to see you! On Wednesday 22nd December everyone is invited for Friends of the Library Christmas nibbles, in the library from 2pm.

We have storytimes every Saturday morning at 10am, and Rhymetimes on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month at 11am. Hopefully Scrabble Club, Digital Helper sessions and the adult Craft Club will be able to restart in the New Year (Covid permitting)

There will be special Christmas storytimes with craft sessions for children (approximate age 3 – 8), on every Saturday in December at 10am – and we will also be selling home-made cakes (make sure you have cash!).

I am expecting that the library will be closed to the public from 1pm on Christmas Eve until 2pm on Wednesday 5th January 2022 – but check in the library nearer the time as these plans might change.

Finally, with the change of longstanding FoSCL committee members having recently taken place, I would like to sincerely thank the outgoing committee members (Jill Hutchinson, Jenny Jones

and Helen Fort) for their constant support and encouragement over the last 7 years. You will be a hard act to follow. ●

Rosemary Dunstan



# YOUTH CLUB HOSTS MACMILLAN CAKE SALE

Young people from Sonning Common Youth Club hosted a cake sale outside the village hall in October and raised £300 in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support.

They baked brownies, fairy cakes, flapjacks and rice crispy cakes and brought them to sell. Rose Martin made posters and an amazing cake with a surprise inside which was bought for £10. Jasmine made a chocolate extravaganza cake which was also sold for £10.

Youth Club leader Sunny Smithers said: "We've had feedback from parents saying they loved being able to make cakes for such a worthwhile cause. Sadly, cancer has impacted our young people's lives and they wanted to do anything they could to help.

"Jolene and I, as leaders, are so pleased and proud of all our young people and all the work and effort they put into anything they do, but especially this event.

"I can't tell you how fantastic our young people are and we only see them once a week. We are just so lucky to have such thoughtful caring young people growing up in our village." ●



# COMMUNITY APPLE PRESSING

Making apple juice seems to be an odd activity for someone with a fruit allergy – but it doesn't put off Jessica Philbrick. So for the second time, she borrowed a community owned press from Watlington, where she works, and set it up in the yard at Heath and Watkins. On a bright Sunday morning in mid October, villagers came with their barrows and buckets full of apples – deposited them in a giant "chipper" and then layered the pulp between hessian sacking on the press. Mums, dads, grannies, grandpas and kids got stuck in – turning the corkscrew mechanism with a long handle. All morning, there was a steady flow of people and (yes you guessed it!) juice. Jessica, who lives in Sonning Common, said: "I know it seems odd because I can't drink the juice but I have an apple and a pear tree so it's good to turn it into juice and give it away. I hate waste". And the juice, which freezes really well, was delicious – perhaps doubly tasty because it was free! Roll on next autumn. ●

Helen Fort



# SONNING COMMON MAGAZINE WEBSITE

[www.sonningcommonmagazine.org](http://www.sonningcommonmagazine.org)

A redesigned and improved Sonning Common Magazine website is now live. The place to go if you would like to read the magazine online or look at back issues for the past ten years. The improved format enables a flip of the pages like a physical magazine and IT works well on a mobile phone. A subscription facility exists to receive notifications by email when a new issue becomes available. Links exist to advertise in the magazine, as well as contact details for the magazine team.

Future features to the website will publicise late news items and ways of making it easier to find articles in past issues. Comments and suggestions please.

David Dunstan



# FRIENDS OF SONNING COMMON LIBRARY

It's been a busy time at the library over the summer – and there is more to come. The kids were entertained by Zoolab, the Master Builders Lego club and a special craft session courtesy of local friend of the library Elaine Govett. For the adults, there was the library quiz and a poetry writing workshop run by Rachel Piercey, a writer and poet who won the prestigious Newdigate Prize while studying at Oxford. The quiz made more than £500 for library coffers allowing us to subsidise further events and workshops. Zoolab are to return on Tuesday 21 December with "Zola the kind hearted Elf" – a Christmas workshop in which children are taken on a journey around the world delivering presents and encountering magical animals along the way. Tickets will be £5 a head. Committee member Alison Smith will be organising another I-Spy trail for the Christmas holidays – allowing primary aged children to follow a series of clues around Sonning Common in the search for a book title. Pop into the library nearer the time to check the details or keep an eye on our website [www.friendsofsonningcommonlibrary.org.uk](http://www.friendsofsonningcommonlibrary.org.uk).

The Friends are always on the look out for new committee members – you can do as much or as little as you like.

Please get in touch if you'd like to get involved – email us at [friendsofsonningcommonlibrary@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofsonningcommonlibrary@gmail.com) or get in touch through our facebook page. ●



# PLAYING WITH WORDS



Housing association Soha has launched a large-scale creative writing project for its residents and anyone who lives where it has homes – and that includes Sonning Common.

'Playing with Words' is a series of professionally-led free workshops to encourage creativity on the theme of 'community' in poetry, prose or music.

For six months, free in-person and online sessions with Kevin Campbell of The KCD Collective will take place across Soha's area and culminate in a gala evening in July 2022 at Didcot's Cornerstone Arts Centre to celebrate Soha's 25th anniversary.

The invitation to get involved with 'Playing with Words' has been offered in 8 languages to encourage as many people as possible from all cultures and backgrounds, Soha residents or not, to participate. Soha says the most important aspect of 'Playing with Words' is getting the community together

to have some fun, learn new creative skills and inspire each other while maybe meeting new people. "Just attending a workshop doesn't mean signing up to present your work next summer – but if you would like to, all the better!", said Liz Roberts, Communications Officer.

"There will be further mentoring, again all free, for anyone who would like to work up a piece."

Find out more and where to catch a workshop by calling Andrea or Liz in Soha's Resident Engagement team on Freephone 0800 014 15 45 or emailing [ri@soha.co.uk](mailto:ri@soha.co.uk)



# THANKS TO MILLENNIUM GREEN TRUSTEES

People are very kind in making way for an invalid in a wheelchair at the Millennium Green. The resurfaced path there is an excellent improvement allowing the wheelchair to be pushed easily. Thank you to the Millennium Trust for arranging this improvement. ●

Phil Cottrell

**Moores Painting, Decorating & General Maintenance Services**

**Spruce up your Home & Garden!**  
5% Discount when you quote: SCMAG

\*Interior/Exterior Painting, Glossing, Staining. \*Wall Paper Removal/Hanging. \*Damaged Walls/Woodwork Repair.  
\*Repair & Maintenance of Internal/External Fixtures & Fittings.  
\*Fences/Sheds Erection & Repair. \*Fence, Shed, Decking – Cleaning, Staining, Painting. \*Garden Clearance/Maintenance

**We invite you to contact us for a free, no obligation quotation.**

Call: 01189 722002 or 07595 906940  
Email: [info@moorespds.co.uk](mailto:info@moorespds.co.uk) Web: [www.moorespds.co.uk](http://www.moorespds.co.uk)

**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](http://www.arbocare.co.uk)

**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](http://www.robinjames.co.uk)  
44 Church St, Caversham, Reading (opposite Waitrose)

**Christmas Craft Fair**  
Saturday 11th December  
Sonning Common Village Hall  
10am - 4pm  
FREE Entry

  @mumadoracrafts  
[www.mumadoracrafts.co.uk](http://www.mumadoracrafts.co.uk)



**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](mailto:mail@influentialcomputers.com)  
[www.influentialcomputers.com](http://www.influentialcomputers.com)  
Robin, Henry and Angus Piercey  
Influential Computers Ltd - A Family Run Business Since 1984

**Rachel Masters MCFHP MAFHP**  
**Foot Health Professional**

Professional Foot Care In Your Own Home  
Toe Nail Cutting, Diabetic Foot Care, Corns, Calluses, Verrucas, Fungal Infections, Thickened Toe Nails, Foot Care Advice.

**07933 220500**  
**0118 3282612**

[www.masterfootcare.co.uk](http://www.masterfootcare.co.uk)  
[rachel@masterfootcare.co.uk](mailto:rachel@masterfootcare.co.uk)



Member of The British Association of Foot Health Professionals

**Kidbys Sheds**  
**'Simply The Best'**  
**Quality That Lasts a Lifetime**

**Sheds, Workshops, Studios & Summerhouses**

Wide range of styles, sizes, window & door arrangements, colours. Full service inc removal of old shed, base building, design, build & erection.

**[www.kidbys.co.uk](http://www.kidbys.co.uk)**  
Tel: **0118 9723380**  
Email: **[sales@kidbys.co.uk](mailto:sales@kidbys.co.uk)**

 **davis tate**  
ALL PROPERTY MATTERS

**Our customer reviews say more about our service than we ever could...**

“We had excellent service with Davis Tate. The marketing and selling of the house was efficient and effective. The real value of the service came later when the staff, and in particular Julie Norman, spent a lot of time and effort monitoring the progress of the houses in the chain towards exchange, 'encouraging' them to keep moving forward, and keeping us informed.”

If you're thinking of selling or letting contact Davis Tate on 0118 972 4242 or email [sonningc@davistate.com](mailto:sonningc@davistate.com)

**Graham Blake soft furnishing**

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

For personal, helpful service, please call  
Tel: 01844 261769 Mob: 0780 1182 400  
[grahamblake123@btconnect.com](mailto:grahamblake123@btconnect.com)  
[www.grahamblake.com](http://www.grahamblake.com)  
Ten Year Guarantee

**JC GARDENING SERVICES**  
**General Maintenance Gardener**

Grass Cutting, Hedge Cutting, Pruning, Weeding, Edging, Leaf Clearance or General Tidy Up  
For one off or regular maintenance  
Call Jason on **07775 564275**  
Email: [jcgardeningervices@gmail.com](mailto:jcgardeningervices@gmail.com)

**SPRUCE MAINTENANCE SERVICE**

For all your property maintenance requirements:

- ◆Decorating ◆Paper Hanging
- ◆Carpentry – including door easing & hanging
- ◆Wall Tiling & Silicone Renewal ◆Plumbing, leaking taps etc.

