

FEBRUARY 1991 NO. 143

S.G.P.C.

QUACK QUACK

No doubt most villagers will be aware that six ducks have been purchased by the Council and launched upon the pond. The Council's thanks must go to Mr. Woodall for kindly providing a shelter and to Mr. Payne for all the care and attention that he has lavished upon them.

Some time ago a number of villagers expressed their willingness to contribute (financial) towards their purchase. So if anyone wishes to make such a contribution please contact Mr. Payne (Swa. 216).

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BLUE PETER

Many thanks to everyone who supported our week long Blue Peter Bring and Buy Sale in aid of Romanian orphanages. We raised a massive £485.30.

Johanna Berry and Harriet Boyce

FOR SALE Electric typewriter
Smith Corona XL1000
£60 O.N.O. Swa. 662

Warriner News

P.T.A. FUNDS

These have had two major boosts recently and so the PTA has been able to approve expenditure on items requested by staff in several different departments.

The Family Disco in November raised £350 and the Christmas Fayre raised the magnificent total of £973. Thanks to everyone who helped and supported these two very successful events.

The following items will shortly be bought from PTA funds:

History Dept. Lockable Cupboard

P.E Dept Video Recorder

Grounds Tree Planting

Geography Dept. Weather Reporter

Music Dept. Set Of Recorders

Art Dept Polaroid Camera

Languages Dept Audio Tapes

Design & Technology Computer Software

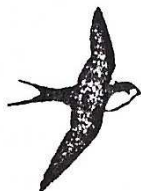
Future fund raising will be directed towards a Drum Kit for the Music Department and digging and stocking a new school pond. These are all extra items which could not normally be bought out of school funds without the help of the PTA fund raising events so your support is very much appreciated.

300 Club- This still needs more members. Any one can join. Costs £6p.a.- cash prizes each month and a very large annual prize. Tickets from school or PTA members.

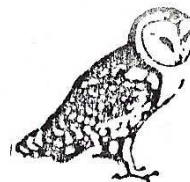
The Educational Evening held on Jan 17th had a rather disappointing attendance but those who were there enjoyed a very informative and enlightening evening of discussion about The National Curriculum.

The Jumble Sale held on Jan 19th made about £115 to go towards PTA funds. Thankyou to all who helped.

Race Night- Friday Feb 8th at 8pm. in school. Tickets £3 including ploughman's supper. This is always great fun and very popular. Tickets from school or Carole Moir (8241).



Nature Notes



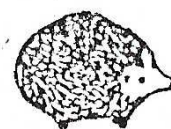
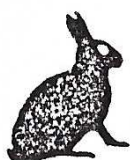
November 29th Collared doves were first seen in this area 30 years ago and their population seemed to have stabilised to 2 or 3 pairs to each set of farm buildings, but now it seems to be increasing again. Today, I saw a flock of 25 near Holly House and there was a flock of about 40 at Miss King's farm buildings recently. They could become a nuisance on farms, as they often nest and feed inside the buildings.

December 10th The power cuts last weekend, caused by that very clinging snow bringing down the cables, reminded me of the difficulties faced by our ancestors. I suppose that when candles were the only source of light, newspapers unavailable and books few and far between, as was the case in Sibford in the middle of the last century, being unable to read was far less of a handicap than it would be now. I have been told that the farmworkers who could not read had a remarkable ability to take instructions. My grandfather used to read a list of 8 or 10 jobs to his Carter in the early morning, and all would be remembered and done by nightfall.

December 21st In a card from the Isle of Wight our cousin tells us that a beautiful walk near him has been largely spoilt by large signs, erected by the Council, to inform walkers that they are in an "area of outstanding natural beauty"!

January 6th The last of our fallen apples are attracting a lot of birds. This morning I counted 22 blackbirds and 7 fieldfares at one time, but more unusual, this afternoon they were joined by a female black cap which is normally a summer visitor, wintering in Southern Europe or North Africa.

January 19th Saw a goldcrest and a sizeable group of long-tailed tits at Temple Mill this afternoon.

