

SIBFORD SCENE

April 2018

No 401



"Sunlight in Sibford" by Nigel Fletcher

HORTI SOCIETY

11th - "Oxford Garden Project" - Village Hall.

HOLY TRINITY ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING

14th - Church. 10am

FILM NIGHT

25th - "Maudie" - village Hall. 7.30pm (door opens at 7pm)

SIBFORD GOWER ANNUAL PC MEETING

30th - village Hall. 7.30pm

SIBFORD PHOTOGRAPHS



2 photographs from Carole Deleamont



ED'S THOUGHTS



The mast has landed.....!

Anyone got a better phone signal?

Sibford Photos

I receive some great photos every now and then (see above). If you'd like to see your photos in the Scene, then please email them to me

Thought for the month:

"Never Give Up"

Stephen Hawking



LETTERS AND NOTICES

SIBFORD TOTS

We are a small group and we are struggling with our numbers and making the rent (which has increased this year) so we want to encourage as many people as possible to come along to the group. The Hook Norton group has closed due to dwindling numbers and our Sibford playgroup is the only place locally for Sibford, Hooky, Swalcliffe and Shutford toddlers to socialise. It would be a shame if we had to close.

Sibford Tots "stay and play" preschool playgroup. Every Thursday 9.30 -11.30. term time only. Contact Ali Smith 01295 788537 for information.

The Sibfords website: thesibfords.org.uk

Sibford Ferris Parish Council would like to extend grateful thanks to all those who came along to help with the delayed litter pick. We managed to cover all the roadsides and saw a huge, if temporary improvement. Unfortunately the litter is already reappearing.

1st Sibfords Scout Group.

We have been given the opportunity to raise funds for the Group by providing and serving teas at Chastleton House. (a National Trust property) We will be serving them in the church on the following dates; Sunday 25th March, Thursday 26th April, Thursday 31st May, Friday 13th July and Sunday 2nd September.

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NATURE NOTES

The impact on wildlife of the 2017-8 winter with its very mixed weather is difficult to predict. Some recent research into the effect of cold winters on British butterflies has indicated that many species actually benefit from cold winters.

Following last month's comments on Red Kites I have been asked about their diet and whether they kill animals to eat. Basically they prefer carrion and will include worms, beetles and other invertebrates in their diet. They may kill and eat small mammals up to the size of a young rabbit.



In mid-February I found a Hawk-moth pupa sitting on the middle of a path. Given its location near to where I grow potatoes I thought at first it might be a Death's-head. However on closer examination it turned out to be a Privet Hawk-moth. The clear proboscis (handle) on the pupa is the distinguishing feature. This is our largest resident moth and in Sibford we are at the north-west edge of the area where it is considered fairly common. I assume the pupa had been dug up by rabbits scratching around at the base of a nearby Ash tree. The caterpillars feed on Ash as well as Privet.

John Ross of Baker's Cottage in Sibford Gower reported that a Fieldfare had spent 2 days during the snow in early March in his garden feeding on apples. I think these birds tend to only come into gardens when food is scarce.

Apparently on several occasions a single deer (probably Roe) has been seen sitting by the glass recycling bins at the Elm cross-roads in Sibford Ferris. It does not appear to be injured.

Please send any observations to ajnewbold88@gmail.com

Andy and Gill Newbold



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VILLAGE HALL NEWS

FILM NIGHTS

On April 25th we are showing "Maudie" The film is about Maud Lewis who painted in Nova Scotia. She struggled with arthritis , memories of a lost child and a family that doubted her ability. Stars Sally Hawkins and Ethan Hawke. Doors open 7pm to start film at 7.30pm Refreshments available. Entry £2 per adult, £1 students.

FREE `BIG SCREEN EVENTS`

May 12th The Eurovision Song Contest

July 15th Wimbledon Mens Final [with cream teas available]

September 8th The Last Night of the Proms

FUTURE EVENTS

Jazz Night and Picnic on June 2nd. We provide the music - you bring your own food and drinks.

Annual Fayre on July 7th with Childrens Sports.

