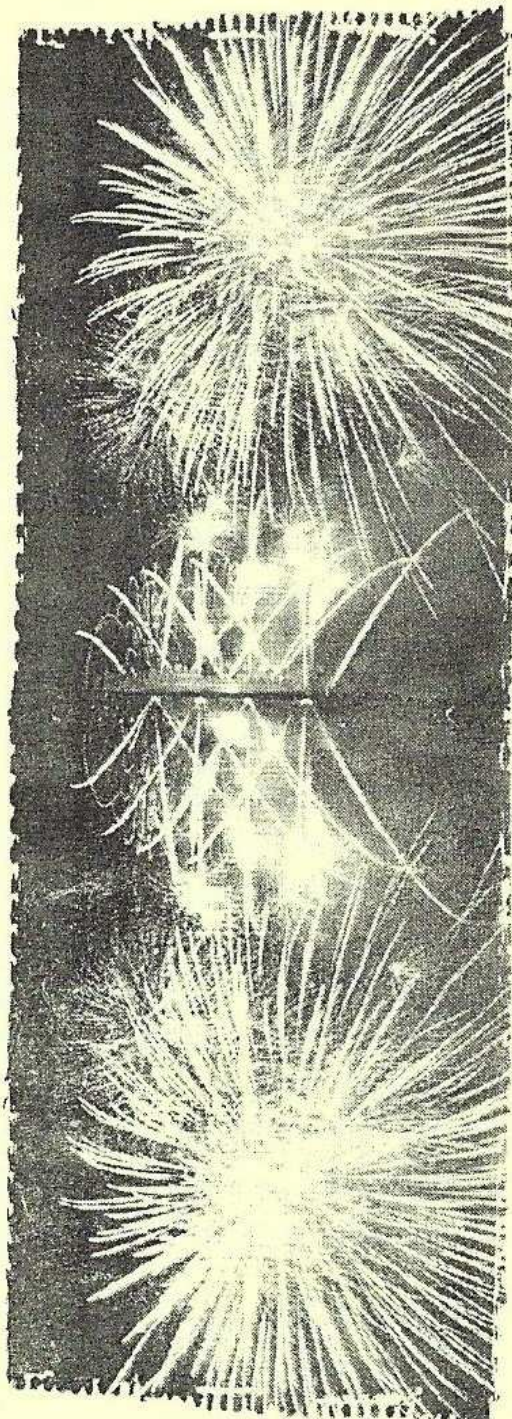


Sibford Scene



November 2003

No. 258

Sibford Gower Endowed Primary School present

Firework Display and Bonfire

Wednesday 5th November 6.30 pm (gates open 6 pm)

Holy Trinity Church

Christmas Bazaar

Saturday 15th November 2.30pm, in the Village Hall

Sibford School Christmas Fair

Friday 28th November 3.30 - 6.30 pm

Nature Notes

Sept. 22nd. I think that the 3½ inch long caterpillar that was crawling across our lawn this morning must have been that of an elephant hawk moth although I did not recognise it as one at the time. It seemed to be looking for a place to pupate so I put it into a big flowerpot with a few inches of compost and covered it with a piece of glass. This was just as well as the storm this afternoon came nearly three quarters of an inch of rain in about an hour and I wonder how it would have fared with the water tending to lie on the dry ground.

Sept. 23rd. Tits are already taking a lot of sunflower seed probably due to the lack of beechnuts which usually provide much of their autumn food.

Sept. 25th Although still sunny there is a slight chill in the air which has made the humming-bird hawk moths alter their behaviour. During the hot weather they were constantly feeding and darting from flower to flower but over the last few days they have from time to time settled on the warm south facing wall of our bungalow.

Oct. 3rd Last night badgers dug into our heap of old bonfire ash going in about three feet from one side and two feet from the other. The tunnels overlapped but did not meet. What they were digging for I don't know or whether it had any connection with my burning a lot of branches on the top of the heap yesterday but it looked as if the badger digging from the south side had suddenly jumped back out of its tunnel, probably when some hot ash from above fell onto its back.

Oct. 4th A friend who lives in Shipston picked up a bag of moss that she collected a while ago and thinking it was a bit heavy looked inside and found a hedgehog apparently hibernating. I think this is about a month earlier than usual.

Oct. 8th My son brought me a queen hornet from Blenheim Farm. I put it into an old bird nest box in our shed. It came out and crawled around the entrance then went back in so may survive the winter amongst the leaves in there. Later they saw another one so I expect they are from a nearby nest that has now died out after producing a generation of queens.

