

April 2000

No. 222

Sibford Ferris Spring Clean

10am Saturday 8th April at Lanes End Corner p9

Sibford Gower Spring Clean

2pm Saturday 29th April at the Village Hall p6

Primary School Easter Bazaar

Saturday 8th April 1 - 4pm

Come and see Peter Rabbit and join in the fun. p15

David Eddershaw will talk on

Civil War in Oxfordshire

Sibfords Society, Wednesday 19th April 7.30pm Village Hall p21

Don't forget to return your Sibford Scene Donations
to the Rectory or the Village Shop. See p 4

Nature Notes

Feb 27th. While helping with a bird count on a 1 km square near Kinton we met a farmer who was erecting an electric fence round a young mixed plantation to discourage the deer which, he said, had greatly increased in number over the last few years. Some of the young trees had been nibbled until they looked like fuzzy topped bonsai trees. He had also dug out some ponds and had planted some areas of what I thought must be canary grass. I think he had done all this work to improve the shooting but it is also of great benefit to other wildlife, particularly birds.

Mar 1st. The fox that trotted across our lawn at 1 pm looked healthy enough but I understand that there are some very mangy ones round Sibford Gower that have little hair left and a rope for a tail.

Mar 12th. People keep telling me that they have seen buzzards and today I saw one for myself flying westwards at some height. It was the first one I had seen for several months.

Mar 15th. For the last week or so there have only been two long tailed tits coming to our birdtable so I presumed that they had paired off for the nesting season. This was confirmed this morning when my sister noticed that they had started to build in the gorse bush in our garden so we are looking forward to the completion of what must be the most beautiful of all birds' nests. A domed ball made of lichen and cobwebs with a hole near the top and lined with feathers, hence their old name of featherbeds. I am not usually keen to see birds nesting here unless they are in a safe nestbox as there are so many cats squirrels etc that they have very little chance of successfully rearing a brood but as this nest is 5 feet up a gorse bush there must be a fair chance of success.

Mar 21st. Squirrels have a very varied diet. This morning I watched one eating a sow thistle plant by pulling off one leaf at a time and eating it from the stalk end discarding the last bit of each leaf. The recent fine weather has brought out ladybirds, a good selection of over wintered butterflies, bumble bees and a few bee flies with long snouts which they use to probe the flowers of pulmonaria etc.

Mar 22nd. Last week a muntjac spent some time wandering amongst the trees in our garden and today a bold one was seen crossing the road on Mannings Hill at mid-day. This mornings dawn chorus was dominated by

blackbirds and it was not until they fell silent that I could hear that there was a mistle thrush singing in the distance and a green woodpecker laughing in the valley. After being so vocal a month ago song thrushes are quiet again. We shall soon get more variety when the blackcap and other summer visitors arrive.

Mar 23rd. When my daughter goes to look at the lambing ewes she quite often sees a badger but last night she saw 5 on the turnip field. They may have been eating the remains of the turnips or perhaps the worms and slugs under and around them.

Sibford Horticultural Society

Our next meeting is on **Wednesday 12th April** at 8 O'Clock in the Village Hall.

Mr. Clear, head gardener at Brook Cottage, Alkerton will speak on 'Chelsea Memories' and show slides.

On **Wednesday 10th May** we have a talk by the new head gardener at the famous garden at Hidcote.

Both these speakers are experienced and knowledgable and should provide interesting evenings.

Do come and support us and new members are always made welcome.

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The Sibford Scene Brown Envelope Collection

May I say a big thank you to all those who have returned their envelopes and filled them so generously. Unfortunately, at the time of printing, only 95 of the 390 sent out have been returned. The Scene is totally dependant on donations and advertising to fund the printing so please return the envelope with your contribution.

The organisations who regularly contribute articles to the Scene have also been generous with their support and we thank the Friendship Club, Playgroup and Ferris Parish Council for their recent donations.

