

December 2001 and January 2002

No. 239

### Nature Notes

Oct. 18th There are some interesting growths on some of the leaves on our beech tree that I have not noticed in past years. They take the form of green towers about a quarter of an inch tall and appear to grow through the leaf from a brown disc on its underside which looks very like the spangle gauls that form on the underside of oak leaves. I expect that these may also represent one stage in an insects life cycle. Oct. 24th After an absence covering the whole of last winter a nuthatch has now returned to feed on a tube of peanuts that I have put out.

Oct. 28th I saw my first two fieldfares of the winter this morning.

Oct. 30th My daughter saw a heron perched on a fence post near the new pond that is being made at Gautherns. Perhaps, with an eye to the future, it was there to see how the pond was progressing.

Nov. 4th The meteorological office report that last month was the warmest October on record.

Nov. 5th A white spongy growth has developed on many dead grass stalks this autumn. It is like a denser and firmer form of cuckoo spit, which is the froth with which the froghopper larva surrounds itself. I think it is a fungus but am not sure.

Nov. 15th While on a walk near Whichford this morning the footpath took us across a big grass field where it was evident from the dead flower stalks that, two or three months ago, there had been quite a show of wild flowers including some that most farmers would call weeds. There was also quite a lot of hawthorn, dogrose and some brambles that were about a foot high and if left will soon revert to scrubland and be a great area for wildlife. It brought back childhood memories of the 1930's when most of the more difficult to farm land drifted back to rough grazing or scrub, only to be cleared and ploughed again during the war years.

We also saw some fieldfares. There seem to be quite a few small flocks around but I have not seen any redwings.

Nov. 20th This calmer spell of weather is allowing the trees to keep their leaves long enough to develop their full autumn glory particularly the beeches and field maple.

In Swalcliffe Common this morning we saw a lot deer footprints including some quite big ones that were probably made by fallow deer.



Here we are in December, hats on and rosy cheek'd. Playgroup is full of feverish excitement (that's just the committee!) as we look forward to the Christmas festivities. Many a Sibford kitchen wall has been cleared of tractor and bonfire pictures - our projects earlier in the term- to make way for a cascade of stars, glitter and Santa pictures to liven up the dark winter days. Our high point this month is the truly fabulous Christmas

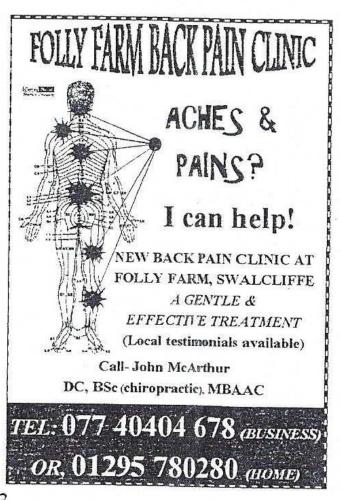
bazaar. A magical day full of fun, games, excitement and scrumptious cakes. Come and have your face painted, make a badge and visit Santa in his grotto, on **December 8th - 2pm** in the Village Hall. An occasion not to be missed!

Playgroup will close on December 18th and reopens on Monday January 7th. We look forward to seeing new and familiar faces in the New Year and wish everyone a very

# Marryothis Stmas

For further information please contact Julie 788594 or drop in to the Village Hall at one of our sessions.





# Fridays at Bridleways, Sibford Gower

Ian and Lynn Turner believed they were going along quite happily and doing nicely until they had a life changing meeting with The Lord Jesus. Ian was in product marketing and Lynn was in international banking, but things were about to change for the good.

Please join us any Friday evening 7.30 pm onward to hear more personal experiences and what happened afterwards.

All are welcome to explore, question, listen or share their own personal experiences

Please ring 780620 if you need directions.

# Neighbourhood Watch

Christmas is fast approaching, none of us want this busy and happy period upset with unwanted visitors. Please be observant, careful and keep an eye on your neighbours property.

