

# SIBFORD SCENE

February 2018

No 399



*Photo by Carole Deleamont*

## "A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S NIGHTMARE"

Village Hall - 2nd (730pm) and 3rd (2pm & 730pm)

## "SPAMALOT"

From 6th - Sibford School - 7pm (details - page 17)

## SIBFORDS SOCIETY SOCIAL

15th - Village Hall - 8pm

## HOOK NORTON VETS TALK

21st - Village Hall - 7pm

## FILM NIGHT

28th - "Victoria and Abdul" - Village Hall - 730pm



## ED'S THOUGHTS

Well - better late than never: HAPPY NEW YEAR! Check out the new feature following on from our last edition: "As seen from the sidecar" on page 17. The Film Nights at the Village Hall are now just like going to the cinema. Great quality sound and picture with some really good films. Just up the road and only £2! Details on page 4.

*Thought for the month:*

"Get up, stand up! Don't give up the fight!"

*Bob Marley*



Congratulations to Isaac Spring who commissioned into the British Army from the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst at the end of last year. Isaac grew up in Sibford Ferris, attended the village primary school in the Jeff Elliot days, followed by Bloxham School, read politics at SOAS and terrorism studies at St Andrews. He has since worked at Parliament and for the Government as an advisor and researcher. Isaac's parents, Michael and Penny, live in Sibford Gower.

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## LETTERS AND NOTICES

### **Millennium Field closure**

In order to retain "permissive path" status on the paths around the Millennium Field it will be closed for 24 hours only on Saturday 10 February. The closure will not affect the use of the public path at the top of the field.

*Peter Morgan, Secretary, The Town Estate Charity*

### **FILM SHOWING POLAR EXPRESS**

We are sorry that the DVD malfunctioned at the screening of the film Polar Express just before Christmas. We shall screen the film again FREE OF CHARGE after the Easter Egg Hunt at **4.00pm on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> March**

*Sibford Village Hall Management Committee*

### **Our Fishman: Robert Hall**

Please note that he will be coming on Thursdays, not Mondays - same place, same time.....

The long standing FIELDING DAY CENTRE has ceased to exist following the withdrawal of funding from Oxfordshire County Council. This has given us the opportunity to open up our lunch facilities to all villagers over the age of 65.

## **ALL NEW SIBFORD LUNCH CLUB**

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# VILLAGE HALL NEWS

## QUIZ NIGHT

Many thanks to those 72 people who joined in the fiendishly difficult Quiz on Saturday 13th January. Well done to Chris Leyburn and her team for taking the Trophy. Thanks to Adam and Simon for all their hard work in putting together the questions and film work. The ladies and gentleman in the kitchen and bar worked really hard, so thanks to you all too.

## FILM NIGHT

Our film in February is on 28th. "Victoria and Abdul". Abdul Karim, a young clerk from India meets Queen Victoria to give her a gift from his home country. The Queen takes an interest in him and befriends him. The Government are concerned at the close relationship the two have and try to send him away. Stars Judi Dench, Ali Fazal, Eddie Izzard, Simon Callow and Michael Gambon. Doors open 7pm for film at 7-30pm. Entry £2 per adult, £1 per student. Feel free to bring your own wine. Other drinks are available.

## EASTER EGG TRAIL

On 30th March we will have our annual Eggxtravaganza. Two trails suitable for smaller and bigger children, around the village. Entry £3. Starts at 2pm until 4pm. Teas and cakes available in the small hall. AT 4pm THAT DAY we will be screening "POLAR EXPRESS" As promised before Christmas when the DVD let us down, we are offering a FREE SCREENING to anyone who would like to see the film.

## FUTURE EVENTS

On May 12th a free screening of the Eurovision Song Contest. June 2nd- Jazz Picnic -we provide the music -you bring your own food and drink. In July The Fayre will be on 7th.. July 15th will be The Men`s Wimbledon Final on the Big Screen- with cream teas. On September 8th The Last Night Of the Proms will be shown on the big screen -a free event for you. More details to come in future Sibford Scenes.

## HALL CLEANING

Our cleaners now work early on a Tuesday morning. Please assist us by keeping the Village Hall clean every day. Do sweep up if you have made a mess. make sure doors /windows are secure when you leave. Please do not leave the doors wide open letting the lovely heat out into the carpark. We only want to heat the hall!

