

AUG/SEP 2026

MECE OPEN EVENING

WEDNESDAY 23 SEPTEMBER

MECE NEWS - PAGE 23

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with a Big Heart



Open Evening

**Wednesday 23 September
17:30-19:30**

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being part of a smaller school
community is the feeling of
being 'seen' and noticed - there
really is something for
everyone."*
Year 7 Parent

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Beville believe in the Bees!

Beville Estate Agency are delighted to continue our sponsorship of Rotherfield United FC for the 2026/27 season.

Since its formation in 1973, the club has been at the heart of the local community, providing football opportunities for players of all ages. Today, Rotherfield United boasts 15 youth teams ranging from U5s to U16s, including young Leo's team, whose kit we are proud to sponsor (pictured to the right). The club also fields a Men's First Team, Development Team, Women's Team, Veterans Team and Walking Football Team.

This year marks another major milestone for the club, having been awarded FA 3-Star Accreditation – the highest level of grassroots football accreditation. Huge credit must go to chairman Matt Beech, whose dedication and leadership have been instrumental in the club's recent success. Matt is also spearheading exciting plans to develop a new 3G artificial pitch at Bishopswood, which would be a fantastic asset for both the club and the wider village community.



One of our own!



Beville has a strong personal connection with Rotherfield United. All three of Richard's sons started their football journeys at the club, including his eldest son, Joe, who joined the family business last year. Having progressed through the youth ranks, Joe and his brothers returned two seasons ago to join the newly formed Men's Team. Managed by Ollie Wagstaff, the side brought together a talented group of former teammates and friends with the ambition of putting Rotherfield back on the footballing map.

The team's first season exceeded expectations, winning the TVPL Division 4 title and earning an impressive triple promotion to Division 1. They followed this up with another excellent campaign, finishing third and narrowly missing out on a second consecutive promotion. The Development Team, which was started this year, lifted the TVPL Junior Cup at the Rivermoor Stadium and secured promotion from Division 4, further highlighting the strength and momentum building throughout the club.



Pop down to Bishopswood on a Saturday afternoon if you want to watch some top quality, competitive football and get behind your local teams!

0118 924 25 26

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

www.beville.co.uk

info@beville.co.uk

FROM THE EDITORIAL TEAM

What a glorious June, weather wise. As I sit here writing this editorial I am thinking, actually I find the lower temperatures and gentle wind is more comfortable.

The Village day was the highlight of the month. All the people involved were very happy with it's outcomes. The organising committee members are to be congratulated with its success.

The content pages of the magazine are very varied, but a number are to be celebrated. Multiple success from the football club, Irenka's celebration of the refugees who settled in SC so long ago, Tom Fort's last book, Amanda absailing for charity, the work of Eco Soco and the parish office. The photos of the inside of the Kidmore End church are witness to a lot of hard work.

In the last magazine June July, the GET Involved sign was attached to a number of stories about groups operating in the village. Some are new and others older. I hope you visited and found that there are a variety for everyone and you joined. In the next issue of the magazine I hope to have listed some more groups.

The six week school holiday looms. The Library has a large number of fun sessions for the younger children. Keep an eye open for activities on Memorial Park for the older ones, especially on the Multi Use games area. There will be notices advertising and can be found on the parish website and from KEMH. ●

Diana and Christine

FUTURE DEADLINE DATES FOR MAGAZINE COPY

1 September, 1 November, 1 January – we would love to receive your articles!



MEET THE EDITORIAL TEAM



Diana Pearman



Christine Atkinson



Joan Grummant



Alison Smith

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COOKIE THE DOG

As a family, we love going to village day as there is something for all of us to enjoy.

My daughter, Lily had two guesses to name the cuddly dog. One for her little brother Zack and one for herself. She decided that the dog was a "Lily" or a "Cookie". I had a funny feeling that the dog would be moving in!

Lily and I came home just before five, while my husband and son stayed for

some last-minute fun. Then the phone call arrived. The cuddly dog was called Cookie and they were moving in!

My husband was given instruction to pick up the "small cuddly toy" and he arrived home with a not so small, but extremely cute cuddly dog.

Cookie has settled in well to our home, and is loved by the kids. It certainly made our village day memorable to us. ●

MELISSA



Money raised will be given to the Food Bank

Cookie the Dog was welcomed by attendees who chose a name raffle at the Village Day. There were 50 possible names listed and many selected. The donations to play raised a lot of money which was increased by the request for giving on line in the June July issue of the magazine. The total means that the 41 children on the Food bank list will benefit. As ever the generosity of our village residents is always welcomed. Thank you very much it is appreciated.

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS

Rotherfield Utd Walking Football Club

In June 2016 I attended a meeting at Sonning Common Health Centre with the Practice manager, Mike Hall and Andy Tidswell, then Chair of Rotherfield Utd. The purpose was to discuss the idea of setting up a Walking Football Club. At that time WF was being promoted as a means to encourage men over 55 to become more physical active.

We agreed to 'give it a go', and Mike designed a poster for the first session at Bishopswood Sports Ground with Andy and myself. From a handful of people at that initial session, the club has grown to 90 members (aged from 55-81) and now offers 90 sessions a year. From the outset, members helped shape the club's development, creating a focus on overall wellbeing, camaraderie and community involvement. The club is now open to all, with voluntary opportunities to play in leagues and cup competitions.

The club has funded much of its own development aided by grants, particularly from SCPC. This helped purchase our own defibrillator, which is always with us at sessions. We have recently benefited from some new kit sponsorship.

A variety of members interest groups have now formed, such as, Cycling, Padel, History walks, Golf days, Race Days and Walking Cricket plus our own Boot Boys Band.

Our Charity Music Night was initiated by one of our members, Barry Stevenson, now Chair. The event has become our main fundraiser, enabling us to make significant donations to national and local charities, in particular cancer charities, the RBH Cardiac Rehab Unit, and FISH.

The 10 Year Celebration event held at the Bottle & Glass was to enable us to reflect on what has been achieved over 10 years and to look forward to the next 10! ●

For more information contact wf@rotherfieldfc.com

IAN MASSEY
Founder RUWFC

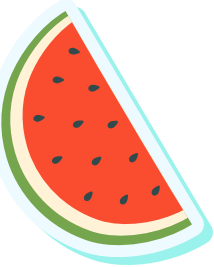


SUMMER FUN CALENDAR 2026

At Sonning Common Library



Saturday, 4th July, 9.30am	Summer Reading Challenge Starts - This year the theme is music: "Read to the Beat"
Monday, 6th July, 11am	Rhymetime
Monday, 20th July, 11am	Rhymetime
Monday, 20th July, 2pm	Bear Hunt Starts 
Tuesday, 28th July	Puppet Theatre Barge presents Monster Soup Create your own shadow puppet! Ages 4-10 2 sessions: 10am-11.30am and 11.30am-1pm Book your free place at the Library 
Saturday, 1st August, 10am	Special Storytime - musical instruments
Monday, 3rd August, 11am	Rhymetime
Saturday, 8th August, 10am	Special Storytime - music and dance
Saturday, 15th August, 10am	Special Storytime - Carnival of the Animals
Monday, 17th August, 11am	Rhymetime
Saturday, 22nd August, 10am	Special Storytime - lullabies and fairy tales
Saturday, 29th August, 10am	Special Storytime - music around the world
Saturday, 5th September	Bear Hunt ends
Monday, 7th September 11am	Rhymetime
Saturday, 12th September	Summer Reading Challenge officially ends
Saturday, 12th September, 11am	Prize draws for Summer Reading Challenge Finishers
Saturday, 19th September, 12:30pm	Last chance to pick up your final rewards from the Summer Reading Challenge



SC PRESCHOOL

Essential funds needed

It has been a wonderfully busy term at Pre-school, filled with community spirit, hard work, and plenty of fun as we continued raising essential funds for our charity run setting. Every penny raised helps us provide new equipment, enriching activities, and a nurturing environment for our children — and this term, our village truly came together to support us.