A happy Christmas to all from our team.

John Mulley, Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator.

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For our meeting in November, we were expecting members of the Sealed Knot to entertain us but due to illness they were unable to come at the last minute. So at very short notice, Keith Hicks saved the evening and produced a tape he made in 1982 recording the 25th anniversary of the

opening of the Village Hall and also showed slides of the Hall and

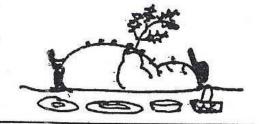
village celebrations going back to Edwardian days.

If anyone would like Christmas cards, we still have some over from last year and we are selling them at 5 for £1.00, so please phone

Ivor Hopkyns on 788367 who will be happy to supply them.

The annual Social Evening will take place in the Village Hall, on Thursday, 17 January at 7.30 pm with our usual bring and share supper. We are having a theme of Entertainment this time and some of our talented members will perform a number of items for everyone's enjoyment, so do come along and join us for a very pleasant evening.

We send our best wishes to you all for a Very Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.





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# invite you ton-William invite you ton 12. ANASE CHIKA STAIL STAI

### AT LAST ...!

"I thought that you'd gone"; "Are you still here? When are you off"?". The import of these and similar remarks depends almost entirely on the tone of voice in which they are said; kind people manage to keep any note of regret at bay. It is pleasant to record that despite the fact that the Friths have been an unconscionable long time a-going, people have been thus kind. Indeed so were the comments when it became known some time ago that age was taking its toll and that we planned to move to a dwelling whose size would be more geriatrically appropriate than our home here. Not just kind, but in many cases even flattering. So much so that it seemed (and still seems) appropriate to recall the prayer composed by the father-in-law of the prophet Mahomet\*:

I thank thee, Lord, for knowing me better than 1 know myself, and for letting me know myself better than others know me.

Make me, I pray, better than they suppose, and forgive me for what they do not

know.



And so, with that ringing in our ears Tina and I will say au revoir to Sibford in mid-December eternally grateful for the many kindnesses and friendships we have enjoyed in our 31 years. Thank you all very much.

Colin Frith \*Abu Bekr (7572-634) First Calif of Islam

# THANK YOU

To everyone who so generously supported the Coffee Morning in aid of Guide Dogs For The Blind

I am delighted to tell you that we have been able to send GDBA a cheque for £433.80.

Thank you also to those who continue to deliver aluminium foil and used stamps to us throughout the year. (We have been advised that

yoghurt tops, coffee bags and other 'plasticated foil' is not accepted for recycling)

Chris Ross



I am Terry Martin and for 15 years I have brought fresh, best quality fish and shell fish

to your area direct from Grimsby on the Lincolnshire coast, and I'll be appearing at Sibford Village Hall car park from approximately 4 pm till 6 pm every Monday.

All welcome I hope to see you all

All welcome. I hope to see you all soon. T.P. Martin

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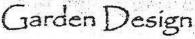
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# THE FIELDING DAY CENTRE

Some of our members call us *The Youth Club* which is what it seems like, such is the youthful outlook of our members and the fun we all have on our Wednesday lunch times at the Sibford School.

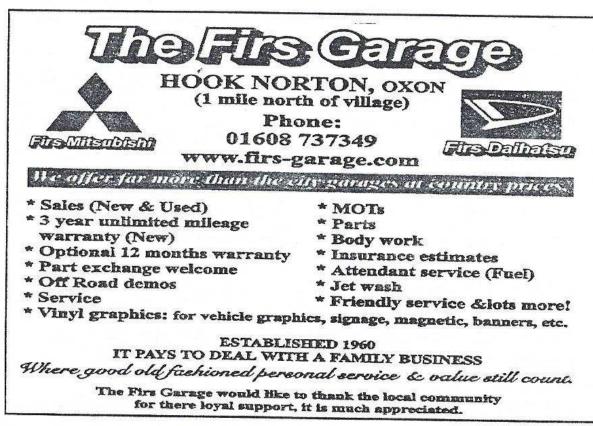
The problem is that the age of some of our helpers seems to be catching up with that of our members, but more than that, a number of our helpers have moved away from the village and we are getting decidedly short of help.

