

# SIBFORD SCENE



NOVEMBER 2015

No. 377

## BONFIRE & FIREWORKS

Saturday 7 November, Primary School, gates open 5 pm

## REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE

Sunday 8 November, 10.55 am, Holy Trinity Church  
Ypres visit presentation & curry lunch, Village Hall, 12 noon

## ANNUAL QUIZ NIGHT

Saturday 14 November, Village Hall, licensed bar from 7 pm

## WINTER POP UP CHRISTMAS SHOPPING FAIR

Friday & Saturday 20 & 21 November,  
Home Farm, Sibford Ferris, 10 am - 4 pm

## FILM NIGHT

Thursday 26 November, *The Choir*, Village Hall, 7.30 pm

## SIBFORD SCHOOL CHRISTMAS FAYRE

Friday 27 November, Sibford School, 2 pm - 5.30 pm

# WELCOME TO SIBFORD

If you are new to the Sibfords and have not yet received a copy of the *Welcome to Sibford* booklet, please call Ivor Hopkyns on T: 788367 (Gower and Burdrop) or Nic Durrant on T: 788865 (Ferris) and a copy will be delivered to you. We hope the information will help to make you feel at home by telling you about the services, schools, clubs and societies currently active in the villages.

## LETTERS & NOTICES

### **BROWN ENVELOPE APPEAL UPDATE**

Another great big thank you to all who have so kindly donated to the Sibford Scene's current brown envelope appeal. To date, 80 envelopes (18% of households) have between them contributed a generous £637. For those of you who have lost your brown envelope, all envelope colours are welcome and you can always donate directly to the Sibford Scene's bank account via electronic banking: Account No 52612236. Sort code 60-01-35.

**BONFIRE NIGHT** - The usual fabulous firework display takes place on the Primary School playing fields on Saturday 7 November. Gates open at 5 pm. See page 10 for ticket info - and don't forget to close pets in safely for the evening.

### **REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY CURRY LUNCH**

Please see page 5 for details of the curry lunch and war graves visit presentation on Sunday 8 November in aid of the church clock appeal.

**CHURCH CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING** - Silver Birches, Backside Lane, Sibford Gower on Saturday 28 November from 10 am to 12 noon. Eleanor & Brian Joynes invite you to a really tempting assortment of homemade mince pies, shortbread, scones, delicious coffees and teas, including cappuccino, latté, hot chocolate, Darjeeling, green and fruit teas, and soft drinks. There will be a Bring & Buy (anything), a cake stall and Raffle, all in aid of Holy Trinity Church. Everyone welcome.

**GORGEOUS CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS** - Large allium heads, teasels, globe artichokes, and other beautiful seed heads collected in our garden. Wreaths made from birch twigs, mini trees made from magnolia branches, cones, table sprinkles, all sprayed silver or gold, available from Sue Bannister T: 780365 or E: sebannister@gmail.com. For best choice, order in advance or visit Sue's stall at the Church Advent Bazaar (5 December - see p26) Prices start at 50p and all proceeds go to the Advent Bazaar.

**CHRISTMAS SIBFORD SCENE** - Please note that the December/January issue is combined, so plan ahead and get your news to us in plenty of time (deadline 18 November).

## FIVE MINUTES WITH ...

THIS MONTH: MARK POUGATCH

*Mark Pougatch moved to Sibford Gower from London with his wife Victoria and their three children in May 2004. A journalist, radio and TV broadcaster and author, Mark is the lead sports presenter on BBC Radio 5 Live and the new chief football presenter of ITV Sport. Passionate about all sport, he is also a keen gardener, growing what he can in his garden and in the past even turning his hand to pig keeping. Mark has played football for the Sibford Locals and hopes he's not too old to play again one day - he also occasionally plays for the Sibford/Swalcliffe cricket team.*



### **What brought you to the Sibfords?**

I grew up in East Sussex and we wanted to live somewhere properly rural. My wife Victoria saw the house online and as we drove up the gated road through Wigginton towards Sibford she said, "*This is what you were talking about!*"

### **What is your earliest memory?**

I have two wicked older sisters and they dressed me up as a girl and called me 'Alison.' My daughters call me that when they want a laugh (*and quite possibly the rest of the village now too, Mark ... Ed*).

### **What was the first record you ever bought?**

Blondie's album, *Parallel Lines*. Still chock full of great hits. Who doesn't love *Heart of Glass*?

### **Name someone who has inspired you and tell us why**

My father. Once I'd heard *Test Match Special* as a kid and decided that eating cake and watching cricket seemed a good idea for a living, my dad always encouraged me to follow my dream. Even

*continues over/...*

## FIVE MINUTES WITH ...

*Mark Pougatch - continued ...*

though he followed his father into the City he nurtured my passion.

### **Tell us something surprising about yourself**

In my study I have a brass samovar which my great grandfather brought over from Ukraine (probably on the back of a donkey...) a century ago. They were part of the Jewish diaspora who fled and they ended up in London via Paris.

### **What's your favourite sporting competition, and why?**

So many could get a mention but probably just The Ashes! A full Lords, England against Australia, sun out, history everywhere you look, something to drink and a gentle hubbub from the crowd. It doesn't really get better than that.

### **Greatest sportsman – past or present?**

Someone who's been to the village hall - AP McCoy! Iron will, iron body, relentless winner but still makes time for everybody and to have him in the village at the height of his fame was a privilege.

