

# SIBFORD SCENE

September 2018

No 405



*Jane's Lillies by Nigel Fletcher*

## Norman's 90th!

8th - Village Hall - From 10am.....

Sponsored 'Ride & Stride'

8th - Holy Trinity Church

'Last Night of the Proms'

8th - Village Hall - 6.45pm

Film Night - 'Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri'

26th - Village Hall - 7.30pm

Harvest Barn Dance

29th - Village Hall - 7pm

# Sibford DogFest

Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> October

At Sibford Village Hall

1pm  4pm

- ❁ Fun Dog Show - indoors
- ❁ Pet photo studio
- ❁ Games
- ❁ Pet Raffle
- ❁ Canine Café – for dogs and their humans
- ❁ Kids Drawing competition

**Pet Pawtraits** at our pop-up photographic studio by Stratford-on-Avon photographer Hannah Sorrell.

Pets on their own or with their humans!

£15 per single sitting (**only £10** if pre-booked), price includes one digital image.

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For details please visit our Facebook Page:



Sibford DogFest 2018

All proceeds to Camps International wildlife, conservation & community projects in Peru



## Ballroom Dancing ...?

Then join us, Richard & Jennie, at -

**SIBFORD GOWER VILLAGE HALL**  
**WEEKLY DANCE CLASS for ADULT BEGINNERS**  
starts

**Monday, September 17th, 8.00pm - 9.00pm.**

(Yes, you'll need a partner!)

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care to dance?™*

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## ED'S THOUGHTS

Well - looks like Dog Poo and Speeding are the talking points this month....  
(and talking of dogs, the Sibford Dog Fest looks like fun!)

Looking forward to 'Norman's 90th at the Village Hall on the 8th and the Film Night (Three Billboards outside Ebbing, Missouri) on the 26th.....

*Thought for the month:*

"The moment I wake up before I put on my makeup I say a little prayer for you"

*Aretha Franklin*



## LETTERS AND NOTICES

### **DOG POO BOX - MILLENIUM FIELD**

I write in response to James Garstin's letter in the July/August Scene. How saddened and appalled I was to read of the repeated practice of some dog owners who fail to pick up their dogs' droppings. The use of the Millennium Field for exercising dogs is a wonderful facility and a real privilege for villagers – one of which our family made good use during the lifetime of our lovely lurcher, Shannon. In order to encourage the responsible use of the field, I made and installed the box for doggie poo bags, and kept it stocked with new bags regularly. Now that we no longer have Shannon, it is my hope that someone else in the village dog owning community would be willing to take over the task of keeping the box stocked. I contacted the Dog Warden at Bodicote House who was happy to drop off a large box of (5000!) poo bags, which kept the box topped up for several years. If you are interested in taking this on, contact Peter and Judy Abbott in Bonds End Lane.

*Mike Spring*

Dear Ed

It is so nice to get home at the end of the working day. That is until you are greeted by dog mess by your house.

As I park my car on Main Street I am now looking to see if I am about to tread on dog poo. Today saw a change - I was greeted by a pile on my front door step (which abuts the pavement).

Over the last few months there has been a growing level of dog mess not cleared up. This is so insensitive and unnecessary. Please can all dog owners (of which I am one) clear up after their dog.

*Joanne Connor*



## LETTERS AND NOTICES

### **Gardens open for National Gardens Scheme**

On **24 June** five gardens in the Sibfords opened to raise funds for the organisations which the NGS supports, amongst them Macmillan Cancer Support, Marie Curie, Hospice UK, Carers Trust, Queen's Nursing Institute, Parkinson's UK, Perennial, MS Society, and National Autistic Society. In 2017 the NGS countrywide donated £3 million to these organisations. The weather on 24 June was glorious.

The England Panama World Cup match coincided with the opening but we sold 190 tickets and plant sales and donations took the day's total to £1614.50. I would like to thank all the garden owners for the hard work they put in during the entire year as well as on the day itself, our many volunteers, door keepers and plant sellers, for their generous help. Gil Soden and her team served teas at the Village Hall in aid of the Holy Trinity church and directed strangers to the villages to the gardens which were open. These were Buttslade House, Carter's Yard, Stickleys House, Home Close and Home Farm. *Sue Bannister*

### **Sibford Scouts Cycling for Charity**

1st The Sibfords Scouts will, once again, be taking part in the annual Ride and Stride raising money to support the Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust who offer grants to places of worship to help with the cost of repairs to their buildings.