Pass on your TO DO list  
**ROB SMITH Tel: 0118 972 4560**

**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](mailto:chris@time4pilates.co.uk)  
Website at [www.time4pilates.co.uk](http://www.time4pilates.co.uk)

**SMALL MOVES**

DELIVERIES & REMOVALS :  
SAME DAY COURIER SERVICES

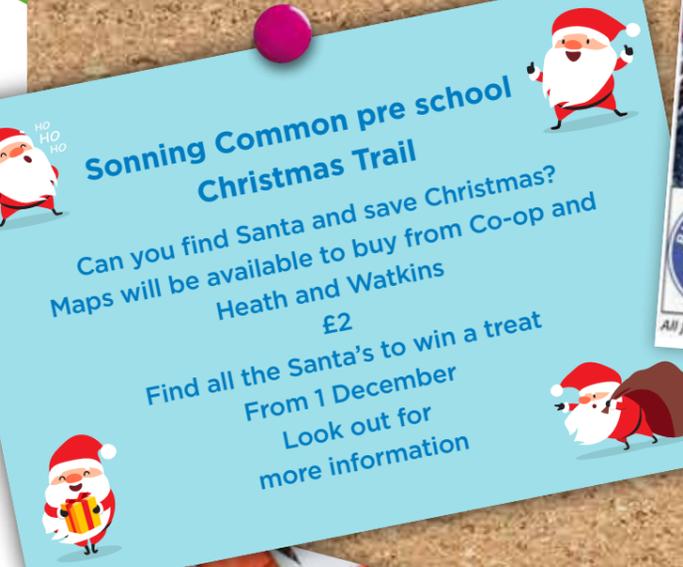
 **07779 301171**  
 **[philsweet599@gmail.com](mailto:philsweet599@gmail.com)**

**Phil Sweetman**

**Sonning Common pre school Christmas Trail**

Can you find Santa and save Christmas? Maps will be available to buy from Co-op and Heath and Watkins £2

Find all the Santa's to win a treat From 1 December Look out for more information



**BISHOPSWOOD SCHOOL CHRISTMAS FAYRE & AUCTION**  
(Auction starting: 3:00pm)

**Sat 4th Dec, 1:30pm**

Where: Sonning Common Primary School Grove Rd, Sonning Common. RG4 9RJ

What: Santa's Grotto, Grand Raffle, Cake & refreshments, Tombolas, Bric-a-brack stall, Games & more...

**\*\* STOP PRESS \*\***  
Donations needed for auction & Raffle prizes If you can help, please contact [hsa@bishopswoodschool.co.uk](mailto:hsa@bishopswoodschool.co.uk)

All funds raised support students of Bishopswood Special School



**Community Link Worker**

Your Doctor isn't the only person who can help you feel better

Working alongside your GP and other practice clinicians your Community Link Worker can help connect you to all the services, support, activities and opportunities that exist locally.

If you are aged 18+, and you need help at home, want to discover more about local activities or find out about benefits and support services that exist

**We can help you**

We will work together with you to support you to live as independently as possible.

**It starts with a conversation**

If you think that you, or someone you are close to, would benefit from our help and support please give us a call on 01235 649445 email: [communitylink.scho@nhs.net](mailto:communitylink.scho@nhs.net)

**Get In Touch**

Why don't you take the first step and get in touch?



NHS Oxfordshire

**Chiltern Edge Horticultural Society**

8 February 2022 14:30

Speaker Penny Noble "In an English Country Garden" Peppard War Memorial Hall [www.cehs.co.uk](http://www.cehs.co.uk)

**Springwater Food Bank**

Donations please for Christmas

- Cakes
- Biscuits
- Sweets
- Chocolate bars
- Tinned fruit

Drop off at Springwater or CCA shop By 18 December



**SONNING COMMON HEALTH CENTRE**

**SAVE THE DATE**

We hope this 50th celebration will take place on **Saturday 3rd September 2022.**

Please put the date in your diaries. It will be a celebration not only of the 50th Anniversary but also the return to a new normal post Covid -19.

We still hope to have an open house with catering and activities for the young and not so young. There will be a display of the history and successes over the years. Groups such as Green Gym, Health Walks, Health Cycling, Functional Physio/Pilates and Active Leaders will be invited to have stalls to display information on healthy activities.

We very much hope that you will be able to join us next September, we will write again next year with details. We would still like to hear about your time and memories of Sonning Common Health Centre. You could help us by:

1. Sending any old and current photos.
2. Telling us what you are doing now.
3. Giving some anecdotes of your memories of the HC. We would love it if you could say a few words during the event - please let us know.

We would use pictures and other memories as part of our display.

Kind regards, stay safe.  
Kim, Ralph and Nick  
GP Partners

If you would like to reply by email so that we can use this for future communications, you can either send to Sue Abbott [sue.abbott6@nhs.net](mailto:sue.abbott6@nhs.net) or Sue Litchfield [sue.HAT1999@gmail.com](mailto:sue.HAT1999@gmail.com)

**HEALTH WALKS**

The health walks will continue through the winter, unless the weather is really inclement, but there will be no official health walks between Monday 20th December and Monday 3rd January inclusive. The meeting places for some of the walks will change in January 2022: the up-to-date timetable is available on the website at [www.sonningcommonhealthwalks.co.uk/timetable](http://www.sonningcommonhealthwalks.co.uk/timetable).

To talk to someone about any aspect of the Health Walks phone Chris Brook on 0118 9242515

**VOLUNTEER REQUIRED**

Sonning Common Lunch Club are seeking a person to assist, along with others, to erect and dismantle tables and chairs once a month on the second Wednesday. We are happy to provide a free lunch. If you are interested phone Freda 0118 972 2924

**Vacancies**

Come and enjoy good food and company Sonning Common Lunch Club

We have vacancies for new members from Sonning Common village sixty years and over. Lunch Club runs on the second Wednesday of the month. If you are interested phone Freda 0118 972 2924

**FREDA BUCKNER**

**Sonning Common Primary School**

**CHRISTMAS FAIR**

**SATURDAY 27th NOVEMBER**  
12-3pm

**Free for children Entry £1 for adults**



**SOUTH CHILTERN CHORAL SOCIETY**

Present **70TH ANNIVERSARY CHRISTMAS GALA**

Join us for an evening of Christmas delights with a chance for audience participation!

**VAUGHAN WILLIAMS - BOB CHILCOTT - PAUL BURKE**

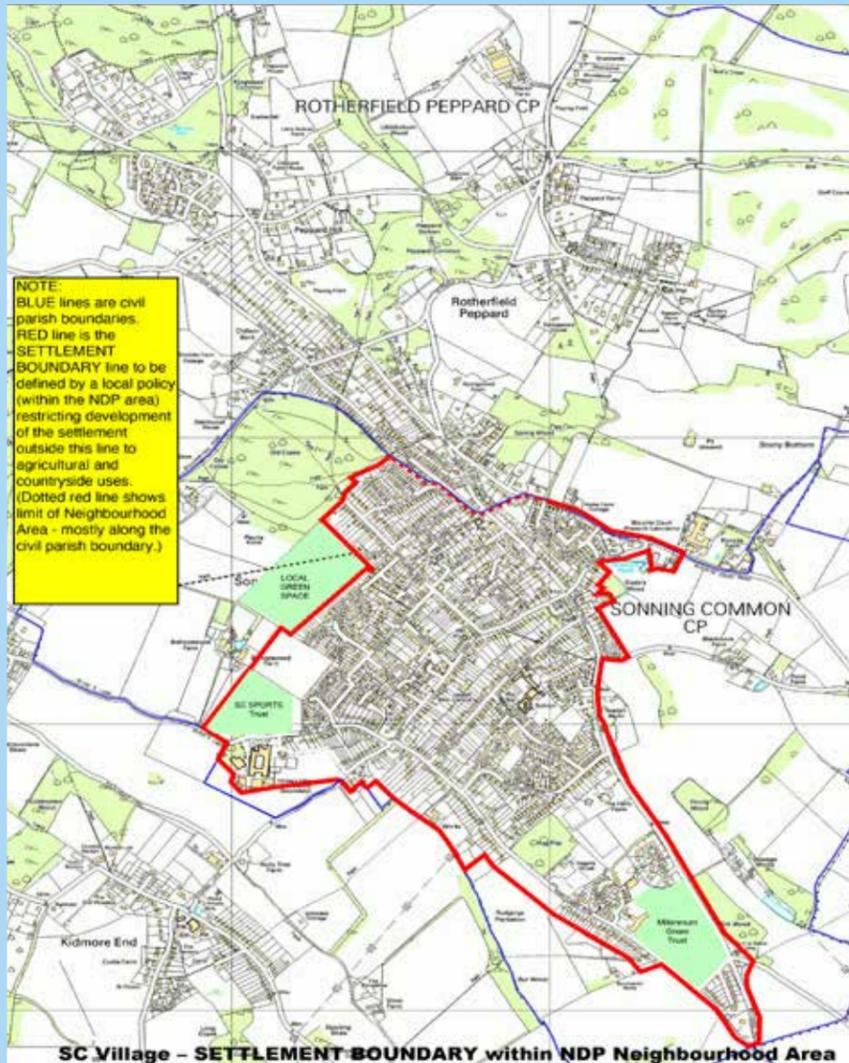
**ORCHESTRAL ENSEMBLE & SOLOISTS**

**SATURDAY 4 DECEMBER 7.00PM**

MAIDEN ERLEIGH CHILTERN EDGE SCHOOL  
SONNING COMMON  
RG4 9LN  
TICKETS £12.00  
AVAILABLE FROM WEBSITE  
[www.southchilternchoralsociety.org.uk](http://www.southchilternchoralsociety.org.uk)

Jane Pares  
Publicity South Chiltern Choral Society

# NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN REVIEW



Many people have asked: what is the point of showing an interest in Sonning Common's Neighbourhood Plan and bothering to take part in the official consultation on the revised plan which has been open for the past few weeks? The Neighbourhood Plan was powerless to stop the infamous Little Sparrows development of 133 apartments in the AONB off Blounts Court Road, so why go on with it?

