

March 1997

Sibford Extra Scene

No. 1

Welcome to the first edition of 'Sibford Scene Extra'. I am very pleased with the response I have recieved from the regular contributors who I have contacted directly and the individuals who have written for the Scene for the first time. As you will see the results are wide ranging and I hope of interest.

Please let me know your likes and dislikes and meanwhile any contributions are gratefully recieved.

Adrian Lamb (780380)

Congratulations
to
Miss Kathleen Copley
on your
100th Birthday
5th March
1897 - 1997

Nature Notes.

Jan. 20th. Little owls are not native to this country and suffer more than most birds in cold weather. Today I was told of one that was picked up in a very bad way during the recent cold spell and kept indoors. Of the various foods offered to it tripe was definately it's favourite. It has now been released in much improved condition.

Jan. 23rd. At 9 o'clock this morning I looked out to see two foxes on the lawn showing interest in a cat that was standing up to them bravely. The cat worked its way steadily towards home while keeping a wary eye on them as they followed. At one point, when the cat turned again to face them, one of the foxes went round another way to come on the path on the other side of her and it looked as though she might become the meat in the sandwich but she did not panic and after a few moments the foxes gave way and let her pass. I felt that this charade could have been played out on many occasions when we were not around to see.

Feb. 3rd. An owl suddenly appeared over a low hedge near The Elm crossroads. I did not get much time to study it as it was being chased away by a crow but being out in the middle of the day at this time of the year supports my idea that it was a short-eared owl as they often winter here. A brambling was back at our bird table today after a few days away. It is now managing to get sunflower seed from our perspex globe feeder almost as efficiently as the greenfinches do.

Feb. 4th. We had a very smart male blackcap feeding on apples this morning but the coal tits that were so numerous last autumn have not shown up again so it is likly that the severe weather did take its toll. Since the thaw we have not seen more than one at a time and that only occasionally.

Feb. 10th. The new plantation in Knownhill (on the Sibford Ferris to Hook Norton road) is attracting a good variety of birds largely I expect, because the trees were planted into a crop of winter barley and it is the barley that attracts the flock of pigeons and seeds of the annual weeds that grew unsprayed amongst it, that the flock of yellowhammers and finches come for. In fact that valley now has several areas that are attractive to birds and only needs some bigger hedges or trees to link them together in order to achieve it's full wild life potential.

Have You Oiled Your Willow?

The cold, dark months of January and February seem an odd time to be thinking of the balmy days of summer and the cricket season. Nevertheless, preparations for 1997 are well underway. Sibford Cricket Club AGM on Monday 3rd March at 8.00 pm in the Bishop Blaize (our generous sponsor) will be a time not only to set the scene for the coming season but also the time to reflect on the events of 1996.

Last season began disastrously with the first win not recorded until June. As a result the league effort proved to be an uphill struggle but by the end of the season, the team performed very well and managed to secure a mid table position. In a similar vein, the Sunday side on paper did not appear to do well, but in reality had many excellent games. The mid-week evening matches fared better with the successful defence of the Long Compton Shield.

Notable performances with the bat come from Ian Wollerton, Dave Simms, Dave Pratt and the ever reliable Ron Morbey. Tom Holliday and Simon Chard shared much of the bowling with Roger Gilbert chipping in when not injured. Some excellent fielding also came from Jason Barton and Kevin Peachey.

A major feature of last season was the greater involvement and contribution of an increasing number of younger players. This is particularly encouraging as it has been a deliberate club policy which it is hoped to continue. However, new players of all ages from the village are encouraged to join us in 1997. Come along to the AGM or net practice 6pm to 7pm every Wednesday in April at Sibford School Sports Hall. You will be very welcome. Also, look out next month in 'The Scene' for our full fixture list.

For further information ring Chris Wollerton - 780598 or Adrian Lamb - 780380.

PEGGY HASSELL (formerly Gordon)

Although Peggy Hassell, who died last July, lived for only 2 years in Sibford Ferris, she made many good friends - hence the demand for this belated notice.

Peggy lived through interesting times. She was born a year before the first world war in Manchuria (north-east China), where her father combined a medical practice with prospecting for gold. Returning to the UK in 1918 via the Pacific and USA, she was torpedoed in the Atlantic and taken by the US navy back to New York. Once home the family settled in a medical practice in Bridport, Peggy eventually going to Malvern Girls College. After school she spent two years as an au pair in Berlin, where, in 1932-3, she saw at first hand the gathering of the political storm which was soon to engulf us all.

