

SIBFORD SCENE

July 2020

No 424



PICTURES
FROM WALKS
AROUND THE
SIBFORDS



AS SEEN FROM THE SIDECAR

Welcome back!!!! Here's an update from the Sidecar Guys:

We started the festival in April as a direct response to the Covid 19 situation. It was the world's first ever virtual adventure festival and was hosted by Reece and I. We were live for over 18 hours over the weekend of 24th -26th April and we held virtual talks, interviews and panel discussions with some of the world's top adventurers – including Charley Boorman and Claudio von Planta of Long Way Round fame. The event was a resounding success and we had over 20,000 people view the event in a total of 95 countries around the world raising over £8,000 for the NHS Charities Together Fund. There was interest in us doing more with the festival so we are! We will be holding the second festival this winter which will be more of the same for another good cause and up until then we will be holding monthly film nights. The first film night will take place on the 28th of this month and then on the last Sunday of every month thereafter. We have a brilliant film lined up called Dugout which was made by two British guys who went to the Amazon and 'dug out' a canoe from a tree before taking it on an adventure down the local river. There will be a live Q&A with the film makers after and anybody can watch for free. You just have to go to www.armchairadventurefestival.com and follow instructions to sign up.

We've also been continuing to work on our book and film and have made some great progress. The book, written by me and entitled "Our Ridiculous World (Trip)" will be released in the last weekend of August. It's the story of our around the world journey by scooter and sidecar with a focus on the people we met on the way and the issue of modern slavery which we researched as we travelled. Pre-orders will be available to buy on the Armchair Adventure Festival website at the film night and thereafter.

Matt Bishop

The Sidecar Guys

+44 73754 00681

www.AsSeenFromTheSidecar.org

www.ArmchairAdventureFestival.com





ED'S THOUGHTS

And another HUGE thankyou for all your quizzes, jokes, limericks and lots more stuff to make us laugh.....

A special thanks to Juliet Glazebrook who updates DAILY the "bench" bookshop on Acre Ditch...

Please note: some of the services being offered in this month's adverts may not be available at this time of lockdown

Thought for the month:

"Lets dance

Put on your red shoes and dance the blues"

David Bowiee



LETTERS AND NOTICES

BREAD FOR CAMPS INTERNAIIIONAL

Harold Davidson has started "Barley Close Bakeries" to raise money for his Camps International Costa Rica trip next summer.

He is making sourdough and can deliver locally on his bike.

Any donations around £3 per loaf would be amazing

To order your sourdough, just phone him on 07579 210181

(This bread is delicious! - Ed)

CAKES FOR CAMPS INTERNATIONAL

As my Grandson Henry is also on Camps International Costa Rica, I shall be making cakes for anyone who would like one, to help fund him.

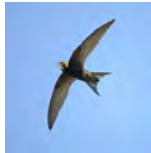
I can make chocolate/lemon/ginger/coffee/fruit or honey cake, and most will be approx £4 to £5 each.

Ginny 01295 780373 or ginnybennett@googlemail.com

Summer Screaming Parties

You'll have heard and seen them calling, wheeling and swooping overhead in close formation on fine days recently – screaming parties of swifts. There are colonies in all three villages. These remarkable birds pass their lives entirely in the air except for the summer months when they breed. Take a peek through the nestbox cameras of a Ferris colony at thesibfords.uk/swifts ; watch them live, or view recorded videos of hatchlings being fed – and of an intruder being seen off the premises!

Swifts have been declining in numbers – by over 50% in the last 20 years in the UK – but you can help by putting up nestboxes designed for them, as several Sibford residents have done. Please think about this if you are having work done on your eaves or guttering before next April, when the swifts return from Africa. For further advice, please see the links at thesibfords.uk/swifts, or email me tim@huckvale.net.



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LETTERS AND NOTICES

ATTENTION

Does everyone know about the microlights, that sound like flying lawnmowers, known as the Paragliding Sky School at Handywater Farm, Pound Lane, Sibford Gower?

Have experienced ten of these taking off at the same time, and the noise generated by these machines was uncomfortable. I feel it will have a big impact on the tranquil, peaceful environment of this area including wildlife, such as kites/buzzards nesting in this area and farm animals.

Have the Sky School taken into consideration low-flying military aircraft that fly in this area? If you are concerned – contact civil aviation authorities ASAP:

[HTTP://www-cao.co.uk/consumers/environment/noise/noise](http://www-cao.co.uk/consumers/environment/noise/noise).

