

SIBFORD SCENE

April 2020

No 421



Painting by Nigel Fletcher

SIBFORD FERRIS ANNUAL LITTER PICK

4th April - Lane's Head Corner - 10 am meet.



GREEN SCENE



First I can recommend zero waste for the shampoo and shower gel. Also can you mention that they are good for herbs and spices, nuts and oats. Their honey cashews are just too nice!

Pam Ascott



Further to my plug for loose milk at Butlers Road Farm, I am reminded by Hugh Pidgeon for the excellent services of Milk & More. Our local milkman is Andrew Butler from Tadmarton and you can order bottled milk, OJ, Yoghurt and other things from the website: <https://www.milkandmore.co.uk/>



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ED'S THOUGHTS

PLEASE NOTE THAT DUE TO THE CORONAVIRUS SITUATION, ALL PLANNED EVENTS IN THE SIBFORDS MAY BE CANCELLED OR POSTPONED - PLEASE CHECK THE VILLAGE WEBSITE (thesibfords.org) FOR DAILY UPDATES

The look of the Sibford Scene may be slightly different this month due to a new printing format. Apologies for any 'odd' looking pages

Thought for the month:

" My given name is Dickie, I come from Billericay
And I'm doing - very well"

Ian Dury



LETTERS AND NOTICES

SIBFORD CRICKET CLUB

We are netting at Sibford School from 4pm - 5:30pm every Sunday until the 26th of April where we have a friendly training game which is open to anyone interested. A mention that we are always looking for new players and if anyone is interested to contact Alex (name and number on the fixture list) would be great as well.

Ben Morby

Sibford Ferris Annual Litter Pick - Saturday 4th April, 10 am meet.

We will be meeting at Lanes End Corner (the crossroads where the bus stops) and then litter picking the roadsides and paths of Sibford Ferris. Bags will be provided and gloves will be available so all we need is you to come and help. With a good turnout of volunteers it only takes a couple of hours to make a great impact on the appearance of the parish.

We still aim to meet at Lanes End Corner to distribute bags and areas but with the advice about not holding group meetings, I am happy to distribute bags to individual houses for you to do your bit as and when it suits you.

Please come and support our efforts.

If you need more information or to volunteer at a different time, please contact Adrian Lamb 780380 or Adrian.lamb1@btconnect.com



SIBFORD SUPPORT GROUP

By the time you read this, I hope you will have already heard of the **Sibford Support Group** via a postcard dropped through your letterbox, and perhaps you may already be involved with us as a volunteer, or as a recipient of our help and support.

The idea for this, and many other similar support groups, emerged in mid-March just after the UK government escalated its response to the Coronavirus emergency, and recommended a significant period of self-isolation for the elderly and medically vulnerable.

As I write this article the day after our first **Sibford Support Group** meeting, we are starting to turn our initial ideas into action, by implementing our plans for making contact with those who might need our help, and by approaching those who have already generously volunteered to deliver that help.

If you need to get in touch with us, please use the contact details included on our postcard, or go to our webpage at: www.thesibfords.uk/ssg
Alternatively you could phone me direct on 780151 or email me at cllr.david.allen@thesibfords.org.uk if you prefer.

In the meantime, I hope you will join me in thanking everyone who has and will be volunteering to help and support our friends and neighbours in and around The Sibfords during these challenging times.

Cllr David Allen

Sibford Gower Parish Council

18/03/2020

Adult Tap Class.

Sibford Village Hall, Tuesday nights 7pm-8pm.
If interested please contact Denise Cook via email:
denisemcook04@gmail.com or text
07566210187 or just come along and join us.

