

February 2000

No 220

Storytellers Theatre Company present

## Alice in Wonderland

On the afternoon of February 23rd

For Children aged 5 and upwards

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The Oxford Touring Theatre Company present

## Rehearsing Brief Encounter

A new play by Phil Smith

March 2nd in the Village Hall

Details on page 6

## Sibfords Society Guided Walk

Sat 26th February 10am

from The Brambles, Woodway Lane.

Details on page 4

## Nature Notes

**Dec 6th.** In an old notebook that we received by post this morning there is a list made by my grandfather, while visiting his brother in Ireland in 1913, of "birds in the large case at Richards which Charles P Simms shot and stuffed". It does not say whether Charles P Simms shot them near his home town of Chipping Norton but I expect he did. The dreadful but nevertheless interesting list is - Swift, Reed Sparrow, Willow Wren, Tree Sparrow, Stonechat, Large Bat, House Sparrow, Cirl Bunting, Hedge Sparrow, Yellow Hammer, Cole Titmouse, Smaller Bat, Pair Bearded Titmice, Nuthatch, Whitethroat, Sedge Warbler, Whinchat, Kingfisher, Marsh Titmouse, Long Tailed Titmouse, Smaller Butcher Bird, Martin, Pair of Crossbills, Swallow, Robin, Common Wren, Large Titmouse, Small Blue Titmouse, Greenfinch, Red Linnet, Tree Creeper, Blackcap, Pair of Hawfinches, Pair of Mountain Finches, Nightingale, Redstart, Chaffinch, Bullfinch, Wryneck, Golden Crested Wren, Skylark, Crested Lark, Wheatear, Two Sandpipers, Grey Wagtail, Pied Wagtail, Yellow Wagtail, Smaller Dotterel.

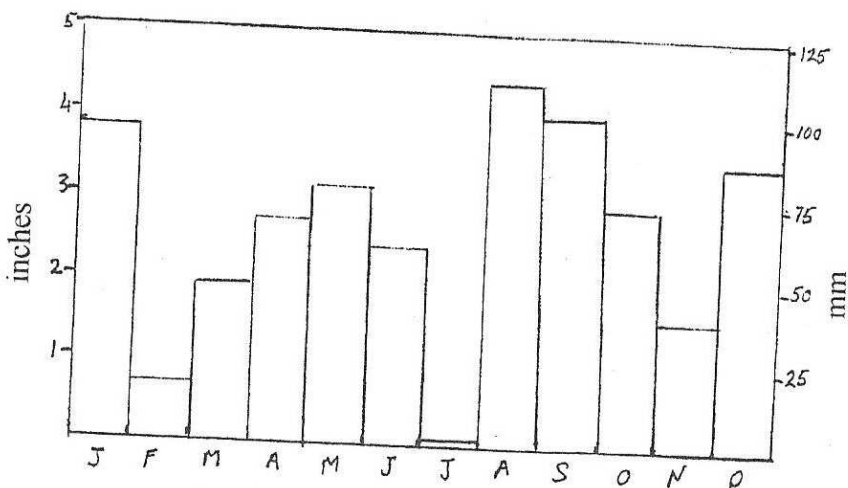
These are as he wrote them. The reed sparrow is the reed bunting, the willow wren is the willow warbler, smaller butcher bird is a red backed shrike and the mountain finches might be snow buntings.

**Dec 22nd.** We had not seen a muntjac for some time but at midday today a female was wandering around near the house eating cow parsley and ivy leaves.

**Jan 1st.** 1999 was almost as wet a year as 1998. I measured 31.68 inches of rain against a decade average of 24.83". The wettest month was August with 4.75 inches and the driest July with 0.12 inches. February with 0.75" was the only other month when I measured less than an inch. Looking back I find that the driest 12 month period that I have ever recorded was August '75 to July '76 when I measured 12.45 inches.

**Jan 6th.** During the night a screaming noise came from amongst the trees in our garden which sounded like animals fighting. I went outside to find out where the noise was coming from and this morning searched in that direction for clues but did not find any. I am inclined to think it was made by badgers disputing their territorial boundary. Our garden is





about midway between the two nearest setts.