By the outbreak of the second world war Peggy had a husband, Archie Gordon, and two little boys. While Archie would spend the day rationalising industry for the Board of Trade, in the evenings Peggy would throw herself into the war effort, driving ambulances in the blitz or manning a lathe in the nearby munitions factory. Peace took the family to Brussels, where Archie worked first on reparations and later as a journalist much involved with the birth of the institutions now known as the European Union. Peggy (now with a little daughter) became a well-known hostess in the international world of press, business and diplomacy and she did much to bring together the English speaking community, launching a club and writing a weekly piece ('Fanny's Column') for the 'colony' newspaper.

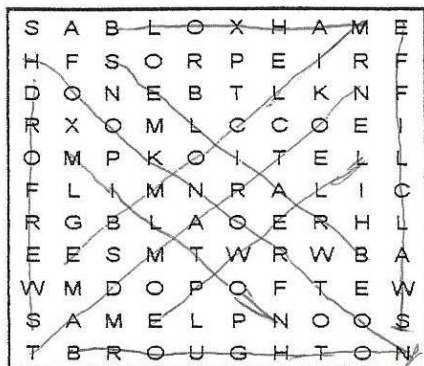
When Archie died in 1977, Peggy moved to Long Compton to be close to her son Andrew, who had now settled in Sibford Gower. For a time she shared her house with a cousin of Archie's, The Rev Alan Gordon, but after 7 years (during which Alan died) there occurred the storybook romance with John Hassell, a childhood friend from Devon, not seen or heard of for 50 years. This led to 9 years of happy marriage in Devon followed by two of second widowhood at Garden Cottage in Sibford Ferris.

Peggy had a wonderful fund of anecdotes from her varied and colourful life. But what made her so widely loved was her sincere personal interest in everybody she met and her unfailing sense of irreverent fun. Even during her last 10 days at Katherine House her room was often filled with laughter. And she knew the life stories of all her nurses. I believe they miss her as much as we all do.

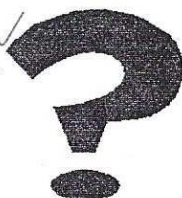
AG

Word Search

Can you find these ten local village names in the grid. They may be printed forward or backwards, up or down.



- TADMARTON ✓
- SWALCLIFFE ✓
- BRAILES ✓
- EPWELL ✓
- HOOK NORTON ✓
- BROUGHTON ✓
- SWERFORD ✓
- MILCOMBE ✓
- BLOXHAM ✓
- MILTON ✓



DAMAGE TO SIBFORD VILLAGE HALL.

Due to an unsupervised party on December 14th. and despite parents in the village having signed to take responsibility for possible damage, the Hall suffered over £225 worth of damage. The fire blanket was stolen, one fire extinguisher stolen, all fire appliances emptied and cleaning equipment vanished. All of these items had to be replaced before the hall could be used again because the hall was completely unprotected in the event of a fire. This means that deposits on events will have to be raised to £100 to deter those who are out only to abuse a very good facility which is for the use of us all.

The Sibford Village Hall Committee.

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A Farmer Writes.

There is no better sight in spring than ewes and their young lambs. I often take a few minutes just watching, the mothers grazing, the lambs playing, darting back and forth, jumping, regularly running back to suckle. At this time of year I always think how wonderful sheep are.

I have to confess however, this sentiment does vary greatly during the whole season. The reason for this continually changing attitude is the constant battle that has to be fought against a sheep's instinctive nature.

From birth, a sheep has two goals.

Firstly, to escape from whatever confinement he or she was put in, whether indoor pen, paddock or field. (the saying 'grass is always greener over the fence' seems particularly relevant)

Secondly, To kill themselves. I have experience of many successful attempts in our own flock in recent years. These include drownings in both streams and troughs, hangings from bale strings, wire netting fences, twisted briars entangled in neck wool, not to mention the many ailments which are available to contract. A particular speciality is to crowd around tall trees, telegraph poles or, even better, metal pylons when lightening is imminent.

If (Manchester United like) the double can be achieved, i.e. dying whilst in the wrong field, a place in ovine heaven is assured.

Feelings of exasperation, frustration, downright loathing through to extreme irritation occur regularly.