Colour Analysis by Annie Broe

I will show you which colours are best for you.
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T: 01295 780637 or 07930 398151. E: annie4colourandstyle@gmail.com

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Two Course Lunch with tea or coffee

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12.45pm for 1.00pm - £4.00

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MOROCCAN FEAST

*Pop-up Moroccan Feast on Saturday 18th April at 7.30pm
In the Village Hall*

3 delicious courses and other bits (nibbles, salads, bread)

£30 per head - BYOB

In Memory of David Tarring

All proceeds go to the Brain Tumour Charity

POSTPONED

Due to the Coronavirus emergency, I have decided to postpone the Feast.

Apologies to all of you who had booked, but needless to say - it will take place later on in the year!!





SIBFORD DRIVERS

Norman has passed the monthly task of creating the back up rota to Jeremy Dougall. Many thanks to Jeremy and to David Gill who continues to do a marvellous job as the primary responder in Margaret's continued absence.

Our 31 drivers have been alerted to the possibility of requests for urgent shopping for anyone in the village who may need a period of self-isolation following a positive test for the Coronavirus emergency. Any requests for such emergency help should be notified to David Gill or his telephone stand-by on the advertised monthly rota and they will do their best to find an available driver,

For this emergency help, as for all requests for lifts, The Drivers would appreciate at least 24 hours notice for a request if at all possible except, of course, in cases of emergency.

Sibford Drivers		April 2020		
If you require a lift				Rota 10
In the first instance please ring David Gill 788171				07730431118
<i>If no reply, please try:</i>				
<i>from Sunday</i>		<i>to Saturday</i>		
5th April	11th April	David Long	788242	07717 192257
12th April	18th April	Jane Woolfenden	780679	07501 814875
19th April	25th April	Maureen Hicks	780259	07502121206
26th April	1st May	Judy Abbott	780731	07530109051

CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE



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VILLAGE HALL NEWS

EASTER EGG TRAIL

This event has been postponed

FILM NIGHTS

These have been cancelled for the next few months ,but we will let you know as soon as we can when they will resume.

JAZZ PICNIC

On July 11th we are holding an outdoor concert,[if the weather permits]. otherwise in the Village Hall [if the situation has improved by then]. .

Great Jazz Music to listen to, whilst you enjoy your own picnic and drinks. More details in the future.

BRIDGE DRIVE

We are planning a Bridge Drive on OCTOBER 3rd 2020 starting at 2pm prompt. Doors open at 1-30pm.

Tickets available from Sally Hopkyns on 01295 788367 or Joan Broady on 01295 780410 and are £10 each to include a cream tea.

CONTACT AND INFORMATION

Many clubs and societies have cancelled their sessions so please check with the organisers.

Ginny Bennett



FILM NIGHT

Some of you may not know that our filmnight is an Age UK initiative and that I request our films from them.

Because of the corona virus they have now suspended all groups/activities so will stop the film loans until at least the end of May.

Petra Berry



HORTI SOCIETY

Horticultural Society Plant Sale in Sibford Gower

It would seem to me to be a great pity not to be able to continue our programme of really good lecturers and summer garden visits which we have been enjoying, so do please support the 'alternative' plant sale. Everyone is welcome.

As I have an even larger and more interesting collection of plants than ever before for sale in aid of the Horti this year and given that the plant sale on 9 May at Carter's Yard may have to be cancelled owing to coronavirus, I would be happy to welcome individuals to buy plants by appointment here at Carter's Yard anytime from now on.

I have ordered some disposable gloves which I will ask any visitor to put on at the gate and leave there for disposal by me on leaving. I will stand well away but be there for advice and information as usual. To make an appointment either ring 01295 780365 or email sebannister@gmail.com and speak to me or leave a message and I will get back. We are next to the Wykham Arms and the postcode OX155RW. Please park in front of our double garage doors.

Holiday Cottage in Cornwall

On the beautiful north coast in Poldark country, character cottage set in a large south-facing enclosed garden, is available for holiday lets. It is situated on the outskirts of the vibrant and friendly village of St Agnes.

Scrumbles Hollow sleeps six in three double bedrooms, one with ensuite shower room, plus a family bathroom. Full central heating.

