

Received - Sunday - 3/4/88.

SIBFORD SCENE

NO. 15 APRIL 1988

WHAT A LOAD OF RUBBISH!

As part of an environmental survey some second year Warriner pupils were asked to survey a local site and note the changes in the amount of litter over several consecutive days. I chose the area around the signpost at the crossroads in the centre of Sibford Gower. It is an area that often looks untidy because it is used as a meeting place and buses stop there to allow passengers to get on and off.

Day	1	2	3	4
Weather	some snow cover	wet	calm	slight wind
Type of Rubbish	No. items found on site			
Drink cans	1	2	3	2
Broken glass	1	2	2	3
Sweet wrappers	2	4	5	5
Cigarette ends/packets	0	0	2	4
Newspaper	1	1	1	1
Plastic carrier bags	2	2	3	3
Food wrappers	2	2	2	2
Paper rubbish, e.g. tickets	1	1	2	3
Household debris	2	3	3	3
Whole glass bottles	0	1	1	1
Animal excretion	0	3	3	4
Total items found	12	21	26	31

The amount of litter increased from 12 to 31 items in 4 days. The percentage increase was 158%! Perhaps we all need to be a bit more careful about what we drop on the ground or soon we will be knee deep in litter.

Ashley Hicks
Warriner School

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 1) Tadmarton W.I. Plant Sale and Spring Fayre.
2.30 p.m. Saturday May 14th at the Village Hall.
- 2) Tadmarton Fete and Antiques Roadshow
2.30 p.m. Saturday July 16th at the Manor.

SIBFORD FERRIS PARISH COUNCIL

1. The Annual Parish Meeting for the electors of Sibford Ferris will take place on Monday 9th May 1988 in room 23 of the Friend's School at 8.00 p.m. Any elector having items which he/she would like to be put on the agenda for this meeting should give such items to the Clerk to the Parish Council (Tony Skeath, Nansen House) by Mon. 25th April. The Agenda for the meeting will be displayed on or before Wed. 27th April.
2. The Parish Council of Sibford Ferris has been asked to bring to the public's attention the hazardous situation relating to the use of Holly House drive. The bends on the drive, coupled with its' constant use by traffic make this area very dangerous for use by pedestrians, especially children. It should also be noted that this driveway is a private road and therefore use is entirely at the individual's risk. The children at the Friend's School are not allowed to use the drive because of the danger and it is hoped that other pedestrian use may be strongly discouraged.

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

The meeting on April 13th at 8 p.m. in the Village Hall will be addressed by Mr. W. Holland of Brailes who will give an illustrated talk on "History in Gardens".

On Sunday May 1st an "Open Gardens" afternoon has been arranged. The following gardens will be open for anyone to visit in the afternoon between 2.30 and 4.30 p.m.

1. Carriers Cottage, Burdrop - Mr. and Mrs. Coxon
2. The Court House, Sibford Gower - Mr. and Mrs. Warwicker
3. Temple Close, Sibford Gower - Mr. and Mrs. Jones

Tea and biscuits will be available at The Court House and there will be a sale of plants. Anyone with plants to spare is asked to contact a committee member, or bring them along on the day.

Annual Day Out Leaflets describing the proposed coach trip to Barnsley Park Garden and Miserden Park on Saturday June 4th are available from the Secretary (M. Bristow Swa. 533). We hope to fill the coach this year. Only £5 for the whole trip.

SWIMMING CLUB

The Club is open to all families living in Sibford. Sessions are on Mondays and Wednesdays 6 - 7 p.m. at the Friends School Swimming Pool. A Rota of adults operates to supervise children.

We hope to arrange swimming sessions throughout the holidays too. Details from Carole Moir 8241.

Tennis Courts will also be available after Easter for members' use.

THE SIBFORD ROSES

SPILLED WINE OF THE GODS

The other Sabbath evening in Sibford Gower, where the meadows of Oxford county caress the pastures of Warwickshire, I found the roses clinging to the thatched roofs. The spilled wine of the gods stained the stone walls of every garden on which the eye did rest. I have been many times to Stratford-on-Avon and I have traced out anew, by footstep as well as fancy, the borders of the beloved Forest of Arden. Every line of leafy Warwick I thought I knew as perfectly as a singer cons his song. I was mistaken. On the fringe of the two counties is a little poem - not a village but a poem - and its name is Sibford Gower. I love England as a bridegroom loveth the bride. If I were a star looking down at eventide upon the English earth beneath and the hushed honeysuckled villages enfolded there, I sometimes think I should not know which to choose for perfectness of quiet beauty. But among the first six would be the village I have named above; and, as Mr. Birrell sorrowfully laments concerning a certain book which he did not read until the middle years, I am sad that more than forty Junes of my short life have come and gone before I have seen Sibford Gower. Stratford is beautiful, but Sibford Gower is exquisite, an unblemished gem of blossoming loveliness. It is England in excelsis.