Questions, such as 'who in their right minds keeps sheep? Why not plough up the grassland and plant wheat? (wheat never gets out!) Why bother? Is it all worth it?' frequently cross my mind. Deep down however I know that the pleasure gained in the next few weeks more than compensates for the past hassles endured and the inevitable troubles to come.

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LEO CLUB News

At their February meeting, LEO members discussed a number of familial topics, including how & when to bring grandchildren up to speed on matters avian & apian.

It was such an enjoyable evening that it was decided to continue discussions at the next meeting, which will be at 8pm on Tuesday 18 March at the home of Jean Puddle in Sycamore Close in the Gower.

MH

S S S

JUMBLE SALE AND CAKE STALL SATURDAY 22nd. MARCH 2pm. in the Village Hall.

In aid of the Special Care Baby Unit
at the John Radcliffe Hospital.

Please deliver jumble, Bric-a-Brac & Cakes to the Village Hall on the morning of the sale.

Your kind support of this very worthy cause will be much appreciated.
Vicki Smith.

The Millennium Panel/s

We have enjoyed friendly and productive workshops each Sunday at 2.30pm and one evening each week at the Sibford Gower Endowed Primary School. We have made a positive start with the practical work. We do want this to be a real village project. You do not need practical skills to take part so do come along and see what we are doing.

Mollie Mulley 780629



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CALLING ALL YOUNG PEOPLE

If you feel there isn't enough for you to do in the village this may be good news! As part of a scheme organised by the Oxfordshire Association for Young People a Double Decker bus has been fitted out as a Mobile Youth Club. It is staffed by 3 youth workers who will visit rural villages to set up activities for young people in their own villages. The whole scheme is funded by the National Lottery Charities Board.

Now the 'not so good news!' They will only come once a week for 8 weeks, parking next to a community/village hall. There will be quiet activities on the 'Bus' and sports activities in the hall run by the 'Activities Team'. During the 8 weeks they will set up and train interested volunteers so that the club can continue after the 'Bus' has moved on to another village. The scheme is scheduled to run for 3 years in total.

Before your Parish councils put the Sibfords forward for consideration to be included in the scheme we need to know what YOU think. Would you support it? Would you be interested to help run it? The 'Activities team' will come out once a month to give volunteers help with new activities and the County Council Youth Worker will be available for practical support and help.

If there is a need and the support is there this could be a great opportunity - please let your parish councillors know or contact the PC clerks :- Petra Berry 780462 or David Moir 788241. Further details about the scheme are available from Susan Healy - 'Bus Development officer' on 01865 247427.

SIBFORD PLAYGROUP

Sibford Playgroup is a Registered Charity (No.1026753)

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Account of the Great Snow Storm of January 18th to 19th 1881

written by Joshua Lamb a few days afterwards.

The severe weather which culminated in the great snow storm of January 18th to 19th having somewhat abated gives me an opportunity of recording some of the difficulties we have recently passed through.

It was after many sharp nights during which the thermometer seldom registered less than 28 degrees of frost (Fahrenheit)[-16°C] that on the morning of Tuesday January 18th we found the wind blowing strong from the North East with ten degrees of frost; the gale gradually increased in intensity until it blew a hurricane and the cold was almost unbearable to the strongest and most enduring, no one venturing out of doors except those of us who had livestock to attend to or for some other reason were compelled to do so.

About two o'clock in the morning the snow which had fallen a day or two previously and was perhaps two inches deep, began drifting and a clearance of all exposed places was soon made together with large quantities of dust from the ploughed fields which might be seen coming like a cloud towards you and ultimately lay many inches thick under all the hedgerows and in sheltered spots and in many places will require carting away when the snow has all melted. Great damage was done at this juncture to thatched buildings and ricks. About dinner time it commenced to snow and we were soon surrounded by the most terrific storm ever known by anyone now living in this neighbourhood. It came so thick and fast that it was impossible to see any distance in front of us drifting very much all the time. The snow blew into my face and neck and the warmth of the flesh partially melted it till it became one solid mass of ice and snow, my mouth, eyes and nose being the only parts visible when I reached home at night and at times they too were almost closed by it, great icicles formed even on my eyelashes and I found the effect of it for several days, my cheek swelling where one great cake of ice stuck all day.

