

Received - Saturday - 1/2/86.

# SIBFORD SCENE

FEBRUARY 1986  NUMBER 93

## SIBFORD COVER ENDOWED PRIMARY SCHOOL THE SCHOOL BELL

'School began at nine o'clock, but the hamlet children set out on their mile-and-half walk there as soon as possible after their seven o'clock breakfast, partly because they liked plenty of time to play on the road and partly because their mothers wanted them out of the way before housecleaning began.....

.....Although they started to school so early, the hamlet children took so much time on the way that the last quarter of a mile was always a race, and they would rush, panting and dishevelled, into school just as the bell stopped.'

(taken from Larkrise to Candleford)

It is many years since our school bell has been heard. Although we have searched our records we cannot find any mention of the last time it was rung. Could it have been at the beginning of the war when church bells were also silenced? Do you remember? Does anyone recall when the bell was removed from the tower? We would be pleased to hear from anyone who has any information.

Some of you may have noticed that the bell was rehung just before Christmas thanks to the efforts of Fred Inns and David Soden. After many years of absence the children have cleaned and repainted it and we hope that its sound will soon be heard again.

### OVERHEARD ON THE LIBRARY VAN

1st Sibfordian:- "Excuse me - could you be the gentleman who has recently come to live in the village?"

2nd Sibfordian:- "Not exactly - I've been here for 34 years".

1st Sibfordian:- "Oh - I've been here for only 25 years".

WELL! WELL!!

### PLAYGROUP COFFEE MORNING

Wednesday February 5th, 10.30 - 12.30 at 1 Home Farm Court, Sibford Ferris. Bring and Buy, Cakes, Raffle etc.

## SIBFORD YOUTH CLUB

At the beginning of 1986 our membership has just reached 60. To cater for such a large number of young people we hope to be able to provide more games equipment and an increased variety of activities. We shall, of necessity, be organising fund-raising events throughout the year and hope that these will be well supported. The first of these is a trip to Coventry's ten-pin bowling centre on the evening of Friday 31st January. The cost is £3 per person which covers travel, play and shoes.

On Friday 14th February we are holding a Valentine's Dance in Tadmarton Village Hall. The bar and buffet meal will be provided by The Wykham Arms and we have engaged Bumble B Disco who have a reputation for providing a wide range of music to suit all tastes. So if you are aged between 16 and 100 why not come and join us. The cost of the evening's entertainment, including the buffet meal, will be £3.50 per person, tickets to be purchased in advance.

We currently have teams entered for the following District Competitions - 5-A-Side Football, pop quiz, table tennis and badminton. We have enrolled some members on a judo course and are able to provide a number of places in a gymnastics club for members under 15. Any offers of help with transport of members to events are always welcome.

If you are able to help with the provision of equipment, running activities or with transport, or if you would like further details of our fund-raising events or to make a booking for those mentioned above, please contact us on Swalcliffe 381.

Sandra and Stephen Nutt.

## HORTICULTURAL NETWORK

I am hoping to organise a small enterprise to maintain and/or design and plant gardens, and thereby, eventually, provide employment for 3 or 4 people. I'd be interested to hear from anyone who would like to use the services of such a group, and also from anyone who would consider working in it. I can provide the gardening know-how, but I would need someone to do mowing and rotavating.

Pippa Cookson,  
Beech Cottage,  
Sibford Ferris.  
Tel: Swalcliffe 522.

ADVANCE NOTICE of a Northern Ireland Afternoon to be held at the Friends Meeting House, Sibford Gower, at 2.30 p.m. on Sunday 2nd March, 1986. Talks, exhibition, music, tea. Collection for N.I. good causes.

Regular car washing:- £1 per car. Mark Chater (Swa.294) and John Abbott (Swa.731)

WANTED Small poultry are suitable for about 6 chickens in garden. Tel: Swal. 8241

## THE BLAIZE GOES ON

Hip Hip Hurrah!!

I am sure that many people in the village share my relief that the Bishops Blaize is no longer up for sale as a private house. It has, without doubt, one of the most attractive settings of any pub, and I well remember those perfect summer weekends of '83 and '84 when the whole village seemed to be relaxing in that beautiful garden. Good luck to Phillip and Mary. I hope they can now win back the customers lost over the past few months.

