

# SIBFORD SCENE



FEBRUARY 2016

No. 379

**THE SIBFORD PLAYERS PRESENT: *DECKCHAIRS***

Saturday 6 February, Village Hall, 7.30 pm

**SIBFORD CRICKET CLUB AGM**

Sunday 7 February, Wykham Arms, 6 pm

**GREEN ACRES - TEMPORARY PATHS CLOSURE**

Wednesday 10 February, Green Acres, Sibford Gower

**SIBFORD FERRIS ANNUAL SPRING CLEAN**

Saturday 20 February, Lane's End Corner, 10 am

**FILM NIGHT: *45 YEARS***

Thursday 25 February, Village Hall, from 7 pm

**BADMINTON**

Tuesdays & Fridays, Sibford School Hall, 8 pm

## LETTERS & NOTICES

DAVID HUGHES - My children and I would like to thank friends and family in the Sibfords for their overwhelming kindness, concern and sympathy during and beyond David's devastating illness. Very special thanks to Ronald for all that he has done and continues to do for us.

*Diana Hughes*

FOOTPATH CLOSURE - In order to retain 'permissive path' status on the paths round the paddock at Green Acres, we will be closing the paths for 24 hours only on Wednesday 10 February. This closure will not affect use of the public footpath which runs across the top of the paddock from Buttslade House to the Primary School. We welcome walkers and their dogs on all other days. *Paul & Margaret Hobson*

SIBFORD GOWER DELIVERIES - Please could we politely ask residents to specify the name of road and any special directions for deliveries to their homes. Delivery drivers rely on Sat Nav and the OX15 5RT postcode directs - often incorrectly - to Bonds End Lane. This causes residents problems as large delivery vehicles have to turn around in this narrow, no-through lane resulting in property damage. Thanks for your cooperation. *Jayne Allen*

JOHN LOGGIN'S CHARITY - Applications to the Charity should be made in writing to the Rectory by 6 February 2016 for distribution around 12 February. The Revd John Loggin's Charity offers a small amount of financial assistance to the elderly, families on tight budgets or those with children, who are resident in the Sibfords or Burdrop.

VICTORIA PRENTIS - MP for North Oxfordshire - holds regular surgeries and visits pubs throughout the constituency as part of her pub tour. See [www.victoriaprentis.com](http://www.victoriaprentis.com) or email Victoria on E: [victoria.prentis.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:victoria.prentis.mp@parliament.uk)

SIBFORD CRICKET CLUB'S AGM takes place on Sunday 7 February at 6.00pm at the Wykham Arms. All current and future players welcome.

BADMINTON - Takes place at the Friends School Hall on Tuesdays and Fridays from 8 pm for 1-1½ hours. All welcome, just turn up with your trainers and a racket (or you can borrow one).

THE SIBFORDS' ANNUAL SPRING CLEAN - Both Ferris and Gower Parish Councils invite residents to help keep our villages clean. Please see page 12 for information about the annual village spring clean.

SHEEP WORRYING - We're a supportive farming community, so we know you will read and act upon a letter sent recently to the Sibford Scene, reproduced on page 25.

## FIVE MINUTES WITH ...

### THIS MONTH: **John Wass**

*John and Sally Wass moved into Holmby House in Sibford Ferris from London in 2000, via a couple of years in Kirtlington. One of the country's leading endocrinologists, John retired from NHS practice three years ago but has been busier than ever with roles as Academic Vice President and public health lead at the Royal College of Physicians. John is currently championing the provision of weight loss services in the UK. He recently wrote and presented BBC 4's successful programme, *The Fantastical World of Hormones*. John met his wife Sally when she was a ward sister at Bart's Hospital and Sally now runs a thriving B&B and self-catering business from their home. The couple have two beloved border terriers, Bubbles and Poppy.*



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

Pure chance. We had been looking for a house in Oxfordshire for about two years and Barbara Taylor said, 'By the way the Bishop is moving'. So we were able to get an offer in fairly early on!

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

My earliest memory is learning my left from my right when going to the Queen's coronation. My mother said, 'Turn left here', but of course I didn't have a clue which was left or right, so I took a 50/50 chance and got it right.

#### **Why medicine?**

I really do get a genuine sense of pleasure out of helping people and in medicine you are in a uniquely wonderful place to do that. My specialty of endocrinology is good because you can help people who often don't have an awfully bad diagnosis like cancer: so I can help people to grow, I can help people to become fertile, and all sorts of things which have life-changing effects. I have a book at home which says, 'Thank you for my lovely baby' inscribed in the front. I showed it to Sally who, after initially wondering what the Dickens I had been up to, quickly understood that I had given this lady medication to help her get pregnant.

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## FIVE MINUTES WITH ... (CONTINUED)

### **How do you like to spend your free time?**

Going to musical things, particularly the opera, the theatre and reading. My main extra curricular passion is music. I find this the most wonderful way of de-stressing from what can be quite a busy professional life.