The spacious cottage has an open fire place in a cosy sitting room, while the dining room boasts a log burner. New, fully equipped kitchen and separate utility room for sorting out sportswear after a day on the beach or walking the breathtaking countryside.

Lots of good local pubs and restaurants, shops and galleries. Excellent public transport connections, including Newquay airport (half an hour by car).

For more information, please contact Linda on 01295 780 242 or 07973 226 032 or linda.lane@btconnect.com



NATURE NOTES

Back on 16th February Colin Lamb reported that Frogs had arrived in numbers in their pond (formerly Arnold and Ina's) and were starting to spawn.

At about the same time I saw my first butterfly of the year. It probably doesn't really count as it was a hibernating Peacock that I disturbed in our garage. Please let me know when you first see spring butterflies out and about.

In order to attract and help conserve butterflies it is important to consider all stages of their life cycle not just providing nectar for adults. It has been suggested that even a small Buckthorn plant in a pot could help attract Brimstone butterflies as the females will detect the plants from a considerable distance and seek them out to lay their eggs. The butterflies seem to prefer small plants and the plants themselves are not unattractive.

The low growing Comfrey that has pale creamy yellow flowers seems to quite common on the roadside verges around the villages. There is a particularly large patch opposite the village shop. It is presumably a garden escape but flowers early in the year and is often visited by large numbers of bees when there are not a lot of other flowers around.

Ravens seem to be becoming increasingly common in the area and there has been a particularly vocal one in the Corsican Pine trees just outside our garden.

Please send observations for the next Nature Notes to ajnewbold88@gmail.com

Rooms to Hire Sibford Gower

Are you looking for a space to hire for a one off event or a regular booking? The Meeting House at Sibford Gower might answer your needs. The Meeting House has a large meeting room, a fully fitted modern kitchen with crockery, cutlery etc and a well equipped children's room.

The cost of hiring is £12 per hour for short hiring periods. The price for longer periods is negotiable.

For further information contact: Gill Yeomans gill@crofthouse.eu

Tel: 01608 737890

SIBFORDS PARISH COUNCILS



The Annual Community Meeting of the Parishes of Sibford Ferris & Sibford Gower

Do you remember this? Were you there? It was quite an occasion! For the first time in their separate histories, the councils of the two Sibford parishes, Ferris and Gower came together on the **9th May** last year a shared celebration of our extra-ordinary

vibrant community. Over 150 people gathered in the village hall that evening in one glorious upsurge of shared interest, mutual curiosity and animated conversations!

We were all set to let you know that the two Councils have agreed once more to host this year's Annual Community Meeting 2020, with the date all set for the 5th May. Lots of plans for changes in the format and new ideas of how it might be run. Except that we had underestimated the speed with which the coronavirus pandemic would so thoroughly disrupt the very best laid plans!

Only a month ago in March's Sibford Scene we were telling you all about the defibrillators we are installing in both villages, and plans we have to run 'Save a life' training sessions' on both sides of the valley. The defibrillators will soon be in place and we still have the plans but they too, with the Annual Community Meeting now need to be postponed, most probably until the Autumn. But this is not the time to make predictions! Keep an eye on the Sibfords website, and keep safe meanwhile!

Clhrs John Wass, Ginny Bennett & Hugh Pidgeon *Sibford Ferris & Sibford Gower Parish Councils*



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LOCAL NEWS

Swalcliffe Parke Equestrian Calendar of Events-2020

Sunday 5 th April	Warwickshire Hunt Pony Club Hunter Trials
Sunday 19 th April	Festival of the Horse Area 5 Qualifier
Sat 25 th & Sun 26 th April	Horse-Events One Day Event
Fri 7 th -Sun 9 th August	BRC Nat Horse Trials Championships
Sat 12 th & Sun 13 th September	Horse Events One Day Event (TBC)
Sunday 27 th October	Crown Riding Club Hunter Trial (TBC)

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

Chipping Norton Country Market - Every Saturday 9-11, Lower Town Hall, Chipping Norton.

