



February 2002

No. 240

Sibford Scene

Arthur, the Sword and the Legend.

Oxfordshire Touring
Theatre Company

Village Hall 7 pm

February 13th p6

Sibfords Society Guided Walk

10 am from

The Brambles,
Woodway Road

Saturday 23rd Feb.p5

Coffee Morning

Saturday 9th February 10.30 am

The Red House, Burdrop

In aid of The Church Mission Society p25

Retirement Party for Dr. Heath

Sunday 24th February from 12.30 pm

In the Village Hall p13

Church Jumble Sale

Saturday 9th March 2 pm in the Village Hall p10

Nature Notes

Dec. 4th I watched two muntjac, male and female, in the bit of woodland that comes to the back of our bungalow but I could not see what they were eating.

Dec. 7th The yellow berries of the pyracantha on our bungalow wall never seem to be the blackbirds first choice of food but now that, with the help of the pigeons, they have virtually stripped the holly tree they seem to be enjoying them. perhaps they need to be a little over ripe or have had a frost on them to make them tasty. Having not seen a song thrush for some time it was nice to see that there was one with the blackbirds today. A long tailed tit flew into a window this afternoon. I picked it up semiconscious from the lawn, stroked its feathers straight and put it on the window ledge away from the cats. When I looked later it had gone having hopped into the pyracantha or flown away. I spent some time on Swalcliffe Common. Now that the leaves have fallen I could see a few nests including one of twigs and moss that was still complete, probably a greenfinch. There were some well defined deer paths mostly roe deer I think. It is quite remarkable how deer have increased. I can only recall one sighting of a deer in Sibford in my youth.

Dec. 11th The owl with a hoarse voice that we often heard last winter has been back in the company of one or two others for the last few mornings.

Dec. 16th To brighten up the day there were two cock bullfinches on our bird table this morning. They more often come to eat the stinging nettle seed which as far as I have seen they alone like.

Dec. 24th An ice tower formed on our editors rain gauge overnight. He has given me a photograph of it.

Dec. 26th A slender ice tower about an inch high had formed on our rain gauge this morning

Jan. 1st I have now seen my first redwing of the winter. It flew against the window and I put it unconscious on to the window ledge where it gradually improved for over an hour before leaving. Although 2001 was a good deal drier year than 2000, with a total of 28.68 inches, 2001 was still above average. May with 1.19" and June with 0.98" were the driest months and October with 4.21" the wettest.

I came across an interesting bit that my grandfather wrote about a very dry year when he was 12 years old. "The summer of 1868 was I suppose one of the driest and earliest on record. The day after I came back from Ackworth School on my summer holiday, father, Richard and I were pulling the beans in the field above Gautherns Barn. They had quite dried up and there was scarcely any corn in them. We had finished harvest that year and had harvest supper before I went back to school in early August".

Jan. 2nd Very cold. I counted 8 fieldfares, 12 blackbirds and 2 redwings feeding on the apples that I have put out for them. There were also 7 or 8 redwings taking the last of the pyracantha berries.

Jan. 3rd A few more fieldfares on the apples today. The Met Office says that this is the longest cold spell for 10 years which shows what mild winters we have been having.

Jan. 18th Spring is coming. This morning I could hear a robin and a song thrush singing near by while a woodpecker was drumming in the distance.

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News of the Village Hall Extension

We have now appointed a contractor - Phil Edmunds, from Sibford Ferris. It is very pleasing to have a local man building the extension, having gone through a normal, fair tender process.

As Phil has been available to start work quickly, it is expected that the work should be finished in early June, barring unforeseen circumstances.

Phil has already placed fencing on site and done some initial work, so now is a good time to ask villagers to ensure their children do not enter the site nor tamper with equipment or materials.

For Health and Safety reasons, any visitors to the site should report to the site office and sign in.

Car parking in the Hall car park will be limited during the building work. This is because of the container in the car park and also because the contractors require parking spaces when on site.

If you are attending a group or event where you know there will be lots of other cars parking, it may be worth planning to park at the side of the road.