A special thank you to the Royal Mail who managed to get the envelope, which had been stamped and posted, back to the collection box at the Village Shop with nothing but the sticker for guidance!

Oddjob

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Moving Sale at Virginia Cottage

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Sunday 2nd April 10 O'Clock in the Garage.

Garden Tools at Bargain Prices

(including Stainless Steel Spade, good sized rake, electric lawn edger, axe, bagging hook, snow shovel, fork, springbok rake, hand tools etc.)

Planter boxes and pots (terracotta), Wheelbarrow etc.

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Teak Tea Trolley £10 Trunk £10

Large Table Lamp (with blue and white ceramic base) £10 o.n.o.

Pictures - offers

M. Henbrey 788265

Friendship Club

Our last meeting happened to fall on Pancake Day so we had a pancake race which was won by Mrs Dinah Jordan. We then had a competition to see who could toss a pancake the highest, this was won by Mrs Millie Haynes. The pancakes were provided by Mrs Bea Tanner which looked good enough to eat when we started but were a bit sorry for themselves at the end. It made quite a hilarious afternoon.

Tuesday 4th April. Village Hall at 2.00pm when Simon Townsend will be coming to talk about the new Banbury Museum.

Tuesday 18th April. Easter Tea in the Village Hall when we are hoping to organise an Easter Bonnet Parade.

Tuesday 2nd May. Annual General Meeting at 2.00pm in the Village Hall.

Sibford Gower Parish Council

National Spring Clean - 1st - 30th April 2000

National Spring Clean is the Tidy Britain Group's annual campaign to raise awareness about the problems of litter and encourage people to clean-up their local area. Last year millions of people across the country took part. This years Village Litter blitz will be on **Saturday April 29th at 2pm** starting at the Village Hall. Sacks, Gloves and Tabards will be provided.

Village Skip Service

The skips are provided for Sibford Gower and Burdrop residents only to dispose of bulky household waste with the exception of hazardous waste. Commercial waste or builders rubble must not be put in the skips. Hazardous waste includes waste such as garden chemicals, paints, solvents and oil. Residents can arrange for such materials to be removed and disposed of by the "Toxic Taxi" on 01865-815796. There is also a furniture recycling scheme in the Cherwell District. Old furniture in reasonable condition can be collected by Banbury and District CVS and passed on to people claiming benefits. The CVS can be contacted on 01295-279515.

Changes to your local Post Office.

As you may already know, significant changes are being planned for post offices and the services they can provide.

The Government intends to use ACT (Automatic Credit Transfer) for benefits distribution, in other words benefits will be paid straight into bank or building society accounts rather than through post offices. The effect on post offices will be huge, particularly smaller rural offices. Despite an assurance from Alan Johnson MP that "those benefit recipients who wish to collect their benefits in cash at a post office will continue to be able to do so", we fear that the Government and the Benefit Agency will actively encourage

the switch to payment by ACT with the resulting loss of business to post offices. Thousands of post offices in the UK are likely to be lost in the short term.

Those who are receiving benefits are perhaps those most likely not to have a bank account and also they may not have ready access to a car or to a bus service to get to the town to a bank. This can only increase social exclusion and rural disadvantage. We believe that rural post offices have a vital role in their communities.

We would encourage you to write to your MP and to Alan Johnson MP, Minister responsible for the Post Office (Department for Trade and Industry, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET) in support of your local post office and the essential service it provides.

Annual Parish Meeting Wednesday May 3, 2000 at 7.30pm in Sibford Gower Primary School.

Petra Berry, Clerk (780462)

(Another simple way to help our Post Office is to cancel those direct debits for Council Tax, Electricity and Telephones and pay them over the counter at the Post Office. It costs nothing and if it saves our Post Office we will all benefit. Ed.)

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The Premiership Walk

The Last Long Journey!!