As chairman of the working party that has been trying to produce a revision of the plan for the past three years, and the organiser of the campaign against the 'retirement village', I have been asking myself these questions - and I am still asking them now. But at the same time, I do feel that is right to do everything possible to get a new plan in place, and to urge the long-suffering residents of the village to support it.

There were several reasons why the

campaign against Little Sparrows failed, and I don't want to go over old ground again. South Oxfordshire District Council fought hard and honourably, but they did themselves no favours with their inadequate efforts to demonstrate that they had the five-year supply of land for building as required by the government. Our neighbourhood plan was not as strong as it would have been if we had been able to complete our work and get it approved - we couldn't because the Little Sparrows application and subsequent appeal paralysed the process.

Most important of all, the decision in the inquiry was in the hands of an inspector with a long record of favouring developers over local authorities, who showed no real interest in our neighbourhood plan and our desire to get more houses for young families in the village, and no respect for the need to preserve the AONB.

The Little Sparrows decision meant that the developer obtained planning permission for 133 apartments. Despite the fact, that SODC has been trying to challenge it in the High Court, that permission still stands. Because our overall housing requirement was under 100, it means that our revised plan does not have to make any new housing allocations. As a result, it is a very minimalist document - we have simply not been able to do in terms of housing what the village asked us to do. Not our fault, but intensely frustrating.

We have included an uplift from 37 homes to 50 on that part of the playing fields of Maiden Erlegh Chiltern Edge that was allocated for housing in the original Neighbourhood Plan, reflecting the willingness of the school and its agents to build smaller homes than

originally envisaged. And we have included as a reserve site the current Johnson Matthey staff car park at the junction of Widmore Lane and Blounts Court Road - to flag our belief that it will make a suitable location for smaller homes in the future. We have retained as a reserve site Kennylands Gymnastics and its surrounding area, as it was allocated in the original plan.

We have also taken a significant step in drawing up a settlement boundary for Sonning Common, to establish what we regard as the preferred shape of the village. In principle development within

the boundary would be supported in the future; development outside it would be opposed.

I share to the full, the disappointment and anger of so many people in Sonning Common that we were not able to stop the Little Sparrows development going ahead. But we must look to the future now and assess what is the best way to try and keep the village as we know and love it, protected from a similar assault. Believe me when I say that developers far and wide are looking at the fields around us with greedy eyes, weighing up the profits to be made from covering

them in bricks and concrete and tarmac.

We need to do everything we can to stop that happening. I believe that participating in the consultation (it ends on 1st December so if you read this before then you can still have your say), and supporting the revised plan is one way in which we can hope to achieve that end.

**Tom Fort**  
 Chairman of the NDP working group

## CYCLEWAY NEWS



**The project will be pursued by a new Working Party formed and led by Cllr Jonny Bidgood.**

### Working Party Formation

This is underway with five members now selected. All are non Councillors who are enthusiastic to help make this scheme happen and who responded to an appeal in the SC Magazine.

### Objective

The objective being to create a safe, traffic-free, cycling and walking route from SC village to Emmer Green and thence Reading.

### Good news

This has coincided with Oxfordshire County Council announcing a new round of financial support for 'Active Travel' which specifies cycle paths and routes. We have applied for our scheme to be included and Cllr David Bartholomew has been actively involved with this process.

### Get Involved

The Working Party are keen to hear from any other residents who are interested in actively helping or contributing. Please get in touch.

**Jonny B**  
 Chairman Cycleway Project Working Party  
 Contact: [grantdesigns@talktalk.net](mailto:grantdesigns@talktalk.net)



**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

**MIKE DOCKREE WINDOWS**

We provide and fit  
-Windows  
-Doors  
-Conservatories



In a colour of your choice and also  
-replace misty and damaged glass  
-hinges, handles and locks

We can also give your conservatory roof an upgrade both in material and colour.

We also provide and fit:

- Fascia
- Soffits
- Guttering
- Cladding



Member of



Our windows and conservatories come with a comprehensive 20 year guarantee, full independent inspection with all certificates

Mike Dockree has over 30 years' experience For your free quotation

**Ring: 01189724376 or 07785928190**

Email:madwindows62@gmail.com

10% discount on windows & doors when you quote MAD2020



**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

Property Maintenance

Plumbing, Electrics, Decorating, Woodwork, Roofing, Brickwork, Drains, Kitchens and Bathrooms  
All Exterior, Groundworks and Garden work  
Property Management & Lettings  
Please call Roger on 07752 759908  
colbeckproperty@gmail.com

**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



Tel: 01189 724 794 Mob: 0784 068 1057  
E: info@amxs.co.uk

The Mobile *Hairdresser*

...from the comfort of your own home...  
"at your convenience!"

Ring Maureen on  
0118 972 1074

*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](http://www.compasswatersofteners.co.uk)

Email: martin@compasswatersofteners.co.uk

**HEIGHTS TREE CARE**

- All Aspects of Tree Work
- Hedge Cutting
- Private and Commercial

TO ARRANGE A FREE QUOTE, CONTACT LAURENCE WILLIAMS

T 0118 9721003 • M 078135 86735

E info@heightstreecare.co.uk

www.heightstreecare.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

**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

*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
- Art & Craft Supplies
- Light Bulbs
- Hardware
- Gardening Tools
- Water Softener Salt
- Kitchenware
- Kilner Jars
- Painting & Decorating Supplies
- Cleaning Sundries
- Compost (Including Peat Free)
- & EVEN MORE!



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



FULLY QUALIFIED PROFESSIONALS  
£10 MILLION PUBLIC LIABILITY INSURANCE

# Parish news

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

## PLAY AREA UPDATE

Sonning Common Parish Council is pleased to announce that it is proceeding with Kompan as its preferred supplier for the Memorial Park Play Area.

Kompan was chosen after a rigorous tender process where submissions were scored against criteria which included design, range of equipment, inclusivity/ accessibility, safety standards, sustainability, guarantees, longevity and materials, value for money, contract management and presentation.

The tender evaluation team included representatives from the Parish Office, Memorial Park Working Party and a local youth leader. They also evaluated proven experience, resources to meet the project time-table, financial capability, health and safety records and insurance.

Kompan have been building playgrounds since 1970 and design, manufacture, and install more than 1,000 playground/ fitness sites per month across the globe. The company is also committed to sustainability and uses recycled materials in 70% of its products while 95% of its products can be recycled at the end of use.

Leader of the play area project, Deputy Clerk Becky Jenkins, said: "We are delighted to be planning and delivering this new play area at Memorial Park with the support of a £100,000 grant from Tarmac. We very much hope that it will become a focal point at the park and will be enjoyed by children, their parents and grandparents for many years to come."

Proposals for the new play area were displayed at a public exhibition on Saturday 6th November where feedback was gathered from residents.

The designs are currently being amended based on the feedback received and the Parish Council look forward to publishing the final plans in due course.

The play area is due to be installed and ready for use by the spring.

*Sonning Common Parish Council are pleased to announce that they are proceeding with Kompan as the preferred supplier for the Memorial Park Play Area. Kompan were chosen after a rigorous tender process where submissions were scored against criteria including: Design, range of equipment, inclusivity/*

*accessibility, safety standards, sustainability and recycling, guarantees, longevity and materials, value for money, contract management and presentation. The team also evaluated proven experience, resources to meet the project time-table, financial capability, health and safety records and insurance.*

*Kompan have been building playgrounds since 1970 and design, manufacture, and install more than 1,000 playground/fitness sites per month across the globe. Kompan play equipment was found to be built to last and offers excellent warranties. The company is also committed to sustainability and uses recycled materials in 70% of its products and 95% of their products can be recycled at the end of their lifecycle.*

*Proposals for the new play area were displayed at a public exhibition on Saturday 6th November where feedback was gathered from local residents. The designs are currently being amended based on the feedback received and the Parish Council look forward to publishing the final plans in due course. The play area is due to be installed and ready for use by the spring. ●*

## GREEN GYM HELPS TO PLANT TREES AT MEMORIAL PARK

Volunteers from the Green Gym, in Sonning Common, planted around 400 young trees and shrubs in October at Memorial Park, the village's new sport and recreation ground on Reade's Lane. Sonning Common Parish Council and the Memorial Park Working Party are very grateful to members of the Green Gym for their support in helping to develop this major new community resource. The plants were donated by the Woodland Trust.



**BRIDGES**  
Independent Estate Agents  
EST.1993

## Thinking of moving?

If you're considering selling in 2022 contact Bridges, the Estate Agent people are recommending



1 Church Road, Caversham, Reading, RG4 7AA  
post@bridgesproperty.co.uk

www.bridgesproperty.co.uk  
0118 946 2121

# THE JEWEL IN THE VILLAGE

## OLD COPSE, SONNING COMMON, OXFORDSHIRE

Did you know that the wood at the end of Woodlands Road is an ancient woodland?

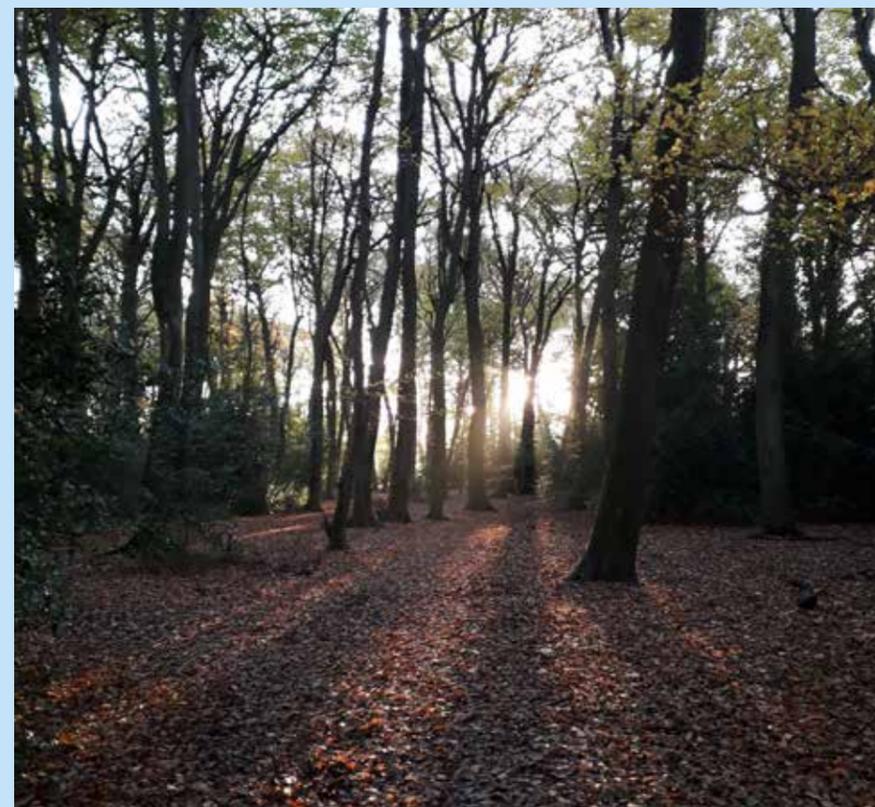
Most of Old Copse is managed by the Woodland Trust. However, the Parish Council acquired part of the southern and western part of the woodland when the Woodland Trust declined to purchase it, to protect it for the future.

