

NO. 190
OCTOBER 1995

COFFEE MORNING in aid of **GUIDE DOGS** for the **BLIND ASSN**
Wednesday 25 October 10am - 12noon

Bring & Buy - Cakes, Jams & Plants

**** RAFFLE ****

G.D.B.A. Sales - Christmas Cards, etc
Chris Ross, Westerways, Sibford Ferris (780421)

[Please bring your used postage stamps and clean
aluminium foil (milk bottle tops & food trays)
for our GDBA collecting sacks]

* S *

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH - JUMBLE SALE
VILLAGE HALL Saturday 28 October 2.00pm

Please let us have all your unwanted items, big or small -
clothes, jewellery, handbags, crockery/glassware/utensils,
toys, books, etc, etc.

Dr Heath, Erica Wimbush (780555) or Jane Holliday (780500)
will collect or you can leave them at the Surgery.

*** Come early on the 28th for the best bargains ***

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SIBFORD FERRIS PLAYAREA GROUP
*** DISCO ***

Saturday 4 November 8.00pm - midnight
Sibford Village Hall Admission £3 Bar

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*** WANTED ***

Has anyone a pair of short fur boots size 5, 5½ or 6?
Also a pair of curtains?
Both items are needed for a very worthy cause.
If you can help, please call Jane Holliday (780500).

VILLAGE HALL QUIZ 95 - SATURDAY 28 OCTOBER - 7.15pm
(also see page 24)

Last years quiz saw the Rectory team taking the trophy in the absence of defending champions the Cricket Club. This year however our Rector will be in Oxford so the field will be wide open. Can the Cricket Club return to winning ways? Will we see a new name on the cup? These along with many more questions will be answered by teams of four to six people in the all written quiz.

We will be following the same basic format as last year with question sheets handed out, with some things to look at and listen to. Half time supper will be provided and there will be wine and soft drinks on sale to help the evening along. To help us cater for the right number we need teams to enter by October 20th. with the number of members. The available space limits us to a maximum of twelve teams so get your entries in early.

Entries to: Adrian or Helen Lamb 780380
Joanna Gilkes 788190

FREE ESTIMATES

TELEPHONE: 0295 780629



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Nature Notes.

Aug. 20th. This morning I saw a wheatear flitting around the kart track on Shenington aerodrome. This was the first one that I have seen this year. I more often see them when they are on the northward migration in the spring than on the return journey.

Aug. 31st. On the way to spend a few days in the Forest of Dean we stopped to walk the sculpture trail near Cinderford. My grandchildren spotted a lizard near the 'Giants Chair' which was a huge structure made from tree trunks and sited on top of a hill. Many of the other sculptures were very interesting such as the length of railway track which had been relaid with carved sleepers. The carvings relate to the forest environment and its industrial past. There was a good, if rather dried up, selection of wild flowers. Later in the day while walking by the river Wye I was lucky enough to be able to watch a dipper and a grey wagtail which were, at times, both within the field of view of my binoculars.

Sept. 1st. On a small house by a bridge over the Wye, probably an old toll house, there were a lot of martins nests. They were built new on top of old, forming sizable clusters. Some still had late broods of young in them. Protection given by the wide eaves may account for the nests lasting so many years or perhaps the Wye mud is a better building material than anything to be found around Sibford. As we walked along the river bank some salmon (or were they large trout) were leaping in an area of calm water. Further along the bank himalayan balsam (touch-me-not) grew and a white flowered comfrey, also japanese knotgrass which here grows to 11 or 12 feet. Coming back through woodland where jays were plentiful we found woodsorrel, golden saxifrage, golden rod, winter heliotrope and several varieties of fern. On the rotting wood of a sweet chestnut there were some unfamiliar fungi looking like bright orange puffballs some two inches in diameter.

Sept. 2nd. On our way home we walked the Symonds Yat nature trail where we found several wood ant nests one of which was over four feet tall and as big across. It must have taken the ants some years to collect that amount of material.

Sept. 19th. Since it really started to rain a fortnight ago I have measured 3.3 inches, making september already the wettest month of the year. This compares with a total of 1.08 inches for the last three months. Scotland has been much wetter with Aberdeen having over 9 inches in the first twelve days of September. I wonder how much of their harvest they have managed to get in. With there crops ripening later than ours much of it may still be in the field and it will need a good dry spell before the ground will carry a combine or potato harvester. With rapidly shortening days the prospect must look pretty grim.

* § *

A PLEA FOR OUR BIRD LIFE

With so many of our local hedgerows being cut, what fruit and berries that had managed to set in this dry year have now been lost to our wild life. The Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group (F.W.A.G.) have, for many years, been advocating farmers trimming their hedges on a three year rotation. This policy would mean that every farm would have at least one third of their hedges with fruit on in the autumn. If this policy were to be generally accepted the food stocks for our bird life would be greatly increased and many species would find our district to be good food supply, which would to some degree, off set the general decline in bird numbers.

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LETTER to the EDITOR

Dear Editor

Sheep in the Churchyard

On 13 August my daughter planted a plant on my late Mother's grave. The next day I went down to water the plant but found that it had been eaten by sheep. Two weeks later my Aunt bought a miniature rose, which I planted on Mum's grave. The following day this had also been eaten. I find it very distressing and upsetting when this happens to a loved one's grave. Can something please be done to save other people being upset as I was?

Mrs Jill Crisp

* S *

VILLAGE HALL - SITUATIONS VACANT

The Village Hall urgently needs two people to fill the following vacant positions:

BOOKINGS SECRETARY - This involves the keeping of a bookings diary and advising potential users of the hire charges; it can be done from home.

HALL MANAGER - This needs a person who could look after the heating and note any repairs required among other matters associated with the Hall.