Oct. 17th. Although we have had several ground frosts this week there are still a few of the red bodied dragonflies around and today a tortoiseshell butterfly on late buddleia flowers. The ivy flowers, as always, are providing nectar for insects that are still active.

Oct. 18th. A buzzard was sitting on a roadside fencepost on Sibford Heath as we drove by this morning. They really have become quite commonplace now.

Oct. 20th. A heron came to look at our garden pond at about 7 am. It was probably doing a round of the local ponds.

Sibford Horticultural Society

The evening began with the A.G.M. and the treasurer reported that we had a very healthy balance due to the success of the Flower Show. The chairman reported on the previous years talks and outings and thanked everyone who helped make each evening a success.

After the A.G.M. Mr. Mike Brown gave a very interesting talk on Clematis. He is a National Collection Holder of Clematis and grows several hundred in his garden ranging from the small alpine variety at a few inches high to the romping montanas. There were excellent slides to accompany the informative talk and was enjoyed by everyone.

The next meeting is on **Wednesday 12th November**, in the Village Hall at 8 pm when Ann Bird will talk on "Roses for Pleasure". Everyone welcome.

News from the Sibford Wombling Society.

The membership is now three, all fully armed with Wombling Sticks (litterpickers).

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- * We have a telephone help line open 9 - 5 Monday to Friday
tel:01993 886933
- * Or email us at: enquiries@oxoncis.org.uk.
- * Information can also be accessed via our website www.oxoncis.org.uk.

We also have an Outreach Officer who holds drop in sessions around the county at various events and establishments such as clinics or toddler groups. This enables parents to chat informally about their childcare needs and get information directly. If anyone would like to book a drop in session please contact us. We look forward to hearing from you!



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

The Sibfords Society

At our last evening we welcomed Chris Applegate from the Sealed Knot Society, who came dressed in the clothes of an officer in the Parliamentary Army during the Civil War and told in fascinating detail the life of a soldier in those troubled times and the history of the War. He then spoke about the Sealed Knot, ably helped by his teenage son, Steve, who is also a keen member of the Society.

The next meeting will be in the Village Hall, commencing at 7.30 pm on 20 November, when we have a return visit of Hugh Hinde, who gave a marvelous talk on the History of Pistol Duelling last year.

This time his subject is the "Development of military weapons and changing tactics of warfare".

Our meetings are open to non-members of the Society, so please do come and join us.



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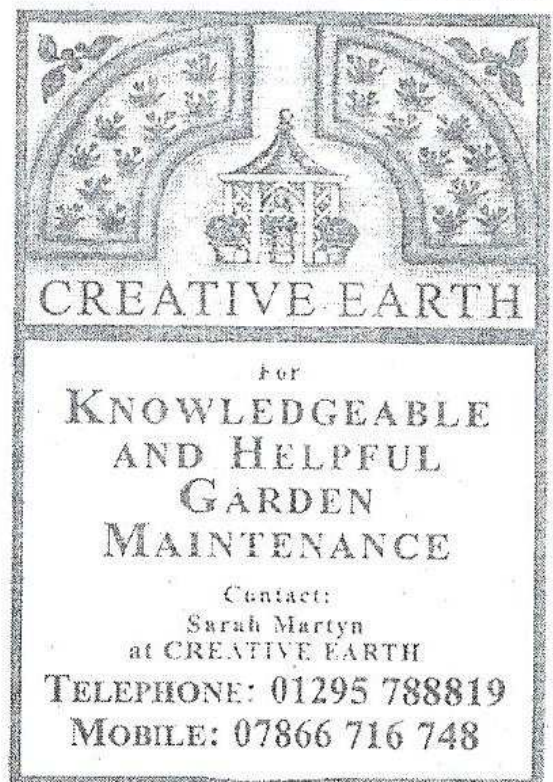
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to the Shop or Editor
by
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Richard Earle (788736)

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There will, of course, be many other attractions, but we are not seeking gifts for those.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT TOM PRATT ON
780489

PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR CHURCH

HARVEST SUPPER.

There were lots of dishes, plates, etc. left behind after the harvest supper. I have managed to find homes for nearly all of them, but I still have a very nice oval plate with a green border and a small glass jug. Please ring me if you recognise this description on 788252.

Maureen Warden.

Friendship Club

We had a most informative talk from Mrs Sheila Jones on how she makes her porcelain dolls. She took us through the whole procedure from the clay, right through to how she makes the heads and limbs, attaches them to the bodies, and even makes the clothes. We had no idea how much work and patience goes into each doll. No wonder they are so expensive. A vote of thanks was given by Sandra and the refreshments were provided by Eveline and Gladys.

