

SIBFORD SCENE



AUGUST 2016

No. 384

COFFEE MORNING IN AID OF THE CHURCH

Saturday 13 August, Wyatt's Close, Sibford Gower, 10 am

VILLAGE FLOWER SHOW

Saturday 27 August, Village Hall, 2.30 - 4 pm
(entry night Wednesday 24 August, Village Hall, 7 pm)

RECTORY GARDEN PARTY

Afternoon tea at the Rectory, Sunday 28 August, 3 pm

SUPPORT KATHARINE HOUSE HOSPICE FESTIVAL OF OPEN GARDENS

Gardens open locally through August & September (see page 23)

THE SIBFORD SCENE HAS A NEW EDITOR!

See page 4 for details

LETTERS & NOTICES

I would like to thank the village for the kindness and help shown to me during these last difficult years, and for the love and tolerance shown to Barbara as she struggled with a turmoil of mind and body. All this support has been greatly appreciated and I am glad that at her funeral the able and caring person she has been was so much in evidence, restoring the sister I knew to me.

Kathleen Winter

A very big thank you to all involved for the hard work, effort and dedication to making the weekend of celebrations for our Queen's 90th birthday a most enjoyable and unforgettable one. The concert in the church was really beautiful, activities were all good fun, tea in the hall wonderful, great atmosphere. Good to see a fantastic turnout. Well done and a big thank you to you all!

Mary & Tom West, Sibford Gower

Oxfordshire's mobile library service will cease to operate from September, making its last visit to Sibford Gower on Tuesday 6 September. According to Oxfordshire Libraries, service users will be offered alternative library provision through its network of 43 libraries, online library services, and the Home Library Service for those unable to visit. More information available at:

www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/public-site/libraries

Footballers needed for Thursday 5-a-side football! Veterans, over 45 or near enough, every week from 8.30 pm to 9.30 pm at Sibford School's indoor court, in Sibford Ferris. If you're interested, call David Spackman on T: 780734, or just turn up. (We may stop just for August).

Someone has cut down the chestnut tree in our garden and we would be interested to have any information on who did this and why, as we have no idea. It happened sometime in the last 2 weeks of April. Any info to: seagulllodge@gmail.com or No. 3 The Colony please.

Sue Lovatt

Church Mission Society collection boxes and individual donations raised a total of £604.09 this year. This total will be significantly increased when gift aid is calculated. Very many thanks to all those who continue to give so generously.

Judy Abbott

50A Bus Service - Johnsons Coaches are reviewing the newly-announced 50A timetable and plan to implement agreed changes by 5 September. Before that, they are seeking users' views. This is our chance potentially to influence that timetable, so please email any changes you would like to see to Peter Johnson at E: info@johnsonescoaches.co.uk as soon as possible, or contact me on T: 788830 and I will be happy to forward your views.

Judy Hine

The Sibford Scene has a new editor. See page 4 ...

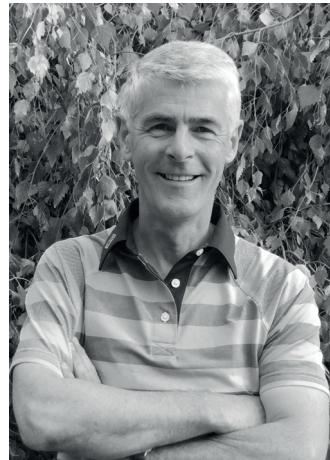
Deadline for the September issue of the Sibford Scene is 18 August.

FIVE MINUTES WITH ...

THIS MONTH: **Our village GP, Dr David Spackman**

Why Sibford?

My best friend from school married the daughter of my predecessor, Dr Agnew, and I was best man at the wedding in Sibford. I did some locums for Dr Agnew when he was off flying or horse racing, and he later asked me to take over from him when he retired.



What's your earliest memory?

My earliest memory I think is of a wide road with lines of white posts along both sides on an RAF base in Norfolk where my father was stationed.

What was your first car?

The first car I bought was a purple soft top Triumph Herald, BUV2 33H, which I sold to buy another one, and which I sold to buy a TR6 as soon as I qualified. I still have a TR6!

What prompted you to become a doctor?

I loved the TV comedy "Doctor in the House" and thought it looked fun!

In a parallel universe, what would you do instead?

I'd be a vet, assuming I couldn't play football for Manchester United.

Favourite sport and why?

Football, probably because I still play for the Sibford Vets side. I got laughed at by my daughter Amy when I said how nostalgic the noise of metal studs on concrete is as you run out to play. Maybe only footballers approaching the end of their playing days would understand! I also enjoy cricket and golf, and used to play rugby too at school.

Most inspiring sportsman, and why?

Bobby Charlton. A fantastic player, but more than that a true gent on and off the pitch. I have a signed photo of him, with "*Best wishes David*" written by him hanging up at home. The first game I ever went to watch was Crystal Palace vs Manchester United and he was playing.

Tell us something surprising about yourself

I was brought up on a farm in Kent and wanted to be a vet but couldn't get into veterinary school so went for medicine!

What do you like about the Sibfords, and what would you change?

Its continuity; the fact that it is the same when you go off to London or Australia and come home - and of course the community spirit. I can't really think of anything I would change.

MEET THE EDITOR

At the risk of turning the Sibford Scene into the Skowronski Scene (see also page 9), I'm delighted to announce that **Tony Skowronski** has stepped in at the eleventh hour to become the new editor of the Sibford Scene, taking over the green eyeshade from the September issue (copy deadline 18 August).

I have been unable to extract any assurances from Tony on forthcoming editorial coverage, but suspect you won't be needing to reread those back issues of *Viz* comic now that Tony is in charge.