We kicked things off with a bustling car boot sale in the car park. With twenty-five stalls offering everything from toys to treasures, plus teas and coffees selling steadily throughout the morning, it was a fantastic start to our fundraising efforts.

Village Day was the following weekend, where our teddy tombola drew crowds of excited children hoping to find a cuddly new friend.

We rounded off the term with our much loved Sports Day. Parents enjoyed coffee, cake, and the chance to purchase their child's artwork — a sweet and meaningful way to support Pre-school while celebrating the children's creativity and achievements.

As a charity, Pre-school relies heavily on fundraising to continue offering high quality early years experiences. This term's events have not only raised vital funds but also strengthened the sense of community that makes our village such a special place for families.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who baked, donated, volunteered, attended, or cheered us on. Your support ensures our children continue to learn, play, and thrive. ●

Jo



ROTHERFIELD UNITED FC

Our presentation day this year once again coincided with the very popular Village Day on Sunday 28th June. It was a packed day for us with players receiving their awards for another successful season in our 53-year history. Youth teams from our u6s upwards participated throughout the day, which included some exhibition matches.

The club also ran a stall in the main event area selling Rotherfield United merchandise, as well as our popular Henley Distillery produced Rotherfield United Spiced Rum (we have stock remaining so if you would like to purchase a bottle, please email chair@rotherfieldfc.com).

The downpour in the morning was a little unexpected but probably much needed, and soon cleared into a glorious day.

Well done to all the players, coaches and supporters for another great season. Thank you also to Sonning Common Parish Council for hosting a fabulous event. ●

MATT BEECH
Chair, Rotherfield United



FREDDIE VAN MIERLO



sold with the 'hope value' of development. I raised the issue with the Leader of the Commons, asking for a debate on the issue. Problems that arise from this include making it harder to manage the landscape and identify owners, as well as unauthorised development in protected areas.

In Westminster

On the topic of health, I gave one of the longest speeches I've been able to make in the Commons on a relatively unknown condition called PANS and PANDAS. Hosted by Liberal Democrat colleague, Wendy Chamberlain, the debate raised awareness

of the neuropsychiatric condition, and the struggles families are facing across the country with a lack of recognition. I highlighted the wonderful Albie, who has been writing letters to the King and Prime Minister on behalf of his older brother. On the hottest day yet of the year, Albie and his mum braved the trains - and were heard at the highest levels. Well done them!

Regular readers of this newsletter will also know that Alzheimer's and dementia is close to my heart. I'll never forget a doorstep exchange I had with a lady in tears at the stresses and strains of caring for her husband with the condition. On behalf of my own grandfather who lived with Alzheimer's for many years under the care of my grandmother, I was pleased to host a showcase in Parliament for researchers from across the UK, including Oxford One

day I hope the pain I witnessed on the doorstep that time will be no longer.

Across the constituency

It was a delight also to speak with the winners at Henley College of their challenge to design a new logo for Riverside Counselling. The talent on display showed me that AI has a long way to go before it beats human ingenuity. I spoke of the importance of talking therapies and my own experiences of it. Sadly access to these treatments is far too difficult on the NHS, and that's why we must treasure and support Riverside.

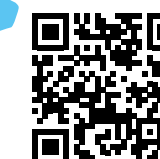
And finally, as we mark two years since I was elected MP for Henley and Thame and our 18,000 casework milestone I wanted to reiterate that I'm always here to help the constituents I continue to feel so proud to serve - please don't hesitate to contact me at freddie.van.mierlo.mp@parliament.uk should you ever need to. ●

With very best wishes,

Freddie van Mierlo MP
Henley & Thame



For full story scan the QR code and click on the link on our website



LITTLE KNOWN HISTORY



An extraordinary chapter of rural Oxfordshire's hidden history was brought back to life on 30th May; a commemoration of the 80th anniversary of the arrival of Allied Polish troops and their families at the former military camp at Checkendon.

These troops fought alongside British forces during the Second World War and helped liberate Europe, serving under General Bernard Montgomery's famous Eighth Army in Italy and across the Middle East. Unable to return to their homeland following Soviet domination of post-war Poland, many were resettled in Britain which offered sanctuary through The Polish Resettlement Act of 1947. This act established one of the country's first large-scale refugee resettlement programmes.

A substantial number of the adults had been prisoners of war and like my parents, had been snatched to Siberian gulags for several years' forced labour, never to see their homes again.

For over a decade, the camp at Checkendon became home to thousands of Polish veterans and their families who transformed a woodland military base into what former residents affectionately remember as "Little

Poland". This community was focus of a Special Remembrance in May, taking the form of a Polish Heritage Fete. Over 300 people from across Britain, USA, Canada and Norway gathered for an emotional, heart-rending yet also joyful celebration at the historic Black Horse pub; itself a cherished landmark.

Military representatives, a military fly-past, local residents and the sole surviving Polish Second World War veteran, centenarian Mr Czeslaw Blachucki (Ches Black) attended; he being one of only 10 veterans worldwide. Alongside was Mr Marian Greczyn, son of the last Polish military camp commanding officer, plus eight refugee veteran family members, all in their 80s or 90s and born in pre-war Poland but living now locally. Their presence served as a poignant reminder of a generation whose sacrifice helped secure freedom in Europe before many were forced into permanent exile from their homeland.

A camera crew filmed a TV documentary of the day, BBC South and BBC Radio Oxford reported on the event and newspapers highlighted the veterans' emotional return to the place that became home to thousands of displaced Poles after the war.

The day began with a dozen WW2 jeeps and historic military vehicles of the Oxfordshire and Berkshire branch of the Military Vehicles Club arriving in convoy, bearing the honoured Veteran and VIP veteran families. The organisers were proud to be graced by the Commanding officer and troops of the 7th Regiment Royal Logistics Corps based in Dalton Barracks, Abingdon; direct descendants of the Polish soldiers serving in the British Army, who still maintain Polish traditions all these years later, and proudly display their Polish Eagle flag standard.

Also attending were the Polish Defence Attache and his W01 officer, the local Redline Home Guard Living History group, and Royal British Legion branches of Henley and Nettlebed.

Throughout the day, guests enjoyed commemorative ceremonies, military vehicle displays, Polish traditional dance and song, wartime music, displays of memorabilia, food, raffle, crafts, and moving personal testimonies from former residents who recalled growing up among the Nissen huts hidden in the nearby woods.

Speaking during the ceremony, former resident Czesław Adamczyk, proud son and grandson of Polish veterans of the famous Battle of Monte Cassino, reflected on the camp's significance:

"From 1948 until 1961 these woods were transformed into Checkendon's 'Little Poland', a place where displaced soldiers and their families found sanctuary, raised their children and preserved their culture after being exiled from their homeland.

Today we are here to ensure the sacrifices of our parents and ancestors are never forgotten. These men fought for freedom under British command in General Anders famous 2nd Corps,

yet many could never return to the homes they knew. What happened in Checkendon is not just Polish history — it is Oxfordshire history and British history. We have a duty to ensure these stories are never forgotten."

Many attendees shared remarkable family stories stretching from wartime Poland and Siberian labour camps to the deserts of the Middle East and eventually the peaceful hills of Oxfordshire.

The event also marked the launch of several heritage initiatives designed to preserve the camp's legacy for future generations. Organisers are currently compiling a Roll of Honour documenting approximately 500 Polish families connected with Checkendon Camp, representing more than 2,000 individuals.

Plans are also underway for the unveiling of a permanent

commemorative plaque at the Black Horse, alongside an ambitious project to save the camp's last surviving chapel Nissen hut and to hopefully transform it into a museum and heritage centre dedicated to the Polish Resettlement story. Which story is extraordinary. Some families survived deportation, starvation, imprisonment and journeys across continents before arriving here in Oxfordshire. Checkendon gave them something they had not experienced for many years — safety, stability and hope.