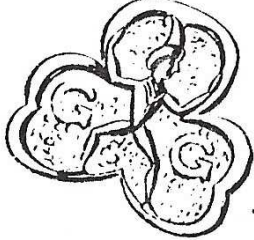


SIBFORD BROWNIES

Sibford Brownies have had a busy term with many Brownies gaining badges, ranging from Pony Rider, Hostess, Pack Holiday, Booklover, Cooks and Swimmer.



We had most of the Brownies at the Remembrance Service in November and in December we made sweets and crackers for Christmas. Several of our Brownies now have the new style uniforms and more are on order. They are very bright and cheerful and quite different to the old style uniforms.



We went to Chipping Norton Theatre to see Beauty and the Beast at the beginning of January which we really enjoyed, and we also had our postponed Christmas party in January!

We have said goodbye this term to Anna Pidgeon and Clare Austin both of whom are hoping to go to Guides. Anyone with a daughter interested in joining Brownies should contact Mrs. Vivienne Scouse on Swa. 8320. Children must be 7 to join.

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LEO CLUB

The next meeting of Leo will take the form of a Theatre Trip to see Kiss Me Kate at Wykham Hall, Banbury on Tuesday 19th February. Tickets are £4.00 each. We have a limited supply of tickets and these will be dealt with on a first come, first served basis. If you require any please order them through Mrs. Sheila Baseby(Swa.544) and include the cash with your order. Please contact her as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.



The March meeting of Leo will be held on Tuesday 19th March at the home of Mrs. Miriam Henbrey, Virginia Cottage, Sibford Ferris at 8.00p.m. We shall be discussing plans for the next 12 months at this meeting, so please come along with some ideas.

FINANCES OF THE SIBFORD SCENE

In the last issue of the Scene, it was reported that a large effort would be made in February, both to clear any debts that might be outstanding and to build a Bank Balance large enough to cover expenses for the remainder of the year.

It is suggested that a voluntary contribution of £2 per household, or more, or £1 from villagers living alone - together with advertising revenue (good old Muriel!) - and generous donations from Clubs, Societies, etc. would 'Do the trick'.

From exhaustive questioning (they all say that), it would appear that the major difficulty in the past has been the actual physical problem of handing over the coins -

To assist in solving this matter, arrangements have been made to enclose a donation envelope with this month's Scene, and to nominate points where the envelopes may be left - they are :

Sibford Ferris

1. The Village Shop
2. Jim Shields, West Town Cottage
3. Kathleen Horn, 3 Cotswold Close
4. Carole Moir, Hillcot, Home Farm Close.

Burdrop

Margaret Cox, Westways, Burdrop

The Colony

Roger Powell, 6 The Colony

Sibford Gower

1. Mollie Mulley, The Old Post Office, Main Street
2. The Rectory
3. Sheila Baseby, Park Farm House
4. Anne Spicer, 7 High Meadows
5. Kathleen Winter, Cels Bield, Backside Lane
6. The Editor, Stonecutters Cottage, Bonds End Lane

Please just pop your envelope through the appropriate letter box and our kind distributors will deliver to our Treasurer at the Rectory, with a note from whence it came. Do please give this your generous attention - it would be pleasant to be trouble free financially for the next 12 months. Thank you.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

SIBFORD FERRIS PARISH COUNCIL



Dear Barry,

There are two matters which the Ferris Parish Council at their meeting this week thought might be usefully included in the next edition of the Scene.

Firstly, there is an alteration to the bus service from Sibford Gower to Banbury on Tuesdays - this has been caused by Brailes Coaches withdrawing the service and it being provided by Midland Red South. Incidentally the subsidy for this revised service is only being provided until the 27th July 1991 when the position regarding usage is to be reviewed. Secondly, the Parish Council were concerned that during the recent electricity cut there were a number of people without any form of heating and cooking facilities. The Councillors wondered if they might co-ordinate a list of people with alternative facilities - calor gas and coal etc. who might be willing to be part of a team and in an emergency be prepared to ensure that someone more unfortunate at least is provided with a hot meal throughout the emergency. The list would be held by Cllr. John Simms (665) and Cllr. Paul Clipson (482). Anyone in need should get in touch with them and they would ensure that someone from the list was contacted to provide the necessary help.