There will also be delivery and construction vehicles going in and out from time to time, so we will need to keep the route through the car park up to the field clear for these.

We would ask everyone to take extra care when crossing the car park to and from the front door.

Hopefully the finished extension should make any temporary inconvenience worthwhile.

The Steering Committee.

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The Sibfords Society

Our annual Social was very well attended and we all enjoyed the delicious food generously brought by everyone. The theme for the evening was entertainment and a quite difficult quiz taxed our brains before we sat down to eat and afterwards talented members of the Society produced a 'Music Hall' with songs and monologues. This was at times very amusing and we thank all those brave souls for performing their party pieces so well.

Robin Spicer will be leading another walk on **Saturday, 23 February**. We will meet at 10 a.m. at Bill and Barbara Crabtree's home in Woodway Road and the walk will be approximately 5 miles but do come prepared for muddy conditions. This walk is open to everyone, so come and enjoy some fresh air and good company and when we finish, there will be hot soup provided by Ann Spicer to warm us all up.

Our next Society meeting will be on **15 March** and details for this will be in next month's Sibford Scene.



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Please Note...our kitchen will now be closed Tuesday evenings until March.

Village Hall Entertainment News

Wednesday 13th February at 7.00 pm sees the return of The Oxfordshire Touring Theatre Company at the Hall performing "Arthur, the Sword and the Legend" lasting approximately two hours, including a twenty minute interval when wine / soft drink and nibbles will be served (donations gratefully received).

This show is suitable for a family audience from ages 6 to 96 with tickets at £3.50 for adults and £1.75 for children, either from Sibford Ferris PO & Stores or ring 780025. The Show is about Merlin taking the young Arthur back in time to see what it's like to be King - with dramatic consequences! It contains magic, evil, songs and swords. As they perform in the centre of the Hall, tickets may have to be restricted so please book early to avoid disappointment.

While the building of the Hall extension is in progress the capacity of the Hall is reduced to 100 (normally 150) as we lose the use of one fire exit.

Each first Sunday of the month sees the Collectables and Car Boot Sale in and around the Hall, the next one is on **3rd February**, then **3rd March**, from approximately 11.30 am to 3.00 pm. With the building work, parking will be restricted in the car park but we do want to continue this good source of fund raising so we hope everyone will bear with us. Our thanks to all the villagers who keep us supplied with items for sale, in aid of Hall funds. We would still like to see more local people through the door to keep the vendors happy, some of whom have supported us for a number of years now. To book space please phone 01295 251339. £5 per table/pitch.

On **Thursday 21st March** at 7.30 pm. in the Hall, we have been asked by Cherwell Leisure Services to host "The Rural Voices of Kala Sangam", a rich and colourful family show. More details will be given in the next issue of the Sibford Scene but this should be quite different to anything we have put on before and hopefully will include a story based on local rural life.

On **Wednesday 27th March** at 3.00 pm. (in half term) we have Puppetcraft back in our Hall, who did "Mousehole Cat" last year which was a great success. This time they perform 'Sinbad' (that's how it's spelt in their releases) an original retelling from the world's most fantastic collection of stories. We are wel-

comed to their Arabian Tent and the extraordinary travels of Sinbad the Sailor, with music and exquisitely carved string puppets. Bring a cushion to lounge on for the children - suitable for 4 - 10 year olds and families but not under 4's they say. Tickets will be £4 & £2 and available later in February.



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SIBFORD GOWER PARISH COUNCIL

The next meeting of the Sibford Gower Parish Council will take place at 8pm on **Friday, 8th March 2002** in Sibford Gower Endowed Primary School. Members of the public are cordially invited to attend.

Sibford Gower Annual Parish Meeting

This yearly event will take place in the hall of Sibford Gower Endowed Primary School at 7.30pm on Wednesday, **24th April 2002**. An invitation to attend is extended to all.



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 soon. T.P. Martin

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Playgroup News



Here we are, wrapped up against the cold for the start of the spring term.

