



March 2000

No 221

## Rehearsing Brief Encounter

March 2nd in the Village Hall

see page 11

## Grand Jumble Sale

Saturday 11th at 2pm in the Village Hall

in aid of Holy Trinity Church funds

see page 2



## *Nature Notes*

**Jan 21st.** It is at this time of year that the thinning of the ozone layer in the northern hemisphere is most marked. A scientist has today given a warning that it has thinned at an alarming and unexpected rate over the last twelve months. It seems that the depletion of the ozone layer, which protects us from the ultraviolet rays emitted by the sun, is of more immediate concern than global warming.

**Jan 24th.** While we were having breakfast a male muntjac walked out onto our lawn to investigate an empty seed tray that I had left there yesterday. From the number of sightings that I hear about I think there must be quite a few around the village.

**Jan 25th.** We are never quite sure how many marsh or willow tits (they are almost identical in appearance) are coming to our bird table as they tend to come singly but today two came together which is about the same as for the last few years. They could well be the same birds. It would be nice if they could increase in number as the long tailed tits seem to be doing. We have seen them more frequently this winter not only at our bird table but in various places around the parish.

**Jan 27th.** I don't think I have ever heard so much bird song in January. This morning a song thrush was in full flow for some time before the owl stopped hooting.

**Feb 17th.** While working among the trees in our garden I spotted a small depression in the wild garlic where a muntjac had rested. Judging from the quantity and spread of droppings it had been there for a long time or on more than one occasion. I see that a newspaper feature on our deer estimates the muntjac population at 40,000 mostly in the midlands where they have spread out from a release from Woburn about 100 years ago.

## **Grand Jumble Sale**

in aid of Holy Trinity Church funds

Saturday March 11th at 2 pm in the Village Hall

Any jumble to Sibford Surgery before the day or from 10.30am on morning of sale.



# The Sibfords Society

The annual Social Evening on 19 January was attended by over fifty members and friends and made a very enjoyable start to the new Millennium. The theme of Childhood Remembered had people searching out their old toys and games, which had been carefully cherished for years and

brought back memories for us all of days before the computer age. Our bring and share supper and mulled wine was much enjoyed and we then sang nursery rhymes, much to everyone's amusement. Our Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday, 15 March at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall, when, after our short business meeting, Ina and Arnold Lamb will show us more of the large collection of slides of old postcards collected by John Gibbs. We saw a selection of these slides last year, so this is a good opportunity to enjoy seeing some more.

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## Thank you

Bea Haynes would like to thank all friends and neighbours for their kind words, letters and cards of sympathy and for attending the service in the Chapel.

Special thanks to the members of the Chapel for their beautiful flowers sent to the house and for the refreshments supplied after the service. Also to Glennis for the lovely flower arrangements, David for playing the organ, Peter for organising the seating etc. and last but not least, to Terry and Judith for the kindness they have shown to me during the past few weeks and the lovely food they delivered to my home. It was all very much appreciated.

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## Sibford Village Hall Extension Project

Following further discussions and amendment of the architects plans for an extension to the Village Hall, the Village Hall Committee agreed to the revised plans. These are now ready to be submitted for planning permission.

# Oddjob

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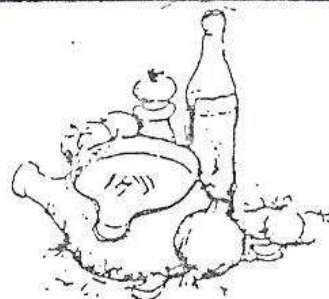
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# Friendship Club News

Now that spring is in the air we have come out of hibernation and can report that we have an outing to Sturdy's Castle for lunch on **Tuesday 29th February**.

Members will be notified regarding the time the coach is leaving.

**Tuesday 7th March** we shall be meeting in the Village Hall at 2.00pm when further outings will be under discussion.

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## LEO CLUB NEWS

On February 15th, nineteen members enjoyed a good meal at the 'Gate Hangs High'. The evening really went with a swing, and congratulations are due to Stuart for coping with such a lot of exuberant ladies who filled half the restaurant and made a lot of noise.