Diary Dates

Tuesday 4th November. Meet in the Village Hall at 2.00 pm when Mr. Keith Hicks will be showing slides on 'Not So Old Sibford'

Tuesday 18th November. Meet in the Village Hall at 2.00 pm when we are inviting the Good Companions from Tysoe.

Tuesday 2nd December. Christmas Tea in the Village Hall.

Dear Editor,

Could I kindly ask if you could possibly print a very big 'Thank you' to Mrs Bea Tanner for inviting members of the 'Friendship Club' to her 93rd Birthday Party at Sibford Village Hall on Tuesday 23rd September 2003.

The party was attended by some 22 members and friends and was a delightful success.

We had a brilliant party spread, with a wonderful Piano accompaniment, where memories were put to test recalling all the old songs that will never die and I am sure I speak for everyone when I say thank you Bea, and hope we will all be with you when you reach your 'Hundredth'.

A special thank you no less to the many people who helped make this a day to remember, and for the wonderful spread. I know we all enjoyed ourselves, as we always do at our events.

A very well done to everyone. We are indeed very fortunate to be blessed with our Club and all who make it a success.

Thank you most kindly.

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Carol Service

This will take place on **Sunday 21st December** when Pastor Henry Edwards will be officiating.

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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 788252 (Gower or Burdrop) or Ann Bishop on 788188 (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:-

Claire Lasko, who has moved into 5 Barley Close with her two daughters:- India aged 14 and Georgia aged 12. They also have a handsome mongrel dog, mostly Dalmatian, called Lottie.

They previously lived in Swalcliffe Lea, but wanted to be closer to all the friends they had made over the last twelve years, and for this reason have moved to Sibford. Claire is a TV producer and director, working freelance and making documentaries. The family hobby seems to be riding, and both India and Georgia have their own ponies.

They seem keen to be involved in village life and we hope they will be happy here.

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LEO

After a break during August, we met up again on the 16th September, with a record number of eighteen ladies.

The meeting was held at Gaynor Harper-Tarr's, and Mary Bristow and her daughter, Christine, told us the story and showed us photographs of how Chris and her husband had bought a cottage in France and proceeded to work very hard on renovating it (often with the help of Mary). It is in Brittany, in a village about the size of Burdrop, where there were a couple of other English people living, who were very friendly.

At first, the sink didn't drain to the septic tank and they had work to do on the electricity and plumbing in general.

However, they have let it this year and have had no problems in that direction. Far from having things stolen, they seem to have acquired lots of extras during that time. The place has always been left immaculate.

They were so pleased with this project that they have now bought another property there. This one needs an awful lot of work done to it and they have resigned themselves to a five-year project this time.

-o-O-o-

The October LEO was held at Glennis Hardrnan's, where once again we had a very good attendance.

This time we related stories about our first boy friends and lots of us brought photos. I think these revelations emphasised how different the world is today from when we were all young. In those days, our parents kept a close eye on us, to try and keep us on the straight and narrow! Also, most of us were married very young - from 18 upwards - while the tendency now is to wait until much later to settle down and start a family.

There was much laughter and lots of reminiscing.

The next meeting will be at Greta's (Quince Cottage, Bonds End Lane - no parking), on the **18th November**, when we shall have our usual Christmas gathering. Will you please bring any poems and readings you can find. This will be a food evening, so don't eat too much beforehand!

MW

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SIBFORD'S W.I. NEWS - Meeting on the 11th October.

We were welcomed by our Vice President, as Glennis had only just returned from Australia and was feeling somewhat jet-lagged. Doubtless she'll have recovered in time for our 75th Birthday Lunch on the 28th October.

Gaynor read the minutes and Barbara reported on our finances. Brenda told us about the recent meeting at Oxford Town Hall, where Jenny Bond addressed about 700 members. Lots of anecdotes about the Royals when reporting for the B.B.C. A very good meeting.

Some of us had gone together to see "The Calendar Girls". Greta said for those who hadn't seen it, we should try and go as it was so good.

Mary Bristow informed us of a small increase in the price of 'Home and Country' magazine, but reckoned it was still worth having.

Meanwhile, Mrs. Yolande Tappin was waiting to give us a talk/demonstration on Malaysian Cuisine or so our programme read. It therefore seemed odd to see the demonstration table heaped with Oriental clothes, bags and artifacts!! (Later for sale), If any of us were initially disappointed at not having a nosh (well there were prawn crackers), it was quickly dissipated. Mrs Tappin gave such an eye-opening description of life in Malaysia that was truly fascinating.

