

# SIBFORD SCENE



MARCH 2016

No. 380

SIBFORD GOWER & BURDROP SPRING CLEAN  
Saturday 5 March, Village Hall, 10 am

SIBFORD HORTI SOCIETY MEETING  
Wednesday 9 March, Village Hall, 7.30 pm

CARE FOR A CUPPA COFFEE MORNING  
Saturday 12 March, The Leys, Sibford Gower 10 am to 12 noon

SIBFORD FERRIS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING  
Monday 14 March, Sibford School, 7.45 pm

EASTER EGG TRAIL  
Good Friday 25 March, start at Village Hall, 2 pm - 4 pm

CLOCKS FORWARD 1 HOUR TO BST  
Sunday 27 March, 1 am

FILM NIGHT: *LADY IN THE VAN*  
Thursday 31 March February, Village Hall, from 7 pm

# LETTERS & NOTICES

**Gower & Burdrop Spring Clean** - A reminder that volunteers are needed for Sibford Gower and Burdrop's annual Spring Clean, taking place on Saturday 5 March, meeting at the Village Hall at 10 am. We only have a very few litter pickers and hi-vis jackets, so please bring your own if you have them. If you can't come but have an area you would like to clear, please contact Peter Hardman (T: 780391).

**A polite request from Sibford Gower Endowed Primary School** - Last summer we lost our school 'lollipop lady' and OCC has made the decision not to continue with a school crossing patrol outside our school. It can get very busy with traffic outside school at drop-off and pick-up times and 'line of sight' is easily obstructed by buses and parked cars. For the safety of our children, I politely ask local residents and parents not to park on or opposite the zig-zag lines outside school. Thank you for your support in this matter.  
*Jane O'Sullivan, Headteacher*

**The Small House** - Works at the Small House, Sibford Ferris are being carried out from the land to minimise inconvenience to residents. The initial access point bears no resemblance to the final entrance, but we have to create an opening for HGV access that doesn't cause traffic congestion on Main Street. The final entrance will resemble the designs on Cherwell DC planning website. With apologies for any inconvenience caused.

*Diana Thompson*

**Roadkill** - If you spot any large roadkill in the Sibfords which might create a traffic hazard - for example, badger, fox or deer - Cherwell District Council Waste & Recycling department will remove and dispose of the animal. Please call T: (01295) 227003, giving clear location details including postcode and street name.

**Broadband in Ferris and Burdrop** - Of particular interest to Burdrop and Sibford Ferris residents, the Swalcliffe exchange has been upgraded to provide slightly faster broadband. Depending on how far you are from your street cabinet, you can expect to approximately double your current broadband speed. You may need to contact your ISP for the faster service, but it should be provided at no additional cost. See [thesibfords.org.uk/sfbb](http://thesibfords.org.uk/sfbb) for more information.

**Jan and Clive Warner invite you to their *Care for a Cuppa Coffee Morning*** in aid of Katharine House Hospice on Saturday 12 March at The Leys, Backside Lane, Sibford Gower from 10 am to 12 noon. Raffle, bring & buy, cakes. Free admission.

**Textiles Recycling Bank** - Unwanted clothing and shoes can now be taken to the bank located in the car park by Sibford School Swimming Pool.

**Found** - A (possibly) gold bracelet on the path between Woodway and Colony Roads. Please call T: 780462.

## FIVE MINUTES WITH ...

### THIS MONTH: **Bill Crabtree**

*Bill Crabtree came to the Sibfords in 1938 and has lived here ever since. He married Barbara over 50 years ago in 1964. Many of us will remember that the couple lost their beloved Lancashire Heeler bitch, Minty, six years ago and when a lengthy campaign to find her yielded no results, they concluded that she was lost or stolen and took on Dizzy to replace her. Three years later Minty was found in Northampton and returned to them, thanks to her microchip. Longevity runs in the family it seems; Minty is now 16 years old.*

#### **How did you come to live in the Sibfords?**

I came to live in the parish of Sibford Ferris in 1938 aged 14, when my parents bought Woodway Farm.

#### **What's your earliest memory?**

My earliest farming memory is of a pair of steam-powered tractor engines pulling a plough on a cable across the field – this was on our previous farm before coming to Sibford.

#### **How did you and Barbara meet?**

We met at Sibford Village Hall where we both played badminton and enjoyed country dancing. At the time she was a teacher at the Primary School. We were married in 1964.

#### **What did you do before you retired?**

I worked on the farm before I retired. We started by milking a dozen Jersey cows by hand! These were increased to a herd of 60 over the years and progressed to machine milking. I was also involved with all the other jobs necessary in running a small family dairy farm.