The response to this event shows how important this history remains, not only to descendants of the Polish community but also to local people who recognise that it forms a valid part of our shared heritage. The remarkable turnout of well over 300 attendees demonstrates the enduring strength of the bonds forged in Checkendon's post-war Polish community and the growing desire to preserve one of Oxfordshire's most significant yet little-known wartime legacies.

My parents travelled from Siberian gulags, through the Middle East to the UK in 1947. I lived in two other camps before Checkendon camp until I was five years old, when my parents moved to their first ever house

in England, and that is where I still am (71 years on).

At Checkendon, we kept our Polish traditions from Lwow, the place of their youth. (This is now Lwiw in Ukraine, but was then Poland.) I enjoyed the traditional dancing and singing, the religious processions, the exotic ice-cream lady from A World Beyond and of course, the love of my family and Godparents. I remember feeling quite intimidated by the woodland around me. I was fearful of bears in the woods, like in Poland, and I had no knowledge of the world beyond. People had spoken of the beautiful woods, but I felt a real sense of mystery, a sense of allure, possibly a degree of fear and concern.

At the Heritage Fete I was delighted with the turnout of so many Polish descendants, not seen in over 50 years. Hearing of others' experiences is a consolidation of my identity, heartened by the realisation that others have carried these memories, feelings and concerns; these sadnesses as well as joys, and can still remember them and feel an affinity with what once had been and what has formed us. ●

If interested, please contact:

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Grahamdrucker49@gmail.com

Irenka Motyka
(Sonning Common)
irenka@mymorbic.uk



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For more information, please call 01491 628 933
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www.facebook.com/greenshoots96
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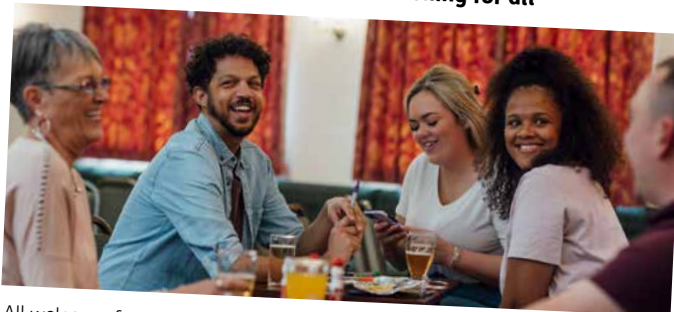
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The Hive

A Community Coffee Morning for all



All welcome for refreshments and a friendly chat. A great social morning with a chance to meet your local Community Link Worker, along with our colleagues at Dementia Oxfordshire and Carers Oxfordshire

We'll also be supported by your local Social Prescribers and support staff from Sonning Common Health Centre, Soha Housing and other different local services in your community.

When: Thursday 6th August and Thursday 3rd September 2026, 10am-12pm
Where: Sonning Common Village Hall, Wood Lane, Sonning Common, RG4 9SL
Cost: FREE

Rachel 07827 235420
 Charlie 07570 300458
community@ageukoxfordshire.org.uk
www.ageuk.org.uk/oxfordshire



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chance2dance4charity



Friday 11th Sep 2026 7.30 - 9.30pm

Peppard Memorial Hall
 Gallowstree Road, Peppard Common RG9 5JA

Tickets £10 (includes one raffle ticket)
 on the door / online: <https://www.trybooking.com/uk/GRHU> (+15p booking fee)
 / QR code below

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www.amnesty.org.uk

*BWA provides support, advocacy and services to everyone experiencing domestic abuse
www.berkshirewomensaid.org.uk/ Helpline: 0808 801 0882 (free, confidential)

Designed for Glory



Hear the story about the design of the fastest Olympic bike in the world.

Professor Stuart Burgess will talk about how he developed the bike for the **Team GB cycling**, at Rio, Tokyo and Paris.

This entertaining talk will last about 45 minutes and is **suitable for all ages**.

Stuart's Christian faith was important to help him through the highs and lows of the design



A bike will be on display,
 Any questions? Contact info@cecuk.church

Saturday 17 October 2026 at 6.30pm for 7pm.

Sonning Common Village Hall
 Organised by Chiltern Evangelical Church

SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE MUSIC

Saturday 22nd August

TONY COLLINS will be on stage at the Nettlebed Hall on **SATURDAY 22nd AUGUST**. Tony is a great singer and making a start at 8:00pm on what should be yet another good night at Nettlebed.



AUTUMN SHOW

Saturday 5th September 2026

2.00pm - 4.00pm

Sonning Common Village Hall

Wood Lane
 Sonning Common

COFFEE MORNING

Sonning Common Village Hall

WEDNESDAY 2nd SEPTEMBER
 10.30 a.m. - 12 Noon

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SONNING COMMON FUN MORNING

Thursday 6, 13 & 20 August
 9.30AM-MIDDAY

Each week will have different activities including fun games, family dance party, New Age Kurling, craft and more.

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PARISH NEWS

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Village Day and Party in the Park

Summer has arrived and with it a number of community events and improvements around the village.

A big thank you to everyone who supported Village Day and Party in the Park. These events are a great reminder of what makes Sonning Common such a special place to live. They bring together residents, local organisations, businesses and volunteers, creating opportunities to meet friends old and new while celebrating our community spirit.

New Sports Equipment at Memorial Park

At Memorial Park, many residents will have noticed the installation of the new goal posts. We hope they will be well used by local children, young people and sports groups for years to come.

The Parish Council is also expanding the sporting opportunities available at the Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA). A new tennis net is being purchased and will be available for hire, allowing residents to make greater use of the facility. Alongside this, pickleball

equipment will also be available to hire, giving residents the chance to try one of the UK's fastest-growing sports.

Become a Parish Councillor

Have you ever thought about becoming a Parish Councillor? Parish Councils play an important role in local life, helping to maintain facilities, support community projects and represent residents' views. If you care about Sonning Common and would like to help shape its future, we'd be pleased to hear from you. No special qualifications are required—just an interest in the community and a willingness to get involved.

Whether it's helping to organise local events, improving facilities such as Memorial Park and the MUGA, or serving as a Parish Councillor, Sonning Common benefits when residents get involved. That's also the thinking behind a new community initiative looking towards the future of our village... **Sonning Common 2036**

Coming together – everyone playing their part to make Sonning Common a greener, healthier place.

Look out for details of our Autumn Evening Screening of the People's Emergency Briefing, followed by a lively community discussion on how we can work together to create a more sustainable future for Sonning Common.

We'll be asking residents to get involved, take action and help spread the word.

More details to follow •

Andy Donachie
Parish Clerk



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A WRITER'S LIFE

'So you're a writer.'

'I'm afraid so.'

'That must be so exciting.'

'I'm not sure about that.'