Joking aside, I am deeply grateful to Tony - a resident of Burdrop for 27 years, and the only volunteer for the editor post - for offering to take the Sibford Scene forward. It would have been a great shame for our village newsletter to cease publication after so many years and I know Tony feels the same: thanks Skov!

Please send all future Sibford Scene submissions to the new email address in advance of the deadline. Email address: **sibfordscene@gmail.com**



NATURE NOTES

6 June - A very smart fox was wandering around our lawn today. When a blackbird flew close to its head, probably in an attempt to chase it off, it jumped and chased it for a few yards before it continued sniffing round.

7 June - This evening's thunderstorm produced more than 1¼" (32mm) of rain.

14 June - Last year we had a nest of bumble bees in a hollow gate post which I had made into a nest box. This morning I found a nest in a different nest box. I think they are the same sort as last year's: known as tree bumble bees, they have been spreading across the country over the last 30 years and could give a useful boost to numbers as their nests are high enough to avoid badgers.

19 June - A male great spotted woodpecker was feeding 2 young on our lawn this morning. I expect it was feeding them ants or ant's eggs. The male bullfinch that was feeding 3 young around the bird table was feeding sunflower hearts.

12 July - We don't often see pheasants in the garden in summer so it was a surprise when a cock bird walked past our back door today. He looked very shabby having moulted his tail feathers, and was followed by a hen pheasant who was starting to regrow her tail.

17 July - The buddleias are starting to bloom and our wildflower area is in full bloom but I have not yet seen more than two butterflies at a time on them. Perhaps the hot weather forecast for the next few days will trigger a hatch or encourage a few more to show themselves.

THE QUEEN'S 90TH BIRTHDAY

The rain couldn't dampen spirits when the villages celebrated the Queen's 90th birthday with a series of events over the weekend of 11 & 12 June. Here, Maureen Hicks reflects on the weekend's events:

I WAS SAD ... when:

- The weather prevented us from holding our celebration service out of doors
- The weather prevented us from holding our Street Party in Acre Ditch

But, I WAS GLAD ... when:

- We formed a Steering Group for a village party to celebrate the Queen's special birthday
- Cherwell District Council, Sibford Gower and Ferris Parish Councils and the Town Estate Charity agreed to support our programme with some grant funding
- Worcester College Chapel Choir agreed to sing for us – how their wonderful singing lifted our spirits to match the soaring heights of their voices especially in Hubert Parry's '*I was glad ...*'

- So many joined us for our Service of Celebration
- The sun came out for our family fun and activities on the field
- We managed to sit everyone down to tea – undercover! - and then the heavens opened
- We had so many offers of help with so many different jobs to make the party happen
- We saw so many happy faces joining together in our village-style celebration
- So many people just joined in with all the clearing up

Thank you to all who continued Sibford's tradition of celebrating Royal occasions in style. A few commemorative mugs are still available - £2.50 on a first come, first served basis. Please contact Maureen Hicks T: 780259 or email: maureen@hicks-sibford.co.uk

Maureen Hicks



'The Queen and Prince Philip' celebrate at Sibford's 90th birthday party for HM



Thank you - As a member of the steering committee for the Queen's 90th birthday, I would like to thank all who helped with the catering, making sandwiches (30 loaves of bread), and also to Diana Thompson and all who made cakes and helped with tea with a good community spirit, hopefully enjoyed by all.

Gilian Soden

SIBFORD'S MASTERCHEF

He was robbed! We were all rooting for Burdrop's Jack Layer when he took part in the BBC's MasterChef competition earlier this year, coming in a very close second in what was a fiercely fought contest. We caught up with Jack to find out more about his passion for food, and what it was like competing in the country's toughest cookery challenge.

Those of you with a passing interest in cooking may know me from BBC One's MasterChef where I came runner-up in the last series. What you may not know is that I grew up in Burdrop, I lived there for near on fifteen years and it is where my parents still live today.

My interest in cooking started, as you might expect, from a young age. I was always experimenting in the kitchen and annoyed my Mum with incessant questions around why do you cook it like this? What happens when you do that? Curiosity is a trait I still treasure in the kitchen: it's when you stop to wonder why something tastes the way it does that you can reinvent and create something new. Cooking at school less of a treasured memory, although I do remember making the obligatory Banbury Cakes in Year Two at Sibford Primary School!



Cooking however had always remained a hobby until in May last year, in boredom on a Wednesday evening, I entered MasterChef and was more than a little surprised when, a couple of months later, I got a call that led to an interview that led eventually to me standing in front of John Torode and Gregg Wallace with a piece of gammon, a few potatoes and an egg between us, and a place in the second round up for grabs. From there I did things that I would never have expected I would ever have the opportunity to do: from cooking in a professional kitchen, to plating up seventy covers in two degrees wind chill and rain on board HMS Northumberland, and meeting and cooking with, amongst others, Daniel Humm, the best chef in America and owner of Eleven Madison Park, the third best restaurant in the world, Enrique Olvera, Claire Smyth, Sat Bains and Marcus Wareing. All in all, they have more Michelin Stars than I can remember (and lovely people as well)!

So what now? Myself and fellow runner-up Billy have teamed up and over a few beers 'Billy and Jack' was born. We're launching a collaboration with a high-end chicken restaurant at the end of July and we're talking to loads of other people, so fingers crossed you may be seeing our names a lot more in the future. You can keep up to date at www.billyandjack.co.uk.

Hopefully I'll see you in the Wykham one of these days - I'll have a pint!
Jack Layer

SIBFORD FERRIS PARISH COUNCIL

SIBFORD FERRIS ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING -16 May

(This report was too late to be included in the June/July issue of the Sibford Scene).