### **You've travelled all over the world: what's your favourite destination?**

I can honestly say that the answer is that it is where I am at the time. I often travel to give lectures and so many people go and give their lecture and leave again, but I always try to understand the locality, go to the sights or museums or art galleries, and come away hopefully enriched. I am very lucky to be able to travel to so many different destinations.

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

When I left school I spent a fortnight as an inmate in a borstal in order to broaden my education. I remember the initiation ceremony was running across all the beds and everybody had a free clobber at me with a pillow. The only difference that they put boots in the pillows.

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

Conducting the Oxford Medical Orchestra was very satisfying. A lot of doctors are musical. We performed Tchaikovsky's fourth symphony which is quite challenging and during the waving in of the horns somebody muttered under their breath, '*He plays for the London Philharmonic!*'

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

The amazing atmosphere of mutual help and support. It is a very interesting group of widely diverse people with the most interesting backgrounds, and what you don't see on the estate agency blurb is that this village really works well together to look after and entertain its own, and to increase the enjoyment of life.

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## SIBFORD FOLK

*If you're thinking of planning a winter escape this year, but don't fancy skiing, **Will Gray** - Sibford Gower's award-winning travel writer and photographer of our stunning front cover picture - has a bright idea ...*

We're privileged here in the Sibfords to enjoy wonderful night skies. Low levels of light pollution and big-sky vistas from our hilly vantage make for some great stargazing. But while the star-spattered cosmos will have your head spinning after closing time at the Wykham Arms, one celestial phenomenon that will probably always elude us is the aurora borealis. We're simply too far south of the so-called Auroral Oval – an area surrounding the North Pole where all kinds of molecular shenanigans take place to fire up the northern lights.



The aurora borealis has often been something of a happy coincidence on my trips to the far north – an unexpected sideshow, creeping up on you in the night, flickering seductively, then holding you rapt as it envelops the Arctic night in swirling green veils.

You can go aurora hunting in the most fantastic destinations. The first time I saw the lights was over 10 years ago in Swedish Lapland where I was more focused on grappling with a team of *Canis familiaris* than tracking down the aurora borealis. Abisko National Park is one of the best places in the world to witness the northern lights, but they teased us that night, ghosting green without any of the usual flamboyant flirting-with-the-stars.

More recently, during a family holiday in Iceland during late August – too early in the year to realistically expect a show – the lights put on such a display that we bundled our sleeping children outside in their duvets and prised their eyes open to witness the

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## SIBFORD FOLK (CONTINUED)

event. A few weeks later, in the Lofoten Islands of arctic Norway, I was treated to an encore: strands of phosphorescent green threaded like dental floss through herringbone clouds.

It's perhaps not surprising that I have become slightly obsessed with the northern lights. The more you see of them, the greater your yearning for a bigger, brighter, longer display.

During a visit to the Icehotel in Sweden, we drove dog sleds out to a remote log cabin beside a frozen lake. Emerging outside after dinner, our heads spun upwards to find the aurora in full flow – sinuous banners of green light arching overhead, pulsing from one horizon to the other, and fading only to be replaced by gently rippling curtains of lime and teal green. The display lasted all night.

I've since been back to Iceland and also tried my luck in Alaska and the Canadian Arctic – but on each trip the northern lights played hard to get. Perhaps it's best not to plan a trip specifically to see them. After all, there's no shortage of exciting things to do in 'aurora country'. You could spend a few days learning how to mush huskies in Swedish Lapland. You could chill out on a winter cruise along the Norwegian coast aboard a Hurtigruten ferry. Drive snowmobiles through the Yukon, snowshoe in Finland, spot orcas hunting the vast winter shoals of herring along the west coast of Iceland... but treat the aurora borealis as a bonus.

*Will Gray*

***Not quite a Sibford scene** - Breaking with tradition for this issue, I couldn't resist Will's amazing photo of the Northern Lights for this month's cover. Ed*

### **Learn to paint !**

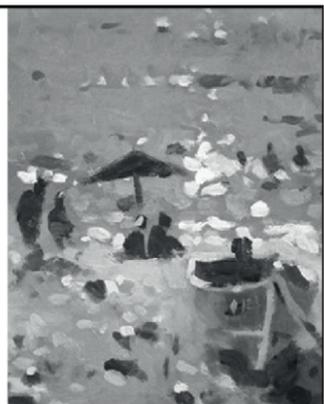
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# NATURE NOTES

**22 Nov** - Redwings joined the blackbirds and wood pigeons feeding on our holly berries. They usually take them all by the end of November so I have cut a few bits to keep for Christmas.

**5 Dec** - A sparrowhawk came by the bird table but I don't think it caught anything. I was surprised to see it, or another one, come back 10 minutes later. I saw a red kite over Sibford Ferris.