**Jan 11th.** Long tailed tits are again coming regularly to feed at our tube of peanuts. There were five of them on it at one time today with tails sticking out in all directions. We have not had any goldfinches this winter although they have visited food put out by a neighbour.

**Jan 15th.** More birds are singing that is usual for January particularly song thrushes and robins but I have also heard a mistle thrush and hedge sparrows.

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# The Sibfords Society

On the 26 February Robin Spicer is leading a walk in conjunction with Cherwell District Council. We are meeting at Bill and Barbara Crabtree's home, The Brambles on Woodway Road at 10.00 am. and our walk should take about two hours. When we arrive back at the Brambles, we will be able to enjoy

a welcome bowl of soup and a roll, which will warm us up after a winter walk.

The walk is open to everyone, so please come and join what promises to be a very pleasant morning but do come with suitable footwear, as there is bound to be some mud!

## Oddjob

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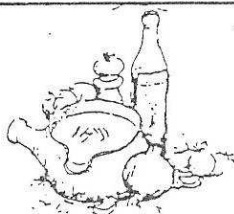
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## W.I. NEWS & INFORMATION

Should you venture (advisedly in wellies!) to the N.E. corner of the Village Hall field you will find a *Sorbus vilmorinii* (alias a Rowan!) planted in December by W.I. members with the valuable manual assistance of Mr Hall (alias George!) - a gift from the W.I. to mark the New Millennium.

Our December meeting had a festive air when minimum business was followed by light-hearted quizzes - inspiration had come to one member (alias Sheila!) whilst in the bath ! We then partook of a sumptuous tea and lucky dip into the present box, before departing amid a chorus of "Happy Christmas".

Despite the prevalent 'flu bug there was a good attendance at the January meeting at the commencement of which president and members exchanged New Year greetings. An appropriate plaque for the S.v. (alias Rowan!) was discussed and should appear in due time.

Who would have thought that toastracks could prove a fascinating topic - but such was the case when propounded by Mr Crumpton. Dating from the end of the 18th century we were shown, on the screen, examples by Wedgewood, Copeland, Spode, Royal Doulton, Minton, etc. - all fit to grace any breakfast table.

The competition for - yes, a toastrack ! - was won by Pat Hawsley, Margaret Baynes and Lynda Conway.

Tea was provided by Mrs Walpole, Mrs Baadsgaard and Mrs Baggaley.

M.C.

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## Village Hall Committee Report.

The December and January Collectables and Car Boot sales made a total of £134.50 for Hall funds. The next Sale will be on Sunday 6th February from 1 to 3pm. with refreshments available, with the March sale on Sunday 5th. For bookings (tables/pitches £5) please ring 01295 251339.

Dunns Auctions will be holding regular monthly auctions on the 3rd Saturday of each month at the Village Hall, with the next on being on the 19th February at 2.30pm, with viewing from 12 noon. For further details contact 01608 662587. Refreshments will be available.

There is an hour long performance of Alice in Wonderland during half-term on the afternoon of Wednesday 23rd February, presented by the Storytellers Theatre Company, for children aged 5 and upwards, where they can meet all the fantastic characters in Wonderland and join Alice at the tea party. Tickets £2 each for ages 5 and over (under 5's free) can be obtained from our Village Shop in the Ferris, or phone 780025.

On 2nd March The Oxford Touring Theatre Company will be back, this time with their performance of "Rehearsing Brief Encounter" which will be suitable for adults and is a new play by Phil Smith exploring love on the cusp of the millennium. Two actors meet for the first time and the 'Brief Encounter' love story lights the blue touch paper. Tickets priced £3.50 with concessions at £1.75, now available from the Village Shop or phone 780025.

Both of these performances will again be subsidised by Cherwell District Council enabling ticket prices to remain low.

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Little London Sibford Ferris

Dear Editor,

I am writing in response to Mr Bryan's letter in December's Sibford Scene.

