

SIBFORD SCENE

April 2017

No 391



"Off for a Drive" - Painting by Chris Knapman

EASTER TEA PARTY (FRIENDSHIP CLUB)
4th April - Village Hall

SIBFORD GOWER PC MEETING
10th April - Village Hall - 730pm

EASTER EGG TRAIL
14th April - Village Hall - 2pm

HORTI SOCIETY MEETING
26th April with Guest Speaker: Roddy Llewellyn
Village Hall - 730pm



ED'S THOUGHTS

Well, the daffodils are out, lambs are leaping - Spring is here. Happy Easter everyone! Lots of Church events going on and for those of you with an urge to try something different - try the recipe on page 16.

Thought for the month:

"In your Easter bonnet, with all the frills upon it,
You'll be the grandest lady in the Easter parade"

Irving Berlin

LETTERS AND NOTICES

The Sibfords Website

To keep in touch with village happenings between editions of the Scene, visit the village website at <http://thesibfords.org.uk> . To be sure not to miss anything, such as local planning applications that may affect you, sign up for the website email alerts at <http://thesibfords.org.uk/nf> ; you will then be informed by daily email of anything new on the website.

Tim Huckvale

Dear Sibford friends and neighbours. Thank you all for giving me such a lovely send off and for the kindness and support which kept me going over the past year. I miss you all.

Elsie and I are getting used to the different countryside down here, flat heathland with lots of heather, gorse and broom, it will never match my old view but there is a lot to explore.

I hope it won't be long before I come back for a visit and look forward to sharing a cup of tea with anyone who is passing this way.

Margaret Hobson

Sibford Ferris Annual Spring Clean, 11 March

A big thank you to the large number of residents who gave their time and services to clean up the parish's verges - a superb effort and greatly appreciated.

Keith Hicks

LETTERS AND NOTICES

Sir,

The misuse of an **apostrophe** has been observed on the cover of 'The Sibford Scene'.

It is supposed that the Jones of the film title is not a singular proper noun, ie one Jone, and therefore the apostrophe should be after the S. As a person of the same surname as Bridget, I never have an apostrophe in my name.

A report has been sent to The Apostrophe Police . I am sure they would be satisfied with a published apology, but be aware they may want to take this further, as Sibford Gower is known to us as a hotspot of apostrophe misuse.

Please address this and you will hear no more.

Agent H, TAP

Well - that's told me, then! Ed

Annual Bluebell Walk

On Sunday May 7th come for a gentle walk up to Hell Brake to see the bluebells and enjoy a cream tea in St Peter's **Annual Bluebell Walk at Whatcote** (back after a 2year break).

churchyard on your return. **Start any time between 2.00 and 5.00pm** from Hell Brake Paddock, Church Lane, Whatcote, Shipston-on-Stour, CV36 5EF.

Free parking - signposted in the village.

Cost £6.00 for adults, accompanied children free – this includes the tea and scones!

Cake & produce stall. Dogs welcome if kept on a lead. Proceeds to St Peter's Church.

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Electoral Rolls

In February, the District Council advised the Ferris and Gower Parish Councils that a large review process had been undertaken from 14th December 2016 to 4th January 2017 during which time it wrote to electors who were marked 'pending delete' on the electoral register to ask them to confirm if they were still resident at the property where they were registered. 'Pending deletes' are electors where at least one of the following applies:- 1) post sent to them returned to sender, 2) they are crossed off the annual household enquiry form, 3) an email/phone call is received from another occupier at that property stating that the elector does not reside there any longer, 4) no annual household canvas return made either by text, internet, phone or post. Legislation stipulates a review must be carried out to ascertain if these electors are entitled to remain registered or should, in fact, be removed. If no response is received, the elector is removed from the register. All electors who are removed are sent a letter stating this and how they can get re-registered.

As a consequence a considerable number of names have been removed from the list of electors. The Ferris and the Gower Parish Councils stress the importance of always responding, when required, in matters connected with the Electoral Register.

You can register to vote, or check that you are on the electoral register, via the Cherwell District Council website at <http://www.cherwell.gov.uk/index.cfm?articleid=2614>.

