

SIBFORD SCENE



DECEMBER 2015/JANUARY 2016

No. 378

OPEN STUDIOS - ART EXHIBITION

The Old Mission Hall, Saturday 28 & Sunday 29 November, 10 am - 4 pm

HOLY TRINITY ADVENT BAZAAR

Saturday 5 December, Village Hall, 3 pm to 5 pm

TRADITIONAL CAROL SERVICE

Friday 18 December, Holy Trinity Church, 7 pm

FILM NIGHT

ELF, Sunday 13 December, Village Hall, 4 pm

RAIN OR SHINE THEATRE COMPANY'S
A CHRISTMAS CAROL

Tuesday 29 December, Village Hall, 7 pm

SIBFORD GOWER PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Monday 11 January, Primary School, 8 pm

SIBFORD FERRIS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Monday 11 January, Sibford School, 7.45 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

Sibford Gower Artists' Open Studios Exhibition on Saturday 28 & Sunday 29 November at The Old Mission Hall studios (opposite the Wykham Arms) from 10 am - 4 pm daily. Drop by and meet artists Lyndsay Madigan and Sue Wightman. Read more on pages 8 & 9.

Thank you - A sincere thank you to the Ypres war graves group for the commemorative coin they gave me at the Remembrance Sunday lunch - it is very much appreciated.
Helen Skinner

Gorgeous Christmas decorations - Large allium heads, teasels, globe artichokes, and other beautiful seed heads. Wreaths made from birch twigs, mini trees made from magnolia branches, cones, table sprinkles, all sprayed silver or gold. Contact Sue Bannister T: 780365 or E: sebannister@gmail.com. All proceeds to the Advent Bazaar (see page 26).

A Christmas Tale - Unfortunately, due to inconsiderate parking between Sibford Gower's crossroads and the primary school, Father Christmas may not be delivering to Sibford this year.
Peter Robinson

The Rain or Shine Theatre Company presents *A Christmas Carol* on Tuesday 29 December. See page 12.

Learn to paint !

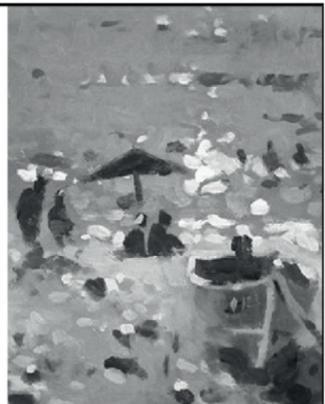
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FIVE MINUTES WITH ...

THIS MONTH: Lexie Hopper

Lexie Hopper (née Agnew) has lived in the Sibfords most of her life. The eldest daughter of one-time village GP, Sydney Agnew and his wife 'Peter', Lexie was brought up with her four siblings at Nicholas Corner in Burdrop, which doubled as the village surgery. Lexie is married to recently-retired lawyer Mike, and the couple divide their time between the Sibfords and their farmhouse in North Cumbria. Lexie has two border collies, Tessa and Riley, and is a keen horsewoman competing regularly in dressage events with Tilly, the mare her father bred.



What brought you to the Sibfords?

I was born in Banbury while my father was a Locum in Sibford, my newly-married parents having moved from Northern Ireland.

What is your earliest memory?

Jumping on a pony called Billy outside Nicholas Corner on the road. The jump was a picture rail resting on a tin can and I could never stop Billy, so we would jump then go round the whole of Burdrop only to reappear through the footpath (The Jitty) to repeat the exercise.

How has the village changed since you were a child?

I used to walk to and from the Primary School from Burdrop unaccompanied, whereas now that would be unthinkable for all sorts of reasons, mainly the increased amount of traffic. I think it is great how many young families are living here nowadays.

What's your most treasured possession?

Do you know, I don't think I can pinpoint one particular item; I treasure nearly everything I have.

Share one of your Sibford memories ...

Dad enjoyed flying and used to dip and dive his little aeroplane over Nicholas Corner to alert us of his presence, land in the Village Hall field, come home for a cup of tea, then take off again, frequently giving us another 'buzz' before he disappeared. Undoubtedly this would now be reported to the Civil Aviation Authority and he would be severely rebuked, if not fined. This used to happen fairly frequently - we would all run out in to the garden waving frantically and sometimes thinking, *uh-oh it's Dad again...*

continues/ ...

FIVE MINUTES WITH ...

continued/...

