



SIBFORD SCENE

July 2000

No. 225

Holy Trinity Church Fete

Saturday 15th July 2.30pm

Rectory Garden or Primary School if wet.

See page 10

Charity Car Boot Sale
at Wheathills

Sunday 23rd July 11-2pm

See page 5

You've seen the pageant
now get the video
see page 6

Nature Notes

June 5th. A friend from Shipston tells me that a blackbird is already sitting on its third clutch of eggs in a wall shrub by her front door.

June 7th. We have not seen any holly blue butterflies yet this year which is unusual, as we have plenty of holly and ivy around for their caterpillars to feed on, so I rang a butterfly expert to find out whether this was general. He tells me that they have almost died out but not to worry as this happens once in a while due, it is thought, to heavy predation of the caterpillars by a parasitic wasp and that after a year or two, when I presume the wasp population has fallen, the holly blues will spread up from the south again. Blackcaps are much in evidence in our garden with the male in good voice and this morning the female spent a few minutes preening herself on the little tree that we see while having breakfast.

June 9th. A smell like rotting flesh alerted us to the presence of a stinkhorn fungus growing again on the same spot on our rockery as the one we had last year. The smell attracts flies to the sticky coating on the top of the fungus which contains the spores for the flies to carry away on their feet. I am not keen to see them multiply so I buried it deeply in the garden.

June 15th. The young blue tits flew today from the third storey of a block of flats that I made for the tits from an old pump. There has never been more than one of the four flats occupied at any one time so perhaps they don't even tolerate other kinds of tits nesting close by. I think the youngster that I saw sitting on the lawn will be lucky to survive all the hazards of its young life.

June 17th we had to stop the car and wait for a big grass snake to make its way across the very hot road to Grounds Farm today. This hot dry weather must come as quite a shock to grass snakes after two months when the soil and herbage were always moist. The lucky ones live near water and can go for a swim on days like this.

When I went into the garden at 10.30 tonight I surprised a badger that trundled off through the garden which they must use every night this is only the second time I have seen one here.

June 18th I have heard fewer cuckoos here this year than in any year that I can recall but I am told that good numbers of them are still coming to some areas, particularly river valleys.

The Sibfords Society

On the evening of the 18 May, two members of the Shipston-on-Stour Historical Society took us on a guided walk around their town and then into the recently opened museum, which proved to be a fascinating collection of memorabilia.

In readiness for the Society's exhibition of archive material to run in

conjunction with the Sibford Pageant, some of our members have been busy sorting out suitable photos and articles showing village life earlier in the 20th century.

On Thursday, 13 July, Robin Spicer is leading a walk of about 4 miles, commencing from the Bishop Blaize at 6.45 pm. This promises to be a delightful summer's evening walk and is open to everyone, so do come and join us.

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HANDYWATER QUIET GARDEN

Thursday 6th July

The next quiet retreat day at Handywater will be led by Pam Smith, a local minister due to be ordained later this year in October. She is taking as her theme "A sense of awe and wonder", and we look forward to welcoming her.

As usual visitors are welcome to arrive any time from 9.30am onwards for a 10am start, and the official end of the day will be at 3.30pm, although we welcome anybody at any time that fits in with their schedule. Minor refreshments are provided, but please bring your own lunch or a contribution to the lunch table.

July 6th will be the last quiet day before the holidays begin, and further dates for the autumn will be announced nearer the time.

Oddjob

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Proceeds from the sale and my own stall will go to
THE LAWRENCE OF ARABIA CHALLENGE 2000

To find out more read on!

On November 18th I am beginning a five day ride covering 125 miles across a desert in Jordan to raise money for the British Horse Society's Rescue Centre in Tysoe.

I have been working hard to get fit to meet this challenge of a lifetime and also to reach my fund-raising target of £2000 by September 1st. I hope everyone will come and support this fun charity sale by either booking a pitch or coming along to browse and buy. Raffle tickets for a print by famous equine artist Lydia Kiernan will also be on sale. See you there!

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Friendship Club

Owing to me being on holiday I was not able to go on the river trip to Worcester, but having heard no reports, either good or bad I can only assume everything was satisfactory.

Our next outing is to **Longleat on Tuesday 4th July** when we shall ride round the Safari Park in the coach and the rest of the time we can spend as we wish. A packed lunch is advisable. Further details from Mrs. Boughton (Tel;263460)

We meet again in the Village Hall on **Tuesday 18th July at 2pm.**

Dear Editor,

I just wanted to wish Terry and Judith well after their recent set back in the Village Shop.

I much appreciate the service that they provide. How lucky we all are to have a Village Shop!