The next meeting, on the 21st March, will be at Jean Puddle's, when Vivienne Scouse has been persuaded to talk about her many years in Guiding. Please try and come.

MRW

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## Who are these Quakers?

This is a question we often get asked and also, jokingly, whether it's true that they invented and/or live on porridge!

It is not altogether surprising yet we've been in and around Sibford for more than 300 years and I don't suppose the consumption of oats in our village is above the national average! 'Quaker' was in fact a nick-name given two or three centuries ago by a magistrate after a Friend had used the verb 'to Quake' meaning 'having great respect for', rather than 'physical fear'.

About 350 years ago a man called George Fox, distressed at the way so-called Christians behaved, went back to square one and not only read what Jesus had said and done about loving your enemies and speaking the truth at all times, (thus making oath-swearing unnecessary), but actually put it into practice and, mainly by example, persuaded his followers to do likewise.

He also saw that a religion based on love - including even your enemies - must of necessity preclude any killing of ones fellow beings whether 'legally', during war, or judicially.

In Britain, well into the 19th century, some 200 crimes were still punishable by hanging. When I was at school in the twenties and thirties there were still hangings for murderers, traitors and some other crimes; now thankfully, there are none. As to their beliefs, from their beginnings Quakers rejected what has been rather crudely been described as, 'Pie in the sky when you die' type of religion, opting rather for, 'bread, and justice, for all while alive!'. As to the spiritual dimension, Quakers believe that everyone can have a mystical experience arising from the sheer wonder of 'being' and having the privilege of living on a tiny planet in such an amazing universe!

This great sense of joyful wonder, Friends recognise as spiritual or divine which we believe, emanates from a source beyond our normal comprehension which we call God. We believe that each of us has the ability to relate to 'that element of God' within each one of us: life then involves a continuous search for, and realization of, this amazing experience.

In our Sunday Meetings we gather in silent stillness contemplating the wonder and 'worthship' (now written as worship) of the remarkable experience of God, as here most inadequately defined.

This practical form of worship has inspired Quakers to oppose, and wherever possible, to do something about, all manifestations of evil, whether social, international or political. In the early days this lead to much suffering, persecution and even death, but their lives and example continue to inspire us to carry on the struggle to enable people worldwide, to live in peace, love and joyful harmony which we believe, are the fruits of all true religion.

John Endersby



# SIBFORD GOWER PARISH COUNCIL

Application forms for the Living and Learning Grant are now available. The scheme has been developed as part of the County Council programme for encouraging the involvement and participation of young people in community and civic life. The closing date for the Scheme is May 1st 2000.

Grants of up to £1500 are available for imaginative projects that encourage communities, young people and their local schools to work in partnership. An eligible project can have broad aims and objectives, but it *must* demonstrate that young people have participated in the decision-making processes.

Please contact the Clerk for further information.

The next Parish Council Meeting is on March 31st at 8pm.  
The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on May 3rd at 7.30pm.  
All Parish Council Meetings are held in the Primary School.

Petra Berry, Clerk (780462)

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## FROG ALERT

Between now and the end of March, very many frogs will be making their way to local ponds for breeding. Their preferred routes are down the centre of roads and lanes and sadly most of them end up squashed. May I appeal to drivers to do their best to avoid them.

Every evening I shall go out with torch and bucket and save as many as I can. I am especially busy on wet mild evenings. Helpers desperately needed for Main Street, Bonds End Lane and Colony Road. Please ring Glennis on 780391.

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## For Sale

### Garden Furniture - £15

Good size, good quality sturdy round white table with detachable legs for storage, has a large folding shade umbrella which slots through a hole in centre of table.