The event takes place on Saturday September 8th and we hope that readers will support our scouts in their efforts. If you don't know any of our scouts but would like to support the effort there is a sponsor form available in the Church or contact me on the email address below and I will get you on one of our forms. Many thanks

Adrian Lamb. [adrian.lamb1@btconnect.com](mailto:adrian.lamb1@btconnect.com)

### **SIBFORD PLAYERS**

Sibford Players are putting on another show! If you'd like to get involved in ANY way please come along to the Village Hall on September 20<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm. Hope to see you there!

*Juliette Glazebrook*



## LETTERS AND NOTICES

### **Sibford's Millennium field**

When the Town Estate Charity acquired what is now called the Millenium Field – after the memorable production of a Pageant there by villagers from both parishes in the year 2000 to commemorate 2000 years of history on this very spot:

<https://thesibfords.org.uk/sibipedia/sibfords-millennium-pageant>

they were holding in memory its much missed creator Paul Hobson. Sibford Gower Parish Council agreed to organise and pay for half the cost of the field's maintenance, matched again by the Town Estates charity. But it has become apparent after a year's experience that the maintenance of the field could easily overcome the Council's entire budget. As Ronald Hawkes eloquently put it to the Chairman in a letter: "Now I realise quite how much hard work Paul used to put into its care and maintenance!"

With the support of the Town Estates, the Council are seeking to maintain Paul's original vision for the field, which was of a woodland and a part-wild open space with an intricate pattern of paths cut through the otherwise naturally lengthening grass. The challenge is that even with the services of David Lovesey who does all the mowing and cutting involved, there is much more to do to maintain the area as Paul originally intended it.

This is an ADVANCE NOTICE! In next month's Sibford Scene, which comes out in October you will see a call go out for volunteers to supplement David's planned October mowing which will involve his clear-cutting the whole field. Ronald has called for a Saturday morning working party, and this will be the great opportunity! As he wrote: "Everyone who cares, and certainly ALL of us who walk our dogs there, ought to be pleased to come, armed with motor mowers, loppers, shears, strimmers and so on. So watch this space!

Anyone who would like to get involved in this way sooner than that, do please let Tony Skowronski know. Tony is overseeing the Millenium Field project in his capacity as a Parish Councillor, and he would be delighted to hear from you. You can write to him at: [sibfordscene@gmail.com](mailto:sibfordscene@gmail.com)

### **First Aid Training**

If any residents are interested in attending a First Aid training course please let me know. Sibford Ferris Parish Council are keen to support First Aid training and the course could be provided at little or no cost to the attendees - Gower or Ferris residents are welcome to attend.

Adrian Lamb. [adrian.lamb1@btconnect.com](mailto:adrian.lamb1@btconnect.com)



## LETTERS AND NOTICES

### **Speeding in the Village**

I instigated a debate recently on the 'Nextdoor Sibford Gower' website, following my observation of a speeding car travelling down Colony Road, This has sparked a lot of interest on the site and speeding is clearly an issue with a number of residents.

The Colony is a particular issue due to the sharp blind bends, narrow road and the fact that it is also a footpath. I suspect many motorists feel they have left the village at that point and can see no logic in observing the 30 mph limit, but I know there are several other roads in the village affected.

I have met our new Sibford Gower Parish Council Chair, Hugh Pidgeon to raise the issue. Hugh and the other newly elected Councillors are clearly keen on developing the Council's relevance as a forum for village residents to reflect together on matters of importance to them, and from the response I've been getting speeding is clearly one of them!

The issue is now on the agenda for the next Parish Council meeting , which is at the new time of 7:30 pm on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> September in the Primary School. I am out of the Country on that date, but I would urge as many people as possible to attend, not just because of this particular issue, but to contribute more broadly to the evening's conversations which our new Council will very much welcome, Hugh assures me! -

Going forward and subject to discussions at the next meeting, I would like to bring together a small working group that have shown interest in this matter, so that we can come up with proposals and suggestions together, hopefully some innovative ones, to try to tackle the problem. As an added incentive, we could meet at the local with the first drink on me!

Hugh has offered to put a list together for me at the meeting of those who would like to join us.

*Richard Irons*  
6 The Colony  
<[richard.iron6@btinternet.com](mailto:richard.iron6@btinternet.com)>

**Two bedroom cottage for rent in  
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## NATURE NOTES

After the cold, wet Spring the recent hot, dry spell will have had an effect on the local wildlife. As ever some species will have suffered and others benefitted. When it is dry it is particularly important to provide drinking water for garden birds. A garden pond, however small, can be a real asset to garden wildlife.

We have noticed more than the usual number of the orange and black Sexton or Burying beetles around. These beetles bury the corpses of small mammals and birds in order to feed their larvae. They are unusual among beetles in that they look after their young and both the males and females play an equal part in the process.