Tell us something surprising about yourself

In the 20s I sold my treasured Fiat 500 to buy a one-way ticket to Australia where I began a 20-month adventure, armed with a working holiday visa. Also, when I was 40 I rode in a race at Cheltenham racecourse for charity, raising funds for Scope which was celebrating its 40th anniversary.

What do you consider to be your best-ever achievement?

Marrying my husband, Mike.

Finally, what's the best thing for you about living in the Sibfords?

The fabulous countryside and stunning scenery, as well as being so central for trips away, anywhere!

NATURE NOTES

7 November - I have yet to see a flock of fieldfares this autumn, although I did see a few birds in the distance that may have been fieldfares, but my daughter has seen a sizeable flock today.

8 November - One day recently was remarkable for the complete lack of cloud. I searched the sky several times on that day without seeing a cloud, not even a vapour trail. This must be a very rare happening.

10 November - A raven that ventured too close to the rookery in Sibford Ferris was protesting loudly as it was attacked by one of the rooks.

16 November - On this very mild morning the rooks all came into the rookery and it was as noisy as on a spring morning for a while. This has happened a few times this autumn.

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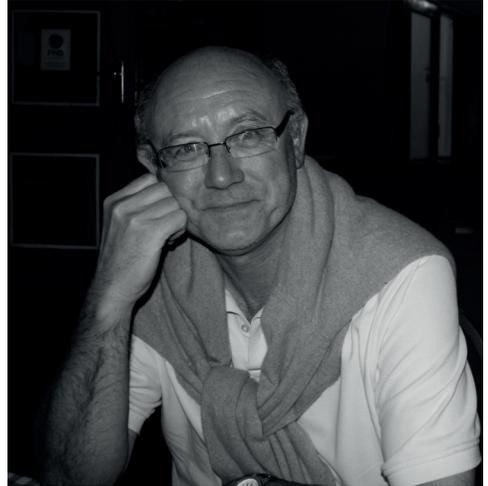
E: alistair.falconerhall@fisherman.co.uk



SIBFORD'S GOT TALENT

The Sibfords are packed full of talented and creative people running interesting businesses, often from their homes. One of our cover artists, Mike Spring, has lived and worked in the Sibfords for over 30 years. Here, he tells us a little bit about himself and a hobby that has turned into a successful cottage industry.

If you ever find yourself at the far end of Main Street, in the Gower, beyond the pond, you may well hear the strains of classical music wafting out of my workshop. This is where, now that I have retired from full-time teaching, I spend much of my time – carving signs and name-boards out of oak. I decided to teach myself this skill after I inherited the chisels and gouges from my father, who had been a wood carver for much of his life. I love using the tools, and it gives me a feeling of closeness to him, although he died many years ago.



I was born and grew up in South London, where my father, having left the army, was Head of Art at Alleyns School. He, with his colleague Mike Croft, started the National Youth Theatre, and some of my earliest memories were of sitting in the darkness of the wings watching the young boys and girls who would, one day, be famous stage actors – Derek Jacobi, Simon Ward, Colin Firth and Ben Kingsley were all part of the fledgling company in the early days.

In the mid 60s, we moved to Bloxham, where I went to school and where my mother, now 92, still lives. After university in

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SIBFORD'S GOT TALENT

Durham, I began my teaching career which eventually brought me to the Friends School in 1981. For 32 years I taught art, was a housemaster, and ran the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme. In 1988 I married Penny, the beautiful new English teacher who I immediately fell for and we have two grown up children, Amy and Isaac. They both have very fond memories of their time at the Gower Primary School.



Now that I have retired and 'crossed the Sib', life has become a lot less demanding, and I am enjoying the task of working on our house, Stonecutters, and allowing my own creativity to resurface after so many years of encouraging young people.



My interests are mainly in the arts, but I also enjoy cooking, outdoor pursuits and travel, sometimes on my trusty Triumph motorcycle. Sibford is a beautiful and welcoming place, and I feel lucky to be a part of it.

Mike's latest business, Lettercarve, might provide one or two of us with some Christmas present inspiration. A couple of examples are shown here and to see more of his work, visit LETTERCARVE.COM

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SIBFORD HORTI SOCIETY

Our November meeting saw Tim Walker give another entertaining talk about plants that give colour in winter. There are a huge number of trees, shrubs, perennials and bulbs that give interest, not just with flowers, but seed heads and fruits. As usual, well worth listening to and the mulled wine went down a treat afterwards!