### **What's the best thing about living in the Sibfords - and what would you change?**

It's a beautiful spot and it's a proper community with a village hall, a pub, a shop, the doctors and two schools. So many villages are dormitories now but we love it that this village is a living, thriving place and the turnout at the Remembrance Service always shows that. Later buses into town for the non-drivers would be great.

# CHRISTMAS

## art studio sale

by Nigel Fletcher, Swalcliffe Village Hall  
14th to 22nd November, 9am to 5pm

# CHURCH CLOCK APPEAL

The future of music in the UK is safe if the Sibfords' recent concert by the Purcell School for young musicians is anything to go by.

This country has long made major contributions to the world of classical music. There are three specialist music schools in the UK for young musicians, of which the Purcell School is the oldest. Children attend from as early as aged 8 and although most come from the UK there is an international flavour with pupils applying both from the UK and overseas, supported by government grants to study at the school. One of the patrons is Sir Simon Rattle who excited pupils a couple of years ago when he came to conduct the school orchestra.

The amazing programme for the Sibford concert enabled a demonstration of virtuosity and great talent. Six pupils aged 13 to 18 started with Tchaikovsky and ended up with Chopin via a number of composers some of us had not even heard of. Preston Yeo (violin, Singapore), Isabel Daws (trombone), Matthew Higham (flute), Max Labazzi (trumpet), Joseph Longstaff (horn) and Liya Li (piano, Uzbekistan) without exception made great music, as well as in excess of £700 towards the repair of our ailing church clock. All were accompanied by Deborah Shah, the versatile and talented school accompanist.

Our thanks to Sibford School Head, Michael Goodwin, for his hospitality and to John Marshall for putting the whole thing, like the parable, on firm organisational ground.

Long may the Purcell School continue to contribute to the hegemony of British music in the world and hopefully we can ask them for a return visit to our villages in the future.

*Reviewed by John Wass, locum music critic to the Sibford Scene*

## REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY FUNDRAISING CURRY LUNCH FOR THE CHURCH CLOCK

Please join us at midday on **Sunday 8 November** in the Village Hall for scrumptious curries – lamb, chicken and two vegetarian options – plus rice and poppadoms, and a stellar selection of puddings including brownies, trifles, seasonal crumbles and more. PLUS a fabulous raffle and Auction of Promises featuring some really special lots.

In the Small Hall there will be a visual presentation of the village trip to the war graves of the Sibford Fallen, WW1 artefacts and memorabilia.

£10 a head for adults, £5 a head for 12 - 16 year olds, free for accompanying children up to the age of 12. **Tickets are selling fast, so to ensure you are not disappointed contact:** Rector Ronald Hawkes (780555), Judith Weeks (788393), Sara Thomas (788797), Charlotte Bird (780832) and in the Ferris, Anita Spencer (788557). The last date to purchase tickets is **Monday 1 November** so please don't leave it too late!

## NATURE NOTES

28 September - We have a clump of tall pinkish-coloured Michaelmas daisies that attract Yellow Brimstone butterflies. There were two feeding on them today, one yesterday, and three the day before. They spent most of the day there.

9 October - Hornets are insects that we never saw years ago, but each autumn now whenever the sun is shining a few patrol the weeping Prunus that we can see from the house. I presume that they feed on the flies that are warming themselves in that sheltered corner.

12 October - Although I have seen a few of most of the species of butterflies that we normally expect to see in the garden, they have not come in the numbers that they used to, and certainly not as many as we got 70 years ago. Then we used to scythe the patches of nettles in the grass fields and later in the summer the re-growth would be alive with black caterpillars. Now, although I have tried cutting nettles at the appropriate time, I have not been able to attract any of the Peacocks or Tortoiseshells that must have accounted for most of the caterpillars. I also recall a row of huge pear trees in the orchard that is now Cotswold Close whose fallen fruit attracted lots of Red Admirals, Peacocks etc to feed on their sweet juice. I expect that, when I think back that far, I remember just the best years and think they were all like that. Our group of buddleias attract fewer butterflies each year so I am sure their numbers must be falling.

13 October - There is a patch of Michaelmas daisies that grows in the ditch on the left just before the Sibford Ferris road reaches the elm crossroads that I think are true wild ones. We look at them each year but sadly they are being crowded out by the rosebay willowherb.



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## SIBFORD'S GOT TALENT

For those of you who have been inside Home Farm in Sibford Ferris, you'll already know that Jean Kennedy has a love of and huge talent for interiors, and her new website is the latest in a line of successful projects. Launched this summer, Gig Barn Interiors ([www.gigbarn.co.uk](http://www.gigbarn.co.uk)) sells 'modern rustic' furniture as well as some lovely quirky, vintage home items.



Jean and Stephen Kennedy moved to Home Farm from Oxford in 2008, falling in love with the views from the garden before they had even stepped foot inside the house. As the owner of Woodstock's home interiors shop, *Fade*, Jean was itching for a new project and spent months overseeing the sympathetic renovation of Home Farm and its gardens. *"I was able to source lovely things for the shop,"* says Jean, *"but it became very hard to sell anything because I wanted to keep it all!"*

Jean had created a loyal following at *Fade* – including a few famous faces, such as actress Kiera Knightly who bought some chairs - but after more than eight years the shop was becoming a huge tie and was preventing Jean from spending time at home in the Sibfords,

*"We had always planned to leave Oxford and live more rurally when our last child went off to university, and although Stephen is a self-confessed townie he really appreciates the beauty of this area and is slowly being converted!"* She laughs.