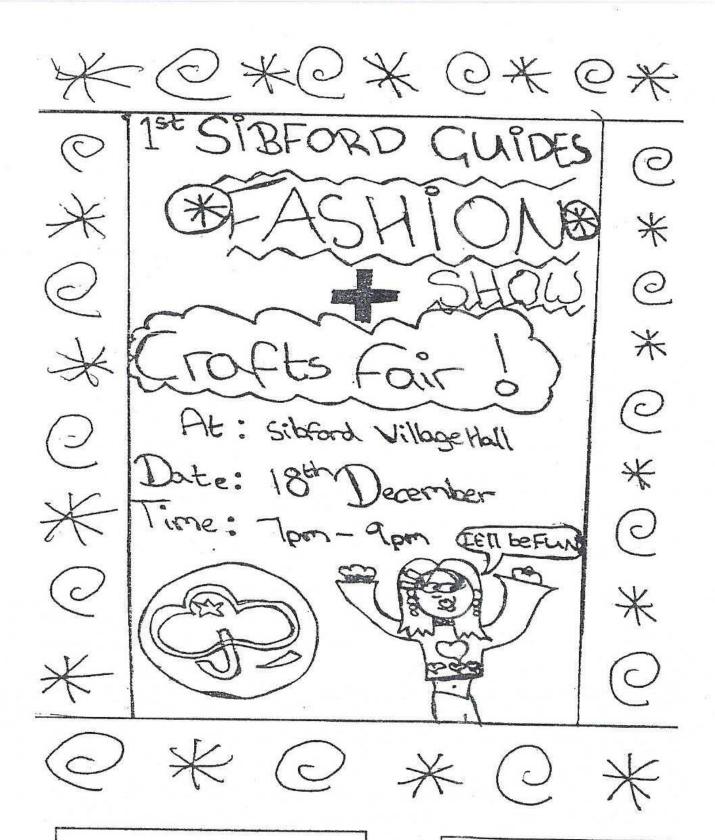
# Can you help us?

Our Wednesday lunches at The Sibford School start at about 12.30 pm and we return members home at about 4.00 pm. A rota operates and means about one duty every three or four weeks.

The numbers we now entertain has advanced to 21. We are funded by Social Services, contributions towards motor expenses are paid and the School lunches are *delicious!* 

Please apply to Norman Nash, The Red House, Burdrop (780275) or Ian Warden, 9 Barley Close, Sibford Gower (788252) for further details.





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# **Christmas Refuse Collections**

Normal Household Refuse:

Over the holiday period household refuse collections will change as follows:

Tuesday December 25<sup>th</sup>: No collection on Christmas Day. Collection will be on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> December

Wednesday December 26<sup>th</sup>: No collection on Boxing Day. Collection will be on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> January

Tuesday January 1<sup>st</sup>: No collection on New Years Day. Collection will be on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2002.

If your normal collection day is a Monday, Thursday or Friday then collections will be as normal over the holiday period.

# Blue Box Paper Recycling Collections

No blue box paper recycling collections will be made over the Christmas period, collections will stop on Monday December 24<sup>th</sup> for a fortnight.

For details of paper recycling collections in your area after the holiday period please refer to the sticker which will be attached to your bin or to the sack which will be left in your blue paper recycling box.

# Recycle Your Christmas Tree

Cherwell District Council will provide kerbside collection of Christmas trees for recycling. On Saturday, January 12 2002, place your tree - minus all decorations - out for collection by 7.00 am. Unfortunately, Christmas trees over six feet tall can not be collected. Recycling Christmas trees reduces the amount of waste being taken to landfill sites. Shredded trees can be used as mulch or mixed with other green waste to produce rich compost. Alternatively, Christmas trees can be recycled at the Recycling and Waste Centres at Alkerton and Ardley where new green waste skips have recently been introduced. For opening times and information, contact the Oxfordshire County Council on 01865 815796.