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# Calling All Spinners and Weavers

A fascinating insight into textiles is gained at the monthly meetings of the **North Oxfordshire Guild of Weavers, Spinners & Dyers**, which are held in the **Baptist Chapel Schoolroom in Hook Norton** throughout the Spring, Summer and Autumn. From transformation of fleece or fibre to yarns; colouring through natural or synthetic dyes; to their fabrication into cloth, braids, rugs or tapestries through weaving, felting, knotting or knitting/crochet - so much is possible even with the most simple home-made equipment. One can work with not only wool, and that varies in its nature and lustre according to breed (of which there are scores), but also silk, flax (linen), cotton, mohair or cashmere (both from goats), angora (from rabbits), alpaca, camel, hemp: the options are endless. These ancient crafts truly span the globe with different techniques traditional to many cultures; one does not need language to appreciate their beauty or complexity. **Our first meeting for this season, at 7.30 on March 21st**, will be a talk with slides on 'Navaho Indians, their weaving and way of life'.

N.O.G.W.S.D. is one of many guilds based around the UK and we are fortunate to have a branch right here on our doorstep as we would otherwise have to travel to Stratford, Oxford or Gloucester for similar facilities. Local guild members range from complete beginners (or those who just want an interesting evening out) to professionals who earn their living from their craft, including those who rear their own animals. An innovation at our meetings this year will be a sales table where members and visitors can buy and sell crafts (not necessarily textile-based) or other home-made or home-grown produce, even dye plants.

New members are always welcome (£12.00 annual fee) and in addition to the monthly meetings can borrow books from our extensive library, hire equipment or participate in fortnightly 'self-help' groups where beginners can learn the basics - and oh the joy when that lump of inanimate fleece no longer tangles and twists with a mind of its own but becomes a length of smooth yarn, slip-sliding soft and sensuous between the fingers, longer and ever longer.

So if textiles hold a fascination for you, join us at our first meeting this year, or ring **Ann Bond** on **01608 684385**. We would love to see you, and refreshments are included.



**-Ann Woolgrove-**

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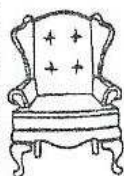
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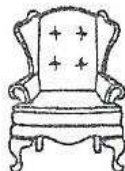
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## *From the Village Hall Committee*

The February Collectables and Car Boot sale saw nearly 200 prospective buyers through the door, with the Village Hall table taking £30 - our grateful thanks to all local residents who donate many items for this. The day made a total of £121 for hall funds. The next sale will be on Sunday 5th March from 12 noon to 3pm with refreshments available. The April sale will be on Sunday the 2nd. For bookings (tables/pitches £5) please telephone 01295 251339. For collection of donations for sale please ring 780025.

Dunns Auctions will be holding their regular monthly auction on Saturday 18th March at 2.30pm, with viewing from 12 noon. For further details contact 01608 662587. Refreshments available.

On Thursday March 2nd at 7pm the Oxford Touring Theatre Company will be back this time with their performance of 'Rehearsing Brief Encounter', a new play for adults by Phil Smith exploring love on the cusp of the new millennium. Two Actors meet for the first time and the 'Brief Encounter' love story lights the blue touchpaper. The performance is 2 hours long, with an interval of 15 minutes when a glass of wine/fruit juice and nibbles will be served. Tickets priced £3.50 with concessions at £1.75, now available from the Village Shop or phone 780025, again subsidised by Cherwell District Council.

Meetings have already started to organise this years annual Village Fayre, which this year has been brought forward to Saturday 3rd June to avoid clashing with other local events. The usual attractions and competitions will be included i.e. the Fancy Dress competition with lots of rosettes and prizes to be won and the Sibford Fun Dog Show, where the wonderful challenge trophy will be awarded to the Sibford Top Dog. We are also hoping to again have the awesome Bungee Jump. There will also be a Car Boot Sale at the Fayre and not on Sunday 4th June. (nine pitches only available, phone 01295 251339 to book) This year it has been decided to hold the evening entertainment later in the year, hopefully in the marquee after the annual Horticultural Show in August. Further details later.