The Committee is still reeling from the excitement of the Christmas Bazaar. Thank you to all who made, bought and ate cakes, to those who donated prizes, toys and books and to everyone who came to visit Santa and join in the fun and games. We raised over £800 for Playgroup funds.

This term sees us anticipating diggers and 'dozers (with either fingers in ears or nose pressed up against the window depending on ones enthusiasm for large noisy vehicles!) as building work commences at the Village Hall. If Julie, Judith and Michelle can prize the children away from the windows, there will be lots to make and do at Playgroup this term. This week the children have been learning about animals, with a fine cardboard cat and some scrummy gingerbread bears arriving at home. Playgroup sends lots of 'good luck wishes' to Angelica, Billie and Jack who moved up to school this term and a warm welcome awaits all who join us. If you would like more information about Playgroup, please contact Julie: 788594 or Michelle: 780813

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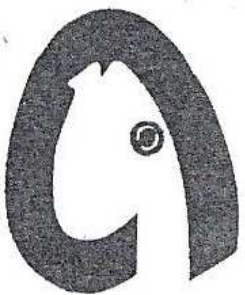


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Hope to see you all soon

T.P. Martin

Jumble Sale

In aid of

Holy Trinity Church, Sibford Gower

On Saturday 9th March 2 pm.

In Sibford Village Hall

Please save your jumble and anything we can sell.

Erica Wimbush 780555 or Jane Holliday 780500 will store or collect items until the sale

Sibford Ferris Parish Council

A letter from parishioners about suggested measures to ease the villages traffic problems was read but we are waiting to see the effect of the new School entrance from the Hook Norton road and the other helpful measures that the School are taking, which are;

1. To ask all parents to use the Gate Hangs High route when coming to the School
2. To seek permission to put 'Sibford School' directive signs at Lower Tadmarton directing to the Gate Hangs High.
3. Holly House Drive will be access only during morning and afternoon peak times.
4. The Schools own minibuses from Banbury to use the Gate Hangs High route.

If this system is noticed as not working please report it to the School Estates Manager and the Parish Council.

New Clerk to the Parish Council required

Sibford Ferris PC require a new parish clerk. The post requires letter writing and basic book keeping skills and taking minutes at 8 or 9 meetings a year.

If you are interested in village affairs and can spare 3-4 hours a week (remunerated) please contact any of the councillors; Barbara Crabtree 780635, John Simms 780655, Arnold Lamb 780357, Peter Randall 780597, David Dyre 01608 737607

Sibford Horticultural Society

The Christmas meeting was well attended and most enjoyable. Roger showed some beautiful slides and we thank very much and look forward to this years slide show.

The next meeting is in March when we will have a talk on heliobores, we hope to see many of you then and hopefully new members as well.

The annual show takes place in August and hopefully lots of people will enter this year, the list of handicraft and photography classes follows, so hopefully lots of you will now get busy.

Handicrafts.

- 1, A pin cushion.
- 2, A piece of tapestry.
- 3, A padded coat hanger.
- 4, A hand knitted article.
- 5, An example of embroidery.
- 6, A handicraft exhibit made of wood or metal.
- 7, A handicraft exhibit made of any material excluding the above.
- 8, The spirit was willing... A craft item started but not finished.

Photography. (not to exceed 5" x 10")

- 1, "Talk about the weather" a photograph
- 2, Taken within the parishes of Sibford or Epwell. a photograph
- 3, "A celebration" a photograph
- 4, Photographic portrait - Human
- 5, Photographic portrait - Animal
- 6, Photographs of 4 views mounted and named
- 7, A black and white photograph (any size)
- 8, A photograph using a computer
- 9, An amateur painting or drawing.

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The Christmas Bike Ride

Twas a week before Christmas when all through the village a frantic pumping of tyres and mending of punctures was going on. At 7 o'clock a large group gathered at Lanes End Corner in festive mood, for this was our Christmas meal bike ride to the Stags Head at Swalcliffe. Several of the bikes sported Christmas Trees varying in height from 6 inches to about 2 feet, complete with lights! There was also a festive teddy hitching a ride on a carrier in a drunken fashion. There was some glittering headgear but antlers proved to be a poor choice (problems going down hill, wind resistance etc.)

