

May 2000

No. 223

Sibford Ferris Open Gardens  
Sunday 30th April 2 - 6 p.m.

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Horticultural Society Plant Sale  
Saturday 20th May at Temple Close 10.30am.  
Coffee Morning, Cakes, Bric-a-Brac p 4

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Sibfords Society Walk.  
Thursday 18th May  
Guided walk around Shipston on Stour 6.50pm  
Details on page 11

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Tuesday Bike Rides  
from 2nd May p12



## Nature Notes

**April 3rd.** Muntjac are doing more damage to our garden this year by eating the heads off some flowers and grazing the leaves off others. The one that crossed our lawn at dusk last night could be the culprit but they seem to be increasing in numbers year by year. I see that our most used garden book gives a list of deer proof plants which may help us in the choice of new plants, and the deer will sort the ones we already have for palatability.

**April 9th.** I did not see the northern lights on the evening of April 6th but those from the village that did see them tell me that they made quite a show which, I have no doubt, would have been much better without the curse of light pollution. I count myself lucky to have lived through the war years when the blackout over Europe allowed us to see the night sky with a clarity that may not now be equalled anywhere in the inhabited world.

**April 10th.** A swallow was seen at Blenheim Farm today. I thought I saw one three days ago, perched on a telephone wire the other side of Banbury, but could not get a good look at it as I was driving.

**April 11th.** Two days ago one of the rooks that is nesting in our conker tree spent most of the day making a most unusual call. A neighbour thought that we had bought a peacock. I joked that it was only a rook with a sore throat but now that things are back to normal I am wondering whether that was the trouble.

**April 13th.** While I was helping with a bird count on Feb 27th we saw a great crested grebe on its nest at Compton Verney but thought that it was too early for it to be seriously sitting; however I have heard that there are now two chicks there.

**April 17th.** Although the blackcap has returned and is singing in our garden the fieldfares are only now collecting before moving north. More than 200 spent a noisy 10 minutes chattering away in the trees around us this morning.

**April 18th.** It seems that our lawn is on the territorial boundary for two pairs of song thrushes. One pair has started building high up in



our yew hedge which may help to keep it away from the cats but is right on a route regularly used by squirrels which may be just as bad.

**April 19th.** Our Editor heard the first cuckoo today at Swalcliffe Common.

**April 20th.** While I was in the garden a blackbird flew towards me and in doing a U-turn when it spotted me, dropped an eggshell that it was carrying. I thought that it was clearing the shells from its nest as the chicks hatched but when I looked at it I found that it was the shell of a thrushes egg with fresh yolk in it. Can it be that some blackbirds are nest robbers?

**April 21st.** I have measured 4.22 inches of rain so far this month which equals that for the whole of the first quarter of the year. My brother who lives at Sezincote near Bourton-on-the-Hill has had 5.40 inches.

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# Sibford Horticultural Society

Those of you who attended our last meeting were treated to a most interesting and illuminating talk on setting up a garden at Chelsea. On **Wednesday May 10th** we hope to repeat the interest in the form of a talk by the new Head Gardener from the famous garden at Hidcote. The garden is being replanted and reorganised. This promises to be another interesting evening, so do come and join us. Non-members are always welcome.

Shenington Club visit us on **June 7th** to enjoy our gardens and we return to them on **June 28th**.

In order to help with the cost of the Annual Show, the Plant Sale and Coffee Morning will be held together on **May 20th at Temple Close (opposite Barley Close) at 10.30 a.m.**

Donations of plants, cakes and Bric-a-Brac either on the day or to a committee member beforehand would be very welcome. There will be a stall offering Dorling Kindersley books for sale.

After the show on **August 19th** the Marquee will be available at a modest cost for anyone who wants to party. (Ring 780525)

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### THANK YOU DAVID!

It was a very exciting rehearsal a few Sunday's ago as for the first time the Sibford Millennium Pageant was run through from beginning to end. But for its creator it was a sad day, as David Ryall handed over the reins to co-producer Amanda Laidler. David is off the to the States to take part in a prestigious project with Sir Peter Hall and we all wish him and his family the very best during his time out there - but he will be back!!

