

# SIBFORD SCENE

December 2020/January 2021

No 429

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND  
A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO  
EVERYONE!



A sparrow hawk pictured in Sibford by Andrew Meyler



## ED'S THOUGHTS

**Bumper Edition! 40 pages..... Thankyou for all your articles - the Scene is only as good as all of you.....**

By now, you will all have heard about the proposal for Ditchedge Lane. Please be aware that there is no cause for alarm and I ask you to read Oswyn Murray's excellent article and Cllr Hugh Pidgeon's piece.

Thought for the month:

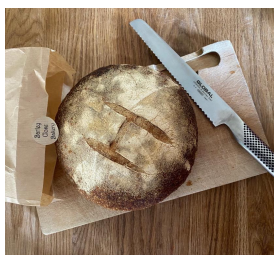
"Tonight we'll go and paint this town  
We're gonna drink champagne till we both fall down"

Paul Brady



## LETTERS AND NOTICES

### BARLEY CLOSE BAKERY



Barley Close Bakery is opening for the Christmas holidays from 19th December to 3rd January.

Harold is baking to raise money for his Camps International Costa Rica trip next summer.

He is making sourdough bread and can deliver locally or you can collect from 5 Barley Close.

Any donations around £3 per loaf would be amazing

To order you can either email [kat.davison@hotmail.com](mailto:kat.davison@hotmail.com) or text or call



## LETTERS AND NOTICES

### THE VIRTUAL GREAT NORTH RUN-THE MND ASSOCIATION 5000 APPEAL

May I take this opportunity to thank a considerable number of people in Sibford Ferris, Sibford Gower and Burdrop for their generosity to the appeal which to date has reached a four figure sum.

Your gifts will enable MND to improve care and support for people with MND, their families and carers across England, Wales and Northern Ireland. In addition it will help to fund and promote research and to campaign and raise awareness so the needs of those affected by the disease are addressed by wider society.

My running schedule is currently light as Christmas approaches but I will step up my training programme in the New Year. It has been particularly pleasing, at this difficult time, to see a significant number of people exercising and jogging around the villages .

A Very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year

David Bennett. T:- 01295 780373 E-mail:- [dbennett77@googlemail.com](mailto:dbennett77@googlemail.com)

[just giving.com/fundraising/David-Bennett77](http://justgiving.com/fundraising/David-Bennett77)

### CAKES FOR CAMPS INTERNATIONAL

As my Grandson Henry is 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 the suggested donation will be approx £4 to £5 each.

Ginny 01295 780373 or [ginnybennett@googlemail.com](mailto:ginnybennett@googlemail.com)

### FLY TIPPING

Again there are items being left by the bottle banks at the Elm crossroads. This is illegal! Don't be lazy!

Only glass should be left in the pods and any rubbish such as boxes and bags taken home. The tip is open for household rubbish so please do not abuse the facility we have for glass, or we may lose it. Ginny Bennett



## FIVE MINUTES WITH.....

### **Who are you?**

I am Tessa Sparks and I live in Burdrop with my daughter Olivia and Jill, a wire-haired fox terrier and Pishy, a ginger and white cat. We moved here from London in August. Prior to a year in London, we lived in Cape Town, South Africa for 9 years so it is great to be back. I grew up in Cape Town.

Olivia together with her friend Ella, collected stationery for children in Malawi. We are blown away by everyone's generosity. Right now, we are in the process of finalising two schools to send it too.

### **What do you do?**

I come from a management consulting background in operations and operational effectiveness. Lockdown has changed many things for many of us, and for me it has meant going back to my career roots which is delicious, interesting, seasonal food. I started cooking for a local farm shop when I was 14. Here in Oxfordshire, I am in awe of nature's fruits on our doorstep, apples galore, blackberries etc.

Nowadays, I am baking baguettes on Saturday mornings and have recently added soup – a complete Saturday lunch! Keep an eye out on Nextdoor to see what soup is cooking each week. I love the idea of cooking yummy dishes for people who fancy having a break from cooking lunch or dinner, or simply want to try something different. By the end of November, I plan to add scrumptious meals like Coq au Vin, Shepherd's Pie or even Boboti, a traditional South African mince dish. Plus, a pudding or two! These will change weekly and can be ordered anytime. Christmas is around the corner with all its magnificent seasonal traditions. I will be cooking up lots of deliciousness for Christmas and some fantastic foodie gifts. You can join my email by emailing me on [Tessa.J.Sparks@googlemail.com](mailto:Tessa.J.Sparks@googlemail.com) or follow me on Instagram at the\_dailycook.

### **What brought you to Sibford?**

We have wonderful friends who live in the Sibfords, whom we have been visiting for the past 7 years. We love the landscape here and my daughter is crazy about horses so when it came to moving out of London, this was number one on our list of choices. I do miss the sea a bit so will be doing a few journeys to get my sea fix!

### **What do you like about Sibford?**

The hills, the beauty, the friendly people, village life, the walks and of course I must mention – horses!

## Ditchedge Lane

The ancient track or bridleway known in the parish of Sibford Gower as Ditchedge Lane is part of a well-known long-distance trackway variously called in this area also Beggars Lane, the Macmillan Way, the Jurassic Way, the Darcy Dalton Way, all designated in green as an official Recreational Route on the latest OS maps. This is the central portion of an ancient trackway that runs diagonally across England from the Bristol Channel to the Wash, with its meeting point at the Rollright Stones.

The trackway was first noted in the 1920s by Sir Cyril Fox as 'the Jurassic Way' linking a succession of Romano-British settlements on either side of it along a ridge of upland Jurassic stone across central England. It runs a few miles south of the first Roman frontier, the military Fosse Way; clearly the Romans placed their frontier road to incorporate the main ancient British settlements, despite the fact that they therefore chose a low lying and less defensible frontier.