*continues over/...*



*Bill winning First in Class & Breed Champion at Moreton Show 2015 with a three year old Hebridean ewe.*

## FIVE MINUTES WITH ... (CONTINUED)

### ***How do you pass your time these days?***

Since retiring I have bred a small flock of Hebridean sheep and have had some success at local shows. I am also very keen to preserve old varieties of local apple trees and have grafted fifty different varieties which I have collected locally. I am also a beekeeper and have kept bees most of my life and currently have four hives. I am also keen on gardening and grow my own vegetables. I have two geese – the gander is twenty-four years old and the goose fifteen - and of course I have two Lancashire Heeler dogs aged sixteen and twelve.

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

I am surprised to have reached the age of 91 and am thankful that I am healthy enough to continue to enjoy all my hobbies.

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

My best-ever achievement was when I won the competition for the Best Jersey Herd in Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire in 1987.

### ***Finally, what's the best thing for you about living in the Sibfords - and is there anything you would change?***

The best thing about living in Sibford is the rural countryside and our unspoilt village. I should not like to see any major changes.

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## SIBFORD FOLK

*Nic Durrant's four year old German Shorthaired Pointer, Delphi, works for Pets as Therapy, a national charity founded in 1983 to enhance health and wellbeing in the community through the visits of trusted volunteers and their behaviourally-assessed animals. The charity provides a visiting service in hospitals, hospices, nursing and care homes, special needs schools and a variety of other venues all across the UK. Here, Nic tells us more about volunteering as a PAT dog ...*

I had been looking for a charity that I could do some voluntary work for and heard about *Pets as Therapy* through my dog club. It was a perfect match as it meant that I could do something useful in the community, but that all the focus was on my dog rather than me. Delphi had to undergo a fairly strict test with an examiner from the charity where she was checked for temperament, patience, reaction to unknown people touching her, pushchairs, wheelchairs, sudden loud noises and so on before we were accepted.



Delphi and I visit the Henry Cornish Care Home in Chipping Norton once a week and have been going there since August 2014. The home mainly looks after elderly people with early stages of dementia, including Alzheimer's, and has a small team of very dedicated staff. There is a group of residents who absolutely love Delphi and we make a point of visiting them first so that they can have a cuddle with her or just sit and pat. I also help to run an art group for the residents at the care home and we do this about once every two months with Delphi also in attendance.

During one such art class at the end of last year I unintentionally covered the residents and Delphi in glitter. I was helping a group of residents to make Christmas decorations and made the mistake of pouring liquid glue into a bowl which they put their fingers into and then immediately tried to pick up glitter. They were supposed

*continues over/ ...*

## SIBFORD FOLK (CONTINUED)

to use brushes but they either forgot or didn't realise. As you can imagine the glitter went everywhere, including all over Delphi, and she looked like a disco queen for days afterwards.

There is an old chap living at the home who used to shoot with his two labradors. One of his great pleasures now is to have Delphi sitting beside his wheelchair whilst he lobs treats down the corridor for her to retrieve on his command. Another lovely relationship that has formed is with a lady who is 91 and has been terrified of dogs all her life. Gradually over the time we have been visiting she has learnt that Delphi has a very gentle nature and now cuddles her and looks forward to seeing 'her' dog.

One of Delphi's favourite people is an elderly ex-police dog handler who always had dogs in his life until he moved into the care home two years ago. He's very interested in all aspects of Delphi's life and we sit and chat about dog training while she sits patiently waiting for the special treats that she knows will eventually appear!

*Nic Durrant*

*Pets as Therapy urgently seeks volunteers. To find out more about volunteering with your pet, please call T: 01494 569130, email [reception@petsastherapy.org](mailto:reception@petsastherapy.org) or visit the website: [petsastherapy.org](http://petsastherapy.org)*

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*Excellent references*

# SIBFORD GOWER PARISH COUNCIL

## **Meeting, 15 January 2016 - Matters arising – Bishop Blaize -**

The Chairman reported that the Bishop Blaize was for sale as a pub but unlikely to be bought at the present asking price. The Parish Council has applied to declare it an Asset of Community Value (ACV) and a decision from Cherwell District Council is awaited. **Broadband**

– The Chairman brought the Meeting up to date with the current Broadband situation. **Chairman’s Report** – In the light of OCC’s expected decision to remove bus route subsidies, it is likely that we shall lose the 50A bus service. A Sibford Ferris Parish Cllr is shortly to attend a meeting arranged by the County Council on this subject. Sibford School has been awarded a grant to investigate energy saving measures. The Meeting wished to be associated with this initiative.