Sibford Ferris Parish Council

Sibford Gower Parish Council



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SIBFORD GOWER PARISH COUNCIL

SIBFORD GOWER PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – 20th February 2017

The Meeting took place in Sibford Gower Primary School with four local residents in attendance.

Matters arising: alterations to the corner of Main Street/Pound Lane: no progress, Oxfordshire Highways will be contacted. There being will be no need to acquire a defibrillator as the Response Team has the use of one, the grant for this purpose will be returned.

Congratulations to the **Sibford Society** for its 'Elizabethan Feast' on 16th February which was a great success with most people there in period dress; an Elizabethan meal was provided by local caterer, Miss T.

Electoral Roll: Cherwell District Council advises that the Electoral Roll for Sibford Gower and Burdrop has been reduced to 384 with 47 deletions. It was evident that some residents had not bothered to register. The Clerk was instructed to liaise with the Ferris Parish Council to urge residents to respond when an update of the electoral roll takes place.

One Oxfordshire: Posters and leaflets had been received from Oxfordshire County Council about proposals to change local government in Oxfordshire with one new council for the whole of Oxfordshire, abolishing District Councils. George Reynolds, our County and District Councillor, is opposed to this, as are Cherwell and Oxford City. The Parish Council very much agrees that relationships with Cherwell District Council are very good, service and advice always being provided. The meeting agreed that the Chairman should write a paper giving the considered opinion of the Parish Council, which he would circulate to Councillors, and present to the North Oxfordshire group of PCs, with a view to giving an agreed response to Cherwell and Oxfordshire County Council. It was agreed that the information so far provided by OCC and the insistence that comments had to be in within less than a month did not constitute proper consultation.

Yarn bombing: Miss Susie Wightman has sent a letter informing the Council of her intention to engage in 'yarn bombing' in the village as part of Arts Week.

Planning Matters: The Planning Committee met prior to this Parish Council Meeting. (for details please see the Parish Council's website).

Town Estate Charity – Nomination of Trustees: It was agreed to renew the four Trustees of the Town Estate Charity appointed by Sibford Gower Parish Council with retrospective effect from 2015 (Mike Lewis, Oswyn Murray and Jean Scouse) and 2016 (Fred Inns). A procedure for filling the vacancy caused by the forthcoming resignation of Joanna Gilkes was agreed; she was thanked for her long service.

Millennium Field: All is up and running. Hedges have been cut and a dog waste box has been installed to be emptied weekly by Cherwell District Council. It was agreed to bill the Town Estate Charity for their half of the costs each winter.

SIBFORD GOWER PARISH COUNCIL

Continued.....

Highways: The winter grit has been moved to Acre Ditch. The intention now is to purchase a plastic storage bin, sited in the same position. The cleaning of road signs within the parish has been neglected by Oxfordshire Highways. The Parish Council will consider the best way forward in connection with the Spring Clean on 18th March. Knowing that verge cutting will now be undertaken by Oxfordshire Highways only once each year, the Parish Council agreed to consider engaging a contractor to cut at other times.

Date of next Meeting: The Annual Parish Meeting will be on Monday, 10th April 2017 in Sibford Village Hall starting at 7.30pm. The Annual Parish Council Meeting will be on Monday, 8th May 2017 in the staff room of the Primary School starting at 8pm.

SIBFORD GOWER & BURDROP ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

You are invited to take part. It will be held in Sibford Village Hall on **Monday, 10th April 2017** commencing at 7.30pm under the Chairmanship of Dr Oswyn Murray (Chairman of Sibford Gower Parish Council)

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

AGENDA

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 11th April 2016

Matters arising.

Chairman's Report.

Clerk's and Financial Report.

Thames Valley Police Matters

Highway & Footpath Matters

Holy Trinity Church Report

Friends 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 Sibford Gower Parish Council

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SIBFORD FERRIS PARISH COUNCIL

NOTES OF SIBFORD FERRIS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING, 13 MARCH 2017

Present at the meeting were Councillors Tim Huckvale (*Chair*), Maureen Hicks (*Vice-Chair*), Ginny Bennett, Adrian Lamb and Peter Robinson, the Clerk and two members of the public.