Finally we set off. The fit group heading out towards Epwell White House and back to Swalcliffe via Shutford and the rest of us going to Shutford and Swalcliffe Lea. There were a few groans when people realised we weren't taking the direct route. It was an excellent evening for the ride, still and not too cold. Many of us don't do a lot of night cycling but we got the hang of it though it is not recommended to obscure your light with too much tinsel. We arrived at the Stags Head at just about 8 o'clock to be greeted by those who had not cycled (two ankles in plaster is a passable excuse) We were just relaxing and people were asking where the group founder was when in he came to cheers (or jeers) but alas it was for a drink, quick chat and delivery of christmas cards. Twenty seven sat down to a meal and as the food arrived a lull in the general babble occurred except for a few calls of 'pass the potatoes', 'I wish I had vegetables instead of salad, they look so nice' and 'the lamb is delicious'. There was lots of discussion over puddings, sticky toffee or chocolate chilli cake or one of the many others. Puddings were consumed with much tasting of the chocolate chilli cake which was good. Gradually as half past ten came and went people started to disperse. The first to leave were greeted by shouts of have you paid yet. After counting the money and puzzling over it for several minutes as there was a £40 short fall a voice piped up 'I'm paying ours by plastic' - sighs of relief. Some cycled home and brought cars back to pick up other members and their bikes, some hitched lifts to bring vehicles to collect bikes and youngsters. (apparently 4 people and 4 bikes do not go easily into one Land Rover but it is possible). Some of us just had a steady ride home. Thanks must go to Marianne, the mover and shaker on this. I think everyone thought it was a good evening. Thank you to the Stags Head for putting up with us and the broken glasses. "The lamb was delicious" but so was everything else. P.S. To qualify to attend next years event you have to attend at least 4 Tuesday Bike Rides.

Joanna Gilkes

SIBFORD SURGERY ANNOUNCEMENT

As many of you will know Dr Susan Heath has been suffering from ill health for most of the last year. We are very pleased to say that she has made an excellent recovery but has decided to retire from general practice. Susan has been a partner at the Surgery since 1983 and during that time has earned the respect and affection of many patients. She has also been active in the village, particularly being involved with the Horticultural Society and the Town Estates Charity. We will miss her greatly, and wish her well in her new life in Oxford.

We are delighted to announce that Dr Emma Haskew has accepted a partnership here. Dr Haskew has been working as a locum at the surgery and within the Banbury area for the last couple of years and is well known to many of our patients. She trained at Newcastle medical school where she graduated with MBBS (distinction) before moving south to Oxfordshire. Emma has worked at the Horton and Churchill hospitals as well as being a locum GP, and is well acquainted with the local area. We would like to welcome Emma to Sibford Surgery and hope she will be very happy in her new career.

To mark the occasion of Dr Heath's retirement we will be holding a lunchtime farewell party on:-

Sunday 24th February

Sibford Village Hall from 12.30pm

If you would like to attend, please contact the Surgery on 01295 780213, so we have an idea of numbers.

We are making a collection towards a gift for Dr Heath. Any contributions and/or cards etc may be left at the Surgery.

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HOLIDAY TIME IN SOUTH AFRICA

When I was at school, the first essay of the term was always to write about what you did in your holidays. So I thought I'd start off the new year with what we did for our Christmas holidays in particular and what South Africans do in general.

December is to South Africa as July/August is to the UK, the end of the school year and the main summer holiday break. Add to that all the usual festive frenzy and you have got a very busy time for all concerned. Many businesses actually close down for nearly a month so people suddenly realise that if they want that new sofa or the fence mended they will have to organise it before about the third week in December or wait until nearly the end of January (it takes a while for things to get moving again!).

The roads are incredibly busy with people visiting friends and relatives for Christmas or on the usual dash to the coast to lie on the beach and soak up the sun. When we lived in Johannesburg, it always amazed us how the place resembled a ghost town during this time as everyone seemed to have rushed, lemming like to the sea. The downside to all this activity on the roads is the appalling death toll. During this December, over 600 people had died already and we still have the statistics for January to come!