Should anyone have any ideas they would like to see included at the Fayre or if you would like to help, please either attend the next meeting in the Bishop Blaize on Wednesday 1st March and/or 5th April at 8pm or telephone 780373 or 780025.





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## Friendship Club

The Club lost one of its long time members a few weeks ago, Pip Haynes. Our thoughts are with Bea at this time. She has only been able to attend meetings on occasions lately while looking after Pip, so we will look forward to welcoming her back

E.B.

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Deadline for contributions to the April  
edition of the Sibford Scene will be Tuesday  
21st March.

Contributions to the Treasurer, Editor or the Village Shop.



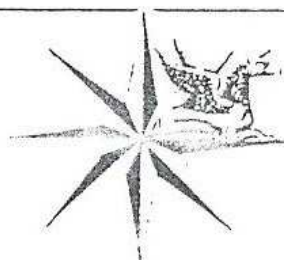
## The Brown Envelopes Are Back!

The Scene funds are in need of their annual top-up. Having spent all of our reserves on replacing the photocopier last year, we must start to re-build the funds for the future. As usual we are asking for every household to put a small contribution in the envelope provided and return it please to the Treasurer or the Village Shop. (If you fancy a walk the Editor would also be happy to receive envelopes)

In the past we have asked many of the people who deliver the Scene to act as collection letter boxes, but it would be much simpler for me, if all the envelopes could be returned to The Rectory or the Shop. **If every household contributes £3** we will have enough to produce the 10 issues and add considerable funds to the reserve for future copier replacements.

Thankyou for your generous support.

Adrian Lamb



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## W.I. NEWS AND INFORMATION

The meeting on the 8th February began with normal business matters. Then names were taken for the four different outings that are planned.

The speaker was Mr. John Barry, who began his career in the navy, but retired early. He then went on to work for B.A. where he stayed for 30 years, and he spoke of his various experiences there and his view of the passengers. The vote of thanks was most adequately given by Audrey Taylor.

The competition (for an old coin) was won by Glennis Hutchinson, Gilian Soden and Louie Baggeley, while the raffle was won by Mary Bristow. Tea and a selection of cakes were provided by May Jarvis and Jenny Barratt.

On the 14th February a 'knit-in' was held, when pullovers for children in Kosovo, knitted squares for 'Riding for the Disabled' and the continued project of making teddy bears were undertaken by keen members. So far there have been over 2,500 teddies knitted in Oxfordshire

The next meeting, on the 14th March, will be the A.G.M. and a Bring and Buy.

MRW

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## WELCOME TO SIBFORD

If you are a new resident of Sibford and have not yet received a copy of the "Welcome to Sibford" leaflet, please telephone **Maureen Warden** on Swalcliffe 788252 (Gower or Burdrop) or **Mary Mills** on Swalcliffe 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, clubs and societies that are currently active in the villages.

This month we say "welcome" to **Marie and Mike Carty**, who have moved from just the other side of Shipston to The Court House, Sibford Gower with their two lads, **Christophe and Benjamin** aged 14 and 11.

Marie is studying for a degree in History of Art and French Literature at Oxford and Mike is a Structural Engineer specialising in the refurbishment of old properties. Ben has already discovered the fun of the Sibford First Scouts, enjoys camping, cycling and music, while Christophe is busy studying for his G.C.E's but still finds time for the Duke of Edinburgh award, roller blading and football.

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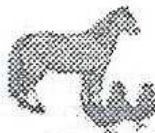
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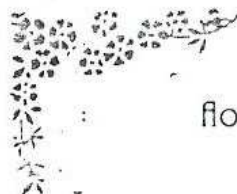
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## Care around livestock - a reminder

With spring on its way and a number of the local farms starting lambing in the next few weeks, a timely reminder about care with dogs around livestock is, I think, in order. Whenever you take dogs near any livestock, but particularly sheep, it is important that disturbance to the livestock is kept to a minimum. With ewes and lambs around it is very easy to get lambs separated from their mothers and then the whole flock get upset by a few ewes and lambs trying to sort themselves out again. This can usually be avoided simply by keeping your dog on a short lead and giving groups of livestock plenty of time to move if you have to walk through them, or better still walk round them and leave them undisturbed.