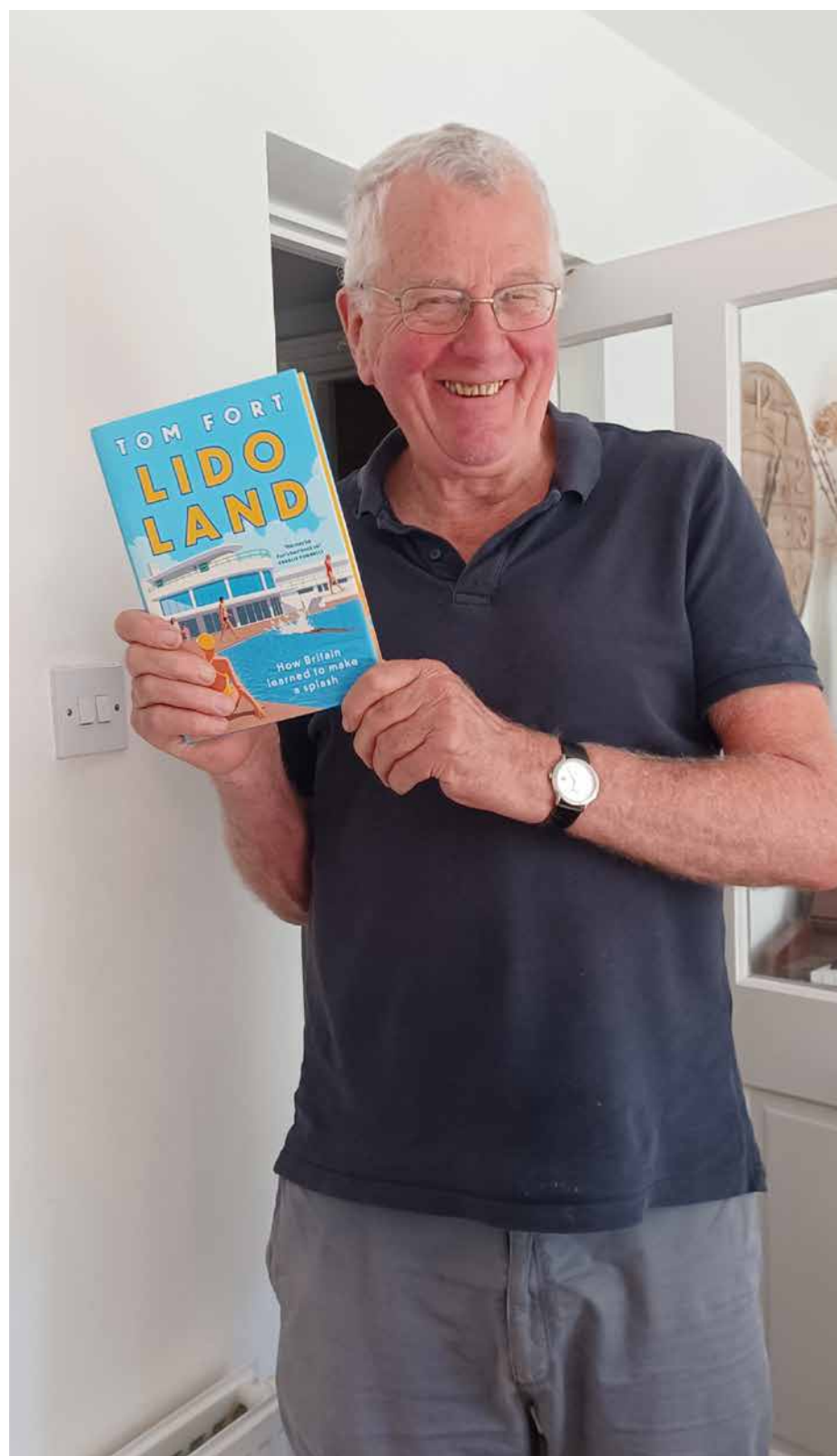
'I mean, seeing your book with your name on it. In a bookshop. And people actually reading what you've written.'

'Hmmm. It's not as great as it sounds.'

A generous donor – Mr Arathoon of That's how the conversation often goes, and each time I think how hard it is to put into words why I write books and what I get out of it and why I go on doing it.

My latest, Lido Land: How Britain Learned to Make a Splash, came out in May which already feels like quite a long time ago. It got some nice reviews and we had an excellent launch party in a pub in London at which I drank quite a few pints and got to tell everyone that they had to buy it. To be honest, after all that excitement, the rest is mainly anti-climax.

My first proper book was published in 2000 and was called The Grass Is Greener: Our Love Affair with the Lawn. As you might expect, it was the story of turf and mowers and why Englishmen of a certain kind get obsessed with their lawns. I had a great deal of fun doing it and thought in my innocence that it would be the start of a glorious and lucrative career as an author.



How wrong can you be. I got the biggest advance I've ever had for my second, The Book of Eels, which was – surprise, surprise – about those amazing creatures and was a total flop commercially. It would be tedious to detail all those that followed. It's enough to say that some were not at all successful, some were moderately successful, and one – The A303: Highway to the Sun – did really well (and is still selling today, fourteen years after publication).

Each time a book comes out, the writer is filled with hope that THIS TIME the public will realise what a work of genius it is and respond accordingly. And each time hope is followed, as night follows day, by disappointment. People loved my social history of village life, The Village News, in which I wrote a good deal about this wonderful village of ours, but there weren't enough of them to make it a hit. Same with Rivets, Trivets and

Galvanised Buckets: Life in a Village Hardware Shop – how can it fail? everyone asked, but it did.

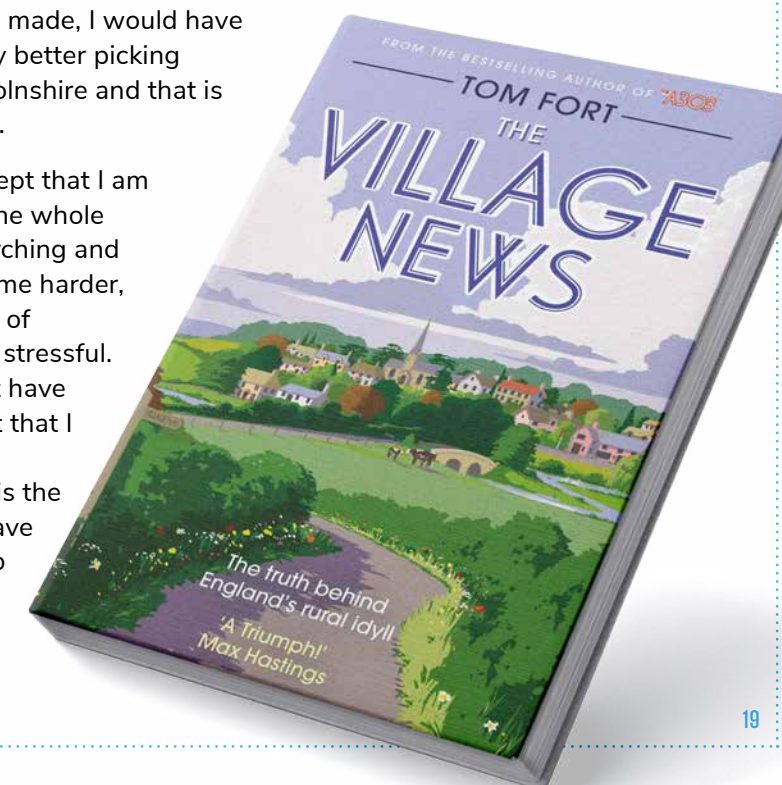
Don't get me wrong, I have had a great time doing all of them, and I have the satisfaction of knowing that I have dealt with subjects that, generally speaking, other writers would not have bothered with (as for the money I have made, I would have done significantly better picking brassicas in Lincolnshire and that is no exaggeration).

But I have to accept that I am getting on, and the whole process of researching and writing has become harder, and the business of publication more stressful. Plus I really don't have any other subject that I want to immerse myself in, which is the only way. So I have decided not to do any more

commissioned books.

Of course I won't stop writing – that is an itch which has to be scratched. I do have a project – but if you ask me what it is, I will have to tell you, as politely as possible, to mind your own business. ●

Tom Fort



GROWING GREENER TOGETHER



It has been another wonderfully busy season for Eco SoCo, Sonning Common's community environmental group, with villagers, young people, local businesses and volunteers all pitching in to make our village greener, wilder and more connected.

From tree care and wildlife talks to hands-on nature activities and an ever-growing Repair Café, the past few months have shown just how much can be achieved when a community works together for nature.

Street Trees Get a Helping Hand

A big thank you goes to Kier engineering, whose team joined Eco SoCo for a corporate volunteer morning caring for the village street trees. Together, volunteers weeded around young trees, refreshed the mulch and gave them the best possible chance to thrive through the summer months. These small acts of care make a real difference, helping new trees establish strong roots while also keeping our village looking loved.