A big Thank You to Sheila Walsh who has very kindly produced our Christmas cover and the Snowmen who pop up occasionally throughout this issue. If we have any readers who would like to contribute cover designs please do so, otherwise I'm afraid you will be stuck with my choice of photographs. (Ed)

# W. I. NEWS & INFORMATION

We missed our Treasurer from the top table as Barbara Crabtree was unfortunately unwell. We wish her better soon and hope she will be back for our Christmas meeting. Glennis Hardman stood in for her.

Our President Greta Baadsgaard gave a short account of the Group Meeting at Cropredy where we were entertained by a Magician - no less!

Pat Horsley told us what a high standard had been achieved at 'Showtime' this year and all of us who went to see the exhibition agreed. Our entry was not amongst the winners, but our marks were very high so we were comfortable with that.

Sheila Walsh is a highly regarded member of our W.I., but we shall value her even more now that we have met her son Nicholas! Mr Walsh is a member of the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust. He is also responsible for organising yearly the Festival to commemorate the Bard's birthday in Stratford. Mr Walsh is a most entertaining speaker and we enjoyed hearing about the history of Stratford relating to the theatre. We were told the building fund for the new theatre has been helped by a big award from the Lottery, however since Sept. 11th theatre bookings are 60% down on what they were last year as a large part would normally come from foreigners, now wary of flying. So all of us who care for the theatre please help the charming Mr Walsh to keep the flag flying over Stratford.

About the competition: owing to a misunderstanding there were no winners, but we enjoyed 'the doing of it'! Our tea hostesses were Margaret Cox and Rosalind Pearlman.

NEXT MEETING: DEC. 11th. "XMAS" Please bring a modest wrapped gift for the Lucky Dip.

We were very sad to learn of the death of Louie Baggaly who was a long time member and friend of our W.I. before moving to Devon.



# **BBC Radio Oxford Campaign**

Did you make friends with someone during the war, who you've now lost touch with? Do you want to meet them again? We can do our best to search for them. All BBC local radio stations across the UK are working together from 19<sup>th</sup> November 2001 until Christmas to try and put you in touch with your friends from the war years. Please tell us if you would like us to search for someone: call our Action Desk on 08459 311222, e-mail us at radio.oxford.actiondesk@bbc.co.uk or write to Action Desk, BBC Radio Oxford, PO Box 952, Oxford, OX2 7YL.

# John Loggins Charity

The Trustees of the Charity will soon be meeting and the annual distribution of funds will be considered. As in previous years, those people, older or younger, who feel themselves in need of the



financial assistance offered, please write to The Trustees, c/o The Rectory, Sibford Gower by December 12th. All applications will considered in complete confidence by the trustees and distribution will be carried out in time for Christmas.

Timothy Wimbush. (Rector)

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# News of the Village Hall Extension

At the time of writing we have had three tenders back for the contract to build our extension. It will take several weeks for the successful contractor to be on site, so we anticipate building work starting in early January. Allowing for bad weather and other delays (e.g. Easter holidays), we hope that the extension should be completed around the end of June or early July.

The Hall will be available for normal use throughout the building process, but the grounds, particularly to the rear of the Hall, will not be as accessible as usual. The actual building site will be a bit larger than the play area plus garages, and will be mostly out of sight, viewed from the road.

Obviously, the builder will be required to fence the site off, but we would ask that all villagers ensure that their children know not to enter the site / tamper with any equipment or materials.

While the building is underway, there will be a container temporarily placed in the car park. This is to replace the storage garages until the new garages are built. Car parking will be limited as a result, and we would ask everyone to bear with us over this period.

As you all know, we have been awarded grants from both the National Lottery Community Fund, and Cherwell District Council. In practice the money is released by either body on production of invoices for work done. There is no scope for interest to be earned on deposits. Therefore the Hall still needs to engage in its normal fund raising activities throughout the year.