Pat Romans, Clerk to Sibford Ferris Parish Council

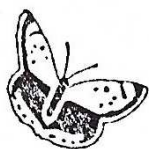
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Sibford Cricket Club 1991 Season

The A.G.M. will be held on the 4th March at 7.45 in the Friend's School library.

Wanted for the 1991 season - a cricket scorer old or young. On the job training, small fee and delicious tea included. Fascinating pastime!
Brian Holliday Swa 500





Gardening Notes



What we do in the garden this month depends very much on the weather. If our weather is coming from the North and/or East at the beginning of the month then we can probably expect the worst month of winter. A milder, wetter start means an easier situation. Hopefully the latter will apply and we can therefore continue with planting of roses, shrubs and trees. Any previously planted which have been loosened by the wind and rain should be fumed. Towards the end of the month clean dead top-growth from herbaceous perennials, finish manuring and fork it in.

Those clematis which flower on new growth in the Summer should now be cut back hard. Take precautions against slugs and snails as they love the new shoots. Winter flowering Jasmine can now be thinned out and cut back.

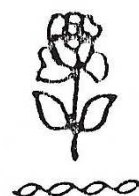
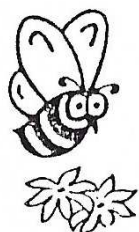
Fuchsias and greenhouse climbers can now be watered to bring them into life and fumed where necessary. Potting out may also be required.

Stored dahlias will benefit from being checked over. Cut away rotted portions and dust cut surfaces with flowers of sulphur. Shrivelled tubers may recover if left in a bucket of tepid water overnight.

If you are stratifying any seeds out of doors they should now have benefited from the frost and be ready to move inside for germination.

Towards the end of the month, if the weather is open, sow sweet peas outdoors in prepared ground where they are to flower.

I hope you have a good gardening year, free from frost, wind, drought and flood. Some hope!



SWALCLIFFE CHURCH RESTORATION FUND

All buildings need to be repaired from time to time if they are not going to deteriorate and fall down and the church, which is a very ancient building, is no exception. But repairs cost money. We intend to raise the money required to restore our church by a most simple and direct way possible and that is to ask everyone in the village to contribute as large a sum as he or she possibly can to the Swalcliffe Church Restoration Fund, to spread their donations over several years so as to lessen the impact and to make their donations in the form of a Covenant, which is a method of reclaiming the tax, which has already been paid by the donor, back from the government. Our target is £50,000 and we are confident it can be achieved, not least because it has been successfully applied in other villages. But it will mean all of us making a sacrifice, each according to his or her means.

Nobody would claim that the religious fervour that inspired our ancestors to build the church is as widespread now as it was then. What has replaced it, however, is a general awareness of our environment. Nine out of ten of the population of Swalcliffe live here because we made a conscious choice to do so, not only because of the countryside but because we found Swalcliffe an attractive village. I believe there are few of us who would not feel ashamed if the church were actually to fall down. Imagine how it could happen. The buckets placed to catch the rain leaking through the roof, already in much evidence, would multiply, and as a consequence the rafters would rot leaving the plaster which they support to drop to the ground. The stone work on the exterior, already in places in a dangerous condition, would crumble away. The parapets would totter and fall. Compare this with the situation that would occur if the whole village banded together to restore the church and put it back into a sound condition. With what pride would those of us who had previously hardly thought of visiting the church, show our friends the beautiful interior with the remains of 14th Century paintings on the walls, or marry our daughters, bury our dead or baptise our children in a church that through our own exertions we had saved from ruin.

It is not a question of giving to yet another charity. It is our self esteem that is at stake. Of course we will want to be reassured that the money we give will not disappear into a bottomless pit. We are planning that every household in the village will be visited by one of a Team of Fund Raisers who have already volunteered their services. But before the visits begin, a Launch Party will be held in the church on Saturday 9th February at 10.30 a.m. Each household will be receiving an invitation in due course and it is very much hoped that everyone who can, will come.

By Easter we believe we will have achieved our target. That will be the time for celebration and thanksgiving.

Then year by year we will see what we have striven for put into practice. One by one the roofs will be mended, the stone work refaced and the faulty parapets replaced by new and we will feel a sense of achievement, secure in the knowledge that the church will stand for other generations, to use and admire. But we will have to be prepared to make sacrifices.