Our thoughts turn to the Spring Horticultural Show on 21 May 2016. If you are at a loose end on winter evenings, have a go at one of the Show's handicraft classes: a piece of pottery, a peg bag, a hand knitted article, an item of cross-stitch, a piece of metal or woodwork, greetings card (any medium excluding computer-generated), a doorstep, and a handicraft exhibit (ie anything not mentioned above). 16 and unders have their own Classes. Photography classes are: Sibford church, tree(s), fences, walls, gates, reflections, sky, insect(s), flower(s), winter, four related views, a black & white photo, an enlargement, and a painting or drawing.

Horti Society meetings have now finished for 2015 and start again on Wednesday 9 March 2016 when Roger Pringle will talk about Shakespeare's Gardens. Next year all meetings start at 7.30 pm.

THIS MONTH IN YOUR GARDEN - DECEMBER

1. Keep paths swept clear of leaves - they get slippery when wet.
2. Now is a good time to plant new roses or fruit trees.
3. Check stored apples for rotten ones.
4. Protect tender plants from frost with straw, fleece or mulches of compost.
5. Dig over vacant areas in kitchen garden and apply compost/manure.
6. Finish planting tulip bulbs - and you can still pot up a few hyacinths for Christmas.
7. Sit by the fire, go through your seed catalogue and order something new ...
8. Move pots of camellias into a sheltered place.
9. Check tubers of dahlias for rot, and keep them dry and in a frost-free place.
10. Feed the birds every day, and make sure the birdbaths have clean water.

Slug pellets and hedgehogs - Thanks to Rowan Walton for this hedgehog-friendly tip: Instead of using slug pellets in your garden (poisonous to hedgehogs too) keep the ash from your fire over the course of winter and sprinkle it around seedlings/plants, ensuring you remove any larger lumps that might give the slugs a leg up. An organic way to keep slugs at bay.

THE OLD MISSION HALL

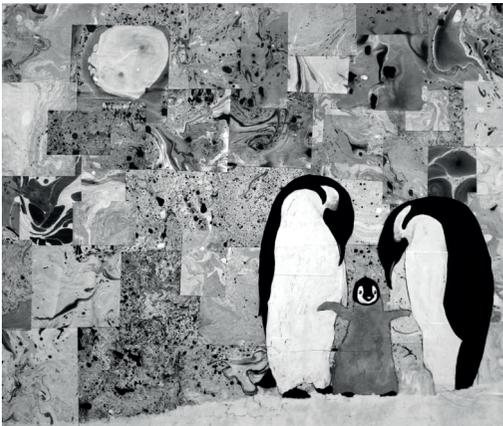
If you have a few moments to spare this coming weekend, drop by The Old Mission Hall Studios in Sibford Gower, opposite the Wykham Arms, to see some inspiring and thought-provoking art from award-winning artist, Lyndsay Madigan, and fellow artist, musician and teacher, Sue Wightman. This exciting body of work includes a wide range of art including drawing, sculpture, print and paintings. Having recently taken over the space as studio and gallery, we invited Lyndsay to tell us a little bit more about their mission at the Old Mission Hall ...

Let me introduce myself: my name is Lyndsay Madigan and I am lucky enough to be an artist. Art is my first love and my passion! I graduated from University of Central England, Birmingham in 2007 with a Fine Art BA (Hons) degree, and later qualified as a secondary school art teacher. In 2010 I started to teach art at Blessed George Napier school in Banbury, and now I'm a full time artist. I have won several awards, including *Associated Architects' Arts Award* and the *Sir Whitworth Wallis Trust Painting Prize*.



I sell my art through galleries, exhibitions and my website, often working closely with interior designers to create their visions and therefore producing a lot of commissioned artwork. My larger

canvas paintings are very popular for this purpose and I am able to create up to 8-foot pieces thanks to my beautiful new studio space at Sibford's old Mission Hall.



The past year has been a busy one for me, exhibiting in Christchurch, Oxford, Woodstock, Burford and the NEC in Birmingham. I'm currently showing and selling in several galleries both locally and around the country, as far

north as Glasgow down to Epping and London, and have sold many

THE OLD MISSION HALL

pieces to private collectors from Oxford, Worcester, Birmingham, Southampton, Taunton, Totnes, and even Melbourne!

