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# SIBFORD SCENE

MARCH 1980

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## FAREWELL TO A GIANT

For possibly 250 to 300 years there has stood in Ditch Acre hedge, next to the graveyard, in Judy King's property a great natural landmark.

That is until February 19th, when this tree, an East Anglian Elm ( *Ulmus Diversifolia* ), was felled. At least, what remained of it, for huge branches had been periodically breaking off in recent years. Originally it must have been around 90 feet high. The tree was dead as from last Autumn; but not altogether through Dutch disease.

Some seven years ago this elm was identified by Miles Hadfield, arborologist consultant to Kew Gardens, along with a Wisley colleague, who both averred that, apart from East Anglia where they are common, only one other of this species was known in England, that in Hampshire.

Thus the village has lost another unique feature, for its great lateral arms framed the landscape and yet its tiny leaves lent an almost mosslike envelope to its branches.

We trust that another native tree may be set there to replace it.

Frank Rollett

## AND SOME OTHER CHANGES TO SIBFORD'S SCENE

The County Council has announced that the old allotment land at Shepherds Close is to be offered for sale.

The posting box at present outside the old Gower Post Office is to be moved by the G.P.O. to a new position next to the telephone kiosk outside Wyatts Close.

## O.A.P. BUS TOKENS

These will be available for collection on MONDAY 10th MARCH.  
SIBFORD GOWER AND BURDROP      9-10 a.m. at the Village Hall  
SIBFORD FERRIS                      11.30-12 noon at the Post Office.

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STOP PRESS	STOP PRESS	STOP PRESS
YCJTH CLUB SALE	<u>MARCH 1st</u>	See page 3
THE SEEDS YOUR GRANDFATHER USED TO GROW		See page 3

### THINK OF IT IN ENGLAND

While we enjoy the peace and harmony of Sibford, it is most impossible to conceive that a part of our own country is in a state of war.

We print this month part of a letter from Charles Stephens, who is serving with the 1st Battalion Welsh Guards in South Armagh, to his aunt in Sibford.

"Yes, Northern Ireland is very much a soldiers' war; it is the N.C.O. or corporal who has immense responsibility, not only for the lives of the men he commands, but also to be aware of the political implications of his actions. It is quite remarkable how, by and large, they react to responsibility and grow into it. I believe we are lucky - we have always allowed N.C.O.s to do their job, and our strength, more than any other part of the army, is in our Sergeants' Mess. We also have lots of officers, and mostly good ones, and are therefore in a much better position to conduct offensive and well planned operations than most other regiments.

It is a fascinating scene, and very much proper soldiering. We have had some successes recently, which is always encouraging, but we are really doing little more than scratching the surface. However, there are signs that there is some political resolution. Morale everywhere is very high; it has never really been low, but January has been a long month and certainly a testing one for the leaders. It is always interesting seeing how people develop and react in stress situations, and how often the stars fail to shine and the so-called duds prove their worth.

We are having a major blitz against smuggling at the moment, which is certainly linked to terrorism. You would be amazed by the situation here, the lawlessness which has existed for years and the goings on which people have to endure.

We have been lucky with the weather so far this winter, clear and cold. We hate fog and mist which stops us helicoptering, and the opposition know it, but we have to keep patrols out to stop them mortaring us. We helicopter or walk everywhere and never drive, except this last week when we have had to run engineer stores to Forkhill and Crossraglen. It is a major operation: every inch of the road has to be searched and cleared. The pickets are then flown in to guard the road and dig in in the fields and on the hills watching the road for three days while our convoys run up and down. It's like Eden was but worse! Think of it in England."

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### SMALL ADS - A PENNY A WORD

Green-fingered couple offer free use of vegetable/ kitchen garden patch in return for general weeding and tidying of garden. Telephone Swalecliffe 236.

Wanted desperately: Field to rent. Liz March Tel; Swalecliffe 583

## FRIENDSHIP CLUB

### TUESDAY MARCH 4th

At the invitation of the Headmaster of the village Primary School, the Club will be entertained first by the under sevens and then by what is usually an ingenious entertainment by the older boys and girls. This annual event is an afternoon much enjoyed by our Club, some of whom will be watching their own Grandchildren.

### TUESDAY MARCH 18th

In the Village Hall, a talk with slides by Dr George Forster from the National Vegetable Research Station at Wellesbourne.

I gather this is the first time he has been to a Senior Citizens Club but his secretary describes him as 'just the man for the job'. Not only is he knowledgeable about new methods, but is extremely interested in the vegetable seeds used by the fathers and grandfathers of our club members, seeds no longer available in the modern catalogues.