**12 Dec** - Watched a blackbird swallow 19 berries from our yellow pyrocantha. Quite a crop full.

**18 Dec** - A beautiful little tree creeper worked for a few minutes round an old rotten bird table. I expect it was finding over-wintering insects or spiders.

**20 Dec** - About 15 - 20 long tailed tits with as many blue tits moved east to west through the garden, stopping for a quick feed at the bird table. The tube of nuts bristled with tails for a few minutes. I trapped a mouse that came into our kitchen. It turned out to be a yellow-necked field mouse. I have never had one in hand to make a positive identification before.

**1 Jan** - I measured 28.45 inches (723mm) of rain in 2015. In the first half of the year I only measured 10.62 inches (270mm) - well below average - but the 17.83 inches (453mm) in the second half put us above average for the year. Dec with 3.99 inches (101mm) was the wettest month and April with 0.9 inches (23mm) was the driest. How much of the record falls that tracked across the north of England causing so much flooding in December is due to ocean warming, I don't know. I was uplifted by reports of the more positive attitude at the Paris Climate Change Conference and the voluntary declaration of intent to try to keep the global temperature rise down to 1.5C. To achieve this, scientists say we need to phase out fossil fuel use by 2030. Within a few days of signing that agreement our government agreed to more fracking for gas and drilling for oil, announced cuts in green energy subsidies, and are still talking of a new runway in the south east to increase flying. As flying is the fastest growing source of greenhouse gas emissions, the most difficult to power by other means, and probably the easiest to reduce, perhaps a good new year's resolution is to reduce our flying to an absolute minimum. Future generations may with hindsight see 'planes as weapons of mass destruction if we don't do anything about greenhouse gas emissions. What we now look on as a flood of refugees will, by the end of the century, look like a trickle compared to the resulting population movement. This is a wonderful world: it would be a terrible thing for future generations to see global warming running out of control as a result of our inaction.

**3 Jan** - It was the warmest December ever recorded in Oxford: 2.5C higher than any past December.

**4 Jan** - A red kite flew low over Sibford Ferris and down into the valley below Burdrop. Another was flying over Acre Ditch a few days later.

**8 Jan** - Aberdeen's monthly rainfall figures only go back for 25 years but this is already the wettest January ever recorded.



## SIBFORD HORTI SOCIETY

A reminder that our first meeting of the year will be on Wednesday 9 March at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall when we welcome Roger Pringle to talk about Shakespeare's Gardens. **Diary date:** Don't forget that our Spring Horticultural Show takes place on 21 May 2016.

### THIS MONTH IN YOUR GARDEN - FEBRUARY

1. Cut back dead foliage from herbaceous plants, perennials and grasses.
2. Sow sweet peas in greenhouse or on a windowsill.
3. When witch hazel (*hamamelis*) has finished flowering, cut back stems to 2 or 3 buds, before the leaves appear.
4. Start chitting early potatoes - I use egg boxes - and place them in a light, frost-proof place.
5. Prune overgrown blackcurrant bushes and outdoor grapevines.
6. Lining a greenhouse with bubblewrap helps protect vulnerable plants from frost damage.
7. Time to force rhubarb, with a posh forcer from Whichford Pottery or an old bucket.
8. Prune apple and pear trees.
9. Snowdrops can be divided and replanted when they have finished flowering.
10. Sit down with a cup of tea and a seed catalogue, and plan how lovely your garden will look this summer.



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## SIBFORD FOLK

*With the 2016 Rio Olympic Games just around the corner, we had a chat with Sibford's **Mike Etherington-Smith** who, having recently given up his role as CEO of British Eventing, is currently a selector for the Australian eventing team ...*

I guess it must be the ageing process, but the Olympic Games seem to come around much more quickly now than in recent years. London 2012 is in the distant past, Rio is looming.

As background, I spent many years competing professionally in eventing and show jumping, and then organising - with Sue, my much better half - high profile events at Cornbury Park, Blenheim Palace and Chatsworth. This led to cross country course designing, officiating and advising at events all over the world, including World and European Championships and three Olympic Games, serving on various committees. But, after having my arms and legs twisted to take on the role of CEO of British Eventing - which I did for 6 years up until last year - I decided that being out and about again was more appealing than sitting behind a desk.

Nowadays my work takes me all over the world, spending a lot of time in Ireland, North America and Australia, as well as the UK, and I'm currently lucky enough to be a selector for the Australian eventing team as well as their High Performance Advisor in the UK.

Australia is one of the leading eventing nations, having won team and individual Gold medals at recent Olympic Games, and many of their top riders are based in the UK which is generally regarded as a mecca for the sport. This creates some interesting challenges, with athletes vying for team positions here and in Australia and the USA, and us as selectors having to compare their performances on opposite sides of the world and in very different conditions. It is unlike other sports in that generally athletes only have to rely on their own performances, whereas in equestrian sports the horses must be performing well and peaking at the right time mentally as well as physically.



