

## CALENDAR FOR OCTOBER

### REGULAR WEEKLY EVENTS

Methodist Church - Morning Service 11.00 a.m.  
Society of Friends - Sunday Meeting 11.00 a.m.  
Parish Church -

1st Sunday - Holy Communion 8.30 a.m.  
2nd & 3rd Sundays - Holy Communion 10.30 a.m.  
4th Sunday - Evensong and Holy Communion 6 p.m.  
5th Sunday - United Eucharist 10.00 a.m.  
Sunday School - 11.30 a.m.  
Youth Club - Monday 7.30 p.m. Village Hall.

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- 3rd Young Wives. Corn Dolly Making (Mrs. Edgington) 7.30 p.m. Friends' Hall.
- 4th Nicola Cox Cookery Demonstration.  
Friendship Club. International Dances.  
Friends School.
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- 11th W.I. Gra phology (Canon South) 2.00 p.m.  
Village Hall.  
Young Wives. Cracker Making (Mrs. Ratcliffe) 7.30 p.m. Friends' Hall.
- 12th Horticultural Society. A.G.M. and Wine and Cheese. 7.30 p.m. Village Hall.
- 15th Friendship Club. Bring and Buy.
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- 18th Friendship Club. Handicrafts etc.  
Friends' School.  
Young Wives. Parliamentary Life (Neil Marten) 7.30 p.m. Friends' Hall.
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- 28th S.S. Simon and Jude. Holy Communion 7.30 p.m.
- 30th United Eucharist 10 a.m. Tadmarton.  
Preacher - Bishop Loveday.
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### SIBFORD SCENE

EDITOR: Jennifer Austing, 6 Barley Close (358).  
PRODUCTION: Jean Evans, Keith Hicks, Timothy Wimbush.

Material for the November issue by Thursday October 20th, please.

# SIBFORD SCENE

OCTOBER 1977.

NUMBER 7

### THE BEST NO LONGER

After Sibford's success in the Best Kept Village competition two years ago, this year we are unplaced. However, some of the judges' comments are worthy of note: "A great deal of hard work had been done here and many gardens were colourful and well tended."

Particular mention was made of the Village Hall and surrounds which "had been excellently cared for with good paint work, well-cut grass, tidy car-park and beautifully tended flower and rose beds."

The Village Hall reached the finals of its class from a total of 64 entries.  
Winners:- Small Village Class - Kingham.  
Village Hall & surrounds - Ardington.

So, congratulations to all who are responsible for the care of the Hall; and perhaps a little more attention to detail from the rest of us might ensure that Sibford is among the winners again next year.

### MEMORIES

Eric Payne's account of the Great Fire of Sibford last month seems to have stirred several memories. Why not tell Sibford Scene about a local event that YOU remember? Either write it yourself (300 words maximum) or contact the editor and tell your tale in person. It need not necessarily be ancient history - we'd like to hear from young and old alike.



## FETE REPORT

Despite the boisterous and somewhat chilling wind on Saturday, 10th September, the fete was a successful and an entertaining event if one is to judge from comments subsequently made.

The Village Hall Committee would like to thank the small committee who arranged it and particularly the organisations who participated by manning their own stalls and working so hard in preparing their contributions.

Whereas last year was a splendid day, sandwiched as it was between some appalling weather, this year was almost the opposite in that the days either side of the 10th were bright and cheerful. Evenso, people still came from far and wide. 'Lobby Lud,' for instance - chosen on the day - was a man from Essex.

There is a great deal of work involved in running the Fete: the borrowing of equipment, the fetching and carrying, the dismantling and return of everything, and indeed the cost of doing all this. To all those who played a part in this way, or in any other, the Village Hall Committee thank them for their interest and their special effort.

There were many gifts for the benefit of the Fete, some quite substantial and some involving a lot of personal time and preparation. The Village Hall Committee is very appreciative and hope the rather splendid Hall is some recompense for all this effort.

Certainly the Fete was successful from a financial point of view, but unhappily the weather just prevented us from beating last year's figures which still stand as the record.

Ernest F. Hitchins.

Chairman V.H.C.

## PLAYGROUP - HELP WANTED

Clearing out now that the children have gone back to school? The Playgroup are on the lookout for a toy cash register and also a sturdy, but not too large, toolbox. If you can help please contact Judy Abbott (731) or any playgroup parent.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

This has restarted after the summer holiday period. We welcome all children from the village between the ages of 4-ish and 11-ish.

The Sunday School meets each week at Sibford Church at 11.30 a.m. for forty-five minutes.

Teachers are in short supply and any volunteers would be welcomed. Please contact Robin Spicer, 7 High Meadow.

Timothy Wimbush.

## FRIENDSHIP CLUB

October looks like being an active month. On the 4th Mrs. Marsha Gaffery and her team of ladies will demonstrate and teach some international dances for the members to learn or just enjoy watching.

On Saturday afternoon (October 15th) a Bring and Buy is planned in the Village Hall. It will include a 'nearly new' stall consisting mostly of warm clothing for both men and women. More details later.