Tom West

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11-May-2020

Rosalind Pearlman Who died on 18th May 2020

When congratulated on getting the photograph of a rather unattractive young lady onto the prize page of the Country Life, Rosalind Mann the society photographer remarked "amazing what can be achieved with a scarf; there would have been no difficulty with the fiancée". Such was Rosalind Pearlman's (professionally Mann) genius combined with her sense of humour and of fun. At that time, a great number of aspiring young debutantes would seek Rosalind's help in attaining the prime slots in the Tatler and Country Life such was her renown.

Rosalind was born in London in 1925, the first of three girls. and at the start of the war, leaving school at age 14 she and a younger sister were sent to live in Glasgow with an aunt. One of her uncles was Emmanuel Shinwell, MP eminent post-war Labour politician, later Lord Shinwell. There were numerous other Labour politicians in her family but that didn't deter her or Monty in later years when he became chairman of the Sibford Conservative Association.

Back from Glasgow, Rosalind assisted two fashionable portrait photographers in London studios, but then at age 17 she joined the Wrens, largely on account of the preferable uniform, (black silk stockings?) for she was always elegant. Rosalind was posted to Bletchley Park where she worked for the rest of the war on the Bombe, "a rather boring job" she said but she and her team were pleased to be commended on their part in destroying the German battleship " Scharnhorst" in 1944.

Rosalind married Monty in 1945 aged 19 and they had two daughters, Mandy and Corinne. Apart from a brief spell in Buckinghamshire, the family lived in London, where Rosalind opened her own portrait studio in the 60s as Rosalind Mann Photography. They moved to Burdrop in 1986 when Monty retired as a successful London architect and Rosalind continued her professional work from Burdrop House and Burdrop House Barn.

Life in Burdrop was always fun to this socially active couple. Rosalind was a keen member of the drama group then known as The Sibberts, secretary of the WI, with witty descriptions of meetings for the Sibford Scene, Treasurer of the Horticultural Society, both of them founding volunteers of the Fielding Day Centre., and now with six grandchildren and eventually six great grandchildren.

Monty died in 2008 at the age of 93 In 2009 she met William Butt when, on behalf of SAAFA, he came to advise her about a possible war compensation payment. Bill had recently lost his wife, and they became partners and companions until Rosalind's death, Bill having moved in to Rosalind's house at Burdrop, where they enjoyed visits from both families and friends, visits in the UK and abroad, and friendship and care for one another. In her final days, Rosalind received wonderful care from Bill and a team of exceptional carers.



GREEN SCENE

Usually to be found riding around the Sibford lanes on her horse Purdy, Sarah Miller has put her time in lockdown to good use by starting a company to promote her other passion – spreading the word that plastic-free products not only reduce the burden on the planet, but are also sustainable, natural and beautiful. Loaned Planet is her new online shop selling life's essentials, plastic-free.

'I truly believe that our planet doesn't belong to us, it's just on loan, and it's up to all of us to play our part to protect it. This is my way of trying to help.'

Originally from Devon, Sarah has sourced small manufacturers of hair, body and face products predominantly from the Southwest, who produce natural, sustainable products plastic-free. The range includes shampoos and conditioners, body butters, toothpastes and deodorants. Loaned Planet also stocks essential items for home and garden, including 'unpaper' towels, alternatives to cling film, and innovative ways to grow plants.

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VILLAGE HALL NEWS

JAZZ CONCERT

Sadly we have had to postpone the outdoor Jazz Concert planned for July. Hopefully it may be able to go ahead later in the summer.

TREASURE TRAIL AND SUNFLOWERS

Many of you will have enjoyed walking round the village following the trail put together by Joan Broady. What a fascinating history we have here on our doorstep!

The weather was lovely that week. We are pleased to announce that **£503** was donated to the Intensive Care Charity and the general NHS Charity funds.

Thanks to all of who took part. We are hoping to do something similar in August around the Ferris.

The Sunflowers went quickly and many of them will now be seen around the villages. Judging the tallest will take place in August [date to be announced].

So make sure you water them, talk to them and dose with whatever your secret fertiliser is.

Ginny Bennett



FRIENDSHIP CLUB

Well we're still here and keeping well I hope.

We will meet again sometime.

We must wish Beryl Brooks a Very Happy Birthday this month, Its a big one?????? We were going to have party with but!!!!!!?.never mind wait until we do?????