As Kathleen Winter said in her words of 'thanks' - we all felt as if she had taken us there!!

Many of us had to be prised away from the sales table, as our hostesses were serving tea. Thank you to Jane Martin and Helen Franke. Also thanks to Jean for the lovely flower arrangement.

The competition was for an Oriental item and won by Mary Bristow; 2nd Kathleen Winter; 3rd Jean Puddle.

NEXT MEETING - November 11th. Speaker: Mrs P. Chalmer - "Morse Slide Talk". Competition: A Photograph of Oxford. R.P.

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FROM EAST TO WEST IN SA

Having spent nearly a month in the UK, we returned to South Africa and went traveling again! It's been quite a busy time.

After only a few days to catch my breath, I was off to visit my friend who has a cottage near the Kruger Park. This is the third time I've been but it's such a joy to be in what feels like the 'real' Africa. I was able to fly directly from Cape Town to the new Kruger/ Mpumalanga International Airport which replaces the old airport at Nelspruit. The runway is a lot longer so it can take jets, hence the direct link with Cape Town. So instead of taking nearly all day to get there, with a change of planes in Jo'burg, it now is a short two hour hop. The airport terminal has been built out of timber and thatch and looks very stylish and African. However, they haven't got round to building the approach road yet so you travel for about 15 kilometres on dirt from the main road and there are no signs anywhere to say where the airport is - very annoying and very African!

Once again I was treated to the sight of wild animals in their own environment. Around the cottage we regularly saw zebra, giraffe, wildebeest, kudu, impala, baboons (no unwelcome raids this time) and of course the warthogs who came every day for their snacks. The Crocodile river which is only 100 metres from the cottage has a resident herd of hippos who grunt and snort all through the night. We also saw rhino, buffalo, hyena and lions as we sat and watched the sun go down. The bird life is also quite extraordinary. My friend is an avid bird watcher and if she doesn't see at least 100 different species in a weekend she's disappointed. One of my favourites is the lilac breasted roller which has the most beautiful, lilac, turquoise, blue, green metallic plumage. One of its habits is to hover in the sky and then tumble and roll down towards the earth.

We went into the Kruger Park for one day. It was very busy, especially at the entrance where they were trying to sort out who was local and who were tourists. There are now different rates with the tourists (foreigners) paying more. We had lunch at the recently refurbished Lower Sabie rest camp. The old one got

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partly washed away in the floods a few years ago. It was really very nice as we sat on the timber deck overlooking the Sabie river watching the elephants take a bath. Back in the Cape, we decided to go up the west coast for a few days in the hope of seeing some Spring flowers. Well, we were very fortunate to see the most wonderful display. The late winter rains have meant that the flowers are also late this year. We visited a private reserve owned by one of the Duckitts descended from one of the original families to colonise the area. Mark Duckitt took us on a conducted tour of the veld telling us the names of all the flowers and their adaptation to the environment. It was a fascinating tour and we once again marvelled at the diversity of the native fynbos.

We stayed at the little fishing village of Paternoster again, enjoying the hospitality of George at his B&B on the beach. We were surprised to hear how the price of land has increased even in sleepy Paternoster. Some tiny plots on the beach have gone for one million rand each (about £900,000). The property boom continues.

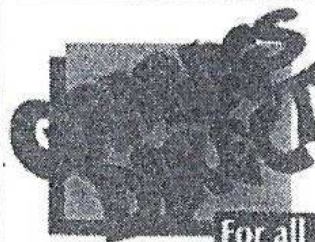
Now we can look forward to the summer and some hot weather. We have already had some 30 degree C days. However, we also enjoyed some wonderful weather in the UK on our visit, especially the weekend we visited Sibford. Thanks to everyone we visited for their hospitality. We fell in love with Sibford all over again and look forward to our eventual return.

Pat and Steve Bates

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If you would like more information on volunteering opportunities at Upton House, please contact Julie Lynch at our Birmingham Office

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(I have some more details and application forms available. Ed)



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Note from Sibford Gower Parish Council

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Please send your name and address, the shop you are nominating
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Jane Barker, ORCC Village Shops Fieldworker,
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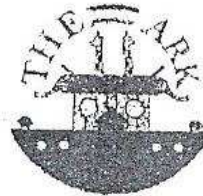
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IMAGINE.....

