

SIBFORD SCENE

JUNE 1979

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WAR ON WASTE

SAVE A TREE WITH 6 LOADS OF NEWSPAPER
TRAIN GUIDE DOGS WITH BOTTLE TOPS
HELP THE WORLD'S CHILDREN WITH CLOTHES AND BLANKETS

How often we throw things away, knowing full well that they could be put to good use, if only we knew how to go about it. It's not that we are particularly lazy or particularly wasteful. We just don't know who would value what we don't want. This month we have heard of several people in the village who will re-cycle our rubbish, sometimes for charity, sometimes because they simply have a use for it. If you can add to the list, please let us know. It's a painless way for us all to help each other, and save a few of the earth's resources.

NEWSPAPER

Mrs Flinn and Miss Bennett collect from various villages. The proceeds provide one or two parcels for old people in the villages who will be alone at Christmas. They take loads of 3cwt at a time to the salvage depot - six such loads will save a tree.

Please take bundles, securely tied, to Mrs Flinn's house in Backside Lane. Magazines, colour supplements, Radio Times and anything containing staples must not be included. If the depot has to re-sort to remove these, the proceeds are drastically reduced.

Is there anyone in Sibford Ferris with dry space, in a shed perhaps, where people in that village could take their paper? It could then be collected in bulk when requested.

MILK BOTTLE TOPS

Mrs Shields at the Primary School.

JAM JARS AND 'FIVE PINTS' CONTAINERS

Rosemary Radcliffe, Backside Lane, can use a limited quantity.

WOOL

The Friendship Club knits blankets.

GOOD CLOTHES

Suitable garments have been sent from the village to Mother Theresa in Calcutta, Save the Children, sold for salvage. Any other suggestions?

Do you know of a good use for rubbish?
Do you want something that someone else might throw away?

PLEASE TELL US

A THOUSAND CHILDREN LATER

We congratulate Mrs Mary Poulton and Mr Jack Walpole who have both recently been presented with long-service awards by the Oxfordshire County Council after thirty years of teaching in the county. We asked them to give an account of their careers.

I began my teaching career in Sibford in 1936. The school was an Elementary School and catered for the education of children from 5 to 14 years. They were taught in three groups, Infants, Juniors and Seniors, roughly twenty in each group. I was in charge of the Juniors.

During the war we played host to a group of London evacuees. The older ones were integrated with our children, the younger ones being taught by their own teachers in the Friends Meeting House.

After leaving Sibford, I spent two short spells as Head of Swalcliffe and Mollington schools and then in late 1942 Justin and I married and spent eleven halcyon years at New Barn Farm, raising our family - Diana, Rosalyn and Graham.

In 1953, a teacher who had been appointed to the Infant Department was unable, through ill-health to take up the post, so I agreed to fill the gap for a month - a month which has extended to 25 years.

In 1966 I was persuaded by Mr Walpole to take a training course at Westminster College to become a Qualified Teacher, and I am eternally grateful to him for encouraging me to take this step.

I have quite lost count of how many children have come to me saying, 'You taught my Mummy or Daddy' and although I threatened to retire when the first claimed that I had taught one of its Grandparents, it has happened - and now we have in the school Sean and Anita O'Keefe, grandchildren of Mr Ken Bishop, a member of my very first Junior class.

After the last war, I began my teaching career in the County at Lawn Upton Junior School, at Littlemore. This was a large school with about 400 Juniors and big classes of 40 or so.

In February 1961, I applied for the Headship of Sibford Gower Endowed School. So it was that after Easter our family came to live in the School House and I joined Mary Poulton and Barbara Skipper (now Crabtree) at the school. Straight away one could feel the friendly family atmosphere and good order left by my predecessor, Bob Penny.

I was exceedingly fortunate because I had missed all the disruption and difficulty during the work on the improvements that had just been completed. I was working in modern conditions in a school founded in 1625. One of the previous Headmasters had been a Yeoman named Huntley, who evidently found education unprofitable and helped to found Huntley and Palmers Biscuit Factory at Reading.