More next issue.

The Steering Committee.

# Sibford Horticultural Society

The next meeting will be on **Wednesday 12th December** at 8 p.m. at the Village Hall. Roger Powell will present one of his popular slide shows. There will be seasonal refreshments - we hope to see lots of you there.

The last meeting was most enjoyable when Deborah Page of Barn Farm Plants, Wardington, talked on the care of house plants and brought plants and other items for sale.

# Village Cricket Club Searches for New Ground

Sibford Cricket Club has, over the past two years been searching for a new ground.

Sibford School, our current home venue in the Ferris, is unable to accommodate our average of one match per week during the season. As a consequence, the majority of our home matches are now being played in Banbury, which is clearly unsatisfactory for a village sports team with a history of over 100 years of playing in the Sibfords.

The club has had exploratory discussions with the Sibford Endowed Primary School and there may be a possibility of enhancing and extending the school grounds to provide a new pitch. Before it progresses to this, the Club wishes to be certain that there is no local landowner who is willing to sell or enter into a long lease for up to 4 acres of relatively flat land in or near the Sibfords. This is a preferred option to achieve security of tenure to protect the investment which the club will make.

If any interested landowner / agent wishes to discuss a possible land sale for a new cricket ground within a mile or so of The Sibfords please contact either Dave Pratt on 788772 or Ian Davies on (01926) 640974

# Jumble Sale 19th January 1.30 - 3.30 pm

Hook Norton Memorial Hall

To raise money for my trip as a Ranger, to the World Scout Jamboree in Thailand in December 2002 Donations of jumble welcome.

For collection call Kayleigh Gilkes 788190
Kayleigh's handmade cards for Christmas and other occasions for sale 3 for £1

Contributions for the February Sibford Scene to the Shop or Editor by January 15th

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### CHRISTMAS GREETINGS FROM THE CAPE

As we gear up for the holiday season once more, we experience the unusual (for us) mixture of Christmas decorations and beach wear in the shops. The Cape is bracing itself for the usual influx of holiday-makers from elsewhere in South Africa, notably Gauteng. As the Rand has weakened so much against other currencies the prediction is that people will stay in South Africa rather than go abroad this year. Also, since the events of 11 September, South Africa is said to become a more popular destination for people from overseas. Certainly at nearly R14 to the £, this is really good value!

There seems to be a good number of tourists here already. When I visited the V&A Waterfront in Cape Town last week, it was buzzing with foreigners; the boat trips and outside restaurants doing a good trade. We have just had the Volvo Ocean Race boats here for nearly two weeks, this being their first stop over since they started from Southampton. Unfortunately, I didn't get to see the start of the next leg to Sydney but I believe it was quite a sight.

We have had rather a quiet time recently, brought about by Steve's accident. He snapped his Achilles tendon playing indoor soccer with his work colleagues (I'll say no more!). He has spent the last six weeks with his leg in plaster which has meant hobbling around on crutches. We have learnt all about the difficulties of access to restaurants and other public places although this area does quite well in that respect. Also the medical attention he received was excellent. We are fortunate to have a very good hospital just down the road from us and many of the top surgeons in the country practise in the area - they like to live here too! Anyway, the plaster comes off this week so we're hoping that with the help of some physiotherapy he will be able to enjoy a more mobile Christmas.

We are going away for Christmas this year to a hotel in the Natal Midlands, then we have a busy New Year with visitors up to and including Easter. Also, I am helping to co-ordinate a Golf Day on 1 March to raise funds for the charity called ECHO which stands for Erinvale Care and Help Organisation. The money raised is given to established organisations in the Helderberg (local) area helping with eg. Rape Crisis, HIV Aids, Street kids, the mentally handicapped. There is also a link with the Somerset West Methodist Primary

School where arts and crafts classes and sewing classes are run by volunteers from Erinvale. Recently, an Education Fund has been set up to sponsor individual children. We help with the purchase of books and other school materials but more importantly we try to help children and their parents to understand the importance of a good education and commit themselves to it. For some, this is not an easy thing to do when you live in a squatter camp with no electricity or running water. So, if anyone is looking for a worthy cause for a Christmas or New Year donation, we would be extremely grateful for any contribution. Remember a British pound goes a long way here!