The woods are made up mainly of beech trees. These are well suited to furniture making, the business for which the Chilterns was famous. The local industry was characterised by wood turners (who became known as 'bodgers') making chair legs in the local woodlands, together with large numbers of small factories where other chair parts were made, and the finished chairs assembled.

Part of Old Copse was used for **Celebrity Antiques Road Trip. BBC 2 Series 8 Episode 13.** BBC presenter Tom Heap and antiques expert Phil Serrell used it to demonstrate "bodging" which is a traditional form of woodwork. They turned a length of timber into a chair leg using equipment belonging to woodturner Alistair Phillips, from Peppard.

You can tell the woods were used for furniture making as you can see

saw pits where they used to cut trees. "A **saw pit** or **sawpit** is a pit over which lumber is positioned to be sawed with a long two-handed saw by two people, one standing above the timber and the other below. It was used for producing sawn planks from tree trunks, which could then be cut down into boards, pales, posts, etc. Many towns, villages and country estates had their own saw pits". These saw pits are where the phrases "top dog" and "underdog" originate. Can you find a saw pit when you next visit Old Copse?



The woods are full of history, if you have ever walked through the wood to the north you will have seen the well along Horsepond Road. From work on the history of wells in the area Ken Stevens found it is a wooden well 274 ft deep and sunk in 1888.

On the same northern edge of the woods are the remains of **Bishopwood Camp**<sup>2</sup>, used by Polish refugees during the Second World War. This area forms a key link between the New Copse and Old Copse.

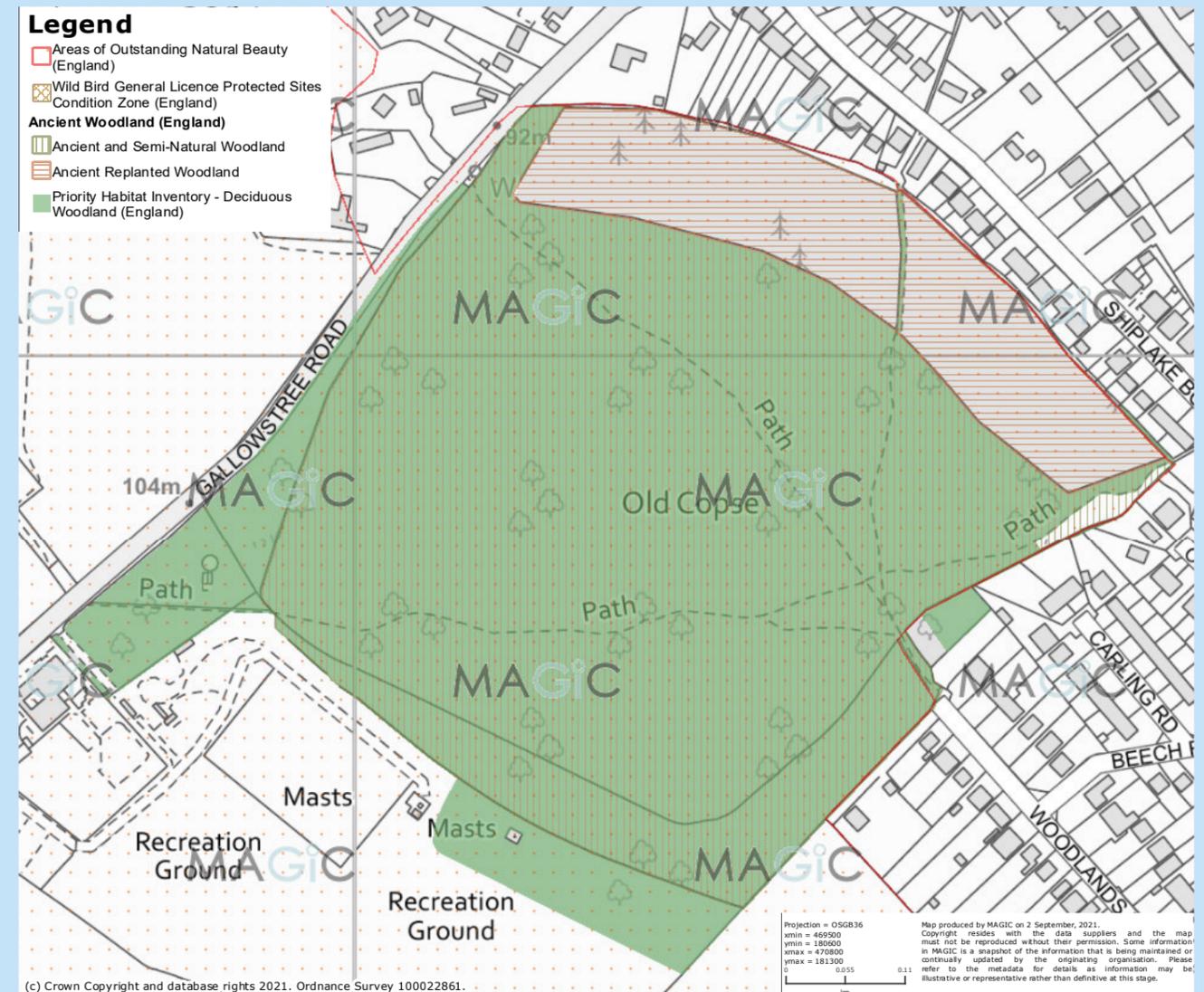
The woods are important to Sonning Common as they provide a habitat for a wide variety of mammals, plants and insects and even mushrooms (fungi).

Bats like beech trees, particularly older

trees like the ones you can find in Old Copse as they have cavities, woodpecker holes, loose bark, cracks, splits and covering of ivy. Old buildings and trees and hedgerows that they use to navigate and find food have been lost. Bats are likely to be out just before dark, have you seen any? If you want to do more to encourage bats <https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/blog/2020/05/bats-in-gardens/>

The woods, need maintenance to keep them in check, and the litter left can harm the mammals that live in the woods as well as holly taking over and growing across footpaths.

More about Old Copse can be found if you visit the **Woodland Trust** website.



The Woodland Trust and the Parish Council maintain these woods and need help to manage these wonderful woodlands we have in the Parish. Please let the parish office know if you are interested in volunteering to help us manage the woods, by participating in clearing holly and litter or helping the Cllrs develop and implement the Environment Strategy for the Parish. ●

**Cllr Vicky Boorman**

<sup>1</sup> <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bodging>  
<sup>2</sup> <https://www.derelictplaces.co.uk/threads/kennylands-camp-bishopwood-camp-sonning-common.11858/>

**A number of areas have been identified for possible involvement of the community**

**Improve the ecological understanding of the woods**

- Encourage observations of birds and mammals monitoring through local schools and youth clubs – Bats, Owls, Birds, Insects....

**Organise enhancement of the habitat to support all beech woodland flora and fauna**

- Work with local young people to build bat and owl boxes

- Clear litter and manage holly pathways and access points

- Offer opportunities for local conservation through Duke of Edinburgh award at MECE

**Identify critical areas at risk adjacent to Old Copse and links to other woodland habitat**



# BOOKREVIEWS

By **PHILLIPPA TAPHOUSE**

## MAGPIE

by Elizabeth Day

When Marisa meets Jake, she knows she has found the “one” and he is everything she ever wanted, until their new lodger, Kate, moves in. There is something about Kate that makes Marisa feel uncomfortable...she is too familiar with Jake from the way she looks at home, to the way they sit closely together on the sofa. Is Marisa imagining it or is it actually happening in front of her in her home? Marisa needs to find out the truth.

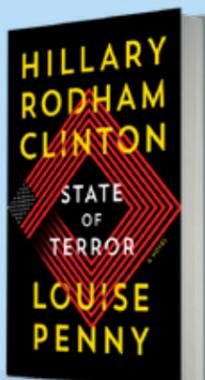


This is a really stylish and fast-moving thriller with some really surprising twists and turns which you definitely don't see coming. I couldn't put it down and absolutely loved it.

## STATE OF TERROR

by Hillary Rodham Clinton and Louise Penny

I always steer clear of novels written by two authors. I'm not entirely sure why...it's just a personal preference...but this one grabbed my attention probably because of the main author.



After a few difficult years, America finds itself under a new administration with Ellen

Adams the new Secretary of State. Ellen is deeply committed to her new role but America is facing a devastating international threat which she finds herself at the heart of both professionally and personally.

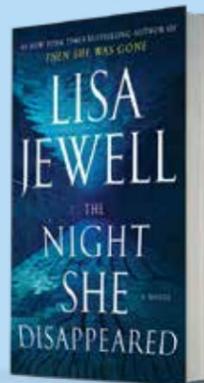
Hillary Clinton gives the reader a really deep insight into the politics and non politics that happen in the White House in a rollercoaster thriller that really does keep you on the edge of your seat.

Concentration is key with this book to follow the plots and twists but it's really worth sticking with. It's a great book and it won't take you long to work out who some of the characters are based on!

## THE NIGHT SHE DISAPPEARED

by Lisa Jewell

I don't think I have ever read a Lisa Jewell book that I haven't liked and this one is no exception.