At the annual meeting, Tim Huckvale and Maureen Hicks were elected as Chair and Vice-Chair respectively. The meeting was also attended by Cllrs Ginny Bennett, Adrian Lamb and Peter Robinson, the Clerk, County and District Cllr George Reynolds and two members of the public. **Ongoing matters** included: provision of superfast broadband; community first responder scheme; proposed affordable housing scheme; Rural Community Energy Fund; upkeep of fitness equipment and the Cotswold Close play area, including arranging annual inspections and agreeing a mowing contract; changes to the 50A bus service; registration of assets of community value; an agreement to contribute £150 towards celebrations for the Queen's 90th birthday. Under **Correspondence**, contact from Swalcliffe Parish Council about sharing speed signs; an invitation from the district council to a Parish Liaison Meeting was accepted by Cllrs Huckvale and Bennett; an email from county council on their proposals for re-organising as a unitary council was noted. Under **Finance**, end of year Budget/Actual Comparison, internal audit report and notes to the accounts were reviewed. Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Return 2015/16 were considered and approved. Under **Planning**, there had been one notice of decision and a pre-application consultation document for a proposed 4G base station at Elm Farm. Under **Any Other Business**, the clerk was asked to report to the county council the poor state of the road surface in Main Street and Mannings Hill, the dead cherry tree in Main Street, and to write to a resident about broken fencing. Full minutes from the Sibfords website (thesibfords.org.uk/sfpc) or Sibford Ferris PC's Clerk (T: 788557).

REPORT ON SIBFORD FERRIS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING - 4 July

Present: Cllrs Tim Huckvale (Chair), Maureen Hicks (Vice-Chair), Adrian Lamb and Ginny Bennett, the Clerk and two members of the public. Apologies had been received from Cllr Peter Robinson. **Ongoing matters** included: an update on superfast broadband (now towards end 2017); a review of annual inspections at Cotswold Close play area and fitness equipment and their upkeep; changes to the 50A timetable and advice from Warwickshire County Council that it was not possible to delay the arrival of the early first bus; a report from the public meeting to discuss how the Bishop Blaize could be secured as a community asset; the need to chase the county council on the state of village roads; a report from the OCC meeting to discuss proposals for a unitary council; an agreement to support the Keep the Horton General Campaign. Under **Correspondence**, the insurance renewal had been confirmed; the closure of the mobile library service from 9 September was noted; a Thames Valley Police survey for members of the public would be put on the Sibfords website; an email request had been received for action to clear the footpath on Mannings Hill.

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SIBFORD FERRIS PARISH COUNCIL

(continued...)

Under **Finance**, it was agreed to increase the Clerk's pay in line with the NJC pay award from 1 April; the submission of the Annual Return to the external auditor and the exercise of public rights from 9 June to 20 July were confirmed; the draft revised Financial Regulations were reviewed and amended. Under **Planning**, two planning applications were considered and it was noted that an application for a 4G base station had been withdrawn. It was agreed to check for omissions on neighbour lists and to contact residents where appropriate. Under **Any Other Business**, road drainage and parking at Lanes End were discussed. The need to set up a planning committee for applications that fell outside of parish council meetings was agreed and would consist of Cllrs Tim Huckvale, Adrian Lamb and Ginny Bennett. The next Sibford Ferrish Parish Council meeting will be on **Thursday 22 September** at 7.45 pm in the Sports Hall Classroom at Sibford School. Full draft minutes can be obtained from the Sibfords website (thesibfords.org.uk/sfpc) or the Clerk (T: 788557).

PUBLIC MEETING REPORT

The Bishop Blaize - The former public house the Bishop Blaize has been listed as an Asset of Community Value (ACV). On 17 June the two Sibfords and Burdrop held a packed public meeting in the Village Hall to discuss the implications.

Although it is no longer for sale, and currently trading under a different name, the meeting agreed without dissent that we would wish to invoke the rights of the village communities to bid for the pub if it were ever on the market. In the meantime the existence of the ACV means there can be no change of use in planning terms.

We discussed the organisation needed for a future bid, together with possible uses for the public house: a successful community purchase may use the Bishop Blaize not necessarily or wholly as a pub, as long as it is "*a non-ancillary use of the Asset which will further (whether or not in the same way) the social wellbeing or social interests of the local community*". Various uses were suggested, including a coffee shop, clubhouse, parcel collection service, facility for the elderly, centre for youth work, art centre, micro-brewery, bakery, hub for holiday activities such as biking, pony trekking, holiday lets. It was agreed to protect the existing interests of village institutions (Village Hall, Fielding Centre, village shop, Wykham Arms), and volunteers were called for to establish a planning group to explore the options. This group will begin meeting in the autumn; meanwhile anyone who has ideas or wishes to join is asked to contact the chairmen of Sibford Gower and Sibford Ferris Parish Councils.

The meeting ended with a presentation of the work of the Plunkett Foundation of Woodstock in helping to organise community ventures of this type. Further information about the meeting and feedback: thesibfords.org.uk/news/bishop-blaize-public-meeting-summary

VILLAGE PEOPLE

By the time you read this, Burdrop's Lara Skowronska will have run away to her second circus in just one year! Talented costume designer and seamstress Lara tells us more about her life on the road ...

I graduated with a degree in Costume from Bournemouth Arts University in 2012 and have been working as a freelance costume maker in films, theatre, TV, and with private clients ever since.

Last year, I spotted an online ad for Giffords Circus, applied on a whim and got the job.

I have grown up with Giffords. As a teenager I remember our family visits; picnics on village greens, the costumes - in fact that's what made me think I would one day like a job designing and making costumes.

