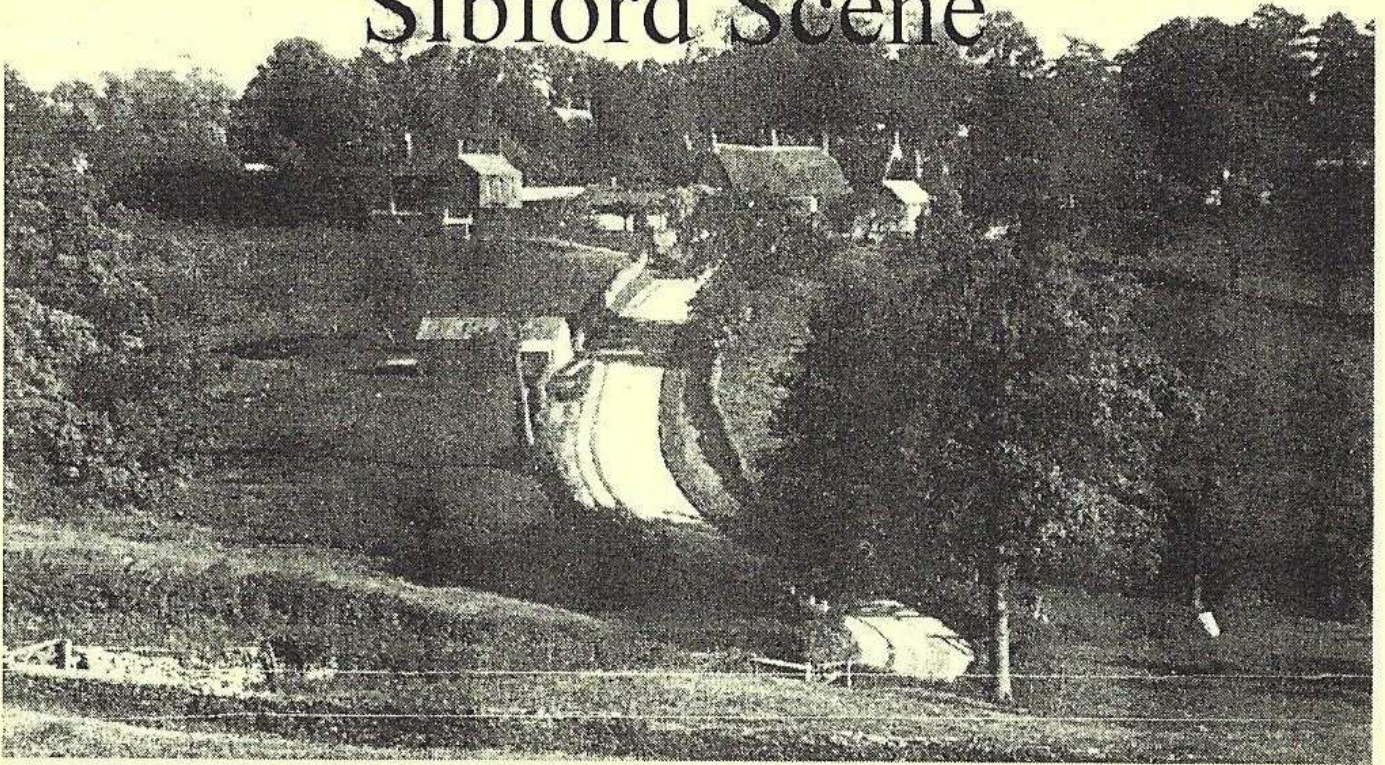


Sibford Scene



June 2005

No. 274

The Simon Weatherby Garden
Open Garden. Sunday 5th June 2 - 5 pm
At Katharine House Hospice, Adderbury.

Sibford Methodist Chapel Anniversary Service
Tuesday 7th June at 7.30pm

Church Spring Clean 9th & 10th June at 5.00pm

Sibford Fun Run
Sunday 19th June
Childrens run at 10.30 am Fun Run at 11.15am

Sibford Village Fayre
Saturday 25th June at the Village Hall 12.30pm

Nature Notes

May. 1st. The thunderstorm that passed over us in the early hours of this morning produced such frequent lightning that it was impossible to know which flash produced which claps of thunder. It seemed to be mostly, if not all, sheet lighting flashing from cloud to cloud rather than to earth. The frequency of the flashes brought to mind the great storm of September 1935 but of course this mornings one did not have the very heavy rain, the strong wind or the huge hailstones that broke so many windows.