Interested persons please contact Bernard Phillips (780634).

* S *

A Winning Year for The Bishop Blaize Darts Team

Endeavouring to emulate the continuing success of the Sibford Cricket Club, the Blaize darts team, not content with being promoted from Div 4 to Div 3, have this year fought for a very creditable 2nd place in the League and promotion to Div 2.

At the time of going to press they are also in the semi-finals of the Banbury Buildings Cup, their success due in large to some excellent throwing, some reasonable fortune and the guidance of their skipper Ian Gilbert (thankless job, but someone has to do it).

Congratulations must also go to Matt Simms who managed to put in a maximum 180 (and no hole in the ceiling). **WELL DONE EVERYONE**, good luck in the semi-final and may the success continue.

Letter to the Editor.

**The VJ Day that never was.
From Burma to Sibford in 50 years.**

There was a very nice letter from Jim Johnston in the June "Scene" about the VE Day Celebration in the Gower, but I didn't attend this because I was under the impression that there was going to be another one for VJ Day.

Mr Johnston was in Brussels on VE Day 1945, but I was there in 1940 with the British Expeditionary Force, and most of the population had fled. When there was a Gas Warning with one of the German attacks, some of the people who were left came out with towels over their noses. A woman who could speak English told me she remembered the First World War, and gave me a small crucifix which I tied to the identification disc we had to wear around our necks. She said "Keep that my boy, and you will never go wrong." And sure enough, I came through the whole war unscathed except for terrible bouts of malaria.

Finally we were told to make for Dunkirk. As a corporal in charge of transport, I was driving a 3-ton truck with all the battalion's rations, but soon we were stopped and told to scuttle our trucks. When they realised I had all the rations for a thousand men, they told me to keep going! Three miles out of Dunkirk I was stopped again, and ordered to ditch my truck in the canal. I had three other drivers with me, so we started walking to the beach, but it certainly wasn't a pretty sight. There were 3 big boats anchored just out at sea.

Then out of the blue, came Jerry with his dive bombers and in only a few minutes all our ships were alight. We were told that they were sending smaller craft that could get closer to the beach, so we queued up again - but without any luck. Then we decided to make for the docks, and luckily we found an old staff car loaded with officer's uniforms; so we changed our old wet clothes for new dry ones! We got the car started and decided that if we couldn't get on a boat, we would head for the south of France. However we managed to get on a destroyer, and in just over an hour we were back in Dover.

Back in dear old England we felt safe...What a relief it was! Soon we were on a train, but didn't know where we were going. I finished up at Tenby in South Wales, in a posh hotel on the sea front. I think I must have slept for two days... but that was just the start of the war. We were soon sorted out, and sent up to Huddersfield where our 2nd Division was reforming.

We were put in civvy digs, and they really made a fuss of us! Then came the crunch... We found that only about half of us who went out to France had got back; so we were reinforced and put on to Coastal Defence, but we were very poorly armed - even with some wooden guns... But they looked good!

After a while we were equipped with entirely new transport, ready to go anywhere, as we were expecting Hitler to invade at any time. Since that didn't happen we moved down south to Winchcombe near Cheltenham, and were fitted out with tropical kit but still didn't know where we would be going. We had to dock our vehicles at Newport, but were sent up to Liverpool to get on a troopship. Anyway, after a few scares at sea we arrived at Capetown, where we stopped for about three weeks before learning that we were due to sail to Madagascar; however we were actually sent to Bombay instead!

At Bombay in 1942, we joined up again with the 14th Army, and I served with them in India, Assam and Burma for the rest of the war. After a disastrous campaign in the Arakan we had to retreat back to Bombay. Then in 1944, we were sent to Assam with orders to halt the Japanese at all costs. So we went to Dimapur by train, taking 14 days; then on to Kohima where our 2nd Division took the bulk of the fighting. This horrific battle was so costly of lives, that local tribesmen erected a huge memorial for all those who fell in retaking the town, with the telling inscription "When you go home, tell them of us, and say 'For your tomorrow, We gave our today.'"

Kohima was the real turning point of the war in Burma; from then on we gave the Japs the full works all the way down to Rangoon; but even after Rangoon was ours, we had to wait till November 1946 before we could set sail for Dear Old Blighty.

I joined the Army in 1932, about the same time as two other lads from Sibford. Sadly, Archie Kaye was killed at Dunkirk, and John Long passed away about two years ago. I was a staff driver with the Royal Berkshires, and served in India, Egypt, Palestine, and Cyprus before being drafted to France with the B.E.F in 1939. So I had done almost 14 years before being demobbed, and was given the grand gratuity of £80 for it!

So, after 50 years, I thought I would polish up all my medals and wear them proudly to our local VJ Day. But that was not to be; for in Sibford, Britain's 14th Army was the "Forgotten Army" once again!

Ex-Sgt S.A. Lines; 5334432.

The Royal Berkshire Rgt. (Sid)

SIBFORD GOWER PARISH COUNCIL

At our recent Parish Council meeting the Chairman welcomed Cllr David Green and 4 local electors.

The Council has received a quote for a new kissing gate at Hadlands Yard footpath in Backside Lane from the County Council. The Council has not yet made a decision as it is still awaiting an alternative quote.

The narrow stretch of road between Sibford Salon and New Barn Farm was again discussed. A letter has been received from Mr Carritt of the Engineers Dept. He promised again to have the matter investigated and to install a sign "Not Suitable For HGV's" in the near future.

The Council discussed the possibility of entering the best kept village competition next year.

Before entering however, the Council would like to receive your comment in order to gauge village opinion. Of course this would have to be a community effort in order for it to be a success.

The Clerk has received the draft Oxfordshire Structure Plan 2011 for public consultation.