I am the owner of the pick up truck to which Mr Bryan refers to as being parked "so thoughtlessly" and as such feel that I should explain my reasons for parking my vehicle where I do.

I have been living in Sibford since the end of March 1998 and I love it, apart from the **speeding** traffic in and out of the village. Being at the end of the village you can hear the speed of the traffic. It is amazing how often you hear locked brakes on school day mornings, which suggests to me that the problem is mainly caused by people taking their children to school, rather than the villagers.

I have also noticed that some people entering the village seem to think that the 30 mph (maximum speed) limit starts outside the Old Forge, rather than upon entering the village.

After a couple of neighbour's cats had been killed on this short stretch of road, I decided to contact the Police and the Council to try and do something about this problem, but to no avail.

Then upon returning from work, I was horrified to find my cat had been hit by a vehicle. Her face was badly injured and she had a shattered jaw. She was lucky to be alive!

This was the "last straw" for me and as a result decided something must be done to try and slow the traffic down, hence parking my pick up right outside my house.

I have however carefully studied the road to ensure that there is enough room for the larger vehicles, such as buses, tractors etc to pass safely and have not just parked it "without any consideration" for other road users. I would rather not have to park my pick up where I do, but it does seem to have slowed down the traffic quite considerably, which surely must reduce the chance of someone getting injured? The speeding traffic is the biggest danger!

I apologise to any villagers for any inconvenience I have caused, but I hope you will understand my reasons for doing this. If anyone has any alternative suggestions, I would be pleased to hear from them.

Graeme Piercy.

## Cherwell Adopts Fixed Penalty for Dog Fouling Offences

Dog owners who fail to clean up after their pets will be facing an instant £25 fine under new Council policy. The Dog Fouling. (Fixed Penalties) Order 1996 enables the Council to apply the immediate fine and was adopted by the Environmental Committee at its meeting 15 September last year.

The Dog Wardens, who already dedicate 2 days per week to dog fouling enforcement, will continue to be on the lookout for offenders, but if they witness an offence instead of the lengthy process of taking these people to court, the fixed penalty will be applied and the offender given 14 days to pay up. Failure to pay will result in legal action. However, people who let their dogs foul on children's play areas can still expect to be prosecuted, because of the potential health risk to children from dog faeces. Dog Warden, Cathy Wainwright says, "We feel that the use of the fixed penalty system will speed up and streamline our enforcement work and still punish irresponsible dog owners accordingly. This system also avoids the creation of a criminal record, as long as the offender pays within the 14 days. We are really pleased with the number of dog owners we now see cleaning up and using our bins, but the irresponsible few still spoil it for everyone else and give dogs and their owners a bad name".

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## Handbell Concert in Tadmarton Church

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## The Millennium Panels

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Prints of the PANELS or INDIVIDUAL SUBJECTS

Contact Keith Hicks tel.780259 for details of sizes and prices.  
The profits will go towards the cost of the photograph.

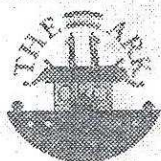
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# Sibford Ferris Parish Council

The head of Sibford School gave a report on the long term proposals for developing the school.

The bungalows in Back Lane have been sold and the proceeds will be used to create a new main entrance from Hook Norton Road which is being considered for planning permission at the moment.

The next phase will be to sell the Manor as the building needs huge amounts of money spent on it to replace the roof and to bring it up to 2000's standards for fire protection etc. Disposal was planned as long ago as the 1930's. The school would dispose of the entire site including the garden and the land behind. It is not yet on the market but approaches have been made by various developers. It is thought that the site may be developed as flats, possibly refurbishing the swimming pool and demolishing Gillett House to build "executive" houses.

The site would be exchanged for a major development of the Hill site and clearly phasing would be important. The heart of the new development would be a new meeting hall, of circular design, which would be capable of conversion to a 630 seater concert hall. This would be a huge asset, not only to the school but also to the area as nothing like it exists. The old hall would be rebuilt as a theatre complete with purpose built changing rooms, etc. This could be an asset to the village and would attract public productions as well as being useful in attracting holiday lets. A new music building would be situated by the South Corridor with state of the art facilities suitable for GCSE and A level courses. A new Art block complete with a sculpture garden and exhibition facilities is also proposed. This would include CAD and film production facilities. A new swimming pool will be built adjacent to the Sports Hall.