Members of our local wildlife trust, BBOWT, may have seen in their latest newsletter that Sibford residents Bill and Barbara Crabtree have donated the fields at Woodford Bottom adjacent to The Lamb's Pool reserve to BBOWT. These fields have not been ploughed in living memory and their addition more than doubles the area protected for local wildlife.

Visiting another of the BBOWT reserves, the Hook Norton railway cutting, on a sunny day in early August we observed lots of butterflies in the southern end of the reserve where scrub is cut back and sheep graze in the winter to maintain the grassland habitat. Of particular interest was a sighting of the nationally rare Coppery Long-horn moth sitting on a scabious flower. This moth is very unusual in that it reproduces by parthenogenesis. The females lay fertile eggs without the need to mate and apparently males of the species are completely unknown.

Please send any observation for inclusion in the Nature notes to [ajnewbold88@gmail.com](mailto:ajnewbold88@gmail.com)

*Andy and Gill Newbold*

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## VILLAGE HALL NEWS

### **SIBFORD BIG SCREEN EVENT --THE LAST NIGHT of the PROMS**

Join us for a FREE EVENT on **September 8th** . The doors will be open at 6-45pm. programme starts at 7-15pm. A licensed bar will be available, with snacks.

We are going to sell "Lucky Tickets" before the event , for £1 each. The first ticket drawn on the night will win a prize.

Lucky Tickets available from Joan 01295 780410.

Come and sing along , wave your flags , or dance in the aisles, but above all ENJOY the moment!

### **HARVEST BARN DANCE**

As a warm up to the village harvest festival celebrations [on Sunday 30th] and following a highly enjoyable evening last year, come and join us on **Saturday 29th September** for a wonderful evening of traditional caller-led , Barn Dancing in the Village Hall. Music will be provided by the famous Old Bell Ceilidh Band from Adderbury, and fiddle player / caller Sheena makes it easy for everyone to join in and have fun. Doors open at 7pm, with licenced bar open all evening.

Tickets available from David 780151 and Ginny 780373. £8 each.

### **FILM NIGHT**

The film for **September 26** is Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri (15). Frances McDormand (who won an Oscar for best actress in this film) gives a powerhouse performance as a woman avenging the murder of her daughter in this wickedly funny and charismatic drama. Writer of In Bruges Martin McDonald's returns with a robustly and richly drawn violent carnival of small-town American life. After the trail has gone cold on the murder of Mildred's teenage daughter she rents a trio of dilapidated billboards, instigating a battle between herself and local law enforcement.

Contains very strong language and violence.

TO HIRE THE HALL / OR FOR INFORMATION

Contact Ginny on 01295 780373 or via the village website - <https://thesibfords.org.uk/>

# **NORMAN'S 90<sup>th</sup>**

Mary and Norman would love you to  
call in to wish him a

Happy Birthday

in the Village Hall

(Small Room)

**On Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2018**

10am -12.00 noon for coffee

OR

3pm – 4.30 pm for tea and cake

OR

6.30 pm – 8 pm for drinks

**Please no presents or cards**

But there will be a tub or something for donations to be shared between  
Katharine House Hospice and  
Holy Trinity Church for those who insist

**Please put this date in your diary NOW**

# SIBFORD GOWER PARISH COUNCIL

## **The upcoming Sibford Gower Parish Council, Monday 17<sup>th</sup> September, 7.30 pm**

If you haven't already seen these details on the Sibfords website <https://thesibfords.org.uk/>, this is a reminder for all of you living in the Gower that the next meeting of the community's council comes up on Monday, 17<sup>th</sup> September. It will be held as before in the village Primary School, and is at the new time of 7.30 pm.

It is still a daunting task for those of us taking on the mantle of a new council, but as we reported in the minutes of 16<sup>th</sup> April '18, our last open village meeting was wide-ranging, convivial and thoroughly enjoyable occasion, and we look forward to another of the same! There are usually a few formal matters the Council needs to attend to, but we otherwise see this as an opportunity for the community to meet: a forum where villagers can come together to talk over matters of common concern or shared interest.

We already have a number of items put forward for the agenda and this will be published two weeks beforehand on the Sibfords website on Monday, 3<sup>rd</sup> September. If you'd like to get something on it yourself, you need to let our clerk, Peter Hardman know before then - either by phone at 01295 780 391 or by sending him a note by e-mail. The e-mail address to use: sibfordgowerpc@gmail.com

By the time of the meeting we will have a new clerk in place, and putting the agenda together will actually be Peter's last contribution as our clerk after 17 years in the role. So one of our very pleasant duties on the day will be to preside over a formal handover and celebration of Peter's outstanding and painstaking dedication to the work of the council on behalf of the village.