Deddington Farmers - 4th Saturday of the month

Great Rollright - 1st Saturday of the month

North Cotswold Farmers - 1st Thursday of the month @ Stourton (6-8pm)



SIBFORDS WALKING GROUP

Forthcoming Walks:

30 March; 20 April; 4 May; 18 May (Please check the website to confirm this one is on) and also please note the gap over Easter

We are continuing to do walks but are not sharing cars to get to the start/finish point, so people should be prepared to drive themselves.

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

Ian Sharp, 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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Sibford Cricket Club Fixture List 2020

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Date	Team	Home / Away	League / Friendly	Result (W/L)
April				
26 th	<i>Internal Training Match</i>	<i>Home</i>	<i>Friendly</i>	-
May				
2 nd	Hanslope	Home	League	
3 rd	<i>Oxhill</i>	<i>Home</i>	<i>Friendly</i>	
9 th	Wroxton A	Away	League	
16 th	Radway	Home	League	
23 rd	Helmdon	Home	League	
24 th	<i>Long Compton</i>	<i>Away</i>	<i>Friendly</i>	
June				
6 th	Winslow Town	Home	League	
13 th	Marston St Lawrence A	Away	League	
20 th	Bodicote	Home	League	
27 th	Maids Morton	Home	League	
28 th	<i>Oxhill</i>	<i>Away</i>	<i>Friendly</i>	
July				
4 th	Hanslope	Away	League	
5 th	<i>Bert Gilbert Memorial</i>	<i>Home</i>	<i>Friendly</i>	
11 th	Wroxton A	Home	League	
18 th	Radway	Away	League	
19 th	<i>Bert Gilbert Reserve</i>	<i>Home</i>	<i>Friendly</i>	
25 th	Helmdon	Away	League	
August				
8 th	Winslow Town	Away	League	
15 th	Marston St Lawrence A	Home	League	
16 th	<i>Long Compton</i>	<i>Home</i>	<i>Friendly</i>	
22 nd	Bodicote	Away	League	
29 th	Maids Morton	Away	League	

All league fixtures start at 1:30pm.

Friendly fixture start times tbc

If you are interested in joining Sibford CC, please contact Alex Beaumont Dark on 07508 196279 or get in touch with any other member of the team.



NOT SO GREAT TASTE

My wife Annie, and daughter Lara, every year go to Kerala for their annual Yoga Retreat and last year, they gave me an Indian Cookbook - thought I'd share one of the recipes with you:

SPINACH THORAN

Ingredients

Spinach (finely chopped):	3 cups
Coconut (grated):	1/2 cup
Garlic Flakes:	2
Button onion:	1
Chilly powder:	1/2 cup

Seasoning

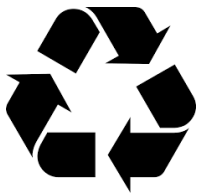
Button onion sliced in rounds:	1/2 cup
Dry red chilly split into two:	1
Oil:	1 tsp
Mustard:	1/2 tsp
Rice:	1tsp

A few curry leaves

Method

1. Grind garlic, onion and chilly powder and mix it with the grated coconut which is already crushed
2. Fry mustard and rice in hot oil. When it splutters add onion and salt. Add dry chilly and curry leaves. When all ingredients are fried, add spinach and sprinkle a little water and salt
3. When steam begins to come out, put the green chilly and masala in the centre and cover it with spinach. Close the pan and continue cooking till steam comes. Open the lid and stir gently and allow it to get dry

This is delicious!!!