It follows that the trackway must be pre-Roman, and its association with the Rollright Stones suggests that it goes back at least to the Late Neolithic period (ca 3500-3000 BC), though it could be earlier, since the trackway surely precedes the place of worship established at its midpoint.

After more than five thousand years much of the trackway has disappeared or lies under modern roads. The best preserved section of it was studied by the famous W.G. Hoskins in his landmark book *The Making of the English Landscape* (1955) ch. 8. It runs from Traitors (probably Traders) Ford to the B4035, and across that road to the eastern section known as Beggars Lane (B4035 to the Tysoe road), past Heath Farm, owned by the Town Estate Charity of Sibford Gower. In the whole of this section it exists as a double hedgerow, striding across the high ground, loved by long-distance walkers local ramblers and horse riders alike. Close study of the 1: 250000 Ordnance Survey map (1972) shows that the Beggars Lane section lies in Oxfordshire, whereas the Ditchedge Lane section is assigned to Warwickshire, an anomaly hard to explain.

Nevertheless the continued importance of this trackway is shown by the fact that for more than a thousand years it has served as the boundary between bishoprics and counties; at Gallows Hill the original gallows stood until the early twentieth century, to show the horror of executing a human being except between two parishes, for fear of haunting.

Both sections are currently gated with a padlocked farm gate to prevent vehicular access; presumably the keys are held by the relevant farmers. Whoever is responsible for the Ditchedge section of the trackway, it would be sacrilege to turn this best preserved section into a right of way with vehicular access for motor bikes and quad bikes. This is one of the most beautiful and most ancient pathways in England, a national asset comparable in importance to Stonehenge or the Ridgeway. Instead Warwickshire and Oxfordshire, the two County Councils responsible for its preservation, should be asked as a matter of urgency to have the trackway formally designated as a historic monument by English Heritage.

Oswyn Murray, Glebe Farm, Sibford Gower



## VILLAGE HALL NEWS

The Village Hall Trustees Annual Meeting will have been held in mid November. (see the village website for the minutes). Some of our Trustees will have stepped down and new ones instated. Up to date details will be published in the next Sibford Scene in February. The Village Hall is hoping to be open to more groups in the near future ,but it all depends on the Current Covid-19 guidelines.

### **BOOK SWAP**

An opportunity to pick up or change books will be on Saturdays December 12 th and January 9th from 10am until 12 midday  
Please all wear a face covering when you enter the hall , and use the hand sanitiser.

### **ART EXHIBITION**

Thank you to all those who atttended the exhibition at the Village Hall on October 31 & November 1st.  
It was great to see so many of you. I still have cards printed from original art work for sale if anyone would like any.

Ginny Bennett and Sue Levitch 01295 780373

**CHRISTINGLE SERVICE AT HOLY TRINITY CHURCH  
SIBFORD.**

**SUNDAY 13 DECEMBER at 4.30pm.**



The Church's annual Christingle service is taking place on Sunday 13 December at 4.30pm, and promises to be as enjoyable as ever, even with Covid-safe restrictions in place.

Numbers are limited to 40 attendees in the church, so this will be a ticketed event. To book places, please call Isabel on 788886 or 07989 968736, places allocated on a first-come first-served basis. We ask that, if possible, only one parent/carer to attend per family, however, a second parent/carer is OF COURSE welcome if that's helpful when supervising your children with lit Christingles.

Please can we also ask that face coverings are worn in church by all those 11yrs and over.

Be assured that Christingles will be covid-safe, all items having been quarantined for at least 72 hrs prior to the

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WELCOME

## 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](http://thesibfords.org.uk)



## FRIENDSHIP CLUB

Friends, as I write this ,we do not know when we will meet again, but be sure we will see each other in 2021.

I'm sure that we all wish each other a Very Happy Christmas and all of us keep well.

If any of you want to send cards to friends in the club and are not sure if their address PLEASE ring either Margaret Oliver or myself, Eveline, as we have them.

From all the committee HOPE to see you all in 2021

Evey Boughton

**Alice and Geraldine wish all members of the Friendship Club a Very Happy Christmas**

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*Excellent references*

### **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).

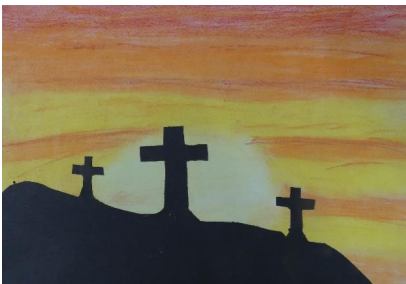
For more information, please contact Linda on 01295 780 242 or 07973 226 032 or [llindalaneyolo@gmail.com](mailto:llindalaneyolo@gmail.com)



We pride ourselves on being a school where children and staff are respectful of others and where we value the things that are important. The children showed this admirably on Armistice Day when we observed the 2-minute silence to remember and honour those who have sacrificed their lives for our freedom.

It is very important that the children understand why we take part in this simple but special act of respect and remembrance every year and so even the youngest children begin to talk about it in simple ways with their teachers. To support talk about feelings and why we have a poppy as a symbol of remembrance, the children in Acorn and Beech classes watched a beautiful and moving animation showing the experience of animals on the battlefield in World War 1. The older children in Willow and Oak spent some time in class exploring remembrance through art activities, including drawing and colouring and creating silhouette pictures inspired by the black remembrance silhouette statues that we have all seen by cenotaphs.

Just before 11 o'clock, the children congregated in their class 'bubbles', appropriately distanced, on the school playgrounds so that we could hear the bells and the bugle call which mark the beginning and end of this event here in the Sibfords. As always, our children conducted themselves with the respect and thoughtfulness that this occasion deserves.