The Sibford Millennium Committee would like to thank David for all the hard work he has put into taking the pageant from literally a dream to reality. Also thank you Amanda for ensuring that the show will still go on.

### FREE TICKETS AVAILABLE

Don't forget that your pageant is free and you can get tickets from the box office now by calling 01295 780512.

### THERE'S STILL TIME TO TAKE PART

All the major roles are cast and rehearsals are well under way but if you would like to take part in the pageant then please let us know. There are still numerous crowd scenes and small walk on parts which require lots of people. So go on, give Mary Nash a call and tell her you'd like to take part - she's waiting to hear from you on 01295 780275.

### A BIT ON THE SIDE

If you've got a side saddle tucked away or know someone who has then can you let Tom Pratt know on 780489 if you would be prepared to let us borrow it for the pageant.

**RICHARD WALLINGTON**

**BUILDER**

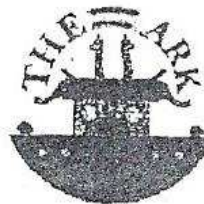
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## LEO CLUB NEWS

On a typically wet and windy April evening, members were made most welcome at the home of Mary Mills. We were treated to a glowing log fire, candles on the hearth and conversation that flowed effortlessly. For the first time ever, we actually had a wine waiter - in the form of husband Bryan! Lots of amusing stories were exchanged, coffee and hot cross buns were enjoyed and then it was twenty to eleven before anyone realised that the time had gone by so quickly - a sure sign of a good evening.

Our next meeting, on May 16th, will take place at 3 Mannings Close, Sibford Ferris, the home of Ginny Bennett. Husband David set out in early April on a **650 mile walk**, which he hopes to complete in just five weeks! David is a football fan and is visiting every Premiership ground in England in order to raise money (hopefully, over £10,000) for Workable, a charity he helped to set up ten years ago, which creates employment opportunities for disabled graduates. He will talk to us about his experiences.

We are a friendly bunch at LEO and would welcome any new member who would care to join us.

MW

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## Gordon Wright

It is with great regret that I have to announce that Gordon Wright has died in hospital at Glasgow on March 31st after heart surgery from which he did not recover.

Gordon, his wife, Carol, and his family, Fiona, Sheena and David were all involved in village life and contributed much in Sibford.

Carol was an active member of the W.I. and took part in their various dramatic productions, and the children all attended the Village School.

Gordon taught at the Friends School for several years where he helped many pupils develop a love of 'growing things'. Before coming to Sibford Gordon taught in Kenya during the troubles' in that country. For the latter part he was Headmaster of Thika High School. One of his routine jobs was to travel round the village schools to select future. This was a heart-breaking undertaking because only a few could be selected.

Gordon was a good friend to many, a christian who indeed practised what he preached! and a man of many talents.

We will always remember his little jokes and his 'cheerful chuckle'.

JW.

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## Sibford Ferris Spring Clean

It was disappointing to see so few helpers turn out for the annual Spring Clean. Only four villagers came to help the Parish Councillors on what was a pleasant morning. Even with so little help we managed to cover a large proportion of the parishes roadsides and collect a dozen or so sacks of litter.

I am sure that the large majority of the village population regard the appearance of the village as important, so it is a great pity that so few can make the effort to spend a couple of hours tidying up! I can only hope that the Gower Spring Clean gets a lot more support on April 29th. (2pm at the Village Hall)

Ed.



Dear Sir,

Ever since those great-hearted residents of our villages of the Gower and the Ferris and the hamlet of Burdrop dipped into their pockets and contributed to the preservation of 'Wheathills' as a green oasis in the middle of our villages, I have wanted to thank them publicly. I was not in a financial position to help but my heart was and is in full support. I have long sought for words to express my thanks but all I could discover were of such banality that they were better left unsaid until three weeks ago. Then a programme on TV marked the centenary of the death of John Ruskin (1819-1900) the English Art Writer and Critic and stylist. Miraculously within hours I was presented with copies of six of his works - all quite by accident. A few days later I came upon the following extract from one of his books;

"God has lent us the earth for our life.