On 10th April next, David Bennett commences a 650-mile journey - "on foot". His mission to visit every Premiership Club and Ground, commencing in **Southampton** and concluding in **Newcastle** at St. James' Park on the 13th May.

The aim of the walk is to create awareness on the range of abilities of disabled students and graduates - there are in excess of 60,000 in the UK - and to raise the profile of the charity **Workable** of which David is currently the Director.

The route will include a visit to **Banbury United** on Saturday, the 22nd April followed by a night in his own bed! Before starting again at 10 am on Easter Sunday for a 20 mile hike to Warwick - prior to a weeks activities in the Midlands, including calls at Villa Park and Highfield Road. The company of **Sibfordians** would be welcome - mileage is at your discretion - and passing through Tysoe, Kineton and Barford is on the agenda - together with the necessary stops for refreshments!.

Your support to this unique event would be very much appreciated - and if you don't fancy walking - we have opportunities for support vehicle drivers too!

For further information, please contact David/Ginny on 01295
780373

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LEO CLUB NEWS

The March meeting was held at Jean Puddle's, and we were treated to an extremely interesting talk by Vivienne Scouse (one of our members) about her many years in Guiding. She has apparently been involved since the age of eleven!

Vivienne is now Chief Commissioner for the Anglia Region, which involves twelve counties of about 90,000 people - from Rainbows to Brownies, Guides, Rangers and adults. She does a huge mileage of around 1,000 miles a month, is now in her sixth year and will finish this year. She has found it all very fascinating (if somewhat exhausting) and has dealt with Court cases, angry clergymen, an Appeal Hearing, a potential Tribunal, a police Inspector who was related to a Commissioner, an angry staff dispute with UNISON which lasted a year, etc., etc.

Her story went on from strength to strength and was very humorous at times, especially her trip to Moscow, which she said was a unique experience. She has also had the pleasure of being introduced to the Queen at the opening of the Guide Heritage Centre and they spoke for quite a few minutes. She met the Queen Mother, who was 'quite amazing', and has chatted happily to Princess Anne. Princess Margaret is the President of the Guide Association and Vivienne has met her on several occasions.

Next month, on April 18th, we shall hold the meeting at Mary Mills' home - 'Maria's House' in the Ferris - and would like you to think up any interesting experiences you have had or funny moments, so that you can relate them. It should be a fun evening!

MW

Sibford Ferris Spring Clean

Sibford Ferris spring clean will take place on Saturday April 8th. Will anyone willing to help please come to Lares End Corner at 10 am. to get their bags etc. and arrange which stretch of roadside they will 'litter pick'. If you would like to help but cannot meet at that time please contact Arnold Lamb on 780357.

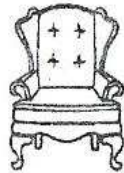
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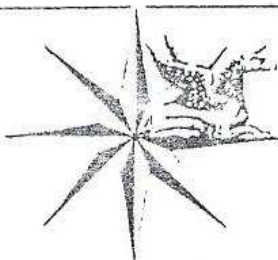
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HANDYWATER QUIET GARDEN

TUESDAY 18TH APRIL 9.30 for 10am until 3/3.30pm

The first date for a Quiet Garden day at Handywater has now been fixed for the Tuesday in Holy Week, 18th April. The day's reflections will be led by Linda Shepherd, Licensed Lay Ministry Archdeaconry Adviser for North Oxfordshire. The theme of the day is *The Journey*, and will develop ideas of our spiritual journey towards God as reflected in the story of the Emmaus journey. The day will include a specially designed prayer walk around the fields surrounding the Quiet Garden.

People are welcome to arrive any time from 9.30am. The first meditation will begin at 10am, and the day will end with prayers at 3-3.30pm. Coffee, soft drinks and biscuits are provided, but please bring contributions to a 'bring and share' lunch. Warm clothes, stout shoes and or boots, and possibly a rug if it is cold might be wise, but there is enough room in the house for everyone to find a private place to sit if it is wet.

