

June 2001

No. 234

Methodist Chapel Anniversary Service

Tuesday 5th June at 7.30 pm

See page 18

Katharine House Hospice Open Garden

Sunday 10th June 2 - 5 pm See page 21

Holy Trinity Church 161st Birthday

Sunday June 10th 3.30pm service

Followed by a Birthday Tea Party See page 14

Sibford Gower Open Gardens

Sunday 17 June 2 - 6 pm. See page 16

Sibford Village Hall Annual Fayre

Saturday 23rd June

All the fun of the fayre and

Simon 'Honeyboy' Hickling and the Dts

See page 4

Nature Notes

April 25th There were two muntjac wandering across the lawn at 10.30 this morning. They were sniffing at various plants but I could not see that any had been nibbled. It has been estimated that there are ten times as many deer in England as there were at the last big outbreak of foot and mouth disease in 1967. The increase may well be greater than that around Sibford.

April 27th Several people have told me that they have heard a cuckoo and two of them have also seen swallows but not me.

May 1st Two blackbirds were trying to chase away a magpie that was wiping its beak on a branch so I expect that another nest of eggs or young has been destroyed.

May 4th A friend tells me that she found the hollowed out skin of a hedgehog on her lawn. This must be the work of a badger. I don't think that any other predator can deal with a hedgehog.

May 9th Following on from my note last month about the consequences of importing new species from abroad, a wild flower expert tells me, that before the introduction of European honey bees, the wild bees of Australia had evolved so that each species acted as pollinator for a certain plant or group of plants and was only on the wing while those plants were in bloom. Now with the European bees active throughout the summer and collecting nectar from all available sources many hybrid plants are appearing.

May 12th I saw my first swift of the year at Sibford Gower today. I have yet to see a house martin and did not see a swallow until the 3rd of May. I don't think that I have ever got to May without seeing a swallow before.

May 13th Yesterday our neighbour asked us to look at the damage that a badger, or badgers, had done to his lawn presumably while digging for slugs as there were no droppings in the holes. The damage was quite extensive covering about thirty square yards. This morning we found that a much smaller area of our lawn had suffered the same way. I hope that after this evenings rain they will find another food source.

May 15th I was working in the greenhouse this morning when a mouse poked its nose under the closed door. After using its nose to try the width of the gap all along the bottom of the door it went away

seemingly having decided that it could not get in that way. A few minutes later it was back in a more determined mood, and laying over sideways, scratched away the caked dirt that covered the paving slab in the doorway. The turning itself onto the other side scratched away some more, widening the way enough to squeeze through and disappear amongst the flower pots.

LEO NEWS

The May meeting was held at the home of Mary and Norman Nash, where they gave a wonderful talk about some of their experiences on their canal boat. The first part was concerned with the structure of the many canals all over the country, the second with the general layout of their boat, the third with the frightening experiences they had had, the fourth with the funny ones and the last with the many enjoyable aspects. We had a very full house and thoroughly enjoyed hearing about the various things that had happened to them. We are all very grateful to them for their hospitality and for all the time they must have spent putting together their talk.

Please note that there is a complete change of plan for the next meeting. By then, the **19th June**, we should be having some real summer weather, and it was thought a good idea to have a little trip out to a country pub for a meal. Apparently the Horse and Groom at Upper Oddington has been tried out and voted to be good. If you would like to join us, please let Rosalind know before **Monday, 11th June**. We shall meet in the Village Hall car park at 7.30 to sort out cars and then go straight on. If anyone needs directions, Rosalind has already been there and should be able to direct you. Her telephone number is 788162. We hope you are able to come.

MW

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Letter from Sibford Village Hall Committee.

The Annual Fayre on **Saturday 23rd June**, will be a great family day out. Opened by the Chairman of Cherwell District Council there will be all the old favourites - the Childrens Fancy Dress competition with rosettes for all, childrens obstacle course, the Fun Dog Show (ALL DOGS MUST BE ON LEADS PLEASE), with the wonderful Top Dog Trophy and Championship rosette, and a dog agility course - so get those dogs fit!

The usual bottle, tombola, plant stalls, car boot, lots of games - with the human fruit machine back again - plus the bouncy castle, hopefully Magic Eddys free show, the bungee run, aunt sally, the stocks to put your "best" friend in etc. etc. The vintage penny arcade will be back again. The childrens pictures for the art competition will be displayed in the Hall on the day along with the Sibford Society display.