May. 2nd. This afternoon my daughter in law spotted a buzzard overhead then my son spotted two more and with the help of binoculars we found a total of six. One that came into the thermal quite low down was soon up with the higher ones that were being lifted until they were almost into the cloud.

May. 6th In answer to a phone call from my grand daughter this evening I went to see a fawn and a white deer. Even in the shade at over 300 yards the white one showed up well but the fawn must have taken cover among the trees. However there was plenty of wildlife in the field such as rabbits, pheasants, a muntjac, 4 stock doves and a flock of wood pigeons and on the skyline beyond the farm we could see two hares feeding. I was told today about a very dark coloured grass snake which when spotted already had the head of a toad in its mouth but took another 1½ hours to swallow the rest of it.

May. 8th. Perhaps the long expected spread of red kites into this area has started. A group of four were seen recently only 4 miles from Sibford.

May. 19th. A male sparrowhawk almost brushed my wellington boot as, after sweeping past our bird table was going at great speed towards our neighbours. It is probably a regular route for him.



The Simon Weatherby Garden at the Katharine House Hospice will hold its annual Open Day on **Sunday 5th June from 2 - 5 pm** There will be Plant Stalls, Raffle, Teas & Cakes. Please do your best to attend and support the gardens which do so much to enhance the Hospice.

Sibford Village Fayre

will be held on **June 25th** starting at 12-30pm.

There will be lots of attractions including Fancy Dress, Dog Show and Children's Art competitions. Stalls include Arts and Crafts, Food and Health products. Teas, Licensed Bar and a delicious BBQ will cater for your inner needs. Charlie Muddles the Magician will entertain young and old alike. The Tombola, Bottle, Cake and Plant stalls will tempt you to spend your money! There should be something for everyone so put the date in your diary.

Too much information - not enough space!

I have information from CCLRC on their Talking Science summer lectures aimed at teenagers held at the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory and Science in the City - science events for the general public and families in Oxford. Both from now until September. Details from the Editor.

The Deddington Festival June 23rd to 26th with Music Hall, Art & Craft Exhibitions Concerts, Poetry and even a Cricket Match. One copy of the programme in the Village Shop



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Chairman: Terry Young 780386
Secretary: Muriel Chandler 780025

Both halls £13.00 (09.00 – 18.00)
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Diary Dates: Village Fun Run Sunday June 19
 Village Fete Saturday June 25
 Heart of England Jazz Band Saturday October 22

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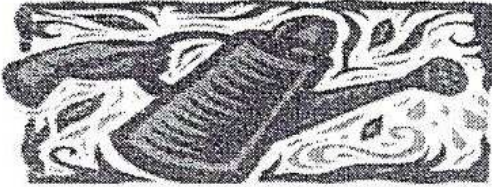
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At the last meeting Dr Susan Rhodes talked about the masters garden at the Leicester hospital in Warwick. We were shown pictures of the garden before it was restored and told of all the research that Dr Rhodes had done trying to find out its past history and then the remaking of the garden as it can be seen today. The garden is open to the public and would make a very interesting outing. The evening was very interesting with Dr Rhodes being an excellent speaker.

June 8th is our evening outing to the garden of Janet Cropley in Evenley. We will meet at the Village Hall at 6-15pm and go by car. The cost is £3-50 which includes coffee, we hope to see as many as possible. Please let any committee member know if you would like to go if you have not already put your name down as Janet would like to know how many she is expecting to visit

The annual show is on Saturday 27th August and you will be receiving your schedules with the July Sibford Scene. We do hope lots of you will enter. Please would anyone who has cups from last show return to any committee member as soon as possible .



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Growing is our current theme at playgroup. As always, the children are full of enthusiasm for the topic, bringing in photographs of themselves as babies and taking pride in all that they can now achieve. At the same time they are eagerly watching the growth and changes of the resident tadpoles and are looking forward to seeing a butterfly emerge from its chrysalis. If you would like more information about playgroup then please call us (mornings) on 01295 788998.

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July

Sibford Scene
to the Shop or Editor

by
June 21st

In preparation for our visit to Sulgrave Manor House in June, Martin Sirot-Smith visited the Society on 19 May and spoke to us about the long history of occupation at Sulgrave dating back to the Bronze Age.