This document can be viewed at the Library in Banbury, Bodicote House and County Hall in Oxford. Comments on the draft are invited by 31 October 1995.

A limited number of newsletters are available from the Clerk.

The Council's attention was drawn to the parking problem around the pond and in Main Street.

The Council urges carowners to be considerate of others when parking their vehicles and to park off the road i.e. in garages etc. wherever possible.

Next visit of the Roving Recycler is on 11th November.

Next meeting Friday 24th November at 8pm in the Primary School.

Petra Berry, Clerk to Sibford Gower Parish Council (Tel 780462)

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The Sibfords Society

Before we look forward to our autumn programme it is good to reflect on those lazy, hazy summer days when we enjoyed an excellent evening with Martin Layer who gave us a most enjoyable and informative talk about Sibford's geological niche.

As part of Cherwell's Countryside Events programme in August, about 40 walkers followed

the hilly route of our Circular Walk on one of the hottest evenings of the summer. Refreshment at the Bishop Blaize was a most welcome way to commemorate the official opening of the walk and we were pleased to welcome several guests who had helped in the preparation of the leaflet.

Our next open meeting will be on Thursday 19 October at 7.30pm in the Mission Room when Mrs Bridget Hill will be talking to us about "Women in History" - everyone is welcome.

The Society has printed a lovely coloured Christmas card this year prepared from a superb photograph taken last winter in the snow by Mrs Glennis Hutchinson. The cards will be available at our October meeting and from all committee members. Order early to avoid disappointment.

To mark the Centenary of the National Trust Swalcliffe Society will be hosting an evening on 15 November - book the date now, details next month.

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ONE WORLD FAIR

SIBFORD VILLAGE HALL

WED. 25th OCTOBER

2.30 p.m. - 5.30 p.m.

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Refreshments Information

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OCTOBER 28th & 29th**

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Sibford Playgroup

(Held Mon./Weds./Friday mornings 9-12 for children aged 2-5)

The A.G.M. on 19th September was very well attended. A new committee was appointed, as follows:-

Chairman: Tricia Lunel; Vice Chairman: Julie Daniels;
Secretary: Caroline Harley; Treasurer: Jenny Friend;
Registration Secretary: Vicki Smith; Publicity Officer: Julie Bruggenswirth; Village Hall Representative: Penny Cox, and Equipment Supervisor: Sue Bishop.

If you would like to find out more about Sibford Playgroup, a booklet can be obtained from Julie Bruggenswirth on (01295) 788231.

Sibford Playgroup is a Registered Charity (No. 1026753)

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FRIENDSHIP CLUB

We would like to thank Mr & Mrs Lamb for the very enjoyable afternoon we spent at their home in September. A good time was had by all.

Future events are as follows:

TUESDAY 3 OCTOBER - Meeting in the Village Hall at 2.00pm.

TUESDAY 7 NOVEMBER - Trip to Worcester for Christmas shopping; coach leaving Sibford at 9.30am, should arrive back about 4.00pm. For further details please phone Mrs Webb (788211).

BH

S S S

SIBFORD SURGERY

From Saturday 9 September 1995 the normal **Saturday morning emergency service** will be at **EITHER Sibford Surgery OR Bloxham Surgery.**

Appointments cannot be booked in advance - if you require urgent medical advice on a Saturday morning, please telephone Sibford Surgery on 780213 for information on how to contact the doctor on duty.

Drs Heath & Spackman

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£900 RAISED at VILLAGE HALL SHINDIG & DISCO

Glorious sunshine and a pleasant cooling breeze helped the money roll in at the Village Hall Shindig on 22 July. Over £1,100 was taken during the afternoon and at the evening's disco, boosting the Village Hall funds by £900 - which is not quite enough to keep the Village Hall running throughout the year, but nevertheless a marvellous effort by all who took part.

Much of the detailed organisation was done by Roland and Carole Dean, but many thanks are due to the W.I. ladies for their teas, Friendship Club for their cake stall, Bernie Jones for the bottle stall, Susan Heath for the book stall, Jean White for her tombola stall, Monty Pearlman for manning the raffle, and numerous Playgroup parents who devised ingenious games for children and adults. Thanks also to Paul and his helpers from The Bishop Blaize who kept the beer drinkers happy!

Very many thanks to everyone who participated and contributed to a very successful event.

S.B.

SIBFORD GOWER PRIMARY SCHOOL - CHRISTMAS CARDS

If you would like to support your local primary school by ordering your Christmas cards from the Webb Ivory catalogue, please contact:

FERRIS - Bernie Jones (780343)

GOWER - Petra Berry (780462) or Sue Mattinson (780471)

BURDROP - Verity Stanley (780729)

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SIBFORD FERRIS PARISH COUNCIL

The seat for the bus stop has been chosen now and will be installed soon. The clapgates opposite Little London have been further delayed due to the dry weather but hopefully they will be in position before too long.

The Parish Council have received a lot of useful information recently and it seems to be covering services from the cradle to the grave. There is information about Oxfordshire Children's information Service which helps establish out of school play schemes. There is a notice about this on the notice board. I do have further information.

The organisation Dialability has sent us information. They deal with people with disabilities of all ages and can advise on a whole range of aids, adaptations, services etc. They operate from Oxford and until now, people have needed to travel down there if they needed face to face advice. A telephone advice service has always been available. They are now expanding to a mobile centre which will travel around the villages. I have more information about this too.