If we get the weather we have ordered you can enjoy the special teas 'alfresco', plus the barbeque, licensed bar from the Bishop Blaize and some wonderful ice creams. A great raffle, with a top prize of £100 cash, generously donated, a £50 voucher from the Moody Cow at the

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Wykham Arms and others. We have got a new competition - the Moody Cowpat competition, which should be a lot of laughs! AND we would like a really good Tug-O-War competition so what about it guys and girls - build up those muscles and get your team lined up and fit for anything. **Teams please to Ginny on 780373.** Then just as you thought you were going home for a rest, we want you back again at the evening entertainment where you can dance to **Simon 'honeyboy' Hickling and the Dts**, plus the superb **pig roast and licensed bar.** Adult £5 in advance, £7.50 on the night, children 10 to 15 £2.

So see you there - please support the whole day, its a lot of hard work for all our helpers and the profit will be used to redecorate and renovate the Hall.

The May collectables and Car Boot sale made £105 profit for the Hall funds. The next sales are on **Sunday 3rd June and Sunday 1st July**, 12 noon to 3pm with refreshments available. To book please ring 01295 251339 - £5 for an inside table, £4 for an outside pitch.

The second draw of the **Village Lottery Game** took place at the above when the winners were £12 to Mr James O'Kelly, £8 to Mr Keith Sabin and £5 to Mrs Joan Gilbert. We have 2 more players and next months 3rd prize will be increased to £6. Why not join and raise the prizes even higher. You can join at the Annual Fayre - only one pound per month taken as an annual subscription.



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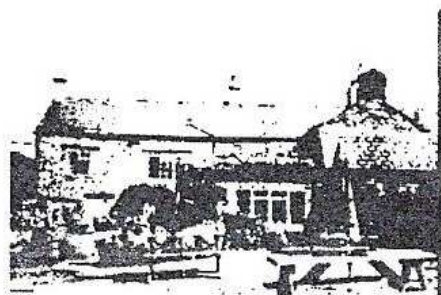
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W.I. NEWS & INFORMATION

Our President Greta Baadsgaard was on holiday in Denmark and so our Vice-President Rosalind Pearlman took the meeting. We were in serious mood when Lynda Conway opened our discussion on 'Resolutions' put forward by the North Oxfordshire Federation. We all voted in favour to urge H.M. Government to ensure that all school age children have access to a dedicated school nursing service. After a long discussion the second resolution "Training of staff working with older people" ended with a few voting against and the majority undecided.

Lynda then lightened our mood by playing a recording of that famous (infamous ?!) W.I. Calendar song by Richard Stilgo and Peter Skellen. Kathleen Reid gave a very good account of our visit to the Group Meeting at Tadmarton. An interesting Travel Talk about the danger of being in Afganistahn in the eighties. Barbara Crabtree departed from her role as treasurer to give a delightful reading "We are survivors". Those of us born before 1940 (surely not !!) saw the funny side of new meanings given to old words, e.g. "Crumpet" used to be something for tea. Gasping for tea, we had yet to hear Rosalid Pearlman reading an unbelievable extract from a 60's Home Economics Textbook "The Good Wife's Guide". We were in stitches but some of our more tender-hearted members shed a tear or two on behalf of our poor husbands who can no longer look forward to having their slippers fetched ! Sad.

Winners of the very cerebral quiz were Kathleen Winter and Phyllis Webb - a brainy pair indeed.

The competition 'Best Flowering Stem' was won by Gaynor Harper-Tarr with a most unusual and beautiful daffodil.

At last our tea! Lovely cakes and scones from Gwen Whitehead and Audrey Taylor.

Our next meeting is on June 12th

Speaker: Jenny Thwaites on

"Knitted Pictures"

Comp: A sheep in any form.

All Welcome!

The Sibfords Society

At our May meeting, we were entertained by Kevin Wyles, who served with the Tysoe Fire Service for 30 years, until it was disbanded in 1997. The service was started in 1897 by the Marquis of Northampton and it initially cost £14.00 a year to run the service. This was funded by subscription and the first appliance to be bought was a two-wheeled hand pump, drawn by a horse and then a bugle, to alert the fire fighters that they were needed! The first fire was in 1898, and was out by the time they arrived! They also attended many accidents on Sunrising Hill, one a menagerie of animals and the men rushed off bravely to capture escaped lions with nets and pitchforks, only to find the poor lions still contained in the overturned cage. The equipment was modernised over the years and during the Second World War they went as far as Birmingham and other towns.