November's 'open studios' exhibition celebrates my current collection. My paintings focus on the wonders of the universe we live in; our mind-blowing cosmos is fascinating and incomprehensible! I pride myself on the individuality, energy and tactile qualities of my artwork, the bright colours and layers of media and colours, the more you look at them, the more you see.



Please pop along to our open studios at The Old Mission Hall, next to the Quaker Meeting House, between 10 am - 4 pm on Saturday 28 & Sunday 29 November and help me celebrate with a complimentary glass of fizz!

www.lyndsaymadigan.com E: art@lyndsaymadigan.com



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Pupils at Sibford School in the Ferris are creating a new heritage apple orchard. Fifteen trees of different varieties that have originated in Oxfordshire and neighbouring counties have been planted in Holly Tree Field at the edge of the school's campus.

The seed of the idea came from villager Bill Crabtree who uses the field to graze his sheep.

Explains Andy Newbold, Director of Studies at Sibford and a keen Horticulturalist, *"Bill noticed that two apple trees in the field had come to the end of their natural life. We talked about replacing them but the idea quickly took root so that in the end, rather than having a couple of new trees, we have created a whole orchard."*

The apple trees have been supplied by Marcus Roberts, founder of the Mid Shires Orchard Group, and have been sponsored by parents and staff together with Bill and his wife, Barbara. They were planted by members of Sibford School's Year 10 & 11 horticultural class with the help of teacher Angy Bovill, Andy Newbold and members of the school's grounds staff.



Bill Crabtree also came along to ensure that everything went to plan. He is pictured above with some of the members of the planting team.

Carol Concert

Sibford's annual Carol Concert will take place in the main school hall at 6.30 pm on Thursday 10 December. All welcome.

Arts Hub

If you're looking to take up a new hobby in 2016 then Sibford School's Arts Hub could be just the thing for you. The school runs adult evening classes in painting and drawing (Mondays), pottery (Tuesdays) and Textiles (Thursdays). To register for January 2016, visit the school website: www.sibfordschool.co.uk/community/classes-clubs or call Ali Bromhall T: 01295 781216.

Music making is the business!

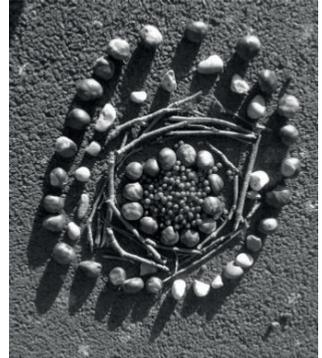
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Although high winds and cloud cover meant that we had to postpone our Family Stargazing Event, the night sky above the school was filled with stars and sparkles in early November thanks to our fabulous PTA. Once again, they organised our spectacular annual Firework and Bonfire Evening. This was a huge success and it was lovely to welcome so many members of the local community into our school grounds.

We've been busy in school too, creating, exploring and inventing. Acorn Class have been making diva lamps and finding out all about Diwali. Miss Kempson's Beech Class have been outside creating environmental art with found objects. Willow Class have been listening to *Sinfonia Antartica* by Vaughan Williams, exploring cold tones in colour and taking a line for a walk(!), as well as designing healthy, balanced meals with Mrs Fletcher. Mr Cameron's Maple Class entered the *Dragons' Den* when they pitched their business plans for a chocolate product to a panel of experts, including the headteacher and school governor Julian Ransom. The whole class are going ahead with the winning plan and the finished product will be on sale in time for Christmas. Mr Lecznar's Oak Class have had wires, batteries, bulbs and switches out, exploring all things electrical.



*Art in the environment,
by Ivy Mizen of Beech Class*

In final news; strange symbols have been appearing around the school and our pupils are busy investigating to find out what they might mean. They have discovered a connection to the Fibonacci Sequence but the mystery remains...

www.sibford-gower.oxon.sch.uk

SATURDAY WORKSHOPS

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

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

RAIN OR SHINE THEATRE CO

The excellent Rain or Shine Theatre Company will be performing *A Christmas Carol* at the Village Hall on Tuesday 29 December at 7 pm. Tickets - Adult £10, Child £6 - from Ronald Hawkes anytime on T: 780555

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SIBFORD FOLK - BEATRICE TANNER

Sibford's oldest resident, Beatrice 'Beat' Tanner, celebrated her 105th birthday in September this year. Beat started work aged 14 as a cook at Sibford School and moved to the Sibfords when she married in 1943. Here, Beat tells us a little about her life and the changes she has seen in the villages during her time here.