We had got the turnip sheep in an exposed situation where hay racks and hurdles were blown(?) about like ninepins by the blast so we took them away into a meadow where we found many of them snugly buried under the blow next morning.

The storm continued through the night and all next day and closed about six in the evening having snowed continuously for about thirty hours. All the roads which lay at right angles to the storm were liberally choked with snow and it took ten men a week to open them in our village, the drifts in many places being level with the hedges. A great number of lives have been lost in the snow, two strong men that I well knew were frozen to death, one of them being Henry Hosting(?) of Banbury who was out with a load of flour from Grimsbury Mill and was overpowered on his return near Deddington and took refuge in a hovel where his body was found eight days afterwards. The other was a wool buyer of Oxhill named Allitt who was returning from the Banbury Twelfth Fair and was frozen to death between Epwell and Shenington.

The week succeeding the storm was also very severe, the thermometer generally registering 20 degrees of frost (Fahrenheit)[-11°C] each night and on one occasion it went below zero.[-18°C]

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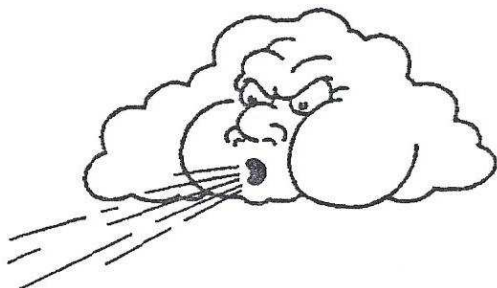


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In Memory of Kate Long.

It was good to see such a large gathering of friends at the lovely thanksgiving service for Kate on January 20th. 1997, and all the tributes paid.

We had been friends for 47 years and shared many happy times (and a few sad ones) together. Kate was a very special person, always ready to help or give good advice, when needed. I would like to say thank you for all she did for me and my family.

Our hearts go out to Jill and David and their families at this time. Later when she became ill, she bore it with her usual cheerfulness and great courage. We shall miss you Kate, you have enriched our lives and left us a wonderful example.

L. Baggaley

W. I. NEWS & INFORMATION

Sibford Womens Institute was formed in 1928 when life was much slower and centred around agriculture. Transport was not easily available and village folk tended to stay close to home for their friendships and entertainment.

We are now a small but very friendly and lively group of ladies. We meet on the second Tuesday of the month at two o'clock in the Village Hall. We start with notices and news, and then on to a speaker or some other interesting or mind-broadening activity. Refreshments and a chat with friends to plan other get-togethers finish our meetings.

Recently we had a tour behind the scenes of the Shakespeare and Swan theatres followed by tea at Wellesbourne Water Mill. We sponsored a coffee morning for Hearing Dogs for the Deaf. We have planted bulbs around the Village Name signs, and come Spring we should have a lovely show. We plan to help the new Banbury Cancer Care Unit, and David Kossoff will speak at our October Group Meeting (Members Only).

Yes, we do make cakes, but there is so much more to WI. Join us - you are sure of a warm welcome.

Home Alone?

More and more people are now working from home and the trend is likely to continue. E-mail, the Internet, the fax machine and the computer are making the conventional office redundant.

The Industrial Revolution created the belief that "big is beautiful" and that there are economies of scale. Before the Revolution, people stayed at home and did a bit of weaving on Monday, metalwork on Tuesday, carpentry on Wednesday, digging the vegetables on Thursday and, TGIF, brewing beer on Fridays!

Then came the weaving, metalwork, woodworking and food manufacturing factories, massive farms and big breweries. Concentration with specialisation led to efficiency. It happened everywhere, huge general hospitals were built and the word "specialist" became the order of the day. The tool was replaced by the machine. The trouble was that specialisation led to demarcations and inefficiency.

Then, with the advent of modern technology it all started to change. Your local chemist no longer sent your holiday photos off to be processed in a large factory, they could do them in the back of the shop. Computers ceased to be room-sized, they became small enough to put on your desk at home and, for the last few years, they have more or less doubled in power and halved in price each year. GP

surgeries started to perform minor operations which hitherto had been done at the huge general hospitals. A lot of new businesses were craft based. Small breweries started to compete with the giants. Organic farming started again. The tool started to replace the machine! We entered the Post Industrial Revolution.

The problem with all this for a lot of people is that work is a social activity. It provides companionship outside the home and a structure to the day. Home-working can be very lonely.