On Midsummer's Eve, **21 June**, we have organised a guided tour of the ancient town of Burford, at a cost of £3 per person, starting at 7 pm from the green outside the church. We will be taken on a gentle stroll around the town and will also visit the church and the Museum. This takes about one and a half hours and as we shall be staying in the lower part of the town, will not have to climb the very steep hill to the top! Non-members of the Society are very welcome to join us, so please ring Barbara Crabtree on 780635, as we need to know the number of people joining us.

Swalcliffe Society's next meeting is on **20 June** at 8 pm when Kate Tiller will talk about the history of Swalcliffe.

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Nurse Jean Poulton. Remembered.

1st Corinthians Chap. 13 ends with the three great things:

Faith Hope & Charity

Faith = fidelity and loyalty

Hope = Looking forward with cheerfulness and optimism

Charity = Love

With the sudden death of Jean Poulton I have lost a true friend, who possessed all the above qualities in abundance. She came to Sibford in the early fifties, as I did, which is nearly 50 years ago and has been a true and loyal colleague, and friend to me and my family ever since. In our work we shared moments of drama, tragedy, and sublime happiness. I was privileged to be responsible for her care when she was expecting her charming daughters. In due course she became a devoted grandmother.

We shared a birthday, something she never failed to remember with a card and a gift. She was godmother to my daughter Katrina and never failed to remember that. She had married Lewis Poulton, the doyen of an old established Sibford family, and became a stalwart Sibfordian, always present and helping at village functions, always modestly, often in the background. As a nurse, and especially as a midwife, she was dedicated, hard working and supportive, and loved by all her patients. If she had a fault it was that she could never say NO to a call for help, and I think Lewis may have had more baby minding to do than he had anticipated. When she retired and moved to Devon we were still able to see each other. She was a true carer before it became a fashionable word. We can safely say that she served the community beyond the call of duty.

Her death leaves a huge gap in the circle of dear friends and colleagues. SAA.

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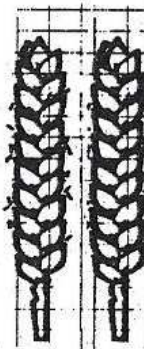
Our AGM was quite a quiet meeting, after the reports everyone was thanked by the Chairperson for the work which they had done during the year, no one had any complaints and the committee were re-elected 'en bloc'. After the meeting we all sat down to enjoy a lovely birthday tea which was provided by Mrs Webb. If anyone would like to join the Club we either meet in the Village Hall or have an outing on two Tuesdays each month. The membership fee is £5 per annum which covers you for tea and light refreshments when we have a meeting. The only stipulation, you must be over 50 years of age. Anyone is welcome to hear our speakers as visitors which will cost 50p inclusive of refreshments.

Dates for diaries;

Tuesday 5th June. Coach trip probably to a Garden Centre.

Tuesday 19th June. Meet in the Village Hall at 2 pm when Canon Palmer will be talking about one of his Russian River Trips.

Tuesday 3rd July. A river trip of our own, this could be an all day outing.



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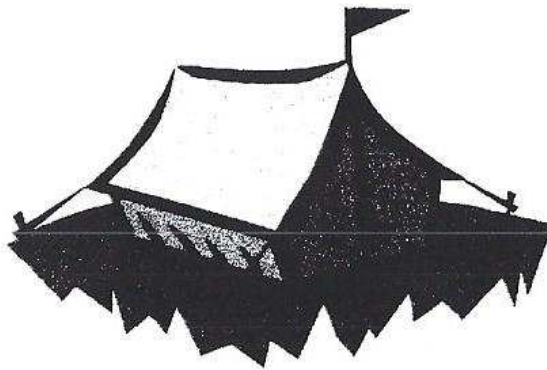


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1st The Sibfords



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THE CAPE WINTER APPROACHES

We have had our first taste of winter with a deluge of rain which was much needed to start filling the dams. The temperature dropped to a chilly 14 degrees C and we quickly dug out the winter duvet. However, it only lasted a few days then we were back to summer again. The temperature went up to 30 degrees C brought about by a hot berg wind. It was an odd sensation to go outside and feel as if you had stepped into a fan oven on full blast. We have also had some wonderful days with no wind and warm sunshine which has reflected the lovely Autumn colours of the trees. There is more rain forecast now so we'll see how long that lasts.