We have another pleasant assignment that evening but that will remain a surprise until then!

*Hugh Pidgeon, SGPC Chair*

### **Wheathills Livery Yard: DIY stables for rent**

One stable and one stable area, both with grazing, available within Sibford Gower. This is a small private yard with a quiet secure location which is operated wholly on a DIY basis.

For further information, including pricing, please contact Archie Eggar on 01295 226288 or Charles Leather on 01844 267945.

## Success for Sibford Sixth Form students

A Sibford student who has over-come significant adversities was celebrating after gaining two As and a B at A Level and being accepted by her first choice of university.

Imogen Roberts, who has Chronic Fatigue Syndrome, received A Grades in Physics and Maths and a B in Drama. She now plans to spend a gap year, initially in Fiji where she hopes to work for a charitable NGO, before moving on to Australia, where, along with fellow Sibford student Julia Beaumont, she has won a competition to attend the renowned European Bartending School in Sydney.

In September 2019, she will then take up her place at the University of York to study Theatre.

Overall nearly a third of Sibford students gained A\* and A Grades in their A Levels and BTEC exams.

Alex Connolly, Will Edmonds and Emily Gibb all gained three straight A Grades at A Level, and there was impressive success for Sibford's international students ... Edward Lui gained A\*s in



*Imogen with Sibford Head Toby Spence*

Maths and Further Maths, an A in Physics and a B in Chemistry and Shin Zou gained A\*s in Art and Maths and a C in Design.

Tom Mahon gained Distinction\* (the equivalent of an A\* at A Level) in his BTEC Countryside Management Diploma and a Distinction (the equivalent of an A Grade at A Level) in his IT BTEC; Alex George, Oliver Keers

and James McCullough all gained Distinction\* in their IT BTEC; and Arran Day gained Distinction\* in his Media BTEC.

Sibford Head Toby Spence said: "This has been another fine year for our Sixth Form students after a record breaking set of results last year. We are delighted for the achievements of so many students who are moving on to a diverse range of exciting destinations including Russell Group universities, prestigious drama colleges and art schools, film studios and gap years. I congratulate the students for their resilience and hard work as well as the fabulous support and guidance of the dedicated teaching staff at Sibford School."



*Sibford students celebrate in the rain*



## SIBFORDS WALKING GROUP

### Forthcoming Walks:

2 Sept; 17 Sept; 1 Oct; 15 Oct; 29 Oct; 12 Nov; 26 Nov; 10 Dec

Leaving the village hall on foot or by car at 10.00 am sharp to do a circuit of approximately 2 hours' duration. It is therefore recommended that you get there for 9.55am. 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](mailto:sebannister@gmail.com)

**Ian Sharp**, [ian@iansharp.net](mailto:ian@iansharp.net), Lamb's Croft, Back Lane, Sibford Ferris, OX15 5RE. Tel. 01295 780790, is now the footpaths warden and anyone who has a problem or complaint should contact him.



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## SIBFORDS SOCIETY

The Sibfords Society has had a busy summer:

On 21<sup>st</sup> June Liz Woolley gave us a talk on beer, sausages and marmalade – food, drink, politics and tourism in Oxford in the C19, a fascinating description of Oxford's brewers, butchers, bakers and of course Frank Cooper's marmalade industry. Borrow Liz's book 'Oxford's Working Past' from the Archive Room.

On 2<sup>nd</sup> July we were treated on a beautiful, sunny evening, to a tour of Broughton Castle led by Martin Fiennes, followed by a barbeque in the castle grounds, an unforgettable experience.

On 19<sup>th</sup> July Chris Mason took us on a walk around the Sibfords in search of swifts. They did not disappoint, and even seemed to be putting on a spectacular show, circling at top speed high above the Old Rectory and then again at the Huckvales' house, screeching loudly. Chris, who is passionate about the preservation of the visiting swifts, was as always, a mine of information.

On Thursday, 20<sup>th</sup> September Richard Martin will be visiting Sibford to tell us about 'The Witney Blanket Hall' – "a romp through the last 300 years since the hall was built in 1721." He says, "Pack your audience, the more the merrier!"

Doors open at the Village hall at 7.45 p.m. and the talk starts at 8 p.m. Visitors welcome at £3. Refreshments free of charge.

*Diana Hughes*

### **Holy Trinity Church, Sibford Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust Sponsored Ride + Stride Saturday, 8th September 2018**

Since the Trust was founded in 1964 as The Friends of Oxfordshire Churches several million pounds has been given in grants to churches of many denominations within the County. About half of this money has been raised by the annual Ride + Stride event.