A number of villages have now set up "Home-Alone Clubs" to cater for their home-workers. As well as having social get togethers, clubs encourage their members to pool resources and generally support each others activities.

If you would be interested in forming such a club in Sibford, give me a ring. I have no idea how many people would be involved and we may need to spread the net to neighbouring villages. Anybody who works from home would be welcome, whether they are an academic, farmer, computer programmer, sales person, crafts person, or even a young Mum who wants to stay in touch with the world of paid employment. Two and three-man-bands are as welcome as one-man-bands. At the risk of being politically incorrect, retired people or people with no intention of working for money from home would be excluded.

David Moir 788241

Sydney 2000. The Olympics.

Mike Ethrington-Smith is a wellknown builder of three day event courses. He has been asked to bid for the job of building the course for use at the Olympic games in Sydney in the year 2000. Here is his diary of the events leading up to the decision being made by the organisers about whom the contract would be awarded too.

3/10/96. UK. Fax arrives from FEI (Federation Equestre Internationale, The governing body of all equestrian sports worldwide) informing me that three of us have been nominated to SOCOG (Sydney Organising Committee for the Olympic Games) from whom they select one for the job of Course Designer for the Three Day Event at the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games.

23/10/96. USA Working at Fairhill International Horse Trials in Maryland. Fax unexpectedly arrives from SOCOG requesting that the three of us (another Brit, a German and myself) go to Sydney on 4th November for six days for a site inspection of the proposed equestrian facility/venue. Need to take this seriously and so call home, I am UK time, wake everybody up and try to have meaningful conversation about any other commitments scheduled for early November.

24/10/96. USA Another fax from down under saying that tickets had been booked - this is serious! Fax back saying hang on for 24 hours. Better half calls to say that all commitments rearranged - where would I be without her?

25/10/96. USA Fax from Sydney to say that all flights and accommodation booked. It is happening.

30/10/96. UK Back home for a couple of days and catch up with everything.

2/11/96. Weekend in Ireland at Blarney Castle to look at the courses for their event which will take place next June. Kiss 'The Stone!' - could this be a good omen?

4/11/96. Off to Sydney, Arrive 6/11/96 - what happened to Tuesday? Taken to hotel, quick shower and off to first meeting/briefing. Two hours later taken to proposed site 40 minutes from City Centre; first impression is rather depressing, it reminds me how fortunate we are in the UK. The sheer enormity of the task hits me. The site is extremely hilly, it is clay, it is not very big and it is a mess - what's more, the best piece of ground is out of bounds! - and yet this has to be transformed into an international equestrian centre and the venue for the equestrian and mountain biking events at the Olympics. At dinner it transpires that we all have the same feelings (unless

ofcourse this is gamesmanship)

7/11/96. Explore City Centre before breakfast. The hotel is right next to the Harbour Bridge and the Opera House; decide to come to Olympics if we can afford it even if the job goes to one of my colleagues. Another long meeting when we are each given mountains of paperwork, various maps and plans plus several studies of the site considering issues such as environmental impact, archaeological and historical remains, flora fauna etc, all containing some very long and rather off-putting words! Sneaky feeling that there is more to come. Further site meeting; advised not to wear shorts in the long grass - snakes.

Terrific!

8/11/96. Wolfgang has to leave. 10.30am, meet Deputy Minister for the Olympics who is almost young enough to be one of our children. Press the flesh etc and decide that a farewell beer is in order. Feel good for a 1.30 meeting until we are all given the tender document, another serious tome.

9/11/96. Spend all day on site. Breakthrough. Start to feel that it can be done and that all the associated requirements such as spectator and TV considerations can be dovetailed together. Conceptual ideas start to develop in the little grey cells.

10/11/96. Day off. Do a couple of hours work and we are then spoiled by being taken sailing in the harbour for the day. What a place. Buy another case to get the paperwork home.

11/11/96. Head home with two weeks in which to put the tender together.

25/11/96. Eight full days gathering information, reading all the papers and putting the proposal on paper in the required order, not something that course designers are good at. TNT the documents to Sydney.

Friday 13/12/96. Fax arrives wanting more information in Sydney within three days. Re-arrange the day and send the necessary with TNT. Note the day!

17/12/96. Fax arrives; nothing has reached Sydney. Call TNT and have forthright discussion. Package is stuck in Australian customs - great.