Most of what goes on in school continues to be much less solemn however. To find out more about our lovely school and the things we get up to here, please look on the school website at <http://www.sibford-gower.oxon.sch.uk/>

## Virtual open events

Due to current Covid-19 restrictions, Sibford School was unable to run their face to face autumn open events as originally planned. The school has created a series of videos to enable those interested in Sibford to see the school in action, meet key members of staff and learn more about what Sibford offers to pupils aged 3- 18.

If you are interested in accessing this virtual open event, visit [sibfordschool.co.uk/events](http://sibfordschool.co.uk/events) and simply fill out the contact form to learn more about Sibford.

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## Gold CREST award success

Well done to the six Year 13 pupils who were awarded their Gold CREST awards in November. CREST is the scheme that inspires young people to think and behave like scientists and engineers.

A team of Sibford students worked on a project to build a fusor, nicknamed "Star in a Jar", a device capable of creating and containing a plasma. The design, developed by the team, used electrostatic fields to contain a plasma in a vacuum.



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## Recent sporting achievements

Sibford School is proud that pupils are very active outside of school and have a wide array of sporting hobbies. Here are just a couple of their recent successes:

Last month, Bella, Year 8 competed in the National Closed Circuit Time Trials. In windy but dry conditions she raced the 11.7 mile course brilliantly and came 3rd in her age group. Famous Olympic cyclists Dame Sarah Storey and Katie Archibald also competed in the competition.

In September, Alistair, Year 7 competed in an athletic Javelin competition. His efforts placed him number 8 in the UK for under 13s. A fantastic achievement.



## Sibford Junior School



November has been a time of thinking of others for the children of Sibford Junior School. On the 11th we commemorated Remembrance Day with two minutes' silence and a moving performance of the Last Post performed by one of our village residents. Children throughout the school had spent time during the week researching poppies and their significance as well as looking at how we each have a responsibility to bring about a peace in our world.

We also took part in Children in Need and raised money for the charity by holding a casuals day and carrying out an "act your age" challenge. School Council decided that this was best demonstrated by taking inspiration from the date of Sibford School's foundation – 1842 – and we duly walked, jogged and rambled 1842m each!

All of this has been part of this term's theme of All Together Now. Our attention is now turning to Christmas productions which this year have had to have a Coronavirus-imposed twist... in place of an opening night on stage we're going to have some Movie Premieres instead!

In friendship.

Edward Rossiter

Head of Junior School



# SUNEDAY SMALLHOLDING

Suneday Smallholding welcomed 3 new little pigs in the early hours of Nov 5<sup>th</sup>. These will be known as 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>. I managed to arrive to watch some of the delivery and all seemed well; numbers disappointing but no surprise as Esme has always produced such small litters. So, two males and a female. None of these can be kept for further breeding as they are not pure bred Oxford Sandy and Black. In order to keep this breed going, I need to find a pedigree boar for Esme in the Spring and also to buy another young pedigree gilt as a replacement for Peaches2. Pigs are sociable animals and enjoy company. They will eat together, dig together, sleep, wallow and sunbathe together.

I collected the sausages from Long Compton Abattoir yesterday and my freezer is now reassuringly full. They are in packs of 6 and I am selling them for £3.50 a pack (or 3 packs for £10). It cost me £360 to have the sausages made! Please come and try some.

My self-sufficiency challenge is progressing well and I have reached the milestone of the first quarter with ease. While the delight at feeding myself totally without visiting a food shop is easy to appreciate, one thing that strikes me is that my waste bin is void of any bought food packaging...and that feels fantastic. Prior to doing this project I would visit ALDI et al, and despair that so much food was sold in plastic. I decided to buy only fruit and veg that was unpackaged, and that, in part, led to what I am doing now. I am missing imported fruit; bananas, oranges, persimmon, mango...etc. Now, although I have some soft fruit frozen for special occasions, it is mainly apple. Baked apple, stewed apple, apple sauce and dried apple (thanks Beatrice Williams for the loan of the dehydrator) and of course, apple juice and cider. In Bill's barn there are several boxes holding a wide variety of the traditional apples grown here so I am paying much more attention to different flavours, textures and 'keeping' quality. I am not taking a single apple for granted and am keeping an eye on the reserves.

Note: I am having two days off at Christmas and will eat anything my mother puts in front of me!

## **Birds**

Unfortunately, Iain's bird walk had to be postponed due to C19. We will get another date sorted for the spring...can't wait to hear the dawn chorus!

## **Spinning Wheel**

Thank you so much to Kathleen Turner for the spinning lesson and Helen Lamb and her mum for the loan of a spinning wheel. Bill Crabtree might yet get a hat made from his Hebridean wool.

Sue Sabin



## NATURE NOTES

The weather in early November was very variable with several frosty nights during the first week followed by considerably milder conditions the following week. These mild and sometimes sunny conditions seem to have resulted in an increase in insect numbers and a lot more bird song to be heard. Robins and Wrens are probably significant contributors to this as they hold territories throughout the year. Once again Tawny Owls have been very vocal especially around dawn.

According to the BTO Blackbird numbers in gardens have been particularly low this autumn and we have certainly observed fewer than normal.

It seems to have been another good year for hedgerow fruits but perhaps most notable has been the exceptionally large crop of acorns. It is advantageous to trees like oak and beech to produce massive numbers of seeds in some years with intervening years having very small crops. This keeps the number of seed eating animals down and when there is a large crop the animals that would normally eat the acorns and beech nuts can't possibly eat them all. An added advantage to the tree is that dispersal is aided by animals such as Squirrels and Jays burying some of the surplus seeds but not retrieving them all.

Please send any contributions for the next Nature Notes to [a.jnewbold88@gmail.com](mailto:a.jnewbold88@gmail.com)

Andy and Gill Newbold

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SIBFORD GOWER VILLAGE HALL

EVERY OTHER SATURDAY

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## HORTI SOCIETY

Tom Duncan gave us another very enjoyable talk on Wednesday 11th November on the subject of 're-imagining the garden: colour, paintings and plants'. His wit and skills as a raconteur are undiminished!