With a busy job at the JR hospital in Oxford during the week, obstetrician and gynaecologist Stephen is often to be seen at weekends out running with the couple's two black Labradors, Lily and Mabel.

continues/...

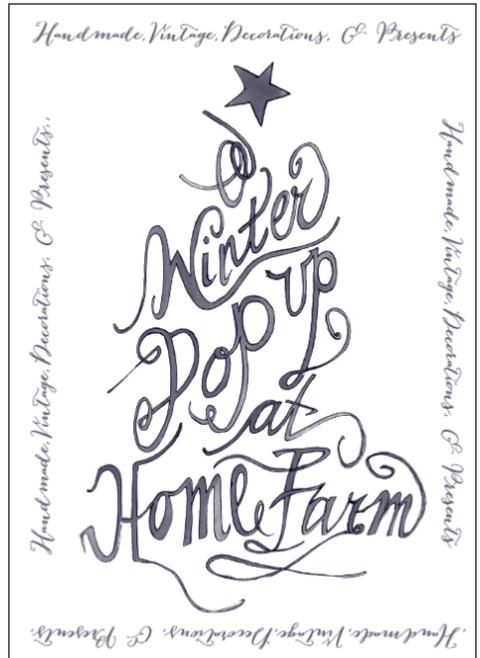
## SIBFORD'S GOT TALENT

"I decided last year to give up the shop and have a break." says Jean, "but the break only lasted a few months before the addiction for buying things took hold again so I started the web-site, *Gig Barn Interiors*, named after the tiny barn in our garden where the farmer once kept his gig." Jean also has a stand at nearby Station Mill, the antiques centre in Chipping Norton, where she sells some of her stock.

After a successful Christmas Fair at Home Farm last year, Jean is once again holding her **Winter Pop Up @ Home Farm** on Friday 20 and Saturday 21 November from 10 am to 4 pm, using her barn to host some of her favourite local dealers, and providing us all with a unique destination for a spot of early Christmas shopping.

There will be a £2 entrance fee and a raffle, the proceeds from which will all be donated to Katharine House Hospice, and shoppers can browse stalls including Louisa Maybury antique textiles and jewellery, Fleur modern homewares and presents, Dorothy Stiven vintage homewares, Hellish Designs' French decorative items, Rosa Blue handmade decorations and presents, Caroline Haurie Ceramics, Charles Glazebrook antique gifts for men, the Tea Gift company, Abi Jackson's original handmade clothing, Dawn Sharp Socks and, of course, there will be Christmas cakes on sale too.

***Winter Pop Up @ Home Farm in Sibford Ferris takes place on Friday 20 & Saturday 21 November from 10 am – 4 pm each day. £2 entry fee to Katharine House Hospice. [www.gigbarn.co.uk](http://www.gigbarn.co.uk)***





## SIBFORD HORTI SOCIETY

Paul Williams came to give the first talk of our indoor meetings about the garden being a natural paradise. It was his personal collection of flora and fauna that perhaps get overlooked in gardens and the countryside and I'm sure we all learned a lot from his talk. A very informative and entertaining evening and it was lovely to see so many people attending.

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 11 November at 8.00 pm in the Village Hall, when Tim Walker will be talking about the not so bleak mid-winter. All welcome.

### THIS MONTH IN YOUR GARDEN - NOVEMBER

1. Clear fallen leaves from lawns and beds and compost them.
2. Plant tulips - the deeper the better.
3. Cut back perennials and divide if necessary.
4. Plant hyacinths in a bowl, and put in a cool dark place.
5. Lift dahlias, clean them and store in frost proof box with dry compost.
6. Fix bubble wrap around the inside of the greenhouse.
7. Now is the best time to plant new trees or hedges.
8. Pansies, primulas and violas can be planted out in urns and tubs for winter colour.
9. Move tender plants into the greenhouse - cut them back, and keep fairly dry.
10. Don't light a bonfire without checking first for sheltering hedgehogs, and try not to use slug pellets which are dangerous to hedgehogs. The village needs some hedgehogs back in its gardens!

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# BONFIRE & FIREWORKS

## SIBFORD GOWER PRIMARY SCHOOL PTA BONFIRE AND FIREWORKS

SATURDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER

Gates open 5.00pm



Advance tickets available until Thursday 5 November  
from Emma Wood: [shutfordgrounds@gmail.com](mailto:shutfordgrounds@gmail.com)

Advance ticket prices: Family £12; Adult £5; Child £3

Prices on the night: Family £20; Adult £6; Child £4

Email confirmation will be sent and names and payment due  
will be added to a list on the gate



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# SIBFORD GOWER PARISH COUNCIL

5 October 2015 Meeting - **Sibford Village Hall** - A member of the Village Hall Committee made a presentation about refurbishment grants sought for the Hall. The programme of improvements is in three stages: to improve hall insulation and lighting; refurbish entrance hall and lavatories; refurbish parking arrangements. Grants are to be sought from national and local sources. Grant monies must be routed through a Parish Council and it was agreed to participate in these applications. The **Cherwell Local Plan** was received. **High Speed Broadband** has arrived in the Gower but not in Burdrop: it was agreed to pursue this together with the Ferris PC. The PC has joined with other north Oxon parishes in responses to Oxfordshire and Cherwell Councils on **Waste Disposal and Supported Transport** which have emphasised the importance of a north Oxon tip and of local bus services in the area. **Planning** - five planning applications have been addressed, and a major application for the Sib valley is currently under consideration: villagers were asked to make their views known. **Financial** - The audit for the Annual Financial Return to 31 March 2015 has been completed, and the accounts approved. It was agreed to make a grant of £200 to Holy Trinity Church for the church clock repair appeal, to increase the contribution to the Sibford Scene to £150, and to contribute £35 to the expenses of the Sibfords' website. **Miriam Tebbs' Land** - Site meetings have been held and an application to a charity for a grant to create a community orchard is imminent. **Village Pond** - It was decided not to pursue the question of the status of the village pond given the legal problems involved. **Public Participation** - potholes and parking were discussed. **Next Meeting** - The next Meeting will be on Monday 11 January 2016 at 8pm in the Staff Room of the Primary School.

