Sibford Scene

March 2003

No. 251

Art Exhibition and Craft Fair

Saturday 8th & Sunday 9th March
10.30am to 4.30pm
At Sibford Gower Primary School

Sid Kipper's Parish Pump Show

7.30 pm on Saturday 8th March at the Village Hall

Sibford Cricket Club AGM

Monday 10th March. 8 pm at the Bishop Blaize

The Sibfords Society AGM and Quiz Evening

Thursday 20th March

Nature Notes

Jan. 24th As we drove up Mill Hill we saw a magpie fighting its own reflection in the mirror of the combine harvester that stands in the field by the road.

Jan. 25th A buzzard looked very big as it flew up from the narrow verge on the Tysoe side of Epwell White House just as we were passing. It struggled to keep out of the path of our car and rise over the hedge.

Jan.30th Three days ago a tortoiseshell butterfly was flying round the garden in warm sunshine now we have a very cold wind and the ground white with snow. About 25 fieldfares and 2 redwings have joined as many blackbirds to feed on the apples which I begged from my brother as mine have all gone. One of the fieldfares was killed when it flew against the bathroom window.

Jan. 31st My 15 year old grandson says that the snow drifts which are 2 feet deep in a few places are the biggest he has ever seen which shows how little snow we have seen over the last decade. There has been a cock brambling around the garden today. We had a splendid view of it when it perched on the weeping cherry in front of the window. The numbers of fieldfares have now overwhelmed the mistle thrushes and have almost stripped the holly of its berries. I think this is because I have run out of apples and holly berries are their next choice.

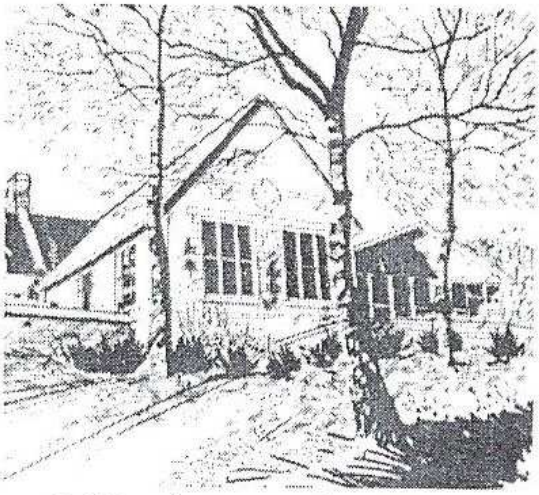
Feb. 1st A neighbour tells me that when he was in Cornwall last week he saw some young blackbirds that had just fledged. They were near a car park where lights are on all night so that may influence their nesting time.

Feb. 6th Overnight a badger has pulled away the roof tiles that cover our roof-water drain and has eaten most of the snails that collect there for winter. I suppose it must have been able to smell them. I don't think it would bother to remove the tiles unless it knew the food was there.

Feb. 15th On their way back from London my daughter and son had to change trains when theirs was taken out of service after hitting a deer. If deer numbers keep rising our trains, particularly the fast ones, may need to be fitted with cow catchers like the American ones.

Feb. 18th A pair of collared doves have build a nest in a conifer near our kitchen window and are already sitting on eggs. It must be difficult to keep the temperature of the eggs high enough to hatch on a nest of twigs with the thermometer reading 18°F as it was this morning.

Art Exhibition & Craft Fair



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Play Area Jumble Sale

An excellent result at the Jumble Sale, £125 raised.

Very many thanks to the loyal band of supporters, all of those who donated, came and spent and especially to the great team of helpers on the morning. Jo and Tim Huckvale, Andrew, Nicola and Emma Jones, Nicole Thompson and last but not least Megan Gilkes representing her Mum who was busy backing another worthwhile cause!!

Just to remind all villagers that the Playarea is for all youngsters.

Bernie

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

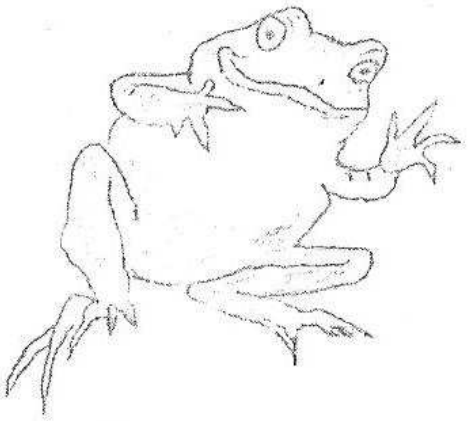
The Sibfords Society

Come and join Robin Spicer and members of the Society for a walk on 1 March from Bill and Barbara Crabtree's home, The Brambles, Woodway Road, Sibford Ferris. We will start at 10.00 am and walk between 4/5 miles and as the weather has been somewhat wet, come prepared for mud! When we return, there will be hot soup, prepared by Ann Spicer and a collection for Katharine House Hospice.