So what did we do this year? We went away too but we opted to have a change from the Cape and fly to Durban and then take a short drive to an area just north of Pietermaritzburg called the Natal Midlands. Actually it is now called Kwazulu Natal or KZN for short. We stayed at a country lodge in the middle of beautiful rolling farmland; very much cattle country. It had a very English feel to it, not surprising as Natal was part of the British colonies at one stage. Also the countryside looked like England until you noticed the arum lilies growing wild in the fields and picked up porcupine quills along the road.

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The Christmas festivities themselves were great fun as there was only about twenty of us so it was like a big house party. We decorated the tree on Christmas Eve, we had Christmas carols sung to us by the kitchen staff - all in Zulu, and a fancy dress party on Boxing Day. Steve got up early on Christmas morning and caught a trout in the local pond. Although Christmas Eve was hot and sunny, we had mist and rain the rest of the time which made it cool enough to light log fires so we felt a little akin to a UK Christmas. Oh! and the food was wonderful including the fresh raspberries picked every morning and served with breakfast. It was a lovely break and a great way to spend Christmas when you're away from family and old friends.

Then it was back to the Cape and some steaming hot weather. New Year's Eve was spent at the Golf Club on Erinvale where we had a great evening eating (again) and dancing the night away. It was a gorgeous summer night so the party went on into the small hours as we watched the fireworks going off all over False Bay.

This has been a bumper holiday season for shops and restaurants as the foreign tourists have taken advantage of the failing Rand. There have been reports of people coming here on holiday and ending up buying a property because it is such good value for money. South Africans seem to have been spending too, perhaps realising that we are in for some significant price rises very soon, particularly on foreign imports.

Well, the new school year starts in the next week or so, depending on the Province and everything will gradually get back to normal. Although the holiday season will continue for overseas visitors, especially those wanting to escape the northern winter. We have Steve's sister and brother-in-law staying with us at the moment so we are enjoying some of the Cape's delights with them. It's a tough life!

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Steve
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Ray Henbrey 1926 - 2001

Ray was born in Kent, in Dover in 1926 so he was 13 when the war started and living as he did in the front line, he and his brother were evacuated to Wales. On returning home after the war he did some supply teaching before National Service in the Royal Signals. He followed this with a brief spell at the London School of Economics but left to take a Bachelor of Science degree at university in Sussex. He then joined the Post Office as it was then and subsequently British Telecom as a radio engineer. He and Miriam had been married in 1952 after meeting on a coach from Dover to London. Always one to admire beautiful ladies, he said that he liked her hair and thus found an excuse to sit next to her on the return journey. But it was pretty serious and in only three weeks he proposed marriage when on Waterloo Bridge. It was a year before they were married as there were some parental problems to overcome. But Ray was a determined chap and married they were when they went to live in Finchley in North London. Here they proceeded to build various aviaries and to raise foreign finches and canaries, not forgetting the parrot. In 1963, they bought a plot of land in Ashford in their home county of Kent and built a house; the finches and canaries and the parrot were superseded by a study of photography when Ray became an accomplished photographer. He enjoyed cricket as befitting a Man of Kent (which I understand he would have been as opposed to a Kentish Man). In 1970 Ray started specialising in satellite communications work with much time spent at Goonhilly, the BT satellite receiving and transmitting station. In 1977 he applied successfully for a job with Intelsat, the international satellite telecommunications organisation based in Washington DC where he and Miriam moved to live in nearby North Virginia. Here they had a happy and interesting life for ten years and Ray was called on to make business visits to many parts of the world including Indonesia, India

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and Russia, on some of which Miriam was able to accompany him. Ray also travelled extensively in both Europe and the USA on telecom business and later on in retirement, he and Miriam made numerous overseas visits including the Caribbean and South Africa.