If you missed him on 11th and would like to hear his talk, then click on the link that appeared on The Sibford Website. Tom has kindly agreed to keep the webinar live until Christmas. Let me know if you have trouble accessing the link and I'll forward it to you.

Thank you to Tim Huckvale and Keith Hicks once again for making this happen, although thanks to the constraints of Covid, we weren't able to screen at the village hall this time.

The next Horti meeting will be in March. Details will be published in due course along with dates of future talks, outings and plant sales. (Thank you Sue Bannister and her team) Let's hope that we can all meet in the hall by March....

In the hope that we WILL be having an actual rather than a virtual Spring Show in 2021, please see below the handicraft and photography sections for you to start thinking about. Those eagle eyed of you will notice that these bear a striking resemblance to the items posted this time last year. This is not a coincidence! If you have already made an apron or taken a photograph of water then you can feel rather smug. Otherwise, here's a second chance to have a go. Please take it, otherwise the smug crowd will walk away with all the prizes.

And one last thing: MEMBERSHIP

Those who paid their membership fees in March 2020 will have nothing further to pay until March 2022

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# HORTI SOCIETY

## Handicrafts

- 1 piece of pottery
- 2 an apron
- 3 a hand knitted article
- 4 an item of cross stitch
- 5 a piece of metal or woodwork
- 6 a greeting card, including greeting!
- 7 a piece of dough craft. Please state size
- 8 a handicraft exhibit
- 9 a handicraft exhibit - age 16 and under

## Photography

- 1 landscape/country scene
  1. A season
  2. Doorways and entrances
  3. Macro
  4. Water
  5. On the farm
  6. The beauty of plants
  7. A night photo
  8. My best selfie - print from a mobile phone
  9. 4 related views
  10. A black and white photo
  11. An enlargement - any subject (Max size A4, b&w or colour)
  12. A painting or drawing
  13. A painting or drawing - age 16 or under.

## Section E children's

### 4 and under

- 1 cotton bud painting
- 2 an edible bracelet
- 3 A garden flower arrangement in a jam jar
- 4 a decorated wooden spoon
- 3 decorated digestive biscuits

### 5 to 8 years

- 6 a cotton bud painting
- 7 a decorated pair of wellies
- 8 a Posy in a jam jar
- 9 4 colourful rice crispie cakes
- 10 a junk model vehicle
- 11 an edible necklace

### 9-13 years

- 12 write out and decorate a haiku poem
- 13 junk model of a windmill (with moving sails)
- 14 4 chocolate muffin
- 15 photograph of an animal
- 16 an arrangement of garden flowers in an unusual container

Diana Thompson.



## In Your Garden - December

I am writing this in the middle of November, and we still have had hardly any frosty nights. I walked around the garden and made a note of plants with blossoms on them, and here are some of them: orange geum, astrantia, nasturtium, nerines, dahlias, cyclamen, erysimum, verbena bonariensis, salvias, cistus, convulvulus, cnicus, schysostylus, hellebore primulas, sterbergias, hebes, roses, forsythia, erigerons, just one delphinium, and one crazy hollyhock. I was amazed! And the cotoneasters and hollies are laden down with berries.

Here are a few jobs for you to consider:

1. Check that climbers and newly planted trees are firmly tied to a support.
2. Keep raking up leaves and putting them in the compost heap.
3. Cut back foliage around hellebores, to stop the flowers being obscured, and it helps to prevent spots on the leaves.
4. Avoid walking on frosty lawns, and walking on frozen clay soils leads to compaction, and then it is absolute hell to try and dig in spring.
5. If you used bubble-wrap to insulate the greenhouse. (and I really hope you have by now) use any leftovers to wrap up pots of tender plants. Do not let them stand in saucers, as they can get waterlogged, but raise the pots up on bricks.
6. Poinsettias are fabulous to have in the house over Christmas, but keep them in a cool, light place, and let the compost dry out a little before the next watering.

So, not many jobs to do, (I am assuming you have planted all your bulbs by now) and it is far more important to get on with sorting out presents, making all the mince pies, Christmas cakes and puddings. Hopefully we will all be spending Christmas time with our loved ones. Happy Christmas to all you lovely Sibford gardening friends.



## In Your Garden - January

Most important is to get outside, every single day and go for long walks. Work off all that plumpness that suddenly arrives on Boxing day, and then:-  
1. You can start planting sweet peas in the greenhouse, and harden them off a bit later in a cold frame. I then plant some more in April to have a long succession of blooms.

2. Enjoy the early flowers on Mahonias, Sarcococcas, daphnes and hellebores. If your garden looked dull this winter now is the time to order some of these.

3. If we have a snowfall, shake it off very gently, particularly on camellias, as the buds can get shaken off too if you are rough. Heavy snow can cause branches to split or break.

4. It is a good time to prune deciduous trees when they are leafless. It makes it so much easier to see which branches need pruning or thinning. It often improves the shape of a tree to lift the lower branches - like hitching a skirt up a bit.

5. Best of all is to sit by the fire with a mug of tea, and the last mince pie, and rustle through all the seed catalogues. Make new garden plans, be daring, spend lavishly! One thing that Covid has taught us all is the importance of having a lovely outdoor space to relax in, when restrained to stay at home. Best wishes for a Happy New Year - you deserve it.

Jupe Hitching



## FUN CORNER

A farmer counted 196 cows in his field but when he rounded them up, he had 200.

Nudists complained that someone had cut a hole in the wall around their camp. Police are now looking into it.

John Marshall

I was given an advent calendar but I don't hold out much hope for it - It's days are numbered.

What do you call a man with his hands over his ears?  
Anything you like - he can't hear you.

Andy Newbold



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1

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3

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NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

## NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

### **'Porch Pirates'**

Beware of 'porch pirates' poaching your packages.