The first Sponsored Ride + Stride in Oxfordshire was held in 1986 as just a bicycle ride and the event has been growing ever since. Last year the St/Ride raised nearly £120,000.

The Ride + Stride is also an effective way of raising funds for our church as 50% of the sponsorship money (excluding gift aid) comes straight back to the church if it is designated by the Riders and Striders.

The Parochial Church Council is very grateful to those who have taken part in the past and hopes that there will be a desire to take part this year. Information and sponsorship forms are available from Peter Hardman (Hon Secretary to Holy Trinity Church PCC) – Tel: 01295 780391 or Email: hardman214@btinternet.com

## **We will remember them ...**



*People on school roof, celebrating the end of hostilities 1918*

On November 11, 2018 we will commemorate the centenary of the signing of the armistice that ended the brutal First World War. 91 Sibfordians left our village between 1914 and 1918 in the service of their country. Only 81 returned to their families and friends. Ten men paid the ultimate price for our freedom. Sibford Society members have been finding out about those men and life in our village during those four war-torn years one hundred years ago. Would you like to know more?

The Sibfords Society are preparing an exhibition to share their research with you. It will be held in the Small Village Hall after the Remembrance Sunday Service at Holy Trinity Church on 11 November and will be open until 5pm. A simple soup lunch with bread will be served in the Village Hall – come and try ‘Trench Soup’ and experience the soldiers rations. Not a morsel of meat in sight so no special dietary requirements necessary. Soup ration tickets will be available at £1 each nearer the time to help the volunteer cookhouse team to prepare enough soup.

Village celebrations 100 years ago included children from the Primary School ‘parading around the village carrying flags and singing patriotic songs.’ Villagers were also seen on the roof at Sibford School in the Ferris. Please book the date and further details will be available next month. *Maureen Hicks*

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## 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 & Burdop) 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)



## FRIENDSHIP CLUB

We had a lovely afternoon at Wheatley Birds of Prey Centre and we thank Clive for his expert demonstrations also that we were able to handle the beautiful birds

On **Sept 4th** our friend Troy will be with us for another hilarious afternoon of 10 pin bowling.

The trip on **Sept 18th** will be to the Toby for lunch and a gossip with friends

*Eveline Boughton*

### PILATES IN SIBFORD

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### **Scouting in Sibford**

When I was 8, I joined the Cubs in Kineton, and then when we moved to Sibford I became a Scout. I have had lots of opportunities and a lot of new experiences. My Scout leaders are Adrian and James, and they are really helpful and patient! They plan lots of exciting activities, for example camping trips and rock climbing. Last year we cycled 39 miles on the Ride and Stride and visited 29 churches. We have even visited the Oxford airport and had a go in a flight simulator, and a tour of the Control Tower. Scouting has led me on a variety of adventures. At the end of term, the older Scouts were taken to Calshot Activity Centre on the East Solent. While we were there we rode around a velodrome, and the track was banked at 45°. We also went on a dry ski slope and kayaking.

Last year I applied to join a county expedition to Norway, and I was chosen to go on a selection camp. 45 Scouts got picked out of the whole of Oxfordshire, and I was one of them. I have just got back from my most exciting adventure ... I went to a place called Andøya. It is 200 miles above the Arctic Circle, but sadly we did not get to see the Aurora Borealis because the sun only set for two hours each day. When I went, I felt quite scared because I didn't really know anyone, but everyone was kind and supportive to each other, and I have made some really great new friends (especially Ben and Megan).

While we were there we went on a Whale Safari and saw two sperm whales. We went to a Space Centre and learnt about the different roles on a space mission. We stayed on a camp site on the shores of the Arctic Ocean, and I even swam in the cold water! One of the most beautiful places we went to, was a beach. We did a massive litter pick, and found washed up rubbish from Russia, America, Sri Lanka and Japan! Altogether we filled over 50 sacks with plastic, packaging and washed up bits of rope and net. There was so much rubbish on such a small beach, it amazed me how polluted the ocean must be.

Scouting has given me many life skills. There are lots of opportunities to earn badges and I have learnt how to sew, cook, put up a tent, be organised, and most of all how to have fun and make good friends. Thank you to everyone who has helped me on my journey, and I would recommend Scouts to anyone who's up for a challenge and adventure!