Young Nature Champions

Eco SoCo was also delighted to work with Sonning Common Scouts on a brilliant bug hotel building session. The Scouts rolled up their sleeves to create new homes for insects, beetles and other tiny creatures that play such an important role in healthy gardens and green spaces. It was a fun, practical

way to learn that biodiversity starts with the smallest neighbours.

Learning Together: Swifts and Dark Skies

Our programme of talks continues to bring people together around important environmental topics. One recent talk focused on endangered swifts, those extraordinary summer visitors whose calls once filled many more village skies. We learned how loss of nesting sites and falling insect numbers have contributed to their decline, and what communities can do to help.

Another inspiring evening explored the importance of dark skies. Reducing unnecessary light pollution is good for people, saves energy and is vital for nocturnal wildlife such as bats, moths, birds and pollinators. The message

was simple: thoughtful lighting helps bring back the wonder of the night sky while protecting nature after dark.

Eco SoCo Repair Café Reaches a Fantastic Milestone

There was plenty to celebrate at the Repair Café as it marked its second birthday in July and, even more impressively, completed its 650th repair. That means 650 items given a second life, 650 chances to save money and resources, and a huge amount of waste diverted from landfill.

Hedgehog Highways Are Expanding

Eco SoCo's hedgehog hole making service is now up and running, helping more households join the village hedgehog highway. A small gap at the base of a fence can make a huge difference, allowing hedgehogs to roam between gardens in search of food, shelter and mates. If you would like help making your garden hedgehog-friendly Email Charles at ecosococharles@gmail.com

Village Day: Bird Boxes, Wildflowers and Big Ideas

Eco SoCo enjoyed another successful Village Day, with a busy stall full of activities and conversations. Families took part in free bird box building, young explorers investigated the nature discovery box, and visitors picked up free wildflower seeds to help create more food for bees, butterflies and other pollinators.

It was especially encouraging to see so many villagers signing up to the hedgehog highway and volunteering to be part of the planting for pollinator teams this autumn. These teams will help bring more colour, nectar and wildlife value to streets and shared spaces across the village.

Recognised for Outstanding Service

Eco SoCo was honoured to be recognised for an Outstanding Service to the Community award at the Sonning Common Parish Council annual meeting in May. This

recognition belongs to everyone who has supported, volunteered, repaired, planted, watered, built, shared ideas or simply cheered the group on. It is a wonderful reminder that local action really does matter, and that together we are making a visible difference across the village.

Eco SoCo on Film

Eco SoCo has also been in front of the camera. CAG Oxfordshire has filmed our Repair Café as part of its 25th anniversary celebrations, highlighting the impact of community repair projects and the volunteers who make them possible. BBOWT has also made a film about our work, with the hope of inspiring other communities to do the same. Both films will be available soon on www.ecosoco.org.uk.

How to Get Involved

Eco SoCo is always pleased to welcome new volunteers, whether you can spare an hour, join a regular project or simply want to learn more. You could help water young trees, plant for pollinators, join the Repair Café team, support the hedgehog highway, come along to a talk, share practical skills, or help at future community events.

To find out more, speak to an Eco SoCo volunteer, look out for local notices and social media updates, or get in touch by email at ecosoco24@gmail.com. Every pair of hands helps, and every small action adds up to a greener, more wildlife-friendly Sonning Common. ●



LITTLE AND OFTEN



Many of our primary school activities are repeated throughout the school year as very few young children learn the first time - which you may have realised at home!

As a result, the whole primary curriculum is designed in carefully thought out building blocks or scaffolding as we call it.

In writing it might start with giving the children a short text to and then build with more detail or written in a slightly different way. This is followed by discussion on language used, or perhaps research into new bits of vocabulary, and leads onto lessons exploring the piece in more detail. The children might perform some drama or

engage in a debate about the subject matter to practise their oracy and public speaking. All this is preparation before the task of planning their own piece, and putting it together into something of their very own. The result of this approach is a piece of work that has had the most detailed build-up and preparation - little and often - to get to the end result.

In most maths topics, through all the years, we move from the concrete, through pictorial to abstract or 'CPA'.

What does this mean? Concrete means young children working with stuff - we have a wide range of tools to help children visualise maths in a tangible way like beads or blocks. Division might start with splitting a group of ten objects into two separate groups - dividing by two. They can see and feel the objects. By the time children are 8 or 9 (Year 3 and 4) they start to use more abstract versions of the same thing - the 'bus stop' written method for example. But those building blocks - little and often - are what make the abstract meaningful.

As I have mentioned in previous articles, this also applies to softer skills, like manners and play. We do not expect them to speak the Queen's English (or should that be the King's?) straight away, or to understand the finer lines of etiquette immediately.

But - little and often - they will get better - at holding a door, or greeting an adult by name.

So, as we come to the end of this year, it has - as always - been a story of little and often. Normally there are a couple of optional projects to occupy the children's time over the summer, but we also need them to reset/rest and look forward to their new classes and new teachers.

And we need to reset too! My thanks as usual to our children, staff and parents for the year just gone, and to you all in the local community for your support. Our new play initiative OPAL (outdoor play and learning) is moving along and we have been grateful for the donations of toys and equipment for the children to use.

We go again in September, with each child working up a little from the previous year. Little and often. ●

Mrs Rachel Salmons
Headteacher



HAS IT REALLY BEEN 30 YEARS ...

I'm guessing most people know David Attenborough turned 100 this year, but how many realise that Winnie-the-Pooh did too? Time is a strange phenomenon. How can it be 30 years since David Baddiel, Frank Skinner, and the Lightning Seeds first lamented that it had been 30 years since England had won a major football championship? And how on earth can it be 30 years since I moved to Sonning Common?

Of course, I was a very different person then, at a different stage of life with different priorities, and yes you can say it, fewer grey hairs. I was employed full-time and, to be truthful, didn't think past the fact that I could get more house and garden for my money without having to commute over the bridge to get to Henley. Little did I realise what a great decision that move would be.

I brought up a family here. My children learned to swim in the trainer pool (if getting in the water first thing on a winter's morning with a flailing 1 year old doesn't qualify you for an extra bar of chocolate and G&T that evening, I really don't know what does!), and they went to the village schools which gave them a great start to life as they both eventually earned firsts in their chosen degrees. So I'd say, Sonning Common came good.

For 10 years I had a dog and walked him in the beautiful countryside around our village. I met some wonderful people who I laughed and, at times, cried with as we trudged around in all weathers. Sonning Common came good.

When Covid struck and travel was limited, our village had the shops I needed, and our community pulled

together. Sonning Common came good.

When my office closed and I felt the loneliness of working from home, there was the opportunity to volunteer at the library and meet a whole new friendship group to laugh and joke with. Sonning Common came good.

Who knows what's to come in the next 30 years? Not me, I don't even know what I'm having for dinner! I guess I'll just have to trust that our community will still be as vibrant, our library and shops still here, and that FISH will still be providing support. We can all help make this future a reality by supporting local businesses and volunteering either time or money to organisations which need it. If we do that, Sonning Common will continue to come good for us all, I'm sure. ●

Alison Smith

MECE NEWS

Since Easter 2026, Maiden Erlegh Chiltern Edge has celebrated a vibrant term filled with student triumphs and strong community engagement.

Student Successes & Milestones

A major focus of the term was supporting Year 11 students as they completed their final GCSE examinations. In May, the school hosted a heartfelt farewell assembly for the cohort, celebrating their five years of hard work and dedication with a perfect blend of excitement and reflection. Their exams passed in a flash (although, it likely didn't feel like that for the students) and we enjoyed a wonderful summer Prom in late June)

Meanwhile, Year 10 students took a massive step toward their futures by completing a highly successful World of Work Week. The students engaged in diverse workshops and external placements, earning praise for their professional conduct. Year 9 embarked on the "Get Set for Y10" Programme with workshops on revision habits, short



exams in English, Maths and Science and then completed taster sessions in each of their GCSE subjects to ensure a smooth start when they return as Y10s in September.