Colin Harris
Chairman
Fund Raising Committee

Fund Raising Office
Langsat House
Swalcliffe
Tel: 405

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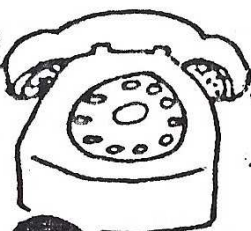
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Volunteers are needed:

- to give as much or as little time as you can, preferably regularly
- to assist in the ways mentioned, or with local helping organisations
- to offer any skills, hobbies or interests which might be useful... although time and a caring attitude are equally valuable!

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have a chat with the
volunteer co-ordinator...
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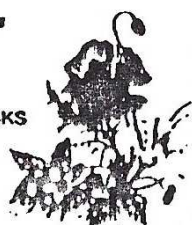
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After 6.00p.m.

OLD PHOTOS OF SIBFORD



The exhibition of local photographs, postponed because of the blizzard, was well worth waiting for.

Sunday, 16th December, was sunny, dry and cold, but there was a warm welcome from Arnold and Ina Lamb in The Friends' Mission Room, where they had spared no pain in displaying an amazing collection of old photos of the district and many historic documents.

There were scenes of the great snowfalls of 1916 & 1947; photos of Sibford Elm, as well as of old cottages which have long since been replaced by modern buildings; of famous Sibford characters like Frank Lascelles with his friend Ivor Novello and his troupe of dramatic players; and of Theodore Lamb with his bike, shack and gramophone. Then there were official records of domestic purchases and other transactions with their unbelievably low prices; the names of individual fields and their owners; and much, much more.

There was a steady stream of visitors, who all found the exhibition most fascinating, and left, expressing their appreciation to Arnold and Ina for their hard work in arranging it. Thank you again.

J.S.

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CHILDREN OF ROMANIA

An Austerity Lunch, in aid of the children in Romania. In the Friends' Meeting House, on WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 6th. 12.30 - 1.30 p.m.

Margaret Le Mare

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S.F.P.G. DISCO (up to 17 years)

SATURDAY, 23rd FEBRUARY, from 7 - 9 p.m.
SIBFORD VILLAGE HALL.

Admission £1.50 (inc. refreshments)

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CARING ABOUT PEOPLE

On 16th January Robin Spicer representing the Parish Council, and your Editor representing himself! attended a most interesting and informative meeting run by Banbury Volunteer Bureau, highlighting the services available to our villagers.

Did you know that there are about 200 organisations in our district all able and anxious to help citizens with particular problems?

The list is available from a Directory of Statutory and Volunteer organisations.

There were a number of talks given by various organisation representatives - quite quite astonishing to hear of the span of help available.

During a discussion - perhaps the most beneficial part of the meeting - a fellow editor of a village newspaper - Michael Kinchen-Smith of "Sister" Epwell Echo spoke most eloquently (as is his wont!!) and made the following points.

1. The aid available was astonishing and magnificent
2. There was undoubtedly a large number of villagers who would benefit greatly from these services if only they knew they were to hand.
3. The problem was one of communications.

The solution could lie in improving the transfer of information in both directions.

1. As far as Voluntary Groups advertising their services - this could be done very easily and effectively by more use of the network of village newspapers such as the Echo and our own Scene. A great deal of work has recently been done by the Oxfordshire Centre for Rural Communities to promote the growth of village papers.

As far as villagers finding out what help was available Michael promoted the idea that this information should be readily available in advice form from a local centre.

He floated the possibilities that these centres could be:-

The local Health Centre

The local church

The local Neighbourhood Watch

A representative nominated by the Parish Council to have responsibility for this service.

More work and organisation was still to be done in promoting 'information' but a valuable start has been made - no doubt Robin will be whispering in Eric's ear in the not too distant future.

NORTH OXFORDSHIRE CONSERVATIVE ASSOCIATION

SIBFORDS & EPWELL BRANCH

The Annual General Meeting of the Branch will take place at 8 p.m. on FRIDAY, 1st MARCH, at Burdrop House. After the formal business, Wine & Cheese will be served - small donations will be invited !

It is emphasised that all Tory supporters are welcome especially those residents who have not already joined the Branch & would like to hear more about our activities. In particular, a Young Conservatives Group is also being formed. Anyone between the age of 18 - 35 who is interested in joining - please come.