## **THE CALCUTTA CUP: ENGLAND V SCOTLAND** Six Nations

Watch the match on the big screen for FREE at The Village Hall. 24th February  
Doors open 3-45pm. Match starts 4-45pm.  
Licensed BAR and Snacks available.

# VILLAGE HALL NEWS

*Continued.....*

## BOOKING CONTACT AND INFORMATION

If you wish to make a booking or need info then call Ginny on Tel 01295 780373 or via [thesibfords.org](http://thesibfords.org) website..



## NATURE NOTES

I was surprised to read that many plants from garden centres being sold as “bee friendly” have been shown to contain multiple pesticides, including neonicotinoid insecticides, at levels likely to be harmful to bees! The advice is that gardeners who wish to encourage pollinating insects should, where possible, raise their own plants from seed or cuttings, swap plants with friends or buy plants that have been produced by an organic nursery.

The cold spell in early December encouraged blackbirds and the occasional Fieldfare to come into the garden to feed on windfall apples. Even in our relatively small garden we had more than a dozen blackbirds at times. Individual birds seem to find an apple and then guard it, chasing off any rivals that approach. We have also seen a lot more chaffinches in the garden this winter than we have in recent years. As well as picking up dropped seeds under the bird feeders they also seem to be pecking at the windfalls.

A kestrel is now a frequent visitor to the telegraph pole in Holly Tree field. Presumably this is a good vantage point from which to spot small mammals. Judging by the numbers we have caught in the hen-house this winter there are certainly plenty of wood mice around.

Winter is a good time to look out for lichens, especially those that grow on the twigs of deciduous trees and shrubs and are hidden by the leaves for much of the year. Many species of lichen are very sensitive to air pollution and the abundance of lichens in the Sibfords is a good indication of the high air quality we enjoy in our rural location away from major roads and polluting industry.

Please send any contributions for next month’s Nature Notes to [ajnewbold88@gmail.com](mailto:ajnewbold88@gmail.com)

*Andy and Gill Newbold.*

# SIBFORD GOWER PARISH COUNCIL

A Parish Council meeting was held on Monday, 8 th January 2018, attended by six local residents. The Chairman informed the Meeting that two Parish Councillors (Peter Abbott and Alan Parkin) had tendered their resignations. The Chairman thanked them for their contribution to and close involvement with the work of the Parish Council. Two local residents (Roger Mallows and Susan Tompkins) were duly co-opted as from the end of the meeting, to serve until the elections on May 3rd. All the other Parish Councillors have served for a long time and have indicated that they do not wish to stand for re-election.

**Precept:** It was agreed to maintain the precept at £6,400.

**Planning Matters:** *The Pheasant Pluckers Inn* (formerly The Bishop Blaize): Two Councillors had attended the Cherwell Planning Committee meeting on 23rd November concerning the application for change of use, but had not spoken. The application was rejected at that meeting. A meeting with Cherwell District Council is to be sought with a view to discussing how matters currently stand and seeking to know what the District Council is intending to do.

*Miramar Cottage:* A planning sub-committee meeting was held on December 4th , at which it was agreed to support the application with a letter; the application was subsequently successful. Miss Carrie Tucker asked for her thanks to be conveyed to the PC.

**Highways:** Potholes are a continuing problem, especially a potentially tyre damaging one in Acre Ditch, and the Clerk was instructed to contact Oxfordshire Highways seeking remedial work be carried out. Parishioners were reminded that the fastest way to alert OCC to damage to the highways was by the website Fixmystreet.

**Village Pond:** Damage had been caused to a part of the wall containing the water of the Village pond by contractors' vehicles employed by the local farm. A site meeting was held on October 30 th , and the farm owner agreed to carry out repair work. It was agreed to request that satisfactory remedial work be carried out by the next meeting in April.

**Public Participation:** It was noted that the gate leading to the bridle path at the end of Backside Lane was unsatisfactory, but that the relevant farmers were aware. A local resident again raised the subject of parking outside The Old Rectory.

## **Date of next Parish Council Meeting**

The next Parish Council Meeting will be on **16th April 2018** in the Staff Room of the Primary School starting at 8pm. The Annual Parish Meeting will be on 30th April and take place in the Village Large Hall starting at 7.30pm. Elections to the Parish Council (if required) are scheduled for 3rd May.