It is a great entail. It belongs as much to those who are to come after us as to us and we have no right, by anything we do or neglect, to involve them in any unnecessary penalties or deprive them of the benefit which was in our power to bequeath".

These sentiments sum up completely my appreciation of the 'Wheathills' benefactors and may also form the basis of the policy of the Council for the Protection of Rural England.

I commend these sentiments to your attention.

Yours sincerely,  
Reginald Craig.

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# Friendship Club

At our April meeting we had a most enjoyable talk from Mr Simon Townsend who told us about the new Banbury Museum which will be connected to the new Castle Quay Shopping Centre and will be open in September 2001. He brought a model of the new museum and it should be well worth a visit when it is opened. **Tuesday 2nd May.** Annual General Meeting at 2pm in the Village Hall. We would like as many members to attend as possible.


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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 Maureen Warden on 788252 (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,

Charles Matthews has moved into Richmond House from Croughton (Northants) where he had been living for the past seven years. Charles is involved in the Austin Healey Club and helps organise the British Austin Healey race championship which he has been doing for the past twelve years. He also has a small toy business which specialises in models and toy sportscars from the 1950's and 60's. Charles (38) has just about unpacked and is now looking forward to making many new friends in this lovely part of Oxfordshire.

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# The Sibfords Society

As the Society's contribution to the forthcoming Pageant, taking place from the 22-24 June, we are compiling an exhibition of photos and memorabilia of the village during the early part of the 20th century. We would be very grateful to have on loan any photos or booklets you may have, particularly regarding the pageants

which took place in the village and elsewhere, under the direction of Frank Lascelles. Anything, in fact, showing village fetes, the brass band concerts, etc. If you can help in this way, please get in touch with Ian Warden on 788252, who will be happy to arrange collection of anything you might have.

On Thursday, 18 May, we have arranged a guided walk around Shipston on Stour and will meet at 6.50 p.m. in the car park to the right, directly over the bridge as you enter the town. Mike Ashley will be taking us round Shipston and telling us about the history of this old town and at the end of the tour, we will visit the museum. Non members of the Society are very welcome to join us and would anyone wishing to come, please phone Jenny Barratt on 780336.

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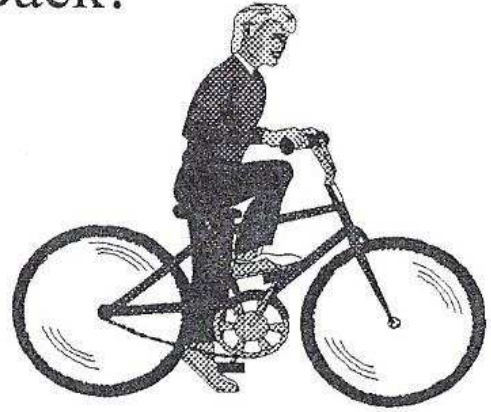
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# The Tuesday Bike Ride is Back!

From Tuesday 2nd May the Bike Ride will leave Lanes End Corner (Ferris Crossroads) at 7 O'Clock. Those of you who have been with us before will, I hope, wish to come along again this year. We have a friendly group of cyclists who cover all ages and abilities - from 7 to 70+ and each week



we try to pick a new route round the quieter roads. Usually we will split into two groups to give a choice of distance and to make the most of the daylight. It is an excellent way of getting to know the area. Some of our newer residents have found themselves on many roads that they didn't know about. Anyone is welcome to join us but we do need all children to be accompanied by an adult. For more details contact Adrian Lamb 780380

## The Firs Garage

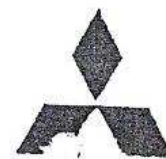


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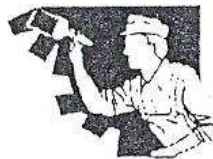
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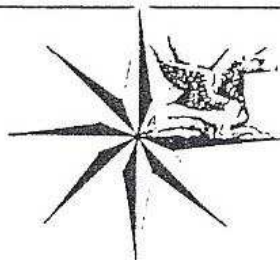
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The Trustees are pleased to report that an arrangement has been made with Bakers Commercial of Enstone for a new bus service to commence on Thursday 11 May.