Ray retired from Intelsat in 1987 when chance brought him and Miriam to buy a house in Sibford Ferris which was very fortunate for the local community. Ray had in his early days displayed tendencies to help the less fortunate than himself for while studying in Brighton for his degree, he frequently visited St. Dunstons to read to the blind there. These inherent trends now blossomed in Sibford and in no time he was secretary of the Horticultural Society and editor of the Sibford Scene. He was also the prime mover in getting off the ground the proposal of some of the Sibford School pupils and staff to set up a luncheon club for the elderly housebound which was subsequently named the Fielding Day Centre. Ray was the original Chairman and he also took on the vital, complicated and arduous job of organising the weekly rota of helpers. Ray continued as Chairman for five years but remained on the committee and continued with the rota until he was taken ill. Indeed he was visited by one friend in the Horton Hospital who found him sitting in a chair bent double and looking far from well. On receiving sympathy for his apparent condition, he looked up with that cheeky smile of his and revealed that he was working on the Fielding Rota. And this I think is where we come to perhaps the most important and endearing part of Ray and I quote from the words of one of his closest local friends "A cheeky chappy, quick witted, enjoyed a joke, especially a saucy one. Even towards the end of a very long and debilitating illness, hardly able to speak or move, his face still lit up for a choice story. He was convivial company and an excellent host. He flirted outrageously, but never clandestine". (As another friend said "delightfully wicked") "He had a careful and thoughtful approach to his many self imposed duties and was especially good with older people. Widely travelled, with a wide knowledge as a result."

I think that was a very fair summing up of Ray's approach to life and Sibford people have been very blessed by Ray and Miriam coming to live among them. It is wonderful that Miriam, though having moved to Chipping Norton, is still involved with her and Ray's joint charitable activities in Sibford and we extend to Miriam and all her family our love and sympathy.

To all my dear friends in the Sibfords who came to Ray's funeral
A big thank you for making the day so memorable and your generous
contributions towards my two chosen charities in memory of Ray.

Miriam Henbrey

LEO NEWS - (LADIES' EVENING OUT)

The December meeting was held at Greta Baadsgaard's cosy home and took the form of Christmas readings, festive food and mulled wine. Although fewer people attended than usual, due to various reasons, it was nevertheless very enjoyable.

This occasion usually starts off the Christmas season very satisfactorily and has become one of the LEO traditions.

- o - 0 - o -

Now that all the Christmas festivities are over and it is time to settle down again, we are planning some more LEO evenings.

The first one, on the **19th February**, will be at Mary Bristow's, at Long View, Back Lane, Sibford Ferris, where it was decided that the subject for discussion would be "Memories of School Days". Most of us will have to cast our minds back a long way, but it should be worth the effort.

New members are always welcome, so come along and bring some of your memories.

MW

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**HOOK NORTON
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Our spring term is up and running but we still have vacancies on some courses- Hips, -Bums and Tums - Monday mornings at the Memorial Hall 9.15am -

10.15am with Emily Archer -come along and get toned up for spring and summer.

Fitness for Men takes place on Monday evenings at Hook Norton School 7.30pm to 9.00pm with Scott Orchard - improve your fitness in the company of others all abilities welcomed.

Dominoes for preschool children on Wednesday mornings at the Memorial Hall 9.30am - 10.15am with Jan Price - this is an introduction to early numeracy and literacy through traditional stories, games, number rhymes and songs. This early learning opportunity for preschool children is a fun, exciting and sociable way to build up self-confidence in a relaxed atmosphere. Why not come along for a FREE session and give it a try?

We have a 55+ Beginning Word Processing course starting Thursday 21 February 9.30am - 11.45am for 4 weeks - with Pam Richardson. If you are a complete beginner and want to learn the basics of a computer then this is the gentle easy start you need.

We are holding Saturday Workshops on 2 March 10am - 3pm and still have a few spaces on:

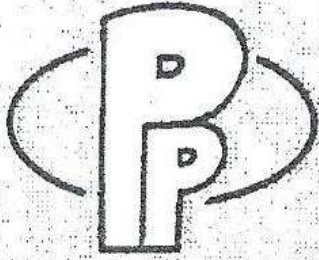
Life Drawing and Painting with tutor Jenny Roberts - enjoy a day life drawing and painting - all abilities welcome.

