

FISH Volunteer Centre



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**Registered Charity
No. 286318**

From the Chairman

The buzz word at present just has to be 'recruitment' - of volunteers that is. We made the most of the summer weather to put ourselves about a bit in the interests of getting more people to join us. On Saturday 15th August we



put up a gazebo in the Market Place in Henley, handed out leaflets and talked to people about volunteering as office volunteers, car and bus drivers. The FISH bus was a prominent feature looking sparkling right down to its tyres. It drew the eye of passing shoppers and created a talking point about what we do and how, as an organisation, we are run entirely by volunteers and have no paid staff.

Four people have already been taken on as a result of our show in Henley and these volunteers are now on the car driving list. Similarly we were also represented at the Binfield Heath Flower Show on Saturday 29th August and recruited a couple more volunteers but more are needed to help us fulfil

the requests for help from the community. I was very impressed with the number of people who approached and said how pleased they were with the help we are giving them particularly with the bus trips. We plan to be on show outside Sonning Common Village Hall in the near future.

Our current band of volunteers are wonderful but difficulties start in the spring of each year when many, who are on 'the active retired list', take holidays before the schools break-up. They are then in demand to help with childcare of grandchildren in the summer school holidays as Mum and Dad are both working.

Gone are the days when Mum automatically gave up work when the children arrived and then did voluntary work to fit round child care commitments. Mums seem, mainly, to return to work after having children so that precious band of active retirees are in demand from their families as well as being volunteers for charities.

Of course, grandparents see their commitment to family as taking priority, which is as it should be, so we need more of them – grandparents that is! If you are reading this and are a younger person, male or female, we would love to hear from you too. It's just that you seem to be a member of an endangered species!

Finally a reminder of our annual Charity Sale in October – more details on inside page.

Fred Nickson
Chairman

Having a clear out? – Think FISH

The Fish Volunteer Centre would love to have your unwanted (or donated) gold, silver or costume jewellery items, watches, antique pieces and bric-a-brac (but no jumble) - we can sell/auction items to raise funds.

Please take any items to the Fish Office 9.30 -11.30 a.m. any weekday or give to a volunteer driver or telephone 0118 972 3986 to arrange for collection

Support and Transport for the Community

Volunteer Profile: Barbara Butler

If you think you are busy, you will have a lot in common with Barbara who freely admits that this September she will celebrate her 80th birthday and hopes to walk the last 58 miles of coastal walks in the UK. Already having achieved walking the first 578 miles of the South West Coastal Path!

Having been born in 1935 at Hilliers Farm St Mary Bourne, Andover into a farming family, Barbara is most relaxed whilst tending her garden. The family moved to Waltham St Lawrence whilst still young and Barbara became associated with the local church. It was not until 1968 that Barbara moved to Sonning Common with her husband and lived at Crossways at the top of Wood Lane.

This was the family home for 35 years before moving further down Wood Lane which has been her home for the last 12 years. Barbara married Gerald, the love of her life in 1964 but regretfully Gerald passed away in 1978 due to a brain tumour. This sad event made Barbara accept a medical discharge from the NHS where she had worked for 23 years as a nurse. This, together with breaking both legs in a climbing accident 8000 ft up in the Pyrenees in 1994, Barbara declared, were the two worst and most traumatic events in her life.

Barbara enjoys her loving family who live in Stoke Row and Bradford on Avon. Her six grandchildren are close to her and all meet up at family reunions.

Barbara currently is County Vice President of Oxford Royal British Legion – Woman's Section having been the Secretary/Treasurer of the local Legion branch for the last 35 years and from which she has just retired. Her local interests are the Village Gardeners, FISH, Nottakwire, and the Village Hall. Outside of the village Barbara is an avid cricket lover her father having played county cricket for Hampshire and encouraging Barbara's interest with many trips to Lords Cricket ground.

Barbara is a great tribute to the Christian faith being a sidesman and chalice administrator at All Saints church Peppard. Travelling has also been a passion of Barbara's having been to the Galapagos Islands twice and Nepal on three occasions. What a lady!

Clive Mills, Vice Chairman



Emergency Shopping

On those occasions when you can't get out to shop – after surgery, perhaps during 'flu or a heavy cold – you may need milk, bread or perhaps a prescription. Sonning Common is a neighbourly village, but there are times when a good neighbour is not available – that is when FISH can help.

Give us one day's notice – telephone 0118 972 3986 between 9.30 and 11.30 a.m. and one of our drivers will contact you for details of your requirements and bring them to you. This service is not intended for your large weekly shop, but for two or three items when you are temporarily housebound.

Try us – we are always glad to be of help.

Please Note: We need a team of volunteers for this purpose – local drivers who perhaps can no longer take clients on FISH journeys or who only wish to undertake very local journeys. Please contact the office if you are willing to help.

Jill Vallis, Shopping Organiser

Running for FISH

Many local people will know LEE HATHAWAY, maybe not by name but as the owner of Forresters the hairdresser in Sonning Common. Lee has been in Sonning Common for the past 19 years and owning the business franchise for the last 7 years. Born and bred in the Reading area where his parents still live, one of his observations is the way business has grown in Sonning Common along with the general rise of the population.

Lee started his working life as a butcher but was always interested in the art of hairdressing. This interest led to him taking a NVQ within a 2 year apprenticeship. Lee has taken part in many competitions, the biggest being the National championships organised by Wella in which he was one of the UK finalists. Lee is a great supporter of in-house training, giving time to the assistants working in the salon. Forresters have their own Academy through which all employees are trained.

Lee is also a great sportsman. In his early life he became a Black Belt 1st Dan in Karate along with taking an interest in boxing. Latterly he has taken part in Peak running, Triathlons, Iron Man competitions, and Climbing. Running half marathons he describes as a challenge rather than something he enjoys. Therefore his contribution to FISH is all the more appreciated. During 2015 Lee has taken part in several local half marathons and decided to donate the sponsorship money to FISH.



The picture shows Lee handing over his cheque in the sum of £336 to Sheila Maughan and myself. Lee describes the work of FISH as essential for the community and is looking forward to running for FISH again in 2016. Through this newsletter we thank Lee and of course all the people who supported us by sponsoring his running. Would you like to join him?? Please contact us.

Clive Mills, Vice Chairman

FISH Annual Charity Sale & Auction

Saturday 24 October 2015

9:30am-3pm

Sonning Common Village Hall

Summer is coming to its end and by late October you will be thinking about Christmas cards and presents

So come and support us at our annual Charity Sale & Auction where you can view an assortment of festive cards being sold by a variety of charities also start your Christmas shopping and have the chance of winning a great prize in our JUMBO raffle or bid for something amazing in the auction!