VILLAGE HALL MEETINGS

Our AGM is on June 6th and you are all welcome to attend..If you have any great ideas that you would like to bring to our attention or learn more about the running of the Village Hall then do join us, or contact Ginny on 01295 780373.

BOOKINGS AND INFORMATION

Please contact Ginny via bookvillagehall@thesibfords.org.uk website or call the Tel No above. Thank you for being patient whilst the snowy and muddy weather has made the car park and field rather challenging. Hopefully it will improve soon

Ginny Bennett

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As part of OXFORDSHIRE ARTWEEKS FESTIVAL local amateur artist Ginny Bennett and friends Sue Levitch and David Christie will be exhibiting their art in a beautiful barn in Stourton, near Brailes.

Our original paintings are affordable and encompass wildlife, landscapes, street scenes and still life, mainly in Oils. Prints will also be available. This is our first experience of exhibiting during Artweeks and we welcome you to visit our venue : **Jacques Barn ,Stourton, Shipston on Stour , CV36 5HG.** We are Venue No 141 in the Artweeks Festival Guide and will be open from May 5th until 13th at 11am until 5pm. Entry is free to all Artweeks venues. Refreshments will be available. Parking and disabled access .

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SIBFORD GOWER PARISH COUNCIL

TO ALL RESIDENTS OF SIBFORD GOWER & BURDROP ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

You are invited to take part. It will be held in Sibford Village Hall on Monday
30th April at 7.30pm

The Parish Meeting may, by law, discuss all parish affairs and pass resolutions
about them

AGENDA

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting, held on 10th April 2017

Matters arising

Chairman's Report

Clerk's and Financial Report

Thames Valley Police Matters

Highway & Footpath Matters

Holy Trinity Church Report

Friend Meeting House Report

Primary School Report

Report by the Town Estate Charity

Report by the Neighbourhood Watch Representative

Village Hall Report

Any Other Business

Peter Hardman - Clerk to the Sibford Gower Parish Council

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SIBFORD FERRIS PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council Meeting of 19 March

Draft minutes of this meeting will be published on the website in early May. The main points of interest were

- Thanks to all those who turned out on 10 March to help clear litter from the roads round about the village.
- The shiny new green cabinet by the old phone box is a sign that superfast broadband is on its way.
- Following a suggestion from a resident, the council agreed to the purchase of a gritting bin for Cotswold Close before next winter. But exactly where is the best position to install it? The council would welcome advice from CC residents.
- The Annual Parish Meeting will be on Thursday 10 May.
- The next meeting of the Parish Council will also be the first meeting of the newly elected council, on Monday 14 May.

Parish and District Council Elections

May 3rd this year is election day for Parish Council and District Council elections. All five Sibford Ferris Parish Council posts are up for election, and there will be room on the council for new members. 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. Any of the present councillors will be happy to answer your queries about it. The deadline for nominations is 4pm on Friday 6th April; nomination papers can be picked up from Tim Huckvale or downloaded from the Electoral Commission website at <https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/candidate-or-agent/parish-and-community-council-elections-in-england-and-wales>.

Clerk: Graham Beacham, 01608 810 047, sfpc@thesibfords.org.uk
Chair: Tim Huckvale, 01295 780 491, chairofsfp@thesibfords.org.uk
Website: <https://thesibfords.org.uk/sfpc>



SIBFORDS WALKING GROUP

Forthcoming Walks:

9 Apr; 23 Apr; 14 May; 4 Jun

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: 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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THE ART FAIR

After lots of consultation, Sibford Gower Primary School PTA have decided to run this amazing event every other year from now on.

So, the next ART FAIR will be in MARCH 2019, with a refreshed look and new organisers.

We want to thank you for all your support and look forward to seeing you next year.

THE ART FAIR 2019

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On the 15th March we were lucky enough to have a second visit from Dr Richard Buckley, Head of Leicester University's Department of Archaeology. In November 2015 he told us about the dramatic discovery of the skeleton of Richard III in a car park in Leicester, and this time he continued the story of how the bones were subjected to rigorous tests and eventually determined without any doubt to be those of the king.