TOP TIPS /IDEAS for tackling waste and recycling

- Make soup with scruffy and left over veg. It can be frozen until you are ready to use it.
- Make sure your recycling items are clean or they won't get recycled.
- Make sure the WHOLE family knows what can and can't be recycled
- An easy way to transport multiple refill containers to Nothing But Footprints is to use wheelie cases.
- Restore skips regularly for village use
- Review which waste streams are best – what can we do best at?
- Buy products that can be refilled, and buy loose fruit/veg.
- Recycle used printer cartridges by placing them in the box just inside the door of St Peter's Church.
- Start a swishing party where everyone brings 5 items of clothing and swaps them for others – no money exchanged.
- Buy in bulk
- Shop in Co-ops
- Upcycle your clothes - get creative
- Use diluted washing up liquid for your kitchen spray – re-use the spray bottle
- Make sure you know what can be recycled and where – kerbside bin collections & local collection points.
- Reduce plastic by using shampoo bars and conditioner bars.
- Buy packaging-free products.
- Open all packaging with a view to re-using it.
- Make do & mend.
- A stitch in time saves 9
- Recycle dental products (toothpaste tubes, & brushes) at the dentists.
- To prevent a lemon going to waste when you've cut it – slice it, freeze the slices, freeze them and then use them in your Gin & Tonic.
- Some plastic bags can be washed, dried and used many times.
- Switch off your car engine when stationary.
- Buy fruit and veg loose from the Hooky village shop.
- Reduce plastic – use glass containers for food storage and paper pots for plants.
- Body Shop accepts back and recycles their packaging.
- Take your own superlight mesh bags for loose produce – you can use them over and over again.
- If plastic scrunches up it isn't recyclable unless it reforms again.



It has been another busy term at school with the children having many opportunities to take part in many curriculum-enhancing activities, both in and away from the school building.

Our youngest children are exploring the topic theme 'Moon Zoom', which all began with a curious 'landing' on our school field. It has been mentioned that a similar landing took place a few years ago at another local primary school, which made our pupils question if we were on some kind of Space flightpath? The children have been able to generate their own hypothesis of what may have occurred and have read fiction and non-fiction books to help their investigation. They have looked closely at the moon and the other fascinating planets in our solar system and been able to generate pieces of art. An astronaut bear even visited the children and told them about his friends who are astronauts called Neil Armstrong and Yuri Gagarin.

Our children in Year 3 & 4 were delighted to meet and learn from a group of Marine Biologists, who visited their class from Oxford University during their topic of 'Blue Abyss'. They were able to look at, explore and ask questions about life beneath the ocean, looking at 'real life images' taken by the biologists. The class also had a mystery 'deep sea diver' visit them in their wet suit, who some pupils thought was a close relative to their teacher – the resemblance was remarkable! To engage the children in their current topic 'I am a Warrior', Roman experts will visit them from the Woodstock museum. It certainly is exciting times in Willow class.

The children in year 5 recently travelled to Tutor Hall School to take part in their annual Science Day. The children were very well behaved, extremely engaged and a real credit to the school. They took part in many experiments and 'science magic', with one of our pupils expressing "it is the best trip I have ever been on!" The children in our top classes are also studying 'Allotments' this half term and now the weather is improving, they will be out and about planting and hopefully reaping the fruits of their labour by the summer holidays.

In recent weeks our whole school population have come together to celebrate occasions such as World Book Day, Internet safety week, the national initiative 'Beat them to defeat them', where children are encouraged to eat vegetables, so they don't take over the world! On Friday 13th March, the school held a 'Sports relief mile' where all our pupils were joined by their families (and school adults took part too) to complete 7 laps of the school field (the equivalent to a mile), to raise money for local, national and international projects supported by the Sport relief charity.

If you would like to find out more about our wonderful and welcoming village school, please look on the school website: <http://www.sibford-gower.oxon.sch.uk/>

SIBFORDS HISTORY SOCIETY

On February 20th we had a very happy social evening; so many people came, as suggested, dressed wonderfully in the clothes of villagers in the time of the Reverend Stevens, vicar of Sibford 1874 -1898, whose diary entries appear on the Sibfords website , thanks to Tim Huckvale. Look out for the photos taken by Glennis Hardman, when we next meet. A super Victorian-style meal was provided by Miss T and her helpers, and we were treated to a lively and lovely music hall show by the talented Flo, Hannah and Joe who are 'Voices Across Time'.