I wanted to read it all the time but also didn't want it to finish it. I kept sloping off in the middle of the day to read a couple of pages.

In 2017 A teenage mum, Tallulah, goes out with her boyfriend on a date and leaves her baby with her mum, Kim.

At 4.30am Tallulah is still not home and never returns.

Fast forward to 2018 and a new headmaster has moved into the local boarding school. His girlfriend, Sophie, is out on a walk in the nearby woods when she sees a sign saying, “Dig

Here” and the mystery of Tallulah's disappearance raises its head again.

This book had me gripped from the first page. I really felt involved with the characters and could feel Kim's pain as she cares for her young grandson. It's so worth a read...

## THE WHITSTABLE PEARL MYSTERY

by Julie Wassmer

There are eight books in this series of murder mysteries, and they are lovely to read and perfect Sunday afternoon reading.

Pearl Nolan owns a restaurant in beautiful Whitstable but has always wanted to be a detective so opens her own little detective agency.



At 39 with her son now away at university, she is suffering from empty nest syndrome until she discovers the drowned body of a local fisherman. Pearl takes it upon herself to prove her detection skills but soon gets in conflict with the Canterbury Police detective Mike McGuire.

I loved this little book. Perfect for a little bit of easy reading and escapism. Definitely worth a read. ●

# TRICKS AND TREATS



**Halloween fell on a Sunday this year, and children of Sonning Common had plenty of displays to visit on their trick or treat trail around their neighbours and friends - mainly treats!**

The Johnson family Teresa, Peter, and Carrie-Ann, decorate the whole of the front of their house in Crowsley Way each year. This year was no exception, and their display included a Hot Chocolate Station too! Each year they collect money from donations for charity

and this year they chose the Hogs Haven in Wallingford, and Dementia UK. They collected about £245! The family would like to thank Cliff and Katrina Silver who help with the setting up every year.

Hogs Haven is a hedgehog rescue charity that is almost 2 years old, where Louise rehabilitates, and releases rescued hedgehogs back into their natural habitat. She is taking in 2 or 3 hogs each day. Although based in Wallingford, Hogs Haven takes Hedgehogs from a large area including all the local villages and has recently had

hogs from Newbury, Wantage, Oxford and Reading.

So please do check your leaf piles for hedgehogs before raking and leave some water and food out (Kitten food is good apparently) if you think you have some nighttime visitors.

Lots of other people sent Halloween photos in - here are a selection from Lissie, Becky, Wendy, Emily, Rebecca, and Rebecca! ●



# HENLEY LIONS WINTER FUEL POVERTY APPEAL 2021



We are all aware of the rising cost of gas and electricity adding to the pressure on many household incomes to keep the home warm and enjoy hot food. Henley is no exception when it comes to families and individuals struggling to make ends meet.

Many generous Henley residents have contributed to the Henley Lions Winter Fuel Appeal each November and December. 116 payments have been made over the last 4 appeals to local families with children and individuals. Without this support they would have spent a cold winter worrying about how to pay their utility bills.

Says Ian Tritton on behalf of Henley Lions 'we dread to think of what sort of winter the people we have helped would have suffered without the donations made to this fund'.

Many supporters receive the

Government's Winter Fuel Payment and are very happy to donate some or all of this to help those in need of funds stay warm.

Citizens Advice Henley refer applications for support from this fund and payment is made direct to the client's utility account.

Donations can be made online via [www.henleylions.org.uk](http://www.henleylions.org.uk) - click on "Donate" and identify your donation as "Winter Fuel Project". To get information on how to pay by cheque or bank transfer please email [donate@henleylions.org.uk](mailto:donate@henleylions.org.uk) or phone 0345 833 7387.

Please Gift Aid if you are a taxpayer increasing your donation by 25%.

If you know of someone in need please encourage them to talk to Citizens Advice Henley or NOMAD who can offer help and guidance. Citizens Advice

will ensure people are receiving the benefits due to them, give assistance in managing debt and apply to the Winter Fuel fund for support.

Any donation, however small, can help make a difference. ●

**Thank you for your support**

**For more information Contact:**

**Ian Tritton**

**Henley Lions Community Service**

**07789 201760**

**[communityservice@henleylions.org.uk](mailto:communityservice@henleylions.org.uk)**



# SODC LOCAL NEWS

## SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE CHARITABLE LOTTERY – DON'T MISS OUT!

The SO Charitable lottery has been running for over three years and raised £85,000 for local good causes.

Players have a chance of winning one of the prizes, which range from a weekly £25,000 jackpot, £250 to three extra tickets. They can choose which 'good

cause' they want to support. Tickets cost £1 each, of which 50p goes directly to their good cause and 10p to the central community fund.

Contact: [communityenablement@southandvale.gov.uk](mailto:communityenablement@southandvale.gov.uk) for further information ●



## CIVIL PARKING ENFORCEMENT CHANGES

From 1 November, officers from a new team at Oxfordshire County Council will begin patrolling the streets of South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse to help prevent illegal parking. The county council is taking on this responsibility for on-street parking from Thames Valley Police in a move aimed at helping to ease congestion and cutting down on pollution.

For more information see the county council's website <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/> ●

## CITIZENS ADVICE ON COPING WITH UNIVERSAL CREDIT SHORTFALL

The recent Government reduction to Universal Credit payments by £20 a week could put many struggling people in a critical situation.

- Take charge of your situation. Start by making a list of what you owe and add up what you need to pay out each month. Next, prioritise your debts. There is advice on the Citizens Advice website to help you do this: <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/debt-and-money>.
- Some bills are more urgent than others. Rent or mortgage arrears, gas and electricity bills and Council Tax count as

priority debts as there could be serious consequences if you don't pay them.

- Get in touch with the companies to whom you owe money. Organisations expect such calls and they might be able to help by letting you pay smaller amounts over a longer period or take a temporary payment break.

The government-backed Breathing Space scheme could also give you extra time to pay. See our website for details or [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) If you are eligible, you could get 60 days during which your creditors can't contact you, take any action against



you or add interest and charges to your debt. A Citizens Advice adviser can check your debts to see if they are covered by the scheme.

**Citizens Advice debt helpline on 0800 240 4420, or the general Adviceline free on 0808 278 7907 (Monday to Friday 9 am to 5 pm). If you have internet access try our webchat - click on "chat with us online about debt".**



# TOM FORT

## HAPPINESS CAN BE ... A MUSHROOM!



Just sometimes the world can seem a surprisingly wonderful place – even if that wonder takes the form of a round white object in a field.

For years I picked mushrooms in the second field along the footpath from the back of Kidby's Yard to Kidmore End which sweeps down to Kidmore Lane. In June and October, if we'd had rain and it was warm, they used to appear all over the place. You could fill a basket and it would seem as if there were still as many as before you started.

Then the farmer decided that the grass was not lush enough for the cattle. Or

maybe that foragers (or scroungers) such as myself should be discouraged from roaming around getting something for nothing, because I freely admit that I did stray from the path in pursuit of the little beauties. Anyway the grass beloved by the fungi was wiped out and a new strain was sown and not a mushroom has appeared since.

A kind friend, knowing of my passion, later alerted me to the possibilities of another location, on the edge of Kidmore End. It was good, very good; but this year, for some mysterious reason – mushrooms are VERY mysterious – hardly any appeared, and those that did

had been ravaged by slugs.

I resigned myself to going without, but I always kept an eye out for them on my cycle rides. And one afternoon this autumn some impulse caused me to stop and investigate a paddock next to one of my regular routes. I spotted a lady feeding horses, engaged her in polite conversation and – with a big smile and a generous wave – she invited me to help myself. And there they were, poking up from the short-cropped grass, round, white as snow, pink-gilled and perfect.

I blessed her, blessed my luck, took them home and had them with an omelette. It was bliss and I was happy. ●

# HARMONY

We continue to build the sustainable foundations of our proud community singing group here in the heart of Peppard.

Our numbers are growing with 67 people now on board – 49 ladies and 18 gentlemen; two thirds of whom come from Peppard and Sonning Common. Our oldest person is 96 and our younger singers are in their 50's. We "golden-oldies" still have the desire and... the wind power!

We have received two £250 grants from Oxfordshire County Council and Chiltern Edge Community Association and these have been used to give every member their own branded song-book – no expense spared!

Our Constitution is agreed and our Objectives are clear

i. To provide inclusive and accessible singing opportunities for all people within approximately a 10 mile radius of Sonning Common

ii. To strive to achieve the best musical standard possible without causing the membership undue stress or requiring auditions for prospective new members

iii. To perform concerts in the area local to Sonning Common

iv. In the event of having surplus funds, to make donations to local charities at the discretion of the Committee and Membership

v. To utilise Peppard War Memorial Hall as the home of HARMONY

It is all very simple for YOU – no auditions to join but if you can say

**"Supercalifragilisticexpialidocius"**

three times without stumbling you may

be our star singer and asked to be a soloist!

We have also been on "tour" as HARMONY visiting Barbara Winnington on her return home after falling and breaking her hip. Amongst the tears and laughter we finished our singing to her with "I'd Like to Teach the World to Sing." This song does not imply some need for World domination by an organisation here in Peppard and Sonning Common but it has now been adopted as the HARMONY theme song.

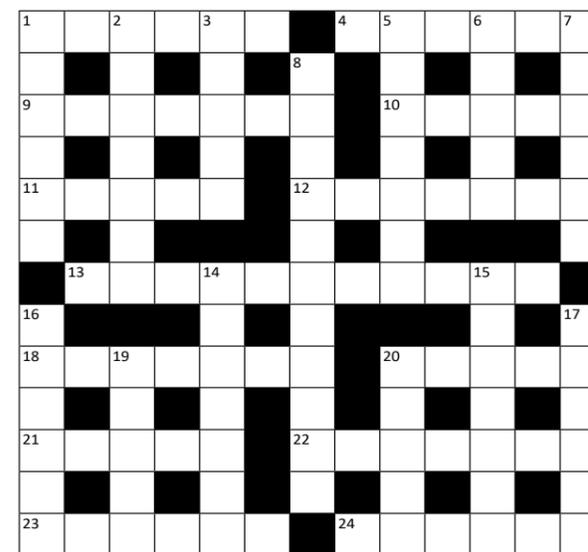
You see we are living up to our motto of "have FUN, ENJOY and go home HAPPY".