Margie Taylor.

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THE PREMIERSHIP WALK

May I take this opportunity to thank all those good people in the Sibfords for their encouragement and generous support to the Premiership Walk.

I successfully completed the 650 mile journey on Saturday, the 13th May at 12.15pm at St.James' Park, Newcastle, having taken 34 days to reach my destination from Southampton, visiting each of the Premiership Clubs and the Football Association on my travels. Amongst individuals I met were ADAM CROZIER, Chief Executive, The Football Association, PETER RISDALE, Chairman Leeds United, DAVID BECKHAM and FILBERT THE FOX, Mascot, Leicester City!

A great adventure seeing parts of England that I had never seen before walking along canal paths, across coastal dunes and through national parks; snow, hail, sleet, thunder and lightning yes, but lots of sunshine too, and I remained "blister free" thanks to Ginny's oils and lotions. The clubs donated memorabilia, autographed club shirts and footballs which will be auctioned off in the autumn to raise funds for the charity, WORKABLE, which opens up access to work experience and employment for disabled students and graduates. Money raised will be directly allocated to WORKABLE'S projects dedicated to supporting their clients in their search for the career of their choice (it is four times as difficult for a disabled graduate to find work, compared with their able bodied counterparts!) Thank you everyone for your kindness.

DAVID BENNETT

P.S. I am not attempting a repeat in 2001, IPSWICH TOWN'S promotion made that certain!

There will be no separate September issue of the Sibford Scene.

The deadline for contributions to the August and September Scene will be **July 18th.**

Contributions to the Village Shop, Treasurer or the Editor.

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 **Rachel and Simon Lucas**, who have moved from Stratford on Avon to Farthings, Pound Lane, with their two little girls - Georgia aged 8 and Charlotte, nearly 7.

Simon is a director of a financial services company in London and will be commuting. Rachel has set up a pottery painting business, so that children can paint their own ceramics at organised parties, or adults do so at wine evenings or similar functions.

As for hobbies, Simon loves motor racing and Rachel is interested in art and literature and also plays the piano.

Sheila and Christopher Job have moved from N.W. London into Stickleys House, Main Street. They have two grown-up sons, aged 26 and 24, living in London. They both run a small business in the office furniture industry, based in London, but Christopher plans to work mainly from home. Sheila is about to qualify as a homeopath and will probably set herself up locally.

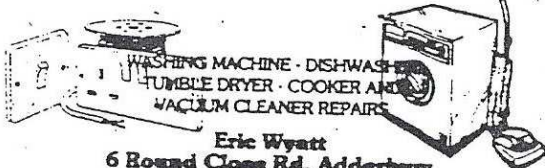
Christopher plays golf and is interested in all sport, while Sheila does tapestry work and loves gardening. They are both looking forward to living in the country and will eventually be joining in with some of the local activities.

Continued on page 10

**ADDERBURY
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John Davis and Carolyne Larrington moved into 'Little Thatch' in Sibford Ferris at the end of February. They both teach at Oxford University and live in Oxford during the week in term time. John is a tutor in modern History at the Queen's college, and Carolyne teaches medieval English literature at St John's. Also living at 'Little Thatch' is Daisy the golden retriever, second prize winner in the 'Waggiest Tail' class at the Sibford fete this year. Daisy performed less well in the 'Prettiest Bitch' class after jumping into the river on the way to the Village Hall.

We both love being in Sibford and are still marvelling at our fortune in finding such a lovely village almost by accident. When Daisy, as she frequently does, refuses to get in the car when its time to go back to Oxford, we have every sympathy with her.

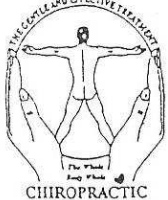
Church Fete

The Holy Trinity, Sibford, Church Fete will take place at the Rectory, Acreditch on **Saturday 15th July at 2.30pm**. (If wet, in the Primary School) Stalls for Good Food, Bottles, Books, Bric-a-Brac, Teas and fun for the family. Gifts for the stalls would be gratefully appreciated.

The National Asthma Campaign

acknowledges with grateful thanks the sum of £56, proceeds from the recent house-to-house collection in Burdrop. M.C.

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The Sibford Village Fayre

I hope everyone who attended the Sibford Village Fayre enjoyed the day. Our aim for the past three years has been to offer a great family day out at a reasonable cost. To this end we purposefully keep the prices low and contribute free events for children to enjoy, such as the magic show. We therefore rely on high attendance figures to raise any money for the village hall funds. This year was exceptional. Even without the 'evening do' we managed to raise over £1100! Thank you for your support.