Community Events & Engagement

Community spirit has been at the heart of the summer term. The school hosted its vibrant House Charity Fair, where students from different year groups collaborated to run stalls and raise vital funds for local causes. Academic community engagement also shined during the Day of Puzzling Fun, which brought logical, critical thinking, and

teamwork challenges to Years 7 through 10. Furthermore, the Chiltern Edge School Association (CESA) remained incredibly active, organizing uniform and prom dress sales to ensure all students could participate fully in school life, while the community dropped Waitrose tokens to secure a generous £1,000 grant for future enrichment.

Students and staff alike now look forward to the break and return in September. ●

EMMA BLISS,
Headteacher



PEPPARD UNPLUGGED

Peppard Unplugged is an evening of live acoustic music and friendly village hospitality. Since our relaunch in 2023, we have welcomed over 150 acts, across a variety of genres, from prog-rock, indie-folk, punk, trad folk, country, classical, blues, flamenco, jazz and more!

Peppard Unplugged is a place for both performers and audience members.

- For the audience, candle lit tables, spotlit stage, interval buffet, raffle and different acts each month
- For performers, the opportunity to share your music with an appreciative audience and meet other musicians.

We have solo artists, duos, trios and bands, local and from further afield. You'd be surprised how far people travel and the trouble they take to be on our stage. We even had a person come straight from Heathrow after flying back from Mongolia. We have cover acts and people playing their original songs; some are professional and just love the vibe of our village hall. Local musicians have



The Riverside Union playing on the Peppard Unplugged stage

included Band of Hope, Tomorrow Bird, Pip Collings and Paul Vile, Snugg, @9:15, Panic Man Dan and Steve Daniels.

Many of the organizers of other music events in the area come to Peppard to perform solo or with their own bands. As an example, Huw Tarry is the driving force behind Reading's Rising Sun Arts Centre's former open mic and their new Variety night. His band, The Riverside Union was our feature act in June. Inspired by Americana and folk; The Riverside Union plays original music alongside covers from the likes of Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young, Lindisfarne, The Beatles and The Decemberists. After

taking individual songs out to various open-mics, they came to us for their first performance of the full set, and what a great set it was. Just what we love at Peppard, good musicians, in new combos enjoying playing for an appreciative audience. ●

Peppard Unplugged is run totally by volunteers; no paid staff ... and all money raised goes to the upkeep of the Peppard War Memorial Hall. It takes place on the second Saturday of the month. If you want to know more or if you want to play, check out the website, see www.peppardunplugged.co.uk

HELLO GARDENERS, WELCOME TO SUMMER 2026

What a scorcher in June and July!

So far this year, we have had five great talks on various subjects. Please see our website cehs.co.uk for write-ups and information on our society.

The Spring Show was well attended and enjoyed by all. There were great displays by our members, it had been a difficult time, due to the weather, to have flowers and vegetables ready on the day.

Thank you to all who entered and to all who helped before and on the day, and donated raffle prizes, plants, and cakes to sell.

As with all local societies, new members are always welcome to join only £10 per year. For that you get monthly news letters, emailed, but can be delivered by

hand on request, free to all talks and a chance to enter the two shows, and book for coach trips (extra if you grow flowers or vegetables, do art and crafts, please come along to our talks and our next show is

Saturday 5 September at 2-4pm, Sonning Common Village Hall

Saturday 19 September we have a coach trip to Kew Gardens, this is open to members only.

Tuesday 13 October at 7:30 pm a talk by Graham Austin on Growing Elatium Delphiniums. Peppard Memorial hall.

10 November TBC.

So please come along on Saturday 5 September, entry is free we have great raffle prizes donated by members and local business. Tea, coffee and cake is available and a great plant stall, all plants grown by members. Membership forms will be available for you join on the day, this will cover your membership to the end of 2027. ●

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GREETINGS FROM SONNING COMMON LIBRARY!

"I don't feel out of place when I'm here." Emma, a Year 6 pupil from Sonning Common Primary School, said this about the library recently and it made Elaine and myself happy as we like to think that our customers feel welcome when they are looking through the books, using the computers or joining in with an activity. But what if you can't get to the Library? We also have a Home Library Service and our lovely volunteers deliver books and audio-visual items to those who struggle to physically visit the library for whatever reason. If you think that would help you, and you would like to register, please telephone the Home Library Service on 01865 810 259.

We will be running our annual Summer Reading Challenge over the summer holidays where youngsters are encouraged to read books, graphic novels or listen to audiobooks and are rewarded with stickers, bookmarks, keyrings and even scented gel pens! There will also be certificates, medals and a prize draw for finishers. Our popular crafting sessions and cake sales will be back on every Saturday in August and, as the theme for the challenge is music, you can expect crafts related to instruments and dance among other things.

We are also lucky to welcome the Puppet Theatre Barge members on the morning of Tuesday, 28th July for an event for 4-10 year olds to learn about shadow puppets and then to create

their own monster. It is a free event but with limited spaces so get in touch or pop in to register your place.

We haven't forgotten the grown-ups! Have a "Blind Date with a Book" and choose one of our wrapped-up books so you don't know what it is until you get home. You might find a new author to love. Or if you're not keen on surprises, choose from one of the displays such as summer novels or adult graphic novels. And our social mornings will continue throughout the summer, as will Scrabble and chess clubs so there's always something to entertain you when you visit. ●

JULIET
Library Manager

HEALTH WALKING IS FOR FITNESS - AND IT'S FRIENDLY, FUN AND FREE!

The walks are for everyone, whatever their age and ability, and are graded accordingly, with at least one trained person leading every walk. Not all of them are fast walks: contact us (see website address below) for advice about which one is best for you.

The First Steps walk on a Monday at 10am is for anyone who wants to get back to walking after an illness, or operation, or just likes a slow-paced walk. We meet in the Millennium Field (near Abbeycrest) and you can do up to 3 laps of the field (0.6 mile per lap) at your own pace. You can walk clockwise or anti-clockwise – or even do a figure-of-eight! We do gentle stretching at the end – but you don't have to join in.

A lot of chatting goes on too!

Tuesday's walk starts at Kingwood Common at 10am. The meeting place stays the same, but the route varies, with a distance of up to 2 miles.

Thursday's walk currently meets at Clayfield Copse at 10am, and the distance is about 3 miles.

Friday walkers currently meet at Shiplake Memorial Hall at 9.30am, and this is a faster walk of about 4 miles.

On Saturdays the walk starts at the Health Centre at 9.30am, and is a faster walk of 4 – 5 miles, with the route varying each week.

If you want to speak to someone about any aspect of the Health Walks, phone Chris Brook on 0118 972 2609

Meeting places for Thursday and Friday walks will change towards

the end of September, so check the website for up-to-date information on days/starting places/distances: www.sonningcommonhealthwalks.co.uk/timetable ●



Village Day Sonning Common Magazine covers 'Can you guess the year?' quiz

Copies of 12 covers from the 315 issues of the Sonning Common Magazine were displayed and participants invited to put the correct year to each. Most scored 3 or more and the highest score was an excellent 8. Congratulations to the couple who did this.

The correct answers for any body who didn't get them checked on the day are shown alongside. Thank you to everybody who took part.

GEOFF ADAMS

Answers:

Code letter	Year of cover
A	2019
B	2013
C	1994
D	2011
E	1999
F	1982
G	2024
H	2018
I	1987
J	2002
K	2023
L	2017



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AMANDA WATKINS-COOKE



Each year since losing my dad, I have organised an annual fundraiser in memory of him. The first three years were Walking Netball matches and a sponsored walk raising almost £4000 for Mesothelioma UK and Sue Ryder charities. This year, I wanted to really push myself out of my comfort zone and decided to abseil 100m down the Spinnaker Tower in Portsmouth to raise money for the South Oxfordshire Palliative Care Hub South Oxfordshire. The care my dad received from them was outstanding and ensured his final days were as dignified and comfortable as they could be. I decided to do the abseil on Saturday 20th June as this coincided with dad's birthday and Father's Day. I find milestones such as those tough so the abseil gave me something else to focus on. I put the idea out to my network and five brave souls jumped at the chance to join me!