So, from a very warm Cape Town, we would like to send our best wishes to you all for a wonderful Christmas and the New Year.

Pat and Steve Bates

# Methodist Chapel

We shall have our Carol Service on Sunday 23rd December at 11 am when Pastor Henry Edwards will be officiating. Every one is welcome to come and take part.

Happy Christmas





# Friendship Club

We would like to thank everyone who supported, helped and made a contribution to our Jumble Sale. We actually took £219.80 of which £100 will be sent to the 'Dogs for the Disabled' plus the £18.80 taken on their stall making a grand total of £118.80. The remainder will be put into Club funds after expenses. Thank you one and all.

We had a lovely day out at Webbs of Wychbold. The weather was glorious if on the chilly side and we all enjoyed a lovely lunch in their restaurant.

On Tuesday 11th December we are going to Long Itchington for our Christmas Lunch and a game of skittles. The coach will be leaving Sibford Gower at about 11.00 am.

The following **Tuesday**, **18th December** we shall be having a Christmas Tea in the Village Hall at about 3.00 pm.

All enquiries to Eveline (263460).

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# LEO NEWS

Fifteen ladies gathered at the home of Maureen Warden, to listen to a talk by Mary Poulton on her life since she came to live in Sibford, when she was twenty.

She told us about the various shops, businesses and trades that were here then, which we found hard to imagine. Then she told us about the village school, where she was teaching for thirty-five years, very happily. Finally, she read to us an article she had written about Theodore Lamb, which was brilliant. We all knew about his existence, but Mary really brought him to life.

We were very privileged to have been able to join Mary in her trip down memory lane.

Our next meeting will be on the 18th December, which will be at Greta Baadsgaard's home - Quince Cottage in Bond's End Lane. Please bring some Christmas readings and a small plate of festive food to share. We have

built up a tradition over the years to start off the Christmas celebrations in this way, and it has always been a huge success. MW

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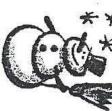
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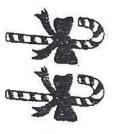
Arthur White (The Tree Chap) 01295 788549











CHRISTMAS BAZAAR SIBFORD PLAYGROUP

SIBFORD GOWER VILLAGE HALL ADMISSION 20p 2PM - 4PM SATURDAY 8th DECEMBER 2001



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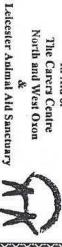
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3 packs for the price of 2 packs......£7.00 6 cards in a pack any combination.

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Newcomers to the Villages, we have Six Village Panels worked by residents using dye and thread which record the Sibfords 1996 - 1999 and illustrate our history with characters from our Historical Pageant,

June 2000

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# **Church Services**

			CHUICH DELYI	CCS			
		of Frie	nds	Sunday at 10.30 am			
	Method	dist		Sunday at 11.00 am			
Roman Catholic Mass			ic Mass Wroxton	Sunday at 9.00 am			
			Brailes	Sunday at 11.30 am			
	Baptist		Hook Norton	Sunday at 10.30 am			
Church of the Firstborn (Bri			Firstborn (Bridleways S.Gower)	Sunday at 10.30 am			
	Church of England, Holy Trinity, Sibford Gower.						
December							
	Sun	Sun 2nd Benefice Service and confirmation at Tadmarton 10 am.					
	Sun						
	Sun						
	Fri 21st Traditional Carol Service 7 pm. (refreshments)						
	Sun	23rd	Holy Communion 9.30 am	(			
	Mon	24th	11.30 pm Midnight Mass EPW	IELL CR BROUGHTON			
	Tue	25th	Holy Communion 10 am				
	Sun	30th	Benefice Eucharist at Epwell. 10 am				
	Januar	·y	11 occupantement popularia (According angioritation)				
	Sun	n 6th Epiphany Benefice Eucharist 10 am (Sibford)					
	Sun						
	Sun	Sun 20th Holy Communion 9.30 am					
	2005 FG		A CONTRACTOR OF THE PROPERTY O				