Matters Arising: superfast broadband; the affordable housing project; Cotswold Close play area decision to purchase a replacement bench, maintenance/cleaning and annual inspection, revision of risk assessments; fitness equipment maintenance, review of risk assessment and annual inspection; the adoption of a new Publication Scheme and agreement to a revised parish council web page; update on highways maintenance works completed and to be done; report of an excellent turn-out for the Spring Clean; stop notice on works at Belle Isle Farm pending investigation. Also discussed were the need for two-way timetables for bus stops and the agenda for the Annual Parish Meeting in May.

Correspondence had been received enquiring about the existence of a ladies' cricket team in the 1920's; from OCC on its "One Oxfordshire" campaign; CDC on the matter of deletions from the electoral register; Thames Valley Police on rural policing priorities.

Finance, the financial risk assessment and the effectiveness of the internal audit were reviewed and councillors were reminded to review their Register of Interests.

Planning, it was noted that the CDC Local Plan Part 1 Partial Review outcome was still awaited and there had been no notification concerning Local Plan Part 2. There had been no planning applications since the last meeting and four notices of decision. CDC had confirmed the BT box would be removed in due course. There had been communication from a developer concerning land on the Hook Norton Road but no details on proposals.

The next meeting will be the Sibford Ferris Annual Parish Meeting on Monday, 8 May 2017 at 7.30 pm in the Sports Hall Classroom, Sibford School, which is open to all residents and will include annual reports from the Chair, the Responsible Financial Officer, the new head of Sibford School, the Village Hall Committee, the County and District Councillor, the Town Estates Charity on Wheathills, an update on the housing situation and an opportunity for comments and questions from the floor.

SIBFORD FERRIS PARISH COUNCIL

Continued

The next parish council meeting will be the annual meeting, at which the Chair and Vice-Chair are elected and the Annual Return agreed, to be held on Thursday, 25 May at 7.45 pm in the Sports Hall Classroom at Sibford School.

The full draft minutes of the parish council meeting of 13 March are available on the village website (thesibfords.org.uk/sfpc) or from the Clerk (788557). Please note, more information on what the parish council does has been added to the SFPC page of the village website in the interests of clarity and openness.



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NATURE NOTES

The few unusually warm and Spring like days in the second half of February brought out the first bumble bees of the year. Honey bees were also becoming active at about the same time and the Winter Aconites in our garden attracted them in large numbers on sunny days. In some areas Brimstone butterflies were observed by mid-February but I am not aware of any having been seen in the Sibfords.

Over the winter months it has often been too cold, windy or wet to put the moth trap out. However by 3rd March I have managed to record 16 species of moth for 2017. Several species that are active in the winter such as the Mottled Umber, Scarce Umber, Dotted Border, Pale Brindled Beauty, Early Moth and Winter Moth have flightless females with either no wings or only vestigial wings. It is the males that fly around seeking the females and it is these males that are sometimes seen in the car headlights on mild winter nights.

Sue Sabin and Andy Turner have reported seeing Stonechats on Woodway Road. (These birds have a call that sounds like two stones being hit together – hence their name.) Sue also comments that the first skylarks have started singing when the sun is out, reed buntings have been singing south of Sibford School, mute swans have been seen overhead several times on their way to and from Lambs Pool, Ravens are very active and may even have young, goldcrests are singing a lot as are dunnocks. Sparrowhawks have been seen displaying and marsh tits have been visiting her feeders as the food stocks in the countryside are becoming depleted. Andy Turner will be leading a Sibford Dawn Chorus event starting at 4:30am on Sunday 23rd April. For details see the poster in the Village shop.

Megan Gilkes noticed that the pair of red kites that nested in the area last year and raised two young have returned to the same spot, hopefully to nest again this spring.

She also observed that by 3rd March Arnold and Ina Lamb's pond has at least 10 frogs spawning in it. They are hoping that even more frogs will have made their way there by now.

Please send any observations for inclusion in next month's Sibford Scene to my new e-mail address. ajnewbold88@gmail.com.

Andy and Gill Newbold.

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DAWN CHORUS EVENT 2017

Up before the lark ...?



All ages and levels of experience welcome

Sunday 23TH April

Meet at 0430hrs

**The Brambles, Woodway Road,
Sibford Ferris OX15 5DA**

An early morning circular walk, taking in BBONT's Lamb's Pool Reserve, listening to and identifying the birds as they awake. The leader will be Andy Turner, who will explain the reasons for bird song and help you to recognise the different species encountered.