The Quiet Day is open to anyone who would like to attend. Please ring Sue on 01295 788770 if you would like further information.

THE SIBFORD MILLENNIUM PANELS at BRACKLEY LIBRARY

Our next public exhibition will be at BRACKLEY LIBRARY,
Manor Road, Brackley.

From 4th.April until 6th.May 2000

Opening hours Tuesday - Wednesday - Friday 10-1, 2-7.

Thursday 10-5.30. Saturday 9.30-1. Monday closed.

There will also be a small exhibition of students work drawings and paintings from the FARTHINGHOE - LEARN TO DRAW AND PAINT classes.

Sydney 2000

Well it is now 2000 and 23 Fridays to the Olympic Games in Sydney Australia.

Mike and I have just returned, for me the last visit before D-day, while Mike will have one more look for two days in June. We will certainly miss our trips down under; to go to the sunshine at this time of the year is a real treat. The Australians are fun people to work with and their food is brilliant! Sometimes when it is so hot that the only relief is to jump in to the air-conditioned car, I think of the cold and rain at home, and enjoy being cooked.

We are fortunate enough to stay in a flat in North Sydney, which sits right on the harbour over looking both the Opera House and the famous Bridge. The view is amazing especially at night with the changing lights. One night we had just dropped off to sleep when we thought war had broken out, but we were witness to the most fabulous firework display I have ever seen. The reason for such a scene was the docking of the QE2, which was spectacular on its own.

The Equestrian site for the Olympics is forty minutes from the city and we leave early to avoid the traffic and to get the bulk of the course walking done in the morning. It was great to see the change from last autumn, they have had some wet summers since the project was started in 1997 and so the trees and grass have grown significantly. People visiting will not believe how much the site has improved. The entire going where it could not be upgraded with topsoil and stolanzing (which is planting grass with the runners) has been turfed. The stables, indoor school and buildings look good having been finished last September when we had the test event.

Alan Willis from England and his two sons head the building team with five Australians. They have been out there for six weeks this spring and Mike goes in every day to set up where he wants the jumps

built and what height. Course Designing is not only making sure that the right jumps are in the right places, but all aspects of the speed and endurance day, a main concern being, is the going good enough? Horses are very precious and good going makes it easier for them to enjoy a good performance. One of the reasons for Mike being asked to take on the job was his experience in running events and a number of meetings are with the organising group. The building lads are a great bunch and we have a fun time discussing dressing for the fences to give them an Australian feel. One complex is an old Australian homestead, and the lads borrowed! Items to add to its authenticity.

One thing, which is difficult to get used to, is the snake population. I am more wary now than I was originally. When we first arrived the grass was so long that you could not see anything and I gaily walked through putting in post where told! During September they held the test event having made (in places they cut and filled tons of soil) the track and maintained the short grass, there were snakes everywhere. An SOS from the Police during the test event, could the building team please come and remove a brown snake from the cutting as the competitors could not get passed to walk the course. Alan turned off his radio! Brown snakes are very aggressive and poisonous.

Well the next visit in the company of family and friends will be the real thing, keep your fingers crossed for a good British performance, we will certainly be cheering them on.

Sue Etherington-Smith

I am told that some Villagers will be in Sydney for the Olympics and a report on the event from a spectators stand point would be appreciated. Ed.

Deadline for contributions to the May Sibford Scene will be
Tuesday 18th April. Contributions to the Village Shop,
Editor or Treasurer.

SIBFORD TOTS AND BABES

I can't believe how many small people there are in the village at the moment, so our attendance is good.

We still have a craft session for those old enough to sit at a small table, and we have a sing – song at the end.

Wednesdays 10.30 to 12.00 – at the Friends' Meeting House (near the Wykham Arms).

Phone Christine Bell (780036) or pop in to a session. There is a notice board placed out on the road to direct you.

STOP PRESS!

There will be a short course next term for parents of pre-school children.