Anyone unable to come, but would like to be kept informed should write or phone the Chairman - Monty Pearlman, at Burdrop House, Swal. 8162.

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WELCOME TO SIBFORD - ALL NEWCOMERS

If you have just moved into the village & have not received a copy of the leaflet "Welcome to Sibford" please ring Petra Berry on Swal. 462 (Gower or Burdrop) or Jane Holliday on Swal. 500 (S.Ferris) & they will deliver a copy. The information will help to make you feel at home, by acquainting you with the services, schools, Churches, clubs & societies, currently active in the villages.

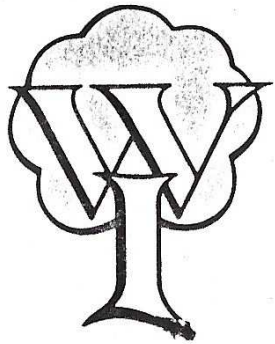
WELCOME TO David and Anne Spackman and their son, Thomas, who have moved into Stone House, Backside Lane, Sibford Gower, in December.

David of course is our local doctor and Anne works in Community Child Health.

Thomas, who will be one in February, has already joined the Mother & Toddler Group.

WELCOME TO Timna Elizabeth Naomi Freeman - new baby daughter for Linda & Mark Freeman & little sister for Laurie. She was born on 31st December - last year !

WELCOME TO Mr. & Mrs. Bryant of Cotswold Close. They have moved to Sibford Ferris from Banbury.



There was a change in the programme for the January meeting, as Mr. Paul Spry was indisposed. Instead of hearing about a Safari in Kenya, we were treated to an excellent account of part of Mrs. Hutchinson's recent visit to Australia.

Stepping into the breach at very short notice, she produced lovely slides, mainly of Sydney and round-about, and accompanied it with a lively and interesting talk. A welcome splash of sun at a dreary time of year!

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, February 12th, at 2 p.m. at the Village Hall, when Mrs. Joan Stone will take us "Around the World in 100 days". There will be a competition for "A holiday album or scrap book".

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FRIENDSHIP CLUB

A Happy New Year to you all.

The Club started with a New Year Party - those who came but are not Members might like to come to our first real meeting of 1991 - in the Village Hall, when Mrs. Joy Newman will be the speaker.

Approximately 30 years ago, Mrs. Newman had connections with the Country Dancing Club and Youth Club, when they first started in the village hall. She is going to bring a large and interesting collection of handkerchiefs.

The Meeting is open to all.

Wednesday, February 27th - Outing to Beckford Silk Mills, Near Tewkesbury, leaving 11 a.m. and returning approx. 5 p.m. Enquiries to Mrs. Webb on 8211.

Unfortunately, Mrs. Haynes, one of our longest standing members, has fallen in her home and broken her hip. She is in F Ward, Horton General Hospital. The Club wish her a very speedy recovery.

BRIDGE

It seems surprising that in a village our size there is no Bridge Club or Circle. Anyone interested in such an idea for friendly games please ring Vivienne or Frank Scouse on Swa. 8320.

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CHRISTINGLES AT SIBFORD

It seemed as if there were hundreds of children packed into Sibford Church, with their Mums and Dads for the Christingle Service on December 20th in the evening. It nearly felt like Christmas. Readings telling us about the forthcoming birth of Jesus, some of the children dressed up as shepherds, Joseph and Mary, while James Wimbush read us the Christmas story. Then we all lit our candles, and sang the last carol by candle light. It was lovely.

Mary Holliday

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Methodist Christmas Service

A very enjoyable service with a selection of the most popular carols took place on the Sunday before Christmas. Although the attendance was rather small those present found much to be enjoyed. In addition to the singing there were readings by Church members telling the story of the birth of Christ. There was a very real feeling of the true meaning of Christmas about the service which was arranged and ably conducted by Mrs. K. Winter.

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NEWS FROM THE FRIENDS SCHOOL

LOST IN THE POST?!!

REGULAR WEEKLY BUS SERVICE

BRAILES COACHES

Bus Service Brailes - Banbury amendments

MONDAY, WEDNESDAY FRIDAY ONLY

Sibford Gower 1.15 p.m.