Spring Beauty Workshop with -beautician Sue Coles - come along and spend a day learning how to do a basic cleanse and tone routine, a natural mask and try out the new spring make-up colours.

Powerpoint - with computer expert Hazel Hope - learn how to create a slide show for giving presentations etc.

Hardy Perennials with gardening journalist Val Bourne - an introduction to star perennials for every season of the gardening year.

If you require further information on any of our courses please ring 01608 730052 or contact the Community Education Office based in the Primary School in Hook Norton.



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More volunteers needed to support parents whose children have Special Educational Needs!

60 Independent Parental Supporters (IPS) are presently enjoying the opportunity to offer assistance or a listening ear to parents whose children have Special Educational Needs. Would you like to join them?

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The Parent Partnership Service of the Oxfordshire LEA run a successful scheme of support for parents whose children are experiencing difficulties. Parents may need someone to explain to them what the official letters mean or need help preparing for a meeting. Having someone who understands the process can make a big difference to an already worrying time.

The Independent Parental Supporters meet together monthly to share experiences and often an interesting speaker talks to the group. All Independent Parental Supporters are offered training in:

- * How the assessment system for children with Special Educational Needs operates in Oxfordshire
- * What the jargon means * What the relevant legislation says
- * Negotiating and mediating skills
- * The extent of the Independent Parental Supporter's (IPS) role

Support, consultation and expenses will be provided for all volunteers. You could make a positive contribution and enjoy it at the same time.

If you think you may be interested in becoming an IPS, please ring:

Parent Partnership Helpline on 01865 810516

Sibford Ferris Store & Post Office
Main Street, Sibford Ferris, Banbury Oxon OX15 5RG
Tel / Fax 01295 788317

Dear Editor,

All the Christmas tinsel has finally settled and we are hopefully getting back to "normal", if that state really exists.

We would once again like to take this opportunity to extend our thanks for the countless -number of Christmas cards and gifts which we received over the festive period. We were somewhat overwhelmed and hope that we managed to thank everyone individually; if we missed you out please accept this as both our thanks and apology.

Once again the Christmas spirit was upheld at our "pensioners" party, this seems to have grown with each year as "pensioners" get younger and seem to qualify almost as soon as they leave school!

Our thanks for your support and friendship over the past 12 months, we look forward to another year of providing you with that diminishing feature of village life, a shop and post office but most of all a place to meet up with friends both old and new.

Terry & Judith

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WELCOME TO SIBFORD

If you are a new resident of Sibford and have not yet received a copy of the 'Welcome to Sibford' booklet, 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 Craig and Nicky Wallace, who have come over from Dubai to live in Beecroft, Burdrop, with their three children:- Julian (12), Natasha (11) and Christine (7). The children all go to the Friends' School and are looking forward to being able to take their dog, Pheobe, out of quarantine soon.

Craig is in the computer business, while Nicky is a full-time mother. Both Craig and Nicky enjoy golf, cooking and music. They are busy decorating their house at the moment, before the rest of their possessions are shipped over at the end of the month.

Secondly, Christian and Victoria Fletcher have recently moved into 1 Cross Cottage, Sibford Gower.

They are no strangers to rural life, having both come from "Last of the Summer Wine" country in West Yorkshire. Christian works in formula one racing at Brackley and Victoria works for a charitable trust in Oxford. Both are very excited about living in Sibford and are looking forward to meeting their new neighbours and joining in with the village activities.

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W.I. NEWS & INFORMATION

Our December meeting was a great success, thanks to the inventive team games devised by Kathleen Winter and Mary Bristow. The festive decorations, delicious tea (with sherry!) and excellent entertainment provided by Jean Puddle at the piano with her young granddaughter Rebecca who also sang beautifully, made it one of our most enjoyable meetings.

The January meeting started well with the gain of one new member, Jane Martin, and one prospective member who we hope will join us soon.