All of you keep chins up and keep well

Eveline Boughton



School life is very different in these strange and challenging times. Modern communication means that, even though most pupils have not yet returned to learn within the school buildings, we still feel very much in touch with many of our children and families through the online learning platforms, emails, photo sharing and even video conferencing in some cases. More old-fashioned methods like the telephone, and talking between the garden gate and the front door are also working well! Sometimes it feels like our school is just bigger and different, extending out to include all our homes in some aspects of our lives. It is just that we can't all be together in person.

Although school has been open throughout for children of key workers, since June 1st some children from Reception, Year One and Year Six have returned too. Groups of children are based in 'bubbles' with their own grown-ups and even the staff on site only see their colleagues from other bubbles from a distance, or via video link. It all feels very odd, but is working well so far!

It has been interesting for us to be able to talk with the returning children about their experience of home learning and life under lockdown, and how this compares to being back in school.

Here are some of the thoughts they shared:

| Good under lockdown... | ...and not so good |
|--|---|
| Spending more time with our parents & family. Having the time at home to learn new skills. It was easier to concentrate in a relaxing familiar environment Spending time with our pets Getting to use a computer for lots of learning Getting to teach my little sister how to do things like riding the quad bike Spending lots of time in the garden | We missed our friends It was hard not being able to visit certain family members. Day-to-day life started to feel tedious. Big/special were cancelled or couldn't be celebrated in the same way. We had fewer resources e.g. computer devices. |
| Good about being back in school.... | ...and not so good, as things are. |
| We get to see our friends and spend time away from our siblings! It's good to see familiar faces again and have different conversations. It's nice to be back in a normal routine. The learning feels much more serious. I found it tricky to do writing at home – it is easier at school with teachers. | Not getting to play with our friends in the same way as before Having to adhere to social distancing makes things feel strange and slower. Not being able to year 6 traditions e.g. the play and school trips. Having to suddenly go back to rushing around in the mornings. Not being able to play team sports and work in groups. |



The children have clearly enjoyed many things about life under lockdown, particularly spending more time with their parents. Overall though those who have returned are feeling positive about being back in the classroom:

"I liked being home with mummy. I did learning at home but we also went for walks and played in the garden, which was nice. I was excited to come back to school and learn new things. Even though I knew I wouldn't see all my friends, I still wanted to come."

"I liked being at home playing but I was SO happy and excited to come back to school. I couldn't wait" "I missed learning at school. Home learning has been ok but I enjoy learning at school more." "I prefer being in school because I get to see my friends and have a change of scenery.... I am with my friends and I just like going there." "I like going into school because it means I get away from doing the dishwasher!"

Some excellent learning is going at home too, from brilliant information sharing and instructional blogs created by pupils, to learning how to skate, skateboard and ride bikes; from cookery and animal husbandry to dissecting a pig's heart in the cause of scientific investigation; from French to flute playing; from wonderful writing to beautiful art work.

Beetroot and leaf prints by Rinan W.



Even though we can't all be together at the moment, we do all continue to be hard-working, creative, kind and supportive.

These are just some of the things that make the Sibford Gower Endowed community such a wonderful thing to be part of!





HORTI SOCIETY

As many of you will have anticipated, the Horti is sad to announce that it will not be holding its annual summer show this year. It is as yet unclear whether our October and November talks will take place but we'll make a decision in line with Covid guidelines and keep you informed.

Please note that no Horti subscriptions will be due until January 2022 as a consequence of all our cancelled activities.

A big thank you to everyone who has supported Sue, Veronique and Carolyn in their plant selling efforts to raise funds. To date they have raised £500 for the Horti and £1,200 for the NGS. They have plenty more to sell and Sue is happy to send out a revised plant list if you should need it! She can be contacted on 780 365 or sebannister@gmail.com

Diana Thomson

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.

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For more information, please contact Linda on 01295 780 242 or 07973 226 032 or llindalaneyolo@gmail.com