On our return to The Brambles cooked breakfast will be shared as the sun rises.

Places limited to 12 and can be reserved through Sue Sabin

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Oxfordshire Science Festival: Look again... Look Deeper... See the world with fresh eyes

Between Friday 16th and Wednesday 21st June, the Oxfordshire Science Festival invites everyone, young and old, to explore the dynamic scientific research and creativity in and around the vibrant city of Oxford.

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Visit the Festival website for more information. The full programme will be available in late April. www.oxfordshiresciencefestival.com



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VILLAGE HALL NEWS

The Village Hall is planning re-decoration of the Lobby and Toilets between 01 & 04 June.

A complete refurbishment is planned in phase III but will have to wait for funds to be available. If anyone would like to be part of this re-decoration project please telephone Keith Hicks – 01295 780259

EASTER EGG TRAIL

On Good Friday ,April 14th come and join us for an Eggciting wander around the villages looking for clues to lead you to your Easter Egg. One trail is more suited for younger children ,and one more challenging for the more energetic.Entry fee is £2-50 per child. We will be serving Teas in the small hall so you can refresh when you get back .Or come and have Tea whilst the family go off and get muddy! Look forward to seeing you all

FILM NIGHT

Our Film for April is on Wednesday 19th [please note the date]."A United Kingdom" is an inspiring true story of star-crossed lovers from our postwar era. David Oyelowo plays Seretse Khama,Prince of Bechuanaland [modern Botswana].Rosamund Pike plays Ruth Williams, a London office worker. Set in the late 1940` s the two meet and fall in love. Defying both their families and the British and South African governments, they marry. Apartheid and ignorance try to keep them apart and they have a lot to go through to turn back family biases and political racism. Also stars Tom Felton, Laura Carmichael, Jack Davenport and Terry Photo. Running time 111 minutes. Entry £2 per adults and £1 for students. Drinks available . Feel free to bring your own wine.

HALL REFURBISHMENT

As part of our ongoing programme of improvements we are going to paint the foyer and toilets at the end of May . The wooden floor will be treated to a new coat in April. Two of the Committee have already started a garden tidy up ,and any volunteers will be welcome.

HIRING THE VILAGE HALL

If you wish to hire the hall or need information about doing so please contact Ginny on 01295 780373 or via thesibfords.org website.

Ginny Bennett

DID YOU KNOW?

The medieval manor in Sibford Ferris

Leslie Baily extensively researched the village history and the following is an extract from his writing:

‘The Knights Templar acquired the whole of the Ferris manorial estate in the 12th century. They farmed it for 200 years, their first manor house was probably of part-timber construction, and the chances are that before the Norman invasion there was a Saxon moot hall on or about this site. Sibford is a Saxon place name. Once established on the most satisfactory site, the largest and most important house in the village – the manor house, where the agricultural community was administered and where the manorial court was held – was likely to stay more or less on the same site, pulled down and rebuilt in stone during successive centuries. The building was well sited for springs, its surrounding reddish-brown soil was highly productive, and the house lies just below the adjoining hilltops, giving shelter in wintertime.

There is evidence of a fish-pond a hundred yards away, along the side of the stream in the valley immediately below the Manor house. Temple Mill (the Templar’s Mill) is further down the stream, and there is documentary evidence of a former dovecote near the Manor. Pond, mill and dovecote were typical features of a medieval manor.

By a royal charter the Ferris gained certain privileges, for instance, it had the status of a ‘peculiar manor’, exempt from the ecclesiastical jurisdiction more usual in medieval England. This meant that the manor court administered wills, providing probate. This continued until the 19th century and the manor court was held in the entrance hall of the Manor building.’

Maureen Hicks

(NOT SO) GREAT TASTE

This month, I thought I'd give you my father's recipe. Traditionally, this should be cooked on Boxing Day and eaten on New Year's Day, but there's no reason why you can't cook it the week before Easter Monday.....