The AGM is on **20 March** and as usual, we will keep the business side of the evening as short as we can and then have a light-hearted quiz with slides of unusual views of the Sibfords for identification.

A Reminder

to drivers, cyclists and pedestrians that the annual courting and spawning of frogs and toads has begun.
The period runs from around 24th February to 1st April, peaking in mid-March.
The busiest areas are Main Street (from the crossroads towards the village pond), Bonds End Lane, Barley Close and Colony Road, plus an area half way along Hawkes Lane.
After dark, please look out for these vulnerable amphibians on the road and proceed with care. Thanks to your watchfulness last year, not too many were squashed so I hope that villagers can do as well this Spring.
Thank you for your co-operation.



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special moments in Sibford Gower

I just wanted to share with other readers a brief moment of pleasure yesterday morning. Because it is half term I took my cup of tea back to bed, after pulling back the curtains and fluffing up the pillows I sat looking out of the window.

Within minutes birds were on the nut holder, in the Lilac tree about three feet from the bedroom window. First came the cheeky quick Blue Tits, joined by a Great Tit, these are regular visitors and probably rely on our supply of nuts for their food source. The odd Sparrow flew in for a quick peck dislodging the Tits momentarily; a Long Tailed Tit timidly tried hard to get a look in but was pushed out by the Sparrows.

Then to my delight a Great Spotted Woodpecker dispersed all the smaller birds and took his turn, his red plumage making him very obvious to the world. He was very greedy and stayed on the hanging feeder for many minutes, attacking the netting with great gusto. Whenever another bird attempted to settle on the other side he sent them off with a sharp nod of the head. When he had had his fill after about five minutes, he flew off and three Starlings alighted on the food, they too kept off the smaller birds with the quick warning peck. A Bullfinch was hovering waiting his turn, but he gave up after the Starlings jumped the queue.

All this was observed by a pair of Blackbirds who were waiting anxiously for crumbs to drop to the ground, they quickly swooped down to gather anything left, only to find a pair of Robins were already there collecting scraps of nuts.

This was a delightful few minutes that I shared with the garden birds of The Colony, by filling up the feeder regularly the birds can rely on a food source in the depth of winter, such a small gesture, but allowing us to watch nature at very close quarters.

Sue Lovatt

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Sibford Gower Parish Council Blue Box Recycling Scheme

Cherwell District Council has provided the Recycling Collection dates for 2003 and these are shown below.

A survey carried out by Cherwell District Council in 2002 recorded kerbside recycling participation rates across the district. The survey showed differing levels of participation in towns and villages. Of the sixty seven villages involved, Sibford Gower's percentage rate at 45% ranked it joint 4th. Well done but, dare we say it, room for improvement!

Collection dates for Sibford Gower and Sibford Ferris:-

March 4th, 18th	August 5th, 19th
April 1st, 15th, 29th	September 2nd, 16th, 30th
May 13th, 27th	October 14th, 28th
June 10th, 24th	November 11th, 25th
July 8th, 22nd	December 9th

The recycling collection will take place on the same day as the refuse collection. You are requested to place your box out for collection by 7am. If you have any questions about the scheme or if you need a blue collection box, please contact Cherwell District Council Amenity Service (Tel: 01295 221940) PBH.

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Friendship Club

Our meeting in February was quite well attended and after the business had been discussed we played a few games of bingo and the afternoon finished with refreshments. We arranged to go to the Red Lion Hotel at Little Compton for lunch on the 18th and therefore the coach for the following week was cancelled.

We meet again in the Village Hall on **Tuesday 4th March at 2.00 pm.** when two members who are celebrating their birthdays will be providing a tea.

On **Tuesday 25th March** we have arranged to go to Stratford on Avon where we can look round the shops and have our lunch and then on to Matalan for an hours browse.

Early Warning
A Jumbo Jumble Sale
Is being arranged on
Saturday April 5th at 2pm
In the Village Hall
In aid of Sibford Church
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LEO.