So I ran away with the circus and spent my first tour last summer living in a 1930s wooden wagon with Giffords.

After spending the winter months traveling across New Zealand and Asia, I rejoined the team in April and have been on my second tour, enjoying life with a fantastic group of very talented and unusual people from all over the world - contortionists, jugglers, acrobats, musicians and the wonderful Tweedy, the clown.

There are definitely downsides to life on the road: the mud, cold, lack of hot water and internet, the long, long hours and hard work which goes with circus life, but it's not often you get to wake up in a painted caravan in some of the most beautiful places in the Cotswolds, or meet such incredible people.

My time with Giffords has given me a wonderful insight into circus life and so I am thrilled to have secured a new role with Bristol-based company *The Invisible Circus*, where I am heading up their costume department. From my studio there I will also be able to take on private commissions, making costumes for other production companies and performers: just what I have been aiming for since my degree.

I am so excited about the future and glad I can continue working in the amazing world of circus.

Lara Skowronska

If you would like to talk about costume commissions, please contact Lara on: E: contact@laraskowronska.com / www.laraskowronska.com
T: 07800 634296



DID YOU KNOW?

The Men's Breakfast Club meets at The Gate Hangs High for breakfast on the first Tuesday of the month at 9.15 am. We try to confuse the waitress with customised orders for the full breakfast and then chat about stuff. Men of the villages, come and join us!

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SIBFORD HORTI SOCIETY

Don't forget this year's Flower Show takes place on Saturday 27 August. Your Show programme should be included with this issue of the Sibford Scene. If not, please contact Helen Lamb T: 780380 or Gil Soden T: 780543

Forthcoming meetings:

Wednesday 12 October - Kathy Swift on "Making the garden at Morville".
Wednesday 16 November - Timothy Walker on "Two for the price of one".

NGS Sibford Open Gardens - On Sunday 26 June the gardens at Carters Yard and Gowers Close opened to the public for the afternoon. A splendid sum of £745 was raised for the National Gardens Scheme charities. Thank you so much for everybody who came and supported it.

IN YOUR GARDEN - AUGUST

1. Cut back iris plants, and divide them.
2. Keep hoeing weeds: they'll soon shrivel on the soil surface.
3. Penstemons and salvia may not come through a cold winter, so take cuttings now.
4. Prune the canes of summer raspberries when they finish fruiting.
5. Strawberry runners can be detached and potted up to make new plants.
6. Keep deadheading roses, dahlias, sweet peas, etc, and they will keep going far longer.
7. You can plant broad beans now for an early spring crop.
8. The garden will always look better if you keep the lawn edges cut.
9. Time to start thinking about your bulb order for next year. Nerines like to be tucked under a warm wall.
10. Trim lavender plants. Cut off flowering stems (keep some lavender for pot pourris or lavender bags).



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SIBFORDS WALKING GROUP

Forthcoming Walks

8 August, 22 August, 5 September, 26 September (note 3 week gap),
10 October, 24 October, 7 November, 21 November,
5 December

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. (Some routes include stiles). All welcome. Enquiries to Sue Bannister T: 780365 or E: 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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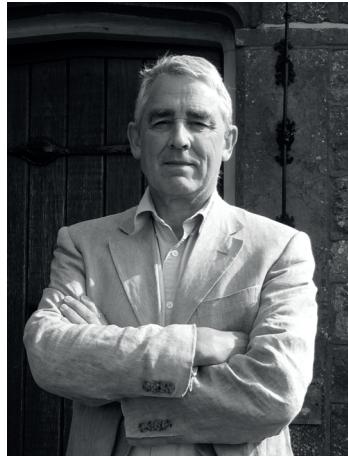
T: 01295 780355
or 07773 319239
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Excellent references

VILLAGE PEOPLE

Mike Donovan lives in Sibford Gower with partner Alison, children Milo and Rawdon, and their three distinguished cats. Here, Mike tells us about his work as a Market Researcher and his outlook on life (briefly, thank goodness ...). Joking aside, Mike's interest in the history of their home and its predecessors, twinned with his keenness to preserve and collect, make him an excellent and thoughtful curator of Sibford's Manor House where he and his family live.

More4, UPS, The Guardian Guide, Loaded Magazine, Sky Atlantic and Pepsi Max are some examples of the UK and international brands that I have helped develop in a long career in the somewhat strange world of market research. Honestly, I am still waiting for someone to ask: '*What do you really want to be when you grow up?*'. I don't know about you, but I just fell into my job and there was nothing planned about it. There still isn't!



What I most love about my job is that I can drift in and out of a vast array of different types of companies. They are fascinating to be a part of for the duration of a project and wonderful to also wave goodbye to until (hopefully!) the next time they find themselves wondering what their customers really think.

Market research has also given me the opportunity to set up companies, sell them off and, for now, work as a lone wolf based here at home in our wonderful village of Sibford.

Working from home means no ridiculous London office costs and on my frequent trips to Town (which I still adore), I use the atmospheric Hogarthian club Blacks in Dean Street to work from and entertain clients. I love Georgian buildings and can't quite believe I have ended up living in the rather strange thatched Manor House folly of our great Empire pageant master Frank Lascelles. I guess it satisfies my belief in harmony and contrast.

Being a true child of the 60s, and an ex-student of Goldsmiths' College, makes me a bit of an outlaw and I regard life as something to be enjoyed and not taken too seriously. Yes, the business world is serious but not that serious. In my experience the best ideas come out of playful thinking and challenging oneself and those around you to break out of the old ways of doing things.

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SIBFORD FOLK (CONTINUED...)