"My mother was born under the sound of the Bow bells in London and danced on the streets to the barrel organs. My father was born in Worcestershire and met my mother when he ran away from home. They met and married in London and my father worked as a groom for one of the big houses where my mother did the cooking, which is where I got my love of cooking as a young girl.



My parents had the chance of joining the railway, which brought them to nearby Woodford Halse where my father became a goods guard. They had 3 boys and 4 girls. We lost Arthur as a young lad; he was a great musician and had his own band called *The Blue Angels*. Bill was a driver and Joe joined the lecturing circuit on the railway. My sister Phyllis, who is now 87, worked in the accountancy offices. She played the piano and a lot of our spare time was spent singing around the piano and going to London with Mum and Dad to see the theatres and shows. As a young girl I also played the piano, accompanying the silent movies that they used to show at the old village hall in Woodford Halse.

I was 14 years old and working in Northampton when I returned to my mother's at Woodford Halse for a holiday and a friend told me about a cooking job at Sibford School. I went for an interview and by the time I was 18 years old I was cooking for 100 boys and staff at the School. I was given a room overlooking the monkey puzzle tree and walled garden at the Manor. During one

continues / ...

SIBFORD FOLK - BEATRICE TANNER

continued/ ...

Summer School, I remember Winston Churchill's son Randolph coming down to the dining hall with a huge hole in the heel of his sock. I had many happy years there, especially when my sister Lilian joined me. I also remember dancing in Sibford's old wooden village hall.

I met my husband, Henry, at Sibford School and we married at Woodford Halse in 1943 and had one daughter. I started married life at Holly Mount by the pond in Sibford Gower; my mother-in-law let us have rooms there and I have lived in the Sibfords ever since. During the war I remember walking up to the elm to catch the bus and hearing bombs being dropped in Banbury. My mother was waiting in Banbury to meet me and as we sheltered in a shop doorway a plane flew low overhead and we saw the pilot smiling – he didn't shoot, but dropped his bomb on the railway.

I have such happy memories of living in the Sibfords. As well as working at Sibford School, I enjoyed caretaking and cooking at the Primary School for many years too, serving under headmasters Mr Penny, Mr Walpole, Mr Jarman, Mr Mansfield and lastly Mr Elliott. I finally stopped work aged 78 years!

In my life I have seen some extraordinary changes for the better, including the motor car, the telephone, the National Health Service, and travelling abroad – which I did early on in my life. Sadly, the wars going on all over the world today, as well as the current mass immigration, are all quite worrying. If I could make any changes in the Sibfords, I'd like to see a good play area for the youngsters and more affordable houses for them.

My interests are limited now, but I like a good book and television programmes including *Songs of Praise*, *Countdown* and *Strictly Come Dancing*. I attend the Friendship Club when I can and was the Treasurer of the Club for many years. I have had a good life and love living in Sibford. I enjoy having my family around me, including my grandchildren and great grandchildren as well as my sister, still living in Newquay, who rings me regularly."

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SIBFORD GRAPEVINE

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

Welcome to Carrie Tucker who has moved from Great Tew into a cottage on The Colony in Sibford Gower. Carrie works in London as CFO for a family business. She is a member of the Warwickshire Hunt and is looking forward to point-to-pointing this season.

Great to receive news from the Bishop family, who emigrated to Melbourne in September. Settling in well, Sam told the Scene, *"Halloween was very strange. We dressed up and went trick or treating, but it was light and warm, which reduced the spooky factor somewhat! I think the kids were a bit disappointed and said they didn't think it was nearly as fun [as Sibford] – and I had to agree."* Sam is writing an occasional blog about her repatriation experience. It's funny and touching and you can read it here: www.aussierepat.wordpress.com.

Wishing JP a swift return to the Sibfords. Dog walks are just not the same without him, although it's true they are much quicker ...