We have had correspondence from the Council for the Protection of Rural England concerning a campaign against the increase of rural traffic. They tell us that the official forecast of traffic growth suggests that traffic on rural roads will increase by at least 127% by the year 2025. This is quite a frightening thought. We have been asked to let them know of any concerns that we have and the Parish Council has responded in terms of speeding through the village, diminishing bus service, and the fact that bigger and bigger lorries are being allowed on to rural roads. If you have any other concerns that you would like to raise with them, you could either let me know and I will pass it on, or you could contact the C.P.R.E. direct.

I have several information leaflets available. The new bus and rail map is out and I have put some copies in the Post Office. I have information too about the Frozen Meal Service which has just been implemented County wide by the Social Services Department following a successful pilot scheme in Oxford. This involves the delivery of frozen meals to elderly people who are unable to prepare their own. There is a wide choice of menu and a special freezer and a system for re-heating is supplied too. If you know of anyone who would be likely to benefit from this service, you could either let me know or phone the duty officer in the Social Services on Banbury 252421 direct.

Finally, there are still some V.E. day mugs waiting for collection at the Randalls at Home Close so if you know of anyone under 11 who has not had one still, please send them along.

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ANYONE for SCRABBLE?

There will be a Scrabble Drive in Tadmarton Village Hall on Wednesday 25 October at 2.00pm.

If possible bring a board. Proceeds in aid of Village Hall.

B Wright (780402)

M Pedder (780285)



Young Scene

Hello and welcome to Young Scene.

An update on the recent Young Scene village quiz.

If you have visited the village pond recently, you will have noticed that there are only three ducks. However there were four ducks on the pond when the answers to the quiz about our village went to print.

Something to make:

October 31st is Halloween so how about making a Spooky Halloween Mobile?

You will need:

card (preferably black, but you can always paint your card black)

a paper plate (if black card is unavailable)

gold and silver stars

shiny foil paper

string

black thread

scissors

glue

1) Draw a circle on to the black card by drawing around a plate. If you are using a paper plate paint this black and leave to dry.

2) Cut the circle out and cut into a spiral shape.

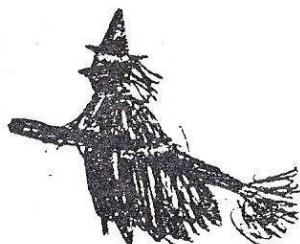
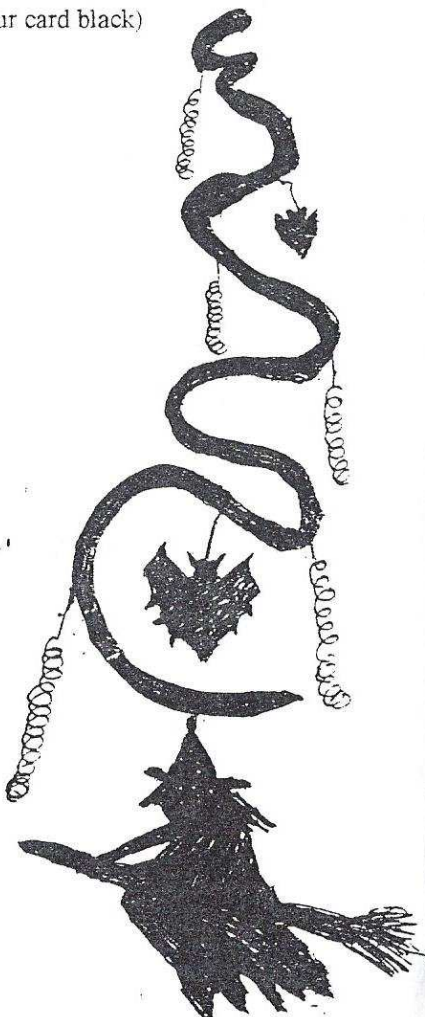
3) Decorate the spiral with gold and silver stars and suspend with string.

4) Draw bats, witches, spiders, cats and other spooky shapes on to card and cut them out. (Remember to paint these black if you are not using black card).

5) Use black thread to hang these shapes from the spiral.

6) Cut strips of shiny foil paper and coil them round a pencil.

Then carefully hang these from the spiral.



Here are two recipes for you to try.

They are ideal for a Halloween treat! Younger readers will need a grown-up to help them.

Deadman's Fingers

Serves at least 12

250g plain flour

125g margarine

125 cheese, grated

6 tablespoons milk

125ml tomato ketchup

salt and pepper



Sift the flour into a bowl. Rub in the margarine until the mixture resembles fine breadcrumbs. Season well and sprinkle in 85g of the cheese.

Make a well in the centre and stir in 5 tablespoons of the milk. Use your fingers to knead the mixture together to make a soft, but not sticky, dough.

Knead lightly on a floured surface and roll out thinly. Brush the dough lightly with the remaining milk and sprinkle over the remaining cheese. Use a sharp knife and cut carefully into fingers about 1cm wide.

Put onto a greased baking sheet and place in a preheated oven at 200 C. 400 F. Gas 6 for 10 - 12 minutes, until golden brown. Cool on a wire rack. Serve with tomato ketchup for dipping - and ENJOY!

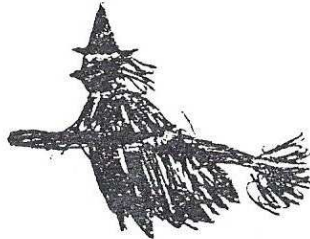
Brimstone Brew

Makes 2 litres

1 litre carton vanilla ice-cream

1 litre bottle lemonade

1 litre bottle cola



Cut the ice-cream into 24 small cubes. Put on a baking sheet and freeze until the ice-cream is hard.

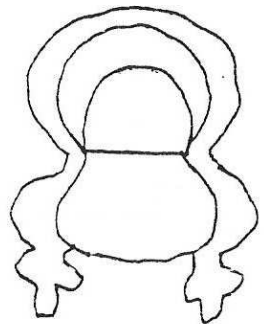
Fill cups or glasses two-thirds full with the fizzy drink of your choice and float 2 ice-cream cubes on the top of each.