Perhaps I do unwisely to write this eager word of praise. The word may kindle a pilgrimage, and a crowd of hurrying travellers might steal the stillness from the Sibfords. I will take the risk, for, after all, the rich and gentle charm of Sibford Gower must in a moment sip the poison and passion of haste from the traveller's blood. Ten thousand roses with ruby lips will whisper: Stay! And one must obey the instincts of the gods. Only by spilling the casket can the joys be shared, and only by singing his song can the singer feel within himself the theme's deep thrill.

All England should know of Sibford Gower, this piece of living Shakespeare. I give thanks to my friend, Mr. Frank Lascelles, the Master-in-Chief of the Pageant of Empire now being staged in the Stadium at Wembley. He it was who allured me to his dwelling-place to keep the festival of roses. If, I thought, as we walked together amid the glories of his gardens, if by a miracle we could transport this old-time manor house to Wembley, not a visitor from over the seas but would bow down before the benediction of it and feel in his blood the sacrament of June. Mr. Lascelles, in the phrase of the late Mr. W.T. Stead, is the Orpheus of England. More than any other man he, in pageant-form recalls to our hearts and minds the beauty of the buried centuries. He is wine-bearer to the mortals. From the cellars of the past he brings forth the wine-thoughts of the vine-yards which are no more. Now I know the secret of his passionate evangel. Who could live in the choicest bit of old England and move among ghosts and dreams and inspirations numberless and keep his harp unstrung?

(From an article by Sydney Walton in The Yorkshire Evening News).

SIBFORD GOWER ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The Annual Parish Meeting of Sibford Gower will be held in the Village Hall at 8 p.m. on Friday 22nd April, 1988.

This is the annual opportunity for residents of the Gower and Burdrop to hear reports on matters which the Parish Council has considered on their behalf during the past year and to make their voices heard on matters which they feel are important, so please come!

SIBFORD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

PROGRAMME FOR 1988

JANUARY	No meeting	
FEBRUARY	No meeting	
MARCH 9th	Mr. D. Hatchett Mrs. H.M. Plowman	* Tips on how to present your flowers, fruit, vegetables and cookery items on Show Day.
APRIL 13th	Mr. W. Holland	'Discovering history in gardens'
MAY 1st	Open Gardens in Sibford	At least three gardens will be open from 2.30 - 4.30 p.m. 1) Temple Close (Mr. and Mrs. E. Jones) 2) The Court House (Mr. and Mrs. G. Warwicker 3) Carrier's Cottage (Mr. and Mrs. N. Coxon) Tea & biscuits available at The Court House.
MAY 11th	Mrs. R. Cropley	Flower arranging demonstration, with particular reference to Flower Shows.
JUNE 4th	Day's Outing	* a.m. Barnsley House Garden (4 miles Cirencester) p.m. Miserden House Gardens & Nurseries
JULY 20th	Evening visit	Blenheim Palace Gardens 7.30 p.m. Leave Sibford in cars 6.45 p.m.
AUGUST 20th	Annual Show	
SEPTEMBER 14th	Miss M. Spiller (from Waterperry)	Growing herbaceous plants and delphiniums
OCTOBER 12th	A.G.M.	Followed by slides and talk - Mr. and Mrs. A. Jarvis
NOVEMBER 9th	Mr. J.D. Hiron (colleague of Dr. David Bellamy)	'An Island called Danger'
DECEMBER 14th	Mr. T. Bryce	Slides and Music - Ireland Social Evening

* Details to be circulated at March meeting

* Bring something to be judged, if you have it.

NORTH OXON CONSERVATIVE ASSOCIATION SIBFORD AND EPWELL BRANCH

A note for your diaries. The Branch Summer Party and Charity Auction (half of the proceeds will be donated to the Katherine House Hospice Appeal) will be held on 14th May at Gautherns Barn, Sibford Gower (the home of Lord and Lady May).

All are welcome whether you support the branch or not. The event will start at 6.30 p.m. with a smoked salmon and champagne reception, followed by the auction at about 7.30 p.m.; it will probably finish at about 9 p.m. The aim of the event is to have an enjoyable, fun evening and to make a contribution to a worthwhile local charity. Further details to follow.

Tickets at £5 per person can be obtained from Mr. Monty Pearlman at Burdrop House, Burdrop (Tel: Swa. 8162) and will also be available 'at the door on the night'. However, early bookings/notification would be appreciated to obtain an idea of numbers.

SIBFORD W.I.

Mrs. Davenport from Upper Rollright came to the March meeting to give an engrossing talk on the Fostering of children. The warmth and humour of her personality made it a memorable occasion. She talked of the pitfalls and blessings of fostering and answered many questions on the role of the foster parent, the Social Services, Adoption and inadequate parents, and listening to her was time well spent.