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30 November, 14 December, 4 January, 18 January, 1 February

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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, 16 November 2015 - The meeting was attended by Cllrs Tim Huckvale (Chair), Maureen Hicks (Vice-Chair), Ginny Bennett, Adrian Lamb and Peter Robinson, the Clerk, Keith Hicks on behalf of Sibford Village Hall and two members of the public. Ongoing matters discussed included: the provision of faster broadband, proposed affordable housing scheme, Rural Community Energy Fund, replacement of failing timbers and removal of algae from the wooden structures at the Cotswold Close play area and the long-term parking of vehicles adjacent to it, dog bins, land at Wheathills, consideration of the need for a safeguarding policy, OCC decision to remove subsidies from all bus routes and to withdraw funding from Dial-a-Ride, Oxfordshire Together initiative as part of OCC budget cuts, consultation on the future of household waste recycling centres in Oxfordshire including Alkerton, a report from the Cherwell Parish Liaison Meeting of 11 November. Under **Finance**, the provision of a pension for the Clerk was discussed and agreed in principle, and the first draft of the 2016/17 budget was considered, including a review of the annual donation to the Sibford Scene and a contribution towards church clock maintenance. Under **Planning**, information on the Cherwell Local Plan disseminated at the recent Liaison Meeting was discussed with reference to its implications for Sibford Ferris. There had been a letter to the planning department in support of the Gower Parish Council, a planning breach now resolved, correspondence on the cutting back of a hedge on Main Street, a notice of an appeal decision, 3 notices of intent to carry out works to trees, and a notification of a new Tree Preservation Order. There was no further business.

The full draft minutes can be obtained either via the Sibfords website (thesibfords.org.uk/sfpc) or from the Clerk (T: 788557).

The next meeting of Sibford Ferris Parish Council will be on Monday, 11 January 2016 at 7.45 pm in the Sports Hall Classroom at Sibford School.

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A warm welcome was given to nine guests, most of whom had come especially to hear this month's speaker, Helen Philips, who was making a second visit after three years to give us an updated talk about the various Himalayan projects she is involved in. We had the opportunity to browse and buy a lovely selection of shawls and other goods produced by project participants. Helen talked about the importance of preserving the cultural background of this mountainous region. She has really got to know the people and their ways on her many visits and is always impressed by the kindness of strangers when there is often very little to share. The projects vary in sophistication: Stitch a Living projects are the basic entry point, helping to transform beggars into project workers earning a living. Women's skill development projects are the next level and, finally, master craftsmen and women produce beautiful pashminas. It can take one man two and a half years to complete a finely embroidered shawl using hand looms and hand block patterns. A fascinating insight into this special part of India, its way of life and the work of its craftsmen and women. The speaker was thanked by Val Powell.

Barbara Crabtree and helpers served tea and a choice of delicious cakes. The competition for a hand-crafted item was judged by Helen:
1st – Rosemary Neal, 2nd – Kathleen Winter, 3rd – Glennis Hardman.

We meet again on Tuesday 15 December for our Christmas Party. Members are asked to bring a plate of finger food to share, a wrapped gift and a Christmas jumper for the competition, plus Christmas cards for the Exchange Table. No raffle. There will be musical entertainment, readings and a quiz.
Mary Hill

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December/January 2015 - Christmas is on its way and a very busy time for most people with extra shopping, visiting and events. It is a time when we can be easily distracted, so be extra observant at all times.

Please keep an eye on your neighbour's property: make sure post is pushed through letterboxes and take in parcels left on the doorstep.

Alarm locks are recommended to deter oil thefts from tanks and timer **lights bulbs** are recommended to disguise when you are out.

Fishing emails - Don't click on or open unfamiliar links in emails or on websites, and make sure you install anti-virus software and keep it up to date. A number of radio programmes have warned about people losing large sums of money following the TalkTalk cyber attack and others. Remember: the police and banks will never contact you and ask you for your bank or personal details.

Telephone scams - Independently check the caller. If possible, call from a different phone or wait for a period of time before you check. Do not allow people you do not know into your property without checking their identity. If you experience or see anything suspicious please contact the Police.

We wish you all a very Happy Christmas and New Year.

Mollie Mulley

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DID YOU KNOW? ...

...*"Quakers eat their plum pudding 'straight'".* Writing in his memoirs of Christmases spent in the Sibfords as a child in the 1920s, Anthony Oddie remembers his Grandfather at the head of the table carving the enormous turkey with all the trimmings. Subsequently Grannie, at the foot of the table, would dispense the plum pudding,

"Being a Quaker household this would be served straight ie with custard!" Oddie wrote, "Certainly no flaming brandy or brandy butter. Even for the adults Christmas dinner would be washed down with lemonade or barley water."