*Peter Hardman*

# SIBFORD GOWER PARISH COUNCIL

## **Sibford Gower Parish Council Elections**

Parishioners will be aware that the term of office of the current Parish Council ends in May 2018, when new elections are scheduled.

We have been discussing this among ourselves. We have all served at least ten years, and think it is time for a new Parish Council to take over. We therefore give early notice as a group that we are not intending to stand for election again in May.

In order to maintain some form of continuity we have agreed that two councillors should resign from January 2018, and be replaced temporarily by two co-opted members who will hold office until May, when they will stand for election in the usual way. Peter Abbott and Alan Parkin have asked to resign, and the two individuals who have most kindly agreed to allow themselves to be co-opted are Roger Mallows of Yew Tree House and Sue Tomkins of Parsons Barn Farm. In the meantime existing councillors new and old will seek suggestions from the community for new councillors. If we can find three more volunteers, it may be possible to avoid a formal election, which costs the Parish roughly £1000 (or £2 per household).

Of course this is an open election, and any parishioner may stand, but we hope that anyone who is interested will contact the Chairman or the Clerk earlier, so that they can be told of the process for election, and so that the retiring councillors can sponsor them.

In the past our aim has been to seek a committee balanced between various groups in the village, geographically from the pond area, from Burdrop and other parts of the village, in terms of professions, and socially from the retired, newcomers and traditional villagers. We think that part of our success over the years has been that the PC is indeed genuinely representative of all the varied elements in the village, and we would like this to continue.

*Peter Hardman (clerk) and Oswyn Murray (chairman)*

# SIBFORD FERRIS PARISH COUNCIL

## Meeting of 15 January 2018

Topics discussed included grit bins, the Cotswold Close play area (cleaning the equipment and planning for its replacement), a litter bin near the shop, parking on Main Street, and public First Aid training. Draft minutes of the meeting are available on the village website and via the Clerk.

## Parking

The Parish Council was informed of at least two occasions before Christmas when the early morning bus to Banbury was unable to get through Main Street because of cars awkwardly parked. As one resident commented – “what if it had been a fire engine?”. Please park with consideration, and satisfy yourself before leaving your vehicle that it is not making it difficult for the bus to pass through.

## Parish and District Council Elections

May 3<sup>rd</sup> this year is election day for Parish Council and District Council elections. All five Sibford Ferris Parish Council posts are up for election, and no more than three of the present councillors will be standing again, so at least two new councillors are needed. Being a parish councillor is an interesting and enjoyable way of contributing to your community, and helping to make it a better place to live and work. The basic qualification is that you **must** have lived or worked within three miles of the parish for the last 12 months. For further information or discussion, please contact the Clerk or one of the present councillors.

Clerk: Graham Beacham, 01608 810 047, [sfpc@thesibfords.org.uk](mailto:sfpc@thesibfords.org.uk)  
Chair: Tim Huckvale, 01295 780 491, [chairofsfpcc@thesibfords.org.uk](mailto:chairofsfpcc@thesibfords.org.uk)



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## DID YOU KNOW?



February 2018 marks the 100th anniversary of the Representation of the People Act 1918, which allowed some women over the age of 30 to vote for the first time. There were many women at that time working and sacrificing much to bring about changes which would eventually bring about Votes for Women. Sibford had its own heroine from these times – a Mrs Laura Ormiston Chant (nee Dibbin). Born in 1848 in Gloucestershire she trained as a nurse and worked as a Sister in the Sophia Wards of the London Hospital.



She married Thomas Chant MRCS in 1877 and whilst living in London she lobbied for the Music Hall Theatres to be cleaned up from the houses of ill repute they had become. A flimsy screen was erected in the auditoriums to segregate the sexes and a 19 year old Winston Churchill was among a group of Sandhurst cadets who tore down the offending partition and Churchill proclaimed, "Ladies of the Empire, I stand for Liberty!" In his autobiography Churchill later recorded this outburst as his maiden speech but the rioters failed to achieve their goal and eventually the Music Hall theatres improved.

Mrs Ormiston Chant –as she was known, wrote and lectured on social purity, temperance and women's rights. Her published works included pamphlets, hymns, a novel and a book of poetry. Her writing reflected many of the tensions characterising feminism in the late 18th century and early 19th century. She travelled abroad and addressed 'Parliament of the World's Religions' Congress in Chicago in 1893 and went to Bulgaria to give aid to Armenian refugees from 1894-1896. During the Great War she exhibited great courage carrying out rescue work and serving tea and coffee to survivors following devastating explosions.