Many individuals contribute to making this event a success. This letter would run to a few pages if I talked about each one and their individual contribution, so collectively I would like to thank the local farmers who have for the past three years donated their time (at one of the busiest times of the year), equipment and materials, the groups who use the village hall who lend their time and effort in running stalls and events for the benefit of village Hall funds, (we will publish in the next scene a summary of how the money was raised) and villagers both old and new, who get involved in the planning of this event or help on the day and contribute to the village life we enjoy.

We want to do more next year and need some fresh ideas. Why don't you get involved? Whether you have lived here for generations or are new to the village, you live here and have the opportunity to contribute to making the Sibfords (and Burdrop) a great place to live. The reward is greater than the effort, it must be, why do the people above bother? If you are interested, want to find out a little bit more before making up your mind, contact me on 788188.

Ian O'Hare

Chairman Village Hall Committee

Competition Results.

The childrens fancy dress was as competitive as ever with the following results;

Under 3's

1st Charlie Smith, S.Gower as 'Bob the Builder'

2nd Jack Lovegrove, Epwell as 'Jack and the Beanstalk'

3rd Naomi Spencer, S.Ferris as 'Piglet'

4th Isobel Darvill, S.Ferris as a Butterfly

3's and over. 14 entries;

1st Brett Knapman as a Dragon

2nd Mollie Pyne as Sleeping Beauty

3rd Harry Smith as a Pirate

4th Sean Knapman as a giant snail

5th Ellen Smith as Peter Rabbit

6th Callam O'Hare as a racing driver

The Fun Dog Show caused much amusement for the spectators and in the new dog agility class the owners worked harder than their pets.

Best Puppy;

1st Ollie, (only 12 weeks old) shown by John Stolwood

2nd Daisy, Sarah Darvill

3rd Charlie, Mary Philpott (owned by Basil Page)

4th Tad, Jo Radcliffe

Best Young Handler;
 1st Daisy & Jonathan Young (11)
 2nd Nutmeg & Sarah Pratt (9)
 3rd Inca & Izzy Steane (12)
 Best Pedigree;
 1st Milo (last years reserve champ) &
 Ann Batchelor
 2nd Murphy & Sally Hudson
 3rd Sybil & Toby Seeley
 Handsomest Dog;
 1st Sparky, Tracy Wood
 2nd Charlie, Mary Philpott
 3rd Barney, Emma Jones
 Prettiest Bitch;
 1st Cibelle, Gareth Platt
 =2nd Daisy, Sarah Darvill
 =2nd Nutmeg, Sarah Pratt
 Dog Agility;
 1st Barney, Emma Jones
 2nd Inca, Izzy Steane
 3rd Daisy, Jonathan Young
 Best Cross Breed;
 1st Skeetz, Alan Hobson
 =2nd Annie, Gareth Platt
 =2nd Jessie, Penny England
 Best Veteran;
 1st Jiffy (14 yrs) Gareth Platt
 2nd Harley, Max Dennison
 3rd Thomas, Penny England
 Dog with the waggiest tail;
 1st Jasper, Audrey Horwood
 2nd Daisy, Carolyne Larrington
 3rd Jiffy, Gareth Platt
 Sibford Top Dog Champion, receiving
 Challenge Cup, Championship Ro-
 sette and a bag of dog food kindly
 donated by Countrywide Stores, a
 chocolate labrador, 10 months old
 Charlie, shown by Mary Philpott
 and owned by Basil Page.
 Reserve Champion, Nutmeg, a Shet-
 land Sheepdog, 18 months old, shown

by Sarah Pratt (9yrs) granddaughter of
 the owner Doreen Pratt.

The Childrens Obstacle Course again
 proved to be very competitive, with
 overall winner, Jonathan Jones, who
 was also last years winner, recording
 a time 4 seconds ahead of the field.
 (We understand that he had been
 training for a few weeks before the
 Fayre)

11 years and over;

1st Jonathan Jones
 2nd Joe Dennison
 3rd John Dyer

6 to 10 years;

1st Thomas Spackman
 2nd Will Spackman
 3rd Brett Knapman

Under 6 years;

1st Kaylem Adams
 2nd Shaun Knapman
 3rd Jordon Bolton

The childrens art competition was
 well supported with all the entries be-
 ing shown inside the Village Hall;

10 to 14 years;

1st Tanya Chandler
 2nd Jessica Braviner
 3rd Max Dennison

5 to 9 years;

1st Brett Knapman
 2nd Cleo Jones
 3rd Ellen Smith

Under 5 years;

1st Emily Darvill
 2nd Lucy Wymer-Hoad
 3rd Amy Spackman

The Collectables and Car Boot Sale
 on June 18th raised £63.28 for Hall
 funds and £60 towards the Fayres to-
 tal. The next sale is Sunday 2nd July
 1 - 3pm. (Continued over the page)

Ring 251339 for your bookings.