We had our February meeting at the home of Greta Baadsgaard, a great number of us gathering there for a food and chat evening. We had a most relaxed and entertaining time, and it was amazing how quickly the time went.

Our March meeting will be at the home of Maureen Warden, 9 Barley Close, when Judy Abbott has consented to come and talk to us about her work with the Princess Royal Trust Carers Centre. So many people have no idea of the work this Trust does and it will be a good opportunity to learn something about it.

MW

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W.I. Meeting - February 11th, 2003.

We started our meeting back to front, as our speaker, Mrs. June Partridge, had asked to start before our 'business'. Her illustrated talk was about a couple of holidays she'd spent in Alaska and British Columbia. Unfortunately, her slides were rather dark, though she said that in some of the places she visited they had 24 hours of daylight! However, I'm sure some of us will want to see this very beautiful part of the world if we ever get the chance.

As it was getting rather late when Mrs. Partridge concluded her talk, Greta suggested we had our tea during the business part of the meeting. This was served by Mary Bristow and Rosalind.

After Gaynor had read the minutes, Glennis gave an interesting account of the outing to the Victoria and Albert Museum. As usual, one lady got on the wrong coach on the return journey - but not one of us! Glennis's husband, Peter, helped with transport to and from Chipping Norton. We'll have to give that man a W.I. badge soon.

The programme planning meeting at Gaynor's had a good attendance and Greta told us that much progress had been made.

A report on our fortunes at the village hall Quiz followed next. We had sent a team of six and were NOT BOTTOM. Not top either! Unfortunately our Vicar was not in good voice that evening, but his son, James Wimbush, was at hand and managed splendidly. It was a great fun evening and the food was marvellous.

To conclude our meeting, Greta spoke for us all when she said she was so pleased to see Brenda back again.

The competition: a hand-made warm hat. 1st Maureen; 2nd Jean; 3rd Rosalind.

Next meeting, March 11th: A.G.M. and Bring and Buy.

RP

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Sibford Horticultural Society

The first meeting of 2003 will be on **Wednesday 12th March at 8 p.m.** In the Village Hall. Sue Gale is coming to talk on Whichford Pottery. We hope to see as many members and guests as possible and new faces are always welcome.

Sibford School PSFA

PAMPER EVENING

Why not join us for an evening sampling the latest therapies, make up and beauty products?
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Time: From 7.30 pm
Venue: Dinning Hall
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Saturday 15th. A March for Peace.

(or how to avoid a jumble sale.)

A cold chilly start to the day as we waited to board three coaches bound for London from Banbury Cross, we had a speedy trip and were set down near Gower Street in good time. First essential was to find a loo and then we made our way towards the start. As we got closer there were hundreds of placards for you to help yourself to from various different organisations. We then came to a standstill waiting for start time. People were selling whistles, blowy hooter things (they were rather good) scarves and anything else they could find. We set off with stops and starts as we headed to Piccadilly Circus. As we only managed to shuffle along we got a chance to study those surrounding us. The man with a mobile on his head with dangling baguettes with fins to look like missiles. Some very witty banners, some crude but funny, but looking round they expressed every sentiment of the situation. We had the chap with the bongo drums who kept the rhythm going, the bloke on a tricycle with a sound system on the back. A group of students handing out song sheets for a song with a tongue twister of a last verse. We reached Piccadilly Circus joining with the other main stream of the march and the " Mexican Roar" was terrific. You could hear the shouts and whistles starting way in front of you and coming closer until it is your turn to make as much noise as you can and then it continues into the distance behind you. It was an incredible noise between the tall buildings. Once the two marches had merged the pace picked up slightly and we arrived at Hyde Park around 4:00pm and heard the last of the speakers Ken Livingston and Jesse Jackson. We think we were about 1/4 of a mile from the stage with a solid sea of people in front of us. We could see the big screens but only the roof of the stage in the distance. At about 4.30 we set off to find our coaches which wanted to leave at 5.30. They would be in Park Lane or Bayswater Road, well coaches there certainly were, hundreds nay thousands of them two abreast up both sides of the road and in every layby in between. Well come 7.00 we gave up and went to the tube and headed for Marylebone Station. (you know where stations are and they have loos!) We thankfully sank into the seats on the train, as we set off I watched Dave shuffling through all his bags and pockets eventually he said "No food left not even the baked bean flavoured crisps the kids don't like". The train went on slowly and steadily until a little before Bicester when there was a terrific rattling under all the carriages and the train came slowly to a halt. After 10 or 15 minutes an announcement came "We have hit an animal and there are some pipes hanging down, we will proceed slowly to Bicester and assess the situation." Well the train was taken out of service and we were picked up by a following train arriving in Banbury at nineish. We later learned the coaches didn't leave until eight from Buckingham Place arriving back after 10. It was certainly a day to remember. There are no easy answers, but war is not the way to go. How many people would turn out to march to support the war?