Just how clever are you?

Here is something for you to puzzle over until the solution is printed next month.

This chair was drawn in one continuous line, without the pen being removed from the page and without any part of the line being covered twice. Can you work out how? You will need to trace this one.

That is all for now, so until next month- have fun and keep busy.



EXCELLENT RESULTS at SIBFORD SCHOOL

SIBFORD School, in Sibford Ferris, fared better than it did last year in the GCSE exams. Sixty-three pupils took the exams at the private Quaker school and 40 per cent of them achieved five or more A to C passes, two per cent more than last year.

The cream of the crop included Lynne Mather, of South Newington, who returned from holiday in Australia hours before to learn she had 10 passes in-

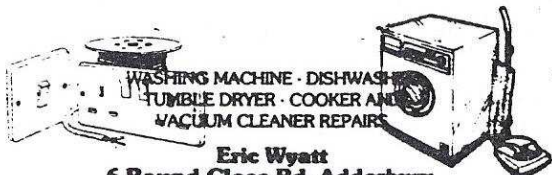
cluding three As and two A*s. Others with top grades included Mollie Tustian from Epwell and Greg Austin from Hook Norton.

Headmaster John Dunston said: "We are extremely pleased at the excellent results achieved by our pupils.

"The trend of recent years has continued, with the proportion of pupils gaining five or more passes up yet again for the fourth time in five years."

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Do you care for someone in your family, a friend or a neighbour who is either ill or disabled? Do you need information, help or support? Christine from the North Oxfordshire Carers Centre will be available at the Sibford Surgery every Tuesday afternoon between 1.00 - 3.00 Please ring 0345 125546 to arrange your appointment, Christine can visit you in your own home if that would be more convenient. There will also be a carers notice board in the surgery with information and newsletters, please take information to any of your neighbours or friends who may be caring. The Carers 'Centres' information, advice and support service is free and confidential. It is tailor-made to your individual needs.

Christine Stanbridge
Carers Support Worker

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OPEN MORNING

Friday

13th October 1995

9.45 am - 12.15 pm

Phone Janet Dunkin - Admissions Secretary
01295 780441

SIBFORD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

As a priority, we must apologize to Carol Dean whose name was somehow omitted from the list of Cup Winners at the Show, in last month's Scene. In fact, she took the premier award in Section 'B' - Plants and Flowers - the Mrs. F. Padbury Cup. Forgiveness is hoped for!

Also in regard to the Show, a pair of glasses (probably lady's) was left on the stage of the Hall at the end of the day. Please ring 780601 if you believe them to be yours.

The 30 or so members at our meeting on the 13th. of September, thoroughly enjoyed a most interesting illustrated talk from Mr. A. Rawlings of Upper Boddington, on the subject of those essential workers in the garden - bees.

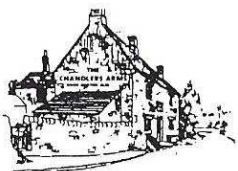
At the October meeting on the 11th., Keith Hicks will be telling and showing us how to excel at taking photographs in the garden. This will be preceded by a brief A.G.M. More committee members are needed for this very rewarding job, so please don't be too shy to put forward your own name.

The speaker for our 8th. of November meeting has not yet been confirmed but will be advised next month. However, on December 13th., we will follow our now traditional pattern of an informal pictorial flower quiz (presented by Roger Powell), followed by free seasonal refreshments.

Do please try to keep all these dates free. Members or not, we will look forward to seeing you.

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LEO CLUB NEWS

The September LEO Club meeting, at the home of Vivienne Scouse, included a delicious supper, with wine, using the varied items of food brought along by the members. In view of the difficulty of getting speakers for our relatively small group, it was decided, for the present, to meet for relaxed evenings of *conversazione* and, of course, refreshments.

The next meeting will be on **Tuesday 17 October** at 8.00pm at 9 Barley Close in the Gower, the home of Maureen Warden, who will provide coffee & biscuits to help the conversation along.

There will be no December meeting so our 'Christmas' meeting will be in **November**, with seasonal fare (mince pies, etc) provided by members; this will be hosted by Greta Baadsgaard.

In January, we hope to have an 'evening out' at a hostelry for our New Year's dinner; any suggestions from members for future meetings would be greatly appreciated.

New members are always welcome to join in the informal gatherings of our Ladies Evening Out Club. Just phone Vivienne Scouse for details (788320).

§ § §

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§ § §

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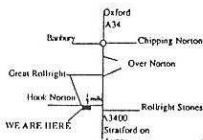
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HISTORIC CHURCHES SPONSORED RIDE

The ninth of September dawned sunny and bright. After much planning of routes to gain the most churches and avoiding most main roads, and including quick routes home in the case of bad weather or exhaustion, we set off. A cloudless day as we sped down our first big hill and pushed up the other side. We bagged our first four churches without problems (Great Rollright had a series of photos showing works carried out with financial help from the Historic Churches Trust), but we sped straight past Over Norton chapel. We were directed back to find a little chapel with lovely flowers.

After finding the four churches in Chippy we headed for Churchill. A barbecue was in full swing at All Saints church, but we opted for a sun-warmed tomb at the much older and quieter Old Church to eat our sandwiches. After calling at Kingham we set out to discover St Peter's at Cornwell. Leaving our bikes a quarter of a mile distant we trekked over stiles to the little church which holds fortnightly services. I can't imagine a very large congregation unless the Lord of the Manor orders all subjects to attend.