20/12/96. Package finally reaches destination - is it too late?

23/12/96. 8.15am. Phone call followed by champagne followed by headache followed by panic!

Hopefully we will hear more about the project as we move towards the event.

THE DEADLINE for CONTRIBUTIONS
for the APRIL/MAY SIBFORD SCENE will be
* TUESDAY 18 MARCH *
Contributions to Editor, Treasurer or Shop

The Sibfords Society

We are hoping that the wintry weather is behind us now - did you manage to capture those wonderful hoar frosts on film? If you have any photographs of the Sibfords in winter we would love to see them because we shall be looking for material for our next Christmas card pretty soon!

Our next meeting on Thursday 20 March will held in the Music room in the Manor at the Friends' School, Sibford Ferris (through the stone

archway and the second door on the left.) After the AGM, which starts at 7.30 sharp, we are looking forward to hearing from Mike Finch. His talk entitled 'From Manor to Quaker School' will include detail of the history of the Manor until it was eventually sold in 1842 and became the Quaker School which we know today. We are meeting in part of the old Manor so that we can see, at first hand, part of this lovely old building which has played such an important part in the life of the Sibfords. Mike Finch has worked at the school and has made a study of the archive material which is held there, so we are assured of an informed and interesting evening. All members are asked to come to the business meeting and other guests will be welcome to join us at 8.15pm.

Diary notes: 20 May - Visit to Cropredy as guests of Cropredy Historical Society.
12 June - Visit to Wellesbourne Water Mill with Swalcliffe Society.
17 July - Adderbury Historical Society to visit Sibford.
16 October - to be advised.

Following the very successful Circular Walk we are planning a couple of evening walks during the summer months to explore the wider limits of village footpaths.

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Sibford Ferris Parish Council

The council have received information about Oxfordshire Special Conservation awards, OSCA's, which are awarded for projects that have benefited the environment. Entries are welcome from all sections of the community - schools, businesses, voluntary groups, councils, charities and individuals.

Oxford University Summer School for Adults provides a whole range of one week courses including Archaeological Excavation, Biotechnology, Cinema, Music, People and Pots, and Disorderly Women (sic). In all there are over 50 courses to choose from. The courses are accredited and bursaries are available to people with money problems.

The Oxfordshire School of Sport will be taking place at Bloxham School from 23rd to 27 March. It is open to Oxfordshire children between the ages of 9 and 18 and is residential.

Just a reminder that the Citizen's Advice Bureau now offer an outreach service so that if you can't get to Banbury, they can come to you. Their phone number is 264367.

Further details of all the above may be obtained from me.

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WELCOME TO SIBFORD - ALL NEWCOMERS.

If you are a new resident of Sibford and have not yet received a copy of the 'Welcome to Sibford' leaflet, please telephone Barry Davies on 780291 (if you live in the Gower or Burdrop) or Mary Mills on 780248 (Ferris) and a copy will be delivered to you. The information will help to make you feel at home - by acquainting you with the services, schools, churches, clubs and societies that are currently active in the villages.

This month we welcome Sue Freestone who has moved into Holly House to take up the appointment of Head of Sibford School from January 1997. She is married to Rupert and her two children Tara and James are finishing their A Levels and GCSE examinations respectively in schools in Bristol. Sue was previously the Director of Music at Colston's Girls' School in Bristol and was also conductor of the Bristol Concert Orchestra.

PETSEARCH

REGISTER OF LOST & FOUND



Please help us . . . We are lost

This is a voluntary service to re-unite lost pets with their owners. Many animals are destroyed before they can be claimed.

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SIBFORD SCHOOL



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OPEN MORNING - 1997

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Gardening Notes.

Enjoy the early spring bulbs; snowdrops, aconites, crocuses, winter jasmine, hellebores, primroses and catkins on garryas and nuts.

With, hopefully, the severe weather behind us there are plenty of jobs to be done in the garden.

*Borders should be cleared of dead tops and summer flowering perennials can be divided and replanted if the weather is mild. Any badly placed plants can be moved.

*A good mulch, no less than 3 inches deep, of compost will suppress weeds and conserve moisture.

*March is really the last chance to plant bare rooted trees, shrubs and hedging plants but avoid very wet or frozen ground.

*Prune roses and remove suckers by pulling them away at the roots.