We welcome on this very special afternoon any men or women with experience of many years of vegetable gardening who would like to come and ask (and perhaps answer) questions, and help to make the afternoon something very special. We always like to have visitors and on this particular day we would especially like to show Dr Forster what really good gardeners live in the Sibfords. Village Hall 2-4 p.m.

### TUESDAY MARCH 25th

A Mammoth Afternoon Sale of very low priced clothes. Entrance 5p includes a cup of tea.

M.B. Flinn

### TUESDAY MARCH 11th

The March Meeting will feature a speaker on Yoga, together with a competition, Daffodils in a bowl.

2 p.m. Village Hall

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### SIBFORD FOLK DANCE CLUB

Weekly meetings are held in the Village Hall on Tuesdays

Juniors 7.00-8.00 p.m.

Seniors 8.00-10.00 p.m.

The Saturday Dance this month is on March 15th, with Mike Tancock and Wild Thyme, from 8.00 until 11.30 in the Village Hall. New members are always welcome.

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### LEO CLUB

A dual-purpose sponsored knit-in. The money raised will go to the Junior School to help provide a Quiet Room, and the knitting will be made into knee blankets for the Red Cross.

Details from Mrs Ann Spicer or Mrs Jayne Foster.

Tuesday 25th, 8 p.m. at Temple Lodge, Sibford Gower.

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### YOUTH CLUB SALE

You are warmly invited to come to the VILLAGE HALL ON SATURDAY MARCH 1st at 2.30 p.m.

There will be a good variety of bargains, used and new, cakes and refreshments.

You gave us wonderful support last year in our effort to replenish our own funds. We do hope you will come again this year!

We need the money mainly for paying the rent, since subscriptions, kept as low as possible, are never enough to cover both rent and replacement of used games equipment.

Joan Shields

## CHURCH NOTES

### MOTHERING SUNDAY

In the afternoon of 16th March, Mothering Sunday, we invite all mothers to Sibford Church for a special service appropriate to the day. We would hope to welcome whole families, with many generations of mothers; and after the service there will be a Mothering Sunday tea in the Village Hall.

### WHIST DRIVE

The last in the series of Whist Drives in aid of Holy Trinity Repair Fund is to be held in the Village Hall on Friday 7th March at 7.30 p.m. There will be refreshments and a small raffle. Tickets 50p each.

Timothy Wimbush

### PRAY FOR PEACE

In view of the threat of nuclear warfare and the many varied troubles of this world, all denominations are invited to a

### WEEKLY PRAYER MEETING

at Mrs Gilder's house, 11, Barley Close, each Monday at 8.00 p.m. beginning March 10th. "More things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of."

### COFFEE MORNING

A Coffee Morning - Bring and Buy - Good as New - Sale will be held at Hillside, Sibford Gower (by kind invitation of Mrs Law) on Tuesday March 18th at 10.30 a.m. Proceeds will be shared between Holy Trinity Repair Fund and the Church Missionary Society.

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### WASTE PAPER

More people each month are saving their newspaper. We hope to do even better in 1980 than in 1979. We have already taken 6 cwt. from Sibford alone this year.

Please deliver bundles of NEWSPAPER ONLY, tied as tightly as possible, preferably with string both ways round, to Mrs Flinn's house, Orchard Cottage, Backside Lane, or to Mrs Harbour's house in the Ferris. Magazines, rolled up into bundles are taken to the Neithrop, the Out Patient department at the Horton and the Old People's Homes in the town and at Adderbury. Thank you all.

M.B. Flinn

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### HOOK NORTON EVENING CENTRE

The present season will end with an Open Evening on Friday March 21st from 7.30 to 9.30, with displays of work, a slide programme of classes in action and an exhibition of puppets to whet your appetite for next season. All are welcome.

### ACCOMMODATION WANTED

Couple with child (2 years) at present living in London seek rented flat, cottage, house etc. in or around Sibford as from February 1980. Both teachers (one at Sibford School).

Please contact Frank Underwood, 01-674-5327 (Weds to Sunday) or Mrs K. Long at Sibford School (441) Monday or Tuesday.

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WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER: Friday 7th March. Service in Holy Trinity Church at 2.30pm. All women welcome; finished by 3.30pm.