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**Triathlon triumph** - Sibford School pupil Rosie Weston was the first British competitor in her category to cross the finish line in the 2015 ITU Age Group Sprint World Championships which took place in Chicago in September. The 17-year-old, who was competing in the women's 16-19 grouping, completed the 750m swim, 20km bike ride and 5km run in 1 hour, 12 minutes and 41 seconds. The triumph placed her 12th in her age group and 61st overall.

**Open Morning** - Sibford School is holding a whole school Open Morning on Friday 13 November to give parents of prospective pupils the opportunity to find out more about what the school offers for pupils aged between 3 and 18. For further information visit the website ([www.sibfordschool.co.uk](http://www.sibfordschool.co.uk)) or call admissions officer, Elspeth Dyer, on T: 01295 781203.



Year 8 pupils from Sibford School recently took part in the UK's largest youth drama festival. The Shakespeare Schools Festival offers students from all backgrounds the opportunity to perform plays by the Bard on their local professional stage. Sibford pupils performed a Midsummer Night's Dream at Chipping Norton Theatre. Two repeat performances were also staged at the school.

Sibford School's annual **Christmas Fayre** takes place on Friday 27 November from 2 pm to 5.30 pm. Organised by parents of pupils at the school, the Fayre will feature more than 45 stalls offering a host of goodies, including cards, prints, paintings, knitwear, scarves, bags, jewellery, clothing, wooden signs, decorations, handmade soaps and balms, hand made gifts, chutneys, hats, gloves and accessories. Real Christmas trees will be available to order and it is hoped to have a traditional butcher present who will be taking orders for turkeys, geese and other festive meats.



## SIBFORD GOWER PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

As well as the exciting work that has been going on in classrooms, we have been busy developing our school environment. Many of you will have noticed our new school signs this term as you travel through the village. Thanks to our wonderful PTA, we also have a brightly coloured activity trail and a world map with compass points painted on our school playground. As well as brightening up the site, these will support the children's learning, both during outdoor lessons and as they play.

Following a request to the PTA from our school council, we now have a Friendship Bench where children can sit if they want to let others know they want someone to play with. This is working very well.

Still on the playground theme, a group of our Year 5 & 6 children have trained as Sports Leaders and are busy at playtimes and lunch times working with younger children, leading all sorts of play and games activities.

We have levelled a section of the Big Field to ensure that it is suitable as a sporting venue. Our thanks go to ex-pupil Conway Freeman for carrying out the main levelling work, local farmer Bill Sabin for use of his digger, Toby Nunneley at Sugarswell for the use of his tractor and plough, the PTA for covering the costs of materials, the governors for supporting the project, and parents for supporting the PTA. What a wonderful community we are part of.

[www.sibford-gower.oxon.sch.uk](http://www.sibford-gower.oxon.sch.uk)

### **SATURDAY WORKSHOPS**

***A series of art workshops at Sibford Village Hall from 10.30 am – 3 pm***

31 October      Landscape watercolours £40

28 November    Christmas cards £40

*Design and make your own cards, bring along your ideas*

12 December    Linocut £50

*Materials supplied. Bring an apron or wear old clothes*

19 December    Pastels £40

*Bring an apron or wear old clothes*

Bring your own materials, unless stated. If you haven't got any, just ring to discuss. Open to 12+ years, 12 - 16 yrs accompanied by an adult.

**Booking required. Bring a packed lunch.**

**Contact Jennifer Wealsby T: 01608 730401 or E: [jgw4art@gmail.com](mailto:jgw4art@gmail.com)**

# SIBFORD GRAPEVINE

Tell us your news! Let us know what you and your families have been up to. E: [sibford.scene@btinternet.com](mailto:sibford.scene@btinternet.com)

**MASSIVE CONGRATULATIONS** to Tom Spackman of Sibford Ferris and Jack Foley of Swalcliffe, who completed a gruelling 24-hour cycle challenge back in August, riding 313 miles from Newcastle to London in aid of Prostate Cancer UK and the Myton Hospice. Between them they have managed to raise nearly £5000 for the charities. Their months of training and preparation certainly paid off and both Tom and Jack would like to thank everyone who supported them in their fantastic achievement.



**CONGRATULATIONS TOO** to Mrs Beatrice (Beat) Tanner who celebrated her 105th birthday recently with three parties! We'll be talking to Beat about life in the Sibfords in the next issue.

**HOW PROUD ARE THE SIBFORDS** to call Nigel Fletcher our own? Work by artist Nigel Fletcher has been selected from over 1,250 entries to appear alongside paintings by some of Britain's leading figurative artists. *The Royal Institute of Oil Painters* is the only national art society that is devoted to celebrating the medium of oil painting. The Institute's Annual Exhibition will be on display at the Mall Galleries from 2 to 13 December 2015. Founded in 1882, the Royal Institute of Oil Painters chooses the very best submissions in oil-based media from national and international submissions. Nigel is holding a Christmas exhibition and sale at Swalcliffe Village Hall from 14 - 22 November.