In her latter years she moved to the Banbury area and lived at 41 Bloxham Road, Banbury joining the Quaker Meeting in Sibford Gower. Following her death in 1923 she was buried in the Graveyard at the Gower Meeting House and a bromide print of her taken in 1916 by Walter Stoneman is exhibited in the National Portrait Gallery.



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## SIBFORDS WALKING GROUP

### Forthcoming Walks:

5 Feb; 19 Feb; 5 Mar; 19 Mar; 9 Apr

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).

Walkers should either park on the road or on the grass field at the village hall and not on the tarmac area which is reserved for the painting class.

All welcome. Enquiries to Sue Bannister  
T: 780365 or E: seabannister@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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## Sibfords Society Programme 2018

February 15th: Social evening: bring and share supper, quiz, raffle, funny stories, piano sing-song.

March 15th: AGM followed by Dr Richard Buckley – ‘Life after Richard III.’ This had to be postponed from last November so will take the place of our previously advertised DVD ‘Hidden Villages’

April 19 th : Talk on ‘Tooley’s Boatyard’ , Matthew Armitage.

May 24 th: Coach trip to Leicester for Richard III Exhibition and visit to Cathedral, departing from Sibford. Non members welcome .

June 21 st : ‘Scandal in High Society Oxfordshire’- Julie Ann Godson.

July 2 nd : Guided tour of Broughton Castle with Martin Fiennes , followed by meal at the Castle.

July 19 th : Swift Walk around the Sibfords with Chris Mason.

September 20 th : Witney Blanket Hall’ – Richard Martin.

October 25 th : Victoria Huxley – ‘Jane Austen and Adlestrop – Her other Family.’

November 15th : Film ‘66 Men of Grandpoint , 1914-18’- Liz Woolley.

All welcome to any or all of these events. Any queries to Diana Hughes :780506.

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*Excellent references*

# HOOK NORTON LOW CARBON



An opportunity to find out what Hook Norton Low Carbon is up to down the road.

Among many other initiatives, they are developing a community housing project that residents of Sibford might be equally interested in. There are a couple of Open Community Housing meetings coming up at the end of February that we would be very welcome at, on:

Tuesday February 20<sup>th</sup> at Hook Norton Brewery at 7.30pm, and

Saturday February 24<sup>th</sup> at Hook Norton Sports and Social Club at 2pm

This is a copy of a piece about it from Cathy Ryan and Tim Lunel, that is coming out in the January edition of the Hook Norton magazine at the same time as our Sibford Scene:

"It's clear that a new approach to housing is needed - a grass roots approach that springs directly from the ideas and needs of the local community. Housing costs have spiralled out of control resulting in homes becoming increasingly unaffordable and out of reach for many, but especially low-income households. The rising cost of land and pressure on land supply have helped to fuel the increased cost of building homes, but what if an alternative project that worked for the benefit of the community rather than the developer could be explored?"

The community of Hook Norton has a rare and unusual opportunity to participate in an affordable and imaginative housing project using a piece of land in the village owned by Cherwell District Council. The council are prepared to transfer ownership of the land to the community by forming a Community Land Trust and this could be one way of achieving affordability, as the value of the land and developer's high profit margin would be removed from the cost of the homes. The proposed site does not add to the outward spread of the village but would make good use of a neglected and overgrown piece of land near to the Sports and Social Club. The site is compact and could be integrated into the surrounding neighbourhood by creative landscaping and planting.

Continued.....

It could be possible to design homes that foster a stronger community spirit and encourage social contact. A different way of living could be offered with access to shared spaces such as communal gardens and allotments that could enable neighbours to support each other and decrease the sense of isolation often experienced by many elderly people.

Lots of us would also welcome the chance to live in a home that has a kinder relationship to the environment with inventive use of local shared energy sources to allow communities to be more energy independent and cut costs. Renewable elements such as PV solar panels and thoughtful design and insulation could be intrinsic to the development along with low carbon transport options such as shared electric cars and E bikes included.

It's important that this community housing project really reflects local views so we will be working with an independent survey company over the coming months to find out what people would like to see the project provide for the village. Look out for our forthcoming questionnaire and pop up events but meantime please come to one of the Open Community Housing Meetings to make the most of this fantastic opportunity to deliver the kind of Community Housing the village needs and wants.