**Financial Matters** – It was agreed to request a Precept of £6,400 (same as current year) for the next financial year. Grants to the Village Hall, Sibford Scene and the Primary School were agreed. Full compliance will be given to the Transparency Code. **Review of**

**Councillors’ interests** – Interests remain unchanged. The 2016 Gower Spring Clean takes place on Saturday 5 March 2016. **Village**

**Hall** – David Allen attended the Meeting. He is involved in the application for grants for planned enhancements to the Village Hall and will keep the Parish Council informed. **Miriam Tebbs’ Land** – The

Chairman has been successful in obtaining a grant towards clearing the area and planting an orchard. **Highways** – Julian Ransom, a Primary School Governor, spoke regarding parking problems around the school. This situation will be discussed again at the next Governors’ Meeting in an attempt to provide a satisfactory solution.

**Village Pond** – A working party of four residents cleared the pond of weed and overgrown plants on Sunday 10 January. **First Response**

– Cllr Soden brought the Meeting up to date with the current position.

**Queen’s 90th Birthday** – See page 19. **Public Participation** – A

swinging gate in Burdrop and poor drainage in two places were raised and action is to be taken. A request for parking space to be made available in front of The Old Rectory was again raised and it was again explained that the Parish Council has no authority in the matter. Parked cars on the road bend in Burdrop causing hazards to passing motorists was raised. A resident asked for the cutting back of overhanging branches in Hawkes Lane. All these matters will have the Parish Council’s attention. The meeting closed at 9.30 pm.

**Next Meeting** - The next meeting is the ANNUAL PARISH MEETING on Monday 11 April 2016 at 7.30 pm in Sibford Village Hall.

## NATURE NOTES

**15 January** - A red kite that was circling over Sibford Ferris came into view through the window several times as I was eating my midday meal.

**16 February** - Cold. 23F (-5C) on my thermometer this morning, which is the same as yesterday. By 8.15 am two long-tailed tits were looking in from the kitchen window ledge for the second time, so I put out a piece of bird bun that my wife makes for them, as well as some warm water to melt the ice on the bird bath and food for the other birds. The blackbirds soon eat the apples that I throw out for them.

**17 February** - Not so cold this morning with a bit more birdsong. A chaffinch has now joined the chorus and a song thrush that we have not heard for a few days is singing again. I have heard a mistle thrush a few times, but there are not many around and we did not have one defending our holly berries this year.

## DID YOU KNOW ...

**Bond's End Lane** - Until the late 1950s, several cottages along Bond's End Lane were small shops selling bread, sweets, groceries and seeds. At the end of the Lane, where Bramley Close is now, the Stowe family ran a market garden business, growing fruit and vegetables for sale. Some other cottages in the Lane housed looms used by outworkers to weave Shutford Plush for a company based in Shutford. Shutford Plush was a soft crushed velvet cloth used in the making of robes for Coronation ceremonies. It was also used for furnishings in the Houses of Parliament and for royal servant liveries around the world. The lower cottage, these days incorporated in Long Cottage (now Lavender Cottage), contained a loom which was used by Joe Alcock, the last of the local weavers to weave Shutford Plush.

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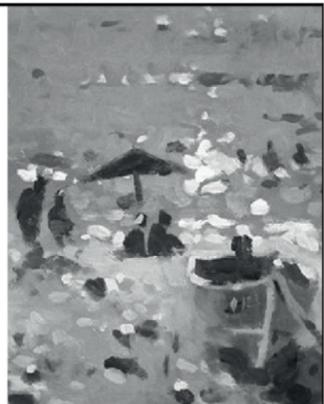
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## SIBFORD HORTI SOCIETY

A reminder that our first meeting of the year takes place on Wednesday 9 March at 7.30 pm in the (small) Village Hall when we will welcome Roger Pringle to talk about Shakespeare's Gardens. All very welcome.

### THIS MONTH IN YOUR GARDEN - MARCH

1. This is the best month for planting new roses. There are plenty coming into the garden nurseries now.
2. Cut back and repot geraniums that have over wintered in the greenhouse.
3. Towards the end of the month, you can sow hardy annuals, and make a picking border, with marigolds, poppies, nigella and larkspur etc.
4. As hardy perennials start to show new growth, it is a good time to divide them i.e. hostas, astrantias, catmint.
5. Aubergines, tomatoes, cucumber and peppers can all be sown now if you have a heated propagator.
6. Time to plant out onion sets 4 inches apart.
7. Prune gooseberries and redcurrants.
8. I have left it until now to prune back the long straggly growth on my climbing roses. It was too windy to perch on a ladder up on top of the pergola - my excuse anyway.