BIGOS

4 jars of sauerkraut

4lb leftover meat (lamb, beef, chicken, rabbit - anything you want really)

2 large onions, diced

5 tbsp tomato puree

4 cloves of garlic - crushed

1 small red cabbage - diced

4 bay leaves

1/4pt vodka

1 bottle of cheap cheap red wine



Oil a large saucepan and chuck in the onions and garlic, cook until soft and then throw everything else in. Cook for about a couple of hours and then leave on the side for 5 days. Re-heat and enjoy. If it tastes really bad, you can always throw it out the window.....

Please feel free to email your fave recipes to the Editor, otherwise I'll continue with further inedible dishes.....

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VILLAGE PEOPLE

Follow the dream to Sibford Gower

What seems like eons away now I met a handsome teenager when he was receiving a building and construction industry award and I was getting a special presentation for business and secretarial work. He was fanatical about his dream to build his own house with a swimming pool which I was happy to follow!



As it was taking a while to find a building plot I accepted a place on a Teacher Training Course in Roehampton. That was a turning point. Almost immediately we found our land in Sibford Gower and got plans passed. Not more than a month after this I found I was expecting our first child. The sprint was on: would the baby arrive before the teachers' exams before we had finished the house!

It did all work out. Our son was born two weeks after we moved in and two years later our daughter arrived. We had the joy of bringing up both our children in Sibford where we all got involved in the playgroup, primary school, brownies, guides, cubs, scouts, church and village hall. We were the Whites of Whitt's End. I went on to have an incredibly enjoyable teaching career.

I now live in this same house with my second husband who has loved Sibford as much as I do. With his support I have spent a lot of time working for the Town Estate Charity. Recently though I have been back at the Sibford Tots and Babes group with my granddaughter and feeling the nostalgia for those days of long ago

Jean Scouse (White)



SIBFORDS WALKING GROUP

Forthcoming Walks:

3 April, 24 April, 8 May, 22 May, 5 June, 19 June and 3 July

Leaving the village hall on foot or by car at 10.00 am sharp to do a circuit of approximately 2 hours' duration. Dogs welcome provided they are put on leads when requested. Walking boots and poles recommended but not compulsory. (Some routes include stiles). All welcome. Enquiries to Sue Bannister T: 780365 or E: sebannister@gmail.com

Please notify Sue, village footpaths warden, if you discover things that need repairing or cutting back on the footpaths within the Sibfords' parishes

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The 24th AGM for the Sibfords Society was held at the Village Hall on 16th March. Bryan Mills, who will be standing down after seven years as Chairman, is grateful to Clive Warner for offering to take up the role. We are still looking for a new committee member, so please let us know if you would like to join us.

Bryan talked about last year's events, which ranged, amongst others, from a lively depiction of Robert Dudley's attempts to woo Elizabeth I at Kenilworth, to outings to Oxford and Hook Norton Brewery, and the very successful Elizabethan Banquet, successful because members and guests took up the theme with such enthusiasm. Glennis Hardman's wonderful display of photos shows Sibfordians looking glamorous, colourful and medieval as never before! She will bring them to the next meeting so that members have another chance to order photos.

Bryan then welcomed Celia Boyd, a historical author who has family connections in the village. She has written four novels based on the English Civil War, and entertained us with a wealth of information, peppered with many anecdotes, some true and some fictional, and readings from her books. Celia contrasted Sibford's silent, empty streets that evening with how they were in 1642, teeming with soldiers and camp followers, preparing for the Battle of Edge Hill. No housewife could leave a pie on the window ledge to cool without it being stolen by the ever hungry 'visitors'.

Celia got behind the history and brought to life the fate of ordinary people caught up in the Battle between Charles I and the Earl of Essex. Years of research have gone into her books, and you can buy them from Amazon or borrow them from our Archive Room.

Many thanks to Celia for giving us such a stimulating evening.

Next month, on Thursday 20th April, Mark Davies will be talking about James Sadler, the Oxford pastry cook who became the unlikely first Englishman to build and fly a hot-air balloon, in Oxford in 1784. Mark's book 'King of all Balloons' was published in 2015.

Doors open: 7.45 p.m. Talk begins 8.00 pm. Non-members welcome at £2.50pp

SIBFORD SCHOOL GOES BANANAS

Sibford School went bananas to mark Fairtrade Fortnight 2017 (27 February – 12 March).