Affordable, sustainable, well designed housing can be transformative and enhance the lives and well-being of its occupants. It can make us all happy and it could start right here in Hooky."

*Hugh Pidgeon, Burdrop, is now on the group's Management Committee. To find out more, the number to call: 01295 780 360*

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# SIBFORD GOWER PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

## **Writing Success at Sibford Gower Endowed Primary School**

Children in Oak Class have recently completed topic work on the theme of 'The Book of Kells'. The Book of Kells is possibly the world's most famous medieval manuscript. It harks from the 9th century and is a richly decorated copy of the four Gospels of the life of Jesus Christ, which is on permanent display at Trinity College, University of Dublin.

Oak Class teacher, Miss Rylance-Murdoch, entered the creative writing of some of the children into a competition organised by the College. This was an international competition, with the University receiving around 1,500 entries from the United Kingdom, Ireland and the United States. Entries were judged by the Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Studies. Seven prizes were awarded in total: 1 st , 2 nd and 5 merit prizes.

During the Christmas holiday, we were delighted to receive an email from the University, as follows:

"We were astounded with the number of entries we received, and also with the level of talent that was shown by all entrants in both writing and art categories, from primary right up to adult....I am delighted to inform you that your student's entry was selected as the winner of the merit prize in the primary category."

The winning pupil was Nettie Parish (Y5), who flew out to Dublin with her father on 17 th January to attend the prize giving ceremony. Nettie is both talented and very hard-working and this is a really impressive, and well-deserved, achievement. We are all incredibly proud of her.

Nettie's winning entry begins:

"The truth knotted in faded pages, shouting in bright ink.  
The skin surrounds the secrets as it surrounded a soul, long ago."

To read the rest of Nettie's piece (on Oak Class page) or to find out more about our school, our pupils' achievements and all the wonderful things that go on here, please take a look at the school website at [www.sibfordgower.oxon.sch.uk](http://www.sibfordgower.oxon.sch.uk)

*Jane O'Sullivan (headteacher)*

## Triumphs for Sibford Pupils

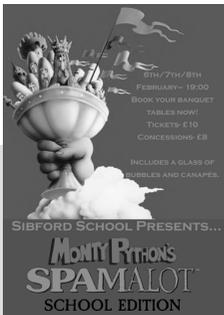
Sibford School pupils had a highly successful end to 2017 when they were crowned North Oxfordshire Swimming Champions.

The pupils swam to victory in both the Senior and Primary sections of the North Oxfordshire School Sport Partnership Swimming Finals held in December.

They will now go through to represent North Oxfordshire in the School Games County Finals which take place in April and July.



Meanwhile, Sibford's show jumping team (pictured) has qualified to compete at the National Schools Equestrian Association Finals which take place at Hickstead on 26 and 27 May.



## Spamalot

Sibford School will be presenting Monty Python's 'Spamalot' from February 6 ~ 8. Performances start at 7pm. Tickets (available from the school) cost £10 (£8 for concessions) and include a glass of bubbles and canapés

## Open events ...

Sibford School will be opening its doors wide over the next couple of months to enable parents to find out more about the school.

On Friday 2 February, the focus will be on the provision for pupils aged 3 to 11 when the school hosts a Junior School Open Morning. On Friday 2 March, there will be a Whole School Open Morning looking at Sibford's provision for pupils aged from 3 to 18, and on Saturday 17 March, the focus will once again return to the Junior School.

For further information on these events please contact Elspeth Dyer on 01295 781203 or visit the website [www.sibfordschool.co.uk](http://www.sibfordschool.co.uk).



## AS SEEN FROM THE SIDECAR

*Their latest adventures.....*

6th January

It's nearly 3 months since we left [Ace Cafe London Ltd](#) and 4000 miles later we've stopped off at another, very different Ace!

When in Luxor we stayed at [Animal Care in Egypt - ACE](#), they do awesome work looking after animals in Egypt. It's a charity a little different to our usual stuff but they invited us along so we thought it was certainly worth a visit. Having had a couple of issues on the road a few days beforehand we thought we'd take this time to give [Kuishi na Kuishi](#) (the sidecar) a little service. We're just about starting to get on top of this bike maintenance type thingy...

7th January

180 miles today from Aswan to Abu Simbel - straight through the desert. It's an absolutely incredible environment to drive through - exactly how you'd expect it - super intense sun and a silly amount of sand.