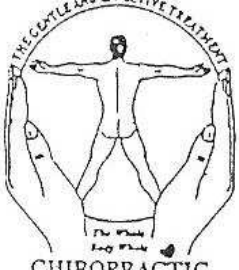
The course is called "Looking at Learning Together". It starts at 7.30pm on Thursday 4th May, and runs for six weeks, excluding half term.

The course is designed by the Pre-School Learning Alliance to explore how children learn in their early years. The cost for the course is £6, to cover the hire of the hall.

Topics to be covered include "The Spoken and Written Word", "Understanding Number", and "Why Children need Rules – Dealing With Behaviour Problems".

If you would like more details, please call Christine on 780036.

MCTIMONEY-CORLEY



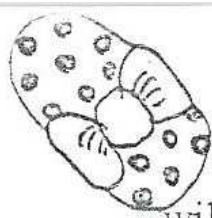
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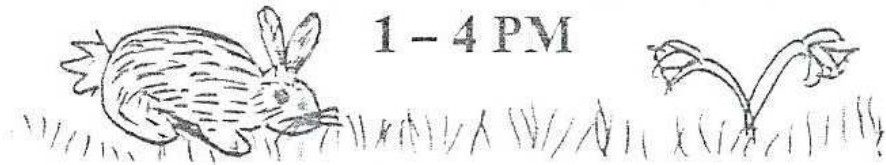
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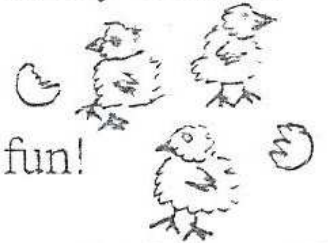
1 - 4 PM



SIBFORD GOWER ENDOWED PRIMARY SCHOOL

There's something for everyone: second-hand books, games and toys; beanie baby walk; badge and fridge magnet making (bring along that special photo); children's clothes; pony rides; remote control car circuit; plants and so much more!! Our raffle prizes include: 1st-Hamper, 2nd-Millenium Dome family ticket, 3rd-Banbury United hospitality package.

Come along and join in the fun!



1st The Sibfords Scout Group

are looking for an ASSISTANT SCOUT LEADER

to take over the great work done by David Soden.

We meet on Friday evenings at the Sibford Gower Village Hall.

If you might be interested, Keith Hicks (01295 780259) or Martin Loyer (01295 788139) would like to talk to you about what's involved. Why not give one of them a call?

DIALABILITY

Our Mobile Information Mini-Bus will be visiting Tadmarton and Sibford Gower on Wednesday, 5th April 2000. In the morning, between 10.30 am and 12 noon, the vehicle will be parked at the Village Hall, in Tadmarton. It will then move on to Sibford Gower, where, again, it will be sited in the **Village Hall Car Park**, between 1.30 pm and 3.00 pm. The two advisors on board will be able to answer any questions you may have on any aspect of disability, including transport, benefits, holidays, leisure activities, support groups etc. They can also advise on various types of equipment that could make everyday living easier for you, or members of your family. Everyone is welcome to come and chat to us and find out about the work we do.

*If you have any spare time and any of the skills listed below, we are always looking for volunteers to work at our base in Oxford. We need people with office skills, experience of working as part of a friendly team or a liking for meeting people, or who enjoy driving. Contact us for more information on Oxford 798723.

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Courses for the summer term start on Monday 8 May and include Yoga, Daytime Painting, Stay Supple, Computer courses, Men's Keep Fit, Upholstery, Aerobics, daytime and after school courses for-children. New courses on offer this term include Golf, Tennis, Behind the City Walls, Photography, Landscape Watercolours, Tole and decorative painting. One off computer workshops on Thursday evenings including Word Processing, Surfing the Web, Databases using EXCEL, Internet, Mailmerge and Powerpoint. We will be holding Saturday Workshops on 1 July and courses on offer include: Surfing the Web, Posters & Cards using Publisher, Rag Rug Making, Chinese Brush Painting, Barbecue and Summer Cookery, Sticky Fingers for Children, Self Defence for both adults and children, Indian Head Massage and Feng Shui.