JG

Housing Needs Survey

The Parish Councils of Sibford Ferris and Sibford Gower are co-operating in a Housing Needs Survey of both villages, sponsored by the Banbury District Housing Coalition (OBDHC) with the support of Banbury. Homes. The idea is to assess the needs of local families, so that adequate low-cost (but not low-quality) housing can be built in the villages, thus ensuring that families are not needlessly broken up. The questionnaire for the Survey is being distributed with your copy of The Sibford Scene this month. BDHC is best known locally for its work with the Beacon Centre and emergency winter shelter, and it cooperates with the local housing association, Banbury Homes, on a rent deposit guarantee scheme. Banbury Homes is a division of Shaftesbury Homes, a Christian-led charity founded in the last century. Banbury Homes will be managing the analysis of the survey and will treat all responses in a completely confidential manner. Any housing built as a result will be under special planning provisions, which mean that it cannot provide an opening for developers greedy for village land. Please do respond to the questionnaire, even if your family has absolutely no need for local housing (or indeed, if you have no family). It will be collected from you (and there is a freepost envelope provided with it), so it will cost you nothing but a few a minutes of time; and the more complete the picture provided by the survey, the more credibility it will have. There will be families who may benefit; your time in answering these questions can help them.

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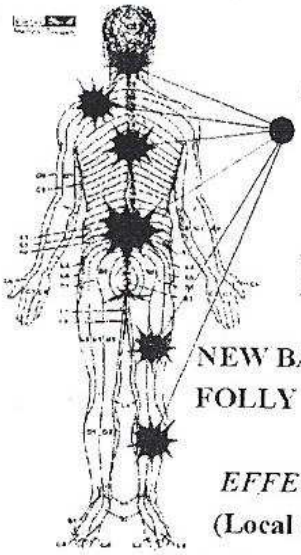

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Blaize Burns Again!

Some four weeks ago, the night air of Burdrop carried a curious aroma of liver, oatmeal and *uisge-beatha*, and the wild keening of the *piob mhór*, when the 'Blaize' and a score of friends, celebrated the life (perhaps the death?) of Scotland's Bard, in a *Burns Supper*, adapted for the occasion. (Ah, Rabbie, are you turning, down there?)

Dress ranged widely, from ancient *sgian dubh* to 'See you, Jimmie' plastic toories. (Burns was, after all, a Man of the People). And what a meal! The *Selkirk Grace*, in rolling Oxfordshir-ese: cock-a-leekie soup: chef and piper gasping from firewater toasts (how did *toastees* get to drink?): The Haggis! - handsomely addressed and victim to GBH as tradition demands: mountains of neeps'n'tatties: goblets of rare *cranachan* reflected in the glistening flanks of a rich (oh, *how* sweet) cloutie dumplin': a river of 'mountain dew', and lesser vineyard libations.

The night drove on wi' sangs and clatter, including a relentless saga about some Scottish hat, soon relieved by a heartfelt 'Red, Red Rose'. A spontaneous, oblique toast *To The Lassies* - delivered with mayoral dignity - got an equally spontaneous reply. The mighty 'Immortal Memory', proposed in form of Limerick (Ireland? ah, well...) was less steadily toasted..... Time was passing, after all. A tortured, English-agricultural rendition of *Duncan Gray* provoked wet-eyed hysteria, with calls for "woonit" to be sold wholesale. After a dirge from the Yukon (eh?) England fought back with tear-jerking romance (Keats) followed by a spirited ladies' duet (*I'm a little teapot* - anon.). The non-literati amused themselves building a teetering column of (*how* many?!) empty bottles. The column didn't fall down, but.....

The company's motley origins - Wales, Ireland, England, Iceland, Bloxham, and a token presence from beyond Hadrian's Wall - proved Burns' prediction that "*Man to man, the world o'er, shall brothers* [and, of course, PC sisters] *be, for a' that*". The evening concluded with the traditional amnesia.