It makes me stop and realise how fragile a small village community like ours is. It only needs a few people to stop using the shop, the church, the pub or the school to put at risk those facilities which keep the village alive.

David Moir.

## "WELCOME TO SIBFORD"

This information sheet which was compiled last year for the benefit of newcomers to the villages, is now due to be updated. The Dyers have kindly agreed to have a pile of last year's copies in the shop - please peruse one and let me know of any amendments or additions you think would be suitable, such as changes of club secretaries and their phone numbers etc.

New residents have apparently found this information sheet useful, but it need not be exclusively for them. If you would like to receive a copy of the 1986 edition, please leave your name and address on the form I will leave at the shop, or let me know.

Sue Colquhoun,  
Handywater Farm.  
Swalcliffe 660

## A MOST RELIABLE CONTRIBUTOR

Geoffrey Law, who died in January, wrote not only Sibford Scene's column 'Jardin' as mentioned elsewhere, but also contributed many interesting and well researched articles on a wide variety of subjects, ranging from Saints Day Customs to a meticulously documented series on the footpaths of the Sibfords.

His support was a great encouragement in the Scene's infancy, and his elegance and breadth of interest will be sadly missed.

Jennifer Austing.

The Unemployed People's Centre in Banbury has been recently set up to help unemployed people, and their children, in a variety of ways. Although it receives a M.S.C. grant, funds from voluntary sources are invaluable towards, for example, projects involving children. To help raise some money for one of the childrens programmes, we are holding a Coffee Morning/Bring and Buy on Tuesday February 11th (during half term) at Pond Cottage, Sibford Gower. Please come if you can, any time between 10.15 - 12.15.

Lucy, Alex and James Marcovitch.

## SIBFORD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Our next monthly meeting will be held on Wednesday March 12th at 8 p.m. in the Village Hall. The Speaker, Mr. Burras, Oxford Botanical Gardens and "Carniverous Plants".

To enable exhibitors to prepare their handicraft exhibits for the Annual Show, the following classes have been decided:-

Childs Garment. Double Knit (label to be attached)  
Ladies Hand Knitted Garment ( " " " " )  
Gents Hand Knitted Garment ( " " " " )  
Sewn Garment  
Piece of embroidery of any design.  
Handicraft Ladies. Handicraft Men.  
12-16 years. Handicraft Exhibit Boys and Girls..

Our trip to Stourhead, Wiltshire, has been booked for May 17th. Names to myself by April 20th to enable us to offer any spare seats to other local Societies.

Mr. and Mrs. Jarvis will be pleased to receive plants/Cakes/Jam/Bring and Buy on their Sales Table at monthly meetings.

New members wishing to join our Society will be made welcome. Membership £1.50.

We were deeply saddened by the news that our President, Mr. John Kinnish had passed away. He had been closely connected with the Society for many years as Chairman and lately as President and had taken an active part in the events of the Society. He will be greatly missed by all Committee Members and the Society.

Also, our member, Mr. Geoffrey Law, known by some of us as 'Jardin' for his marvellous effort with his monthly gardening advice in the Sibford Scene.

Another member of the Society and known for his wonderful exhibits during the 1940/50's was Mr. Albert Spicer, a very keen member of our Society.

We trust that their families will accept our sincere condolences in their sad loss.

John Sabin, Chairman.  
Tel: Swa. 471.

## WARRINER NEWS

What a start to the new term! Many parents have expressed concern at the lack of information available as to the whereabouts of their children on that snowy afternoon and also at the length of time it took to get all the children back home. Representation has been made to the school about these worries. They have been asked in future to let parents know as soon as the decision is taken to close early, so that if parents feel it necessary, arrangements can then be made to get children home by landrover or car, rather than waiting hours for the bus while roads get even more treacherous. It has also been requested that children should not be allowed off the bus a long way from Sibford to try and walk home in the dark along a dangerous road.

Thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Hedley, Mr. and Mrs. Sabin and Mr. Simmonds who went and rescued children from the stranded bus in January.