Adult Learners' Week takes place 20 - 26 May when you can join in any of our classes FREE this week but please ring first to check availability of spaces.

We are holding FREE drop in INTERNET sessions at Hook Norton Library on Monday evening 22 May and Wednesday afternoon 24 May when you can discover how to send/receive Emails.

Our Summer Programme will be available from local shops, post offices, libraries, surgeries etc. If you need further information or a brochure please contact us on 01608 730052.

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Sibford Village Hall Extension Project

The plans for the proposed extension to the Village Hall were submitted to Cherwell District Planning Department on 14th February. We expect to hear their decision in early May.

The Village Hall Committee recently successfully applied to Cherwell District Council for a grant. The grant is worth just over £8,000 and is to meet some of the professional fees we will incur prior to making a Lottery Application.

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From the Village Hall Committee

The March Collectables and Car Boot Sale saw over 200 buyers through the door and £108 going into Hall funds. The next sale will be Sunday 2nd April 12 noon to 3 p.m. (Tel. 251339 to book) Our thanks to Josie and Joe Marshall who do so much for these sales.

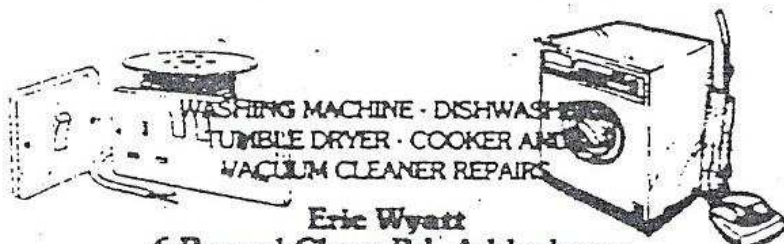
Dunns Auctions regular monthly auction will be on Sat. 15th April, at 2.30pm. (viewing from noon) Details from 01608 662587.

Refreshments available at both events.

The childrens theatre afternoon proved very successful with Hall funds gaining £93. 'Rehearsing Brief Encounter' proved less popular, with only 36 people attending, and saw a small loss to the Hall.

The organising of the Village Fayre on Saturday 3rd June is under way with many attractions already booked - (More next month. Ed) but if you have any ideas you would like to see included, come along to the meeting in the Blaize on Wednesday 5th April at 8.00 pm. or ring 780373 or 780025.

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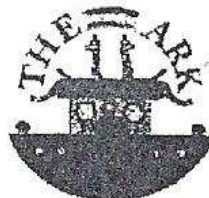
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The Sibfords Society

Our Annual General Meeting was held on 15 March and Maureen Hicks reported that we held six speaker meetings and enjoyed two outside visits during the year. Our membership increased over the last year and it has been decided to hold the annual subscription at the same amount as previous years. We are always delighted to welcome new members to the Society, so please do come and join us.

After our short business meeting, Ina and Arnold Lamb showed us more of the slides from John Gibbs' collection, which included photos of Traitors Ford early in the century, before the road was tarmacadamed, when the water was much deeper and the children playing there were safe from speeding traffic. The old cottage at Temple Mill was the miller's home until 1874 when the farmhouse as we know it today was built. The mill pond was above the level of the new house and the pupils of the Friends School used to swim there. Eventually the pond was drained, as the house was getting very damp. The Sibfords are still very recognisable in the old photos and brought back many memories to some of our members.

Our next meeting is on Wednesday, 19 April at 7.30 p.m. when David Eddershaw will speak on the effect of the Civil War in Oxfordshire. Those of you who heard David speak at a previous meeting will remember what an inspired talk he gave, so I do urge you to come along.