Banbury Busstation return 2.45 p.m.

Shipston-Banbury

MONDAY, THURSDAY, SATURDAY

Sibford Gower 9.50 a.m.

Banbury Busstation return 12.15 p.m.

MIDLAND RED SERVICE 480

Sibford Gower-Banbury

Sibford Gower	M-S	THUR	S	M.TH.F	TU,F
	7.30	9.30	1.10	2.30	2.27

Banbury Return	TH	S	M-F	M-S	M-S
Busstation	12.00	3.40	4.30	5.15	6.10

SIBFORD GOWER TOWN ESTATES CHARITY - FREE BUS FOR RESIDENTS OF SIBFORD GOWER AND BURDROP

				<u>Departure Time</u>	<u>Return Time</u>
Friday	February	1	Banbury	10.00	12.00
Wednesday	"	6	Chipping Norton	11.00	13.00
Friday	"	15	Banbury	10.00	12.00
Wednesday	"	20	Chipping Norton	11.00	13.00
Friday	March	1	Banbury	10.00	12.00

The pick-up points are:

Banbury bus

Village Hall
Cross Roads
High Meadow

Chipping Norton Bus

Village Hall
High Meadow
Cross Roads
The Colony

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VILLAGE HALL NEWS

A JUMBLE SALE will be held on Saturday 23rd February at 2 p.m. in Sibford Village Hall. Please have an early Spring Clean and let us have anything you don't want. Contact Jane Holliday (500) or David Baker (678) if you want items collected. Following the Jumble Sale at 3.15 p.m. there will be a VILLAGE HALL BINGO. Make a note of the date - NOW.

A date for your calendar: Saturday March 9th in the Village Hall - A CONCERT given by the Chipping Norton Male Voice Choir with a Supper and Wine. Tickets available soon from Greens Shop, The Surgery and Committee Members.

CHURCH SERVICES

Society of Friends		Sunday at 10.30 a.m.
Methodist		Sunday at 11.00 a.m.
Roman Catholic Mass	(Hook Norton)	Sunday at 11.00 a.m.
	(Brailes)	Sunday at 11.30 a.m.
Baptist Church	(Hook Norton)	Sunday at 10.30a.m.

Church of England Holy Trinity, Sibford Gower February

3rd	8 a.m. Holy Communion
10th	10 a.m. Holy Communion
13th	Ash Wednesday 7.30 a.m.
14th and every thursday	through Lent 7.30 a.m.
17th	10 a.m. Family Service and Baptism
24th	10 a.m. United Service at Tadmarton

WEEKLY EVENTS

Senior Citizen Lunches	Primary School	Tuesday (Tel 690)
Brownies	Village Hall	Tuesday 5.15 - 6.45
Folk Dancing	Village Hall	Tuesday 8 p.m.
Badminton	Village Hall	Wednesday 8 p.m.
Mums & Toddlers	Orchard Close	Wednesday 10.30-12
Beavers	Village Hall	Friday 4.30-5.45
Cub Scouts	Village Hall	Friday 6 p.m.
Scouts	Village Hall	Friday following Cubs
Playgroup	Village Hall	Mon, Wed, Fri (term time)
		9.30 - 12
Sibford Sports Club	Friends School	Mon-Sat 6 - 7.30 p.m.
		Sunday 10.00 - 12.30

February Calendar

2nd	Scout Paper Collection
5th	Friendship Club talk at the Village Hall
6th	Austerity Lunch for Romania
8th	Warriner 'Race Night'
12th	W.I. meeting "Around the world"
19th	Leo visit to "Kiss me Kate"
23rd	SFPG Disco Village Hall
23rd	Village Hall Jumble Sale + Bingo
27th	Friendship outing to Silk Mill

March

1st	Conservative AGM
4th	Cricket Club AGM

SIBFORD SCENE

Copy to the Editor, Barry Davies, Stonecutters Cottage, Bonds End Lane,
Sibford Gower (Tel 291)
Treasurer - Timothy Wimbush Advertising Secretary - Muriel Chandler (8425)
Cost of advertising: small £1 large £5 larger still ask Editor
Display advertising £12.50 per year

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