After calling at Salford we headed cross-country up a steep bridleway towards Long Compton. If anyone would like to hear the joke about St Peter, Jesus, Joseph and Pinocchio I'm sure the gentleman at Long Compton Congregational will be happy to tell you. This building also boasted a tiered balcony ideal for bombing worshippers on the lower deck. After calling at Whichford and Sibford we ended a very enjoyable day.

Well done to Rhiannon and Kayleigh who totalled twenty-one churches. Thanks to everyone who manned the churches throughout the day. It is much nicer to see someone taking the trouble to greet you and very often offer you a range of refreshments. It is a great way to spend the day as well as finding lovely little churches, chapels and meeting houses you would never bother to seek out otherwise.

J.G.



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W. I. NEWS & INFORMATION

W. I. LADIES DAY

ALL ladies were invited, and for those who accepted, it proved an exceptional bargain!

After morning coffee and home-made biscuits came the Fashion Show, versatility being the keyword - a few simple accessories (including a piece of cardboard and rubber band!) transforming a simple daytime two-piece into an ensemble fit to grace a dinner party. A large selection of co-ordinates were then modelled and admired, followed by much "trying on".

An appetising ploughman's lunch preceded the afternoon's agenda, commencing with an amazing revelation of the contents of the speaker's two shopping bags - her entire luggage when on frequent globe-trotting tours. Her captive audience could have expressed no greater surprise had her final delve produced the traditional white rabbit! Interspersed with many humorous anecdotes, Mrs Francis' talk was warmly applauded.

Tea and cake then fortified us for the short business meeting when we were reminded of our forthcoming activities, including 'taking over' the W.I. Hall at Moreton on Oct 17th when we provide coffee & biscuits and a welcome rest for market-day shoppers, then tempt them to purchase home-made produce, etc.

If you should be in Moreton that morning, do drop in. And again an invitation to all ladies to join us at our next meeting, **Tuesday 10 October** at 2 pm, when the speaker's title is "A Chance in Six Million - the Holocaust" - it should be riveting.

S S S

FRANCIS MORDAUNT MSSCh, MBChA

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Frank Lascelles (née Stevens), 1875-1934:
Pageant Master and Lord of the Manor of Sibford Gower

I am researching the life and work of Frank Lascelles who was known in his time as 'the man who staged the empire' because of the elaborate pageants he organised which often had an imperial theme. I would like to appeal to the residents of Sibford especially those who knew Lascelles, to share any memories or information they may have with me, or correct any of the information that follows. I am particularly keen to trace any of Lascelles' personal papers that have survived. Robin Spicer has kindly agreed to pass any replies on to me, or I can be contacted directly though my university department.

In 1905 a new meaning was given to the word 'pageant' when Louis Napoleon Parker produced his elaborate outdoor civic 'folk play' at Sherbourne which was quickly imitated by others. Usually a combination of dramatic sketches, dances and singing, the theme of these modern civic pageants was usually the history of the place where they were staged. Pageants were a distinctive twentieth century spectacular dramatic form of entertainment, relying on a cast of hundreds, if not thousands, of amateurs of all classes. They were said to induce local and national pride and were thought to be a good way of educating the public. They remained popular, often as a means of raising money for charity, until the second world war. Pageants were also produced in other English-speaking countries in this period, notably the United States.

Frank Lascelles was born Frank William Thomas Charles Stevens on 30 July 1875. His father was the Rev. Edward Thomas Stevens, the vicar of Sibford Gower. Lascelles attended the village school and won his way to read English Literature at Keble College, Oxford, but did not take a degree. He was a leading light of the Oxford University Dramatic Society, notably playing Romeo in 1898 when he was named an 'Isis Idol' in the student magazine. After Oxford, he worked as an actor in London between 1904 and 1906 and understudied Sir Herbert Beerbohm Tree at His Majesty's Theatre, appearing in several productions in his own right. It was during this time that he changed his name. It is no accident that the name 'Lascelles' had nobler connotations than 'Stevens'. Frank Lascelles was, according to some, rather arrogant and distant, although others said he had a 'magnetic personality', and he seems to have invented a grander persona for himself that misted over his humble origins. Indeed, he held the title of Lord of the Manor of Sibford Gower (which I understand he probably acquired rather than inherited) and created a new manor house out of an old barn in the village, despite the fact that there was already a manor house standing. Lascelles was a prominent member of the local community; he was a member of the Parish Council and of the Town Estate Trustees and also helped to produce charitable plays for the village.

His first pageant was the Oxford Historical Pageant held in 1907 which was a great success, despite initial reservations by the University authorities and a student riot. The following year he organised a pageant as part of the celebrations of the Tercentenary of Canada at Quebec, in front of the King and Queen. Lascelles enlisted the services of the Iroquois Indians and was made an honorary chief under the name of Tehonikonraka, 'the man of infinite resource'. In 1909 he organised the Bath Historical Pageant and was Master of Pageantry at the celebration of the

opening of the Union Parliament of South Africa in Cape Town. He managed to persuade several indigenous peoples to participate alongside the British and Boers, despite being warned that he would never succeed, and was made a chief of the Basutos under the name of Rakalello, 'the father of wonderful thoughts'. The following year he organised the Pageant of London with 40 scenes performed by a cast of 15,000 volunteers from all the Boroughs of London, at the Festival of Empire and Imperial Exhibition at Crystal Palace. It was the first public event that the new King and Queen attended and they held their Coronation party there for an audience of 250,000. In 1912 Lascelles was Master of the Pageant at the Coronation Durbar at Calcutta, in which over 300,000 indigenous peoples and troops participated, and also produced Thomas Hardy's *The Dynasts*. In 1923 he was Master of the Harrow Pageant and, the following year, Master of the Bristol Pageant (Cradle of the Empire) and the Pageant of Empire at the British Empire Exhibition, Wembley. The latter was performed by a cast of over 15,000 volunteers from London and the Dominions, as well as an assortment of exotic animals, to an audience of over 120,000. He received laurel wreaths from all the Dominions and Colonies as thanks for his work in a public ceremony at Wembley. A number of local historical pageants followed in Carlisle (1928), Stoke-on-Trent (Wedgwood Bicentenary Celebrations) (1930), Rochester (1931), Bradford (1931), Barking (1931), Leicester (1932), Essex (1932), and Kent (1932).