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SIBFORD SCENE DEADLINE:

As this is a combined
December/January issue, the
deadline for the February issue
of the Sibford Scene is
18 January 2016

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VILLAGE HALL NEWS

QUIZ NIGHT - Many thanks to all who took part in the Quiz, and those who helped on the night. We hope you had a good time. Thanks too to Quiz Masters Simon Chard and Adam Leyburn for making it such a great evening. The winning teams were: 1st - The Follies, 2nd - Spector Clueso, 3rd - The Incomers.

FRIENDS OF THE VILLAGE HALL - The Village Hall Committee would like to start a group of people who would not be on the Committee, but would be willing to help when we put on an event at the Hall. There is always so much to do both behind the scenes and front of house. If you would like to help, please contact Chairman Joan Broady T: 780410.

FILM NIGHTS - Sunday 13 December we're showing *ELF*, a great Christmas family film. Doors open at 4 pm, film starts at 4.30 pm. Refreshments to suit all ages. Our run of New Year films starts with *Mr Holmes* on 28 January. *45 Years* on 25 February and *Salt of The Earth* on 31 March. All start at 7.30 pm (doors open 7 pm). Entry £2 for adults and £1 for students/children. Refreshments available or bring your own wine.

VILLAGE HALL LOTTERY WINNERS - October winners are 1st - Mr G Wealsby, 2nd - Rev and Mrs Hawkes, 3rd - Mrs A Tuffrey, 4th - Mrs H Mountford. Congratulations to you all.

SIBFORD HALL PROMOTIONS - check our website sibford.org.uk/sibford-hall-promotions, which has a link to our Facebook page for information about forthcoming events and join the mailing list too. To book the Village Hall, contact Ginny via the website or E: ginnybennett@googlemail.com T: 780373.



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FRIENDSHIP CLUB

The Friendship Committee and its Members wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. The Club will meet on 1 December for our Christmas Tea and then on 15 December we will be off to Wychwood Golf Club for Christmas lunch.

Because we have had to cancel our meetings in January, the Club will not meet again now until 2 February 2016. Why not come and join us then?

Evey Boughton



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CHURCH CLOCK APPEAL

Those who visited the war graves earlier this year thought it would be a nice idea to arrange a village event to commemorate their experiences. To coincide with Remembrance Sunday, Charlotte Bird and friends organised a lunch and exhibition in the Village Hall, enjoyed by 85 people. They were treated to a fabulously tasty selection of curry dishes prepared by Sara, Richard and Lydia Thomas, followed by some superb desserts supplied by other members of the team.

The money collected was donated to the Church Clock Appeal and augmented by a raffle, an auction of promises organised by Paul Clayson, and sale of Christmas decorations by Sue Bannister. Michael Drake put together a fascinating collection of photographs and memorabilia and compiled an excellent video of film footage, music and commentary from the war period. **Thanks to Charlotte and her team, the Church Clock Appeal benefited by more than £1,600.**

John Marshall

SIBFORD PLAYERS

The Sibford Players have been meeting every Thursday since September for drama games, improvisation and vocal work with a view to putting on a production on 6 February 2016 with a theme centered around the seaside. Come along on the 6th and enjoy an evening of drama and song, candy floss, balloons and lots of other seaside fun! See you there!

Kat and Juliette



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LOCAL NEWS

Catch up with your Christmas shopping and support Sibford's small businesses, some of whom are exhibiting at this lovely Christmas sale (*below*) just up the road in Great Rollright on 4 - 6 December.



FRIDAY 4TH - SUNDAY 6TH

DECEMBER 2015

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RAISING MONEY FOR THE BRAIN TUMOUR CHARITY

LOCAL NEWS

A FESTIVE CELEBRATION - A few tickets still remain for Katharine House Hospice's **A Festive Celebration** on Tuesday 8 December at 7.30 pm at 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 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, or call T: 01295 816484 to book tickets.

Christmas on the Upton Front - From 28 November visitors to Upton House can experience what the festive period was like during wartime years. A Christmas Fayre starts the celebrations on 5 & 6 December, with tents and stalls overflowing with local food and hand-crafted gifts. Father Christmas will be visiting every weekend for brunch or tea with families, and exclusive evening blackout tours will be available throughout December with cocoa and crumpets served from our cosy kitchen. For booking information, prices and opening times visit www.nationaltrust.org.uk/uptonhouse

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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, December

Holy Trinity Advent Bazaar is on Saturday 5 December from 3 pm - 5 pm. Come along for afternoon tea, stalls, games and sideshows, Father Christmas in his Grotto, and the Sibford Millennium Panels will be on display. There will be lovely teas and cakes, fine food, beautiful decorations, bunches of holly, bottles, Christmassy things, new and nearly new gifts, the Cork Game, Bowling for a Pig, potting up bulbs, Higher and Lower, raffle, hampers ... something for everyone. If you'd like a lift, please give Ronald a shout (T: 780555).