I am fascinated with the way the mind really works and am an avid reader of anything to do with Behavioural Science.

When I first started doing market research it was all very flakey. At the drop of a hat we would tell clients things like '*your brand has a female essence*' and '*your communications are evoking the rebellious child*'. It was great fun creating such findings but, in the cold light of day, useless twaddle. Fortunately, the industry is now more evidence-based and scientific in its procedures and findings. Well, my company MindScience Research is!

When I say I am an avid reader, I am also an equally keen collector of books (the older the better). The other day a good friend of ours sat in our kitchen and over a coffee said they were writing a musical that had a scene from Bartholomew Fair in it but they couldn't find any good source material. Imagine my pleasure, and their delight, when I was able to say 'I have just the book.'

Perhaps when I finally grow up I will be a librarian. But will there be any libraries left?

Mike Donovan

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SIBFORDS SOCIETY

'The swifts flew like blades, birds slicing in and out of the paths of other birds, their shrill, sweet screams intensifying and fading in quick Doppler shifts as they passed overhead - accelerating, tipping, flirting with angles, leaning into banked turns that seemed to scour out the inside of a sphere.'

This is part of a wonderful passage which William Fiennes read from his book '*The Snow Geese*' in Andy Russell's film, shown to us by Chris Mason at our meeting on Thursday 19 May. He was describing scenes he encountered every evening in the summer months, when the swifts visited Broughton Castle and entranced his family.

We were lucky to have a second visit from Chris and to find out more about the swift activity in our area: we were shown many dedicated people in nearby villages – amongst them Drayton, Chesterton, Adderbury, Kirtlington and Deddington – who do all they can to encourage the visits of swifts by providing nesting places for them, rescuing and caring for them. Swifts are in the red and amber lists of conservation importance; their numbers are decreasing due to the decimation of the rain forests, which means for them loss of insects and habitat, and the unpredictability of weather patterns.

We will be showing a further film depicting William Fiennes chatting to his father, Lord Saye and Sele, about the birds. Watch out for news of this.

On 23 June (yes, that day) a group of thirteen of us enjoyed a walk along the Oxford Waterways, to Folly Bridge and Christchurch Meadow, and then to the 'Old Bookbinders' in Jericho for lunch, accompanied by the Oxford historian, Mark Davies, who kept us well informed all the way.

Our next meeting will be held in the Village Hall on Thursday 15 September, when Dr Gillian White will present a talk on the visit of Elizabeth I to Kenilworth in 1575, the last extravagant attempt of Sir Robert Dudley to win her hand in marriage. Doors open at 7.45 p.m. Talk begins at 8.00 pm. Visitors very welcome at a cost of £2. *Diana Hughes*

The Sibfords Society are running the Bottle Tombola at the Village Fayre on 17 September and we would be very grateful for any donations for the stall. Tony Haynes (T: 780083) will be responsible for the collection of the bottles in Sibford Gower and Burdrop, and Mike Harper-Tarr (T: 788953) in Sibford Ferris.

WELCOME TO SIBFORD

If you are new to the Sibfords and would like a *Welcome to Sibford* booklet, providing details of village services and activities, please call Ivor Hopkyns on T: 788367 (Gower & Burdrop) or Nic Durrant T: 788865 (Ferris). And don't forget that we are lucky enough to have a really great village website too at: thesibfords.org.uk/

SIBFORD QUAKERS

With many thanks to Judith Weeks, who originally provided this information to the Parish Council for its Annual Parish Meeting, and which we reproduce here for interest ...

Sibford Meeting continues to meet each Sunday at 10.30 am at the Meeting House. Everyone is welcome.

We continue to work with the most disadvantaged in the world, and individual members work with asylum seekers and refugees, one of us going to Campsfield Detention Centre to offer support and advice to detainees there on a weekly basis.

We continue to collect food and other necessities for destitute asylum seekers, and have collected food and clothing for those stranded in Calais.

Some of us join the prisoners at Grendon Underwood Therapeutic prison for a Meeting for Worship which is held weekly, and which we attend on a monthly basis. This has proved an inspiration as most of those who attend are coming to the end of life sentences, determined to turn their lives around.

In our spirit of Peace Witness some of us join Quakers from other Meetings for the monthly Meeting for Worship at the gates of RAF Croughton, an American Air Force Base. We can get very wet and cold!

Our Meeting House continues to be open each day. We have a well-equipped children's room, and anyone from the village is welcome to use it, with their children/grandchildren.

We have a very good disabled shower room there too. Again anyone is welcome to use it, particularly for elderly or disabled visitors who have difficulty in accessing baths. Please ring Judith Weeks on T: 01295 788393 if you want to use this facility so that the heating can be put on in advance.

We are pleased that the Mission Room is being used as an Art Studio for local artists. We have wanted to find a use for it for some time. It has been renovated, although the kitchen leaves much to be desired!

We have had 2 generous donations this year: a lovely seat in memory of Margaret Wealsby, placed near her grave; and a new gate into the back lane to replace the one which has fallen to bits. This has been donated by a kind parishioner. Do go and sit on the seat, and in due course you can admire the gate, which is still a work in progress!

Bed & Breakfast at the Court House

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see www.hillcrestsibford.co.uk for details*

VILLAGE HALL NEWS

The REFURBISHMENT of the large hall will take place during August, so no bookings can be accepted for then. The small hall may be available during August. Contact Ginny Bennett via thesibfords.org.uk or T: 780373 for information. Please be aware of workmen and trade vehicles in the Village Hall car park, especially if your children are going to play on the field.