This all seems long ago, and now, in line with the Government's updated advice on the Coronavirus, we have sadly had to cancel all future meetings until at the earliest, next September. When this virus has been curbed, we hope to continue with our programme, and to invite speakers whom we will miss this year, to come to Sibford in 2021.

Meanwhile keep safe and well!

Diana Hughes



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HORTI SOCIETY

The Sibford Horticultural Society met for the first time this year for a brief AGM and then got straight down to business with Bob Brown of Cotswold Garden Flowers with his talk on 'First Impressions, Second Thoughts'.

It was an evening of valuable advice delivered in Bob's inimitable way. We have all been there – standing in the garden centre looking at all the brightly coloured displays and being tempted to buy. Bob cautioned us to think about how the plants have been cleverly potted, labelled and marketed so that we are encouraged to purchase without really thinking about whether it is a tried and tested variety and if it will really stand the test of being in our own gardens.

These first impressions are planned to 'wow' us and many plants are bred to tempt us in the garden centre and not for longevity in our gardens. He stressed the importance of the proper testing of the viability of new varieties and that adequate time be taken over a number of seasons to ensure a plant is truly hardy and consistent. All too often is it we, the public that are acting as test beds.

When looking to buy, Bob's advice is to consider whether a more tender or difficult plant is really worth the extra trouble and to question what that payback will mean to us in terms of display or longevity. Do we really need so many different varieties in our gardens? Should we for example, be selecting a little more carefully the plants that will really work for us, plants that are so very similar in flower or leaf to those more showy and expensive items that may well disappoint...?

In light of the Prime Minister's announcements re. Self-isolation, the society has decided, with regret, to CANCEL THE FOLLOWING:

8 April, Harriet Rycroft's talk at the village hall

16th May The Spring Show

9 May Plant Sale at Carter's Yard

10 June Outing to Waterperry Gardens.

Please do check the village website for information regarding the full programme for 2020 including outings etc.

PLEASE NOTE:

Sue Bannister has a splendid variety of flower and vegetable plants for sale and you may arrange to view these privately by phoning Sue on 01295 780365 or email sebannister@gmail.com.

All proceeds of sale go to support Horti funds and everyone, members and non-members alike, will be most welcome.

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In Your Garden - April

Spring - at last, and the birds are singing like mad, but the weeds are popping up everywhere, so your first job is:-

1. Hoe! Hoe! Hoe! A long handled hoe will whip through the borders, slicing away at young weeds, and saves you back having to do all that bending. You will, of course, still have to dig out the tough dandelions, nettles and docks. Put on some mulch when you have weeded.

2. Inspect your roses. The first aphids will be arriving on the fresh new growth, nibbling away. If you squidge them now between your fingers, you may not need to spray them later on with Roseclear.

3. Lawns have suffered this winter, moss is everywhere, so after you have mown it, rake out the moss as hard as you can with a metal rake, and get rid of it. (Don't ever put it in the compost heap) Then scatter some Weed and Feed, and keep off the lawn for at least 2 weeks. When it has turned brown, you can rake the moss out again. If the grass is looking very thin, aerate the soil with a fork, and sow some more grass seeds.

4. Brush off your garden seats, and consider where they are placed. They can add focus and structure to a garden. It is nice to have one in the morning sun, to sit and have a mug of coffee. lovely to have one in a shady place for a summer lunch, and essential to have one where you can watch the sunset with evening drinkies.

5. It is very cheering to have a few flowers you can pick for the table, or to take a little bunch to a friend. On finely raked soil you can sow annuals now, such as larkspur, poppies, cosmos, cornflowers. My sweet peas are already up and pinched out, and you can go on sowing them for more months yet.