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## SIBFORD FOLK (CONTINUED)

As selectors - there are 4 of us - we want to have as many combinations to select from as possible but, when the crunch comes, we do not necessarily have the luxury of choice. Nations rather than individuals qualify at World and Regional championships, and the composition of teams is then made up of the selected athlete/horse combinations. So, at this time of year individual bespoke plans for each horse and rider are agreed with the team coach and we watch and monitor their performances, here and overseas, over the coming period to see who is in good shape and on form ahead of selection in mid-July.

Equestrian sport is full of ups and downs, successes and disappointments. One day you can be on top of the world, the next day everything can go wrong and one has to be philosophical. Owners play a huge part in the sport and they are also part of the rollercoaster ride. At this stage, 6 months out from Rio, anticipation, hope and expectation is high. All high performance athletes are world class competitors with excellent track records of success on the international stage, and they all want to be part of the thrill of an Olympic Games. One of the hardest things to have to do is to say to someone that they have not been selected, especially when many of those wanting to go are good friends!

The world of high performance has changed hugely over the last 15 to 20 years with the advent of funding - significant in some cases- for many nations. The value of an Olympic medal is huge in terms of legacy and encouraging participation, and governments have recognised this, hence the global investment in sport. However, funding comes with the need to deliver; there is no room for sentiment or bad luck stories. No one has a right to financial support - it is hard-earned and easily lost. Ultimately though, to be successful athletes must be hungry and highly motivated. Character is so important; they must have focus and drive, and be prepared to make sacrifices to achieve their goals. They must be able to perform under pressure, to produce themselves and their horses to peak at the right time, and they have to be able to work as part of a team. It is tough at the top with no room for compromise.

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## BOXING DAY FOOTBALL MATCH

When the annual Sibford vs Swalcliffe football match proved not possible this year, the Sibford Veterans, their families, and anyone else they could 'volunteer', decided to stage an inter-village match instead. The idea proved popular, Sibford School provided a pitch, and at 10.30 on Boxing Day the Gower vs Ferris match kicked off.

The age range was from 12 to 59 years, and each side comprised 3 or 4 players from outside the Sibfords and one girl each. When Alex Bull shot past Will Gray in the Gower goal after 10 minutes, the huge crowd of 20 eagerly anticipated many more goals. However, despite some good interplay in the Ferris midfield and attack, it was the Gower who had the best chances, and it needed some last ditch defending to keep the score 1-0 at half-time.

Soon after half-time Will Spackman shot home to make it 2-0, and the Ferris midfield assumed the match was won. However, the Gower rallied and their youth attacked down the seemingly open right flank and, when Joe Gray's superb cross was headed home by Tyler Bradley, it was 2-1. The Gower had chances to level the score but didn't take them and it was the victorious Ferris side who were most relieved at the final whistle. Alison Rippon proved a referee no one dared to question, and only needed to show one yellow card. The only potentially controversial moment in the match came when her son Archie headed goalwards from 5 yards offside, fortunately saved. We retired to the Wykham Arms for a well earned drink, and to plan for the rematch next year.

*David Spackman*

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*Excellent references*

## THE SIBFORDS' SPRING CLEAN

The Parish Councils of both Sibford Gower and Sibford Ferris invite residents to help keep the Sibfords sparkling by attending one of the villages' two annual litter picks.

**Sibford Ferris** - Volunteers are warmly welcomed to the annual Sibford Ferris Spring Clean taking place this year on **Saturday 20 February**, meeting at Lane's End corner at 10 am. Gloves, sacks, some litter pickers and hi-vis vests will be available, but please bring your own hi-vis if you have one. If you would like to take part but cannot make the allotted time/day, please contact Adrian Lamb on T: 780380 to arrange an alternative.

**Sibford Gower & Burdrop** - Sibford Gower and Burdrop's annual Spring Clean takes place on **Saturday 5 March** and volunteers are asked to give an hour of their time to help clear litter, meeting at the Village Hall at 10 am. Clear recycling sacks (for paper, cardboard, plastic bottles and cans) and rubbish sacks (for other items) will be provided together with cotton gloves. The District Council supplies on loan only a minimal number of litter pickers and high visibility jackets so if you are able to bring along your own it will be extremely helpful.

If this date isn't convenient but you would like to be involved or have an area you would like to clear, please contact Peter Hardman (T: 780391).

Both Parish Councils hope that residents will lend their enthusiastic support to this village initiative and hope to see you on either **Saturday 20 February** (Ferris) or **Saturday 5 March** (Gower) ... or both! Please turn up and lend a hand if you can.