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# GREAT TASTE

*The Sibford Scene is delighted to discover a food writer in our midst. With a new book published next month, The Telegraph's Speedy Weeknight Suppers columnist and cookery writer, Katriona MacGregor, talks about her passion for food and the Sibfords.*



**When did you start cooking and why?** As soon as I could hold a spoon I was involved in what was going on in the kitchen. It sparked an interest very early on. I have foodie parents, so there was always something delicious being created or talked about and I was drawn to the social element of making meals for friends and family. I started cooking in earnest when I was about 17, to earn some money after I'd finished school, and quickly found myself cooking privately in shooting lodges and holiday homes all over north Scotland – a melting pot of wonderful seafood, game and bold flavours. The ingredients themselves are what really draw me to cooking; where they come from, how beautiful they can be and how we can really celebrate them.

**Your new book focuses on healthy eating. Is that personal interest or a reflection of current trends?** Eating healthily became important to me after I left University and felt increasingly tired and unwell. I realised how important what you put into your body is to the way you feel, obvious as it seems now. Eventually I discovered I had autoimmune thyroid disease which can be helped hugely through eating well. As much as healthy eating is the trend of the moment, with us all being encouraged to buy a huge array of superfoods to cure all sorts of ills, I believe that eating healthily is much simpler than that: keep your diet as varied as possible, include masses of vegetables and if you can, eat organically.

**Tell us about your favourite cuisine and recipes.** I absolutely love Mediterranean cuisine, particularly seafood: grilled fish with caponata in Sicily, a plateful of steaming mussels eaten by the sea, stuffed squid poached in red wine. Or perhaps a perfectly ripe avocado drizzled with extra virgin olive oil and sprinkled with sea salt – heaven. And although I try not to eat it too often, Stornoway black pudding or meltingly soft Spanish morcilla is a firm favourite and such a good addition to lots of dishes. Choosing a favourite recipe would be really hard; I do adore everything in the Ottolenghi cookery books and Anna Jones' *A Modern Way to Eat*. Such brilliant flavours and ideas in both.

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# GREAT TASTE

**What 4 ingredients would you take to your desert island?** Purple sprouting broccoli, courgettes, nigella seeds and scallops (although I might be able to dive for those, in which case I'd choose garlic!)

**Food spotting: what's next? What should we all be eating and why?**

We should all be eating organic! Less meat, more vegetables and plenty of ingredients from local, independent suppliers. Shopping should be a weekend pleasure, chatting to the people behind the ingredients about how their produce is grown and reared. I'm hoping that a big realisation is going on among the farming community as we try and work out how to feed the world's population - that mass production isn't sustainable and local, small batch production is the way forward.

**And, of course, what brings you to the Sibfords ...** A boy! I moved out of London two years ago to move in with my then fiancé, now husband, and couldn't be happier with where we've chosen to live. There's a wonderful community spirit and we've been made to feel incredibly welcome.

**Katriona MacGregor's Healthy, Speedy Suppers is published by Nourish on 21 April 2016.**

## ***Katriona's Baked Eggs with Salmon & Spinach*** (serves 2)

*Gently baked with classic ingredients, these eggs are a filling and nutritious mid-week treat. You need two small, shallow dishes, about the width of a fried egg. Failing that a couple of ramekins will work too.*

### *Ingredients*

<i>200g fresh spinach</i>	<i>100g smoked salmon</i>
<i>2 large free range eggs</i>	<i>2-3 tbsp double cream</i>
<i>Squeeze lemon juice</i>	<i>Parmesan shavings</i>

*Method - Preheat oven to 180C. Lightly butter the baking dishes or ramekins. Wilt the spinach in the microwave or according to packet instructions, or in a shallow pan with lid and a drop of water. Empty into a colander or sieve and squeeze out as much liquid as you can. Roughly chop. Slice the smoked salmon into thin strips and combine with the spinach in a bowl. Season with salt, pepper, a little olive oil and the lemon juice. Mix well. Press the mixture lightly into the bottom of the baking dishes and make a slight well in the centre for the egg. Crack the egg into the dish so that the yolk sits in the middle. Spoon the double cream onto the egg, followed by some black pepper and parmesan shavings. Place on a baking tray in the middle of the oven for 15-18 minutes until the yolk is just beginning to set and the parmesan is golden. Serve with toast.*

*Variations - Try adding chopped dill to the spinach and salmon mixture. If you don't have small dishes, bake in a larger oven-proof dish. The quantities may be doubled to serve four and cooked as one.*

# SIBFORD FOLK

## **New Year, new you? Colour and image stylist Annie Broe explains the theory of colour analysis.**

*Annie Broe moved to Sibford with her parents, Heinz and Norah Barth, in 1972 and attended Sibford School. She left home at 22 but returned in 2001 to look after Heinz, who sadly died in 2004. Annie has a grown up son, Thomas, and she and partner Paul have settled happily into Sibford village life.*

I have always felt I had a flair for colour and styling and was the friend everyone took shopping when they needed to buy that special outfit.