The crew was made up of: Martin Smith, who played football with my dad at Rotherfield United Walking Football Team. Sonning Common resident and former teacher at Kidmore End Primary School, Pauline Jones. Sophie Snowden, Reception teacher at Sonning Common Primary School. Lesley Thomas and Ann Small, who have played for the Sonning Common Walking Netball team.

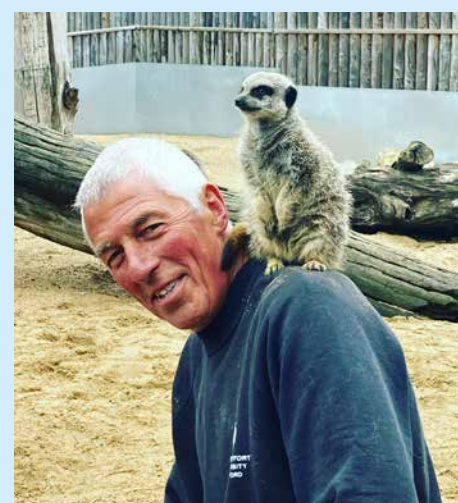
Each of them having their own reasons for taking part:

Lesley said: "I wanted to take on this challenge as a thank you to the Sue Ryder team for taking beautiful care of my father and making his passing a calm and dignified experience for him and our family."

Pauline added: "20th June marks the anniversary of my mother-in-law's passing. The team from Sue Ryder Palliative Care Hub South Oxfordshire

was there for her and our family, helping us all through a difficult time. Sometimes I do wonder why I agreed to this terrifying challenge, but helping raise essential funds makes it all worthwhile."

Ann said: "It's a great way to raise funds and highlight the wonderful work of Sue Ryder, and at the same



time prove to my grandchildren that I'm not ready to be an 'oldling!'"

Sophie added: "Sue Ryder took fantastic care of my grandpa. He was well looked after and the team provided fantastic support for him and my family. Hopefully our abseil will go some way towards highlighting the amazing work of the Sue Ryder team."

After much anticipation, the day finally arrived and there was much nervous excitement surrounding the team. Martin was first up and bounced his way down the tower looking like a complete pro! In fact, we might suggest he auditions for the next James Bond!

It was then the turn of us ladies. I felt ok until we got to the top and stepped out onto the platform, then reality struck! I was terrified! The heart rate soared; knees were like jelly and my stomach dropped! The abseiling guys were incredibly supportive and put us all totally at ease and then it was just a case of putting all our trust in them and the ropes! The views were incredible! Looking out over Portsmouth dockyard with HMS Warrior, the South Downs and across to the Isle Of Wight. WOW! I began to relax into it and remembered why we were doing this challenge. I spoke to my Dad most of the way down and thought about the incredible Sue Ryder nurses who cared for him.

It took about four minutes to get to the bottom and the mood was euphoric! We were all on such a high and totally buzzing at our achievements. We then celebrated with a lovely meal with all our friends and family who had come down to support us.

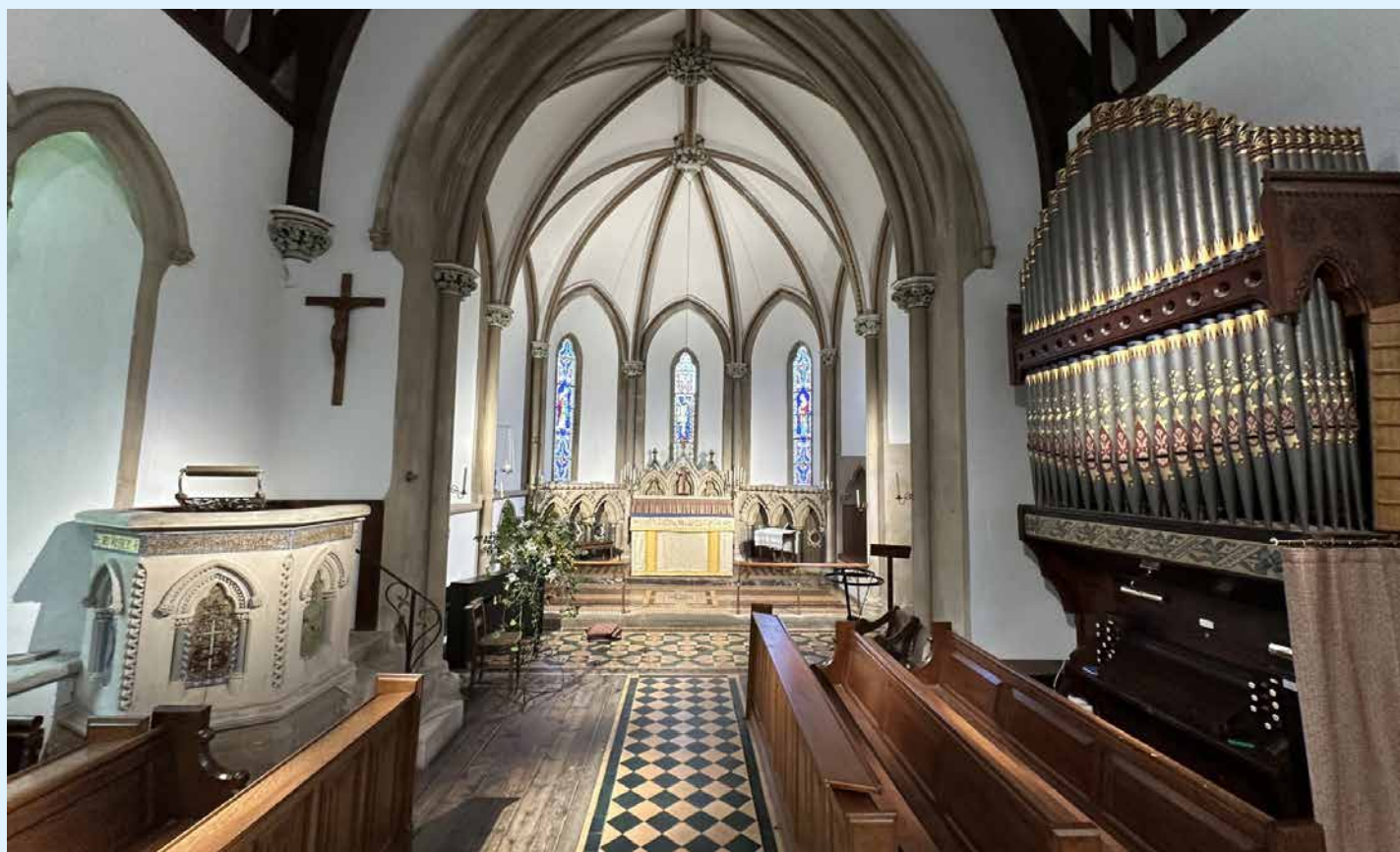
Coupled with that we managed to raise a staggering £3828 (with Gift Aid) for Sue Ryder! There is still time to donate and if anyone would like to push us up over the £4000 mark, you can use the QR code below.

My mum and I are incredibly grateful for the other five members of the team-without them, we would not have raised such an incredible amount of money for such a great cause. I am also so appreciative of everyone who sponsored us-people have been incredibly kind and generous.

It felt so good to step out of my comfort zone and there is a rumour that for next year's fundraiser we are going to take on the World's fastest Zip Line in North Wales. Watch this space! •



CHURCH NEWS



Christ the King and St John the Baptist

Regular congregants at St John the Baptist have enjoyed being back in the Parish church for the past couple of months. There are, inevitably, a few 'tweaks' necessary to ensure the lighting is working as effectively as possible, but the interior of building looks fully refreshed. Given recent heatwaves, the heating has yet to be tested, but we are confident that the winter months will be warmer and cosier in the church with the benefit of the newly-installed under-pew heating! If you are passing, do call in and have a look; the church is usually open throughout the day and you are welcome to visit to enjoy some time in the peace and quiet.