Following persuasion from pupils, the school's catering company, Thomas Franks Ltd, has agreed that in future, only Fairtrade bananas will be served on the lunchtime fruit counter.



Sixth form pupil Finn, a member of the school's Fairtrade Group, explained: "We are delighted that the kitchen staff has started providing Fairtrade bananas to students at lunchtimes, paying the premium price for them in the name of fair pay for those further down the production line.

"We were able to announce the change to the fruit suppliers during Fair Trade Fortnight when we also held special break time sales selling Fairtrade chocolate bars, jelly beans and chocolate eggs and generally raising awareness of the Fairtrade campaign."

Mark Higgins, catering manager at Sibford School said: "For a long time now we have been using Fairtrade tea, coffee and sugar, but our fruit suppliers have tended to differ depending on who has had the best deal. However, we like to work closely with the pupils at the school and, following their well-researched persuasion, we have agreed to ensure that, from now on, we will only supply Fairtrade bananas."

FUN IN THE COUNTRY

Sibford's Fun in the Country holiday activity club will be operating over the Easter break from 11 ~ 13 April and 18 ~ 21 April. To book a place call Elspeth on 01295 781216.

WHOLE SCHOOL OPEN MORNING

Sibford School's next whole school Open Morning will take place on Friday 28 April starting at 9.45am.

SIBFORD ARTS HUB

Evening classes in Painting and Drawing, Pottery and Textiles will recommence week beginning Monday 24 April. Adults of all abilities and none are welcome to join. For further details call Ali on 01295 781216 or visit: www.sibfordschool.co.uk/community/classes-clubs/

SIBFORD GOWER PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

On a clear night in early March, the Year 5 children from Sibford Gower Primary School pitched their tents in the school grounds for a mid-week, overnight camp out. They had been learning about electricity and, in a brilliant example of child-led learning, they decided to find out, at first hand, what it would be like to experience life without electricity.

The challenge was to spend a night in the school grounds without using anything containing an electrical circuit. Our local scout group, 1st the Sibfords kindly lent us tents. While the children could bring bedding, a toothbrush and flannel, warm clothes and even a cuddly toy, they were not allowed to bring torches, mobile phones, games consoles or tablets!

Sibford Gower has no street lights, which made the setting perfect for this night time lesson.

After they had pitched their tents, the children made their own burgers, which they cooked on the campfire. They played games and sang songs around the fire for entertainment, and then washed by candlelight before settling down for a night under the stars.

Staff members Mr Cameron and Mrs Williams and parent, Mrs Arniboldi, took turns to sit sentry through the small hours before waking the children to have a breakfast of bacon sandwiches cooked on the barbecue. Then it was time to pack up and go back into the classroom to start morning lessons.

Teacher, Mr Cameron, said, "This was a really successful night because it involved the children in lots of different aspects of camp craft, but we also achieved our learning objective of experiencing life without electricity. It was a very important experience for a number of the children, particular those who have confidence issues."

Pupil, Thomas Platt, said, "It was a good opportunity to find out different things about your friends. Peter is really good at putting up tents!"

All the children agreed with Eve Townsley that although the night had been great fun, "Living without electricity is really, really hard."

For more details, please log on to www.sibford-gower.oxon.sch.uk



Upton House News

Spring is starting to bloom here at Upton, and we are surrounded by plenty of beautiful spring bulbs. The snowdrops are starting to fade, to be replaced by bright and cheerful crocuses and daffodils in our orchard and around our winter walk.

What's On:

Upton Jazz Club, 8 April: 7.30-9.30pm

Enjoy some live music from local talented musician Sheila Waterfield. Bring your friends and treat yourself to a drink from our bar: what a lovely



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SIBFORD HORTI SOCIETY

A packed hall enjoyed a superb evening admiring the pictures of gardens and plants taken by renowned photographer, Clive Nichols. He was generous with his knowledge of how he took the pictures, the settings on the camera, the venues and the all important weather.

Hopefully it has inspired people to take pictures and enter the photography section of the May show!

A great evening to start our new year of talks.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 26th April, the Village Hall at 7.30 pm when Roddy Llewellyn will talk on imagination in the garden.

All welcome.