The Warriner Choral Society

Spring Concert

JOHN RUTTER Psalmfest
ANDREW CARTER Benedicite

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Sibford Gower Parish Council - WEEKEND WASTE SKIPS

Cherwell District Council has informed Sibford Gower Parish Council that it has recently been advised by The Environment Agency that, in their view, the Waste Skip service contravenes existing legislation and is likely to conflict with future controls and Government policies in respect of waste handing and disposal. In addition, they point out that such practices offer a potential threat to communities, employees engaged in the handling of the waste and to the environment in general.

In the light of this advice, Cherwell District Council Executive has recommended that the service be terminated with effect from 31st March 2003. This decision will be formally confirmed by the Council on 3rd March 2003 when the budget for 2003/04 is adopted.

It is with some regret that the decision has been taken given the popularity and the use that is made of this service but with the increasing emphasis on legislation in respect of environmental protection, health and safety and sustainable waste management, the Council felt that it has little choice other than to take this course of action.

Residents may wish to know that bulky items of waste such as furniture and kitchen appliances can be collected by the District Council for a small fee of £10 for up to 4 items. Refrigerators and freezers are collected free of charge. Alternatively, if any items such as these are in good condition, the Banbury Council for Voluntary Service may collect them for a small fee and re-distribute them to other less fortunate members of the community. Call 01295 221940 for further details of these services.

Householders may also dispose of waste and recycle materials at the Alkerton landfill site provided by Oxfordshire County Council (Tel:01865 815796 or 816043).

As will be known, the District Council currently provides a door to door recycling service for newspapers via the blue box scheme and later this year it is proposed to extend this service to include other recyclable materials such as cans, aluminium, plastics and cardboard. In addition, it is planned to provide for a separate collection of green garden wastes from householders which will be used for composting. These new services will go

some way to ameliorating the effects of the withdrawal of the village skip.

Church Services

Society of Friends		Sunday at 10.30 am
Methodist		Sunday at 11.00 am
Roman Catholic Mass	Wroxton	Sunday at 9.00 am
	Brailes	Sunday at 11.30 am
Baptist	Hook Norton	Sunday at 10.30 am
Church of the Firstborn (Bridleways S.Gower)		Sunday at 10.30 am

Church of England, Holy Trinity, Sibford Gower.

March

Sun 2nd Benefice Eucharist 10 am
Sun 9th Family Service. 10.00 am
Sun 16th Holy Communion 9.30 am
Sun 23rd Holy Communion 9.30 am

Sibford Cricket Club Annual General Meeting
10th March at 8 pm in The Bishop Blaize

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Sibford Bus Services

Free Bus Service

To Chippy Wednesdays Mar 5th & 19th — Departs 10 am
To Banbury Thursdays Mar 13th & 27th — Returns 12 noon

Pick up points are; The Colony, High Meadow, Cross Roads, 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.
Phone 263777 for more details.

Calendar of Events

March

Sat 1st Sibfords Society Winter Walk. 10 am The Brambles. p6
Sun 2nd Collectables and Car Boot sale. V.Hall 2.00 pm
Tue 4th Friendship Club meeting in the Village Hall p9
Sat/Sun 8/9th Primary School Art Exhibition. P3
Sat 8th Sid Kipper's Parish Pump Show. Village Hall 7.30 pm.
Mon 10th Sibford Cricket Club AGM 8 pm. p18
Tue 11th W.I. AGM and Bring and Buy p11
Wed 12th Mobile Library in Sibfords and Burdrop (2.25-4.20pm)
Wed 12th Horticultural Society Talk - Whichford Pottery p12
Thu 13th Pamper Evening at Sibford School p12
Tue 18th Deadline for contributions to the March Sibford Scene p12
Thu 20th Sibfords Society AGM and Quiz Evening p6
Tue 25th Friendship Club outing to Stratford. p9
Wed 26th Mobile Library in Sibfords and Burdrop (2.25-4.20pm)

April (part)

Sat 5th Jumbo Jumble Sale p9
Sat 5th Warriner School Choral Society Concert p16

Cover Picture: The Banbury and District Cricket League winning team in 1948. Back row (L to R) C. Mawle, F. Barton (League umpires) Lewis Poulton, Frank Woolgrove, Eric Stewart, Don Woolgrove, Bernard Lamb, Richard Haynes, Tom Lines (Sibford umpire).
Front Row (L to R) Pete Stewart, Harold Kaye, Henry Poulton, Henry Long, Fred Berry

Sibford Scene
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