A Bring and Buy Stall raised nearly £20 for funds.

The competition for Best Baby photo was won by Mrs. Hutchinson, second Mrs. Conway, and teas were served by Mrs. Baggaley and Mrs. Grasby.

The April meeting will take place on the 12th of the month at 2 p.m. in the Village Hall. The Speaker will be Mrs. Carlisle on the subject of "Sewing and Design".

A competition for "A silky scarf" will take place.

SWIMMING CLUB

Sessions at the Friends School Pool will restart on March 7th. All new comers to the village are very welcome to join the Club. Our sessions are Monday and Wednesday 6 - 7 p.m. and Toddlers Group Fridays 4 - 5 p.m.

We are in URGENT need of more helpers to go on the supervision rota. Please telephone me if you can help.

Carole Moir, Swa. 8241

FRIENDSHIP CLUB NOTES FOR APRIL

Tuesday April 5th. 2 p.m. in the Village Hall. Annual Meeting. Election of Committee, followed by Tea.

Wed. April 20th Mystery Trip 1 p.m. - 5 p.m. All Welcome. please contact Mrs. Webb, 4 High Meadow, Tel. 8211.

Tuesday May 3rd. at 2 p.m. at The Friends School in the the Main Hall. Musical Afternoon followed by tea.

W A N T E D

for

Garters or Violin Strings

Large, nay, very large, white pussycat, with black tail, grey/black splodges and collar, suspected of thieving bird-nut cages. Please would owner of afore-mentioned culprit ask it where these are, or send it back to collect tops, left behind!!!!

Dog Lover.

THANK YOU

A big Thank You from the Salvation Army to those who gave so generously and to the willing team of collectors. Over £70 was raised in the Sibfords.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

May I please have a space in the Sibford Scene to express my feelings to say how sad I am that you have to be a newcomer to Sibford to be noticed - never a mention of the sick or aged in the village who have lived here all their lives.

Also the church-yard saddens me with people too lazy to take dead flowers home, instead of dumping them in a heap in the church-yard. It all helps if people could be tidy.

A. SIBFORDIAN

NATURE NOTES

Feb. 21st Found a dead fox. Why it died is puzzling. It was in good condition with a healthy looking coat. The only blemish was a section of skin torn from the middle of its brush.

Mar 1st. Flushed five snipe as I walked past a marshy patch of ground this morning.

Mar. 7th A toad tumbled into the hole that we were digging to plant a tree today. It seemed to come from some loose soil in the side of the hole some six or eight inches below ground level. I did not realise that the common toad could dig itself into the ground like this, although I believe the natterjack toads dig burrows in sand-dunes.

Mar 9th "The chaffinch sings on the orchard bough", and three more weeks to April.

Mar. 14th Still masses of birds enjoying the food we put out. The great-spotted woodpecker was conspicuous by its absence in the early winter, but a female now comes regularly to the suet and peanuts. Starlings that, last autumn, could only get fat from a coconut shell by fluttering up for a peck and falling back again, now perch easily on it and eat their fill. One has even learnt to cling to the nut container like a tit.

WELCOME TO THE SIBFORDS

Linda Denwood and Mark Freeman moved into "Haven Cottage", Sibford Ferris on Christmas Eve, on the same night Mark proposed. They hope to marry in the village early in September.

Linda, a home economist, works in Abingdon for a German domestic appliance and kitchen manufacturer, 'Miele'; Mark previously a self employed cabinet maker, specialising in antique restoration, is now also working for 'Miele' as a kitchen installer.

Linda, originally a Northerner, has been living locally in South Newington for the past ten years. Mark has been born and bred in Stratford-upon-Avon.

SIBFORD BROWNIES

This month we say goodbye to 3 of our older brownies. Vikki Abbott and Susie Bennett who are both moving on to Guides and Caroline Crossley who is leaving the area to live in Devon. We wish you well in Devon Caroline and hope you enjoy your new school. We do hope Vikki and Susie will enjoy being in Guides. We have certainly enjoyed having them in Brownies. Vikki has been a member of Sibford Brownies for a very long time and it will seem strange without her.

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SIBFORD GOWER PARISH COUNCIL

LITTER BLITZ 1988

Some of you will remember that in recent years Oxfordshire County Council has sponsored a self-help scheme of litter clearance throughout the county. They provide empty sacks and arrange to collect filled sacks from the villages. This scheme has been very successful in providing a spring tidy-up and this year has been extended from a weekend to a full week. The faithful few who helped the Parish Council with their organised "Womble" will clearly remember what a drenching business it was - surely the wettest Saturday in the year!

This year we have ordered MORE sacks. We hope that the extra time will mean that more people will be willing to help, either by taking part in the Womble or by collecting empty sacks to clear their own local patch sometime during that week.