In Your Garden - July

1. Lack of rain in May has made the lawns brown. If we get a hosepipe ban this summer, do remember that you can chuck out most of the kitchen water, if it isn't full of detergents, and use it on the garden, and use a mulch if you have some. Damp lawn mowings work very well on autumn fruiting raspberry canes.
2. Order up some autumn flowering bulbs, and get them planted. My favourites are colchicums, sternbergias and fabulous nerines.
3. Collect seeds from your favourite flowers. Hellebores, which need sowing straight away and put in a little pot in a quiet place, and then forget them - but put a label in them. Cerinthe, always obligingly germinate, and easy to catch the black seeds. Sweet peas - leave them in the pod to dry out, and poppies - their seedheads look great in a flower arrangement too.
4. Plants in urns and containers may need cutting back. This will encourage fresh growth, and they will always appreciate being fed. Me too! At least they don't have to wait months for a hair cut... Delphiniums need cutting back right to the bottom of the stem, and new growth appears very quickly.
5. There is still time - just - to plant some more French beans, and leeks should be planted out right now.
6. Very important to keep dead heading. You need to walk round and do it every day, not just roses and dahlias, but geraniums, cosmos, sweet peas etc, will all keep on flowering if you do.
7. When the potatoes start to flower it is the sign that you can burrow down and dig out something delicious for lunch, with chopped mint, and loads of butter. (note to Ed. Can you tell I'm feeling really hungry when I write this?)
8. Pruning will need doing to wisteria, as it send out long trailing, wispy stems, and spring flowering shrubs will need tidying back. Clematis will need tying in as it shoots up the trellis, and new climbing rose stems need to be persuaded to grow sideways up the wall, rather than straight out. Pick off any diseased leaves on roses, and bin them. Don't let them get into the compost bin.
- 9.. Pinks and carnations are getting straggly, so prune them back, and take some cuttings, or layer them. My iris have loved the hot weather in may, and flowered on and on, but now need cutting right back, and you can divide the clumps if they need it.
10. When fruit bushes have been picked, by you and the blackbirds, they can be pruned back. Hope you had plenty and have made lots of jam, or put it in the freezer, or indulged in Summer Pudding. Yum... I shall have to stop writing, too hungry and it's lunchtime....

Jupe Hitching

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NATURE NOTES

It has been a good month for contributions to the Nature Notes.

Caroline Long sent some photos of a large Frog in her water butt and a Common Green Shield Bug. Alice Pennell also sent photos of a Roman Snail on Swalcliffe Common and an Elephant Hawkmoth and Scarlet Tiger moths from her garden. Andrew & Chris Tindsley managed to photograph a large Grass Snake in their pond in Sibford Gower. Grass Snakes spend a lot of time in and around ponds in the summer hunting amphibians which are their main prey.

Briony Franklin sent in the following: At the beginning of June I was wandering through one of our paddocks, where the grass has been left for hay, when I nearly stepped on a roe deer fawn, folded up in the long grass. It was totally motionless, apart from a twitching nose. There was no sign of its mother.

Nature websites say that it is common for a doe to leave her very young fawn in a safe place while she goes off to feed. Signs that the fawn is in trouble are flies, fly eggs or maggots on its fur, lying on its side with its legs stretched out (rather than with its legs tucked under its body) or continual crying. The little beauty I came across was fine, & when I checked the next morning he had gone.

On 21st May Nigel Fletcher was woken at 4am by the dawn chorus and amongst the singing he heard a Cuckoo The first he had heard around here for many years.

There have been large numbers of fledgling birds in our garden this year. It has been interesting to observe the different ways the adults of different species treat their young. Greater-spotted Woodpeckers seem to be teaching their young how to get food from bird feeders whereas Gold Finches appear to be quite aggressive towards their young chasing them away from the feeders.

Please keep the contributions coming. Send to ajnewbold88@gmail.com.

Andy and Gill Newbold.

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SIBFORDS HISTORY SOCIETY

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



SIBFORD SCHOOL

You don't need to wait for an open day to learn more about Sibford School. Visit www.sibfordschool.com/explore to virtually discover the school today.

We are working to welcome your enquiries and applications for September 2020 and beyond. Simply complete the website contact form so we can arrange a time to answer your questions that works for you.

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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.

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FUN CORNER

Every traveller has a tale to tell about signs in fractured English. Here are a few gems shared by Ivor Hopkyns:

Fire safety sign seen in a Japanese hotel bathroom:

"Please hold wet towel onto face when evacuating"

Moscow Airport greeting sign:

"If ths is your first visit to the USSR, you're welcome to it"

Ad for a hotel in the Dolomites:

"Standing among savage scenery, the hotel offers stupendous revelations. There is a French widow in every room"

On a grave in Huddersfield:

"Here lies the body of Emily White. She signalled left and then turned right"

Hotel notice in Japan:

"You are invited to take advantage of the chambermaid"

Flyer for a Swiis hotel:

"Our wines leave you nothing to hope for"

I once had a rose named after me and I was very flattered. But I was not pleased to read the description in the catalogue: no good in a bed, but fine up against a wall.