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W.I. NEWS & INFORMATION

The March A.G.M. commenced on rather a sad note as we learned of the indisposition of our president, Brenda Power, due to a car accident. Under the baton of vice-president, Greta Baadsgaard, assisted by the very competent secretary, Lynda Conway, much business was accomplished.

The treasurer, Barbara Crabtree, produced her immaculate and healthy balance sheet, and the secretary's report reminded us of a very varied and active past year. The absent president had submitted her report in which she expressed much gratitude to all officers and her thanks for the support and pleasure she had gained from her year in office - she was re-elected. By way of light entertainment Rosalind Pearlman read a selection of appropriate W.I. poems and prizes were awarded to Glennis Hutchinson and our deputy president for most competition points gained through the year.

Knitters had been busy in response to a request for Kosovo children's jumpers and squares made into Knee blankets for the Winged Fellowship Trust - an organisation providing holidays for the disabled and their carers.

The Bring & Buy stall offered a wide selection of bargains. Maureen Warden and Betty Walpole provided welcome refreshments "Well, that was the most enjoyable A.G.M. I've ever been to" - a remark overheard from a departing member.

So, from a sad beginning to a happy ending !

Our next meeting

April 11th

(to be arranged)

M.C.

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I am sorry to advise users of the Bus Service that I have today (Monday 20 March) been advised that Barry's Coaches is in liquidation and has ceased to trade. At the present time the Trustees are unable to arrange for an immediate replacement so regretfully the free coach service to Banbury and Chipping Norton has to be suspended for the time being.

To enable the Trustees to decide what to organise for the future, suggestions would be most welcome.

Vera Jones 780222

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

Sun. 2nd	8am Holy Communion
	9.30am Family service and Baptism
Fri 7th	7.30am Holy Communion
Sun 9th	9.30am Family Service
Thu 13th	9.45am Holy Communion
Fri 14th	7.30am Holy Communion
Sun 16th	10.00am Young at Heart Palm Sunday Eucharist at Epwell
Mon 17th	7.30am Matins
Tue 18th	7.30am Matins
	9.30am Quiet Day at Handywater Farm
Wed 19th	7.30am Matins
Thu 20th	7.30am Maunday Thursday, Matins
Fri 21st	7.30am Good Friday, Matins
Sat 22nd	7.30am Matins
Sun 23rd	5.30am Easter Sunday Dawn Eucharist - Jesters Hill
	9.30am Holy Communion
Sun 30th	9.30am Holy Communion

Calendar of Events

April

- Sun 2nd Moving Sale at Virginia Cottage 10am. p5
Sun 2nd Collectables and Car Boot sale. p20
Tue 4th Millennium Panels on view at Brackley p11
Tue 4th Friendship Club meeting 2pm Village Hall p5
Wed 5th Dialability - Village Hall 1.30-3.00pm p16
Sat 8th Sibford Ferris Spring Clean 10am. p9
Sat 8th Primary School Easter Bazaar p15
Tue 11th W.I. meeting. Village Hall p22
Wed 12th Mobile Library in Sibfords and Burdrop 2.25 - 4.20pm
Wed 12th Horticultural Society Talk. p7
Sat 15th Dunns Auctions at the Village Hall. p20
Tue 18th Quiet Garden at Handywater p11
Tue 18th Friendship Club Easter Tea. Village Hall p5
Tue 18th L.E.O. Club Meeting at 'Marias House' p9
Wed 19th Sibfords Society talk 'Civil War in Oxon.' p21
Sat 22nd Skip by the Pond
Wed 26th Mobile Library in Sibfords and Burdrop 2.25 - 4.20pm
Sat 29th Sibford Gower Spring Clean 2pm. p6

May

- Tue 2nd Friendship Club A.G.M. p5
Wed 3rd Gower Annual Parish Meeting. 7.30pm Primary School p7
Wed 10th Horticultural Society Talk. 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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