There followed a dispute, mainly with York, over the right place for the reburial ; after a judicial review it was decided in favour of Leicester, and extensive preparations were undertaken to prepare a visitors' centre over the original site of the grave, and an area in the Cathedral worthy of the tomb of the monarch. There was a moving ceremony on 22nd March, 2015, which entailed the coffin being escorted out to Ambion Hill at Bosworth, and then returned to Leicester Cathedral where the formal handing over took place, in which Dr Buckley had a central role.

Members of the public were allowed to visit the coffin before it was interred on 26th March. Dr Buckley's excellent slides, together with his very personal report on events, made a vivid impact, and perfectly paved the way for our trip to Leicester in May. Really one needs much more than a day in Leicester, as the remainder of the talk was about the Roman ruins which have been discovered all over the city, a treasure trove for archaeologists. A museum is being prepared for all the artefacts found , and this will be open in approximately 18 months.

The Sibfords Society coach trip to Leicester, on 24th May 2018, is for members and non-members, and the price will be £15 for the journey and £10 for a joint ticket to the visitors' centre and the Cathedral. The exact timings will be announced nearer the date. Please let us know by the next meeting if you would like to come, and bring your payment in advance.

On April 19th Matthew Armitage will be giving a talk on Tooley's Boat Yard. Village Hall doors open at 7.45 p.m. and the talk begins at 8.00 p.m . Visitors welcome at £3 p.p.



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



FRIENDSHIP CLUB

April 3rd we will have our Easter Tea and on the 17th there is trip out and will be discussed at the Party'

PLEASE NOTE the AGM will be on May 15th

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(Note change of time)

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SIBFORD GOWER PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

Spring is in the Air.

Despite more Snow Days and some bitterly cold winds, springtime is very much on our minds at Sibford Gower Endowed Primary School. The children in Acorn and Beech Classes have been out and about in our grounds looking for shoots and buds, and have been planting their own bulbs and seeds too.

As a school, we really value outdoor learning and the benefits to our children of being out and physically active in the fresh air. Thanks to our marvellous PTA, Acorn and Beech Classes now have their very own mud kitchens, made by carpenter and living willow artist, Jay Hadley. As soon as these were installed, the children were able to go out and play with them, with some of our pupils getting impressively messy in the excitement of being allowed to play with mud – the joy of which is something I hope that most of us remember from our own childhoods!

The children in Willow and Maple Classes are doing topic work linked to the story *A Boy and a Bear in a Boat*, by David Shelton, in which a boy and a bear go to sea, equipped with a suitcase, a comic book and a ukulele. The children have produced some fantastic artwork and writing in the form of comic strips, and Maple Class have turned their book corner into a harbour, complete with a lovely cobalt blue sailing boat that they have made and can sit inside.

Children in Key Stage Two spent some time considering what they would wish for if they could have only one wish. Their wishes ranged from World Peace, to warm beds for homeless people, to health and well-being for their families, and a cat for Evie. As part of this lesson, they produced some simple but very beautiful images of dandelion clocks which are displayed in the school library. Their images are all based on the same template but still look very different because of the choices each child has made about the drawing and paint colours they have added. We have recently been exploring our anti-bullying policy with the children and this display beautifully illustrates one of its core themes: that it is alright to be different and that we are all different but all special.

If you want to find out more about our wonderful school, please look at our school website which can be found at <http://www.sibford-gower.oxon.sch.uk/>

Pupils look on the bright side of life

Sibford School pupils looked on the bright side of life for their 2018 school production ...

and performed the Monty Python hit musical 'Spamalot'.

A riotous comedy full of misfit knights, a killer rabbit, musical monks and ferocious Frenchmen, the Sibford production played to delighted audiences over three nights.

Director and Head of Drama, Neil Madden, said: "The cast worked their socks off, giving up their evenings and weekends to put on a very professional production. I was extremely impressed with how easily the pupils entered the world of Monty Python and it was a joy to witness their confidence soar with each performance. It is humbling to work with such talented children."

Meanwhile, students were celebrating after achieving a 100 per cent success rate in their acting and public speaking exams.



A total of 23 pupils, from Year 5 up to Year 13, entered LAMDA (London Academy of Music & Dramatic Art) exams at the end of January, with 56% passing with distinctions and the rest achieving merits.