In response to requests from past users the service to Banbury will run on alternate Thursday instead of Fridays. The Chipping Norton run will continue to be on alternate Wednesdays. Normally a 16-seater bus will be used but Bakers may occasionally have to substitute a coach. The timings and pick-up points remain unchanged and dates etc are given, as usual, on the *SIBFORD BUS SERVICES* page.

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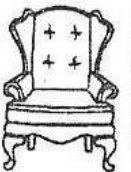
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## W.I. NEWS & INFORMATION

Last month we began on a sad note but ended happily - this month we were in reverse ! We were pleased to see our president back in office, but saddened to have to say farewell to a loyal member, Mrs Baggaley, who is soon to leave for pastures new. She was presented with a gift token, together with our very good wishes.

'Tis said it's an ill wind that blows no good, and although deprived of our planned speaker we were privileged to have a talk by Mary Bristow with delightful slides. These were of her touring holiday in Australia where two weeks were spent in quest of local flora, followed by a stay in South Africa which included a drive through the renowned Kruger National Park. Thank you Mary !

The competition for a pill box was won by Gill Soden, Glennis Hutchinson and Greta Baadsgaard, and our tea hostesses were Mary Mills and Gaynor Harper-Tarr.

On view was our competition entry for the forthcoming Group Meeting - an "Easter Bonnet" beautifully decorated by Jean Puddle.

\* \* \* \* \*

*A visit to LACOCK ABBEY*

*Wed. Aug. 23rd.*

*The W.I. would welcome others to join them on  
their Annual Outing.*

*If interested please ring the Outing Secretary, 780510.*

*M.C.*

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## Donations to Sibford Scene Funds

I am pleased to say that donations keep trickling in and the funds are looking much better. Nearly 400 pounds has come from the Brown Envelope Appeal, and with support from the Clubs and Societies who use the Scene, we are able to start building a fund for the next copier - hopefully a few years away yet!

Our thanks go to the Gower Parish Council, the Sibfords Society, the L.E.O. Club and the W.I. for their recent donations.

**It's never too late to return your donation to the Treasurer  
or the Village Shop.**

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# Sibford Bus Services

## FREE BUS SERVICE

	<u>Depart</u>	<u>Return</u>
Thursdays 11th and 25th May to Banbury	10am	12noon
Wednesdays 17th and 31st May 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 (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),

Door-to-door service, Book at Least one day in advance.

Operates on WEDNESDAYS ONLY.

Phone 263777 for more details or to book.



# Calendar of Events

## May

- Tue 2nd Friendship Club A.G.M. 2pm Village Hall p10  
Tue 2nd Tuesday Bike Rides Start. 7pm (Ferris crossroads)p12  
Wed 3rd Gower Annual Parish Meeting. 7.30pm Primary School  
Sun 7th Collectables and Car Boot sale.  
Wed 10th Mobile Library in Sibfords and Burdrop 2.25 - 4.20pm  
Wed 10th Horticultural Society Talk on Hidcote. p4  
**Thu 11th Free Bus Service Starts.p15 & p23**  
Tue 16th L.E.O. Club Meeting. 'A 650 Mile Walk' p7  
**Tue 16th Deadline for Contributions to June Scene.**  
**Contributions to Treasurer or Village Shop.**  
Thu 18th Sibfords Society Walk round Shipston-on-Stour 6.50pm  
p11  
Sat 20th Skip and Re-Cycling Units in Acre Ditch  
Sat 20th Horticultural Society Plant Sale. Temple Close p4  
Sat 20th Dunns Auctions at the Village Hall.  
Wed 24th Mobile Library in Sibfords and Burdrop 2.25 - 4.20pm

## June (part)

- Sat 3rd Annual Village Fayre  
Tue 6th Methodist Chapel Anniversary Service. 7.30pm  
Sat 10th Shakespeare's Tempest - Leasowe House - 7.30pm {  
Phone 780569 for details.  
Wed 14th Methodist Chapel Coffee Morning 10am-12noon.

## Sibford Scene

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

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

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788367

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