Imagine sitting in a meeting with as many as 7 professionals who are discussing your child and their Special Educational Needs, possibly using jargon you don't understand. Imagine coming away, not clear what has been decided, unhappy that you hadn't felt brave enough to say what you really felt and wishing there had been someone there to support you.

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On **01865 810516**

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1st Sibford Guides requires an enthusiastic leader to start Tuesday 4th November. Tuesdays 7.00pm - 8.30pm, school term time only. Experience not essential, training is given, excellent support network. If interested please contact Jenny Bruton 01608 737542 or Caroline Harley 01295 780467.



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HOLY TRINITY CHURCH NEWS

The Harvest Festival Service took place on Saturday 4th October. Very well attended, the service was taken by the Rector who also played the organ and allowed members of the congregation to choose hymns from the Harvest sheets provided; an interesting selection was made! The Rector manages to combine a deep sense of prayer and spirituality with a relaxed and entertaining presentation. The church was beautifully decorated and the considerable amount of produce together with the collection, was donated to The Katharine House Hospice.

The Harvest Festival service was followed by an excellent bring and share Harvest Supper and gave an opportunity for regular churchgoers to meet new friends including Sarah and Cedric, students at the Sibford School who come from Hong Kong.

A Family Service is held on the second Sunday in each month at 10 am. organised by a lively group. All family members are encouraged to take part with readings, prayers and music and they are frequently led by members of the congregation. Many children from the villages are now attending with their parents and an even greater number would add to the already enthusiastic attendance. The latest held on Sunday 12th October featured *The Journeys of St Paul* and was led by the Rector. The usual date for the next family service would be **Sunday 9th November** but this date is set aside for the **Service of Remembrance at 10.55 am** so the next Family Service will be the Christmas Christingle service on a date to be announced.

The remaining Parish events for the year are as follows:

Saturday 15th November Christmas Bazaar in the Village Hall at 2.30 pm. A good opportunity to do your Christmas shopping early. Gifts would be appreciated by the various stall holders; contact Tom Pratt for further information. 780489

Saturday 29th November 10 am Coffee Morning at 7 High Meadow
NEW EVENT

Saturday 20th December Christmas Bingo in the Village Hall

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Church Services

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

November

Sun 2nd Benefice Eucharist
 Sun 9th Service of Remembrance 10.55 am
 Sun 16th Holy Communion 9.30 am
 Sun 23rd Holy Communion 9.30 am
 Sun 30th Holy Communion 9.30 am

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To Banbury Thursdays November 6th & 20th Departs 10 am
 To Chippy Wednesdays November 12th, & 26th 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

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Operates on WEDNESDAYS ONLY.

Phone 263777 for more details.

Calendar of Events

November

- Sun 2nd Village Hall Market 1 pm.
Tue 4th Friendship Club Talk. 'Not so Old Sibford' p8
Wed 5th Mobile Library in Sibfords and Burdrop (2.25-4.20pm)
Wed 5th Primary School Fireworks and Bonfire. 6.30 pm p13
Tue 11th WI Meeting. 'Morse Slide Talk' p12
Wed 12th Horticultural Society 'Roses for Pleasure' 8pm V.Hall p3
Fri 14th Gower Parish Council Meeting 8 pm Primary School p16
Sat 15th Church Christmas Bazaar 2.30pm Village Hall p7
Sun 16th Village Hall Market 1 pm.
Mon 17th Ferris Parish Council meeting 7.45pm Friends School Sports Hall
Tue 18th Friendship Club 'Good Companions' visit 2pm V.Hall p8
Tue 18th LEO Christmas Gathering. Quince Cottage. p11
Tue 18th Spinners & Weavers AGM & Exhibition of Work (Tel 251088)
Tue 18th Deadline for contributions to the December & January
Sibford Scene p6
Wed 19th Broadband 4 Business at Rye Hill Golf Club. p19
Thu 20th Sibfords Society Talk 7.30 pm Village Hall. P6
Fri 21st Deadline for Village Shop of the Year Entries. p18
Fri 28th Sibford School Christmas Fair. 3.30 - 6.30 pm p16
Sat 29th Coffee Morning in aid of the Church, 7 High Meadow p21

December (part)

- Tue 2nd Friendship Club Christmas Tea. 2 pm Village Hall p8
Sat 6th Methodist Chapel Coffee Morning 10 - 12 noon p9
Sat 13th Playgroup Christmas Bazaar in the Village Hall
Sat 20th Church Christmas Bingo in the Village Hall p21
Sun 21st Methodist Chapel Carol Service 11am p9

Cover Picture - Bonds End Lane

Sibford Scene

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780555

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