Sibford Head Toby Spence said: "This is an incredible achievement, especially as some of the older students were also juggling the exams with their rehearsals for 'Spamalot'. Congratulations to all involved."

Pictured top: The cast of Spamalot. Right: Nine-year-old Imogen (the youngest pupil taking the LAMDA exam) and 17-year-old Thomas (the eldest candidate).



Whole School Open Morning Friday 4 May from 9.45am
Come along and see what Sibford can offer pupils aged from 3 ~ 18.

An invitation to join the next Open Meeting of Hook Norton Low Carbon

In 2012, the Sibfords launched an ambitious community plan that addressed a wide range of issues and planning provision that were of concern to the villages.

The strength of responses received on environmental issues, and particularly the need for a range of measures to reduce energy costs and our ecological footprint on the planet was indicative of the importance that the Sibfords community placed on this topic then; and the level of interest is likely to have increased over the last 6 years, with new villagers joining the community.

A number of us in Sibford have followed up that interest by becoming members of Hook Norton Low Carbon, a thriving local community venture just 2 miles down the road. Every two months or so HNLC hold an open meeting with advice clinics, themed discussions and invited speakers. The next one coming up is on Tuesday, April 17th and having joined the management committee last September I will be leading this meeting supported by the rest of the HNLC team.

This is a copy of a letter, just published in the April edition of the Hook Norton newsletter and re-printed here for readers of the Sibford Scene, with all the details:

*HNLC: Our next Open Meeting
The Malthouse Kitchen, Hook Norton Brewery
Tuesday April 17th, 7.30 pm*

We are writing on behalf of the team at Hook Norton Low Carbon. If you haven't looked at our website for a while, you'll find us all at:

<https://www.hn-lc.org.uk/about/the-team>

We have been wanting for some time to extend the range and the diversity of initiatives and activities that go to making up Hook Norton Low Carbon. We suspect the span of interests amongst our growing membership is much wider than our current range of activity might be catering for.

continued.....

For our second open meeting of this year on Tuesday 17th April, we thought we would experiment with the character and format of the meeting itself.

We now have nearly 300 members and the number has been growing steadily to include a very lively interest from settlements and villages around us in Hook Norton. We'd like to look with fresh eyes at what has prompted this interest: and to provide a ready opportunity for those expressing interest, or joining for the first time, to find others of like mind.

We assume the number of concerns people have around the sustainability of this troubled planet have also been growing equally steadily. We don't want to presume we know what these are. So, on the day we'll be asking you that question: what did attract you to join Hook Norton Low Carbon or to express your interest by coming?

What were the concerns and the issues that prompted you to come? And what is the difference you hoped you might make through being a part of this wider community of action?

We'll then structure the evening around the clusters of common interest we have no doubt will begin to emerge. Do please take this as a personal invitation. No need to write in beforehand, just come as you are. Whether you are new to the village or have been coming for some time, you can be assured of a very warm welcome.

*Tuesday April 17th, 7.30 pm
Hook Norton Brewery, Brewery Lane, Hook Norton*

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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AS SEEN FROM THE SIDECAR

Matt & Reece continue their latest adventures travelling around the world by motorbike and sidecar to raise money for charity

It's been a cracking few days for us and we're now back on the road heading for Malawi. We spent most of the week visiting the team at Kiishi na Kiushi (The guys who named the Sidecar). It was awesome to see the hard work they are doing in trying to kickstart their agri startup. They even took us out to the farm for a few days where we even mucked in and did a share of the work! The plans they are putting in place there are really exciting and we can't wait to visit again in a few years time. Cheers guys!

After saying goodbye this morning we hit the road and have now made our way to Mikumi National Park. The drive was one of our most interesting yet, it featured Baboons, Zebras, Giraffes, a lovely chat with locals and was finally topped by two men sat on a motorbike either side of a pig - something we found completely hilarious.

[#SidecarStory](#) [#Openmyworld](#)



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VILLAGE PEOPLE

This month - it's 'Marathon Man' David Bennet from the Ferris.....