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(Sibford Gower)

# SIBFORD FERRIS PARISH COUNCIL

**Meeting, 11 January 2016** attended by Cllrs Tim Huckvale (Chair), Maureen Hicks (Vice-Chair), Ginny Bennett, Adrian Lamb and Peter Robinson, the Clerk, Oswyn Murray on behalf of Sibford Gower Parish Council, County and District Cllr George Reynolds and two members of the public.

Sibford Gower PC Chairman Oswyn Murray informed the meeting of the application to register the Bishop Blaize as an Asset of Community Value (ACV). **Ongoing matters** discussed included: provision of faster broadband; community first responder scheme; proposed affordable housing scheme; Rural Community Energy Fund; upkeep of Cotswold Close play area - with many thanks to Adrian Lamb for kindly replacing rotten timbers on the multi-play unit - and the long-term parking of vehicles adjacent to it; land at Wheathills; funding of the parish website; OCC decision to remove subsidies from all bus routes and Dial-a-Ride; postponement for two years of the consultation on the future of household waste recycling centres in Oxfordshire, including Alkerton; possibility of applying to register the shop as an ACV. Under **Finance**, training for new councillor Ginny Bennett, pension provision for the Clerk, and 2016/17 final budget figures were discussed and agreed, including the need to build up reserves against future expenses. It was agreed the precept request would remain the same as last year at £6,858. Under **Planning**, Cllr Reynolds advised that an Issues and Sites Paper would be sent to parish councils requesting views on housing sites and other matters affecting the Sibford parishes by end of January/early February. This information would be available for public comment. There had been three applications and two notices of decision for tree works, including a new TPO, and one notice of decision granting consent for a new dwelling on land adjacent to the Small House. Under **Any Other Business**, a street light fault and overhanging ivy in Main Street were reported, and Maureen Hicks reported on initial plans for a village celebration to mark the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday in June. Full draft minutes available via the Sibfords website ([thesibfords.org.uk/sfpc](http://thesibfords.org.uk/sfpc)) or from the Clerk (T: 788557).

**The next meeting** of Sibford Ferris PC will be on Monday 14 March 2016 at 7.45 pm at Sibford School.

## LETTERCARVE

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## CARA GAINS PLACE AT RADA

Sibford School pupil, Cara Mattinson, has been awarded a place at the prestigious RADA Young Actors Summer School 2016. The RADA Summer School provides aspiring actors with an experience of a leading British drama school and illuminates the distinction between drama as it is taught at school and as a vocational training.

Cara, who hopes to do a university degree in Drama/English before applying to attend RADA full-time said: *"It's been my ambition to get into the RADA Summer School and I'm really happy to have the privilege of being able to go in 2016."*

Added Sibford's Head of Drama, Neil Madden, *"There was very stiff competition for this placement, therefore we are delighted that Cara's application was successful. It will be a great opportunity for her to learn more about the craft of acting and will be a good preparation for her future plans."*

2016 promises to be an exciting year for Cara. She is starring as the Wicked Witch of the West in Sibford School's production of *The Wizard of Oz* (right) which will be performed at the school from 9 - 11 February. Tickets cost £5 and are available from the school or at:



[www.sibfordschool.co.uk/news-events/whats-on](http://www.sibfordschool.co.uk/news-events/whats-on)

**OPEN EVENTS** - Sibford School is holding a Whole School Open Morning on Friday 4 March to give parents of prospective pupils the opportunity to find out more about what the school offers for pupils aged between 3 and 18. The following week, on Wednesday 9 March, the Junior School is hosting an Early Years Open Afternoon where little ones are invited to enjoy some fun activities while parents and grandparents learn about the school's Early Years provision. For further information, call admissions officer Elspeth Dyer on T: 01295 781203.

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Spring term has started at our usual busy pace with the children returning to school 'bright eyed and bushy-tailed' and ready to learn. We have a Shakespearean theme present in school this term; the very popular drama club run by Mrs Stanton and Mrs Perkins is exploring *A Midsummer Night's Dream* ready for a performance later in the year, and Mrs Fletcher and Willow Class are growing plants which appear in the play as part of their science work on 'Growth'.

Our pupil-run School Council (Wombats) have been busy thinking about ways to improve our school and have presented an assembly to the whole school focusing on 'Hot Spots and Grot Spots'. You can find their powerpoint presentation on the Wombats page of our school website at [www.sibford-gower.oxon.sch.uk](http://www.sibford-gower.oxon.sch.uk). Our school is lovely but there are always things we can do to improve and this is a great way for the children to share their thoughts and ideas.



In the lead up to the annual art exhibition in March, the children in Acorn and Beech classes have been getting creative in responding to the art work of Paul Klee as part of their topic on Castles. They have been exploring with collage, wax resist and watercolour and arrangements on the light box. The pictures on this page show interpretations of 'Castle and Sun' by Josh O'Conner and Lucas Court from our Year 1 & 2 class, using watercolours.