[Eleanor Roosevelt](#)

Swalcliffe Parke Equestrian Calendar of Events-2020

Fri 7th-Sun 9th August

BRC Nat Horse Trials Championships

Sat 12th & Sun 13th September

Horse Events One Day Event (TBC)

Sunday 27th October

Crown Riding Club Hunter Trial (TBC)

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SIBFORDS WALKING GROUP

We are hoping that we will be able to recommence the walks on 13 July but I would be grateful if potential participants would contact me just before then to make sure that it will be possible. Initially we shall do walks which start and finish at the village hall, Sibford Gower, so we don't need to drive and share cars.

Depending on government guide lines you may be asked to wear a mask for the duration of the walk and to observe the advice on social distancing. As usual we will leave the village hall car park at 10 sharp and do a circuit of approximately 2 hours. Boots and poles are recommended but not mandatory. Dogs are welcome provided owners put them on a lead when requested. The dates will be as follows: **13 July, 27 July, 10 August, 24 August, 7 September, 21 September.**

We look forward to seeing you. Sue Bannister, 01295 780365,
sebannister@gmail.com

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

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NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Courier Fraud/telephone scam, Leamington Spa

"Good morning, I'm calling from the NHS track and trace service. According to our system, you are likely to have been in close proximity to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19. This means that you now need to self-isolate for 7 days and take a COVID-19 test."

"OK. Can you tell me who that person was?"

"I'm not able to tell you that. That is confidential information."

"Right. Um... so..."

But you do need to be tested within the next 72 hours. So can I just get the best mailing address so that we can send a kit to you?"

"Ok (gives address)"

"Thank you - and I just need to take a payment card so that we can finalise this and send the kit to you."

"Sorry - a payment card? I thought this was all free?"

"No - I'm afraid not. There is a one-off fee of £50 for the kit, and test results. Could you read off the long card number for me, please, when you're ready."

"No - that's not right. This is part of the NHS so there's no charge."

"I'm afraid there is. Can you give me the card number please - this is very important, and there are penalties for not complying."

Puts phone down.

This is how scammers work. And vulnerable people will fall for it.

This is not how track and trace works.

Peter Hine

Neighbourhood Watch. 788830.



NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

About 9.20pm on Monday 24th May 1920, the President of the French Republic, M. Paul Deschanel, together with the Minister of the Interior and a number of other VIPs, left the Gare de Lyon for Montbrison to perform an official ceremony (uncovering a statue of a war hero). At about 10pm the President went to bed leaving instructions that he was not to be disturbed before 7am the following day. The night was hot but the window in his sleeping compartment had been closed. At about 11.45pm, shortly before reaching Montargis, about 70 miles from Paris, M. Deschanel woke up feeling a little unwell and tried to open the carriage window. As he did so, he became a little dizzy and fell out of the open window. By good fortune the train had slowed down to cross some points and he landed on a grass embankment.

The President then walked a short distance along the line to a level crossing where there was a railwayman's house. On being woken up the occupant (the guardian) was confronted by a man in his pyjamas who said, "You will be surprised, I am Paul Deschanel, President of the Republic. I fainted and fell from my train".

Although the guardian was somewhat taken aback, he had the presence of mind to telephone Montargis where the local Sous-Prefect collected M. Deschanel and drove him to his home, where he was examined by a doctor and treated for a few dents and scratches.

Whilst the President was experiencing these untoward adventures, his special train contrived to steam on unconcernedly through the night. A little before 5am, a railway official at St. Germain des Fosse received a message stating that a man who declared he had fallen from the Presidential train, had been found on the line. The President's apartment was not investigated on account of his previous instructions. Accordingly, it was not until after the train's arrival at Roanne between 7am and 8am, that the valet found the compartment empty. The subsequent panic must have been a sight to behold.

The following day, a Cabinet meeting took place, attended by all members.

c.Daily Telegraph 25 May 2020.

Is this normality coming over the hill? Best wishes to you all.

Peter Hine

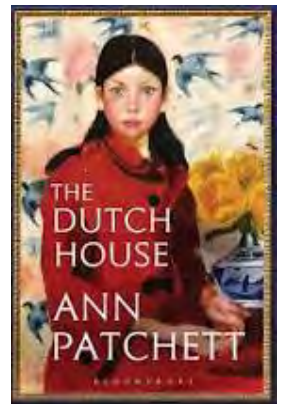
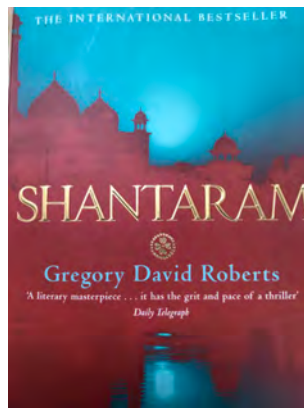
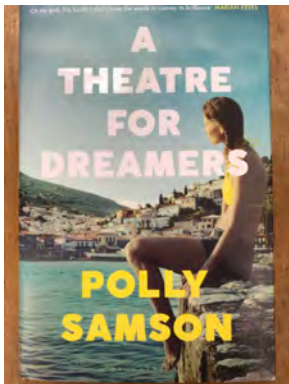
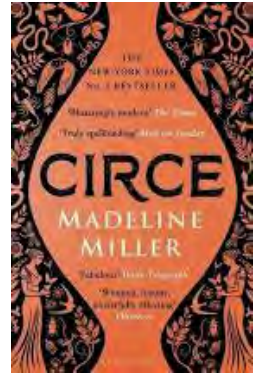
Neighbourhood Watch.