*Many herbaceous perennials and annuals can be sown. Why not try growing some to enter into the village Horti Show!

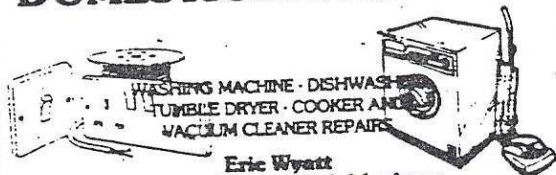
*Prepare seed beds for vegetables. With the ground warming up many can be sown e.g. spinach, parsnips, carrots, summer cabbage, leeks, onions, parsley. Aubergines, sweet peppers, and tomatoes can be sown in a heated greenhouse if not already planted.

*Early potatoes, onion sets and shallots can be planted out.

*Lawns can be raked to remove debris and prepare for the first cut. New lawns can be sown.

*Fruit trees and bushes should be pruned before buds break.

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Sibford Gower Parish Council

At the last Parish Council meeting members of the pond committee were invited to the meeting to discuss the way forward with regard to restoring the village pond.

It was agreed that the main problem was that the water table level is very low due to lack of rain over a period of several years.

The installation of a water pump was also discussed.

It was decided to fill the pond and monitor the water level in order to gauge water loss and to determine whether topping up the water level from the well was feasible and thus the expenditure and running costs for a pump could be justified.

The Council's overall objective is to create a wildlife pond.

Members of the pond committee are Messrs Fred Inns, David Soden, Tom West, Ivor Hopkyns and John Berry.

Anyone offering advice or help can contact a member of the pond committee.

The next Parish Council meeting is on Friday 4th April at 8pm in the Primary School.

The Annual Parish meeting will be held on Friday 25th April at 7.30pm in the Primary School Hall.

Petra Berry, Clerk (780462)

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- Provide a short-term foster home for the pet of an elderly person who is in hospital?
- Walk a dog occasionally for a house-bound owner?
- Provide transport to/from the surgery for a pet in need of veterinary treatment?

If your answer to any of the above is 'YES', then The Cinnamon Trust needs you! We are a national charity providing just such help for the elderly and terminally ill and work closely with the local care agencies.

We need more volunteers in the Banbury area - please give it some thought - ring me for a chat and further details.

Mariann Young, Stonehaven, Barford St Michael. 01869 338570

S S S

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Green Acres
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Banbury

Oxon OX15 5RW

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Fax: 01295 780366.

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH NEWS

The Pancake Party held in the Village Hall on Shrove Tuesday was well attended by members and supporters of the Parish. Eight lady members had each made 20 pancakes (one had made 40) so there was a large number to be consumed. Perhaps this accounted for a very silent Annual Parochial Church Meeting which was held when the pancakes had been eaten. The Rector was able to deal swiftly with the business as very full reports had been circulated in advance within a Parish Report for 1996, the first time that such a report had been prepared for members.

Eric Payne was re-elected as Churchwarden for the 37th year in succession and Robin Spicer for the 2nd year. Parochial Church Council members elected were: Jenny Barratt, Pat Bates, Colin Frith, Norman Nash, Roger Powell, David Soden, Ann Spicer and Maureen Warden. Sidespersons elected were the members of the Council in addition: Tina Frith, Gilian Soden, Peter Abbott, Brian Barratt and Bernard Phillips.

The accounts for the year presented by David Soden as Treasurer and independently examined by Hilary Maguire FCA showed a very small deficit which was considered very satisfactory after the high cost of replacing the boiler. A warning was given though as to the very likely and much higher cost of repairs to the roof which may be necessary during this year.

Every Monday during Lent, an Austerity Lunch will be held somewhere in the Benefice; that in the Sibfords will be at Barn Close, Burdrop on 10th March from 12.30pm. In each case, a collection will be taken for a charity nominated by the host of the lunch.

There will be a Children's Holiday Club morning on Good Friday 28th March from 10.00 am to 12.30 pm at the Sibford Primary School. This will comprise storytelling, music, crafts and other activities and will be based on the Easter story. Last year there were 70 children with 40 adult helpers and proved a most popular occasion.