Ginny, Jonathan, Suzie and I moved from Darlington, Co. Durham in April 1985 to our home in Mannings Close. I had been seconded by my company to the charity Opportunities for Disabled People on a two year contract as Director-West Midlands, the offices being based in Birmingham. The secondment period proved invaluable for me and subsequently, I was invited to undertake a further 2 year secondment period with Shaw Trust, a charity engaged in providing employment and training opportunities for disabled and disadvantaged people through a network of dedicated employment officers and specialist centres throughout the UK. Having concluded my secondment I was pleased to move permanently into the charitable sector as Director, Workable. The principal activity was working with students and finding work experience, training and employment openings relating to their chosen career through programmes such as Artsable, Legable and Mediable.



Although I have been retired for a number of years my interests are still linked to charitable causes. Many of you in the village and beyond will have seen me running over roads and tracks in all weathers to raise funds for Marie Curie, Air Ambulance amongst others.

To date, I have participated in 8 London Marathons, 1 New York City Marathon and this year I will take part in my 33rd Great North Run. Most Saturday mornings at 9.00 am I join over 200 good souls for the Banbury Park Run, a 5K event often with my daughter Suzie and sometimes my two eldest grandchildren, Henry and Tabitha. In 2000, I undertook the Premiership Walk, a 34 day journey covering 700 miles from Southampton to Newcastle visiting every club and meeting personalities including David Beckham, Daley Thompson, Sir Bobby Robson. A wonderful adventure raising thousands of £'s through signed shirts and footballs and interviews on TV and Radio.



VILLAGE PEOPLE

continued.....

A "Geordie" by birth, I make numerous journeys to Newcastle Gateshead each year, I retain my season ticket at Newcastle United Football Club and am a Director of the Brass in Concert Festival which takes place in the iconic surroundings of Sage Gateshead every November. From a 1-off occasion in Darlington in 1977, the Brass in Concert Championship has grown to become the leading entertainment event of its kind in the world with 12 of the best bands drawn from not only from the UK but as far a field as Europe and the United States, each band presenting a programme of 23 minutes. In addition the Festival stages a Gala Concert and through its Youth and Education programme, Tasters Sessions, Workshops, under the direction of conductors and principals from leading bands, master classes and this year a Youth Entertainment Championship.

I have had the pleasure of undertaking brass band projects in a number of locations linked to raising funds for charity. In 1985 Coventry Cathedral was the venue for an Evening of Music with proceeds being directed to music scholarships for disabled young people, one of the beneficiaries being a young percussionist, Evelyn Glennie, now Dame Evelyn, who was awarded a travel scholarship to study in Japan. In 1992 I was a member of the team which organised the 40th anniversary concert of the National Youth Brass Band of Great Britain at the Barbican and currently I am working towards the staging of a concert in Durham Cathedral in April featuring the legendary Grimethorpe Colliery Band, of "Brassed Off" fame, with proceeds being raised for the North of England Children's Cancer Research Fund. Another wonderful memory was a marvellous open air event in Broughton Castle on National Music Day with steel bands, jazz bands, the Warriner School Choir and massed brass bands finishing with a magnificent fireworks display with four charities being supported. A team effort involving the late Ernest Jones, Jean Scouse, Paul Saunders amongst others

We have enjoyed a range of community activities in Sibford and made many friends. Playing cricket and as the years went by umpiring to delivering papers have been on my itinerary. Presenting a number of brass band concerts in St. Mary's Church in support of Katharine House Hospice and Frank Wise School in front of enthusiastic audiences has been a delight. And of course many happy memories of the Millennium Pageant. None of this would have been possible without the support of Ginny, my rock, who has similarly integrated in village life as a Parish Councillor, as Booking Secretary for the Village Hall, as a Sibford Player and as an Artist under the guidance of Nigel Fletcher.

Family life, we have 5 grandchildren, continues to be a source of pleasure and we look forward to many more happy years in this marvellous community.

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Food

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Fiction feast

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#CHIPLITFEST #CHIPLITFEST



Easter Adventures at Upton House

Easter Egg Trail - Good Friday - Easter Monday

11-5pm £3 per child

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



DID YOU KNOW?