SUMMER REWIND - following last year's success, Dave Alleyn is again planning a fantastic evening of music on Saturday 3 September. Starting at 7.30 pm you can dance/listen to popular local band, *No Tools Required*, plus support. BBQ and Bar - put the date in your diary!

SIBFORD FAYRE will be held on Saturday 17 September. More news next month or via the village website.

QUIZ NIGHT will be in November - date to be confirmed.

FILM NIGHT - we hope to show a film in August, depending on the refurbishment works. Watch for notices in the Scene and on the village website. September's film night will be on 29th.

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 & Burdrop) or Nic Durrant T: 788865 (Ferris). And don't forget to let the Sibford Scene know you've moved in too. E: sibfordscene@gmail.com



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All change ...

July marked the retirement of Sibford School Head, Michael Goodwin.

Sibford Parents bid farewell to Michael with a concert featuring performances by some of the school's current pupils as well as former students, who returned specially for the event. Pupils said their goodbyes at an end-of-term Meeting for Worship while staff marked the occasion with a BBQ.

Michael said, "I've been Head of Sibford School since 2004 and this has been the longest position I have held during my 36-year teaching career. It's been a great job and I've really enjoyed it, but I know that now is the time to start a new chapter in my life."



We wish Michael and his wife Veronika all the very best for the future.

September will see a new Head in post as Toby Spence joins the school. Toby, together with his wife Jill and their three children, will be moving into Holly House during August.

Pictured above: New Sibford School Head Toby Spence visited the school's annual Open Day in June. He is pictured with retiring Head, Michael Goodwin.

ADULT ARTS HUB

If you fancy taking up a new hobby, or revisiting an old one, registration is now open for the Autumn term of Sibford School's Adult Arts Hub.

Painting & Drawing classes, which including some life drawing, take place on Mondays between 7pm and 9pm. Pottery classes run between 6.30 pm and 8.30 pm on Tuesdays and include hand-building techniques, slab building, throwing on the wheel and decorating with coloured slips. Textiles classes run between 7 pm and 9 pm on Thursdays and will include activities based around patchwork techniques.

All classes cost £10 per session and will start the week commencing Monday 12 September. New members are welcome. For further details or to register contact the school's community development officer, Ali Bromhall, T: 01295 781216 or E: abromhall@sibfordschool.co.uk

It has been a busy end to the academic year at school. Well done to the older children for their brilliant summer production, *The Rescue of Rhyme and Reason*. As well as acting, they engaged in all aspects of stagecraft: designing and making props, stage management, sound & lighting and more. Thanks to the talent and commitment of parent Sarah Stanton and our own Mrs Perkins, many of the children had already honed their acting skills in an enchanting performance of '*A Midsummer Night's Dream*' in our beautiful school grounds earlier in the summer term. This was a memorable introduction to Shakespeare for them and a delightful evening of entertainment for the audience.

Sporting success has been a feature of 2016 with our football, hockey, netball and kwik cricket teams and talented cross-country runners qualifying for the Oxfordshire County Finals. Sports Day was fantastic, with our PTA organising a post-event summer party with ice-cream, a coconut shy, Splat the Teacher and much more. Find out more about all these events at www.sibford-gower.oxon.sch.uk. Our School Council have ordered new playground sports equipment to encourage everyone to join in and get active and we have had a visit from paralympic athlete, David Abrutat.

Thanks to dedicated parent volunteers, Year 5 children have been out on their bikes for Cycling Proficiency training. Parents and governors have also given up their time to help develop our latest outdoor learning area, and tidy up – thank you. We wish all of you a wonderful summer holiday.

Sibford Gower Endowed Primary School

We need a lunchtime supervisor for up to four lunchtimes a week
Ideal for someone local. For further details, contact the school office
on T: 01295 780270 (term time) or email us at

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FRIENDSHIP CLUB

By the time you read this we will have just enjoyed our July trip to the beautiful Cotswold lavender fields near Broadway.

Other news ... Mary West has now taken over the organisation of all Friendship Club activities taking place in the Village Hall. You can contact Mary on T: 788246. Eveline Boughton will organise all Friendship Club trips and continue to send reports to the Sibford Scene.

As always, everyone is most welcome at our meetings on the first Tuesday in the month at Sibford's Village Hall. Our next meeting is on Tuesday 9 August at 2 pm.

Eveline Boughton

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Our last meeting in the Village Hall took place on 14 June. Our speaker, Harriette Thomas, a hypnotherapist of thirty years, specialises in the treatment of anxiety and stress, phobias, problems relating to weight control, lack of self confidence, plus many other mental disorders. We learned that most conditions require three to four sessions, although it is not unusual for one session to produce the required result. Whenever appropriate, Harriette introduced to her patients her pet owl 'Ceris' and this beautiful bird has helped to give a calming effect. Sadly, Ceris died in January and Harriette is now awaiting the delivery of an owlet that she hopes to train to the standard of Ceris to assist in therapy and accompany her to public talks. Had Ceris been alive, we should have had the pleasure of seeing her at our meeting. Even without the owl, Harriette's soothing voice cast a happy, relaxing glow over our meeting.

On 12 July, we met at Lynda Conway's home for our Garden Party. Rain kept us inside but we were comfortably accommodated in Lynda's conservatory with lovely views of the garden and across to the Ferris. Following the monthly business and a delicious tea, the officers, Glennis Hardman (President), Lynda Conway (Secretary) and Rosemary Neal (Treasurer) were presented by the members with gifts and cards of thanks in appreciation of their dedicated roles over many years.