We're just chucking our sleeping bags out under the stars in the temple car park tonight. It's right next to the police station so super safe and a cool spot!

8th January

We're in Sudan! We spent 6 hours at the border today, going through seemingly endless processes but we finally made it to Wadi Halfa. It's not far to travel at all. We had a lovely hour long boat trip across Lake Nasser before a cheeky 50k drive through the desert to Wadi Halfa. Around 30k in to the desert, you hit the border and the fun starts. It was a ridiculous day but now we're free to explore Sudan.

9th January

Finally heading off to Khartoum. We've had some advice to put the spot tracker on a delay as the odd crook has been known to use them to nick your stuff, we haven't worked out how to do it yet and seeing as we're going to be in the middle of nowhere for the next few days we really need to keep hold of our kit. So we won't be using the tracking function - should be in Khartoum on Friday, latest Saturday.

Will update where we can.

To learn more about the expedition, or to donate to the cause, visit [www.asseenfromthesidecar.org](http://www.asseenfromthesidecar.org) and follow @Asseenfromthesidecar on Facebook, @SeenfromSidecar on Twitter, as\_seen\_from\_the\_sidecar on Instagram and As Seen From The Sidecar on YouTube.

*Matt Bishop and Reece Gilkes*



# FRIENDSHIP CLUB

If it's not to late **HAPPY NEW YEAR** to all Club Members and readers of the Scene

The Friendship Club meets again on FEB 6th in the small hall 2pm till 4pm  
Come along and join us if your 55 and over....

The Club trip on Feb 20th is to Wychwood golf club for lunch, leaving Banbury at 10-45 Sibford 11-10.

We were very pleased to have Father Christmas call in on us at the Club's Christmas tea. 10-45 Sibford 11-10.

*Eveline Boughton*



*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](http://thesibfords.org.uk)*

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## HORTI SOCIETY

We start our Horticultural year on a high note on March 14th with a talk by Timothy Walker, who entertained us so well in November, on a subject about which he feels passionate: Euphorbias! Come and be inspired! 7.30 at the village hall.

The Spring Show is on May 19th. There's still lots of time to prepare your exhibits for the handicraft and photographic sections. Let's have a record number of entries this year!

*Diana Thompson*

### In Your Garden - February

I hope you have all had a lovely quiet time by the fire, and have been browsing the seed catalogues for inspiration - and this year your garden will be more beautiful than ever. Lets start in the greenhouse:-

1. Fuschias can be cut back and repotted; increase watering gradually. And the same goes for geraniums.
2. You cant have too many sweet peas. Start sowing some now, in the warmth, and put them out in a cold frame pinching out the tips, when they have 3 or 4 leaves.
3. If cyclamen have flopped and look unhealthy, carefully knock them out of their pots and search for little white grubs. These are vine weevils, and you must squeeze them in your fingers for a satisfying squidge and kill them all.
4. As soon as the snowdrops have finished they can be divided and replanted. or give some away to your friends.
5. Its time to prune the wisteria back to 2 or 3 buds. Don't fall off the ladder.
6. Evergreen hedges should be pruned back now before the birds start nesting in them.
7. Cut dead or spotted leaves off the hellebores - you can see the flowers so much better.
8. Inspect stored dahlia tubers, and chuck out any going soggy.
9. Its a good time to plant trees, hedges, shrubs and climbers now. Avoid planting roses where one has been before.
10. Feeling strong? Prepare vegetable beds and dig in compost, and prune your apple and pear trees and watch out for moles - this is when they start mating and dig up your lawns, and did you remember to get the lawn mower serviced? Don't forget to keep feeding the birds!

HURRY UP. SO MUCH TO DO!

*Jupe Hitching*



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## World Dance group in Swalcliffe

Second Wednesday each month  
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Learn folk dances from around the world  
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No partner needed or experience necessary,  
as each dance is patiently taught  
before the music starts.

There is no need to book, just turn up  
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Contact Tracy 780710 or tracylean@gmail.com.



## LOCAL NEWS

### **Attracting Unusual Suspects Workshop**

How can we get more volunteers involved in our communities? If you are struggling to find and attract new people to volunteer within your community, then this free workshop is for you.