Christian Unity week. Holy Communion at the Meeting

# CHIROPRACTOR

House 8 pm

# John Mulley

DC MCC BAAC

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McTimony-Corley

25th

27th

Fri

Sun

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# Children's Day Nursery, Epwell



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# Sibford Bus Services

### Free Bus Service

To Banbury. Thursdays December 6th & 20th

Departs 10 am

And January 3rd, 17th & 31st

To Chippy Wednesdays December 12th

Returns 12 noon

And January 9th & 23rd

(There will be no bus on Wed December 26th)

Pick up points are; The Colony, High Meadow, Crossroads, Village Hall.

# Service 480 Shipston - Sibford - Banbury

Not Sat (NS) Sat Only (S)									
		NS	- S		NS	S			
Shipston		8.45							
S Ferris School	7.15	9.10	9.13	10.57	12.57	13.43	18.27		
S Gower Crossroads	7.18	9.13	9.10	11.05	13.05	13.40	18.30		
Banbury Bus Station	7.45	9.40	9.40	11.32	13.32	14.10	18.57		
		NS	S	NS	S				
Banbury Bus Station	10.30	12.30	12.30	14.40	15.10	18.00			
S Ferris School	10.57	12.57	12.57	15.07	15.37	18.27			
S Gower Crossroads	11.00	13.00	13.00	15.10	15.40	18.30			
Shipston			13.25						

# 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

# 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.

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# Calendar of Events

### December

Sat 1st Recycling Units in Acre Ditch

Sat/Sun 1st & 2nd Charity Christmas Concert at the Manor House p19

Sun 2nd Collectables and Car Boot Sale. V. Hall 12 - 3pm

Mon 3rd Fresh Fish at the Village Hall every Monday 4 - 6 pm p7

Wed 5th Mobile Library in Sibfords and Burdrop (2.25-4.20pm)

Sat 8th Chapel Coffee Morning 10 am - 12 noon p6

Sat 8th Playgroup Christmas Bazaar. 2 p.m. Village Hall p 3 & 19

Tue 11th Friendship Club Christmas Lunch p17

Tue 11th W.I. Christmas Meeting p 11

Wed 12th Horticultural Society Slide Show. V. Hall 8 pm. p13

Sun 16th Collectables and Car Boot Sale. V. Hall 12 - 3 pm

Tue 18th Friendship Club Christmas Tea. p17

Tue 18th Guides Fashion Show, Village Hall 7-9pm. p9

Tue 18th LEO Meeting at Quince Cottage. p18

Wed 19th Mobile Library in Sibfords and Burdrop (2.25-4.20pm)

Sat 22nd 'Festival of the Dragon Moon.' Professor Popups Puppet Theatre at the Village Hall. 6 pm 780025 or the Shop for tickets

Sun 23rd Chapel Carol Service 11am p16

# January

Wed 2nd Mobile Library in Sibfords and Burdrop (2.25-4.20pm)

Sun 6th Collectables and Car Boot sale. V. Hall 12 - 3 pm

Mon 7th Ferris Parish Council Meeting

Tue 15th Deadline for contributions to the February Sibford Scene p14

Wed 16th Mobile Library in Sibfords and Burdrop (2.25-4.20pm)

Thu 17th Sibfords Society Social. 7.30 pm. V. Hall. p5

Sat 19th Fund Raising Jumble Sale. p14

Wed 30th Mobile Library in Sibfords and Burdrop (2.25-4.20pm)

# Sibford Scene

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