The whole campus will be pedestrianised with a circulation route for traffic to and from it. The existing main entrance will be blocked off. All the buildings will be of a high build quality rather than the rather cheap tradition of the past.

The school has now decided to retain the Ark.

Being a Quaker organisation, the school cannot apply for National Lottery funding and so raising money will not be easy.

Councillors were very interested by the plans but clearly the impact on the Village will not only come from the new school drive but also from what the developers want to do on the manor site. Access will be an issue as will parking and maybe pressure to build on adjacent land in the valley.



## Wheathills Farm Cats - Sibford Gower

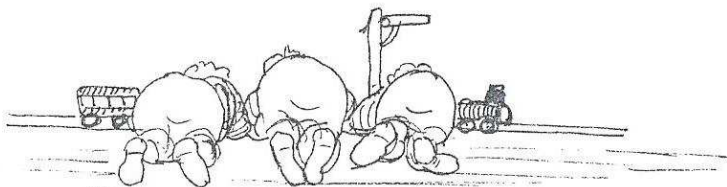
There are two cats who live at Wheathills Farm, between the church and the Primary School. The smaller tabby, Porridge, is quite shy but very happy to be fussed if she chooses to approach you, although she tends to keep herself to herself.

Cat No.2, however, is a different case all together. He is already well-known by most of the children at the Primary School, anyone who uses the footpath across Wheathills and many of the visitors to the Church Yard. He has also been known to help tidy up the Village Hall and is quite often spotted curb-crawling on Mannings Hill. He is tabby and white and goes by the name of Diesel. He loves everyone and is inclined to follow anyone who shows him attention, grabbing as many strokes and cuddles as he can in the process!

I adopted him from the Cats Protection League in Leamington Spa where he just appeared one day as a stray - I would imagine by climbing into someone's car (another of his little specialties!). Although he has been at the farm for nearly a year I am concerned that he may do something similar again or that someone may mistake him for a homeless individual and take him in.

This is just to reassure anyone who is followed by a tabby cat with a very pink nose that he does have a home, he is fed twice a day and if you just ignore him he will make his way back to the farm. Also, a word of warning for the children at the Primary School - if Diesel is around, don't leave your packed lunches unattended!

Tracey Warren



The Red House  
Burdrop

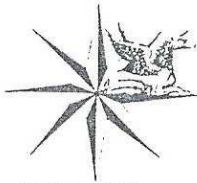
To the Editor The *Sibford Scene*

I recently prepared a list of all the house names in Sibford Ferris, Sibford Gower and Burdrop. These are in alphabetical order also in geographical order by name of Street etc. There are no householders names involved.

If anyone would find a copy of these lists useful I should be most happy to supply copies for the cost of a small donation to the Holy Trinity Church Building Repair Fund.

Your sincerely

Norman Nash Telephone: 01295 780275



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"We particularly want to hear from some of the smaller community groups who haven't applied for lottery funding before," says Phil Stevens, senior awards officer.

"Although the scheme is called Millennium Festival Awards for All, you don't have to apply for something exceptional or extraordinary. A small sum of money can make a big difference to an organisation's work - paying for essential equipment or enabling them to help more local people."

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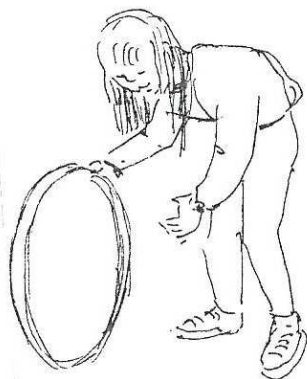
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# LEO CLUB NEWS

About a dozen members attended the December meeting at Gaynor Harper-Tarr's. It was all very warm and cosy and we listened to Christmas readings and poems, which led on to memories of Christmases past. We finished the evening with our "bring and share" supper and mulled wine. Many thanks to Gaynor for her warm hospitality.