I stayed at the village school for ten happy years and during that time there were very few changes of staff, but I am grateful to my past colleagues, Pam Perrett, Andrew and Sandra Rolls, Sheila Kinnish and, of course, Joan Shields who started to help out temporarily and is still in harness.

One of the features of life in the Village School during these years was the stream of visitors from all parts of this country - and indeed the world. I think it made a pleasant drive from Oxford!

I left Sibford to move to a bigger school, Harriers Ground, in Banbury. There I have tried to build up the same ethos that made Sibford School such a happy place.

J. Walpole

Mary Poulton

There are many interesting and curious buildings in our two villages, and we hope to publish occasional articles about some of them, houses perhaps that we pass every day but scarcely notice. We begin in Sibford Ferris.

THE MANOR HOUSE, SIBFORD FERRIS

The Manor House is a 'listed building'; ie. one of special architectural or historical interest. It is, in fact, an old building enclosing another, older, building. Only at one corner at the back is the oldest part visible from outside: a small section of wall and a stone mullioned window, part of the original 16th century Manor House, built probably in the reign of Elizabeth I, on the site of still earlier timber Manor Houses, themselves dating from around 1100. So, for some six centuries, this area of Sibford Ferris was the focal point for the administration of justice and for the reception of eminent visitors.

It was in the first half of the 18th century that the building was transformed by the new owners, the Walfords. The ancient front and sides were clad with finely cut masonry, large sash windows were added and, inside and out, the house was given the Queen Anne fashion that we see today.

In 1842 it was purchased from the Walford family by a Quaker Trust and the Friends School was founded. Many additions and alterations have since been made to keep pace with the growth and changing circumstances of the School, but the facade remains, and must continue to remain, unaltered since the reign of Queen Anne.

Margaret Le Mare

RADIO HORTON

Did you know that the Horton Hospital has its own radio station? On Thursday evenings there is a record request show when anyone can have a record played and send greetings to a friend or relation who is a patient there. Churches and other organisations are invited to send in requests for members in hospital. All you have to do is contact Radio Horton at the Hospital with details of the patient, the greeting and the record. It could bring a lot of pleasure to an absent friend.

The organisers would also like to hear from anyone who might be able to assist with fund-raising, publicity and, perhaps most important of all, chatting to the patients in the wards and letting the world know that Radio Horton exists.

SAVE THE CHILDREN FUND

The house-to-house collection raised £42.78 and the Coffee Morning £30 (including £30 from the S.C.F. gift stall). Many thanks to Maureen Evans, who organised the Coffee Morning; the Playgroup, who ran the stalls; and to all the contributors and helpers.

Some good, but unsold, clothes from the Primary School sale were also gratefully received by the Fund.

Collections in the other villages raised: Swalcliffe, £16.17, Tadmarton, £10.44; Epwell, £12.70; a total of £162.09.

Sue Lambert

DID YOU KNOW?

The Town Estates Charity last year paid out £480 to 24 pensioners in fuel allocations.

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

Erica and I wish to express our gratitude to those of you who supported the Christian Aid Week lunches. Together with donations from the Friends Meeting and gifts from some who were not able to attend in person, the total stands at £78.25. This represents a significant increase on last year's effort, and gives us a target for 1980.

Timothy Wimbush

W.I.

New officers were elected at the last meeting:

- President Mrs Crabtree
- Secretary Mrs Jarvis
- Treasurer Mrs F. Wealsby
- Committee Mrs Abbott
- Miss Bennett
- Mrs Dyer
- Mrs Hutchinson
- Mrs Soden
- Mrs P. Stewart
- Mrs Vernon

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On Tuesday June 12th the speaker will be Mrs J. Sawyer of Eynsham on 'Running a Family Shop'.

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COFFEE MORNING

Tuesday 26th June
10.30

at the home of Mrs Soden
Wyatt's Close, Sibford Gower.

THANK YOU W.I. for your donation to Sibford Scene.

LEO

The Leo Club are planning a canal trip from Enslow to Thrupp. Any members interested in coming, please give your names and money to Anne Spicer or Jayne Foster by 12th June.