This month I thought I'd just tell you a bit about Arniston, a small fishing village about two hours drive east along the coast. We had a long weekend there a few weeks ago created by Freedom Day and Workers Day. The real name of the village is Waenhuiskrans which literally translated from the Afrikaans means Wagon House Cliff. There is a giant sea cave which resembles a waenhuis, the structure in which ox wagons were sheltered. It is quite spectacular and well worth the visit at low tide. However, the village is more popularly known as Arniston as it is there that the ship called the Arniston was wrecked in 1815. The southern coast of South Africa is littered with shipwrecks as storms, reefs and poor navigation have contributed to many a ships' demise.

The Arniston was an English East Indian and built on the river Thames in 1794. Somewhere between 1814 and 1815 she was requisitioned by the British Admiralty for service in India and Ceylon as a government troop transport. She picked up wounded soldiers who had been fighting in Nepal and Ceylon and set sail for England. This is the account of one of the six survivors from the ship.

'After seven weeks at sea, the Arniston parted company from the convoy on 26 May owing to heavy seas and strong winds which had ripped away most of her sails. After four more days of battling against gale-force winds, a grave error in judgement was made aboard the Arniston. Thinking they had reached Table Bay, the crew changed course to supposedly sail to St Helena. At four o'clock in the afternoon of 30 May breakers were sighted and, unable to alter course the decision was made to cut away three anchors and run the ship on shore. Disaster struck as the ship began to break up on the needle of sharp rocks of the Agulhas Reef. By eight o'clock that evening it was all over with 372 passengers, many of whom were wounded soldiers, perishing at sea. Only six survivors made it to shore, about one and a half miles distant. At daylight the next morning only the stern post was visible. The beach was littered with dead bodies, wreckage and stores.'

We also visited Cape Agulhas which is the southern most point of Africa. Agulhas is Portuguese for needles as it is here that the needles of the compass point due north without magnetic deviation.

Finally, the dog who has been employed to scare the geese and guinea fowl on Erinvale golf course has been very successful so far. Her name is Sabrina and she is a two year old border collie. Having got frustrated when her previous owners moved to a smaller property she started to chew the furniture and barked incessantly. Now gainfully employed and on the go all day she is a model dog!
Pat and Steve Bates

Sibford Gower Parish Council

We had a good turnout for the annual Litterblitz. Many thanks to everyone who helped tidy up the village.

At the recent Annual Parish Meeting the following highway matters were raised. Blocked drains at Mawles Farm, the trench at the top of Pound Lane and the bad state of Colony Road. The Council will take up these matters with the Highways Department.

The Neighbourhood Watch asked villagers to remain vigilant as break ins had recently been reported in the village.

The Chairman reminded the meeting that next year was election year and anyone interested in serving on the Council should stand. The Clerk was thanked for all the work she had done for the Parish Council. The new Clerk is Mr Peter Hardman, The Mount, Main Street, Sibford Gower, Banbury, Oxon. OX15 5RT. Tel 780391

Technology Update

*A special report from
your science correspondent.*

Introducing the new Bio - Optic Organised Knowledge device, trade-names - BOOK.

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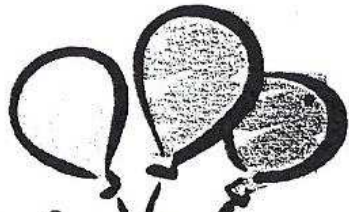
BOOK is constructed of sequentially numbered sheets of paper (recyclable), each capable of holding thousands of bits of information. The pages are locked together with a custom-fit device called a binder which keeps the pages in their correct sequence.

Opaque Paper Technology (OPT) allows manufacturers to use both sides of the sheet, doubling the information density and cutting costs. Experts are divided on the prospects for further increases in information density; for now, BOOKS with more information simply use more pages. A flick of a finger takes you to the next sheet.

BOOK never crashes or needs rebooting, though, like other devices, it can become damaged if coffee is spilled on it and it becomes unusable if dropped too many times on a hard surface. The "browse" feature allows you to move instantly to any sheet, and move backwards and forwards as you wish. Many come with an "Index" feature, which pin-points the exact location of any selected information for instant retrieval.