*By George Pennell, age: 13*

**THE VILLAGE SHOP  
HOOK NORTON**

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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

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## AS SEEN FROM THE SIDECAR

*Matt & Reece continue their latest adventures travelling the world by motorbike and sidecar to raise awareness of modern slavery - <https://asseenfromthesidecar.org>*

### [As Seen From The Sidecar](#)

14 August at 19:41 ·

Week 42 | Miles 765 | Hours on the road 24

Week 42 is over and we've made our way to Denver, Colorado. The week was mostly spent making our way through Texas. It started in Dallas where we met with a super interesting charity called [New Friends New Life](#) who are supporting women and children who are trafficked in Texas, before making our way to Amarillo.

There we slept in hammocks on Route 66, met some of the most unbelievably welcoming friendly people and even fired a gun. Something which neither of us had ever properly done before and if we're honest are not likely to do again, but nonetheless it was a great experience and great to learn more about something so important to life in Texas.

Now that we're in Denver we will be giving the scooter a much needed service and waiting for new tyres before making our way west!



Outside the Handle Bar & Grill, Amarillo.....



## DID YOU KNOW?



### **Ditch-hedge Lane – part of an ancient trackway**

In the early centuries following the Roman invasion and during the Dark Ages, an ancient trackway linked south-western England with the region around Lincoln and York. It avoided the swamps and forests of the great Midland plain by running along the ridge of high ground of which the Cotswolds form the central part. Four miles south of Sibford, close to Hook Norton, it divided. One went north-east passing just south of the Sibford parishes, by way of Madmarston Camp at Tadmarton to cross the Cherwell near Banbury. The other struck north, over Oatley Hill, through Traitor's Ford, continuing up from there along the farm-track which is now the Oxfordshire-Warwickshire county boundary (Ditch-hedge Lane) and Sibford Gower's eastern boundary, and along the top of the Edgehill scarp.

The two Sibfords, and the hamlet of Burdrop, stand on hill tops, close to the line of springs which feed into the River Stour and ultimately the River Severn. This was a natural siting in times when men and women lived behind barricades, fearful of wild beasts and marauding tribes emerging from the surrounding forests. Flint arrow-heads have been found south-west of Sibford Grounds Farm and near The Colony in Sibford Gower.

*Maureen Hicks*

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## HORTI SOCIETY

On a glorious hot summers day a (large) coach load of Horti members went to Hampshire to visit Spring Pond, a privately owned courtyard garden, where the owner, Carolyn Sheffield, has planted up her garden with a real eye for colour and used repeat planting to give a beautiful rhythm to the garden. Viticella clematis, roses, ethereal Mrs Wilmotts ghost eringium and masses of roses combined with an avenue of weeping pear to provide a harmonious whole. The sound of water running in a stream through the courtyard garden and a babbling fountain provided a cooling background for our picnic lunch. In the afternoon we visited Rosie Hardy's cottage garden plant nursery. Rosy herself took us behind the scenes to show us some of the growing areas and plants which have been used in show gardens such as Chelsea and Malvern. We then spent a rather expensive time wandering around the plant sale area before going out of our way to avoid Donald Trump who was inconveniently visiting Blenheim Palace and forced us to take evasive action to avoid Woodstock. A huge vote of thanks goes to Veronique for organising a very interesting day.

Remember that there is no talk in September but we start enthusiastically on Wednesday 10th October with Gina Price who will be talking to us about the garden at Pettifers.

*Diana Thompson*

### In Your Garden - September

I am writing this when my garden is still parched and the lawn is brown, so I hope by the time you read it the skies will have dumped plenty of rain, and all will be well again.

1. Cut back perennials that are dying down, and now is a good time to divide them.
2. Deadhead dahlias, delphiniums, roses and penstemons to encourage them to go on flowering.
3. If the weather is wet enough, now is a great time to plant new trees and shrubs.
4. It is possible now to sow sweet peas in a cold frame, to get an early flowering before anybody else.
5. Some really organised gardeners get their spring bulbs planted now, and even have hyacinths ready for Christmas. I don't seem to be one of them, but crocus, daffs, and amaryllis etc can go in now. Leave the tulips until later. But at least browse the bulb catalogues.
6. Prune climbing roses when they have finished flowering. It will make it so much easier in the spring, and stops the long growth from snapping in a gale.
7. Pot up some mint and parsley to have on the kitchen windowsill later in the year.

## In Your Garden - September

8. Autumn fruiting raspberries should be ready to pick, and collect seeds from some of your favourite plants. I always collect cerinthe and poppies, and keep them in dry envelopes. Often find them in the kitchen drawer years later!

9. Now is a good time to take cuttings from pelargoniums and pinks.

10 If your lawn has recovered by now, it would love to be scarified and aerated before having an autumn feed. Oh no! I forgot to remind you all that we are meant to clean out our greenhouses around now, to get ready for all the tender plants that might want to come in later. Perhaps we could do it in October.....