Quite a large number of ladies attended the January meeting at Maureen Warden's home. We played "Call My Bluff" and several other games, stopped for refreshments, and there was still time for a good chat. We had one new member, who blended in perfectly.

We are all looking forward to our next venue: -

This is to be our annual dinner on February 15th at The Gate Hangs High. Invitations have gone out, but if anyone has been left out who would like to come, please contact Glennis on 780391 or Maureen on 788252.

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## WELCOME TO SIBFORD

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This month we say "welcome" to **Charlie and Sarah Smith**, who have recently moved into Buttslade House, Colony Road, from near St. Albans. They have two children: Harry aged three and Bethany nine months. Charlie is in printing and Sarah will be a full-time "mum". They both love gardening and will be busy renovating their house. When they have settled down, they hope to start joining in with village activities.

**Ainzlie Conboy and Danny Ward** have moved from King's Sutton into The Cottage, Burdrop with their three children: Thomas aged eleven, Rachel aged seven and Hannah aged four. They are very busy children, with Thomas being interested in football, Rachel in art and Hannah in dancing. Ainzlie's hobbies are riding and reading, while Danny enjoys woodwork and making gadgets. They are both directors of an I.T. consultancy company based in Coventry. Ainzlie is a copywriter, mainly representing charities.

**Brian and Jane Martin** have moved into Maddocks House, Woodway Road (telephone 788564) having previously lived in Milcombe for 3 years. They chose to live in North Oxfordshire after 24 years in Swansea, in order to be nearer to their three daughters and their families who live along the "spine" of England.

Prior to taking early retirement Brian was an active sportsman. He has a keen interest in music, bridge and sport and would be interested in forming a social bridge &/or an appreciation of a wide range of music group. Jane is an enthusiastic gardener, amateur photographer and embroiderer. She also enjoys attending weekly Fitness League classes (formerly Women's League of Health and Beauty), and Country Dancing.

They both hope to join in with some of the village activities - to add to those they have already joined since moving to North Oxfordshire.



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I can supply further information and can come and meet people or groups at any time or place, morning, afternoon or evening.

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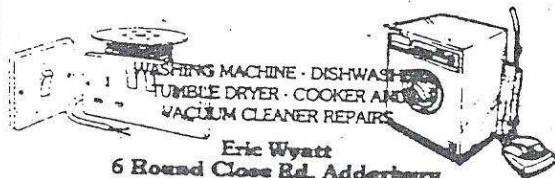
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## Church Services

Society of Friends

Sunday at 10.30 am

Methodist

Sunday at 11.00 am

Roman Catholic Mass

(Wroxton) Sunday at 9.00am

(Brailles) Sunday at 11.30 am

Baptist

(Hook Norton) Sunday at 10.30 am

Church of England, Holy Trinity, Sibford Gower

2 Feb Candlemass 8pm Benefice Eucharist at Epwell

6 Feb Young at Heart Benefice Eucharist 10am Swalcliffe

13 Feb 9.30am Family Service

20 Feb 9.30am Holy Communion

27 Feb 9.30am Holy Communion

### SF Parish Council New Clerk Wanted

Following David Moir's resignation a new clerk is required. This is a salaried position and would suit a retired person or anybody prepared to give up approximately 1 day per month..

Apply to John Simms 780655

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## HOLY TRINITY CHURCH NEWS

There were a great many people at the numerous services over Christmas and the New Year. The Christingle and Carol service for children was particularly popular. The Christmas Eve Midnight Mass was this year held at Shutford which probably accounted for a large congregation on Christmas Day before and at which the Sibford Choir sang carols. The combined choirs of the Benefice and Broughton sang in Broughton Church for a service of lessons and carols.

The bell was rung and the New Year was seen in by a group of villagers with prayers said by the Rector. On 1st January, in common with all churches in the Anglican Communion, there was a service of welcome to the New Millennium which in our case, was taken by Bishop Anthony, Bishop of Dorchester. A large congregation was present.