As the weather improves we will start to see more cattle turned out and as many people find out, frisky young beasts turned out after winter can be very unpredictable and lively. Please treat all cattle with care for the next couple of months.

### ***The Firs Garage***



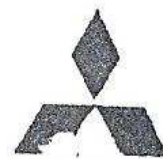
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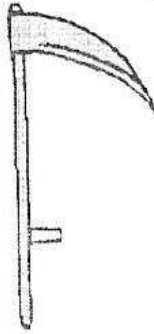
*The Firs Garage would like to thank the local community for their loyal support;  
it is very much appreciated.*





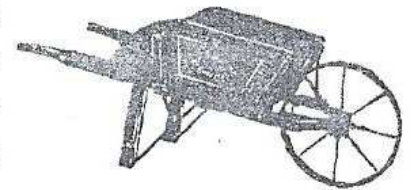
### Appeal for Farm Implements

Rehearsals are well under way for the Sibford Millennium Pageant. Scenes are coming together and rehearsals are truly entertaining!!



But we desperately need authentic hand held farming equipment such as pitchforks and scythes, anything that would have been used on farms through the centuries.

We also need a hand-drawn cart that wouldn't have looked amiss in the late 16th century. The young lads who pull the cart in a scene involving William Shakespeare are currently rehearsing with chairs, but they will probably need something a bit more realistic by June!!



If you have anything that may be suitable then give one of the committee members a call or ring Elaine Booth on 780287.



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737157



## QUIET GARDEN AT HANDYWATER 2000

Following the interest shown in the days of quiet reflection at Handywater over the last two years, the house and garden will be open again for this purpose once the weather is warmer. The dates have not yet been finalised, but it is hoped to hold one quiet day a month between May and October inclusive, with the exception of August.

Quiet days offer an opportunity to explore the spiritual dimension in peace, undistracted by the physical and mental demands of busy modern life, and free from the stresses imposed by a materialist environment. Leaders are chosen to help focus attention in an

atmosphere of complete relaxation, resulting in a feeling of total refreshment by the end of the day.

Stressed out? Come and try a quiet day at Handywater: it's much recommended as an uplifting and liberating experience by those who have attended up to now.

Look out for the dates for 2000 in the next edition of this magazine.

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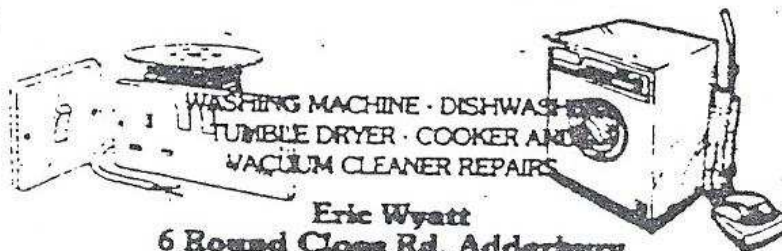
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## Church Services