*Jupe Hitching*



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

Hook Norton low carbon provides a link with a whole network of organisations within Oxfordshire and nationally concerned with the level and impact of human activity compromising the wider ecology on which all of us depend. They are holding an open community meeting on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> September which features (a film of) Ellen MacArthur speaking of the surprising thing she learned sailing solo around the world, some of the plans of the group to develop an electric car club, and the chance to live in a home in an area within the village that has a kinder relationship to the environment - with inventive use of building techniques and local shared energy sources that will allow the community to be more energy independent and cut costs. It will be lively and interactive meeting and will be touching on a whole range of related subjects of interest to those there.

If you share their interest, you don't have to be a resident of Hook Norton to belong - and that will anyway only cost you £1 if you decide to join! It's also their AGM, so there will be a strong turnout of their members and a good opportunity to meet others of like mind. I am now on the group's managing committee, and would love to find out if you might be interested to come.

*Hugh Pidgeon, Burdrip Green*

If you are interested, do please write to me at:

[hugh.pidgeon@collectiveintelligence.co.uk](mailto:hugh.pidgeon@collectiveintelligence.co.uk)>

- or give me a ring on 01295 780 360.

The meeting will start at 7.30 pm and, as with all their open meetings, will be held in the in the Malthouse Kitchen of the Brewery, with the beer on the house!

# Painting classes

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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](mailto:keith@hicks-sibford.co.uk)

## 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

We're having a Saturday morning "Working Party" on **September 15<sup>th</sup>** from 10am until 11.30am. We'd like to clear and weed the path to the main door, attend to the long grass and weeds to the south of the church, and try to sort out the blue carpet. So if you are free, with shears, strimmer, hand trowel, good humour and energy do come and join in. Coffee provided.

**Sept 22<sup>nd</sup>** there's a Coffee Morning from 10am until noon-ish, and this time it's at the home of David and Rachel Watson, Quince Cottage in Bonds End Lane. Harvest Festival will be on Sunday **September 30<sup>th</sup>** at 11am (NOTE TIME) followed by a Bring and Share Lunch in the Village Hall. Everyone is most warmly invited to attend. There will be a list in church (or maybe in Gil Soden's hand) for your offer of delicious food.

Skittles and Family Fun Evening. Do you remember the good time we had last year? We asked if we should do it again and you all said "Yes". So we are.

**Saturday OCTOBER 13<sup>th</sup>** from 4pm to about 6pm. In the Village Hall. There will be **SKITTLES, AIR HOCKEY, BBQ, BAR, CANDY FLOSS, ICE CREAM, BAGATELLE, GIANT JENGA, PICK UP STICKS, SWEETS, RAFFLE** – and anything else we find that will give all families a couple of hours of simple fun. So please **BOOK THE DATE**.

Monday Youth Group for anyone Year **THREE** or above will recommence on 17<sup>th</sup>. 6pm until 7pm. In church – or maybe on the Field if still good weather. 20p spend (MAX) on sweets! I'd love to have **ANOTHER ADULT** to help supervise this. Could **YOU** go on a rota?

### Services for September

Sept 2nd    10am Benefice Holy Communion in Swalcliffe (John)  
Sept 9th    8am BCP Communion (John)  
              9.30am Morning Praise. Lay led  
Sept 16th    9.30am Holy Communion (John)  
Sept 23rd    9.30am Holy Communion (Liz)  
Sept 30th    11am HARVEST FESTIVAL

*Ronald Hawkes*

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Thursdays 9-10am

Sibford Village Hall

Fridays 9-10am

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# GREAT TASTE

## **Mustard Pickle**

A good recipe to use up some of those surplus Summer vegetables. Goes well with cold meats or cheese. What vegetables you choose to include depends on what you have got and what you like. These all work well:

Onions and/or shallots	Runner and/or French Beans
Marrow and/or courgettes	Kohl Rabi and/or Cauliflower
Cucumber and/or gherkins	Cooking Apple

### Other Ingredients

Salt (about 1 oz for each lb of vegetables)

Malt Vinegar (enough to cover the vegetables)

For each quart of vinegar:

0.5oz Turmeric      1oz Mustard Powder      2oz Sugar 1tbsp cornflour

0.5oz pickling spice or a couple of chillies and a small piece of fresh ginger grated.

### Method

Cut up the vegetables, place on a large dish and sprinkle with salt. Leave overnight.

Drain the vegetables and rinse quickly with cold water.