The Annual Meeting of the church will take place in the Village Hall on 1st March at 7.30 pm. There will be no pancake party this year but the customary Lent Austerity Lunches will take place in one or other of the Benefice Parishes on each Monday. A list of the addresses where these will be held will be announced later.

A collection of children's' religious books has been presented to the church by Sheila Walsh. These are available for borrowing at the back of the church and would children wishing to do so, please enter their name and the date of borrowing in the note book provided.

The PCC Secretary will be retiring at the forthcoming Annual meeting. So far there have been no offers for replacing him but it is hoped that someone will come forward.

### **Her In Doors**

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**SIBFORD GOWER, BANBURY, OXON.**

## *Sibford Bus Services*

### Free Bus Service

Sponsored by the Town Estate Charity	<u>Depart</u>	<u>Return</u>
Friday 4th and 18th to Banbury	10am	12 noon
Wednesday 9th and 23rd to Chippy	10am	12 noon

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. Stagecoach 480 Shipston - Sibford - Banbury

	Mon ~ Sat (M-S). (NS).			Not Sat Sat only (SO).	
	M-S	NS	SO	M-S	NS
Shipston	-	-	9.20am	-	-
Sibford Gower Crossroads	7.30am	9.00am	9.45am	11.45am	12.45pm
Sibford Ferris School	7.32am	9.02am	9.48am	(11.38)	(12.38)
Banbury Bus Station	8.00am	9.30am	10.15am	12.15pm	1.15pm
	M-S	SO	NS	M-S	M-S
Banbury Bus Station	11.15am	12.15pm	12.15pm	2.15pm	6.00pm
Sibford Ferris School	11.38am	12.47pm	12.38pm	2.38pm	6.23pm
Sibford Gower Crossroads	11.40am	12.50pm	12.40pm	2.40pm	6.25pm
Shipston	-	1.15pm	-	-	-

### 3. CHERWELL VILLAGER. 55 Sibford ~ Banbury

Wednesday only	Outward	Return (read up)
Sibford Gower	9.55am	1.55pm
Sibford Ferris	9.57am	1.53pm
Hooky	10.05am	1.45pm
Bloxham	10.35am	1.15pm
Banbury	10.50am	1.00pm

4. CHERWELL RURAL DIAL-A-RIDE SCHEME-A mini-bus with tail-Lift to take ELDERLY OR DISABLED PEOPLE, and escort, to Banbury (max fare £1.20),

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# Calendar of Events

## February

Wed 2nd Mobile Library in Sibfords and Burdrop (2.25 - 4.20pm)

Sun 6th Collectables & Car Boot Sale. Village Hall 2-4pm. p6

Sat 12th Recycling Units in Acre Ditch.

Tue 15th L.E.O. Club Annual Dinner p16

Tue 15th Deadline for March Sibford Scene. Contributions to the Treasurer, Editor or the Village Shop.

Wed 16th Mobile Library in Sibfords and Burdrop (2.25 - 4.20pm)

Sat 19th Skip in Pound Lane

Sat 19th Dunns Auctions 2.30pm Village Hall p6

Wed 23rd Alice in Wonderland. Storytellers Theatre Company at the Village Hall. p6

Sat 26th Sibford Society Walk. 10 am from The Brambles. p4

## March

Wed 1st Mobile Library in Sibfords and Burdrop (2.25 - 4.20pm)

Wed 1st Church Annual Meeting. Village Hall 7.30pm.

Thu 2nd 'Rehearsing Brief Encounter' Oxford Touring Theatre Company at the Village Hall. p6

Sun 5th Collectables and Car Boot Sale Village Hall 2 - 4 pm

## Sibford Scene

Editor; Adrian Lamb, Grounds Farm, Sibford Ferris 780380

Treasurer; Timothy Wimbush, The Rectory, Acre Ditch, S.Gower  
780555

Advertising Manager; Ivor Hopkyns, Elmridge Farmhouse, S.Gower  
788367

Personal Adverts; Up to 4 lines £1.00, 8 Lines £2.00 - Contact Editor

Commercial Adverts; Small £15 p.a. Consult Advertising Manager

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