During the final weekend of June, a celebratory concert, 'Light and Life,'

was held at St John's to raise funds for the Parish Fundraising Appeal as we look towards phase 2 of the church improvement plans. The Parish Choir, with visiting singers, performed a number of songs from around the world; Kidmore End School Choir also joined in, enthusiastically singing two of their own pieces, and a number of talented individuals and small groups added to the varied programme. Despite the extreme heat on the day, the church was full and many stayed to enjoy refreshments in the sunshine afterwards. The weekend concluded with a beautiful Sung Evensong on 28th June to celebrate the Patronal Festival of St John the Baptist, with a celebratory glass of fizz in the churchyard afterwards, and a chance

to appreciate the wonderful floral displays put in place in the church and the churchyard by the talented flower team and churchyard tidy group.

At Christ the King the long-anticipated bifold doors are now properly in place and fully operational, so that the church and hall can be separated for meetings and functions or combined to create one large space for bigger services and events. If you are interested in hiring the hall, which comes with access to a fully-equipped kitchen and adjacent coffee room, either for a one-off event such as a party or reception, or for regular group meetings, please contact the Benefice Office 0118 9721383 for information.

During August, as in previous years, a series of services will take place across the Benefice as follows (all welcome):

Sunday 2nd August:
Service at All Saints', Peppard,
10.30am

Sunday 9th August
Service at Christ the King, Sonning
Common, 9.30am

Sunday 16th August
Service at All Saints', Peppard,
10.30am

Sunday 23rd August
Service at St John's, Kidmore End,
11.15am

Sunday 30th August
Service at Christ the King, Sonning
Common, 9.30am

Chiltern Evangelical Church

I'm a bit of a birder and keep my binoculars at the ready on the windowsill. Recently I had a special visit from a nuthatch hanging upside down from a pole whilst feeding it's fledgling. And I love the robin coming to watch me weeding with his beady eye and head cocked to one side.

Jesus told us to "consider the birds", why?

I think it's acknowledged we live in a very materialistic age. The endless adverts tell us what we need to eat, drink, clothe our bodies and homes with and keep us beautiful. But Jesus tells us not to be anxious about material things, our Heavenly Father knows our needs and reminds us to look at the birds that God provides food for and the wildflowers which He takes care to dress in stunning clothes. Rather, we are challenged to look for God's kingdom. It's a spiritual kingdom and its citizens live

A reminder that donations for the Food Bank (based at Christ the King) and for CIRDIC can be left at either church.

If you are curious about faith or want to find out more about Christianity please do come along to a church service or have a look at our website: www.achurchnearyou.com/church/166/ to find contact information for the Ministry Team, times of regular services, links for the parish magazine and more. ●



Future Event

Professor Stuart Burgess, Designing the fastest Olympic bike in the world. Saturday October 17th at 7pm. Sonning Common Village Hall. ●

Fridays 10:30

@Chiltern Evangelical Church

A music group for babies and preschoolers. Come along and enjoy interactive music with your child in this warm and welcoming group. Morning coffee and a slice of cake provided!

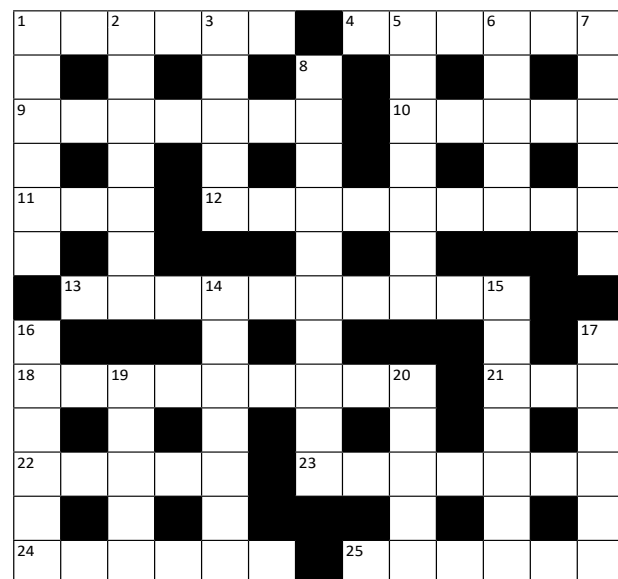
£3 per family. Waiting list operated at busier times.

Chiltern Evangelical Church, Grove Road, Sonning Common, RG4 9RL

PUZZLE PAGE

By DAVID DUNSTAN

Cryptic crossword



ACROSS

1. Qualification, for example, in wild deer (6)
4. American has Old English degree – it's a very small thing (6)
9. Film from Trotter era (7)
10. Money is distributed up 'ere (5)
11. A curve for a church (3)
12. Destroyed tomb is icy and mutually beneficial (9)
- 13&22. Nil-nil! Men urge me desperately in public space (10,5)
18. One crazily illuminated with sound after eating too quickly in the Stone Age (9)
- 21&20 Down. Ancient police, we hear, in local woodland (3,5)
22. See 13.
23. Tree around university is in fashion (7)
24. Historic court session is a small magnitude (6)
25. Sent a message: manuscript is with editor (6)

DOWN

1. Overthrow of French achievement (6)
2. US soldier holds broken conch for pasta (7)
3. Tests for me and sax disturbed (5)
5. Luther, perhaps, and I have a cocktail (7)
6. Previous partner with Patrick – someone living away from home (5)
7. Company power (6)
8. Mariner's joint shows his skill controlling a boat (10)
14. German mathematician shows terrible bile – current in New Zealand (7)
15. Tom and lion badly illuminated at night (7)
16. Mystery in game mix-up (6)
17. Loved a party with wine (6)
19. Soldiers in very large warnings (5)
20. See 21 Across.

Sudoku

Grading: easy-medium

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

Cryptogram

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

PAYAGS TPUR: SNI HIGS EB SNI GAFFIT
YERI, PRM SNI RID BPWW RES OIS HETR.
SNI EMM ARILIR SUFI. – GOWLUP VWPSN

Quiz: Places to visit in Oxfordshire

1. The birthplace of Winston Churchill.
2. The main research library of the University of Oxford and one of the oldest libraries in Europe.
3. Britain's oldest road, at least 5,000 years old, which runs from Wiltshire along the Berkshire Downs to the River Thames, and then along the Chilterns to Buckinghamshire.
4. A pair of chalk hills, topped by beech trees, near Dorchester.
5. A traditional Victorian brewery near Chipping Norton, founded in 1849.
6. A designer outlet shopping centre, which is home to 150 boutiques and 5 restaurants.
7. A farm shop near Chipping Norton, opened in 2020, which has been seen on TV.
8. A brewery near Reading, established in 2003, that produces a beer called Hullabaloo.
9. An extension of Oxford University's Botanic Garden, comprising 130 acres of trees and plants, at Nuneham Courtney.
10. A country house in the Chilterns, completed in 1914, where Sir William Morris lived.

See answers on page 34



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Google review, May 2026



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PUZZLE PAGE ANSWERS FROM PAGE 32



Quiz: Places to visit in Oxfordshire

1. Blenheim Palace. 2. Bodleian Library
(Radcliffe Camera is part of it). 3. The Ridgeway.
4. Wittenham Clumps. 5. Hook Norton Brewery.
6. Bicester Village. 7. Diddly Squat Farm Shop.
8. Loddon Brewery. 9. Harcourt Arboretum.
10. Nuffield Place.

Cryptic crossword

DOWN
1. AUGUST RAIN: THE BEST OF THE SUMMER
GONE, AND THE NEW FALL NOT YET BORN. THE
ODD UNEVEN TIME. — SYLVIA PLATH

Sudoku

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

Cryptic crossword

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

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