Place in a pan with enough vinegar to cover the vegetables plus the turmeric, mustard, sugar and spices. If using whole spices these should be tied in a square of muslin.

Bring to the boil and simmer gently for 10 minutes.

Mix the cornflour with a little cold vinegar, add to the pan and boil for a further 5 minutes stirring as necessary.

Remove the spices if used and bottle the pickle in clean glass jars.

*Andy Newbold*



## NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

# NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

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

**Setember 2018** *Peter Hine 01295 788830*

First, the good news. Recently there was a burglary in Burdrop. As a result of good information and good local knowledge, Banbury Police detained the suspect within 24 hours, complete with stolen items. Well done to all involved, particularly Old Bill.

Message from PCSO Robert Bliss, Thames Valley Police, Banbury:

The Banbury Rural community forum will be held at Deddington Fire Station on Wednesday 29th August, 1830 hrs. All are welcome, particularly if you have something to say re policing your community.

With my 3 score years and 10 rapidly approaching, this week's Country Life rubbed it in by quoting that old age isn't a battle, it's a massacre. With that happy thought, look out for your elderly neighbours and make sure your ground floor doors and windows are secure on these warm evenings.

### **For Practical Garden Assistance**

Please contact Nick Taylor

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# SIBFORD BUS SERVICE

New Timetable as from April 2018

<b>BUS NUMBER: 3A</b>	NS				SSH
<b>SOA Wood Street</b>	<b>6.15</b>	<b>9.00</b>			<b>16.05</b>
SOA Bridge Street	6.17	9.02			16.07
Ilmington, Red Lion		9.20	11.40		16.25
Shipston, Tilemans Lane	6.37	9.37	11.47	13.26	16.32
Shipston, Pettiphers Garage	6.40	9.40	11.50	13.29	16.35
Lower Brailes, The Park	6.50	9.50	12.00	13.50	16.45
<b>Sibford Ferris School</b>	<b>7.02</b>	<b>10.02</b>	<b>12.12</b>	<b>14.02</b>	<b>16.57</b>
Lower Tadmarton	7.12	10.12	12.22	14.12	17.07
<b>Banbury Bus Station</b>	<b>7.25</b>	<b>10.25</b>	<b>12.35</b>	<b>14.25</b>	<b>17.20</b>
			B		
<b>Banbury Bus Station</b>	<b>10.30</b>	<b>12.40</b>	<b>14.30</b>	<b>17.30</b>	
Lower Tadmarton	10.43	12.53	14.43	17.43	
<b>Sibford Ferris School</b>	<b>10.53</b>	<b>13.03</b>	<b>14.53</b>	<b>17.53</b>	
Lower Brailes, The Park	11.06	13.16	15.06	18.06	
Shipston, Pettiphers Garage	11.16	13.29	15.16	18.16	
Shipston, Tilemans Lane	11.19		15.19	18.19	
Ilmington, Red Lion	11.36		15.31		
SOA, Bridge Street			16.00	18.41	
<b>SOA, Wood Street</b>			<b>16.03</b>	<b>18.48</b>	

## Notes:

NS - Not Saturdays

SSH - Saturdays, Monday to Fridays during School Holidays

B - Bus also serves Lower Quinton, Meon Vale, Clifford Chambers and on school days operates via Shipston High School

**Note** - ALL buses loop through Sibford Ferris, Burdrop & Sibford Gower



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## SEPTEMBER

- 8th - Norman's 90th! - Village Hall - From 10am
- 8th - Sponsored Ride + Stride - Holy Trinity Church
- 8th - 'Last Night at the Proms' - Village Hall - 6.45pm
- 15th - 'Working Party' - Holy Trinity Church - 10-11.30am
- 17th - SGPC meeting - IT Room, Primary School - 7.30pm
- 20th - Sibfords Society talk: 'The Witney Blanket Hall' - Village Hall 7.45pm
- 22nd - Coffee Morning - Quince Cottage, Bonds End Lane - 10-12
- 26th - Film Night - Village Hall - 730pm
- 29th - Harvest Barn Dace - Village Hall - 7pm
- 30th - Harvest Festival - Holy Trinity Church - 11am

## OCTOBER (PART)

- 6th - Sibford DogFest - Village Hall - 1-4pm

## SEPTEMBER BIN COLLECTIONS

- Green Tuesday: 6th ; 21st
- Blue/Brown Tuesday: 14th; 28th

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 OCTOBER ISSUE - 18 SEPTEMBER 2018

Editor: Tony Skowronski, Jasmine Cottage, Burdrop, OX15 5RN  
T: 01295 780490  
E: sibfordscene@gmail.com

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