The Manor was built in 1539 by Lawrence Washington, who had become a very rich man through the wool trade and also marrying two rich widows! The family occupied the Manor for the next 120 years but were persecuted by the Parliamentarians for their support of the Royalist cause and lost all they owned. In 1656 Colonel John Washington left England and settled in Virginia and made his fortune in tobacco. He was to become the great grandfather of George Washington, the first President of the USA. Sulgrave Manor became a farmhouse in the 18C and partly collapsed in the 19C and survived in its present form only because it was presented by British subscribers to Great Britain and America in celebration of 100 years of peace between the two nations.

The visit to the Manor will take place on **Thursday, 16 June** and we will meet in the car park at Sulgrave a little before 7.00pm. If anyone would like to share the traveling, please give Jenny a ring on 01386 438 238 and she will arrange it for you. We still have room for others to join us, whether you are members of the Society or not, so please ring the above number during the next two weeks to add your name to the list.

Save our Trees

I am completely dismayed each time I find yet another beautiful mature tree has disappeared. We have so few of them left. One I know to have been cut unnecessarily and possibly illegally by the electricity providers, but the others have presumably been removed following the advice of tree consultants. The consultants have to cover themselves legally, and so they present a 'worst case scenario'. No doubt it is possible to find reasons to say that there is a risk that every tree will fall down, but where do we stop? Shall we cut down every mature tree and be done with it? This is utter madness - part of the fear which seems to be gripping people these days, perhaps because of the way the media relentlessly dwells on it at all hours of the day and the 'no win, no fee' suing situation. There is a tree in the centre of a neighbouring village which was pronounced dead 13 years ago. It is overlooking the main street and near buildings, but the villagers, very sensibly in my view, love it and will not allow it to be cut down. Several lovely mature trees have been cut in the grounds of Sibford School. There was a good reason for this in one case I know of, but what about the others. OK new trees can be planted, but what about the intervening 50 years while we wait for these to become mature. When will common sense and sanity prevail over fear? Some people will remember the village before Dutch Elm disease - our villages had many, many more big trees then. Surely we should be preserving the remaining few at all costs? Have people forgotten that apart from their beauty and consequent effect on the quality of our lives and their essential role in the chain of nature (supporting a great variety of wildlife), they also help to purify our air - so necessary in today's polluted environment - even here in the countryside.

Suzy Straw



**Women's
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Sibford W.I. News

On the 10th May, we were welcomed to the Village Hall by our President, Glennis, on a chilly day and we were glad to have the heating on. Apologies were received from several Members. The record of the April Meeting was read by Lynda, our Secretary and we were told how various jobs had been allocated amongst the Committee for 2005/6. Kathleen Winter gave an interesting report on the Group Meeting at Cropredy on the 28th April when the speaker was Glenis Groves, an opera singer who gave a delightful talk on her varied experiences through the years. She joined the D'Oyly Carte at the age of eighteen and is now with the Royal Opera Company. She ended by treating us to a solo called "Singer" which was written to be sung unaccompanied. The competition for a musical item was won by Tadmarton W.I. with a glass bottle shaped like a violin, captioned "Are you going to Scarborough Fayre?" and filled with small sprigs of parsley, sage, rosemary and thyme. Sibford came second with Kathleen Reid's wonderful John Peel jug with a fox handle. When the jug was lifted, it played "Do ye ken, John Peel?". Shutford was third with a match box musical box. Glennis (Hardman) won a raffle prize and the posy of flowers from her table. Next Group Meeting is on 27th October at Shutford. (Speaker: Lady Saye and Sele).

Glennis gave an account of her visit to two National Trust properties; Berrington Hall and Croft Castle. Lovely houses and a well organised and enjoyable OFWI coach trip.

Items from News and Views were discussed. Helpers and bakers were recruited for the serving of teas at the Village Hall Fayre on Saturday, 25th June. Gaynor to supervise. Arrangements were discussed for visits in May and June to ex-member Brenda now living in Stratford upon Avon. Coach outing to Rockingham Castle on Tuesday, 9th August - Members were asked to put their names on a list. Barbara, our Treasurer, reported on Finance. We made £43 from our Bring & Buy Sale last month.

Resolutions: Glennis and Lynda to go to the National Federation AGM at the Albert Hall when the guest speakers will be Bill Bryson and Jane Fonda. Only two Resolutions on the agenda this year - Farm Gate Milk Prices and Care of our Environment, both of which were backed by our Members after Lynda had explained the issues involved. Lynda then read out some amusing anecdotes and Kathleen Winter told us of her own hilarious experience when attempting to recycle old hymn books.