An increasing number of parcels are being stolen from doorsteps as more social distancing measures see online shopping left at the mercy of thieves. More online shopping and increasing pressure on the delivery services are seeing packages being targeted by opportunistic thieves and burglar bill.

This Christmas is liable to be the busiest period for online shopping and deliveries. Already the consumer mediation service has received almost double the number of complaints from a similar period last year concerning package deliveries. Advice includes trying to arrange a delivery slot when someone is at home, picking up parcels from a collection point, or asking a neighbour to take in anything left outside. Remember, if thieves see a parcel left outside your door, it could be a sign that nobody is in and an opportunity to commit burglary as well as nicking your parcel.

Consumer advice would appear to be that if you don't receive your parcel for any reason, including if it was stolen, and permission was not given for it to be left outside, then it is down to the retailer to sort the problem.

### **Identity Fraud**

If your personal information is misused or sold on to others to commit crime, report details to the Action Fraud reporting centre on 0300 123 2040.

### **Threatening phone calls**

One of our colleagues recently received a particularly nasty and threatening telephone call from somebody claiming to be from HMRC, telling her that she owed tax and would be arrested if she did not ring a particular number.

The tone of the voice was especially frightening, and whilst it was complete nonsense, it was not a pleasant thing to have happen. Apparently they are targetting older and more vulnerable people.

Fortunately, in this particular case, vulnerable is not a word I would use to describe the lady in question!

Best wishes,

Peter Hine, Watch Co-ordinator 788830



### **SANTA FUN RUN – 13 DECEMBER 2020**

This year our Santa Fun Run is back, with a difference! Due to the current social distancing guidelines we have changed the way we run this year, but still expect lots of fun, festive cheer, and a little bit of fitness! Join team Katharine House wherever you are and be a part of #KHTeamSanta this year to help support those facing life-limiting illness in our community. To find out more head to [www.khh.org.uk/santa20](http://www.khh.org.uk/santa20)

### **12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS EVENTS – 1-31 DECEMBER 2020**

This year we are putting together a series of festive events to bring the community together and spread some Christmas cheer this December! Prepare yourself for Christmas Jumpers, Festive Challenges, a Virtual Balloon Race, a Christmas Concert and not forgetting the annual Santa Fun Run! (which is slightly different this year!) Join us as we celebrate making every moment matter this Christmas. [www.khh.org.uk/12days](http://www.khh.org.uk/12days)

### **KATHARINE HOUSE CHRISTMAS SHOP 2020**

Our online Christmas shop is up and running with a selection of this year's Christmas cards, knitted novelties and our eBay shop has lots of wonderful gifts for sale. Head to [www.khh.org.uk/christmas-shop](http://www.khh.org.uk/christmas-shop) to find yours

### **LIGHTS OF LOVE – 15 DECEMBER 2020**

Our lights of love service will go live, streamed from the hospice to your home this December. We will have a ceremony lead by James our Chaplain as well as some music and readings. You can make your dedication to a loved at [www.khh.org.uk/lights](http://www.khh.org.uk/lights)

### **FREE DIGITAL KATHARINE HOUSE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER**

Keep up to date with your hospice. Please sign up to receive our Katharine House digital monthly newsletter, which is designed to keep you in touch with what's happening at Katharine House Hospice, including news of our fundraising events and developments at the hospice. Just head to our website to sign up [www.khh.org.uk/newsletter](http://www.khh.org.uk/newsletter)

### **LIVING WELL AT KATHARINE HOUSE**

We know that when you're affected by a serious illness you will have your own wellbeing and support needs, whether you're a patient, carer, family member or someone who has experienced a bereavement. The Living Well service at Katharine House is here to support you during such a time of change and need. Head to [www.khh.org.uk/living-well-at-katharine-house](http://www.khh.org.uk/living-well-at-katharine-house) for lots of useful resources.



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## Woodway Race Track?



So - where is this beautifully tarmaced road? Acre Ditch? The Colony? Pound Lane? No - It's WOODWAY ROAD. I ask the question - WHY?! This will surely result in speeding along a road that is used primarily for residents, dog walkers, riders and farm vehicles.

Also - when the contractors laid the tarmac, they just brushed back the rubbish that was on the road when they finished. UNBELIEVABLE! - Hats off to the Oxfordshire Highways Department.....

## SIBFORD FERRIS PARISH COUNCIL

### **Resignation of Cllr Adrian Lamb**

After many years of service on the Parish Council Adrian Lamb has decided to resign. Adrian's wealth of local knowledge has enabled the Parish Council to make the best possible decisions across a wide range of community related issues. The Parish Council and Councillors wish to express their sincere thanks for all that he has contributed and achieved over the years.

The Parish Council now need to co-opt a new councillor to fill the vacancy created by Adrian's resignation. If you are enthusiastic about your community and would like to work as part of a team to maintain and improve the village then please consider becoming a Councillor. If you have any questions or would like to put your name forward to be considered for co-option please contact the clerk on [sibfordferrisparishclerk@gmail.com](mailto:sibfordferrisparishclerk@gmail.com) or 01295 275372 no later than 5pm on Friday 18th December 2020.

### **Dog Waste Bins**

Two new dog waste bins have now been ordered and will be installed on the corner of Small House Lane and near the style at the end of the track adjacent to Hook Norton Road.

### **Heavy Goods Vehicle signage at entrances to The Sibfords**

Concerns have been raised about the number of HGVs driving into The Sibfords, particularly as many of the roads are unsuitable for large vehicles due to their narrowness and tight bends. The Ferris Parish Council has worked with Oxfordshire County Council Highways and it has been agreed that signs stating 'Unsuitable for HGVs' would be the best option to try and deter HGV drivers from using the village roads. The new signs will be positioned at the entrances to the community (Six signs in total).