Date: 5<sup>th</sup> February

Time: 9.45am to 1:15pm

Venue: Harwell Village Hall, High Street, Harwell, OX11 0EX

Free of Charge

To register and for further information:

Either book direct with Eventbrite:

<https://attractingunusualsuspectsharwell.eventbrite.co.uk>

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me. Here's a sample of the comments received from the previous event held last November: 'the event was helpful, informative, creative and inspiring' 'It was good to hear new and constructive ways to encourage young people to get involved'

*Hilary Lombard - Community Mobiliser*

Please note my usual working pattern is Tuesday to Friday 8.00 -3.30

### COMMUNITY FIRST OXFORDSHIRE

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## **LOCAL MARKETS**

**Banbury** - Every Thursday & Saturday.  
Farmers Market - 1st Friday of the month

**Chipping Norton** - Every Wednesday

**Chipping Norton Farmers** - 3rd Saturday  
of the month

**Deddington Farmers** - 4th Saturday of  
the month

**Great Rollright** - 1st Saturday of the  
month



# GREAT TASTE

*Our Head Chef this month is David Tarring!*

## **Spinach & Ricotta Cannelloni**

### Ingredients

400g spinach	1 bunch basil
Extra-virgin olive oil	Grated zest of 1/2 lemon
1/4tsp ground nutmeg	250g ricotta cheese
1 onion, diced	1 free-range egg, beaten
2 cloves of garlic, crushed	2 tsp grated parmesan
2 x 400g tins of chopped tomatoes	150g cannelloni (about 14 tubes)
1 bay leaf	2 x 125g mozzarella balls, sliced

1. Preheat the oven to 180C. Put the spinach and a drizzle of olive oil in a large pan over a low heat. Add the nutmeg, season with salt & pepper, cover and leave to sweat. Stir occasionally until the spinach has cooked down. Place in a bowl and set to one side to cool a little.
2. In the same pan, heat a dripzle of olive oil and gently sweat the onion until soft. Add the garlic, tomatoes, bay leaf, a few basil leaves and lemon zest and let it gently simmer for 20 mins until the sauce has thickened. Season with salt and pepper.
3. Squeeze the moisture out of the spinach into the bowl. Place the spinach on a board so you can chop it up. Return the spinach to the liquid in the bowl and stir in the ricotta, beaten egg and parmesan. Season to taste.
4. Pipe the spinach mixture into the cannelloni tubes and lay them in a 20cm x 25cm oven dish.
5. Spread the tomato sauce over the cannelloni. Scatter over most of the basil, lay the mozzarella slices on top, drizzle with olive oil and season. Place in the oven and cook for 35-40 mins or until the top is golden and the pasta is tender (if the top browns too fast, cover the dish with foil). Remove from the oven and let it sand for a few minutes before serving with the remaining basil

Serve with a crisp green salad and home-made bread!

### ***Wine match***

Any medium-bodied red, but top of my list are Valpolicella or Primitivo from Italy, Aregentinian Malbec or for something different - try a Californian Zinfandel

**ENJOY!**

## 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

### Services

4th      10am    Benefice Eucharist in Swalcliffe Church (Liz)  
11th     8am      BCP HC (Ronald)  
            9.30am Morning Praise (John)  
14th     Ash Wednesday  
            7pm Holy Communion with Imposition of Ashes (Ronald)  
18th     9.30am Holy Communion (Glyn Evans)  
25th     9.30am BCP HC (David Pym)

Saturday 10th you are all most warmly invited to come to our PUDDING CLUB in the Village Hall at 7pm. There will be a "main course" of some home-made soup, and then there will be as many home-made PUDDINGS as you are able to eat. "My Ladies" will have been busy in the kitchen producing their favourite and best dessert and you are invited to come and eat them. Children or Adult, Young or Old you are all welcome. £6 a head. There will be a Bar and a Raffle, and the chance for chat and cheerfulness and LOTS OF PUDS! Rennies could be provided as you leave! This might be your last chance, apart from Pancake Day - Shrove Tuesday - for a pre-Lent binge.

I invite you, this Lent to Widen Your Horizons and come to a series of five talks, on Wednesdays at 7.30pm starting on Feb 21st. Manvir Singh will come to talk about being a Sikh; Ansar Hussain about being a Muslim, Naomi Perry about the Jewish Faith; Canon Richard Cox explaining "Why the Middle East is as it is" - James and Andrew Taylor talking about the importance of their Christian Faith. Anyone who would like to listen and learn and think and grow is warmly welcomed to attend - but this is not the venue for hostility or the expression of any prejudice. Wednesdays Feb 21, 28, March 7, 14 and 21, at 7.30pm in Sibford Primary School. Refreshments available from 7pm. Bring a cushion! No charge but the opportunity to make a donation to defray expenses.