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CHURCH SERVICES

Society of Friends

Methodist

Roman Catholic Mass (Hook Norton)
(Brailes)

Baptist (Hook Norton)

Sunday at 10.30 a

Sunday at 11.00 a

Sunday at 9.00 a

Sunday at 11.30 a

Sunday at 10.30 a

Church of England, Holy Trinity, Sibford Gower

- 2 Mar 10.00am Benefice Eucharist at Shutford
9 " 9.30am Mothering Sunday Family Service
16 " 9.30am Holy Communion
23 " 10.00am Palm Sunday Benefice Eucharist, Swalcliffe
(meet at 9.55am at Tithe Barn)
27 " 8.00pm Benefice MAUNDY THURSDAY Service
28 " 2.00pm Good Friday Quiet Hour at Epwell
6.00pm Good Friday Service at Shutford
7.30pm Good Friday Service & choir at Broughton
30 " 9.30am Easter Day Family Communion

†
Lent Holy Communion at Sibford at 7.30am on
Thursday 6, 13 & 20 March.

SIBFORD BUS SERVICES

1. SIBFORD GOWER TOWN ESTATES BUS SERVICE

Free Bus Service for Residents of Sibford Gower and Burd

			Depart	Return
Friday	7 & 21 Mar	to Banbury	10.00am	12.00noon
Wednesday	12 & 26 Mar	to Chippy	11.00am	1.00pm
Friday	4 & 18 Apr	to Banbury	10.00am	12.00noon
Wednesday	9 & 23 Apr	to Chippy	11.00am	1.00pm

The pick-up points are:

Banbury Bus
Village Hall
Crossroads
High Meadow

Chippy Bus
Village Hall
High Meadow
Crossroads
The Colony

the wykham arms

Sibford Gower 01295 - 780351

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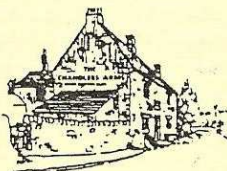
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Calendar of Events

March

Sat 1st. Playgroup 50/50 Sale 10.30-11.30 Village Hall (p8)

Sat 1st. Scouts Paper Collection.

Mon 3rd. Cricket Club AGM. Bishop Blaize 8pm.(p3)

Wed 5th. Mobile Library in Sibfords & Burdrop (2.25 - 4.20)

Mon 10th. Open Morning at Sibford School 10am. 780411 for details.
(p18)

Mon 10th. Lent Austerity Lunch 12.30 at Barn Close, Burdrop.(p22)

Tue 11th. Sibford WL AGM 2 pm in the Village Hall.

Wed 12th. Horti Meeting. "Cherwell In Bloom" Talk by J Crowther 8pm
Village Hall.

Sat 15th. Skip in Barley Close, Sibford Gower.

Sun 16th. Conservative Assn 'Get Together' Noon at Temple Close.

Tickets in advance R.Tompkins 780541 or P.Baseby 780544

Tue 18th. LEO Club Discussion Meeting 8 pm Sycamore Close (p7)

Tue 18th. ## Deadline for April/May Scene contributions ##

Wed 19th. Mobile Library in Sibfords & Burdrop (2.25 - 4.20)

Thu 20th. Sibfords Society AGM. 7.30pm. Music Room in the Manor
(Sibford School) followed by 'From Manor to Quaker School' a talk by
Mike Finch starting at 8.15pm.(p16)

Sat 22nd. Jumble Sale and Cake Stall. 2pm Village Hall (p7)

Fri 28th. Childrens Holiday Club. Primary School 10.00 am 12.30pm.
(see Church news p22)

April [Part]

Fri 4th. Gower Parish Council meeting 8pm Primary School.

Tue 15th. Deadline for contributions to Sibford Scene Extra.

Fri 25th. Gower Annual Parish Meeting 7.30pm Primary School Hall.

Wed 30th. Village Hall AGM. 8 pm at the Village Hall.

*

SIBFORD SCENE

*

Editor: Ray Henbrey, Virginia Cottage, H'k Norton Rd, Sibford Ferris (788265)

Treasurer: Timothy Wimbush, The Rectory, Acre Ditch, Sibford Gower (780555)

Advertising Manager: Ivor Hopkyns, Elmridge Farmhouse, Sibford Gower (788367)

Personal Adverts: up to 4 lines £1.00, 8 lines £2.00 - contact Editor.

Commercial Adverts: small £15.00 p.a. - consult Ivor for future space.

Loose Leaf Insertions: £10 for distribution - ask Advertising Manager.