Greta Baadsgaard introduced us to our speaker The Rev. David Knight from Tysoe Church. He told us that after attending Theological College he was given the challenging task of caring for a Congregation in Salford, Lancs. Their church had been badly vandalised, was falling to bits and clearly a new venue would have to be found. The Lowry Public House became the new church, which gave the title "PUB TO CHURCH" for the talk. Many amusing anecdotes were told as to how this came about. Margaret Cox thanked David Knight and spoke for all of us when she said 'Salfords' loss is Tysoes' gain'!

We had more than usual entries for the competition which was won by Audrey Taylor, 2nd Jean Puddle and 3rd Maureen Warden.

Our tea hostesses were Kathleen Reid and Kathleen Winter.

NEXT MEETING: Mrs Newman - "Stepping Stones". February 12th.

Competition: An interesting stone - painted or natural.

R.P.

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The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal 2001

The total collected in the villages for the above appeal was
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May I take this opportunity to thank the wonderful band of collectors
and to all who gave so generously to this appeal.

R. Spicer Honorary Organiser

COFFEE MORNING

SATURDAY 9TH FEBRUARY 2002 at 10.30 am

A Coffee Morning will be held in aid of The Church Mission Society at
The Red House, Burdrop.

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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 the Firstborn (Bridleways S.Gower)		Sunday at 10.30 am
Church of England, Holy Trinity, Sibford Gower.		

February

Sun	3rd	Young at Heart at Tadmarton 10 am
Sun	10th	Family Service 10 am
Wed	13th	Ash Wednesday Eucharist at Shutford 8 pm
Fri	15th	Holy Communion 7.30 am
Sun	17th	Holy Communion 9.30 am
Fri	22th	Holy Communion 7.30 am
Sun	24th	Holy Communion 9.30 am

March

Fri	1st	Holy Communion 7.30 am
Sun	3rd	Benefice Eucharist at Swalcliffe 10 am

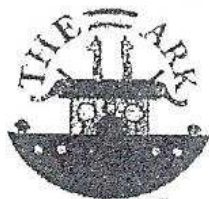
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		NS	S		NS	S	
Shipston			8.45				
S Ferris School	7.15	9.10	9.13	10.57	12.57	13.43	18.27
S Gower Crossroads	7.18	9.13	9.10	11.05	13.05	13.40	18.30
Banbury Bus Station	7.45	9.40	9.40	11.32	13.32	14.10	18.57
		NS	S	NS	S		
Banbury Bus Station	10.30	12.30	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				

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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

February

- Sun 3rd Collectables and Car Boot Sale. V. Hall 12 - 3pm p6
Sat 9th Coffee Morning at The Red House. 10.30 am. p25
Tue 12th W.I. 'Stepping Stones' p23
Wed 13th Mobile Library in Sibfords and Burdrop (2.25-4.20pm)
Wed 13th 'Arthur, the Sword and the Legend' V. Hall 7 pm. p6
Sat 16th Recycling Units in Acre Ditch
Mon 18th Ferris Parish Council Meeting.
Tue 19th LEO Meeting. 'Memories of School Days' p18
Tue 19th Deadline for contributions to the March Sibford Scene p16
Sat 23rd Sibfords Society Walk. 10 am. p5
Sun 24th Dr. Heaths Retirement Lunch. Village Hall 12.30 pm. p13
Wed 27th Mobile Library in Sibfords and Burdrop (2.25-4.20pm)

March (part)

- Sun 3rd Collectables and Car Boot sale. V. Hall 12 - 3 pm p6
Fri 8th Gower Parish Council Meeting. 8 pm p7
Sat 9th Jumble Sale 2 pm in the Village Hall. p10
Wed 13th Mobile Library in Sibfords and Burdrop (2.25-4.20pm)
Fri 15th Sibfords Society meeting. p5
Wed 27th 'Sindbad' Puppet Show. Village Hall 3 pm. p6
Sat 30th Recycling Units in Acre Ditch

Cover Picture; Burdrop Corner

Sibford Scene

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e-mail adrian.lamb@care4free.net

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

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