Our final Meeting will be a Members' Lunch on 9 August at The Wykham Arms.
Glennis Hardman

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

**Police T: 101 Emergencies T: 999 Crimestoppers T: 0800 555111
Trading Standards T: 0845 0510845**

With the summer holidays come opportunists looking for things left outside, or in open sheds or houses. It is important that, when out of sight, places/things are secured. Also, look out for fraud. Recently, summer holidays, cheap flights, mobile 'phones and cars advertised at prices too good to miss have been happening. Fraudsters go to great lengths to convince you; fake letter boxes have even been put on houses to collect post, phones or packages ordered by the fraudster. Protect yourself by:

- Don't personal information to a cold caller. Check with the organisation independently
- Whenever possible pay for things online with credit card
- Look for the secure address and padlock sign when buying on the internet
- Check for reviews of companies offering deals
- Remember, if it looks too good to be true it probably is.

If you have been a victim of fraud, report it to Action Fraud T: 0300 1232040 or www.actionfraud.police.uk. The Police & Crime Commissioner has launched an online survey to set future policy. Please take part, it is open until 30 September at: www.thamesvalley-pcc.gov.uk/survey



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LOCAL NEWS

Tadmarton's wonderful scarecrow competition has just ended, with the very deserving winners chosen by Revds Ronald and Liz Hawkes, who wanted to award first prize to all 37 entries. Special mentions go to Chris Froome on Mont Ventoux (*right*), a member of the England football team, the Queen in a grit container searching for her crown, a pair of Sea Cadets, and an apple picker. However, the joint winners were the skier on the roof and the carpenter cutting wood, followed by the spider, a traditional scarecrow complete with braces, bow tie, bees and ladybirds and caterpillar.



On 6 & 7 August Upton House is re-enacting a wartime wedding weekend, complete with costumed Bride and Groom! Join us for jazz on the lawn with the Swinging Bass Band, perfect for picnickers. Visit the house and award-winning wartime exhibition 'Banking for Victory' including vintage wedding dresses especially for this event. Book for the Wedding Tea Dance and learn to dance to 1940s vintage tunes (tickets £15 each, booking essential), meet the Bride and Groom as they mingle with guests and taste their wedding cake. The 1940s Wedding Weekend runs all day 6 & 7 August, from 11 am - 4 pm. www.nationaltrust.org.uk/uptonhouse

Oxhill Harvest Time Barn Dance in aid of St Lawrence's Church, Oxhill takes place on Saturday 17 September from 7.30 pm at Willoughby Grounds Farm, Whatcote Road, Oxhill CV35 0RA. Ceilidh Band, Pig Roast and Bar. Tickets £12.50, under 16s £6, from Carol Fox T: 01295 680223 or Cath Pugh T: 01295 650958.

Katharine House Hospice 10th Midnight Walk raises an astonishing £75,000! At the end of June, over 600 walkers and 200 volunteers stayed up through the night to take part in our 10th Midnight Walk, raising over £75,000 for KHH. Thank you to everyone who played their part. KHH patients, staff and volunteers are hugely grateful to you for helping us to carry on caring for people in the local community.

KHH Festival of Open Gardens, August & September - Visit the Festival of Open Gardens this summer and enjoy some beautiful local gardens. Now in its 6th year, the festival supports the work of your local hospice. Local gardens open: Sunday 14 August - Upper Heyford, Saturday 3 September - Broughton Grange, Sunday 11 September - Bloxham. For a full list of gardens, see: www.khh.org.uk/event/festival-of-open-gardens

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GREAT TASTE

Another recipe from local cookery writer, Katriona MacGregor ...

Gooseberry Mascarpone Fool

Light, mousse-like layers of whipped mascarpone make the perfect partner for tart, sharp gooseberries in this summer fool. This is definitely a recipe which calls for electric beaters! I serve the puddings in little tumblers.

Serves 6

800g gooseberries	150g caster sugar
400g mascarpone cheese	2 tbsp Amaretto
4 egg yolks	3 egg whites
50g toasted flaked almonds	

Top and tail the gooseberries and tip into a pan with half of the sugar and 3 tbsp of water.

Bring to the boil and simmer for 5-10 minutes until the gooseberries burst and you have a loose compote. Tip into a bowl and chill.

To make the cream, place the egg yolks in a bowl with the sugar and Amaretto and beat until very thick and pale. Beat in the mascarpone a tablespoon or two at a time, making sure to get rid of any lumps.

In a separate bowl beat the egg whites to stiff peaks and then carefully fold into the mascarpone mixture.

Take 6 glass tumblers or jars and spoon a little of the chilled gooseberry mixture into the bottom of each. Top this with a generous spoonful of the mascarpone cream, gently levelling the top. Then repeat so you have a second layer of each. Chill until you're ready to serve and then top with the toasted almonds.

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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

August services

7 August	10 am Benefice Service at Shutford	Ronald
14 August	8 am BCP Communion	Ronald
	9.30 am Morning Praise	Ronald
21 August	9.30 am Holy Communion	Hazel Scarr
28 August	9.30 am BCP	John Tattersall

Saturday 13 August there will be a Coffee Morning from 10 am at Wyatt's Close, home of Gilian and David Soden. You are all warmly invited.

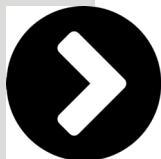
Sunday 28 August - Rectory Garden Party, 3 pm. You are all invited, church-goer or not, to the Rectory for Afternoon Tea, a good old natter, the chance to admire the splendiferous weeds I have, and a simple game or two. No charge at all but there will be pot for donations. EVERYONE is welcome.

The CLOCK!! Dare I say it but we're nearly there. Another broken part has been renewed, and we now have to get the clock back to telling the correct time and striking on the hour rather than early (or late), but I truly believe THE END IS IN SIGHT.