Adrian Lamb

In Your Garden - April

1. Weeds really start growing now - keep on top of them, weed the borders and add a mulch or a sprinkling of fertilizer.
2. Prune forsythia back as soon as it has finished flowering.
- 3 Scrape out the top 2 inches of soil in container pots, and topdress with new compost.
4. Remove daffodil flowers when they have faded. Don't tie them up into little tortured lollipops, the sap needs to go back into the bulb.
5. You can now sow broad beans outside, but courgettes, leeks, peas and cucumbers should be sown under cover.
- 6..Now is the time to lift and divide your snowdrops.
7. Put in some supports for your tall perennials before they start to get too large.
8. Tie in long shoots of rambler and climbing roses.

In Your Garden - April (cont'd)

9. Prepare a picking patch in your garden for growing annuals, and seeds can be planted in April of poppies, Escholzia, Larkspur, Cornflowers, Echium, and for foliage, Euphorbia oblongata is quick, easy and indispensable.

10. By the end of April you can sow your peas, spinach, lettuce, radishes, but leave the runner beans until the soil has warmed up a bit more.



FRIENDSHIP CLUB

The Club will be holding its Easter Tea early this year. It will be on April 4th at 2pm because the meeting on May 2nd is the AGM, which all Members are asked to attend if they can.

The trip on April 18 will be to HOP POCKET near Worcester, it is a craft and shopping outlet and I believe it is quite a good one. Anyone wishing to join the Club members please contact the secretary.

The trip for May is to Belfair Chocolates in Brackley. More on the trips at the upcoming meetings.

If anyone over 55 wishes to join the Club, PLEASE come to the AGM and see if you like us. We meet twice a month: The 1st Tuesday in the Village Hall and the 3rd Tuesday we have a trip out.

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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 & 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

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YOGA

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Starting Tuesday September 6th

Tuesday 9.00 - 10.00am

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LOCAL NEWS

"CARE FOR A CUPPA" COFFEE MORNING

In aid of Katherine House Hospice at:

The Leys, Backside Lane, Sibford Gower on:

Saturday 6th May (10-12)

Bring & buy - Cakes - Raffle

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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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

A special month for the church as it includes the final two weeks of Lent, and also Easter Sunday.

April 2nd is Passion Sunday and there's a 9.30 Holy Communion Service (Ronald)

April 4th (Tuesday) there will be a Lent Lunch at Judy Abbot's in Bond's End Lane, starting at 12.30pm

April 9th is Palm Sunday when we go to Epwell, assembling at 9.45 for the Blessing of the Palms, as Procession round the village with Percy the donkey, we have a dramatic reading of the Passion in which everyone is involved, manage without a sermon! and share Holy Communion (Ronald)

April 12th Wednesday in Holy Week why not enjoy the meditative Station of the Cross in Epwell church starting at 7pm. (Ronald)

April 13th Maundy Thursday, Rev John will be leading Holy Communion, including the traditional Washing of Feet, in church starting at 7pm

April 14th Good Friday do come with your younger children to an Activity Morning in the Small Hall when we shall have all sorts of gluey sticky painty activities telling the story of Good Friday and Easter. 10am to 12noon. (Easter Egg Hunt in the afternoon)

Good Friday evening, starting at 7pm do come to Broughton church when the Benefice Choir, and Readers offer a Devotional Service - an oasis of calm and reflection in a busy world.

April 16th is Easter Day and at 9.30 there will be a Family Communion service in church, with the Lighting of the Paschal Candle, and the Reaffirmation of Baptismal Promises.(Ronald)

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH CHATTER

continued...

April 22nd Saturday, Church Coffee Morning 10am to 12noon in church; coffee, chat, raffle, Bring & Buy.

April 23rd St George's Day BCP Holy Communion (Rev Hazel Scarr)

April 29th Saturday Church AGM 10am in church. Do come and have your say about the proposed alterations to the church interior.

April 30th Holy Communion 9.30am (Rev John)

Youth Group has started! Sunday evenings 5.30pm until 7pm. Table Tennis, 6' Pool Table, Air Hockey, board games, Tuck Shop. Anyone and everyone in Year 9 and above warmly welcomed.