**ALL CHANGE** for Diana and Jan Thompson, who have made the long trek across the valley from Sibford Gower to The Small House in Sibford Ferris, where they are working out what to do with the contents of their packing boxes. Keen cyclist Jan will no doubt have already unpacked his cycling gear, while Diana can finally enjoy breakfast alone after years of running B&B. We wish them a long and happy association with the Ferris.

# SIBFORD GRAPEVINE

**WELCOME** to Deborah Wardle and James Buckingham who have moved into Bankside by the pond in Sibford Gower. Deborah is a freelance managing editor (... *expect a 'phone call! Ed*) and James works for Savills in Oxford. James likes playing cricket and they are both looking forward to enjoying the walks in the Sibfords' surrounding countryside.

**AND WELCOME TOO** to James and Sarah Garstin, who have moved into Buttslade House in Sibford Gower from Bushey in Hertfordshire, with daughters Ruby and Ivy and Sarah's mother, Liz Kirkman. Primary school teacher Sarah and Liz are previously from Shenington. James is a Management Consultant, currently working with the NHS in Northampton.

**THANK YOU** to Ian Warden who reminds us of this poem about living in the Sibfords, written by the late Sheila Walsh in 2000:

### **To an Oxfordshire Village**

*I left my old familiar place and friendships far behind,  
And came to unaccustomed land not knowing what to find.  
I saw the widespread landscape, the springing flowers, the sky,  
The beauty all-surrounding that took and held my eye.  
Though all these things enchantment gave, they are the lesser part,  
The welcome from the people - ah! the people took my heart.*

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*Excellent references*

# SIBFORDS WALKING GROUP

## Forthcoming Walks

2 November, 16 November, 30 November,  
14 December, 4 January

Leaving the village hall on foot or by car at 10.00 am sharp to do a circuit of approximately 2 hours' duration. Dogs welcome provided they are put on leads when requested. Walking boots and poles are recommended but not compulsory. Everybody welcome. Enquiries to Sue Bannister T: 01295 780365 or E: [sebannister@gmail.com](mailto:sebannister@gmail.com)

*Please notify Sue, village footpaths warden, if you discover things that need repairing or cutting back on the footpaths within the Sibfords' parishes.*

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# SIBFORD FERRIS PARISH COUNCIL

**Meeting, 21 September 2015** - The meeting was attended by Cllrs Huckvale (Chair), Hicks (Vice-Chair), Lamb and Robinson, the Clerk, District and County Cllr Reynolds and one member of the public. There were two candidates for co-option and Ginny Bennett was duly co-opted, signed a Declaration of Acceptance of Office and took part in the remainder of the meeting. Ongoing matters discussed included: the provision of faster broadband, the inter-parish liaison meeting held in September, the community first responder scheme, affordable housing, the Rural Community Energy Fund, the fitness equipment, the replacement of failing timbers at Cotswold Close play area, dog bins, the use of land at Wheathills and the poor condition of the recently purchased land, consideration of the need for a safeguarding policy, the surface on Back Lane, the funding and management of the parish website, the request for a donation from the Sibford Scene, the consultation on proposed changes to subsidised bus services and Dial-a-Ride.

Correspondence received reported at the meeting: a consultation on the future of household waste recycling centres in Oxfordshire including Alkerton, an appeal for funds towards the church clock repairs. Under **Finance**, the Notice of Conclusion of Audit had been received with no issues arising and the Annual Return 2014/15 was approved. Under **Planning**, with reference to the newly-adopted Cherwell Local Plan, a resident asked for a public meeting in advance of the consultation period to discuss the identified development site on Woodway Road and this was agreed. There had been two notices of intent to carry out works to trees, two notices of decision, one withdrawal of a planning application and one notice of appeal against refusal. Under **Any Other Business**, the matter of a Ferris resident who could lay the Remembrance Sunday wreath was discussed, a letter from a resident had been received before the meeting on the affordable homes site on Hook Norton Road and Cllr Reynolds brought to the attention of councillors the Oxfordshire Together initiative. The full draft Minutes can be obtained either from the Sibfords website ([thesibfords.org.uk/sfpc](http://thesibfords.org.uk/sfpc)) or the Clerk (T: 788557).

The next meeting of Sibford Ferris Parish Council will be on Monday 16 November at 7.45 pm in the Sports Hall Classroom at Sibford School.

LOGS • HAY •  
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**13 October 2015** - President Glennis Hardman welcomed ten members and nine guests, including some WI husbands. She thanked all who had helped with baking and serving on the WI cake stall at the recent Village Hall Fayre, which raised £140.20. Our new banner was on public display for the first time. At the end of business, Glennis presented Mollie Mulley with a card and gift in appreciation of the eight months she spent creating our beautiful banner.