Communication in the Sibfords

Writing in 1937 Joshua Lamb records: 'The isolation of our villages was almost as pronounced in the middle of the 19th century as it had been during the preceding hundred years. The electric telegraph and railways were in their infancy, bicycles were as yet unknown and the daily paper was to be had only in the towns and large villages. Almost the only outside news we obtained was through the medium of "Bell's Weekly Messenger" which usually devoted one page to general information. This paper often served two or three households and it was our duty when very young to pass our father's copy on to a neighbouring farmer.'

Telegraph wires started to appear in the Sibfords in the 1890's and the first telegraph was received in the village in 1896. It detailed the new postal arrangements for Sibford:-

Banbury, 27th November 1896 Telegraph to Miss Inns, Sibford Gower from 1 st Dec your bags will be conveyed by mail cart instead of Rural Postman and the following changes will be made: The mail cart will be due at you office at 7.05am. The present allowance for delivery to Gallows Hill @ 2/- will cease. The following duties will have to be provided for and allowances for some will commence:

1 Delivery at Burdrop, Sibford Ferris, The School, Dr Routh's, Sibford Elm, PO Hook Norton Road, Woodway Road, Temple Mill, The Colony, & a collection at night from Sibford Ferris S.O. 4.55pm from Burdrop WB 5pm, due at your office, 5.15pm. Wages 5/- (H Elley to be employed).

2 Delivery Sibford Gower village (except the part on the way to Rye Hill beyond the Vicarage or Green, Handywater, Tyne Hill and Blenheim) Wages 3/-.

3 Deliver in Sibford Gower beyond Greens to Rye Hill and Coombeslade, Wages 1/6d. The sealed bag for Sibford Ferris S.O. will arrive at your office enclosed in your bag.

J.Davenport. Postmaster

Communication via telephone, newspapers, television, computer, email and the internet have developed at a rapid pace. It is no longer possible to send a telegram but by the end of 2018 those villagers who wish to, should be able to access Superfast Broadband and the new phone mast at the top of Pound Lane should improve the mobile phone signal for certain providers. These improved communications offer the opportunity to work from home for many villagers. Whoever could have imagined this instant access to global events and what of the next hundred years?

Maureen Hicks



HORTI SOCIETY

Who knew that ants are such well bred creatures that they won't eat in public but drag their food back to their anthills before touching a morsel? Well now that we have attended Timothy Walker's talk on euphorbia we do! This and other curious facts were imparted to us in last night's delightful talk at the village hall in the first horticulture fixture of the year. Our next talk will be on Wednesday 11th April when Robert Longstaff is coming to tell us about the Oxford Garden Project. This not for profit enterprise aims to teach the skills necessary to transform food from plot to plate. Come and learn how!

Sue Bannister, propagatrix extraordinaire, is asking for contributions to her forthcoming plant sale at Carters Yard on 12th May from 10.00 to 12.00. If you are dividing or discarding plants, please pass them on to Sue. We need all the plants we can get to fund our speakers who only get more expensive! Please contact Sue for any advice/a plant preview on 780365.

Diana Thompson

Painting classes

For beginners

Small oil & watercolour classes with easy to follow step by step demonstrations at Sibford village hall tuesday & wednesday mornings 10-12.30.

Monthly Saturday morning oil classes at Shutford village hall



email: nvfletcher@btinternet.com Paintings for sale: www.nigelfletcher.co.uk



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In Your Garden - April

The weather has been hard this winter, and spring is late, but here it comes with lovely surprises as daffodils survived the snowdrifts, and the tulips are showing off in the sun. We are rather behind with the jobs, so gloves on, and get ready, steady go!