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NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

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April 2017

Sadly Deborah Hextall the Neighbourhood Watch Manager for Banbury and Witney has now left Thames Valley Police. Deborah has always been very helpful and supportive. During her absence Michelle Miller the Community Relations Officer, has been ready to give advice. Sgt. Kerry O`Leary is now managing Neighbourhood Watch, and we wish her well.

I am giving up as Neighbourhood Watch Village Co-ordinator. I would like to thank everyone for their support over the years since we set it up. Please welcome Mr. Peter Hine who has kindly agreed to take over, effective from the Sibford Gower and Burdrop Parish Council AGM. I am sure you will give him your support as he finds his way.

The Easter holidays, warmer weather and gardening will be distracting us. Remember to follow police advice at all times: close windows and doors when out of sight, lock sheds, put away tools, toys and equipment when not in use, remove tools and bags and lock vehicles. Look after your neighbours, make sure their post is through the door and parcels are not left on the doorstep never tell anyone their movements. Do not allow anyone into your house without independently checking their identity and do not buy or sell at the door. Remember computers and telephones are increasingly used to target victims.

The Police tell us "we are the eyes and ears on the ground". Supporting the Police is in the interest of us all, especially with the present cutbacks. Report anything suspicious or anyone acting suspiciously.

Molly Mulley

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SIBFORD BUS SERVICE

Johnsons Bus Timetable - 3

Mondays to Saturdays (No services on Sundays or public holidays)

Johnsons Coach & Bus Travel now operate a reduced bus service between Banbury and Stratford upon Avon via the Sibfords, from Mondays to Saturdays. Bus journey times are shown below. **If in doubt, call Johnsons on T: 01564 797070** or check the website: www.johnsonskoaches.co.uk/bus-services.html

Bus 3 Banbury & Shipston to Stratford

| | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| BANBURY BUS STATION | 1052 1252 1422 1722 |
| Lower Tadmarton | 1104 1304 1434 1734 |
| Sibford Ferris School | 1114 1314 1444 1744 |
| Lower Brailes, The Park | 1126 1326 1456 1756 |
| Shipston, Pettiphers Garage | 1136 1336 1506 1806 |
| Ilmington, Red Lion | 1147 1347 1527 ... |
| Lower Quinton, The Orchard | 1157 1357 1537 ... |
| Meon Vale | 1202 1402 1542 ... |
| Clifford Chambers, New Inn | 1210 1410 1550 ... |
| STRATFORD BRIDGE STREET | 1218 1418 1558 1830 |

Bus 3 Stratford to Banbury & Shipston

| | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| | NS |
| STRATFORD BRIDGE STREET | 0615 0824 1030 1230 1530 |
| Clifford Chambers, New Inn | ... 0832 1038 1238 1538 |
| Meon Vale | ... 0843 1049 1249 1549 |
| Lower Quinton, The Orchard | ... 0847 1053 1253 1553 |
| Ilmington, Red Lion | ... 0857 1103 1303 1603 |
| Shipston, Pettiphers Garage | 0640 0913 1113 1313 1613 |
| Lower Brailes, The Park | 0650 0923 1123 1323 ... |
| Sibford Ferris School | 0702 0935 1135 1335 1635 |
| Lower Tadmarton | 0712 0945 1145 1345 1645 |
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NS - Not Saturdays and goes from Wood Street

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

APRIL

- 1st Sibford School Choir Festival - St. Mary's Church, Banbury
- 4th Men's Breakfast Club - Gate Hangs High - 9.15am
- 10th Sibford Gower PC Meeting - Village Hall - 7.30pm
- 14th Easter Egg Trail - Village Hall - 2pm
- 19th Film Night: "United Kingdom"- Village Hall - 730pm
- 20th Sibfords Society - Village Hall - 8pm
- 26th Horti Society Meeting - Village Hall - 7.30pm

APRIL BIN COLLECTIONS

- Green Wednesday: 5th; 19th
- Blue/Brown Wednesday: 12th; 26th

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.

MAY (Part)

- 6th Soup & Cheese lunch with Maria Huff - Village Hall - Noon
- 20th Horti Society Spring Show - Village Hall - 2.30-4pm

SIBFORD SCENE DEADLINE FOR MAY ISSUE - 18 APRIL 2017

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