Our speaker, Ron Horniblew, entertained us with a talk entitled *Exploits of the Man in the Red Suit*. Ron has been a Santa for 51 years, starting out playing a role for his family which has developed somewhat! We were expecting tales of Christmas grottos in department stores but instead we travelled the world with Ron. On holiday in the Bahamas (with costume) he handed out presents to children at an orphanage. He attended the Annual Santa Congress in Denmark - imagine hundreds of Santas in red and white costumes paying homage to the Little Mermaid statue and floating through Copenhagen on a barge! He travelled to the Arctic Circle to take part in the Santa Games - which included reindeer sleigh racing, chimney climbing and porridge eating - and won a gold medal and £1,000 which he donated to the Air Ambulance Service. He continues to fundraise by giving talks to WIs and other groups. He has also appeared on the Richard and Judy Show. It was a fascinating insight into how enthusiasm and altruism can change lives.

The speaker was thanked by Lynda Conway, who presented a basket of flowers for 'Mrs Claus'. Jan Warner and Kathleen Winter provided tea and a full table of tempting cakes. Betty judged the Christmas stocking competition, awarding 1st Kathleen Winter, 2nd Gil Turner and 3rd Lynda Conway. On Tuesday 10 November we are looking forward to a return visit from Helen Philips, who will give an updated talk on *Himalayan Artisans and the Women's Skills Development Projects*. She will be bringing many handcrafted items for sale, ranging from socks to silk pashminas. Lots of ideas for Christmas gifts! Competition: A Hand Made Item (e.g. stitched or knitted). Visitors most welcome at the Village Hall from 2 pm.

Mary Hill



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Please remain aware and observant at all times. Autumn, with dark evenings and Christmas approaching, brings an increase in burglaries, computer and telephone scams, while the increase in online shopping gives the able fraudster an opportunity to obtain personal and bank details.

**Rogue Traders** – A request has been received for any information regarding their activities: *It is that time of year when rogue traders plan and put their scams into action by targeting elderly and vulnerable members of our community. Rogue traders purport to be legitimate companies and use persuasive pressurised selling techniques to convince people to have unnecessary work carried out on their property.* Elderly and vulnerable people are targeted because if they are taken in, they do not want anyone to know, they feel embarrassed or they may be afraid that family, neighbours or friends will think they are no longer capable of living alone and running a home so they pay up and sometimes find they have to keep paying. Occasionally large sums of money are extracted causing the person great distress and fear. If you would like a 'No Callers' sticker, please ask your NW team member.

"Message in a Bottle" containers are available and are a simple way to help the emergency services save time and sometimes life. If you or a member of your family of any age is on regular medication do ask for one.

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## DID YOU KNOW? ...

... The original Village Hall, which served the village from 1919 until the late 1930s, was a wooden hut owned by Frank Lascelles. It was situated behind the Wykham Arms and was approached from Main Street opposite the Old Co-op. When Lascelles died, his estate including the hut was heavily mortgaged and was lost to the village. The Sibfords were without a community meeting place, although the old gymnasium at Sibford School was converted for social activities. Many fundraising activities were held to raise money for a new Village Hall fund and in 1954 grant applications were successful. The present hall, opened in 1957, was built by local volunteer labour and, with its recent additions and improvements, continues to be used by local groups to the present day thanks to the energies, enthusiasm and commitment of the Village Hall Committee.

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**18 November**

The next issue of the Sibford Scene is the combined December/January issue, so please plan ahead if you've got events to promote.

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# VILLAGE HALL NEWS

**VILLAGE FAYRE** - Many thanks to all who helped at the Village Fayre. It was a lovely sunny day and many people came and enjoyed themselves. We raised in the region of £1200 which will be put towards our new roof fund. Congratulations to the Fancy Dress competition winners - Ella Warner, aged 8 years, dressed as Dorothy from *The Wizard of Oz*, and Max Taylor, aged 5, dressed as a skeleton. The **2016 VILLAGE FAYRE** will be held on Saturday 17 September - a date for your diary!

**QUIZ NIGHT** - our annual Quiz takes place on 14 November. Licensed bar from 7 pm and the Quiz starts at 7.30 pm. Teams of up to 6 people are welcome to enter - just call Muriel on T: 01295 780025 and give her your team name, as well as number of team members (to help with catering numbers). Entry is £8 per person to include a Ploughman's Supper.

**FILM NIGHT** - *The Choir* will be showing on 26 November at 7.30 pm. Doors open at 7 pm and drinks are available, or bring your own wine! The film is about a young boy who is sent off to boarding school after losing his mother, where he joins the school choir to become one of its stars. Starring Dustin Hoffman, Kathy Burke and Eddie Izzard, this moving film has received many accolades.

**VILLAGE HALL LOTTERY** - The lucky winners for September are: 1st - Bill Wealsby, 2nd - Alan Parkin, 3rd - Alison Service, 4th - Sue Mattinson.

**SIBFORD HALL PROMOTIONS** - Check the website: [thesibfords.org.uk/sibford-hall-promotions](http://thesibfords.org.uk/sibford-hall-promotions) for info on forthcoming events. To book the Village Hall contact Ginny on T: 01295 780373 or book via the website.  
*Ginny Bennett*



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\*basket - (level basket) = one full machine load/approx.

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\*\*delivery within 10 mile radius of Sibford



## FRIENDSHIP CLUB

We had a lovely afternoon tea to celebrate Beat Tanner's 105th birthday.

On 3 November, believe it or not, we are going curling! (but only in the Village Hall). If anyone would like to join us, we will be in the Small Hall from 2pm. Cost? Just 50p as a visitor.

Our 17 November outing will be a Christmas shopping trip, destination to be confirmed.

At our AGM next May the Friendship Club will be looking for a new Secretary. Anyone want the job?