Carole Noir and Ann Marcovitch

'JARDIN'

Almost a week before the whole village was made sad by the news of the death of Geoffrey Law, the editor received a phone call from Jardin to say that after seven years - more or less as the garden grows - he was planning to hang up his 'wellies' and oil his fork and spade before retiring to his conservatory with a book of flowers and some hot toddy to watch others dig and delve, sow and reap and he planned to retire from his monthly contribution of gardening hints.

It was an unforgivable mistake on the part of the Editor that Jardin's usual article had been omitted from the December issue of the scene. Full of humility the editor suggested that it be printed in the January edition. "Don't be a damned fool man!" (The voice at the other end of the line sounded like the village squire, not at all as one would expect from the humble horney handed Adam of the earth!.) "Don't be a damned fool man. Its out of date - no use at all now - the times past and lost". Humbled, the Editor suggested one last article for January - no joy. "Tell you what me dear chap. Here's a bit of advice you can give the fellows for January. Tell 'em to buy a good gardening book and a seed catalogue, then sit by the fire and read 'em. Tell 'em to keep their big heavy feet off the land and give it time to breathe. We all need to rest you know."

It was advice born from a prophetic understanding, and a calm acceptance of nature.

So Jardin and the magic of his colourful garden fades from our scene with his customary chuckle, good nature and forgiveness.

Thank you Jardin; we shall remember your interesting articles and the lovable man that penned them with such precision.

THE WARRINER SCHOOL

The next social event is the Skittles Evening at Millcombe on March 14th. Tickets will be available shortly.

Carole Hoir  
Swa. 8241

Ann Marcovitch  
Swa. 8163

HOLIDAY '86

Mid Wales. Fairbourne. Modern Bungalow  
Sleeps 6 - 8. 200 yds. beach and shops.  
Enquiries for details to Swalcliffe 243.

CROCKERY & CUTLERY

for hire for that special occasion.  
Swalcliffe 243.

Good Homes required for STICK INSECTS. These interesting  
pets need a small tank or very large jar, but cost nothing  
to feed.

Tel: Swa. 358

Many residents will be interested to hear that the Editor has had a letter from Enid Gilder. She sends her greetings to all her old friends and wishes them well for 1986.

The Editor received the impression that Enid was a little 'Sibford Sick' (same as homesick but more precise). A letter from an old acquaintance would cheer her up!!

She lives at: 12 Spittal Terrace,  
Gosforth,  
Newcastle upon Tyne.

Go on - drop her a line with local news.

SIBFORD TOLLENS INSTITUTE

VILLAGE HALL, 2.00 pm. TUES. 11TH FEB.

Mr. Sheasby, a local man, will give an illustrated talk on wild flowers. Please come and join us. We are always delighted to welcome visitors and possible new members.

February Competition: A bowl of hyacinths.

YOUTH CLUB

A jumble sale will be held on Saturday Feb. 22nd at 2 p.m. in the Village Hall. This is in aid of Youth Club funds and equipment. If you have any items of jumble, bric a brac, books etc. you would like to donate, please contact me on Swalcliffe 676 and I will collect if needed.

Many Thanks.  
David Baker.

FRIENDSHIP CLUB FOR OVER 60's

Tuesday Feb. 4th: Village Hall at 2 p.m. a Speaker from The Samaritans.

Wednesday Feb. 10th Outing to Slimbridge starting 9.30.  
All enquiries to Mrs. Jebb, Wayside,  
Sibford Gower. Tel: 8211

SWALCLIFFE VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE

present  
a

VALENTINE DISCO

Saturday 15 February 1986

MUSIC

by  
TOP SOUND

SWALCLIFFE VILLAGE HALL  
BAR.

Tickets available from: The Stags Head, Swalcliffe or

Jessie Richards Tel: 692

8 p.m. to Midnight.

£2. Hot filled jacket potato included.

COFFEE MORNING!

The Sun and The Mirror are obsessed with the idea that to catch the eye of the average reader they require headings such as "Sex life of Sun" or "Shock Horror" or Prince Andrew's latest revelations".

They are quite, quite wrong! To catch the eye of any normal English man or woman, only one of two headings need be used - either "Vicar defrocked!" or "Coffee Morning". So the above heading can be seen to be a sprat to catch a mackerel. A low down ruse to catch the attention of Coffee Morning addicts.