The CHURCHYARD is now maintained by the Parish Council who have some excellent contractors to cut the grass and strim edges etc. Please will you ALL help them by not putting extra pots and containers on graves, by clearing dead flowers and plants, and maybe even cutting the grass round your loved one's grave? Just a gentle reminder that shrubs and bushes are not allowed - it just causes so many problems when maintaining the churchyard; please restrict your floral tributes to cut flowers or pot plants which can easily be removed when past their best. Remember, too, we do often have sheep next door, and however hard we all try to keep them on their side of the fence, they are real opportunists, leap like goats, and love a varied diet of shrubs and flowers to augment the grass.

The 50A Bus Service

Please read Judy Hine's note on page 2 concerning the new 50A bus timetable. This could be our chance to influence the new timetable to create a service that better meets our needs. Johnson's Coaches welcome comments, so email Peter Johnson at E: info@johnsonescoaches.co.uk



SIBFORD BUS SERVICES

Johnsons Bus Timetable - 50A

Mondays to Saturdays

(*No services on Sundays or public holidays*)

Johnsons Coach & Bus Travel now operate a reduced bus service between Banbury and Stratford upon Avon from Mondays to Saturdays. Bus journey times are shown below. **Please note that not all journeys start or end in Stratford.** If in doubt, call Johnsons on T: 01564 797070 or check the website: www.johnsonsofcoaches.co.uk/bus-services.html

Bus 50A Banbury to Stratford-upon-Avon

BANBURY BUS STATION	1035	1240	1440	1715
Banbury Calthorpe Street	1037	1242	1442	1717
Broughton	1043	1248	1448	1723
Lower Tadmarton	1047	1252	1452	1727
Upper Tadmarton	1050	1255	1455	1730
Swalcliffe Church	1053	1258	1458	1733
Sibford Ferris School	1057	1302	1502	1737
Sibford Gower Primary School	1103	1308	1508	1743
Lower Brailes The Park	1107	1312	1512	1747
Upper Brailes The Gate	1110	1315	1515	1750
Shipston, Pettipathers Garage	1119	1324	1524	1759
Tredington White Lion	1126	1331	1531	1806
Halford Inn	1130	1335	...	...
Newbold on Stour Church	...	SF	1534	1809
Aldminster Church	...	...	1537	1812
STRATFORD BRIDGE STREET	...	...	1550	1825

Bus 50A Stratford-upon-Avon to Banbury

	NS	S		
STRATFORD BRIDGE STREET	0615	0910	...	1555
Stratford Wood Street	0617	0912	...	1557
Aldminster Church	0627	0922	...	1607
Newbold on Stour Church	0630	0925	...	SF 1610
Halford Inn	...	0930	1135	1335
Tredington White Lion	0634	0934	1139	1339
Shipston, Pettipathers Garage	0643	0943	1148	1348
Upper Brailes, The Gate	0652	0952	1157	1357
Lower Brailes, The Park	0655	0955	1200	1400
Sibford Gower Primary School	0702	1002	1207	1407
Sibford Ferris School	0705	1005	1210	1410
Swalcliffe Church	0709	1009	1214	1414
Upper Tadmarton	0712	1012	1217	1417
Lower Tadmarton	0715	1015	1220	1420
Broughton	0719	1019	1224	1424
Banbury Cross	0723	1023	1228	1428
BANBURY BUS STATION	0727	1027	1232	1432

NS - Not Saturdays. S - Saturdays. SF - Continues to or starts from Stratford as service 23

Banbury & District Dial-A-Ride

A minibus with tail-lift to take the elderly or disabled and escort to Banbury (£5 return) door-to-door service. Book at least one day in advance. Operates Monday to Friday 9 am to 5 pm. T: 01295 263777 for details. Also takes bookings for group outings. T: 01295 257715.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

AUGUST

- Tues 9 Mobile library, Sibford Gower Primary School, 2.30 pm
Sat 13 Coffee Morning, Wyatt's Close, Sibford Gower, 10 am
Tues 23 Mobile library, Sibford Gower Primary School, 2.30 pm
Wed 24 Flower Show entry night, Village Hall, 7 pm
Sat 27 Sibford Flower Show, Village Hall, 2.30 - 4 pm
Sun 28 Rectory Garden Party, 3 pm

AUGUST BIN COLLECTIONS

- Green Wednesday 10, 24 August
Blue/Brown Wednesday 3, 17 & 31 August

Unwanted clothing and shoes may be recycled anytime at the Textiles Recycling Bank at Sibford School Swimming Pool. Bottle banks at Sibford Ferris elm crossroads and Sibford Gower Wykham Arms car park.

SEPTEMBER (PART)

- Sat 3 Summer Rewind featuring *No Tools Required*, Bar & BBQ, Village Hall, 7.30 pm
Mon 5 Autumn term begins Sibford Gower Endowed Primary School
Tues 6 Sibford Gower Parish Council meeting, Primary School, 8 pm
Tues 6 Last mobile library visit, Sibford Gower Primary School, 2.30 pm
Wed 7 Autumn term begins, Sibford School
Sat 17 Village Fayre, Village Hall, 2 pm
Thur 22 Sibford Ferris Parish Council meeting, Sports Hall classroom, Sibford School, 7.45 pm
Thur 29 Film Night, Village Hall, from 7 pm

SIBFORD SCENE

DEADLINE FOR SEPTEMBER ISSUE - 18 AUGUST 2016

Editor: Tony Skowronski, Jasmine Cottage, Burdrop, OX15 5RN
E: sibfordscene@gmail.com

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

Front cover pic: "If wet, in the village hall". With undampened enthusiasm, the village celebrates the Queen's 90th birthday. Photo, Martin Layer