

- 5th. Trinity Sunday. Holy Communion  
(Patronal Festival) 10.30 a.n.,  
Friends and Methodists 11 a.n.,  
Sunday School 11.30 a.n.  
JUBILEE SERVICE 3.00 p.n., followed  
by tea and exhibition.
- 6th. Jubilee Bonfire and torchlight procession.
- 7th. Children's Sports and Tea (A fternoon).  
Village Social (Evening).
- 9th. Holy Communion 7.30 p.m. Special day  
of thanksgiving for Holy Communion.
- 11th. Cricket - Away - v. Wroxton.  
Epwell Jubilee Fair. 2.30 - 6.00 p.n.
- 12th. Holy Communion 10.30 a.n., Friends and  
Methodists 11 a.n., Sunday School  
11.30 a.n.,
- 13th. Youth Club. Village Hall 7.30 p.n.
- 14th. W.I. 'Shoes Through The Ages.'  
Village Hall 2 p.n.  
Young Wives. Friends Hall 7.30 p.n.  
'Books for the Under-Eights.'
- 15th. Orthoptic Eye Unit Hook Norton 2 p.n.
- 18th. Cricket - Home - v. Brailes.  
P.T.A. Barn Dance at Manor Ba rn Farm  
Epwell. 8.00 p.n. - Midnight.
- 19th. Holy Communion 10.30 a.n., Friends and  
Methodists 11 a.n., Sunday School  
11.30 a.n.,
- 20th. Youth Club - Village Hall 7.30 p.m.
- 22nd. Friendship Club. Dolly Mixtures Concert  
Party, Village Ha ll (Evening).
- 24th. Pond Cleaning  
Cricket Club Dance. Village Hall 9 p.m.
- 25th. Pond Clea ning
- 26th. Friends & Methodists 11 an., Sunday School  
11.30., Evensong & Holy Communion 6pm.
- 27th. Young Wives - Cookery Demonstration.

Received 27/5/77

# SIBFORD SCENE

JUNE 1977 NUMBER 4.

May is the month of A.G.M.s. The Parish Councils have both held theirs - Gower's in the presence of 11 electors (more at Ferris).

There was news of the Bus Group and Malcolm Allpress's plans for the future (Traffic commisioners permitting); of the search for a playing field, and for land for the almshouses that the Town Estates Charity would like to build.

The Chairman stressed that electors are invited to all council meetings. Next meeting of Sibford Gower council - Wednesday, 25th May at 8.30 p.m. in the Village Hall Committee Room.

## OF PATHS AND PONDS

The Councillors are having a FOOTPATH CLEARING evening on Thursday, 26th May, and would like plenty of volunteers to help. Meet 7.30 p.m. at the pond.

The Annual POND CLEANING will be on the evening of Friday, June 24th, and on the Saturday morning. Again all help will be welcome. Wear your oldest clothes and buy plenty of deodorant!

There was also concern over the treatment the pond gets from people throwing in sticks and stones (even rocks). This damages the lining, scares the fish and doesn't do much for the pond's cleanliness either. We are all asked to discourage both throwers and fishermen and to remind the children occasionally.

## .....AND CROWNS

Many children won't receive their Jubilee crowns unless last month's form is returned. Please let David Soden, or any member of the Committee know the names of all children up to 16 and those under 18 still in full-time education.

## CHURCH NOTES

Dear Friends in Sibford,

June is the month of Jubilee. The Queen is head of the Church of England, and so it is very fitting that a special service has been prepared for this time of thanksgiving. There is only one place in the village large enough to hold such a service, and that is the Parish Church - and on Sunday, 5th June, the Jubilee Service will be held at 3 p.m. I do hope that everyone will make a special effort to attend, so that it can become a joint Jubilee rejoicing. There are well-known hymns; refreshments will be available afterwards. Please accept this letter as your invitation to attend. The collection will be given to the Prince of Wales Jubilee fund. Do come.

I hope that we shall also meet at some of the other functions planned for the Jubilee week.

Yours sincerely,

Timothy Winbush

P.S. There is also a Jubilee service at Swalcliffe at 6.00 p.m.

## CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

The Hunger Lunch held at Hillside was well attended and resulted in £33 being handed to the funds. To this was added a further £4 kindly given by the Society of Friends.

## MIDSUMMER DAY

Midsummer comes all too quickly on the heels of a late Spring. To many of us it is a reminder that the year is half spent and, perhaps, so little accomplished.

The summer solstice, June 21st, was a significant date in both pagan and early Christian times. Pre-Christian communities were small by modern standards and bound closely to the land, so it is not surprising that they were deeply concerned with the changing seasons. The lengthening or shortening daylight and the waxing and waning of the sun's power were of the greatest importance in their cultivation of food crops. High and low 'watermarks,' the longest and shortest days were invested with magical properties.

On Midsummer Eve spirits were abroad, both good and evil, and needed to be honoured and propitiated. Fires were lit to honour the sun, branches of fresh green trees adorned doorways, while men, women and animals wore sprays of herbs or plants to ward off evil. Among these was the plant known as St. John's Wort (*Hypericum*).

Early Christian compilers of calendars had the happy knack of marrying pagan feasts with Christian festivals. Midsummer Day was moved from the true date of the Solstice to the birthday of St. John the Baptist, June 24th. Who knows where his birth was registered?.....

By the 15th century the witches had begun to lose credence and St. John's Eve was a time of more innocent merriment and dancing round the bonfires. The pranks and amusements of the workmen and fairies in 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' reflect Shakespeare's knowledge of early festivals in Arden.