*Evey Boughton*



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## THE SIBFORDS SOCIETY

**15 October meeting** - Members and visitors enjoyed Maureen Hicks' presentation on *The Sibfords during WW1*,

describing life in the country in 1914 when many lived in poor housing and life expectancy was 49 for men and 53 for women. Strikes were rife, particularly in the coal mines, until they were called off by the unions at the onset of the war. Seven million of the population enlisted to participate in the war. In 1916 food imports virtually ceased due to the blockade, and rationing was introduced.

In 1914, the population of the Sibfords was 650 and many of the residents were employed in agriculture. The villages were self-sufficient with many trades practised. Transport to Banbury for additional supplies was by horse-drawn carriage and daily life in the Sibfords continued largely unaffected by the war and the Primary School logbook does not contain any references. Village activities took place at the Primary School; there were two bands in existence and also a village cricket team that played against other local teams. During the winter of 1916/17, there was a coal shortage and the Town Estates Charity helped with obtaining supplies of coal and wood. It is also recorded that two families of Belgian refugees were housed in a cottage that used to stand next to the Bishop Blaize pub and they were supported by charitable donations.

In total, 91 villagers took part in the war and 81 returned. Those that lost their lives are remembered on the churchyard war memorial which was completed in 1921.

The Society is very grateful to Maureen for the immense amount of work and research that she undertook to create this informative and well-illustrated presentation.

Our next meeting is Thursday 19 November when Dr Richard Buckley from the Department of Archaeology at Leicester University will talk on *Richard III, The King under the Car Park*. All members and visitors welcome. The talk starts at 8.00 pm (doors open at 7.45 pm).



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## LOCAL NEWS

**Orlando Jopling's Cello Pilgrimage** - A very few tickets remain for acclaimed international cellist Orlando Jopling's Cello Pilgrimage, taking place on Sunday 8 November from 4.00 pm at Swalcliffe Church. Tickets £12.50 (under 16 free). Please contact Gay Harris on T: 01295 788427 or E: [gay.harris@virgin.net](mailto:gay.harris@virgin.net)

**Make do and mend at Upton House** - warming to its current WWII theme, the House is getting ready for a 1940s Christmas and is looking for people to get knitting for Upton. At The Great Upton Sewing Bee, 7 & 8 November, visitors to the house will be able to take part in Crafting for Christmas and learn tips from volunteers. Get in touch if you would like to take part in knitting something for Upton! Patterns and unravelled jumpers at the ready! For more information visit: [www.nationaltrust.org.uk/upton-house](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/upton-house) or T: 01295 671122.

**Oxfordshire Advocacy** is running a free and confidential service, in partnership with Macmillan Cancer Support, providing one-to-one support for anyone aged 50+ affected by cancer, whether as patient, friend or carer. The service aims to help resolve issues (cancer-related or not), including treatment and care, social, financial and employment difficulties, as well as providing a listening ear. Call T: 01865 230203. E: [copa@oadg.org.uk](mailto:copa@oadg.org.uk)

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# LOCAL NEWS

**A FESTIVE CELEBRATION** - Katharine House Hospice warmly invites you to **A Festive Celebration** on Tuesday 8 December at 7.30 pm in beautiful All Saints Church, Churchill (OX7 6NU). A celebration of Christmas, the evening includes seasonal music from the talented Voice Box choir and festive readings from local celebrities including Jane Booker, Lynn Farleigh, Sue Cook, Denise Bryer, Paul Greenwood and Claire Nielson, who have all kindly donated their time free of charge so every penny raised will benefit hospice care at Katharine House. Tickets £20 each (including refreshments). Please download an application form from [www.khh.org.uk](http://www.khh.org.uk), or call T: 01295 816484 to book tickets.

Katharine House Hospice makes no charge for its services, which this year will cost £3.3 million to provide. Of this, we must raise at least £2.3 million ourselves from voluntary sources. Your support helps ensure continued provision of specialist palliative care for those in the local area.

**VOLUNTEER CONNECT** - Supported by Cherwell District Council, Volunteer Connect runs a volunteer transport scheme to help people with problems accessing public transport to get to important appointments. If you need help getting to the doctor, hospital, dentist, other medical appointments, we will endeavour to find a local, vetted volunteer driver to get you there and back. The price is 45p per mile to cover the cost of petrol. Please call T: 0300 3030 125 if you need help with a journey, or to register. We also need more drivers! If you live within the Cherwell area, have a car and some free time, please call T: 0300 3030125.

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# CHURCH SERVICES

Society of Friends	Sibford Gower, Sunday, 10.30 am
Roman Catholic Mass	Wroxton, Sunday, 9.00 am
	Brailes, Sunday, 11.30 am
Baptist	Hook Norton, Sunday, 10.30 am

## Holy Trinity Church, November Services

1 November	All Saints 10 am Benefice Holy Communion in Sibford (RH)
8 Nov	Remembrance Sunday 10.55 am Remembrance Service (JT)
15 Nov	9.30 am Holy Communion (RH) 6 pm Evening Prayer
22 Nov	Christ the King 9.30 am BCP Holy Communion (JT) 6 pm Evening Prayer
29 Nov	Advent Sunday 9.30 am Holy communion (EH)

*(RH = Ronald Hawkes, JT = John Tattersall, EH Liz Hawkes)*

The **ADVENT BAZAAR** takes place on Saturday 5 December in the Village Hall from 3 pm to 5 pm. Stalls, sideshows, raffle, tombola, teas, cakes, Father Christmas in his grotto, and lots of opportunity for chat and friendship. Donations for the raffle tombola and food stalls gratefully received at the Rectory, or to either of the church wardens.