### **Hook Norton Road development**

The Parish Council have been approached by the Managing agent Land & Partners Ltd relating to the proposed development on Hook Norton Road asking to engage the Parish Council re Schedule 106 Payments (legal binding provisions such as transport costs...). The Ferris Council will agree to a meeting but want this to be a community meeting involving both Ferris and Gower Parish Council and for there to be an open invite for all members of the community. More detail to follow when we have received a response to our proposal.

# SIBFORD GOWER PARISH COUNCIL

## **The Revolution will be digitised**

A personal note from Hugh Pidgeon, Chairman of the new Parish Council

In the Guardian's weekend supplement for 07.11.20, there appeared a startling all-red page with the title 'The revolution will be digitised', and the story of a 22-year-old coder sitting at his computer in Warsaw who this year, it seemed, had 'moved crowds of a 100,000 through the streets of Minsk, 300 miles away'. How? 'Welcome to Telegram, the controversial messaging app' the article went on to say, 'that nobody can block'.

I was reminded of this when I was alerted to signs that had appeared on Ditchedge lane purporting to let us all know that end-to-end the lane was to be re-classified as a 'by-way open to all traffic'. I had no sooner called a meeting with Ian Sharp, the area's Footpaths Warden and our newly appointed Councillor Vicky Pougatch, when a posting on the NextDoor website set off a Call for Action to forestall the anticipated incursion of bikes, quads and 4x4s. Within days it had attracted 58 comments, and a snowstorm of e-mails and phone calls to the person accountable to Warwickshire CC for the register of definitive map modification orders. It turns out that the original applicant had long since died, it was an information exercise, and she hadn't authorised the notices in the first place.

But it generated a fascinating history of the Lane and its origins by Dr Oswyn Murray as part of his submission to the enquiry that followed, which appears elsewhere in this edition of the Scene – and it prompted this note on NextDoor from Tracey Morbey, which I'd like to quote here in full. I'm sure she won't mind: "I have been really heartened by everyone's response to the potential threat to our local countryside; our collective love of the land around our beautiful villages has shone through and it's good to know that we are united behind protecting our little corner of England."

Being on the local Council can sometimes feel like climbing a sand dune; no sooner you address one expression of concern and another replaces it! But that's what we are here for. Social media is changing the way we work, and I might think not always for the better – but it's a new world and it is notes like this that remind us of what a privilege it is to serve as councillors to this beautiful corner of the world, and what a precious heritage we have to uphold.

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Sunday 8am - 1.00 pm

PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL POST OFFICE - THERE ARE LOTS OF PRODUCTS & SERVICES AVAILABLE ON YOUR DOORSTEP



## SIBFORDS WALKING GROUP



### Walking dates:

14 December; 4 January; 18 January

We shall start on foot from the Village Hall most times. At the moment since we are in the lowest tier for Covid we are going in groups of 5 with a leader with a further group and leader 100 yards behind. Please get in touch with me by phone or email to book your place before each walk and let me know if in the end you aren't able to join us so I can organise the groups. Should the Covid rules change, I will endeavour to adapt our arrangements. Best Wishes, Sue Bannister 01295 780365 [sebannister@gmail.com](mailto:sebannister@gmail.com)

Ian Sharp, [ian@iansharp.net](mailto: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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**Yoga**

**Sibford Village Hall**



Tuesdays

**Slow and Gentle Yoga** 9 – 10am

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Thursdays

**Flow Yoga** 9 – 10am

A faster paced practice with almost continuous flow of movement and breath

Fridays

**Chair Yoga** 10 – 10.45am

A gentle form of yoga where poses are done seated and standing using a chair for support

Any enquiries to [juliette53@btinternet.com](mailto:juliette53@btinternet.com)



## VILLAGE PEOPLE

### TOM AND MARY WEST

We lived in Leigh-on-Sea Essex for 6 years and enjoyed being there. We both worked for Nat West and things were changing. Nat West did not want to make their staff redundant and we were offered a relocation package to Heythrop Park Enstone Oxon - we were very familiar with the area and made the decision to move. We arrived 18/11/85 with our trailer tent, our cat, Bluey, and our furniture to arrive the next day. Our first impression of Sibford how dark it was, there were no street lighting. Our first night, we slept on our trailer tent mattresses, calmed our bewildered cat down. Tom started his new job at Heythrop Park. he bewildered himself!!!

I started at the local post office in Sibford Ferris part-time working for David and Barbara Dyer - really lovely people. The first day I was very popular, it was pension day and I got to know a lot of people. Sadly I had to leave, I needed a full time job. I got a job in Banbury, I remember getting the Tanners bus in Sibford and Robin Spicer took the fares, it was £2.50 per week!! We can remember a converted coach coming round the village selling groceries. Tom's transport to Heythrop Park was a Honda 90. He asked permission to cut through Chipperfields Circus wintering quarters which saved him 5 miles each way, he was told to lookout for Rocky. On his first day Rocky introduced himself, it was a German Shepherd dog, that used to chase him, Rocky was getting to close for comfort, Tom got off his bike and walked through the circus quarters, they became good friends. The lions he met were a scary, a different story.

It took us two years to settle down. We were being accused of being weekenders, shops and schools closing down. Ha,Ha. Sadly after 8 years at Heythrop, Tom got made redundant. We both got jobs in Oxford and are both retired now and can enjoy the rest of our time in wonderful, beautiful, Sibford Gower, the lovely people we know and the only place to be. Tom's days for racing Rocky are over.

Happy 35 years living in Sibford.

Tom and Mary



## BE READY FOR A UTILITY FAILURE THIS WINTER



### What is the Priority Service?

You can't always predict when an emergency situation may cause a disruption to your utility provision. If you register for the priority service register with your local supplier, they will do their utmost to prevent your supply from going off and, if it does, make sure that your service returns as a matter of urgency, providing additional support if necessary in the meantime.