788830.



WHAT WE'RE READING.....

A selection of books being read around the village this month.....





POET'S CORNER

Ode Butties' Cider in Lockdown

I'm drinking Butties' cider there is nothing else to do
The country is in lockdown so I can have a few.

There is nothing in the shops it is a case of getting by,
It's Stores and stocks we have , on which we must rely

The Wife prepared a list of things I said I'd do ,
when I had time , but a bottle's just in view

We all know that the cider is of great resource ,
Responsible for some births, deaths, marriage and divorce ,

The garden it needs weeding , it does not do itself
But there a bottle of the cider sitting on the shelf.

The label just merely says made at College Barn,
What the R. B. fails to understand is that some of us - farm,

There are sheep to feed and work to do with a clear head
I wish I had the one bottle before I went to bed.

Made from apples carefully pressed and bottled with care
The liquid just a sip and then a bottle - it's not fair

The dogs need walking and training would be swell
But after Butties' cider - the end does not go well

There are men on bikes, and walkers all rushing round,
What they need is Butties' cider to put them on the ground .

So , I'm drinking Butties' cider with nothing else to do
As a cure to this pandemic' - you can take a view.

Hope to see you all properly when this is over



THE
WYKHAM
ARMS

SIBFORD GOWER

TAKEAWAY MENU

The Wykham House Steak
Fresh local grilled steak with chunky chips,
leaf salad & green peppercorn sauce.
£16.00

Classic Ale Battered Fresh Fish
served with chunky chips & Tartar sauce.
£11.50

Chicken Satay
Egg noodles & Stir fried vegetables.
£12.50

Thai Style Curry & Basmati Rice
Tender strips of fresh chicken or Tiger prawn.
Chicken £12.50 - Prawn £14.50

Grilled House Burger, with chips
Beef Burger or plant based vegan burger.
£9.00

(add mature cheddar, Brie or stilton £1.00, Back Bacon £1.50)

Oriental Noodle Box
Salt & pepper chilli fried squid & Tiger prawn
wok fried Oriental vegetables & Egg noodles.
Vegetarian option also available.
£14.50

Sunday Lunch Roast
Roast Beef, Yorkshire puds, Roast potatoes, fresh Vegetables
and gravy.
£13.00

All of our food is cooked to order with the same
care and attention as our restaurant dishes.

Takeaway Menu available Tuesday - Saturday 12pm-2pm / 6pm-9pm.
Sunday 12-2pm. Please pre order if possible.

Ask about our range of Takeaway Wines, Beers and Soft Drinks.

Best wishes to everyone at this tough time. Many thanks for all your support.
Keep safe, Damian & Debbie

Tel 01295 788 808

JOHN ROSS:

8th May 1938 – 19th May 2020

I remember so well the first time I met John. He attended Sibford School General Meeting and was sitting a few seats away from me in the front row. As I was about to step forward to give my annual report as Chair of Governors, feeling very nervous, he drew his hanky from his pocket, and with it came his false teeth and they spun across the floor!

I became close to him, partly through Quakerism (although he had rejected even that by the end) and because I never locked my house and he would wander in when he was distressed. As he talked about his childhood rejections, and indeed about all of his awful life, I began to understand why he was as he was. I feel able to share it now, and trust that Friends will accept it in the spirit in which it is written. My hope is that it will explain why he could be so difficult and destructive.

His Father was British, a tea planter in Sri Lanka His Mother was a native woman. John's memory of his Father was of a chronic alcoholic, often laid out drunk on the pavement. What he does remember, and could recall vividly and with horror, was his treatment by other children who called him names on account of his mixed parentage. He was sent to the British School where he was ostracised and teased. My overall impression is of a lonely childhood with very little love coming from his parents either. Things changed suddenly when John was about 9 and he found his Father dead on the pavement, he thinks from one of his drunken episodes. His Mother then packed up and she and John set sail for Scotland to live with his Father's relatives.