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Wednesdays 1 - 3 pm Spelsbury Memorial Hall

Fridays 9.30 - 11.30 am Holly Tree, Deddington

**To register your interest or find out more, please contact**

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

# SIBFORDS WALKING GROUP

## Forthcoming Walks

1 February, 15 February, 29 February, 14 March, 21 March,  
4 April, 18 April, 9 May, 16 May

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 recommended but not compulsory. All 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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President Glennis Hardman welcomed members, husbands and guests who had been invited to hear our speaker, Maureen Hicks, and read out a letter of thanks from Mary Hill, who we sadly said goodbye to at our December meeting. Mary had been presented with a copy of the *WI Centenary Cook Book* and a thank you card for her invaluable input over many years. Members voted on the 2016 Resolution to be debated at the NFWI Annual Meeting in Brighton on 11 June. Names were taken of those wishing to attend 'China Old And New' at Kirtlington Village Hall on 23 February.

Glennis introduced Maureen and her husband Keith. The title of Maureen's talk was 'The Sibfords 1914 – 1918'. This talk was originally given to the Sibfords Society at its October meeting, but the date clashed with a WI Group Meeting and many of our members were disappointed to miss Maureen's presentation, so we were pleased that she agreed to come to our January Meeting. Maureen had carried out detailed research and, together with Keith's photography taken from postcards of that period, they produced a fascinating insight into village life during the First World War. Maureen told us about the young Sibford men whose names are recorded on the war memorial in Holy Trinity churchyard, and who lost their lives mainly in Belgium and France. Many of their graves were visited by villagers last year. Keith's penultimate photograph showed the 888,246 ceramic poppies displayed around the Tower of London and, finally, a glorious single poppy. Thanks to Maureen and Keith, the Sibfords Society is fortunate in having this unique record for the archives.

Jan Warner gave an appreciative vote of thanks. Val Powell served tea, with cakes made by the Committee. Maureen judged the competition for a souvenir of WW1: Glennis' framed embroidered postcards sent from France was first choice, Barbara Crabtree's impressive horse brasses second, and entries from Lynda Conway and Jan Warner were awarded joint third. Burdrop's Annie Broe will give a talk on colour analysis at our 9 February meeting. Competition: A Colourful Scarf. Visitors are welcome to the Village Hall at 2 pm.

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# A BIG THANK YOU

We just wanted to say a huge thank you for all the kind messages that so many sent us for our 10th anniversary at The Wykham Arms. Also, a special thank you to our lovely friends Tracey and Richard Morbey: we were only supposed to be popping over to them for a festive drink on the Sunday before Christmas, so it was a huge shock and very overwhelming to walk into at least 50 of our friends and regulars hiding in Tracey's kitchen!

We are grateful too for the wonderful gifts. We plan to have our gourmet lunch at *Le Manoir* sometime in February and the olive tree will have pride of place on the patio as soon as the weather improves. The tags on the tree with all the messages attached were very heart-warming - there were so many of them. We even found one for George, which gave him the honour of 'best pub dog' from his pal Murphy. And also the one that states, "*Thanks for the lack of memories!*" (We can't say who it's from: landlord/customer confidentiality).

So, from us all at the Wykham Arms, a huge thank you for everything: your friendship, support and good times. Thank you too to all the staff who have been part of our team over the years; you've all helped to make the Wykham the special place it has become.

Many thanks once again,  
*Damian, Debbie, Daniel, Connor, Tyler & George*



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# NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Police T: 101 • Emergencies 999

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**February 2016** - Before Christmas there were quite high levels of vehicle crime. Make sure no valuables, money, packages or tools etc can be seen in your vehicle and it is locked when you leave it. Do not leave any goods, especially tools, in vans overnight.

When out shopping or socialising always remain aware of your surroundings, your handbag, your purse and your mobile phone. Mobile phones are now more vulnerable, holding personal and financial details for online services like internet banking, so make sure such information cannot be accessed.

**Banbury Police Station** front counter is open daily from 8 am to 10 pm. We are fortunate; many stations are closing or reducing their hours. The local police can be contacted on T: 101. The deaf, hard-of-hearing or speech-impaired can text 18000. The Thames Valley Police website is: [www.thamesvalley.police.uk](http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk). Please stay observant at all times and if you see anything suspicious contact the police with as much information as you can.

*Mollie Mulley*

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

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\*\*delivery within 10 mile radius of Sibford



# SIBFORDS SOCIETY

Our November meeting, attended by 95 members and visitors, was an illustrated presentation on King Richard III – “*The King under the Car Park*” – by Dr Richard Buckley from Leicester University. Richard and his team were responsible for the entire excavation project at the Greyfriars site in Leicester, commencing in August 2012. The project involved much detailed work carried out by hand as well as the use of radio carbon dating technology to provide final authentication. Richard Buckley was warmly thanked by John Marshall.