We can be found every Thursday from 1.15p.m at Peppard War Memorial Hall or simply call Barry Wood on 01491 629982 for more details. So come on along – you know you want to! ●

# PUZZLE PAGE

By DAVID DUNSTAN

### Cryptic crossword



### ACROSS

- 1&11. Hazy cheetah disturbed in local hamlet (6,5)
- 4. Decanter for a service in church (6)
- 9. Surmise about aluminium in a type of glass (7)
- 10. Upset her in the river (5)
- 11. See 1
- 12. Virginia has two hundred in ecstasy delivered by jab (7)
- 13&24. Allege worst about ordinary local village (11,6)
- 18. American soldier eats cooked conch with dumplings (7)
- 20. A rota designed for the main artery (5)
- 21. Strange idea with posh goodbye (5)
- 22. Owned harbour for fish (7)
- 23. Article or unknown hypothesis (6)
- 24. See 13

### DOWN

- 1. Chloe confused about carbon used to protect plants (6)
- 2. In a lab, Amazon is a state (7)
- 3. Cavell, perhaps, to revise hard (5)
- 5. Cut short and stewed, tropical fruit (7)
- 6. Reason found in Nepali biography (5)
- 7. Team is mid-exit (6)
- 8. Boxer of serious importance (11)
- 14. Raquel is disturbed about cold enamel (7)
- 15. Heed wretch – it gets stuck in one's head (7)
- 16. Shocked at hag sat crookedly (7)
- 17. Albanian, maybe, draws a blank (6)
- 19. Fruit needs oxygen to exist (5)
- 20. Car has old sound (5)

### Sudoku

Grading: medium

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

### Cryptogram

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

"FSADSETPNLEPNAL NT PGI PGNIC AC  
PNMI; UIES ECPIS UIES NP TPIEHT,  
PNHH EHH ESI CHIW" – IWYESW UAOLR

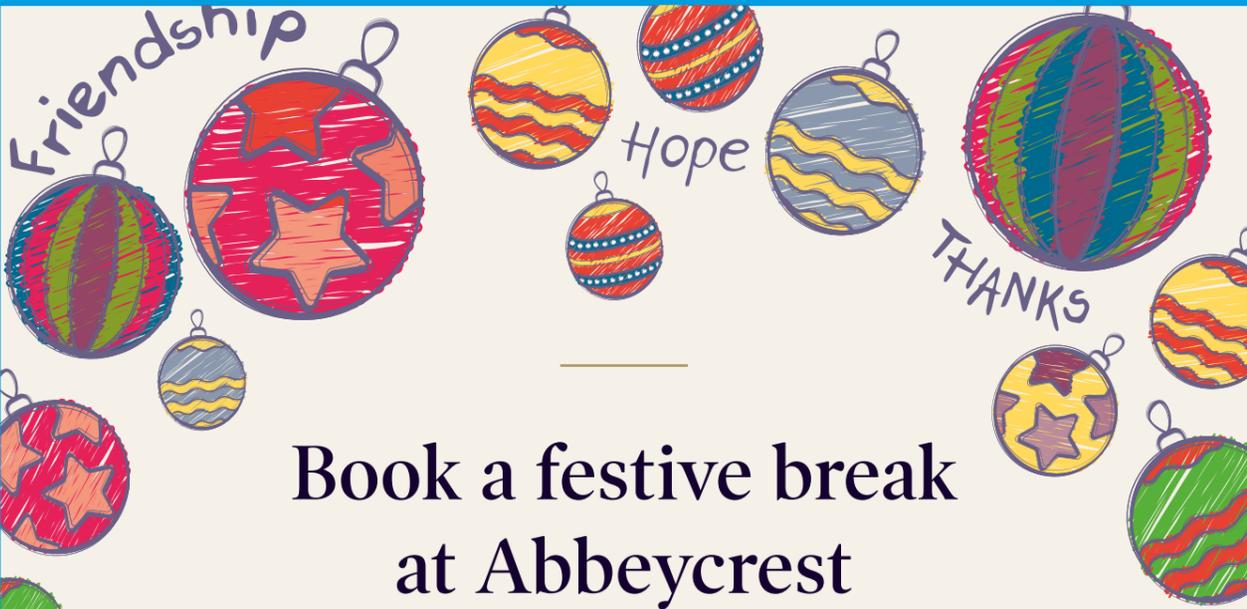
### Books of colour

Can you identify these books, which have a colour in the title?

- 1. '\_\_\_\_ Beauty' by Anna Sewell
- 2. 'Anne of \_\_\_\_ Gables' by L M Montgomery
- 3. 'The \_\_\_\_ Pony' by John Steinbeck
- 4. 'The \_\_\_\_ Pimpernel' by Baroness Orczy
- 5. 'A Clockwork \_\_\_\_' by Anthony Burgess
- 6. 'The Mystery of the \_\_\_\_ Train' by Agatha Christie
- 7. 'Good Grief, Charlie \_\_\_\_' by Charles M Schulz
- 8. 'The Man With the \_\_\_\_ Gun' by Ian Fleming
- 9. 'The \_\_\_\_ Chair' (Chronicles of Narnia 4) by C S Lewis
- 10. 'The Woman in \_\_\_\_' by Wilkie Collins

See answers on page 34

# NHS THANK YOU DAY



Book a festive break  
at Abbeycrest  
Care Home

Our care home is open for viewings | Call us on freephone 0808 223 5401 | Find us online [caringhomes.org](http://caringhomes.org) | Essex Way, Kennylands Road, Sonning Common, Berkshire RG4 9RG

**Abbeycrest**  
CARING HOMES



The event was originally planned to take place on 4 July on National NHS Thank You Day but postponed due to COVID. Eventually it happened on Saturday 11 September and we were very fortunate with the weather.

Art work, thanking the NHS, was made by members of Sonning Common Youth Club and met the eye as over 50 people entered the hall. Here they could help themselves to nuts, crisps, cakes and drinks at the tables or sit and chat in the garden where the children could play games.

Those visiting could add their personal 'thank you's' to the NHS on the board in the hall and give a donation to South Central Ambulance Service which totalled £88.18. Items were bought from our local woodturner Peter Rickards and raffle tickets all in aid of our local First Responders.

Chris Brook, one of our local First Responders, gave an informative talk about the work of these amazing volunteers who are highly trained to respond to life threatening emergencies in our local area. As they are local, they can

often get to a patient in an emergency quicker than an ambulance and administer vital life-saving care to the patient before ambulance personnel arrive to take over. Chris demonstrated the inflatable lifting cushion which is used to safely get a patient, who is lying on the floor, to a sitting position.

We are most grateful to the Chiltern Edge Community Association which gave generous funding for the event and to Sonning Common Coop which provided us with £50 worth of food and drink. Due to this generosity, we had both food and money left over which has been donated to our local food bank run by Springwater Church, Peppard Common and operated from a room at Christ the King Church.

The event was organised primarily to give local people the opportunity to show their appreciation of the NHS and enjoy themselves. Due to the generosity of the people who came and the funding by local organisations £297.88 has gone to our local First Responders and £175 plus food to the food bank.

Sue Nickson



**CARL WOODS BUTCHERS LTD**  
Purveyors of High Quality Meats to the Retail and Catering Trade  
[www.carlwoodsbutchers.co.uk](http://www.carlwoodsbutchers.co.uk)

Tel 0118 972 2228

Open Mon – Sat 7.30 – 16.30

Facebook 5 Star Ratings

QUALITY STANDARD beef English

FOOD HYGIENE RATING 5 VERY GOOD

**LC CHAUFFEURS**  
*Luxury Simplified*

BOOK YOUR EXECUTIVE TAXI & CHAUFFEUR SERVICE DIRECTLY WITH US TO GET THE BEST VALUE FARES!

**SERVICES WE OFFER:**

- Airport Transfers
- Personal & Corporate Travel
- Weddings & Functions
- Events & Conferences

**WHAT YOU GET:**

- Luxury Vehicles 0-2 Yrs old
- PAYG & Account Options
- Monthly Itemized Billing
- iOS & Android Apps

GET YOUR QUOTE OR BOOK YOUR RIDE NOW!

01491 526 444 | 01189 400 400 | [reservations@lcchauffeurs.com](mailto:reservations@lcchauffeurs.com) | [www.lcchauffeurs.com](http://www.lcchauffeurs.com)

DOWNLOAD OUR APP!

LC Chauffeurs, Unit 9B Adams House, Manor Farm, Peppard Common, Henley on Thames, Reading, RG9 5LA

**WHEELERS**  
ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS

DOMESTIC INDUSTRIAL COMMERCIAL

"call today for a free estimate"

**01491 651356**

[www.wheelers-electrical.co.uk](http://www.wheelers-electrical.co.uk)

Est. 1939

# SONNING COMMON HEALTH CENTRE



## Staff Update

**GPs:** Dr Claire Webster has returned from maternity leave.

**A new GP** Jennie Nicholson is working on Fridays.

**Receptionists:** Jan and Hazel have joined our receptionist team.

**Health checks:** The HC is re-starting health checks as the blood bottle supply issue is improving. Louisa and Julie are offering health check appointments on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

**New Community Link Workers** Rachel Downey and Abbie Crook have started back in Sonning Common. They have a new page on the SCHC website with contact information. This information is under the Clinics & Services header/Community Link workers.

Working alongside your GP and other practice clinicians the Community Link Worker can help connect you to all the services, support, activities and opportunities that exist locally.  
**Get in Touch** 01235 849445 or email: [communitylink.schc@nhs.net](mailto:communitylink.schc@nhs.net)

**The poster is also on the Noticeboard page 11.**

## COVID-19 Vaccination Programme soon to end at Sonning Common

HenleySonNet PCN which consists of The Bell Surgery, The Hart Surgery, Nettlebed Surgery and Sonning Common Health

Centre has officially given notice to withdraw from the COVID-19 Vaccination Programme and this will be effective from the end of November. By that time as a PCN, we would have delivered more than 45,000 vaccinations and our own patient group at Sonning Common Health Centre makes up close to 14,000 of that total.