6. Clematis and climbing roses all need tying in, as they grow so fast. The wind this winter has rocked quite a few shrubs half out of the ground, so check them all.

7. You can still plant hedges, shrubs, trees and climbers, as long as they stay well watered.

8. When the ground has warmed up it is time to plant some veggies - beetroot, spinach, chitted potatoes etc., and at the end of the month beans and peas can go in.

9. Edible flowers are fun to grow, and can decorate cakes, and make your salads glow with colour. Try nasturtiums, violas, chives with their lovely pink blooms and marjoram. Blue borage flowers, frozen in ice cubes, give your cocktails a Michelin star restaurant touch.

10. Spend as much time as you can in the garden. It is the healthiest place to be at the moment. And we might just hear a cuckoo soon. That'll cheer me up.

Jupe Hitching

WELCOME TO SIBFORD

If you are new to the Sibfords and would like a 'Welcome to Sibford' booklet, providing details of village services and activities, please call Ivor Hopkyns on T: 788367 (Gower & Burdrop) or Nic Durrant T: 788865 (Ferris). And don't forget that we are lucky enough to have a really great village website too at: thesibfords.org.uk



FRIENDSHIP CLUB

The Friendship Club has decided NOT TO MEET UNTIL JUNE.
By which time this virus might have gone or at least subsided.
The Committee hope all keep well

Eveline Boughton

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DID YOU KNOW?

A fishy tale from the medieval period

The tradition of constructing and using fishponds in England began during the medieval period and peaked in the 12th century. Most fishponds were located close to villages, manors or monasteries so that a watch could be kept on them to prevent poaching. Fishponds were artificially created pools of slow moving freshwater constructed to cultivate, breed and store fish to provide a constant and sustainable supply of food. They could be dug into the ground, embanked above ground level, or formed by placing a dam across a narrow valley. A cutting or canal was dug to allow water to run into the fish ponds. The sides were usually made of coarse rubble and sluices coped with the swelling of the stream.

They were usually built by the wealthy sectors of society with the monastic institutions and royal residences often having large and complex fishponds. The difficulties of obtaining fresh meat in the winter and the value placed on fish as a food source and for status, may have been factors which favoured the development of fishponds and which made them so valuable. The main species of fish kept were eel, tench, pickerel, bream, perch, and roach. Large quantities of fish could be supplied at a time. Once a year, probably in the spring, ponds were drained and cleared.



Pickerel fish

Fishponds are widely scattered throughout England and there is evidence in the Trust Deed of 1842 for Sibford Ferris Manor (the old School and Manor development on Main Street) that 'the land around the premises includes Fish Pond Close, of over five acres, together with water courses.' The medieval manor given to Henry de Ferris by King William I, which probably stood on or near this site, would have had fish ponds. In the valley immediately below, and near to the Sib. The contours of the land show various depressions suggesting that fish ponds may have been excavated there and can still be seen today.

Fishponds have also been found and partially restored at Holwell Grange on the border of Sibford and Swalcliffe, the monastic Grange for a small community of Cistercian monks for about 150 years during the 11th and 12th centuries.

CHURCH SERVICES

Society of Friends	Sibford Gower, Sunday, 10.30 am
Roman Catholic	Brailes, Saturday, 5pm; Shipston, Sunday 9am
	Kinton, Sunday 11am
Baptist	Hook Norton, Sunday, 10.30 am



HOLY TRINITY CHURCH CHATTER

Church Services for SIBFORD

April 9th Maundy Thursday

Benefice Eucharist and Washing of Feet
at SIBFORD. 7-00 pm

April 12th. Easter Day

Holy Communion at SIBFORD 9-30 am

On Good Friday **PLEASE NOTE: THIS HAS NOW BEEN CANCELLED**
MESSY CHURCH in SIBFORD Village Hall
at 10-00

The Annual Church Parish Meeting will be held on APRIL 30th in the Church at
7-00 pm.