1. Don't be in too much of a hurry to dig up plants that look dead - they may yet recover.
2. Weeds will pop up fast now. You can hoe them (standing up) or get down on your knees for close combat, with a trowel.
3. Keep your eyes open for pests, slugs, greenfly and whitefly.
4. Garden paths need a quick weed and brush up. It really does help transform a winter battered garden.
5. Likewise lawns. They will need raking to remove moss and leaves, and it's time to weed and feed. Mow when it's warm and dry, and don't set the blades too low at first.
6. Dahlias need checking over. Remove any soggy bits. Plant them in John Innes seed compost, keep soil just moist, never too wet.
7. Roses need a feed, rose fertilizer or Growmore, and later on as plants grow up, mulch them.
8. In the greenhouse increase watering as growth starts again, ventilate when possible, and on rainy days I like to take the radio, the dog, and a mug of tea into the greenhouse, and start re-potting my geraniums.
9. Plant summer flowering bulbs now - alliums, gladioli, and my favourite is acidanthera. I fill big pots with these to put into gaps in the border.
10. Once your potatoes have chitted they can be planted out in the first half of April, Maincrop plant out at the end of April, and if the soil has warmed up you can sow peas, perpetual spinach, carrots, beetroot and leeks.

Jupe Hitching



**KATHARINE
HOUSE
HOSPICE**

NEWS FROM KATHERINE HOUSE

COULD YOU BE A BEREAVEMENT VOLUNTEER?

We're looking for caring people who are interested in training to become volunteer bereavement support workers. Our bereavement service provides support to anyone who has lost someone special to them by offering a trained person to talk to who is outside of the circle of family and close friends. You'll be helping to support bereaved people through a difficult time in their lives.

Our foundation training programme will start in September 2018. For more information, please contact Alison Mares, Volunteer Co-ordinator, on 01295 816 477 or volunteering@khh.org.uk Closing date for receipt of completed applications is Friday 25th May 2018. Interviews will be held on 13th and 21st June 2018

FESTIVAL OF GARDENS (MARCH TO SEPTEMBER)

Proud of your garden? Why not show it off and raise some money for Katharine House Hospice at the same time? Register your interest by contacting us at getinvolved@khh.org.uk and we'll send you a pack with a poster and stickers. We'll also include information about your garden on our website. You can encourage your neighbours and friends in the village to open their gardens too! If five or more gardens in the same village or town take part, we can add your listing to a national website for open gardens. Find out more about the festival at www.khh.org.uk/gardens

BLenheim GALA DINNER: 26 APRIL

Our patrons, The Rt. Hon. Lord Heseltine and The Rt. Hon. Sir Tony Baldry invite you to the Katharine House Hospice Gala Dinner on Thursday 26 April at Blenheim Palace. On arrival, guests will be welcomed to the Marlborough Room with canapes, drinks and music, before moving to the stunning setting of The Orangery for a four course dinner with wine.

Dining in the most elegant of surroundings, and overlooking the Duke of Marlborough's private Italian garden, our guest host (to be announced shortly) will lead the evening and after speeches by our special guests you'll have the opportunity to bid on some truly money-can't-buy items in the auction.

Tickets are available for £250 per person or £2,500 for a table of ten and include drinks and canapes on arrival, three course dinner, wine and entertainment.

To book tickets or for more information please contact Jessica Hill, Major Partnerships Manager at Katharine House Hospice on jessica.hill@khh.org.uk or 01295 816494.



NOT SO GREAT TASTE

Our Head Chef this month is ME!!!

IRISH STEW IN THE NAME OF THE LAW

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| 1.25kg middle neck of lamb (ouch!) | 0.5kg potatoes - peeled and sliced |
| 2 large onions - sliced | S&P |
| 8 oz carrots - sliced | Handful of parsley and other herbs you can get hold of |

Layer the ingredients in a casserole, seasoning each layer with S&P. Finish with a layer of potato

Chuck some water half way up the casserole. Cover with a lid and cook in a very moderate oven for 2 hours, until the meat is nearly tender.

Remove the lid, increase the oven to moderately hot and cook for a further 30 mins, until the potato is golden brown

Reward yourself with an exceptional burgundy

Serves 4

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| ✓ And more... | ✓ And more... |

CHURCH SERVICES

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



HOLY TRINITY CHURCH CHATTER

Widen Your Horizons has proved very successful with over 40 people attending each of the 5 talks. It has been fascinating to hear from Manvir Singh (Sikh) Ansar Hussain (Muslim) Naomi Perry (Jew) Richard Cook (Middle East) and Andrew and James Taylor (Christian) and to realise how much we share. The various delicious foods we have been served also met with considerable approval! Thanks to Gay Harris for all the tea and coffee she made, and to the Sibford Gower Endowed School for their generosity in letting us use the school hall.