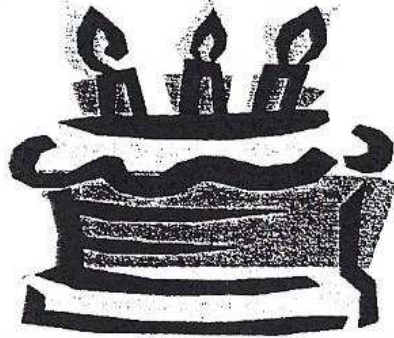
ANON

Taken from FOCUS, Hatfield Parish Magazine, January 2001.



**Holy Trinity Church
Sibford Gower**

**Happy Birthday
161 years old!**

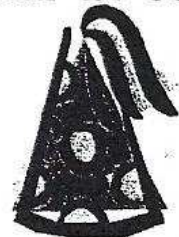


**Holy Trinity Church is 161 years old
on Trinity Sunday June 10th.**

**Come along to the Children's Service at
3.30 in the afternoon followed by a
birthday tea party.**

**Make your own party hat and wear it to
the service!**

**Phone Erica on 780555
for more information**



Sibford Horticultural Society

Forthcoming Events;

June 13th. A garden visit to Whichford. Please meet at the green in Whichford at 7 o'clock.

June 16th. Coffee Morning at Judith Hitching's Gower's Close from 10.30 to 12 noon.

June 24th. We have been asked to run a plant stall at the Village Fayre; **please donate plants to be sold at this event!**

August 18th. The Annual Flower show in the marquee and Village Hall. Donations of raffle prizes, cakes and produce, plants and bottles would be appreciated for the Flower Show.

Please could last years cup winners return them to The Surgery by July 1st please.

Environmentally Very. Dangerous!!

Fairly strong words about a plant that produces pretty yellow flowers but ragwort (*Senecio Jacobaea*) is extremely dangerous to humans and animals.

The toxic properties in ragwort are made up of several different pyrrolizidine alkaloids, which are all poisonous to horses, cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, dogs and human beings and there is no known treatment for ragwort poisoning.

Ragwort is easy to recognise when growing. The plant produces a rosette of green ragged edge leaves in May, then grows into a 3' upright plant with woody slightly red stems. It produces a large head of bright yellow flowers with a daisy like petal in late July/August.

We can prevent the risks of poisoning of our animals, if we all work together to clear ragwort from our beautiful county. Before ragwort flowers it responds well to spraying with a herbicide. Once it flowers all plants must then be pulled up and put into sacks and incinerated before it is allowed to seed. **ALWAYS WEAR GLOVES WHEN HANDLING RAGWORT.**

The British Horse Society is organising a major ragwort clearance programme across Oxfordshire this summer. This is a project that any one can help with, whether it is advising us of areas where you have found ragwort growing or simply pulling up the plants as you find them while out walking. To do that all you will need is your gloves and a bag to put the plant into, it's as simple as that!

For advice, Leaflets, or to offer help please contact the BHS welfare officer Miss D M Harris on 01993 702844.

SIBFORD GOWER OPEN GARDENS

SUNDAY 17TH JUNE 2 - 6 PM.

The following gardens will be open under the
National Gardens Scheme;

Handywater Farm - Mr & Mrs W B Colquhoun (Teas by PTA)

Carters Yard - Mr & Mrs H Tengvall

The Manor House - Mr & Mrs Booth

Temple Close - Mrs V Jones

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HOLY TRINITY CHURCH SIBFORD

The Church Bazaar will be held in the Rectory Garden, Acreditch on Saturday 14th July at 2.30 pm. If wet in the Village Hall.

Please put the date in your diary!

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Methodist Chapel

We are holding our Chapel Anniversary on
Tuesday 5th June at 7.30 pm.

The speaker will be the Rev. James Skinner.

The Chairperson will be
Pastor Henry Edwards.
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served afterwards.
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celebrate this occasion.

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142786

Kiganamo School, Tanzania.

In the summer I will be travelling to Tanzania to help promote education and support the work already being done by the relief agency CORD.

Over the past year £7000 has been raised to help rebuild Kiganamo School in Kasulu, Western Tanzania.

The school was built in 1952 with 3 classrooms and a teacher's office. At this time there were 45 children in each class. Today, Kiganamo school has 1214 children who are taught daily in 12 classrooms. The school is in desperate need of repair and resources are needed for all of the classrooms.