I decided to make a career change about 8 years ago; a now or never decision! I started by studying at the London College of Fashion on an image and styling course and had to do this at weekends as I was working in the week, but I enjoyed the course so much I looked forward to going to London at weekends and knew I had made the right decision. I passed the course with flying colours! This gave me the incentive to continue: I wanted to learn more skills to add to my portfolio and decided to study colour analysis and make up, and have since continued with an advanced colour analysis course.



Colour analysis is the analysis of your skin tone, hair and eye colours to determine the group of colours which best suit you. In the right colours you have a 'glow', making you look younger and healthier. Conversely, in the 'wrong' colours you can look tired, drained and older.

Everyone can wear most colours, but what makes the difference is the undertone, depth and intensity of that colour. Every colour you can imagine is produced by mixing one or more of the 3 basic primary colours which are red, yellow and blue. A study by noted artist and colourist, Johannes Itten, discovered that most of his art students were attracted to their proper colours, as we all are 50%

*continues/ ...*

## SIBFORD FOLK (CONTINUED)

of the time. In theory, if we were left alone and uninfluenced by the fashion industry, shops, magazines, family and friends, we would be in our correct colours 100% of the time!

Giving a colour analysis is enjoyable for both me and my clients, as they get to see what colours make their hair, skin tone and eyes work in harmony to give them that 'glow'. We discuss make up and what colours will go together and how to build outfits. I give each client a colour swatch with all the colours they can wear - and colour analysis is not just for women; men can benefit as well.

As well as colour analysis I offer a style and wardrobe weed. Most of us have a full wardrobe of clothes but wear less than half of them. I take a fresh look at your wardrobe through experienced eyes and together we discover what works for you, helping you to learn to put outfits together and dress in a way which flatters your body shape.

I also run style workshops for groups of 2 to 8 people. They are fun and help you to learn how to look your best every day, make the most of your natural attributes, and harmonise you and your lifestyle with your clothes. We work in pairs to identify each other's body shapes and learn how to emphasise the good bits and hide the not-so-good using a few simple tricks.

*You can contact Annie on T: 01295 780637 or 07930 398151 or E: [annie4colourandstyle@gmail.com](mailto:annie4colourandstyle@gmail.com)*

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**STUDENTS ATTEND USA CONFERENCE** - A group of Sixth Form students from Sibford School spent the beginning of February in the United States after being invited to take part in the 19th annual Quaker Youth Leadership Conference. Held in Rhode Island, the conference provided the opportunity to meet with pupils from Quaker schools in the USA and explore issues of equality, diversity and gender. Making the most of their visit, the Sibford students managed to fit in some stateside sightseeing, including a visit to the Top of the Rock Observation Deck and Ground Zero. They also took in the Broadway production of *Les Miserables*.

*Right: Sibford Students are pictured outside Lincoln School in Rhode Island.*



**SUCCESS IN LAMDA EXAMS** - Sibford School students have recorded a 100% success rate in their LAMDA (London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art) examinations. Of the 21 students entered, 13 were awarded a Distinction, seven achieved Merits and one received a Pass. Special mention goes to 6th Form student, Matt Rainsberry who achieved 91% in his Grade 6 Solo Acting, an outstanding mark which also awards him 40 UCAS points.

**OPEN EVENTS** - Sibford School will be holding an 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 9 March, the school will be hosting an Open Afternoon, focusing on Sibford's provision for pupils aged 3 to 7. For further information, call admissions officer, Elspeth Dyer, on T: 01295 781203.

**ARTS CLASSES** at Sibford School's adult arts hub: Painting & Drawing Classes (including some life drawing) on Mondays 7 pm – 9 pm. Textile Classes, Thursdays 7 pm – 9 pm. For further details, please contact Ali Bromhall E: [abromhall@sibfordschool.co.uk](mailto:abromhall@sibfordschool.co.uk) or visit the school's website: [www.sibfordschool.co.uk/community/classes-clubs/](http://www.sibfordschool.co.uk/community/classes-clubs/)

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There has been a strong focus on history at Sibford Gower Endowed Primary School this term, with the children from Willow, Maple and Oak classes tapping into the rich history of the local area to inspire and enhance their learning. The children of Oak Class have written to members of the local community to find out all sorts of things and the response has been wonderful. Amongst other things, the Donovan family have welcomed the children into The Manor House for a tour, ex-governor Maureen Hicks has shared information and photographs from the local historical society, and school governor Fred Inns has kindly offered to visit and talk with the children about his experience as a pupil at the school. The children will be writing to personally thank all those who have supported with this project. It has greatly enriched their understanding of their local heritage, and enabled us to further develop those local links which are so important to us, as your local village school.



*Above and right: out and about investigating local history.*

We must also thank the local Town Estate Charity for their recent contributions to the school's upkeep. Thanks to them, we are now able to replace our old school playground fence and Oak Class have returned to a newly re-carpeted classroom. These things were rightly identified as 'Grot Spots' by our pupil School Council and it is great to be able to show them that their voice counts and their views make a difference.