DETAILS: OCC Litter Blitz:- 16th-24th April 1988.
Organised 'Womble' Sunday 17th April (weather permitting)
Meet Village Hall 3 p.m.

Sacks available from: Mrs. M. Hicks, Pentangle, Barley Close.

The village youth organisations have been especially asked for their help but please let this be a real community effort. Do remember to wear thick gloves.

If the weather is too wet on Sunday 17th April, we will postpone the tidy-up until Saturday 23rd April, same time, same place.

Filled sacks, securely tied, may be left to await OCC collection on the verges at the village Cross Roads in the Gower or along Acre Ditch on the opposite side of the road by the entrance to Miss King's field.

LONG CRENDON MYSTERY PLAYS 1988

Performances of five plays from the 14th century York Mystery Cycle will be given at Long Crendon Church.

Wednesday 27th April
Thursday 28th April
Friday 29th April
Saturday 30th April

The plays will commence at 8.15 p.m. Please be in your seats by 8 p.m.

DETAILS FROM THE EDITOR

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A Simple Answer to an Understandable Question

Somewhere in the confines of this month's Sibford Scene lies a lament that only newcomers to the district receive a mention under the heading "Welcome to Sibford".

The reason is that dear Sue Colquhoun has taken it upon herself, as a neighbourly gesture and contribution to village life, to welcome newcomers with both a visit and the gift of a small booklet she has prepared. Being Sue she follows up this warm hearted act by a simple report she prepares for the Sibford Scene.

NOW! Is there no one whose conscience is pricked by "A Sibfordian" to do likewise for the sick - the anxious - the old - the lonely? (Maybe the "Sibfordian" his/herself?)

There are most probably many already doing similar friendly acts who could share their anxiety with all by a follow up piece in the Sibford Scene.

As requested many times before, the Editor is only too aware that this sort of warmth is sadly missing from the publication.

PLEASE - PLEASE - PLEASE - respond with regular neighbourly contributions.

LEO CLUB

A small group met on 22nd March at The Court House for a Make-up demonstration by Sara Watts, Beautician from Swalcliffe. Helen Soden was 'made up' and a most interesting and enjoyable evening was had by all.

Leo will meet next month on Tuesday 19th April at 8 p.m. at The Court House, Sibford Gower when a fresh flower demonstration will be given by The Flower Shop, Banbury.

PIANO WANTED

Do you have a piano you never use which you'd like to go to a good home? I'd like to buy one in playable condition at a sensible price, and I can arrange collection.

Please call Alexis Agnew -
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or evenings, Swa. 8260

A U C T I O N

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CHURCH SERVICES

Society of Friends		Sundays at 10.30 a.m.
Methodist		Sundays at 11 a.m.
Roman Catholic Mass	Hook Norton	Sunday at 11 a.m.
	Brailes	Sunday at 11.30 a.m.

Holy Trinity

April 1st	Good Friday	8 a.m.	Matins and Litany
		7 p.m.	Evening Service
April 2nd/3rd	EASTER	11 p.m. (2nd)	Midnight Eucharist
		8 a.m.	Holy Communion
		11 a.m.	Family Communion
April 10th		10 a.m.	Service at Epwell
April 17th		10 a.m.	Matins and Holy Communion
April 24th		10 a.m.	Service at Swalcliffe

WEEKLY EVENTS

Drama Club	Village Hall	Monday & Wednesday 3.15 - 6 p.m.
Swimming Club	Friends School	Monday & Wednesday 6 - 7 p.m.
		Friday 4 - 5 p.m. (Toddlers)
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 p.m.
Scouts	Village Hall	Friday following Cubs
Playgroup	Village Hall	9.30 daily except Tuesday (Term time)
Mums & Toddlers	Friends School	10 - 12 noon Wednesday (term time)

APRIL CALENDAR

April 2nd	Paper Collection
April 5th	Friendship Club, Annual Meeting, 2 p.m. Village Hall.
April 12th	Sibford W.I. 2 p.m. Village Hall. Sewing & Design.
April 13th	Horticultural Society, 8 p.m. Village Hall.
April 16th	Start of Litter Blitz week
April 17th	Organised 'Womble' 3 p.m. Village Hall
April 19th	Leo Club, 8 p.m. The Court House. Flower Demonstration.
April 20th	Friendship Club, Mystery Trip. 1 p.m.
April 22nd	Sibford Gower Annual Parish Meeting, 8 p.m. Village Hall.
May 1st	Horticultural - Open Gardens Afternoon 2.30 - 4.30 p.m.
May 3rd	Friendship Club, 2 p.m. Friends School. Musical afternoon.

SIBFORD SCENE

COPY TO: The Editor, Barry Davies, Stonecutters Cottage, Bonds End Lane,
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