And on October 18th Mrs. Freda Gardner will demonstrate a new form of handicraft to a group of members while the rest enjoy cards and dominoes.

The Club is very proud that one of its members, Mrs. Esne Simms, having given one of her own paintings to be raffled at the Village



Fete, raised £12.45p. which was added to money taken by the Club's stall.

Mrs. M. B. Flinn.

### SIBFORD'S SUMMER GUESTS

On Battle of Britain Sunday we had our own private aerial display.

The martins, having arrived later than usual this year, had nested in this area for the fifth year in succession to the great delight of the local residents.

Some of the old nests had been taken over by sparrows, who were well entrenched before the summer visitors arrived, and who refused to give way under the angry protestations hurled at them, so the martins simply built more accommodation. Easy when you know how.

Last Sunday, the young all now well and strongly on the wing, we had an unusual display of improbable aerobatics. A dozen or more martins were flying, wheeling, banking and nose-diving with such speed as to defeat the eye, and every minute or so swooping up to one house wall or other to circle, settle and take off again, twittering ceaselessly with animated intensity.

With their days in this country now numbered this could hardly have been a nesting flight. Could the birds be making their reservations for next year, albeit mental ones? And what a mentality! guiding then unerringly thousands of miles to the far south and back to the country of their origin, yet not only to the country but to the district, garden and very building of their nesting days.

The scientists and ornithologists may study and explain as they like concerning orientation by stars, but to me it will remain a miracle.

E.G.

### NEIL MARTEN

Although he lives on our doorstep, it's not often that we have a chance of meeting our M.P. Neil Marten.

The Young Wives are delighted that he has been able to accept their invitation to speak on Parliamentary Life on Tuesday, 18th October in the Friends' Hall. This meeting is open to everyone and we hope that very many Sibfordians will come to hear their M.P. on a non-political occasion.

Other Young Wives activities are listed in the calendar. New members, ladies of any age, are always welcome.

Erica Winbush.

### KEEP FIT

The Hook Norton Evening Centre is planning a Ladies Keep Fit class to be led by Anne Allpress. For details phone Hook Norton 737737.

### HOW MANY SHOPPING DAYS TO CHRISTMAS?

Advance Notice. The W.I. Bazaar will be on Saturday, 5th November in the Village Hall at 2.00 p.m.

### HELP WANTED

Sibford Scene needs a reserve typist: someone with a wide carriage typewriter who could occasionally help with the stencils. We should be particularly glad to hear from anyone who could help with the January edition which will need to be typed very near to Christmas.



## AMERICAN REFLECTIONS

Had anyone told me that coming to these parts would have been my passport to America, I would have found it hard to believe. But that's the way it was: The Wixon family in America trace their ancestry to Swalcliffe. Indeed, there are parts of the same family in Sibford and at Broughton Castle.

So it was that on 1st September I flew to America, excited if a little uncertain: not only was I to fly for the first time, but also I was being thrust into the heart of Mormon country, at Salt Lake City. Thanks to the vagaries of Heathrow, it took me just 25 hours from Sibford to Salt Lake, and installed in the Hotel Utah - quite an experience as you can well imagine.

I overlooked the Temple Square Complex: the Mormon spiritual Vatican: and on a visit found the set-up quite something, with a degree of opulence, yet much simplicity at the same time. More than one person, I am sure, will have been converted by the manner in which the Center operates.

The most astonishing memory of America is the sheer size of the place. I went for a two-day drive, visiting some of the more beautiful parks and beauty spots of Utah. We never left the State - and travelled 819 miles all told! (Penzance to Inverness is 706). To see from ground level a distance of 40 miles was commonplace.

Television is, of course, positively immense: in Los Angeles there are about 20 stations alone: and some operate 24 hours non-stop. Those who are worried by the advertising over here need not worry - over there it's worse and longer. By 7 a.m. on a Saturday morning, three channels are committed to children's cartoons!

Driving? They say that Americans are mad drivers: some of the rules are to British eyes a trifle disconcerting - to be driving at 55 (the national limit) on a Freeway of seven lanes each way, and to be overtaken on all sides at once is indeed something to witness.

Throw in to all that the Queen Mary, Marineland and Disneyland, plus much good food - the recipe for an unforgettable experience.

Timothy Wimbush.

## TOPICAL TIP FOR OCTOBER

Established lawns benefit greatly if they are aerated, scarified, hollow-tined and treated with a proprietary autumn fertilizer during October.

If the weather remains dry every opportunity must be taken to carry out autumn digging. Soil which is dug over early in autumn gets the maximum benefit from winter frosts and will break down into good condition for spring planting.

## HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY AUTUMN MEETING

The October meeting will be the A.G.M. at 7.30 p.m. on Wednesday, 12th October, followed by the ever popular Wine and Cheese evening. Tickets this year are £1.50 a head including membership subscription of 50p. Tickets are available from Committee members.

Keith Hicks.

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

MAXIHIRE. Self-drive Austin Maxi hire at mini rates. Swalcliffe 522.