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# SIBFORDS WALKING GROUP

## Forthcoming Walks

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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# DECKCHAIRS

Those of you who couldn't get a ticket for Sibford Players' sold-out inaugural production missed a treat (*see front cover pic*). *Deckchairs* was a witty pastiche: part-improvisation, part-adaptation of a few of Jean McConnell's radio plays, imaginatively produced and directed by Juliette Glazebrook and Kat Davison who, in true 'show must go on' style, were unfazed on the night by illness and a house move respectively.

A triumph in witty, acutely-observed conversation, the Sibford Players - many of them performing for the first time - rose admirably to the challenge. Special mention must go to 13 year old Paige Godman, who wrote and starred in her own very funny soliloquy of teenage angst; Nicky Cullen for her spookily vaudeville Mrs Barker from *Sweeney Todd*; Maggie Hall for her hilarious innunedo; and Chris Cullen and Dave Rowley (*did you shave your legs?*) for their camp and hysterical - in both senses of the word - portrayal of competitive dog owners. My sources tell me that the Directors were careful observers prior to casting, so I'm not sure what that says about Caroline Harley and Rachael Herd as the simply splendid shopaholic shoplifters! While space doesn't permit a name check for everyone, it seems the Sibfords has been harbouring some hitherto hidden talent: you know who you are!

*Deckchairs* was received as it was acted: with evident relish and huge enjoyment. A massive thank you and congratulations to all who played a part, whatever your role. The villages welcome the development of new, fun group activities and after this performance I feel certain that more actors will come forward to swell the ranks of the Sibford Players. So, Juliette and Kat, what's next?

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Spring is a time when people visit family and friends; a time when unwanted visitors mingle without questions being asked. It's also the time when we start our serious gardening, so make sure all tools are put away after use. Keep sheds and garages locked, and look after your neighbours, making sure post is not left in letterboxes or parcels on doorsteps. Always lock your car and never leave valuables and/or tools in a vehicle.

Remember, don't buy or sell at the door; callers may be checking out your property and police find burglaries often follow such calls. Don't allow anyone you don't know into your property; always independently check their identity. Remember too that the internet and 'phone are used by criminals: a number of recent scams have been reported on the radio. Never give out personal or bank details - the police and banks will never ask you for these details.

We would like to wish you all a very Happy Easter. *Mollie Mulley*

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9 February Meeting - Glennis Hardman, President, welcomed members and three guests. Forthcoming events were discussed and a photograph of Barbara Gray on the cover of *OFWI News & Views* was admired. Barbara was awarded an MBE in the 2016 New Year's Honours list for her services to the WI in Oxfordshire.

This month's speaker, Annie Broe, talked on Colour Analysis, and we learned that wearing the right colours makes us more radiant, feel more attractive and improves confidence. Jan Warner volunteered as a model for a practical demonstration. Devoid of make up, different colour swatches of material were placed against Jan's face. It was soon obvious that Jan needs warm colours, and that rich blues and pinks suit her particularly well, brightening her complexion. When cool colours were used her face became pale and shadowy. We were also shown different ways of scarf tying. Jan thanked Annie for a very informative afternoon. Annie judged the competition for 'A Colourful Scarf' and chose: 1st Jan Warner, 2nd Eleanor Joynes and 3rd Rosemary Neal. Val Powell assisted by Valerie Taylor served tea and delicious home baked sponge cakes.

There will be no Meeting in March because our arranged speaker is unable to attend. Our next Meeting will be the AGM on Tuesday 12 April.

*Glennis Hardman*



You may know that a Grand Street Party is planned to take place in the Mall in London on Sunday 12 June to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday. This is by special invitation only - at a cost of £150!

Sibford villagers have celebrated royal occasions and anniversaries since 1887, so this year should be no exception to our long tradition. We are planning to hold a family fun afternoon based around the Village Hall and field on Sunday 12 June culminating in a Street Tea Party in Acre Ditch. So, save the date - Saturday 12 June - in your diary now; think about your red, white and blue clothes and your 'Royal Invitation' will arrive in due course!

*Maureen Hicks*



# SIBFORDS SOCIETY

## 2016 PROGRAMME

Thursday 17 March	AGM and talk by Mike Harper-Tarr, <i>Bus tickets over the years</i>
Thursday 21 April	<i>Ox &amp; Bucks on the Somme</i> , Stephen Barker
Thursday 19 May	Chris Mason with the second part of his <i>Swift Stories</i>
Thursday 23 June	Oxford walk with Mark Davies (daytime)
Thursday 21 July	Evening visit to Hook Norton Brewery
Thursday 15 Sept	<i>Robert Dudley, Queen Elizabeth and the Kenilworth Entertainment</i> , Dr Gillian White
Thursday 20 Oct	<i>The Knights Templar, from Origins to Oxfordshire</i> , Dr Simon John, Balliol College
Thursday 17 Nov	<i>The Water Gypsy: How a Thames fisher girl became a Viscountess</i> . Talk and book signing by Julie Ann Godson

All meetings take place in the Village Hall. Talks begin at 8 pm, doors open at 7.45 pm.