Lascelles also practised sculpture; among his subjects were the Prince of Wales, the Duke of Connaught, Earl Grey and the Aga Khan. He sculpted a memorial to his mother, Isabella Hannah, in the church at Sibford Gower, as well as painting a Roll of Honour. He also contributed prose and verse to periodicals. His recreations included rose-growing, as well as music and outdoor life. In 1932 *Frank Lascelles: Our Modern Orpheus* (edited by the Earl of Darnley) was published in his honour by Oxford University Press.

Towards the end of his life, ill health restricted Lascelles' finances and he died in poverty on 23 May 1934 in rented rooms in Brighton. At the time of his death extensive renovations were being carried out on the Manor House and several of the obituaries suggest that these were adversely affected by his diminishing finances. His dying wish that his estate should be used by his friend Frank Brangwyn, the painter, to set up a 'School of Nations' where children from all over the world could study was unable to be realised as, despite a gross value of £12,899 8s. 1d., the net value of his personal estate was nil. As Lascelles never married, his main beneficiary was his gardener Ewart Bodfish, of 'The Yews', Sibford Gower, and his sister-in-law Mrs Harry Stevens.

Dr. Deborah Ryan
Department of Geography
Royal Holloway
University of London
Egham Hill
Egham
Surrey TW20 0EX

SIBFORD BADMINTON CLUB

The season is once again with us and our league fixtures are now under way. We play in the Friends School Sports Hall every Wednesday from 7.30 until 9.30pm and any new players of any standard are welcome to come along. We would particularly like to see more ladies as we are trying to put together a ladies team and hope to set up a few friendly matches for later in the season.

* S *

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION - POPPY APPEAL 1995 Remembrance Sunday - 12 November

This is a special year, can we hope for giving to match, thereby helping those special people who served and those whose sacrifice needs support.

To my fellow collectors - please have your walking boots ready for 30 October to 12 November; as usual, please let me know early of any difficulties.

John Mulley - Hon. Co-ordinator

* S *

'Lost' Cat Returns Home

After several weeks absence, Thomas, the tabby cat reported lost in last month's Scene, walked nonchalantly back into his home, completely oblivious of the anguish he had been causing. After a wash & brush-up and a good feed he was as right as ninepence.

Eleanor wishes to thank all those who helped in the search or who reported possible sightings during Thomas's wanderings.

* S *

Sibford Village Hall Quiz. October 28th 7.15 pm.

Teams of Four to Six people to answer written questions.

Supper provided at half time, Wine for sale.

Raffle. All this for only £1.50 per person.

Entries by 20th Oct. to Adrian or Helen Lamb (780380)
or Joanna Gilkes (788190)

CHURCH SERVICES

Society of Friends	Sunday at 10.30 am
Methodist	Sunday at 11.00 am
Roman Catholic Mass (Hook Norton)	Sunday at 11.00 am
(Brailes)	Sunday at 11.30 am
Baptist (Hook Norton)	Sunday at 10.30 am

Church of England, Holy Trinity, Sibford Gower

1 Oct	6.00PM	Benefice Eucharist at Tadmarton
8 "	10.00am	Holy Communion
14 "	5.30PM	Harvest Service followed by Bring & Share Supper in Village Hall (see below)
15 "	10.00am	Holy Communion
22 "	8.00am	Holy Communion
29 "	10.00am	Holy Communion

† † † † † † †

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH HARVEST THANKSGIVING SERVICE and SUPPER

The annual Harvest Thanksgiving Service will take place on Saturday 14 October at 5.30pm. Contributions of harvest produce to decorate the Church would be appreciated for Saturday morning and foodstuffs will afterwards be donated to Katharine House.

Immediately after the service there will be a 'self-supplied supper' in the Village Hall and there will, of course, be no charge. We hope that everyone who attends will bring food & drink for their party and to share with others. Everyone in the villages is invited, especially children. Ann Spicer (780690) has volunteered to coordinate the supper, so please ask her or Maureen Warden (788252) or Pat Bates (780384) if any advice is needed.

† † †

BIBLE STUDY GROUP

The first meeting of the fortnightly Bible Study Group, to be lead by Pastor Henry Edwards, will be on Thursday 12 October at 7.30pm at the home of Kathleen Winter, Cels Bield, Backside Lane in the Gower. Anyone interested in joining with us will be very welcome.

The passage for study is *St John's Gospel, Chapter 3, verses 1 to 13 - Nicodemus.*

SIBFORD BUS SERVICES

1. SIBFORD GOWER TOWN ESTATES CHARITY

Free Bus Service for Residents of Sibford Gower and Burdrop

			Depart	Return
Friday	6 & 20 Oct	to Banbury	10,00am	12,00noon
Wednesday	11 & 25 Oct	to Chippy	11,00am	1,00pm

The pick-up points are;	<u>Banbury Bus</u>	<u>Chippy Bus</u>
	Village Hall	Village Hall
	Crossroads	High Meadow
	High Meadow	Crossroads
		The Colony

2. REGULAR SERVICE - MIDLAND RED. 480 Sibford - Banbury

Monday - Saturday	Outward	Return (read up)
Sibford Gower Crossroads	7,30am	6,30pm
Sibford Ferris School	7,32	6,28
Banbury Cross	7,55	6,08
Banbury Bus Station	8,00am	6,05pm