The theatre evening 'Cider with Rosie' performed by North Oxon BTEC Students was very enjoyable and raised £27 towards Hall funds. We will shortly be booking other theatre evenings in conjunction with Cherwell D.C.

The next public Auction at the Village Hall is on Saturday 15th July at 2.30pm. Viewing from 12.30 Details on 01608 662587. Refreshments available.

Village Hall Extension

A brief progress report on the plans to extend the village hall and a little bit more!

The lottery application is on track and will be submitted around the end of the month. If successful in our bid we will have the additional space to offer much more to villagers and visitors. A key element of any bid is the support of local groups. Overall the user groups have supported our intentions. The two Parish Councils have indicated their support for our bid, however because of a lack of finances not in monetary terms. It should be noted that each donates £250 a year, an important contribution towards the running costs of the hall.

Moving on, it appears that I need to scotch a couple of rumours. Firstly at the public meeting I believed I had made it quite clear that the extension was not being built for the sole use of the playgroup. My apologies for not doing so. By way of reiteration: - the playgroup will use the new hall on the same contractual basis as everyone else. If others want to book the new hall and it is free, you will be able to do so. Ways in which we see it being used are as a creche whilst other activities take place in the main hall, a small meeting room, children's parties etc.

Secondly at the same meeting I gave a personnel undertaking that whilst I was chairman the fees for hiring the hall, which I reduced on being appointed three years ago (villagers are charged half of the normal fees) would not increase. This excepted normal inflationary rises. (These have not been applied for three years and I see no reason to change them this year either.) So for those of you that have heard and more importantly believed that fees on completion of the extension would double please ask yourself where is the sense in that? We would lose the support of the groups who use the hall, fail to attract new users and eventually be forced to shut the hall if we maintained such a position.

Ian O'Hare

Chairman Village Hall Committee

BOOK REVIEW - 'THE SIBFORD MILLENNIUM PANELS'

This book, published by Andrew and Martin Gordon in memory of their mother Peggy, a former village resident, is both an intriguing snapshot of the Sibfords for turn-of-the-millennium villagers and a potentially valuable historical record for future generations.

Mollie Picken's heroic achievement in galvanising 66 villagers of hugely varying experience into action with dye and thread is most appropriately celebrated through the medium of Andrew's excellent photographs. The 36 pages are divided into two sections, separated by a map showing the locations of the buildings featured.

The book's first half shows the panels as they appear on display, allowing one to follow the historical work at the bottom in chronological order. Two pages are devoted to each panel, with a guide giving numbers for each piece of work. These relate - not quite infallibly - to the central map. There's also a page number for houses which appear in the second half. The tall format of the book, matching the format of the panels, enables the detail of each picture to be easily distinguished.

The second part shows individual pieces of work enlarged to varying degrees, with much interesting information about the buildings' background, researched and written by Andrew. I was fascinated by the history and trust that current residents will not mind their names appearing: they will, after all, themselves be history. The 'Directory of Artists' at the end must be used in connection with the numbered panel guides at the front, from which you can go to the individual houses in the second half. The system takes a little getting used to.

The book, which is designed by Nigel Fletcher, is a pleasure to look at and to handle. I thought it a wonderful way to remember Sibford's contributions to the year 2000, including the panels' connection with the Pageant, which Andrew mentions in his helpful introduction. Sibford has not been so celebrated in print since Leslie Bailey's *From Romans to Rock'n Roll* in 1960, and, as Andrew says, it would be nice to think that someone 'at home with their demesnes and their heriots' might be inspired by the work to produce a really detailed history.

J.W.

The book is available from the Village Shop or from Andrew Gordon (780569): special offer £6 during June, afterwards £8.

Goodbye Sibford Brownies

As you may know Vivienne and Isobel alias Brown Owl and Tawny Owl, are finishing running brownies after many years. Sadly this is resulting in the closure of the Sibford Brownies.

There is a collection going on to present them with gifts on their leaving. If any ex brownies or their parents would like to contribute please contact their helpers - Kate Lewis 788506 or Kayleigh Gilkes 788190 A.S.A.P.