The **Sibfords Society** began in 1993 and meetings are held nine times a year. They include external visits during the summer and talks on topics of historical interest held in the Village Hall. We concentrate mainly on the local area but are happy to invite speakers from further afield occasionally. We have an archive room where we preserve evidence for future generations.

For further information about the Sibfords Society, please contact Diana Hughes (T: 780506) or Bryan Mills (T: 780248).

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# VILLAGE HALL NEWS

**Film Night** - On 31 March, watch Alan Bennett's *The Lady in the Van*, starring Dame Maggie Smith as Miss Shepherd and Alex Jennings as Alan Bennett. Rating 12A. Bring your own wine, and hot and cold drinks are available. Doors open at 7 pm. Film starts 7.30 pm. We look forward to seeing you.

**Easter Egg Trail** - Join us for Easter fun on Good Friday 25 March from 2 pm to 4 pm. Two trails: one for smaller children and a longer and more challenging one for older children. Entry £2.50 per child, every entrant gets an egg. Hot and cold drinks and cakes available to refresh you on your return to the Village Hall.

**Dog Show** - Saturday 4 June at the Village Hall. Classes to suit all shapes and sizes of dogs. The full schedule will be available on the Sibfords' website and in the Sibford Scene from early April.

**Sibford Fayre** takes place on Saturday 17 September. If you would like to help or have a great idea for the Fayre that you are bursting to share with us, please contact Ginny on T: 780373.

Sibford Village Hall offers voluntary work opportunities to teenagers which could be included in your university personal statement. 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. **To book the Village Hall** contact Ginny above or via the Sibfords' website.



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# FRIENDSHIP CLUB

As I write this we have just returned from a lovely trip to Evesham Country Park and thank friends of the Club for joining us.

1 March meeting - We will welcome Maureen and Keith Hicks, who will tell of Sibford's connections with WW1. Anyone wishing to join us is most welcome; come to the Small Hall at 2 pm - it will only cost you 50p! Our next trip is on 15 March; more about that at our March meeting. Meanwhile, Club members are reminded that the Club will be looking for a new Secretary at the AGM in May.

*Eveline Boughton*

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# WELCOME TO SIBFORD

This month we welcome Kat Davison and Barry Edwards who have moved with their two sons into Barley Close, Sibford Gower. Actress Kat (see *Deckchairs, page 17*), is also a freelance teacher trainer, and Barry teaches English at the Warriner School. Their two boys, aged 10 and 13, attend the village primary school and Sibford School respectively. They already love living in the Sibfords and are thrilled with the warm welcome, cards and flowers they have received from their new neighbours.

*If you are new to the Sibfords and would like a Welcome to Sibford booklet, please call Ivor Hopkyns T: 788367 (Gower and Burdrop) or Nic Durrant T: 788865 (Ferris) for information about the villages' services, schools, clubs and societies. The Sibfords has a comprehensive website too at [thesibfords.org.uk](http://thesibfords.org.uk) for the complete village diary and information on all things Sibfordian.*

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**SIBFORD SCENE, APRIL**  
April issue deadline 18 March.

Got something to share? Plan ahead and don't wait until the deadline; space is limited and we're always full!

### *Petina's Waxing*

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## LOCAL NEWS

**North Oxfordshire Artweeks is coming to the Sibfords** this year with some 14 exhibitors, a café and picnic area at Temple Mill, Sibford Gower from 21 - 30 May. More soon.

There's still time to take part in the **Katharine House Hospice CARE FOR A CUPPA campaign** between Sunday 6 and Sunday 13 March 2016, or support the cause by attending Jan and Clive Warner's coffee morning on Saturday 12 March in the Sibfords (see page 2). Call the KHH fundraising team on T: 01295 816484 to order your own fundraising pack.

**Katharine House Hospice Stall Sale** - Pat and Dot are having their annual Katharine House Hospice stall sale at The Institute in Adderbury on Saturday 19 March from 11 am to 2 pm. Browse for a bargain at this wonderful annual event; bric-a-brac, donated items, books, cakes and toys.

**Swalcliffe Village Hall** hosted a very successful 4th Annual Charity Burns Night on 23 January, raising over £1500 for two Swalcliffe village charities and Shipston Home Nursing. Village band *16 Strings and a Dead Goat* provided the music, while 100 guests enjoyed a traditional Burns supper. Thanks to sponsors and all who helped out, attended and supported the event.