Who knows what Midsummer customs were observed in our villages? We are told that the Rollright Stones originated when a certain king from the South of England marched to the Midlands to conquer Mercia. On the Rowlditch Ridge he paused to gaze over the Midland Plain but exchanged angry words with a local witch who turned both king and his followers into stone, and herself into an 'eldern' tree.

On Midsummer Eve the King Stone bows to the 'eldern' tree.

What other local legends of fairies and witches survive?

Geoffrey Law.

#### SIBFORD CRICKET CLUB

The Cricket Club will be holding their Annual Dance on Friday, 24th June, from 9.00 to 1.00 a.m. at Sibford Village Hall. Dancing to the Brian Brennan Band. Admission by ticket only, which includes buffet refreshments, £1.25p., obtainable from any Club member or Mr. O. Soden, 6 Shepherd's Close, before 17th June.

#### ROSA GREEN

Rosa Green died on Sunday, 1st May. She had been ill for some months and had remained cheerful throughout. During her weeks in bed, she grew expert in the driving habits of Sibfordians who used the crossroads near her house. Many years ago she would travel with the carrier service to the Maypole in Banbury. Her popularity was attested to by the number of people who came to her funeral. Much sympathy has been extended to her husband, Joe, and to her son, John Sabin, and his family.

Timothy Wimbush.

#### NEW FACES

New W.I. officers have recently been elected:-

President - Mrs. Anne Spicer  
Secretary - Mrs. Turner  
Treasurer - Mrs. Baker

The June meeting will be a talk, 'Shoes Through The Ages,' arranged by Milwards of Banbury.

#### MOTHERS. FATHERS. GRANDPARENTS. FAVOURITE AUNTS

If you are a ny of these, you will probably have had the bewildering experience of choosing a book for a young child.

On Tuesday, 14th June, the Young Wives have invited Keith Harrap, Oxfordshire Schools' Librarian, to talk about and show a selection of books for the Under-Eights.

Everyone is invited. 7.30 p.m. Friends Hall - admission 20p. including coffee.

#### CAN YOU SEE THIS?

Any child under five can be taken along for a free eye test when the Mobile Orthoptic Unit visits the Hook Norton Village Hall on Wednesday, 15th June, from 2.00 p.m.

#### DOLLY MIXTURES

The Dolly Mixtures from Tysoe will be entertaining the Friendship Club on the evening of Wednesday, 22nd June, in the Village Hall. Everyone is invited; look out for posters giving further details.

Mrs. Flinn reminds us that thirsty shoppers can buy coffee for 10p. on Saturday mornings from 10 a.m. to 12 noon, at the Old People's Club, behind Castle House, Banbury (by the multi-storey car park).

#### THE LOCAL CHARITIES

The Sibford Town Estates Charity and the Fuel Allotments Charity are both registered with, and controlled by, the Charity Commission. The governing instrument in both cases is dated 12th January 1922, and there are nine trustees, four nominative and five co-optative, who are solely responsible for administering the Charities. The beneficial areas are Sibford

Gower and Burdrop.

These two Trusts emanate from a multitude of bequests of small parcels of land dating back in some instances, hundreds of years. They were eventually assembled by the Charity Commissioners and substituted by Sibford Heath Farm and allotments, and the area known as the Fuel Lands. The incomes from these properties can be applied strictly to the named localities - the permitted distribution is one third to the relief and maintenance of the poor in Sibford Gower, one third to charitable and pious purposes and one third to local education. The whole Fuel Land income is applied to the distribution of fuel every winter.

Now that the responsibility for the relief of the poor has passed from Parish to the County and State, poverty has become a private matter between an individual and a Professional responsible for the new Social Services. Consequently, the Parish Trustees are now ill-informed, and at times unaware of, true poverty. And, indeed, great care has to be taken that a Charity grant and/or award does not jeopardise any State aid. The Trustees are now faced with the dilemma - is anyone really poor if they take advantage of all the State services available?

However, the Village Trustees are always approachable, and any appeal for assistance will be dealt with fairly and sympathetically but it does not mean that the availability of funds guarantees a grant!

John C. Andrews (Hon. Sec.)

#### EPWELL JUBILEE FAIR

Epwell invites you to join in its Silver Jubilee Fair on Saturday, 11th June. Fancy Dress Parade. It's A Knockout, Children's Sports, Art and Craft Exhibition, Children's

Painting Competition, Flower Arrangements in Church, Vintage Cars, and all the traditional fun of the fair. From 2.30 p.m. until 6 p.m.

#### GARDENING - TOPICAL TIP FOR JUNE

Weeds are at their worst during June and an odd hour with the hoe will pay dividends. Alternatively, use a paraquat weedkiller such as Weedol between plants. June is also a good month for Greenfly - use a systemic spray at three-weekly intervals to keep them at bay.

Keith Hicks.

#### SMALL ADS - CIRCULATE SIBFORD FOR A PENNY A WORD

MAXIHIRE for economical car hire. No V.A.T.  
Telephone Swalcliffe 522.

#### SIBFORD SCENE

Please note that there will be NO AUGUST ISSUE. Material relating to July and August by Monday, 20th June, please.

EDITOR: Jennifer Austing, 6 Barley Close (358).

PRODUCTION: Jean Evans, Keith Hicks, Timothy Winbush.

#### CALENDAR FOR JUNE

- 1st. Horticultural Society. Visit to Garden of Mr. and Mrs. E. Hitchins, 'Coppers,' Pound Lane.
- 4th. Cricket - Away - v. Kineton. 'George Clark Cup Competition.'
- Jubilee Disco. Village Hall.