## THE GARDEN IN MARCH

The relatively wet and mild early weeks of February suggest that spring is not far off, but the ground is still wet and we need some drying winds in March to prepare the surface before we can make seed beds. However, the end of this month sees the start of Spring sowings, so now is the time to check that we have all the seeds that we need, not forgetting seed potatoes which need to stand up in shallow boxes in a light, frost-free shed for two or three weeks before planting out at the end of the month; be sure to stand the potatoes rose end uppermost so they can make four or five sturdy shoots. When the ground is fit, make a first sowing of carrots, an early variety such as Nantes or Amsterdam Forcing is a reliable choice. Cabbage May Express, Golden Acre or Greyhound; Beetroot Avon Early or Boltardy; Lettuce Unrivalled or Windermere; Radish Scarlet Globe; Spinach Perpetual or New Zealand can all be sown mid-March onwards when the ground is ready.

March is the last month for planting out shrubs and trees, other than those that are genuinely grown in containers. They need careful treatment. Make a good size hole so that the roots can be spread out, fork over the bottom of the hole and put a good mulch of moist peat under the roots and around the base of the tree or shrub and try to put it in to a similar depth to that it had been planted in the nursery where it was raised. Replace the soil gradually and evenly, firming it in but not too hard, and water the roots if the ground is at all dry. Straggling bushes should be pruned and tidied up.

## JARDIN

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### SIBFORD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

The speaker at our monthly meeting on March 12th at 8 p.m. in Sibford Village Hall will be Mr R. Roberts on "Bonsai".

Please bring along your bowls of Daffodils or Narcissus for a competition to see who has achieved the finest blooms.

The Committee have decided Section C21-24 of the Schedule for our Annual Show on Saturday August 16th and we list these below to give you sufficient time to make the following:

- C21 Matinee coat
- C22 Knitted scarf
- C23 Soft toy
- C24 Patchwork tea-cosy

We have booked the date for our trip to The Royal National Rose Society Gardens, St Albans, also calling at Aylett Nurseries Dahlia Trial Grounds and Garden Centre. (June 14th) Please book your seats early.

Our Sales Table will welcome any plant that is surplus to your requirements to raise funds to purchase some new books for our members use.

New members are always welcome. Subscription 75p per year.

May I thank the committee members for their help at the Valentines Dance which was enjoyed by those who attended.

John Sabin

### BEST KEPT VILLAGE

Sibford has again been entered for the Best Kept Village Competition. Preliminary judging will take place in May and the final assessments will be made in June. Spring-time attention to our gardens and borders will ensure best appearances by May. Let's see if Sibford can be among the winners this year.

### SCENE'S FUNDS

Many of you will know that this is the season when Sibford Scene appeals for funds. All Village organisations have been approached, and some have already responded most generously, for which we thank them. Thanks also to those private individuals who have made donations. It all helps to ensure that Scene can reach every home.

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### CALENDAR FOR MARCH

#### CHURCH SERVICES

FRIENDS	Meeting for Worship	Sunday 11 a.m.
METHODISTS	Morning Service	Sunday 11 a.m.
HOLY TRINITY	2nd Holy Communion	8.30 a.m.
	9th Holy Communion	10.30 a.m.
	16th Mothering Sunday Service	3.30 p.m.
	23rd Holy Communion	10.30 a.m.
	30th United Eucharist at Swalcliffe	10.00
	Sunday School	11.30 in Church
	Holy Communion	7.15 p.m. on Thursdays in Lent

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Saturday 1st	YOUTH CLUB SALE	2.30 Village Hall
Tuesday 4th	FRIENDSHIP CLUB entertained at	Primary School
Friday 7th	WHIST DRIVE	7.30 Village Hall

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Monday 10th	O.A.P. BUS TOKENS for collection.	
	PRAY FOR PEACE first meeting	11, Barley Close 8p.m
Tuesday 11th	W.I. Yoga	Village Hall 2 p.m.
Wednesday 12th	HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY 'Bonsai'	Village Hall 8 p.m.
Saturday 15th	FOLK DANCE	Village Hall 8.00 p.m.

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Sunday 16th	BRITISH SUMMER TIME BEGINS	
	MOTHERING SUNDAY SERVICE	3.30 p.m.
Tuesday 18th	COFFEE MORNING at Hillside, Sibford Gower	10.30
	FRIENDSHIP CLUB Vegetable Gardening	Village Hall
		2.00 p.m.
Friday 21st	HOOK NORTON EVENING CENTRE Open Evening	7.30

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Tuesday 25th	FRIENDSHIP CLUB Mammoth Sale	
	LEO CLUB Sponsored Knit-in	Temple Lodge 8.p.m.
Sunday 30th	UNITED EUCHARIST	Swalcliffe 10.00 a.m.

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