The competition for the Best Flowering Stem was won by Jane with a head of angelica, second - Glennis with a beautiful narcissus, third - Greta with a spray of Solomon's seal.

The next Meeting is on Tuesday, 14th June. Speaker: Mrs Bridgette Brown on "Looking and Feeling Good". The competition will be for a "Health Tip".

G.H.T.

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From our new correspondent

Hi there. I am your newly self appointed correspondent in Melbourne Australia and this letter is just to keep you all updated.

Many of you may be thinking 'who the heck is she', well, until a few weeks ago I had lived all my life in Sibford. I am not saying how long, but I reluctantly admit to remembering the snow in 1947. I was then living at New Barn Farm. In my late teens I moved to Park Farm next to the Church, and after my marriage I moved over to the Ferris. I have now moved out to Melbourne Australia with my new husband Preston Cribb.

At the moment I am sitting out in the back courtyard of our house. The temperature is 29 degrees and the sky is very blue, but Melbourne is renown for its weather changes, they say you can have all four seasons in one day. This I experienced for myself last year, one minute it is 35 degrees then an hour and a half later we get a really bad thunder storm and the temperature falls to 19 degrees.

You can get obsessed with the forecast, or is that just being British! Preston has put up a shade sail over the centre of our courtyard, it makes a nice shady area to sit in, a bit like being under a large tree, but not having to wait 30 or 40 years for it to grow. You may remember seeing shade sails at the Sidney Olympics.

I would like to say thank you to all who know me, for the help, kindness, support and understanding I have received over the past few years, especially during my late husband John's long illness and my mother Mary Poulton's death.

I have made some wonderful friendships over the years and part of me will always belong to Sibford. I didn't have a chance to say goodbye to everyone, but I hope to be back and meet you all in a year or two.

Until we meet again.

God bless you all.

Diana Cribb (Baker or Poulton)



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Sibford Gower Annual Parish Meeting. Wed. 4th May 2005

At the Meeting, the Chairman (Parish Cllr. Eric Payne) and the four other Parish Councillors were pleased to welcome County and District Cllr George Reynolds, Mr Steve Bowden (Deputy Area Engineer, Oxfordshire County Council), PC Gerry Doyle (Thames Valley Police) and 18 Local Electors. The Minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting were read and approved. The Chairman reported on the activities of the Parish Council over the year and he said how much he appreciated the time that the Members of the Council devote to Council business bearing in mind they all have other duties. He thanked all those who took part in the recent Litterblitz and Cllr Robin Spicer for its organisation. Thanks were extended to the Town Estate Charity for what it does including the free bus service to Banbury and Chipping Norton. The Clerk gave the Financial Report and, in due course, the Statement for Receipts and Expenditure will be displayed on the Parish Council notice board. He informed the Meeting of the grants paid out during the year. A short presentation was made by PC Gerry Doyle who readily acknowledged how thinly the police presence is spread. There is a sergeant and 3 PCs to cover 42 villages. However, he attempts to be seen as often as he is able and he assured the Meeting that any reports of suspicious activities will have a swift response. He ended by saying that Burdrop and Sibford Gower are, in the main, very crime free. Mr Steve Bowden (Deputy Area Engineer) spoke about the matters within the Parish where remedial work is required - some outstanding for quite a while. He confirmed that all will receive attention in the course of time but he has to work within a budget (£1.2m) for his area and sometimes major emergency repair works elsewhere have to take priority. He went on to answer questions which were raised by individuals at the Meeting. Mrs Jean White (Secretary to the Town Estate Charity) made the Charity's annual report. Surplus funds generated had been distributed to the benefit of the village eg. The Primary School, the Playgroup, Friendship Club and the Village Hall. The Charity continues to finance the free bus service to Banbury and Chipping Norton. Cty & District Cllr George Reynolds referred to educational matters - and Sibford Gower benefits from having an excellent primary school. He touched on recycling which is a success albeit there are always people who will not cooperate and he added that, maybe, some strong action in this regard will be forthcoming. He then dealt with questions which were raised. Mr John Mulley (Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator) gave a short report in which he thanked Members of the Neighbourhood Watch Team. Crime level in the area is low but, as always, vigilance is the keyword. Security of sheds and garages is most important. The Church Burial Ground was on the agenda and work is in progress to acquire an