This Meeting is open to all Members of the church who are on the Church
Electoral Roll.

The 1st of this year's coffee mornings will be held on APRIL 18th at the home
of the Allen's

Other dates to follow next month.



YOGA

Sibford Village Hall

New Beginners class Thursdays 9 – 10am

Traditional Yoga Fridays 9 – 10am

Chair Yoga Fridays 10.15 – 11am

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rachelbunnviolin@gmail.com

Anyone interested in smallholding news from The Brambles.

Self-sufficiency is an aspirational goal. This project has opened my eyes to the notion of creating an organic entity; a community where animals, albeit in limitations, live peacefully, are shown respect and cared for according to their needs; where we all, as animals, interact with each other and provide for each other.

There have been difficult times; last summer, when Peaches had to be put down due to a spinal injury and a tiny goat kid that was born with irreversibly malformed limbs. In addition, this winter will remain in my memory as the soggiest and muddiest I have ever known. Pigs up to their elbows, chicken's feathers heavy with rain and goats, who dislike water intensely and muddy ground even more, spending long hours peering out from their shelter.

Two pigs out of the four Oxford Sandy and Blacks that were born last summer, went for meat last week. Such a testing and reflective time. Worse was that they were accompanied by Archie Goat. My fragile heart was balanced on the fence, but finally the smallholder's reasoning had to prevail. Out of the three other Toggenburg kids born last May, the two girls, Annabel and Audrey were bought by a milking herd in Kent. Alan, the fourth, will stay here and earn his keep as a working goat. He has been trained to carry saddle packs and will also learn to pull a cart. He can be used to deliver produce to the village or accompany walkers. Their mothers, Rosie and Sophie, are continuing to give over 4 litres of milk each day. Any milk that is not used for tea, coffee, porridge or cheese making, finds its way into the pigs' feeding bowls. The output from the pigs, fertilizes the vegetable plots and the vegetable scraps are fed to the goats. Simple. Meanwhile, the chickens, sensing the onset of spring, are increasing egg production.

With spring approaching, all is looking brighter. If all goes to plan, more piglets will hopefully be tearing around during the summer. In late summer, Rosie and Sophie will have a break from milk production in readiness for kids next year.

Visits from locals and friends are always welcome. I have more than enough pork, goat milk and meat, cheese and eggs. If anyone is interested in taking some off my hands, send me an email.

Sue5595@aol.com

Finally, I must thank Ali, Nicki, Peter and Bryn who continue to willingly and expertly cover for me when I'm away.

Sue Sabin

SIBFORD BUS SERVICE

BUS NUMBER: 3A	NS				SSH
SOA Wood Street	6.15	9.00			16.05
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
Sibford Ferris School	7.02	10.02	12.12	14.02	16.57
Lower Tadmarton	7.12	10.12	12.22	14.12	17.07
Banbury Bus Station	7.25	10.25	12.35	14.25	17.20

			B		
Banbury Bus Station	10.30	12.40	14.30	17.30	
Lower Tadmarton	10.43	12.53	14.43	17.43	
Sibford Ferris School	10.53	13.03	14.53	17.53	
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	
SOA, Wood Street			16.03	18.48	

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



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

APRIL

4th - Sibford Ferris Annual Litter Pick - Lane's Head Corner - 10am

20th - Sibfords Walking Group - Village Hall - 10am

MAY (part)

4th - Sibfords Walking Group - Village Hall - 10am

APRIL BIN COLLECTIONS

Green Tuesday: 14th; 28th
Blue/Brown Tuesday: 7th; 21st

Unwanted clothing and shoes may be recycled anytime at the Textiles/ Recycling Bank at Sibford School Swimming Pool. Bottle banks at Sibford Ferris: Elm crossroads and Sibford Gower: Wykham Arms car park.

SIBFORD SCENE
DEADLINE FOR **MAY** ISSUE -
12 NOON - 18th APRIL 2020

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