We enjoyed a lovely **HARVEST WEEKEND** in mid October; the weather was perfect, the Saturday Family Service well attended, we had a poem, a cello and piano piece, a Revolting Rhyme too, and then a delicious tea. The following day we celebrated again with the Methodist congregation.

The **CHURCH CLOCK** forms applying for a Faculty (Church planning approval) to do the work have been posted for the required 28 days, and we now wait for the Diocese to say "Yes". The Ecclesiastical Insurance Group will make a generous contribution towards the work as part of the problem was storm damage. But, good folk of the Sibfords and Burdrop, YOU have contributed most generously and mainly because of your kindness the work will go ahead ... soon. Thank you ALL most warmly.

On 14 November you are welcome at the Small Hall from 10.30 am until 12 noon to take part in a national scheme - a discussion (including CAKE) entitled **GRAVETALK** which urges us all to talk about this great adventure we will ALL one day undertake. What would you like your legacy to be? Do you believe in life after death? and other questions. There are no right answers, but simply space to discuss and explore. Do come!

# SIBFORD BUS SERVICES

## Cherwell Rural Dial-A-Ride Scheme

A minibus with tail-lift to take the **elderly** or **disabled** and escort to Banbury (max fare £1.60) Door-to-Door service. Book at least one day in advance. Operates on Wednesdays & Thursdays.

T: 01295 263777 for details.

BCTA also takes bookings for groups of 8 or more on a weekly/monthly basis (Wednesdays & Thursdays) to and from Banbury. T: 01295 263777

## Stagecoach – Timetable

Mondays to Saturdays

(No services on Sundays or public holidays)

### Bus 50A Banbury to Stratford-upon-Avon

Banbury, bus station .....	08.30	10.55	12.45	14.26	16.05	17.10	18.10
Sibford Ferris, crossroads.....	08.52	11.17	13.07	14.48	16.27	17.32	18.32
Sibford Gower, school .....	08.55	11.20	13.10	14.51	16.30	17.35	18.35
Shipston on Stour .....	09.15	11.40	13.35	15.11	16.50	17.55	18.55
Stratford on Avon, Wood St	09.40	12.09	14.04	15.40	17.19	18.24	19.24

### Bus 50A Stratford-upon-Avon to Banbury

<i>NS</i>	<i>Sch Term</i>							
<i>NS</i>	<i>hols time</i>							
Stratford, Wood St .....	06.20	07.10	09.05	11.10	13.10	15.10	15.24	16.24
S Gower, school .....	07.04	07.55	09.56	11.56	13.56	15.56	16.10	17.14
S Ferris, crossroads .....	07.07	07.58	09.59	11.59	13.59	15.59	16.13	17.17
Banbury, bus station .....	07.28	08.25	10.21	12.21	14.21	16.21	16.35	17.39

NS Not Saturdays

All buses operate low floor wheelchair accessible vehicles. For complete details of all stops served by service 50A, timetables are available from the Tourist Information Centre, Castle Quay, Banbury.

## Fares

Sibford Ferris & Sibford Gower to Banbury:

Single £2.90 (Child £1.45) Return £5.35 (Child £2.70)

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Single £4.90 (Child £3.30) Return £7.30 (Child £4.90)

Unlimited Travel Cards are available for 1, 7 or 28 days but are regional and must be bought in advance. Contact the Stagecoach office, Stratford T: 01789 412680.

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## NOVEMBER

- Tues 3 Mobile Library in Sibford Gower, 2.30 - 3.30 pm  
Sat 7 Bonfire & Fireworks, Primary School, from 5 pm  
Sun 8 Remembrance Day service, Holy Trinity Church, 10.55 am  
Sun 8 Ypres war graves visit curry lunch & mini exhibition,  
Village Hall, 12 noon  
Sun 8 Orlando Joplin concert, Swalcliffe church, 4 pm  
Sat 14 Annual Village Hall Quiz Night, licensed bar from 7 pm  
Mon 16 Sibford Ferris Parish Council Meeting, Sibford School 7.45 pm  
Tues 17 Mobile Library in Sibford Gower, 2.30 - 3.30 pm  
Fri 20 & Winter Pop Up, Home Farm, Sibford Ferris, 10 am - 4 pm  
Sat 21 Winter Pop Up, Home Farm, 10 am - 4 pm  
Thur 26 Film Night: *The Choir*, Village Hall, 7.30 pm  
Fri 27 Sibford School Christmas Fayre, 2 pm - 5.30 pm  
Sat 28 Christmas Coffee Morning, Silver Birches, Sibford Gower,  
10 am - 12 noon

## NOVEMBER BIN COLLECTIONS

- Green Wednesday 4 & 18 November  
Brown/blue Wednesday 11 & 25 November

## DECEMBER (PART)

- Tues 1 Mobile Library in Sibford Gower, 2.30 - 3.30 pm  
Sat 5 Church Advent Bazaar, Village Hall, 3 pm to 5 pm  
Fri 11 Primary School & Sibford School end of term  
Tues 15 Mobile Library in Sibford Gower, 2.30 - 3.30 pm  
Tues 29 No mobile library this week

## SIBFORD SCENE

DEADLINE FOR DECEMBER/JANUARY ISSUE -  
18 NOVEMBER 2015

Editor: Caroline Seely, Home Farm, Sibford Gower, OX15 5RS  
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