It has been a challenging year for all to deliver the COVID-19 Vaccination Programme in tandem with the operations of the Practice but this could not have been achieved without the brilliant effort of all our staff and a long list of volunteers and supporters of all four Practices. We now feel that after a year of being a part of the Vaccination Programme, delivering the Booster Vaccine to Stage 1 (Cohorts 1-4 which includes the most at risk), is the right time to step back and provide a stronger focus on our patients as we enter into the winter period.

From December, those patients aged 40 and over, aged 16 and over with a health condition that puts them at high risk from COVID-19 as well as frontline health and social workers can continue to book a Booster vaccine via the National Booking Service.

## COVID Booster Vaccination Programme

Sonning Common Health Centre has been running **Booster Vaccination clinics** during October and November.



All patients aged 16-17 years old are eligible to receive their first Covid-19 vaccination from Sonning Common Health Centre. This will be with the Pfizer vaccine. Please phone our Reception team to make an appointment.

In line with government recommendations we have brought forward second vaccinations for those in Cohort 10 (40 - 49 years), Cohort 11 (30 - 39 years) and Cohort 12 (18 - 29 years) to 8 weeks rather than 11 to 12 weeks, where possible. We have sent out reminders to all those still due their second Covid vaccination with the option to book into an available clinic using our new online booking system. Alternatively, please phone our reception team to make an appointment for your second vaccination. ●

## Vaccination figures

**15253 patients from Sonning Common Health Centre have had a Covid-19 vaccination either directly from the practice or at a mass vaccination site.**

**1ST VACCINATION = 7526 - 90% of our Adult population**

**2ND VACCINATION = 7211 - 87% of our Adult population**

**BOOSTER VACCINATION = 516**

**Sue Litchfield for SCHC**

# WINTER HEALTH ADVICE



## General Tips

- You can help prevent illness by washing your hands regularly. This destroys bugs that you may have picked up from touching surfaces used by other people, such as light switches and door handles.
- During the autumn and winter, you need to get vitamin D from your diet because the sun is not strong enough for the body to make vitamin D. It is difficult for people to get enough vitamin D from food alone, so consider taking a daily supplement.

From late March/early April to the end of September, most people can make all the vitamin D they need through sunlight on their skin and from a balanced diet. You may choose not to take a vitamin D supplement during these months.

- Keep hydrated, even if you don't wish to eat.

## Vaccinations

### Get your flu vaccine

If you're 65 or over, you are also eligible for the Pneumococcal vaccine, which will help protect you from pneumonia.

### Flu

Flu can be a major killer of vulnerable people. People aged 65 and over, pregnant women and people with long-term health conditions, including diabetes, kidney disease and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD),

are particularly at risk.

### Could it be coronavirus (COVID-19)?

If you have a high temperature, a new, continuous cough or a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste, it could be COVID-19. Get a test, lateral flow tests are free from pharmacies or order from the NHS website or phone 119.

Get advice about symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do from [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk) or if you want to speak to someone about a test result, or have a question about test and trace, call 119.

## Keep warm

Follow these tips to keep you and your family warm and well at home:

- If you're not very mobile, are 65 or over, or have a health condition, such as heart or lung disease, heat your home to at least 18C.
- Keep your bedroom at 18C all night if you can - and keep bedroom windows closed. Draw curtains and keep doors closed to block draughts.
- Use a hot water bottle or electric blanket to keep warm in bed - but do not use both at the same time.
- Have hot drinks regularly and at least 1 hot meal a day - eating regularly helps keep you warm.
- Reduce the risk of sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS), babies should sleep in rooms heated to between 16C and 20C.

## Help with heating costs

Get your heating system checked regularly by a qualified professional.

You may be able to claim financial and practical help with heating your home. Grants available include the Winter Fuel Payment and the Cold Weather Payment.

You can find out about heating and housing benefits on [GOV.UK](http://GOV.UK).

It's worth claiming all the benefits you're entitled to as soon as winter begins.

Look in on vulnerable neighbours and relatives

Check on older neighbours and relatives, to make sure they are safe and well and that they are warm enough, especially at night and they have readily available food and any medication.

If you're concerned the person may have hypothermia, contact NHS 111. ●

**Sue Litchfield for SCHC**



# Church news



## NORA CATHERINE BOYLE KNOWN TO ALL AS 'KATIE BOYLE'

by Joan Grumant

Katy Boyle, who has died at the age of 94, was a well-known and much-loved figure in Sonning Common where she worked as a nurse for many years. She was a frequent and very welcome sight driving around in her bright orange

'Beetle' car. Born on a farm south of Galway, Ireland one of nine children, she qualified as a registered nurse in 1949 and became a midwife in 1953. In 1955 she married and went off to Africa for the next eight years where she

worked as a nurse setting up basic medical clinics, helped by the medical missionaries of Mary (an international missionary congregation of Catholic women founded by Marie Martin in Nigeria in 1937). She was instrumental in improving the life of many Africans and was particularly involved in helping in birthing and the aftercare of children. During this busy time she also managed to give birth to three sons.

Katie settled down in Sonning Common in 1965 where she remained for the rest of her life. She was one of the first to become a district nurse and worked alongside Dr Hemphill in Kennylands Road and then at Sonning Common Health Centre. She set up a day care centre at old TB hospital Peppard and this gave the elderly in the community a valuable meeting place for others with similar needs.

Katy was an elegant energetic lady with many interests. A regular member of St Michael's Church, she played golf and bowls at Peppard Bowls Club. She sang alto in Nottakwire and was a strong and active member of our community. Two of her sons survive her and she will be remembered not only for her great competence as a nurse but also for the warmth, good humour and humanity she showed to all.

She will be sorely missed.

## KIDMORE END AND CHRIST THE KING

'Please don't cancel Christmas!' read the headline appeal to the Prime Minister.

With respect, cancelling Christmas is surely beyond the power and authority of any minister or government, however great their majority. Herod once tried: no go.

Certain religious leaders, in cahoots with the Romans, once tried. No go. In our own day, someone decided that AD should now be CE: Common Era, yes, but when is it still dated from ??

Our churches will certainly not be cancelling Christmas; we are surely all much in need of reasons to celebrate - and if there are fewer things on the shelves and less plastic on the horizon - well, maybe that's not a bad thing; we can look to recover something of the simplicity of that first Christmas, when the key ingredients were wonder and praise at that glimpse of the incredible love of a God who would choose to come to share and redeem our brokenness.

We will have a range of Christmas services - Carols at St John's Kidmore End on Tuesday 21st at 7.30pm, Christingle at Christ the King at 4pm on Christmas Eve, midnight (=11pm !) at St John's and Christmas morning celebrations at 9.30am at Christ the King and 11am at St John's: at least, that's the plan at the moment, but always wise to check on our websites at [www.achurchnearyou.com](http://www.achurchnearyou.com)

We look forward to celebrating with you at one or more of these; joy and peace to you!

Sheila Walker

## SPRINGWATER

It is hard to believe we are already near the end of 2021. What a couple of years it has been!

Here at Springwater there have been many changes one of which was the launch of The Spring Café. We've loved watching so many people come and enjoy the delicious food and coffee and look forward to more of you joining us when you can. Tuesdays and Thursdays 10 - 2, and Wednesdays 12 - 2. Shaw Flooring have generously donated a wonderful new floor for the Café and children's area in the church. A huge thank you to them.

The Foodbank continues to thrive thanks to the help of amazing volunteers and generous donations from churches, schools and individuals. During the Harvest season we were inundated with wonderful goodies, all of which went to homes where they were needed. Thank you to all who gave.

We will be having our outdoor Carol Service on 24 December as we did last year and would love to see as many of you as can make it. Dress up warmly! Time to be decided - check out our website nearer the time for more information

[www.springwaterchurch.org.uk](http://www.springwaterchurch.org.uk)

We would like to wish you all many blessings, a very happy Christmas and a peaceful, fulfilling and healthy New Year. ●

Chris Girdler

[contactspringwaterchurch@gmail.com](mailto:contactspringwaterchurch@gmail.com)  
tel: 0118 972 4519

## ST MICHAEL'S

Like other schools St Martin's, our parish primary school located in Caversham Park Village, is trying to bring school life more in line with the pre-Covid experience of pupils. This has included

class and whole school services on a regular basis. After learning about St Francis of Assisi and his love of nature, the youngest children were invited to bring their pets (or a photo) to school for a short service. The older children celebrated a harvest Mass at which the food they brought in was on display. Afterwards the food was donated to the local food bank run out of Springwater Church.

At St Michael's we are still taking a cautious approach and encourage people to wear masks and socially distance during our services. However, we have relaxed the strict regulations that were originally imposed and singing has returned. At the end of September, we celebrated the feast of St Michael. After a church service we had our first social gathering as a parish community since the start of the pandemic with just over 40 people sharing a supper in the church hall. It was enjoyed so much people were reluctant to go home.

Our thoughts are now beginning to turn to our celebration of Christmas with memories of last year when half the parish (Emmer Green, Caversham Park) were prohibited from travelling to the church when local restrictions were suddenly imposed. We are planning a 'Midnight' Mass at 8.00pm on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Mass at 10.30am. Please check our website nearer the time for confirmation of all our Advent and Christmas services.

The parish of St Michael's was founded in 1947 and will be celebrating 75 years in 2022. During the year we will tell you something about its history and intend to have events at which you can visit and look around the church and learn something about our parish community. That said, you don't have to wait until then to put your foot across the threshold, you are welcome at any time.

[www.saintmichaelsonningcommon.org.uk](http://www.saintmichaelsonningcommon.org.uk)

## CHILTERN EVANGELICAL

What is God really like? Some people say that they know Him like a friend. Is this really possible, or do they make it up?

The whole purpose of the Bible is God letting people know what He is like, what He has said to different people in different circumstances, how He acts in different situations, what He has done in the past, and what He promises to do in the future.

Why did He bother to do this? Because He does not only want people to know about Him; He wants people to find out how to have a relationship with Him.