And for why? You may ask. Surely there must be more than one band of four or five who meet once a month or more regularly than that to exchange chit and chat for chat and chit.

The Editor would like to hear from just such a group who, while they sip and chat, would at the same time put together and staple the pages of the Sibford Scene (all necessities provided). It is a simple task but time consuming. Four people working steadily could accomplish it in two hours once a month. A well worth while task and one which would be much appreciated by the villagers.

At the present time the over-worked and much harassed rector (plus one suspects a certain dragooning of his tribe of sons) puts together the parcel for the Ferris while the Editor assisted by who ever he can catch passing his front door deals with the Gower.

Volunteers abounded last month when pleas were made for distributors. If only the above problem can be cracked this month, then the chain of assembly, production and distribution can be assured.

Come along now. Ring one another now and form the Sibford Scene Coffee production team!

The Editor is expectant!!

His line is open now!!

RALPH C. HOGGINS TYSOE for regular supplies of SOLID FUELS Ring TYSOE 281	PAINTING & DECORATING WINDOW CLEANING GARDEN LAWNS CUT J.E. STRACHAN SWA. 546
---	---

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL  
SIBFORD GOWER SCHOOL

COOK-IN-CHARGE

required immediately.

TIMES OF DUTY

8.45 a.m. to 2.00 p.m.

RATE OF PAY

Approximately 60 meals per day.  
£2.4678 per hour plus 2.5p per hour  
if qualified. Half pay during  
school holidays. Free meal.

APPLY TO:-

Oxfordshire County Council,  
School Meals Service,  
40 St. Thomas' Street,  
Oxford. OX1 1HZ. Tel: Oxford 815279

CAROL SINGING

Our thanks go to the two musicians and the group of people who went, despite high winds, carol singing around most of Sibford Gower and Burdrop. As a result of their efforts and your generosity a total of £55 was collected and sent to Save the Children.

We hope we can organise some more for 1986. David Soden.

The Carol Singing around the Ferris on the Friday before Christmas resulted in £31 being donated to the Red Cross for Famine Relief. Thank you to all who participated and to those who listened and contributed.

"FIDDLER ON THE ROOF"

(Stratford-upon-Avon Operatic Society  
Saturday, March 1st.

Tanners Coach leaves Sibford Ferris 1.15 p.m. and will pick up at the Village Hall and the Gower crossroads.

Tickets still available - £3. Coach Fare £1.  
M Cox (Tel. 510)

---

A series of Austerity Lunches will be held at the Friends Meeting House, Sibford Gower, on the first Wednesday of each month, starting on February 5th. All will be welcome between 12.15 and 1.45 and our aim is to build up a fund to give aid and encouragement to a self-help project on the borders of Ethiopia and Somalia. Leaflets giving details of this scheme will be available at the Meeting House.

Margaret Le Hare

---

J. H. F. GIDDINGS F.INST.I.C.

INSURANCE CONSULTANT  
42 NORTH BAR  
BANBURY (67449)

LIFE. PENSIONS. FARM  
HOME. THATCH. ACCIDENT  
ALL CLASSES PLACED

AGENT FOR PORTMAN BUILDING SOCIETY

---

DOES YOUR OIL TANK NEED CHANGING?

Now is the time to check the base of your tank for leaks.

We offer a professional changeover service including transferring your oil and removing your old tank.

Contact the experts now:- Oil Tank Supplies Ltd.  
Tel: 0336 353402 (daytime)  
Swalcliffe 221 (evening)

---

ALSO: COTSWOLD STONE supplied for dry stone walling or rockeries.



Church Services: 2nd 8am Holy Communion  
 9th 10am Holy Communion  
 16th 10am Matins & Holy Communion  
 23rd 10am Holy Communion

Ash Wednesday 12th 7.30am Holy Communion  
 3.00pm United Benefice Eucharist

Thursday mornings 7.30am Holy Communion  
 Tuesdays in Lent 8pm Holy Communion (18th & 25th)

Sunday School is at 10.00am. every Sunday.

In the death of Geoffrey Law, the village has lost one of its more recent residents who had become very much part of the Sibford Scene - indeed he can now be revealed as Jardin who wrote most regularly with tips and advice as how best to use one's time and space within the garden.