The money raised so far is being used to rebuild 4 of the classrooms.

In July 2001, myself and Gill Beck will be visiting Kasulu to assist with the rehabilitation of Kiganoma School.

We are hoping to raise money to buy the following resources for the school, which we will present to the school ourselves on the visit:

Sports equipment, Sports Kits, Posters, Globes/maps. Any village support would be gratefully received (780034)

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The visit is being co-ordinated by CORD a Christian relief and development agency, established in 1967 to help war-orphaned and abandoned children in Vietnam. CORD's projects which emphasise the well being of individuals and communities, aim to encourage local initiatives and community involvement.

I am looking forward to the visit and will keep you updated on our progress.

Jane Fletcher.



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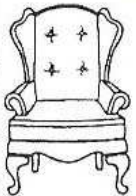


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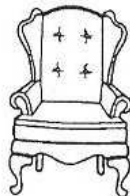
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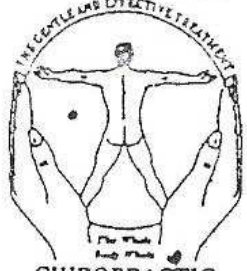
Society of Friends		Sunday at 10.30 am
Methodist		Sunday at 11.00 am
Roman Catholic Mass	Wroxton	Sunday at 9.00 am
	Brailes	Sunday at 11.30 am
Baptist	Hook Norton	Sunday at 10.30 am

Church of England, Holy Trinity, Sibford Gower.

June Services.

Fri	1st	Benifice Eucharist to celebrate 25 years with Timothy Wimbush as our Vicar.
Sun	3rd	Deanery Service 10 am, St Marys, Banbury.
Sun	10th	Holy Communion at 8.00 am. and Childrens Service and Birthday Party at 3.30 pm
Sun	17th	Holy Communion at 9.30 am
Sun	24th	Holy Communion at 9.30 am
Sun	1st July	Young at Heart Service at Shutford at 10 am.

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To Banbury. Thursdays June 7th and 21st Departs 10 am
 To Chippy Wednesdays June 13th and 27th Returns 12 noon
 Pick up points are; The Colony, High Meadow, Crossroads, Village Hall.

Stage Coach 480 Shipston - Sibford - Banbury

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

Cherwell Villager 55 Sibford ~ Banbury

Wednesdays Only	Outward	Return
Sibford Gower	9.55 am	1.55 pm
Sibford Ferris	9.57 am	1.53 pm
Hook Norton	10.15 am	1.45 pm
Bloxham	10.35 am	1.15 pm
Banbury	10.50 am	1.00 pm

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Calendar of Events

June

- Sun 3rd Collectables and Car Boot Sale. 12-3pm V.Hall p6
Tue 5th Quiet Garden Day at Handywater.
Tue 5th Friendship Club Trip. p9
Tue 5th Methodist Chapel Anniversary Service. 7.30pm p18
Wed 6th Mobile Library in Sibfords and Burdrop (2.25-4.20pm)
Sun 10th Hospice Open Gardens p21
Sun 10th Church Birthday Party. p14
Tue 12th W.I. Talk on Knitted Pictures. p6
Wed 13th Horticultural Society Whichford Visit. p15
Sat 16th Horticultural Society Coffee Morning. p15
Sun 17th Gower Open Gardens. 2 - 6 pm p16
Tue 19th Friendship Club Talk 2pm Village Hall. p9
Tue 19th LEO Meal at the Horse and Groom p3
Tue 19th North Oxon Guild of Weavers Spinners & Dyers talk
on 'A new look at spinning' Details on 251088
Tue 19th Deadline for contributions to the July Scene p17
Wed 20th Mobile Library in Sibfords and Burdrop (2.25-4.20pm)
Wed 20th Swalcliffe Society Talk 8 pm. p7
Thu 21st Sibfords Society Tour of Burford. p7
Sat 23rd Village Fayre. p4
Sat 23rd Merchant of Venice - Leasowe House. Tel 780569

July part

- Sun 1st Collectables and Car Boot Sale. 12-3 V.Hall p6
Tue 3rd Friendship Club River Trip. p9
Sat 14th Church Bazaar. p17
Sat 14th Musical Evening at the Manor p11

Sibford Scene

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e-mail adrian.lamb@care4free.net

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780555

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