Holy Trinity APCM – the annual Church Meeting – will be held on Saturday April 14th at 10am in church. At this meeting we shall elect Church Wardens and PCC Members, also a Deanery Synod Representative. We shall have various reports about the life of the church and also decide if we intend to go ahead with revamping the kitchen, installing a toilet, creating some space at the rear of the church, and re-ordering the east end.

Junior Youth Group on Mondays from 6pm to 7pm is the initiative of Bella, Tom and Lucy who are using this aspect of Community Service towards their Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award. About 13 fairly small people join in and swarm around the church. Their favourite game is Hide and Seek in the dark! All children aged 7 or so and above welcome to attend. Games, board games, party games, sometimes some craft, and sometimes some thinking, all interspersed with far too many sweets

Pastoral Care Training. Many of you, whether churchy or not, deal with vulnerable adults and children. If you would like to take part in a morning of training in this – how to visit, risks and pitfalls, keeping safe, listening skills, and so on, you are very welcome to an event on Saturday April 21st from 9.30am until 12noon (latest) at St Mary's Church Centre at the Parish Church in Banbury. This is organised by Deddington Deanery of which we are a part. No charge. Let Ronald know if you intend going so you can be catered for as breakfast is included!



HOLY TRINITY CHURCH CHATTER

Continued.....

Quiz Night for Teams of 4 or 5 Friday April 27th at the Blinking Owl in North Newington. No charge. Nibbles provided. The Bar will be open. Small prizes. Let James Taylor know if you have a team – 07875626590.

Coffee Morning Saturday April 28th in church. Coffee and Tea, delicious Eats, Raffle, Bring and Buy and the chance to chat and put the world to rights. Everyone welcome.

Services

April 1st Easter Day 9.30 Holy Communion. (John)
April 8th 8am BCP HC (Ronald) and 11am Methodist Service
April 15th 9.30 HC (Liz)
April 22nd 9.30 BCP HC (Keith)
April 29th 9.30 HC (John)

Ronald Hawkes
The Rectory
Sibford Gower
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Oxon
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Monday to Saturday 7.30 am to 7.30 pm

Sunday 7.30 am to 4.00 pm

PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL POST OFFICE, THERE ARE LOTS OF PRODUCTS AND SERVICES AVAILABLE ON YOUR DOORSTEP

YOGA
Sibford Village Hall

Tuesday 9.00 - 10.00am

Friday 9.00 - 10.00am

Chair Yoga Fridays 10.15 - 11.00am

Any enquiries to Juliette - 07703 836856

Juliette53@btinternet.com.

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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

Weekly at Sibford Village Hall

**Do join us for an excellent two course lunch with
tea or coffee, good conversation and a friendly and welcoming
atmosphere. 12.45pm for 1.00pm - £4.00**

Telephone or contact Keith Hicks 780259 keith@hicks-sibford .co.uk



SIBFORD BUS SERVICE

JOHNSONS SERVICE 3A

STRATFORD - SHIPSTON ON STOUR
 THE SIBFORDS - BANDBURY
NO SERVICE ON SUNDAYS

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

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
 H via HALFORD



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

APRIL

- 3rd - Friendship Club - Easter Tea
- 3rd - Men's Breakfast Club - Gate Hangs High - 9.30am
- 4th - Ladies Coffee Club - Wykham Arms - 11am
- 11th - Horti Society - "Oxford Garden Project" - Village Hall
- 14th - Holy Trinity APCM - Church - 10am
- 16th - Sibford Gower & Burdrop PC Meeting - Primary School - 8pm
- 19th - SFPC Meeting - Sibford School - 7.45pm
- 19th - Sibfords Society "Tooleys Boatyard" - Village Hall - 8pm
- 25th - Film Night: "Maudie" - Village Hall - 7.30pm
- 30th - SG & Burdrop Annual Parish Meeting - Sibford Village Hall - 7.30pm

APRIL 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 MAY ISSUE - 18 APRIL 2018

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