When we meet to worship God on Sundays, we learn from the Bible: not about dead things from long ago but about living, relevant things that make a difference to how we live now. Knowing God does not end our troubles, but He shows us how to work through them, and gives us hope for this life and also forever.

Our Sunday meeting is at 4.30 pm every week, and you can find us at the corner of Grove Road and Peppard Road. We would love to see you. Come and see what it is all about.

Carolyn Jenkins

[www.cecuk.church](http://www.cecuk.church)



Sonning Common's only

# 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](http://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.

**HAVING A CLEAR OUT**  
Your local antique dealer is  
always keen to buy  
Clocks, Watches, Instruments, Silver Items,  
Walking Canes, Jewellery & Precious Metals  
And All Old & Unusual Items

**HENLEY ANTIQUES**  
House Calls by Appointment  
**0118 924 2582 07768 918501**  
frednickson@henleyantiques.com

**Village Barbers**



24 Peppard Road Sonning Common  
Monday - Saturday 9.00AM to 6.00PM  
Senior citizens discount Monday - Thursday  
Separate cutting room available  
Email: jkbarbersreading@outlook.com Tel: 01189 723930

**ELLIOT'S DECOR**  
No Job too Small



painter and decorator  
inside and outside work  
reliable and trustworthy  
based in Sonning Common  
call Elliot on  
**07879 478875 or 0118 972 3720**  
elliott1973@hotmail.co.uk

**PET COUNTRY SUPPLIES**

We have been trading in the village for  
over 50 years

WE ARE PROUD SPONSORS OF

- THE LOCAL FISH BUS
- DOGS FOR THE DISABLED
- BINFIELD HEATH DOG SHOW

We have old fashioned friendly Service  
We can't stock everything but we can  
get most things for your pet!

We deliver free on orders over £25.00  
**COME AND SEE US !!**

43a Wood Lane  
Sonning Common RG4 9SJ  
**0118 9723495**  
Email: [interestedin@petcountrysupplies.co.uk](mailto:interestedin@petcountrysupplies.co.uk)  
[www.petcountrysupplies.co.uk](http://www.petcountrysupplies.co.uk)  
Open.....Mon to Sat 9.am to 5.30pm (5pm Sat)  
9am to 4pm Weds  
Closed all day Sunday and Bank Hols

**Shaun Guard**  
TV & WIFI SERVICES

- Aerials - supplied, repaired & poor reception solved
- Satellite - Sky Q dish upgrades, discreet dish installation
- Internet - blackspots cured, data cables to your TVs / computer
- TVs - hung on your wall or set up and tuned
- CCTV & Door Entry - domestic installations

**OXFORD AERIALS**

Call us on 01189 639113  
[shaun@oxfordaerials.co.uk](mailto:shaun@oxfordaerials.co.uk)  
[www.oxfordaerials.co.uk](http://www.oxfordaerials.co.uk)

SAVE MONEY WITH



CHECK OUT  
THE MONTHLY  
OFFERS AT  
OUR SHOP  
OR  
WEBSITE

A.B.

# WALKER

THE FUNERAL PEOPLE

PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICE  
FROM A FIFTH GENERATION FAMILY BUSINESS:  
LATER LIFE PRE-PLANNING,  
BESPOKE TRADITIONAL AND CONTEMPORARY FUNERALS,  
MONUMENTAL MASONS AND BEREAVEMENT CARE

[www.abwalker.co.uk](http://www.abwalker.co.uk)  
HENLEY 01491 413434 CAVERSHAM 0118 9477007  
READING 0118 957 3650

 **Golden Charter  
Funeral Plans**

**HLS**  
Sonning Common

GARDEN MAINTENANCE  
Lawns, Hedges and Borders

DIY help and support  
With experience and a wide range of tools

MACHINE OPERATOR  
Ground Clearance, Excavation and Levelling

Tel: 01189 721031  
Email: [chriscolbeck@btinternet.com](mailto:chriscolbeck@btinternet.com)

CURTAINS,  
BLINDS, PELMETS,  
TIE BACKS ETC.

ALL AT COMPETITIVE  
PRICES

CALL CAROLINE ON  
**0118 954 2448**  
OR  
**0781 561 0007**

"We turn feelings into flowers"

**Brambles**



42 Wood Lane • Sonning Common • RG4 9SL  
0118 972 1240 0777 179 0916  
[www.brambles-sonning-common.co.uk](http://www.brambles-sonning-common.co.uk)

PUZZLE PAGE ANSWERS FROM PAGE 25

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

Cryptogram

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

Cryptic crossword

Sudoku

Books of colour  
1. Black 2. Green 3. Red 4. Scarlet  
5. Orange 6. Blue 7. Brown 8. Golden  
9. Silver 10. White

"PROCASTINATION IS THE THIEF OF TIME;  
YEAR AFTER YEAR IT STEALS, TILL ALL ARE  
FLED" - EDWARD YOUNG

ADVERTISERS DIRECTORY

A B Walker & Sons Ltd Funeral Directors	32	Heath & Watkins Heights Tree Care	15	Petherwick Insurance Brokers (Barrs Insurance)	Back
Abbeycrest Caring Homes	26	Henley Antiques	32	Pilates ABC	35
AMAXS Plumbing Heating Electrical	15	Henley Glazing & Window Centre Ltd	35	Property Maintenance	15
Arbocare Tree Surgery Ltd	8	Influential Computers (Computer Problems)	8	Rachel Masters Foot Health	9
Barn Store (Secure Self Store)	14	HLS Garden Maintenance	33	Robin James Opticians	9
Beacon Flooring	15	JC Gardening Services	2	S J Hinton Carpenter & Joiner	35
Beville Estate Agents	2	Kidbys Sheds	9	Sonning Common Garage	32
Bonner Locksmiths	14	Kingfisher Garden Maintenance	2	Sonning Common Pet Care	14
Brambles Floral Service	33	Kingfisher Kindergarten (Pre School)	Back	Small Moves (Deliveries & Removals)	9
Bridges Estate Agents	17	LC Chauffeurs	26	Spruce Property Maintenance Service	9
Carl Woods Butchers Ltd	26	Mike Dockree Windows	14	T C Fuller Plumbing & Heating	35
Caversham Aerial Services	2	Mike Farina Auto Services Ltd	Back	Tandoori Connoisseur	35
Compass Water Softeners	14	Milo Technical Support (Computer Problems)	35	The Mobile Hairdresser	14
Christmas Craft Fairs	9	Moore's Painting, Decorating & more	8	Time 4 Pilates	9
Curtains, Blinds, Pelmetts	33	Paul's Painting, Decorating and more	Back	Tomalin and Son Funeral Directors	Back
Davis Tate Estate Agency	8	Peppard Building Supplies	35	TV & WIFI Services	33
Elements Kitchen Design	2	Pet Country Supplies	33	Village Barbers	32
Ell's Decor	33			Wee-Cot Seating	Back
Functional Physio	Back			Wheeler's Electrical Contractors	26
G B Transport (Removals)	2			Wood Lane Dentistry	2
Graham Blake Soft Furnishings	9				

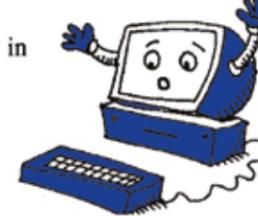
Sonning Common Magazine cannot be held responsible for the quality of the products or services advertised in the magazine. Residents should be aware that companies or traders whose advertisements appear in the magazine have not been checked or vetted by the Magazine. We suggest you ask advertisers for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

Computer Problems?

Free quote, no fix no fee, no call out charge

Over 200 happy customers in Sonning Common.

Milo and Michael Harper



Milo Technical Support  
22 Sedgewell Road

0118 972 4905

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



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

PILATES IN SONNING COMMON + HENLEY



CONTACT Alyth Yealland  
alyth@pilatesabc.co.uk

07521699265 www.pilatesabc.co.uk

T.C. FULLER PLUMBING & HEATING

- 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

Tel: 0118 9724097  
Mob: 07800 914 880



225032

*Come & Experience authentic Tandoori & Bengali Cuisine*

# TANDOORI

## *Connoisseur*

**21 Wood Lane  
Sonning Common  
0118 972 3104 / 972 1054**

- ★ Fully Air-Conditioned
- ★ Large Groups Catered For
- ★ Open 7 Days a Week

**TAKE-AWAY MENU**  
We Guarantee Prompt Service on All Orders

## 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](http://www.peppardbuildingsupplies.com)



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.

## WEE-COT SEATING

*Upholstery, Loose Covers,  
Replacement Cushions, Chair Caning,  
French Polishing & Furniture Repairs*

LIZANNE SMITH Tel: 0118 972 4560

**Paul's Painting and Decorating.  
Plastering. Carpentry.  
Property and Garden Maintenance.**

**07583 623040 or 0118 9473735**

Friendly, Local, 30+ Years Experience, Free Quotes

Mike



**Autoservices Ltd.**  
Tel: 01189 724036

**...Competitive Prices**

**...Excellent Service**

***Servicing and Repairs on any make***

Tyres ♦ Batteries ♦ Exhausts

MOT ♦ Car Sales

**Mike Farina Auto Services Ltd,  
21 Sedgewell Road, Sonning Common,  
Reading, RG4 9TA**

***Your Long Established Local Garage***

**0118 972 4036**



Find us on:  
**facebook®**

# 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

*Fed Up With Call Centres*

**Petherwick Insurance Brokers**

*(formerly Barrs Insurance)*

**Mark Richards Your Local Insurance Broker**

*For The Unusual & The Usual*

*Let Us Take Care Of Your Insurance*

House & Contents · Business · Liabilities

Landlords · Professional Indemnity

Shops · Sickness / Accident

Commercial Vehicle · Property

If It's Not listed We Still Can Help

All Types Of Insurance Enquiries Welcome

**01844 273250 / 01273 822222**

**Email: mark@petherwicks.com**

**www.petherwicks.co.uk**

Authorised and Regulated by FCA

**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](mailto:laryne@kingfisherkindergarten.uk)

[www.kingfisherkindergarten.uk](http://www.kingfisherkindergarten.uk)