Our next meeting on 18 February will be our annual social evening. This will be a bring and share supper and includes mulled wine, a pictorial quiz and a raffle. Musical entertainment will be provided by Elizabeth and Richard York, who will play a number of musical instruments and talk on the history of music.

Members should arrive at the Village Hall at 7.00 pm so the supper can start no later than 7.30 pm. The Committee appreciates any donations of prizes for the raffle and hopes that all members will be able to attend.

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# VILLAGE HALL NEWS

**Village Hall Lottery** - December winners: 1st - Mrs A Spencer, 2nd - Mrs Pat Warren, 3rd - Ivor Hopkyns, 4th - Mrs M Eddis. November winners were: 1st - Mr & Mrs Law, 2nd - Mr D Bennett, 3rd - Miss E Fox, 4th - Mr & Mrs Knowles. Congratulations and many thanks to all who have donated to the Village Hall via our lottery game.

**Film Nights** - There might just be time to remind you that our January film, *Mr Holmes*, is showing on Thursday 28 January. As for all our film nights, the doors open at 7 pm and the film starts at 7.30 pm. Hot drinks and soft drinks are available, and please feel free to bring your own wine Entry £2 per adult, and £1 for students and children. Our February film, *45 Years*, is on Thursday 25 February and on Thursday 31 March we will be showing *Lady in the Van*. We look forward to seeing you.

**Easter Egg Trail** - Planned for Good Friday, 25 March. More details in next month's Sibford Scene.

**The Dog Show** - takes place on Saturday 4 June on the Village Hall field.

**Sibford Fayre** - takes place on Saturday 17 September.

Sibford Village Hall is offering **voluntary work opportunities** to teenagers which could be included in your personal statement when applying for university. The jobs include setting up the Hall for events and the regular job of taking wheelie bins in and out. Please contact Joan on T: 780410.

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Sunday 7.30 am to 4.00 pm

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## FRIENDSHIP CLUB

It is sad to start the New Year with the loss of a former member, but I must report the death of Mrs Phyllis Webb, a long-standing member and Chairman of the Club for many years. Our thoughts at this time are with her daughters Sue and Anne.

Our meeting on 2 February will be a demonstration from Oakhouse Foods who deliver food to your door. Our first trip of 2016 is on Monday 15 February to Evesham Country Park. Anyone wishing to join us on either occasion, it's 50p at the Village Hall and £10 for the Evesham trip. Please contact the Club Secretary for more info.

*Eveline Boughton*

## DID YOU KNOW?

100 years ago, in January and February 1916, severe snow storms and blizzards settled over Sibford from 24 January causing great disruption. Freezing conditions and further snowfalls throughout January and February meant that only about half of the 85 children on roll at the Primary School were able to get to school. School was closed on several occasions and registers were temporarily suspended. Numbers were further reduced due to serious outbreaks of whooping cough and measles. Attendance had just begun to pick up in March when further blizzards and deep snow returned and caused more school closures. The severe cold weather reduced coal stocks which meant that many village children suffered from bad colds and ill health.



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## LOCAL NEWS

**A VERY BIG THANK YOU** to all those who attended Great Rollright's Christmas Fair in December. The exhibitors donated a % of their sales and, with donation box takings, we managed to raise a fantastic £2,756 for the Brain Tumour Charity.

*News from Katharine House Hospice ...*

### **SILVER ANNIVERSARY FESTIVAL OF OPEN GARDENS**

Supporters are invited to open their gardens as part of Katharine House Hospice's Silver Anniversary campaign. Why not get together a group of gardens from your village and open on the same day? We will support your event, featuring each garden/group in our Silver Anniversary Festival of Open Gardens booklet, mailed with our spring/summer 2016 newsletter. Please contact Community Fundraiser Sarah Brennan on T: 01295 816484 or E: [sarah.brennan@khh.org.uk](mailto:sarah.brennan@khh.org.uk) to raise valuable funds for Hospice care. Closing date to register, Friday 19 February 2016.

### **SILVER ANNIVERSARY CARE FOR A CUPPA! 6 – 13 March 2016**

Take part in our special *Care for a Cuppa* fundraiser by holding a coffee morning or afternoon tea for Katharine House between Sunday 6 and Sunday 13 March 2016 (or anytime convenient). Invite friends and family for a cuppa, cake and chat and we will provide a *Care for a Cuppa* fundraising pack complete with posters, invitations, balloons, recipes and top tips to make your event a success. Ask for donations on the day for coffee and cake, or hold a raffle or sweepstake. Hold your *Care for a Cuppa* at home, work, school or at your local club or society. Call the fundraising team on T: 01295 816484 to order your fundraising pack.