Once John left home to do his National Service when he became 18, he seems to have not bothered to visit his Mother again. His National Service was a turbulent time. He was a conscientious objector, so worked as a nursing assistant until the Ward Sister threw him out, chasing him down the drive, telling him never to return! (he told this story very vividly!)

John moved to London then, where he remained until he came to Sibford. He worked at Brewers paints for over 40 years, where he seems to have led an eventful life, with many squabbles and physical fights with other employees.

He moved into a Council flat which subsequently he was able to purchase and stayed there until his move to Sibford. It was during this time in London that he found Quakers and started attending Meeting regularly in 1986.

The fact that John managed to survive in Sibford is due to the many remarkable people who supported him. From his arrival in 2012 he began to attend the Lunch Club each Wednesday, where he was welcomed however odd his clothing or behaviour might appear. This became a firm base for him, and the members and volunteer helpers should be thanked and congratulated for their support to him.

John's funeral will be in London, as arranged by him, but there will be a Memorial Meeting at Sibford Quaker Meeting House, once we are all out of lockdown and able to attend, where we shall be able to remember this unusual, troubled man who chose to spend the last years of his life with us in Banbury and Evesham Area Meeting.

Judith Weeks

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

GREETINGS CARDS

I make greetings cards from my own photographs taken in England, Scotland and Wales. They are 6"x4", printed on glossy photographic paper and come in a clear cellulose envelope with a stiff paper insert for writing on and an envelope.

There are four categories: Landscape, Flowers, Birds and Animals.

Many of the recent photos are of the spring flowers in my garden.

There are photos suitable for every occasion.

The cards cost £1.50p and all profits go to Katharine House Hospice.

If you would like to know more, please contact me:

Lindsey Smith

01295 780698

Email: lindseysmith52@gmail.com

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DID YOU KNOW?

Post Offices in the Sibfords – 1. The Early Days

The **Royal Mail** can trace its history back to 1516, when Henry VIII first established a "Master of the Posts" and this service to convey Royal mail was made available to the public in 1635 by Charles I. It was a postal and courier delivery service when mail was carried on horse drawn Mail coaches across the country's highways and tracks. The recipient was required to pay for the service and could refuse to accept the items. After the Civil War, Charles II introduced the General Post Office which continued to carry mail on coaches with a new Post Office livery.

The introduction of prepaid postage stamps in 1840 (the famous Penny Black) meant that the sender was now responsible for the costs incurred to send mail to anywhere in the UK. Pillar boxes were introduced in mainland Britain in 1853 and a network of shops providing postal services developed across the country.

As communications developed all private telegraphic services were nationalised in 1870 and the network of local post offices were used to receive and deliver the telegrams. Telegraph wires started to appear in the Sibfords in the 1890's and the first telegraph was received in Sibford Gower in 1896.

Post Office services started in the Sibfords in 1884 and the Banbury Post Master detailed the new postal arrangements for the Sibfords. Bags containing mail for both the Gower and Ferris would be delivered at 7.05am from Banbury by the Mail Cart. The Ferris mail would be in a sealed bag to be taken to the Ferris Post Office which was in The Old Bakehouse at that time. Mr Bert Long ran the bakery and a cycle shop from the Old Bakehouse while Mrs Long ran the Post Office services there as well. Postmen were employed and paid a wage to deliver mail in both villages.

Extract of letter from Banbury Postmaster

1. Delivery at Burdrop, Sibford Ferris, The School, Dr Routh's, Sibford Elm, PO Hook Norton Road, Woodway Road, Temple Mill, The Colony, & a collection at night from Sibford Ferris S.O. 4.55pm from Burdrop WB 5pm, due at your office, 5.15pm. Wages 5/- (H Elley to be employed).
2. Delivery Sibford Gower village (except the part on the way to Rye Hill beyond the Vicarage or Green, Handywater, Tyne Hill and Blenheim, wages 3/-).
3. Deliver in Sibford Gower beyond Greens to Rye Hill and Coombslade, Wages 1/6d. The sealed bag for Sibford Ferris P.O. will arrive at your office enclosed in your bag.

Maureen Hicks

Driving back from a socially-distanced get together with a couple of my grey-haired musical buddies earlier this week, I heard the director of a national support charity saying on the radio "The mission of every relief charity is to work themselves out of a job".