Society of Friends

Sunday at 10.30 am

Methodist

Sunday at 11.00 am

Roman Catholic Mass (Wroxton) Sunday at 9.00 am  
(Brailes) Sunday at 11.30 am

Baptist (Hook Norton) Sunday at 10.30 am

Church of England, Holy Trinity, Sibford Gower

5 Mar 10 am Benefice Eucharist at Sibford

8 Mar 7.30 am Ash Wednesday Communion

8 pm Ash Wednesday Benefice Eucharist at Broughton

10 Mar 7.30 am Holy Communion

12 Mar 9.30 am Family Service

17 Mar 7.30 am Holy Communion

19 Mar 9.30 Holy Communion

24 Mar 7.30 am Holy Communion

26 Mar 9.30 Holy Communion

31 Mar 7.30 am Holy Communion

2 April 9.30 Mothering Sunday Family Service

# GRAPHICS DIRECT

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## HOLY TRINITY CHURCH NEWS

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting will take place in the Sibford Village Hall within a St David's Day anniversary party which will begin at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March. There will be elections held for two Churchwardens and eight members of the Parochial Church Council. All present office holders will be eligible for re-election but names may be put forward, duly proposed and seconded as candidates up to the commencement of the meeting.

This opportunity should be taken to thank all those who have helped with church functions and arrangements during the year. Sandra Taggart and Peter Hardman have played the organ on a rota throughout the year and the Rector has helped out in cases of sickness or when our two organists have themselves helped out in other Benefice parishes because of sickness there.

Our sidespersons and lesson readers, all of whom are too numerous to list, have been most reliable in their attendance, though there have been times when they have changed duties among themselves and given Colin Frith, who organises them, a nasty shock or two. The many flower arrangers and church cleaners under the energetic leadership of Gillian Soden, have kept the newly painted church looking beautiful and the many grass cutters, spurred on by the example given by Eric Payne, Bill Puddle and Guy Wilson, have kept the grounds tidier than they have been for years.

PCC members have continued to organise the refreshments every Sunday and Martin Layer most ably supported by Sally on the organ and all their three children helping with readings and prayers, has given us inspirational Family Services.

Robin Spicer has taken on the ringing of the bell now that it has been restored to life and such resonant sound.

There are so many others who help the church in all sorts of ways and we are grateful to them all for helping to make Holy Trinity such a happy place. Primarily we must be grateful to our Rector Timothy Wimbush and his wife Erica for their leadership of us all and for the support they give to the community at large, a meaningful word when associated with the 6 parishes of the Benefice. If you are not committed to another church, why not come and join us; Sundays at 9.30 am or 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in one of the Benefice churches at 10.00 am?



# Sibford Bus Services

## Free Bus Service

Sponsored by the Town Estate Charity

Friday 3rd, 17th and 31st to Banbury

Wednesday 8th, and 22nd to Chipping Norton

Depart

10am

10am

Return

12noon

12noon

The pick-up points are:

Banbury Bus

Village Hall

Crossroads

High Meadow

Chippy Bus

Village Hall

High Meadow

Crossroads

The Colony

## 2. Stagecoach 480 Shipston - Sibford - Banbury

	Mon ~ Sat (M-S). (NS).			Not Sat (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

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# Calendar of Events. March

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

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

Wed 1st Village Fayre meeting. 8pm Bishop Blaize. p11

Thurs 2nd 'Rehearsing Breif Encounter' Village Hall 7pm. p11

Sat 4th Handbell Concert in Tadmarton Church. 7pm. p3

Sun 5th Collectables and Car Boot sale. Village Hall 12-3pm p11

Tues 7th Friendship Club meeting. 2pm, Village Hall. p5

Sat 11th Grand Jumble Sale. Village Hall 2pm. p2

Tues 14th W.I. AGM and Bring and Buy sale. p14

Wed 15th Mobile Library in Sibfords and Burdrop (2.25-4.20pm)

Wed 15th Sibfords Society AGM. 7.30pm Village Hall p3

Sat 18th Skip in Barley Close

Sat 18th Dunns Auctions. 2.30pm Village Hall p 11

Tues 21st Spinners and Weavers Meeting. See page 9

**Tues 21st Deadline for contributions to April Sibford Scene**

Sat 25th Recycling units in Acre Ditch.

Wed 29th Mobile Library in Sibfords and Burdrop (2.25-4.20pm)

Fri 31st Gower Parish Council Meeting. Primary School 8pm. p7

## Sibford Scene

Editor; Adrian Lamb, Grounds Farm, S.Ferris. 780380

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

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