Depending on your provider, extra assistance may include:

- Hot drinks and food
- Charging points
- Generators
- Delivery of bottled water to your home
- Temporary heating and cooking appliances.

Further details can be obtained from a leaflet published by Oxfordshire County Council Emergency Planning Team.

01865 323 765

[emergencyplanning@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:emergencyplanning@oxfordshire.gov.uk)  
<https://oxfordshire.gov.uk/emergencyplanning>





## SIBFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

On October 22 Dr Gillian White took us through the turbulent events in the lifetime of Mary, Queen of Scots, ending in her appalling death at the age of forty-five, condoned, albeit regretfully, by her cousin Elizabeth I. So many questions were left unanswered after her death: Should she have stayed in France after her first husband, Francis II died? Was she aware of the plot to murder her second husband, Lord Darnley? Why would she have willingly agreed to marry the Earl of Bothwell, who may have been involved in his murder? Was she really guilty of the plot to seize the throne from Elizabeth I? Born a beauty, and a queen at six days old, her destiny was shaped at all times by events beyond her control.

Gill, as always, brought history to vivid life, and it was wonderful that she was able to give us her talk, both face to face and in "Zoomland". The next talk, 'Daily Life in Tudor Times', by Martin Sirot-Smith, has had to be cancelled, and we hope to reschedule this and all the other talks which were planned, to next year.

The SHS has received an important and generous donation from Margaret Leyland, descendant of Oliver Hooper, who became Head of the Sibford Endowed School in 1912. We have the log book, 1912 - 32, newspaper cuttings, many handwritten exercise books, photos of people and buildings in Sibford at that time, and we hope that we can have a small exhibition and perhaps a talk by Margaret, if circumstances permit this in 2021. Maureen Hicks has already transcribed the most valuable item in the collection - The Enclosure Act for Broad Sibford and Burdrop, 1773!

Sadly, we can't plan for a Social Evening, but we look forward to getting together as soon as possible next year.

Diana Hughes

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

**Lindsey Smith  
01295 780698**

**Email: [lindseysmith52@gmail.com](mailto:lindseysmith52@gmail.com)**



## DID YOU KNOW?

### **Post Offices in the Sibfords -4 Gower Memories**

Mabel and Eric Payne moved into their home, Cedarholme on the corner of Bonds End Lane after their marriage in 1946 and they decided to take over the running of the Gower Post Office from their home in the early 1960's. The post box was moved from the wall in The Old Post Office to a new site on the corner of Bonds End Lane. Mabel became Post Mistress and ran the post office until she handed over her duties to Eric in 1979. Mabel also gave piano music lessons to many village children. Joan Robinson and their daughter, Ruby, helped at times until Eric retired from farm work and gave up the post office in 1984. They suffered a devastating fire in 1996, spent 18 months living in Shepherds Close and returned to their rebuilt cottage in 1998. Mabel died later that year but Eric remained in their marital home until his death in 2008.

Ruby has many memories from the time her parents ran the post office. She remembers that many of the Spanish kitchen staff at Sibford School used the post office for money transfers to send money back to their Spanish home land. There was always a rush on a Thursday morning to get the pensions paid out in time for villagers to catch Jessie Tanner's bus to Banbury at 10.30am!

During the school summer holidays, when postman, Wilfred Alcock who delivered mail to both villages, wanted to take his holidays, Ruby would take on the deliveries for Burdrop and the Gower. Though young, she didn't have the stamina to walk the village and the farms with a heavy bag so Eric would take the mail to the outlying farms in his car. The post deliveries would take all day. Just imagine what it was like at Christmas or when it snowed. How times have changed with van deliveries to all the homes in the villages today.

The telephone number for the P.O. was Swalcliffe 16 when we took it on. Then it became 216 and many years later 780216 showing that the number of telephones was few and far between in the village in the 1960's. In the early days, when making a call you had to go through to the exchange in Swalcliffe. If you knew the operator well then you would probably have a little chat (and exchange the gossip) before the operator would dial the number you required. Many of the older residents in the Gower didn't like to use the newly installed modern telephone kiosk outside Wyatts Close on Main Street. This involved using coins and a Press Button A/B system so they would ask Mabel to make the call for them e.g the doctor. (Swalcliffe 13) or ask at the Post Office if they could use the phone themselves.