The **Sibford Support Group** has not yet achieved this goal, but it is true that, with the progressive easing of lockdown measures, the fantastic work of our **SSG Volunteers** now continues with minimal intervention, and with support being delivered every day to our vulnerable neighbours who remain in need.

By the time you read this, we may well be able to enjoy an arms-length pint in a pub garden, but you can be sure that our selfless Volunteers will still be responding to the (hopefully reducing) demands of these challenging times, and that the SSG leaders will be starting to consider how the excellent work of the Sibford Support Group might perhaps be reconfigured into some ongoing legacy.

Maybe something for us all to think about?

Clr David Allen
Sibford Support Group
www.thesibfords.uk/ssg

18/06/2020



GREAT TASTE

MARINADE FOR YOUR BBQ BITS!!!

2 tablespoons olive oil

3 tablespoons lemon juice

1-2 garlic cloves

Chuck it all together and throw over your bits. Marinate for anything up to 4 hours (but I usually do it in 15 minutes)

Fellow bodgers!



Here is your chance to share your bodging

Just send your dreadful projects to me and I'll publish them for all to see...



The Sibford Scene Picture Quiz – June 2020 Answers

The connection was cockney rhyming slang – (definitions in brackets).

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| <p>1. Hank Marvin (starving)</p>  | <p>2. Gregory Peck (neck)</p>  | <p>3. Vera Lynn (Gin)</p>  |
| <p>4. Barney Rubble (trouble)</p>  | <p>5. Lady Godiva (fiver)</p>  | <p>6. Dicky Bird (word)</p> |
| <p>7. Linda Lusardi (cardie – cardigan)</p>  | <p>8. Alan Wicker(s) (knickers)</p>  | <p>9. Lionel Blair (nightmare)</p>  |
| <p>10. Richard the Third (turd)</p>  | <p>11. Steffi Graf (laugh)</p>  | <p>12. Gareth Hunt (a rude word)</p>  |
| <p>13. Mae West (best)</p>  | <p>14. (Brahms) and Liszt (drunk)</p>  | <p>15. Duke of Kent (rent)</p>  |

Colour Analysis by Annie Broe

I will show you which colours are best for you.
Wearing the right colours is an easy and effective way to
enhance your appearance.
You will instantly look more radiant, younger and healthier.
You will feel more confident.
Colours are very powerful – use this power to your advantage and look
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For a personal colour analysis or for more details, please call me on
T: 01295 780637 or 07930 398151. E: annie4colourandstyle@gmail.com

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A little ditty from the beauty salon in Sibford!

To all my ladies of Serenity,

I've stayed at home being a busy bee.

It's been 3 months since I closed my door,

but thankfully the sun came to soar.

I've missed those chats, the laughter too,

but I've often sat and thought of you.

We've had to stay home to be safe and sensible,

even when we've felt invincible.

I've zoomed yoga, tai chi and meditation.

I've cooked, gardened and sorted with some motivation.

Each week I've been online training and learning,

using my brain while I wasn't earning.

I'm now up to date on skincare, make-up and PPE.

I feel more focussed having this time for me.

Spending so much time at home with dog, husband and son

has bought some challenges but also lots of fun.

I can't wait to hear all that you've been doing,

What a great opportunity for lots of improving.

The salon has had a little make-over,

I'm hoping you'll see it before October!

At Serenity you can be pampered and feel peaceful,

I look forward to seeing you soon to make you more beautiful.

Love Jo x



Serenity at Sibford

Gautherns Barn (nr Temple Mill) 01295 788463

Are you looking for some quality time to yourself?

The tranquil setting of Serenity offers you salon exclusivity, a chance to clear your mind and receive exceptional treatments

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- Mindful Massage
- Essential Nail and Waxing Packages
- Jane Iredale Mineral Make-up
- LVL Lash Lift & Tinting
- Skin Tag and Blemish Removal

20% off your first visit with this advert

FREE EASY PARKING

Online Booking System www.serenityatsibford.co.uk



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JULY

5th - Horti Club talk with Monty Don - Village Hall - 730pm

11th - Eric Clapton & Taylor Swift - Village Hall - 730pm

15th - Sibford Walking Group with Bear Grylls - Gower Cross Roads 10am

23rd - Lunch Club with Jamie Oliver - Village Hall - 12pm

(only joking - Ed!)

'Rules are for the strict adherence of the stupid and the guidance of the intelligent'

Anon

JULY BIN COLLECTIONS

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

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

SIBFORD SCENE
DEADLINE FOR AUGUST ISSUE -
12 NOON - 18th JULY 2020

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