He was a great lover of all things literary, and performed occasionally in reading sessions - who else can remember his being one of the 'three little maids from school'?

He read and worshipped regularly in the Parish Church, and will be much missed by his family and his friends.

There has been at least one Spicer in Sibford since the beginning of time, as they say. After 82 years here, however, Albert, father of Robin and David and husband of Nina, died peacefully recently after a longish period of deteriorating health. We pass our best wishes to his family at this time.

LENT HOUSE GROUPS

WHAT ON EARTH IS THE CHURCH FOR ??

That's the title of this year's nationwide course for Lent, which we in Sibford are taking a full part in. The rector has the full details and we hope that simply anyone - professed Christian or convinced agnostic or downright atheist - will feel able to come and share the five evenings. Sibford's 'own' group will meet at Colin Frith's house on a Thursday at 8 p.m. (from 20th for five weeks) till 9.30. Other groups meet on other evenings in surrounding villages. A book (£1.00) is available - please let the rector know if you would like a copy: a good read even if you can't manage to get to the discussion evenings.

<p>RALPH C. HOGGINS          TYSOE          for mobile gas heaters          and SIGAS bottled gas          (FREE DELIVERY)          Ring Tysoe 281</p>	<p>DAVID LAMB          INSURANCE CONSULTANT          COMPETITIVE RATES          FRIENDLY LOCAL SERVICE          ALL TYPES OF INSURANCE          SWALCLIFFE 357</p>
--	--

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL - SIBFORD GOWER SCHOOL

General Kitchen Assistant required on temporary basis.  
 Times of Duty: 10.30 a.m. to 2.00 p.m.  
 Rates of Pay: £2.1185 per hour. Half pay during school holidays.  
 Free meal.

Apply to: Cook in Charge, Sibford Gower Endowed School,  
 Sibford Gower, Banbury, Oxon. Tel: Swa. 270

CHURCH SERVICES

Society of Friends	Sunday at 11 a.m.
Methodist	Sunday at 11 a.m.
Holy Trinity	As set out on previous page.

WEEKLY EVENTS

Youth Club	Village Hall	Monday 7 - 9. p.m.
Swimming Club	Friends School	Monday, Wednesday 6 - 7.p.m.
Folk Dancing	Village Hall	Tuesday 8 p.m.
Badminton	Village Hall	Wednesday 8 p.m.
Brownies	Village Hall	Thursday 5.15 - 6.45 p.m.
Guides	Village Hall	Thursday 7 p.m.
Cub Scouts	Village Hall	Friday 6.30 p.m.
Playgroup	Village Hall	9.30 a.m. Daily except Tuesday

FEBRUARY CALENDAR

Feb. 4th	Friendship Club Meeting, Village Hall.
Feb. 5th	Austerity Lunch, Friends Meeting House.
Feb. 11th	Coffee Morning, Pond Cottage.
Feb. 11th	W.I. Meeting, Village Hall.
Feb. 14th	Youth Club Valentines Dance, Tadmarton.
Feb. 15th	Valentine Disco, Swalcliffe Village Hall
Feb. 18th	Friendship Club Outing.
Feb. 22nd	Youth Club Jumble Sale, Village Hall.
Mar. 1st	Visit to Fidaler on the roof, Stratford.

GOWER FURNITURE  
 TRADITIONAL UPHOLSTERY  
 ANTIQUE RESTORATION  
 FURNITURE MAKERS  
 SWALCLIFFE 8101

DECOR SERVICE  
 Contact BRUCE HORN  
 your local  
 PAINTER AND DECORATOR  
 SWALCLIFFE 658

SIBFORD SCENE

Editor: Barry Davies, Stonecutters Cottage,  
 Bonds End Lane, Sibford Gower.  
 Tel: 291

Production: Vivienne Scouse, Timothy Wimbush

COPY FOR MARCH EDITION BY February 20th PLEASE.

Sadness also in the recent passing of Mr. Strange from the Ferris and of Mrs Kinnish from the Gower, so soon after the death of her husband. Our sympathy goes to both the families of these long-standing residents of our villages.