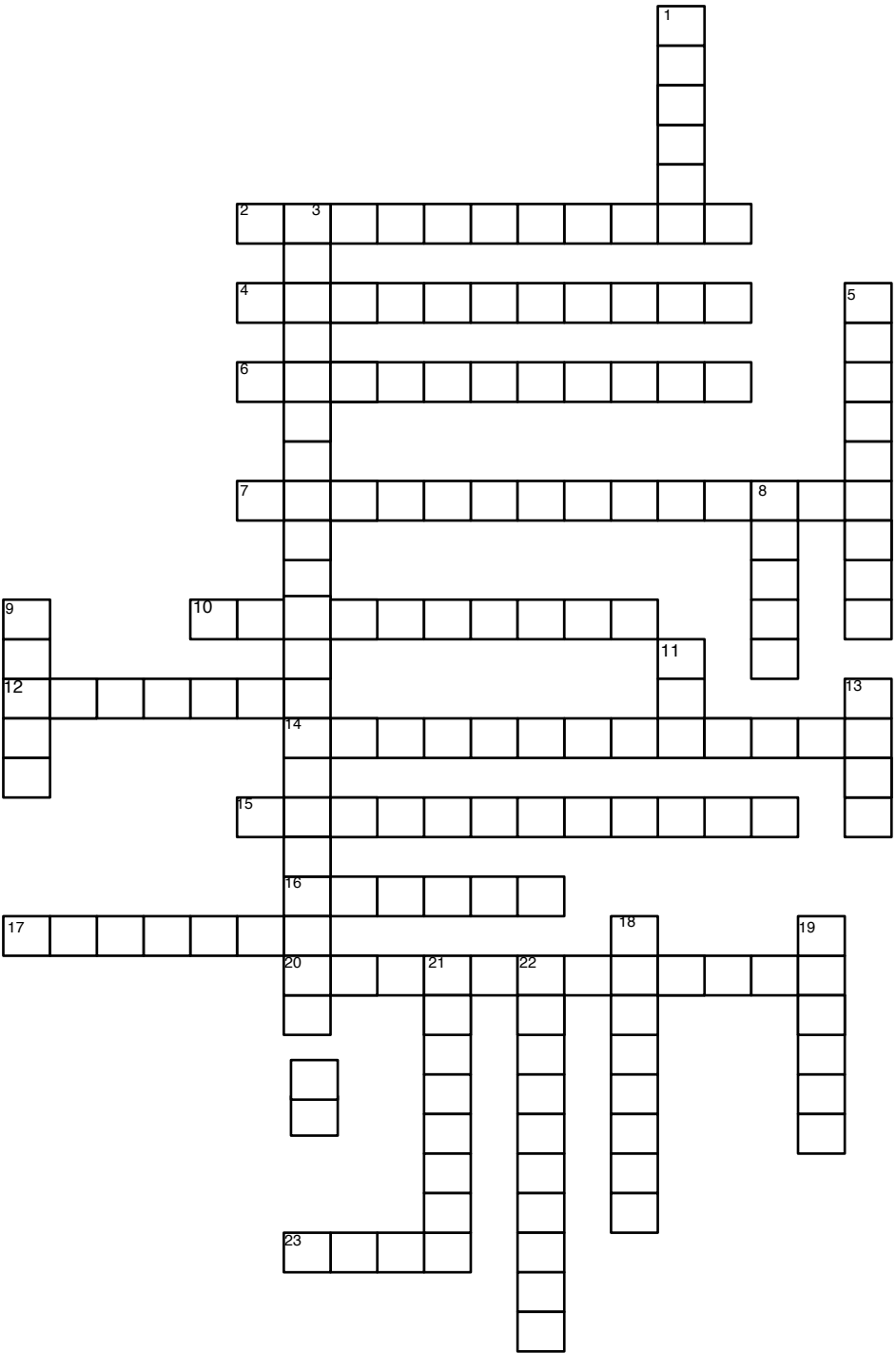
# SIBFORD CROSSWORD

## Across

2. Where you can stay in style in the Sibfords
4. The Mayor of Burdrop
6. The Gower council's bird
7. Opposite of enemies club
10. Beef about beef?
12. Something special about the Primary School: It is.....
14. Where you can find the phrase: 'Manners Maketh Man'
15. Small capital city
16. Runs through the Sibfords
17. Road in the Ferris
20. Walks every month in the Sibfords
23. Connects farm with close

## Down

1. Bill's bank
3. How many years the Quakers have met at their Meeting House?
5. Will show you which colours are best for you
8. Den in the Ferris
9. What used to grow on Acre Ditch's hills?
11. Tree at the crossroads
13. Sunday's sow
18. Corner in Burdrop that has the same name as Santa Claus
19. What the village shop is called
21. Naughty lane in the Gower
22. New church rector





# HOLY TRINITY CHURCH CHATTER

After several weeks of holding public services at Holy Trinity we are now back to opening the church for private prayer on Wednesdays and Sundays between 9 am and 3.30 pm. Hopefully, churches will be allowed to hold services for Advent and Christmas.

Planning is continuing for a Christingle Service on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> December and a Family Carol service with videos and a small choir of 6 on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> at 6.30 pm. in place of the usual Traditional Carol Service. Christmas services at Sibford are planned for Midnight Communion at 11.30p.m., also a Family Communion on Christmas Day at 10 am. Please check the church notice board and The Sibfords website for details, as Government guidelines are updated. Please remember face coverings are compulsory in churches.

Several members of the congregation are preparing Christmas Shoe boxes for the needy and homeless in Banbury, these will be passed to Polly Preedy in mid December, for her to distribute as she is able. For more details contact Barbara Foster 01295 788541 or look at The Sibfords website.

Reverend Neil Bowler, our Rector elect, is planning to arrive in the Wykeham Benefice at the end of the year with his Installation service taking place on January 5<sup>th</sup> 2021.

We send our grateful thanks to Revd. John Tattersall for taking up the challenge of Services on Zoom together with our appreciation of all the effort he and our retired clergy have put into keeping the Wykeham Benefice worshipping together during the Interregnum.

Barbara Foster  
Churchwarden

1. Oddies; 2. Holmby House; 3. One hundred and thirty six; 4. Cedric Brown; 5. Annie Broe; 6. Hugh Pidgeon; 7. Friendship club; 8. Lions; 9. Wheat; 10. Grange Farm; 11. Elm; 12. Endowed; 13. Esme; 14. The Wykham Arms; 15. Little London; 16. The Sib; 17. Woodway; 18. Nicholas; 19. Greens; 20. Sue Bannister; 21. Backside; 22. Neil Bowler; 23. Home

CROSSWORD ANSWERS



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# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## DECEMBER

12th - Book Swap - Village Hall - 10am - Noon

13th - Christingle Service - Holy Trinity Church - 4.30pm

## JANUARY

9th - Book Swap - Village Hall - 10am - Noon

### DECEMBER/JANUARY BIN COLLECTIONS

Please go to the Cherwell Website as this information was not available at the time of going to print

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 FEBRUARY ISSUE -  
12 NOON - 18th JANUARY 2021

Editor: Tony Skowronski, Jasmine Cottage, Burdrop, OX15 5RN  
T: 01295 780490  
E: sibfordscene@gmail.com

Ad Manager & Treasurer: Ivor Hopkyns, Elmridge Farmhouse,  
Sibford Gower, OX15 5RT  
T: 01295 788367  
E: sallyandivorhopkyns@hotmail.com

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