The cost is £2.50, which includes a Boatman's Supper. Children over fourteen and husbands will be most welcome.

GOWER PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Five Councillors were returned unopposed: Mr D. Soden, Mr E. Payne, Mr L. Poulton, Mrs M. Hicks and Mr A. Rye.

We welcome Tony Rye and hope he will enjoy his term as councillor. We would also like to express our thanks to Gordon Wright for his work until his retirement from the Council on leaving the village.

TREE PLANTING

26 trees of 9 different varieties have been bought and planted in various parts of the village. Any further planting will now be held over until the autumn. We would be grateful for suggestions of other possible sites so that we can decide in advance the numbers and types required.

FOOTPATHS

A footpath clearing evening is planned for Wednesday 20th June, meeting at Wyatt's Close at 7.30. If you have rakes, garden shears or scythes, please bring them along. But above all, please turn out and help so that this important job can be done quickly and effectively.

QUEEN'S GARDEN PARTY

For the first time our Parish Chairman has been selected to attend a Royal Garden Party in July. We hope that he and his wife will have an enjoyable and memorable day.

OPEN SCHOOL

The Friends School, Sibford Ferris, will be holding its General Meeting on Saturday 16th June, and the school will be open to visitors from 2.00 p.m.

REPAIR TO COFFEE

A Bring-and-Buy Coffee Morning and raffle will be held at Mrs Law's house, Hillside, Sycamore Close, on Thursday July 5th, in aid of Holy Trinity Repair Fund. 10.30 - 12.30.

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BEST KEPT VILLAGE?

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At the recent Gower Annual Parish Meeting, villagers expressed their concern at the general level of tidiness in the village, and special mention was made of certain blackspots. These comments strongly endorsed the views held by the Parish Council for some time, that some villagers were not helping to maintain and preserve the overall attractiveness of our village.

Can we, therefore, ask you all to stand back and look afresh at your own patch. Ignore the familiarity of the surroundings and see what sort of view you present to your neighbours and visitors.

Comment was also made on the dumping of unwanted garden and building rubbish along the highway or on the verges. Please do not let us have any more reports of this untidy habit.

A tidier, litter-free village will be of greater enjoyment to everyone, villagers and visitors alike.

David Soden
(Chairman)

YOUTH CLUB

The sum of £52.38 was raised at the sale on May 12th.

We would like to thank all who helped by providing goods to sell, baking cakes and being such good customers on Cup Final day!

SUPPER, WINE AND MUSIC

at Compton Wynyates with the Warwickshire Singers, director, David H. Jones. Saturday June 30th at 8.00. Tickets £4.50. Tel. P. Childs Tysoe 229.

THE GARDEN IN JUNE

The heavy rains of mid-May and the following bursts of sunshine set off rapid growth of all plants and left us a legacy of staking, thinning, and, not least, plenty of weeding - and this last job needs to be done thoroughly before the weeds seed and make matters worse for the rest of the summer. The ground should be perfect now for planting out all the brassicas: early planting of Brussels sprouts is particularly important to enable them to make good growth before the days shorten from the end of this month. It is a good idea to fill up every piece of cultivated ground at this time of the year. You should have sufficient rows of lettuce growing now to see you through to August, but sow throughout June to carry you into the Autumn. Avodefiance, Little Gem, Suzan are useful varieties. Tender plants such as runner and french beans, marrows and courgettes are at risk for a week or two yet, so keep an eye on the skies at dusk and an ear for the weather forecast; even a few layers of newspaper spread over them at night may save the plants if frost threatens.

It is best to hold back planting out geraniums until mid-month and dahlias even later. In this unpredictable season, better be late than lose them. When the seed bed is empty, sow some biennials to plant out in the Autumn for next year's flowering: sweet williams, pansies, bellis, cheiranthus and, of course, wallflowers.

It has been a wonderful season for spring flowering bulbs and shrubs, but don't be tempted to cut down the leaves, best left to die down naturally and make good bulbs for next year, but prune the flowering shrubs now by removing as much of the mature wood that has flowered as can be spared, to encourage new wood to flower next year.