**A year of victory at Upton House and Gardens** - In this final year of its WW2 exhibition, Upton House tells the story of the end of war and victory celebrations with new displays and events this summer. Get involved by helping to knit for the 'make do and mend' project announced this month. Upton House events coming soon: Mother's Day Beauty Studio on 6 March, and 1940s Cinema - Dumbo will be playing from 21 March - 3 April. See the website: [www.nationaltrust.org.uk/upton-house](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/upton-house)



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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

## HOLY TRINITY CHURCH CHATTER

**Mothering Sunday** falls on **Sunday 6 March** and you are ALL most warmly welcome to the Family Service at 10 am, which will be led by Rev Liz, with cheerful hymns and flowers for, or in memory of, all mothers.

On **Monday 14 March** there will be a **Lent Lunch** of soup and bread, cheese and fruit, maybe a coffee or a tea too at the Rectory from 12 noon until about 1.30 pm. DO come, have lunch, leave a donation for charity ... and then make way for someone else!

Please join in the **Palm Sunday (20 March)** Procession this year. We meet in the Square in Epwell at 9.45 am, walk round the village with Palm Crosses - Percy the Donkey leads the way - and read aloud the story of Holy Week in church with everyone taking part. It is always a memorable and moving service.

**Maundy Thursday on 24 March** is the day we remember Jesus telling us to love one another, and also the day on which he gave us Holy Communion as he shared bread and wine with his friends. We'll remember this in church at 7.00 pm. You're all invited.

**Good Friday - 25 March** from 10 am for a couple of hours, we'll hold our Good Friday Messy Church Workshop for all children with an adult minder. There will be all sorts of crafts as we make things about Holy Week and Easter, and there's always a LOT of chocolate. ALL children from 0 to about 11 are very welcome.

**Easter Sunday - 27 March** is when the clocks GO FORWARD and there's a Family Holy Communion service at 9.30 am (8.30 am in old money). Last year the church was full and we had great fun crowding round the Paschal Candle, and shouting *Alleluia!* Do come; I believe the Easter Bunny hides lots more Easter eggs in church, so if you're not sick to death of chocolate ...

**Church Clock** - What's going on? Well, we have got formal permission from the Diocese of Oxford to do the work; we had to apply for a Faculty - the church equivalent of Planning Permission - and that took ages as the diocese was overwhelmed with similar applications. Renowned clock repairers, Smith's of Derby, have been to take various measurements and before long they will return to do the work. Once completed, we would love all those who have given so generously, and all who are interested, to come to church for a celebration cuppa or glass of, to see the newly refurbished clock face and hands, and go up into the church gallery to inspect the cleaned works and admire the winding mechanism.

# SIBFORD BUS SERVICES

## Banbury & District Dial-A-Ride

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*(No services on Sundays or public holidays)*

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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>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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# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## MARCH 2016

- 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
- Sat 12 *Care for a Cuppa* Coffee Morning, The Leys, Backside Lane, Sibford Gower 10 am - 12 noon
- Mon 14 Sibford Ferris Parish Council meeting, Sibford School, 7.45 pm
- Thur 17 Sibfords Society AGM, Village Hall, 8.00 pm
- Tue 22 Mobile library, Sibford Gower Primary School, 2.30 pm
- Fri 25 Easter Egg Trail, Village Hall, 2 pm - 4 pm
- Sun 27 BST begins - clocks forward 1 hour at 1.00 am
- Thu 31 Film Night: *Lady in the Van*, Village Hall, from 7 pm

## MARCH BIN COLLECTIONS

- Green Wednesday 9 & 23 March
- Brown/blue Wednesday 2, 16, 30 March

**Textiles Recycling Bank** - Unwanted clothing and shoes can be recycled at the bank at Sibford School Swimming Pool.

## APRIL (PART)

- Mon 11 Sibford Gower Annual Parish Meeting, Village Hall, 7.30 pm

## SIBFORD SCENE

### DEADLINE FOR APRIL ISSUE - 18 MARCH 2016

Editor: Caroline Seely, Home Farm, Sibford Gower, OX15 5RS  
E: [sibford.scene@btinternet.com](mailto:sibford.scene@btinternet.com)

Ad Manager & Treasurer: Ivor Hopkyns, Elmridge Farmhouse,  
Sibford Gower, OX15 5RT  
T: 01295 788367  
E: [sallyandivorhopkyns@hotmail.com](mailto:sallyandivorhopkyns@hotmail.com)

*Front cover pic: Chris Cullen and Dave Rowley in Sibford Players' recent production of Deckchairs. Photo by Amanda Ransom.*