*Ronald Hawkes*

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## NEIGHBOURHOOD

## WATCH

**NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH**

Police Phone No. 101. Emergencies 999 Crimestoppers No. 0800 555111.  
Trading Standards No. 0845 0510845.

**February 2018** *Peter Hine 01295 788830*

### **In lieu of zero crime reports for this period.**

I had been in London, N2 just off The Bishops Avenue, in response to a report that a shed had been blown up! The building looked very distressed - partly charred and still smouldering. The oversized rocket had certainly made an impression.

The young offender-not yet 10 years old, was standing in front of me in the drawing room of a very fine mansion. His mum, an elegant and charming Princess from a Middle Eastern royal family, was also present, together with three large men wearing identical bulky suits.

The dressing-down was duly delivered, and apologies and assurances as to future behaviour given. I left the premises, closely followed by the 3 amigos. Sometime later a large lorry in familiar green and gold livery drew up outside the victim's house. What was eventually offloaded could never be described as a mere shed. It was the sort of structure purchased by a recently retired PM living in the Cotswolds. The victim was clearly delighted and I'm very pleased to say the Met Police's widows and orphans' fund also received a very generous donation".

### **YOGA**

**Sibford Village Hall**

**Tuesday 9.00 - 10.00am**

**Friday 9.00 - 10.00am**

**Chair Yoga Fridays 10.15 - 11.00am**

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New times start Monday 5th June 2017

	NS	H			SO
Stratford, Wood Street	06.15	09.05	....	....	16.05
Stratford, Bridge Street	06.17	09.07	....	....	16.07
Newbold on Stour	06.31	09.22	....	....	16.22
Clifford Chambers New Inn	....	....	....	....	....
Shipston Tilemans Lane	....	09.37	11.25	13.25	....
Shipston on Stour, opp Pettiphers Garage	06.40	09.40	11.38	13.38	16.30
Lower Brailes, The Park	06.50	09.50	11.48	13.48	16.40
Sibford Ferris, School	07.02	10.02	12.00	14.00	16.52
Lower Tadmarton	07.12	10.12	12.10	14.10	17.02
Banbury Bus Station	07.25	10.25	12.23	14.23	17.15

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Banbury Bus Station	10.40	12.40	....	14.35	17.25
Lower Tadmarton	10.53	12.53	....	14.48	17.38
Sibford Ferris School	11.03	13.03	....	14.58	17.49
Lower Brailes, The Park	11.16	13.16	....	15.11	18.05
Shipston on Stour, Pettiphers Garage	....	....	....	15.21	18.15
Shipston on Stour, opp Pettiphers Garage	11.28	13.28	....	....	....
Shipston Tilemans Lane	(11.25)	(13.25)	....	15.24	....
Clifford Chambers, New Inn	....	....	....	....	18.23
Newbold on Stour	....	....	....	15.33	....
Stratford, Bridge Street	....	....	....	15.51	18.38
Stratford, Wood Street	....	....	....	15.53	18.40

NS .... NOT SATURDAY  
 SO .... SATURDAYS ONLY  
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# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## FEBRUARY

- 2nd - "A Midsummer Night's Nightmare" - Village Hall - 7.30pm  
3rd - "A Midsummer Night's Nightmare" - Village Hall - 2pm & 7.30pm  
6th - Men's Breakfast Club - The Gate - 9.15am  
7th - Ladies' Coffee Club - The Wykham Arms - 11am  
10th - Pudding Club event - Village Hall - 7pm  
15th - Sibford Society Social - Village Hall - 8pm  
21st - Talk by HN Vets Surgery - Village Hall - 7pm  
21st - "Widen Your Horizons" - see page 27 for details  
28th - "Victoria and Abdul" FILM NIGHT - Village Hall - 7.30pm

## FEBRUARY BIN COLLECTIONS

Green                      Tuesday: 6th; 20th  
Blue/Brown              Tuesday: 13th; 27th

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.

SIBFORD SCENE  
DEADLINE FOR MARCH ISSUE - 18 FEBRUARY 2018

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