### **KATHARINE HOUSE HOSPICE LOTTERY**

A vital income source for Katharine House, our lottery has raised over £1 million since May 2000. If you're stuck for a birthday present idea, we have a variety of Lottery Gift Membership options. For £1 per week you might get a phone call from Wendy our Lottery Administrator telling you that you've won £1,000 - Wendy loves making that call! Contact the Lottery Office on T: 01295 812161 or E: [lottery@khh.org.uk](mailto:lottery@khh.org.uk)



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# SIBFORD PLAYERS PRESENTS ...

## Deckchairs

by Jean McConnell & Company

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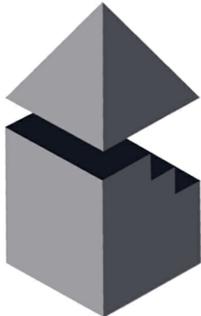


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# SHEEP WORRYING

We have just had another incident of dogs chasing our sheep. On this occasion one is seriously injured and its survival rate is 50:50. Another has serious puncture wounds but at present should pull through. About 25 were so terrified they flattened a section of fencing in a bid to escape. These sheep are all, or were, in lamb.

We had a lamb put down earlier in the year having been attacked, and another was killed 2 years ago. We also receive regular reports from other dog owners that they have seen dogs being walked through sheep not under proper control.

**People need to be reminded that it is their responsibility to control their dogs.**

*Alan Berks*

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## CHURCH SERVICES

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

### February services

Feb 7      10 am Benefice Eucharist at Shutford (JT)  
Feb 10     ASH WEDNESDAY - the start of Lent. 6.30 pm Holy  
Communion with the Imposition of Ashes for those who desire (RH)  
Feb 14     VALENTINE'S DAY - 11 am Wedding Celebration Service  
(DP)  
Feb 21     9.30 am Holy Communion (JT)  
Feb 28     9.30 am BCP Holy Communion (RH)

## CHURCH CHATTER

February 2016 - Thanks to all you Sibford carollers who turned out to sing around the villages just before Christmas. We sent £50 each to CRISIS, Children's Society, and UNICEF Syria appeal.

**Are you married?** Were you married in Sibford? There's a special service for YOU at 11 am on Valentine's Day, Sunday 14

February: wedding hymns, a short address, simple prayers, the chance to reaffirm your wedding vows, and a glass of fizz to celebrate.

Married here or elsewhere, you are ALL most warmly welcome to come to this short and cheerful service. Please do invite family and friends to whom this might also apply.



**Thanks to Caroline Long** who took this lovely photo (*above*) of children enjoying the Christingle service on 20 December.

# 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.

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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.

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Sibford Ferris & Sibford Gower to Stratford:

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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

## FEBRUARY 2016

- Sat 6 Sibford Player's *Deckchairs*, Village Hall, 7.30 pm  
Sun 7 Sibford Cricket Club AGM, Wykham Arms, 6 pm  
Tue 9 Mobile library, Sibford Gower Primary School, 2.30 pm  
Wed 10 24-hour paths closure at Green Acres, Sibford Gower  
Mon 15 Sibford & Primary School's half term week  
Thur 18 Sibfords Society Annual Social, Village Hall, 7 pm  
Sat 20 Sibford Ferris Spring Clean, Lane's End Corner, 10 am  
Tue 23 Mobile library, Sibford Gower Primary School, 2.30 pm  
Thur 25 Film Night: *45 Years*, Village Hall, from 7 pm

## FEBRUARY BIN COLLECTIONS

- Green Wednesday 10, 24  
Brown/blue Wednesday 3, 17

*A reminder that glass recycling facilities are available at the Wykham Arms (Gower) and The Elm crossroads (Ferris)*

## MARCH (PART)

- Sat 5 Sibford Gower & Burdrop Spring Clean, Village Hall, 10 am  
Tue 8 Mobile library, Sibford Gower Primary School, 2.30 pm  
Wed 9 Sibford Horti Society meeting, Village Hall, 7.30 pm  
Mon 14 Sibford Ferris Parish Council meeting, Sibford School, 7.45 pm  
Tue 22 Mobile library, Sibford Gower Primary School, 2.30 pm  
Thu 31 Film Night: *Lady in the Van*, Village Hall, from 7 pm

## SIBFORD SCENE

### DEADLINE FOR MARCH ISSUE - 18 FEBRUARY 2016

Editor: Caroline Seely, Home Farm, Sibford Gower, OX15 5RS  
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## WELCOME TO SIBFORD

If you are new to the Sibfords and would like a *Welcome to Sibford* booklet, please call Ivor Hopkyns on T: 788367 (Gower and Burdrop) or Nic Durrant on T: 788865 (Ferris) for information about the village's services, schools, clubs and societies.

Front cover pic: *The Northern Lights* © William Gray