It is very sad to see another long established part of Village life, the Brownies, closing. In the same week as the Pageant reminds us of our villages history and of the time when there were 3 bands in the village to play at the Club Days, it is a sad reflection of what village life has become over the years when there is no one in our community who can find the time to help keep the Brownies running. Ed.

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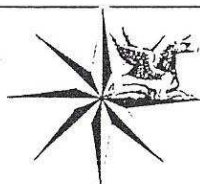
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W.I. NEWS & INFORMATION

Presiding over the June meeting, Brenda Power gave a resume of the much publicised Wembley gathering, the which she confirmed had been greatly 'blown up' by the press.

Ever looking forward (!) orders were taken for next year's diaries and calendars, the latter containing an excellent photograph of Hocky Brewery taken by camera-clicking member Glennis Hutchinson.

Further talent in our membership was displayed by Pat Horsley who expounded on her life as a florist. Fulfilling a childhood ambition, starting by sweeping florists' floors and rising to 'doing' society weddings, Pat demonstrated her skill in the delightful floral creations she produced with such ease, three of which were taken home by lucky raffle winners.

We had been kept entertained by many amusing anecdotes of her career and our sincere thanks and appreciation for such an enjoyable demonstration was expressed by Gwen Whitehead.

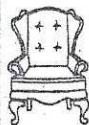
Glennis's arrangemaent in an egg cup won 1st. prize and we look forward to our meeting on July 11th. in her pleasant garden - weather permitting. If not we resort to the Village Hall.

Final arrangements will be made for the outing to Laycock Abbey on August 23rd. For possible available seats for non-members please ring 780510

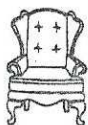
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The Pageant - A View from the Audience

Like the millennium itself it was strange when it finally came; years of preparation and suddenly it was here. There we were sitting on the hillside, clad in woollies, waterproofs and wellies it is true, but we were here and it was not raining.

I had watched the building of the set over the past week or two. It looked exciting and I was keen to see it brought to life. And brought to life it was, with an excellent script, enthusiastic actors, attractive costumes and the use of the lovely setting where the hills chop down to the stream.

The history of Sibford from saxon times to World War II unfolded before our eyes. Much of it was fun, but some very sobering, somehow more powerful enacted as it was in the spot near to where it happened. It brought home how many times this little valley has been wracked by war. The reading of the names of the servicemen killed in the two world wars was beautifully done and all the more powerful as so many of the names are still alive in Sibford today and reminded us of the cost to so many local families.

But it was not all doom and gloom. It ended on a wonderful note of hope with an effigy of the world being left in the hands of 2 small children.

It was dusk as we packed up and went home. I couldn't help wondering what the badgers on the slope above, about to leave their setts for their nights foraging, and who have shared this spot with us for so many generations thought of it all.

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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	

July 2nd	10am Young at Heart at Sibford
July 9th	Deanery Service at Adderbury
July 16th	9.30am Holy Communion
July 23rd	9.30am Holy Communion
July 30th	9.30am Holy Communion and Christening



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Sibford Bus Services

FREE BUS SERVICE

	<u>Depart</u>	<u>Return</u>
Thursdays 6th and 20th July to Banbury	10am	12noon
Wednesdays 12th and 26th July to Chippy	10am	12noon

The pick-up points are: Banbury Bus Chippy Bus
 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

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Calendar of Events

July

Sat 1st	Skip in Barley Close
Sat 1st	Garage Sale at Shepherds Knoll P11
Sun 2nd	Collectables and Car Boot sale, V.Hall p13
Sun 2nd	Gower Open Gardens.
Mon 3rd	Ferris Parish Council Meeting.
Tue 4th	Friendship Club Outing to Longleat p7
Tue 4th	Every Tuesday, Bike Rides 7pm (Ferris crossroads)
Wed 5th	Mobile Library in Sibfords and Burdrop 2.25 - 4.20pm
Thu 6th	Quiet Gardens at Handywater p4
Tue 11th	W.I. Meeting p19
Thu 13th	Sibfords Society Walk. 6.45pm from the Blaize. p3
Sat 15th	Recycling units in Acre Ditch
Sat 15th	Skip at the Pond
Sat 15th	Church Fete 2.30pm at the Vicarage. p10
Sat 15th	Dunns Auctions at the Village Hall 2.30pm p14
Tue 18th	Friendship Club Meeting 2pm Village Hall p7
Tue 18th	Deadline for Contributions to August and September Scene. Contributions to Village Shop Treasurer or Editor p8
Wed 19th	Mobile Library in Sibfords and Burdrop 2.25 - 4.20pm
Sun 23rd	Car Boot Sale at Wheathills. p5

Sibford Scene

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

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

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

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