3. REGULAR SERVICE - JEFFS COACHES, Shipston - Sibford - Banbury

Monday - Saturday	Outward		Return (read upwards)		
Sibford Gower School	09,45am	11,45am	11,45am	12,50pm	14,50pm
Sibford Ferris School	09,48	11,48	11,42	12,42	14,47
Banbury Cross	10,13	12,13pm	11,17	12,17	14,17
Banbury Bus Station	10,15am	12,15pm	11,15am	12,15pm	14,15pm

4. CHERWELL VILLAGER, Sibford - Banbury

*** TO USE THIS SERVICE, PHONE 263777 or 255863 THE DAY BEFORE ***

Wednesday only	Outward		Return (read up)
Sibford Gower	9,55am	1,15pm	1,15pm
Sibford Ferris	9,57	1,20	1,20
Banbury	10,50am	2,15pm	1,00pm

5. REGULAR SERVICE - MIDLAND RED, X60 Hook Norton-Banbury-Sibford-Tuesday only

	Outward	Return*	
Sibford Ferris	09,39am	2,15pm	* All return times are one hour later during School Holidays
Sibford Gower	09,41	2,13	
Shipston	09,55	1,59	
Stratford	10,25	1,30	
Coventry	10,55am	1,00pm	
		(read up)	

SIBFORD CRICKET CLUB
Win Promotion to Division II
 Full details, as well as batting & bowling honours list
 for the 1995 season, in next issue of the *Scene*.
Order your copy NOW to avoid disappointment.

* S *

*** FOUND ***

First - a pair of spectacles at the Horti Show.
Second - a blanket on the churchyard wall.
 If you are the owner of either (or both) of these items,
 please contact Gilian or David Soden (780543).

* S *

WEEKLY EVENTS

Guides	Hook Norton	Monday	evening
Indoor Bowls	Village Hall	Monday	2.00 - 4.00pm
Mobile Shop		Tuesday	10.00am - 4.00pm
Brownies	Village Hall	Tuesday	5.15 - 6.45pm
Mums & Toddlers	Gillett House	Wednesday	10.30am - 12noon
Fielding Day Centre	Friends School	Wednesday	12.30pm - 4.30pm
Beavers	Village Hall	Friday	4.30 - 5.45
Badminton	Friends School	Wednesday	7.30 - 9.30pm
Cub Scouts	Village Hall	Friday	6.00pm
Scouts	Village Hall	Friday	following Cubs
Playgroup	Village Hall	Mon, Wed, Fri	9.00am - 12noon

* * * S * * *

**FORTHCOMING
EVENTS**

DIARIST - Norman Nash (Tel 780275)

15 Nov	Wednesday	Swalcliffe Society Nat Trust Evening - p9	[780259]
18 Nov	Saturday	Sibford Church Bazaar 2.30pm	[780555]
24 Nov	Friday	Tadmorton Village Quiz	[788470]
2 Dec	Saturday	Sibford Methodist Church Coffee/Sale 10am	[780461]
9 Dec	Saturday	Sibford Playgroup Christmas Bazaar	[788231]

----- S -----

LOCAL CORRESPONDENT to BANBURY GUARDIAN - Sheila Baseby (Tel 780544)
 Copy for Guardian by FRIDAY please

LOCAL CHERWELL DISTRICT COUNCILLOR - David Green (Tel 780444)

THE DEADLINE for CONTRIBUTIONS
for the NOVEMBER SIBFORD SCENE will be
*** TUESDAY 17 OCTOBER ***
Contributions to Editor, Treasurer or Shop

* * *

CALENDAR for OCTOBER 1995

Tuesday 3rd Friendship Club meeting in Village Hall - see p11
 Wednesday 4th Mobile Library in Sibfords & Burdrop (2.25 - 4.20pm)
 Saturday 7th Scouts Paper Collection
 Tuesday 10th WI meeting - see p21
 Wednesday 11th Horti Society meeting - see p18
 Thursday 12th Bible Study Group first meeting - see p25
 Friday 13th Sibford School Open Morning - see p17
 X Saturday 14th Skip in the Gower - Acre Ditch
 Saturday 14th Harvest Service & Supper - see p25
 Tuesday 17th LEO Club meeting - see p19

TUESDAY 17th * DEADLINE for SIBFORD SCENE CONTRIBUTIONS *

Wednesday 18th Mobile Library in Sibfords & Burdrop (2.25 - 4.20pm)
 Thursday 19th Sibfords Society meeting - see p9
 Wednesday 25th BRING & BUY in aid of Guide Dogs - see p1
 Wednesday 25th One World Fair, Village Hall - see p9
 Wednesday 25th Scrabble Drive - Tadmarton Village Hall - see p13
 Saturday 28th Holy Trinity Church JUMBLE SALE; Village Hall - see p1
 Saturday 28th Sibford Village Hall QUIZ 95 - see pp2 & 24
 Sat/Sun 28/29 Tadmarton Crafts SALE for Kath House Hospice - see p9

CALENDAR for NOVEMBER (part)

Wednesday 1st Mobile Library in Sibfords & Burdrop (2.25 - 4.20pm)
 Saturday 4th Scouts Paper Collection
 Saturday 4th Playarea Group DISCO, Village Hall - see p1
 Tuesday 7th Friendship Club outing to Worcester - see p11

* **SIBFORD SCENE** *

Editor: Ray Henbrey, Virginia Cottage, H'k Norton Rd, Sibford Ferris (788265)
 Treasurer: Timothy Wimbush, The Rectory, Acre Ditch, Sibford Gower (780555)
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