On Sunday 6 December from 3 pm - 5 pm ALL CHILDREN are warmly welcome to the church where we will be making decorations for the Christmas tree so, when you come for the school service, carols or Christingle, YOUR craft will be on display.

The **Traditional Carol Service** with readings, congregational carols and items by the Benefice Choir will be at 7 pm on Friday 18 December with seasonal refreshments afterwards.

On Sunday 20 December, very much with families and children in mind, there will be the **Crib and Christingle Service** at 4.30 pm, to which you are ALL invited.

Please DO join in **carol singing** around the villages on Monday 21 December. Assemble at Holmby House (Ferris) or Barley Close (Gower) at 6 pm, bringing warm coats, torches, a voice, the dog, the kids, Grannie if you must, and a sense of humour! We'll sing through the Ferris and the Gower and then you are all invited (including Grannie and the dog) for hot chocolate and something to eat at the Church at 7.30 pm.

Midnight Mass is in Sibford this year; candlelit service starts at 11.30 pm. On **Christmas Day**, a Holy Communion service with carols is at 10 am.

The clock will be repaired and repainted soon; we're just waiting for "Go" from the Diocese. THANK YOU to everyone from the villages, Parish Councils, Town Estate Charity, and the organisers of all the fundraising events for your much-appreciated generosity.

So what else is there to add, except Merry Christmas and a Happy, Peaceful and Prosperous New Year to you all.

Holy Trinity Church, January 2016 services

5 January	Epiphany - 10 am Benefice Eucharist at Broughton (RH)
10 Jan	Plough Sunday - 8 am BCP Holy Communion (RH) 11 am Joint Service with Methodists
17 Jan	9.30 am Holy Communion (John Tattersall)
24 Jan	9.30 am Holy Communion (Glyn Evans)
31 Jan	9.30 am Holy Communion (Liz Hawkes)

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</i>							<i>Term</i>
<i>NS</i>	<i>hols</i>							<i>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)

Sibford Ferris & Sibford Gower to Stratford:

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

DECEMBER

Tues 1	Mobile Library in Sibford Gower, 2.30 - 3.30 pm
Sat 5	Holy Trinity Church Advent Bazaar, Village Hall, 3 pm - 5 pm
Thu 10	Sibford School Carol Concert, 6.30 pm
Fri 11	Sibford School end of term
Sun 13	Film Night: <i>Elf</i> , Village Hall, 4 pm
Tues 15	Mobile Library in Sibford Gower, 2.30 - 3.30 pm
Fri 18	Traditional Carol Service, Holy Trinity Church, 7 pm
Fri 18	Primary School end of term
Mon 21	Carol singing, meet at Holmby House or Barley Close, 6 pm
Tues 29	No mobile library this week

DECEMBER BIN COLLECTIONS

Green	Wednesday 2, 16, 30
Brown/blue	Wednesday 9, 23

At the time of going to print, the January bin collections calendar had not been confirmed, so keep an eye out for a label on your bins over the festive period.

JANUARY (PART)

Mon 4	Sibford School & Primary School terms begin
Mon 11	Sibford Gower Parish Council Meeting, Primary School, 8 pm
Mon 11	Sibford Ferris Parish Council Meeting, Sibford School, 7.45 pm
Tues 12	Mobile Library in Sibford Gower, 2.30 - 3.30 pm
Tues 26	Mobile Library in Sibford Gower, 2.30 - 3.30 pm
Thur 28	Film Night: <i>Mr Holmes</i> , Village Hall, 7 pm

SEASON'S GREETINGS to all our readers,
both here in the Sibfords and beyond. Whatever you celebrate,
we hope you have a wonderful time with family and friends and
that the New Year is everything you wish for.



SIBFORD SCENE DEADLINE FOR FEBRUARY 2016 ISSUE - 18 JANUARY 2016

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Front cover pic: *Snowy view from Ditch Edge Lane by Karen Heron*