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adjoining piece of land which will be required relatively soon as full capacity is being reached. The Parish Council together with Sibford Ferris Parish Council are taking matters forward. On the agenda also was the matter of the village pond. The Parish Council is making ongoing enquiries and undertaking research with a view to making the pond more attractive to wildlife and enhancing its appearance. A local resident at the Meeting strongly opposed this course of action and it was suggested that a Public Meeting should take place to establish local opinion. The Meeting then addressed the matter of the plot of land bequeathed by the late Miriam Tebbs. A group of local residents has volunteered to take on a planting and maintenance programme. The Chairman expressed the Parish Council's appreciation of their offer. The subject of parking on narrow lanes with the attendant problems should emergency services vehicles need access was raised and it was requested that periodic notices be placed in the Sibford Scene reminding residents in this regard. The final subject raised was that of street lighting where a local resident felt that it would be highly desirable especially in High Meadow. The Chairman said that some years ago, a "No Street Lights" policy was adopted following a majority view. The local resident felt that another opinion poll should be undertaken. It has to be said that the general feeling at the Meeting was that street lighting would not be a welcome village feature. The Chairman closed the Meeting at 10pm after thanking everyone for attending.

Sibford Gower Village Pond

For some time now, Sibford Gower Parish Council with the co-operation of the Chairman of the Village Pond Committee has been liaising with The Ponds Conservation Trust, Oxford with a view to seeking advice with regard to the village pond. Discussions with Mr Rod d'Ayala of the Trust continue and, so far, he has made a preliminary survey and provided his initial suggestions as to pond maintenance and the installation of suitable plant life. The aim is twofold; firstly, to make the pond more attractive to wildlife and, secondly, to enhance its appearance, but keeping the look rustic and natural, for those people who visit it. The balance between the two is most important. It was apparent from the recent Annual Parish Meeting that local views differ and, consequently, the Parish Councillors decided to invite Rod d'Ayala to speak at a meeting to be held at a date to be mutually agreed.

When details as to the date and time of the meeting have been established, they will be published and advertised locally in the hope that members of the community with an interest in the future of the pond will attend and have the opportunity of hearing and questioning Rod d'Ayala who has considerable knowledge in the areas of pond maintenance and the protection of amphibians where numbers have been decreasing over the past twenty years.

PH

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The Sibford Ferris Annual Parish Meeting Held on 27 April at Sibford School.

There were no apologies and District Cllr George Reynolds, Mr Steve Bowden of Oxfordshire County Council Highways Department and eight members of the public were present. The meeting opened with the Chairman's Report from Peter Neighbour which revisited and provided updated accounts of the various issues dealt with by the Parish Council over the past year. During the report, the Chairman thanked the new Headmaster and Business Manager at Sibford School for their help in improving liaison with the village, and also thanked the Sibford Wombles and all the volunteers who litter picked for the annual village litter blitz. Thanks were also given to the OCC Highways Department for resurfacing Mannings Hill. The Chairman was also pleased to report that the 480 bus service had been retained with only a slight reduction in frequency.

Peter Neighbour, as Responsible Financial Officer, also gave the Financial Report for the year, and accounts to 31 March 2004 and draft accounts to 31 March 2005 were presented. Details were given for the 2005 accounts. Receipts for the year were £3169.98 and the higher than usual payments of £5884.01 were partly due to £3052.25 for the construction of the new footpath. The 2005/6 precept had been increased to recover some of the footpath costs and also to fund the anticipated extension to the burial ground. Peter Neighbour extended thanks to David Bennett for continuing in the role of Internal Auditor.

Cllr George Reynolds reported that it had been a quiet year, with a good record on road repairs. The primary school was thriving and the recycling scheme had been a great success with 20,000 blue bins sold. The level of council tax continued to be high mainly due to staff costs. Cllr Reynolds also spoke about the two bodies responsible for regional planning, SEERA and GOSE, but advised that Sibford Ferris would not be greatly affected. He acknowledged that the construction of the new dwellings at the Manor had impacted on the community but felt that once completed they would be an asset.

Steve Bowden, Deputy Area Engineer for the Highways Department introduced the subject of long overdue repairs to the main drain and also the problem of verge erosion along Main Street. Cllr Simms reported that the Parish Council accepted there was a need for kerbing in some areas of Main Street to protect verges. The preference of the Councillors was for a new, traditional drain and some conservation kerbing where necessary. Mr Bowden agreed to draw up schemes accordingly, but advised that the kerbing would not be a priority due to financial constraints. He reported that Main Street would have to be closed for the work, but that it would be done during school holidays and as much access as possible would be retained, particularly to the Shop. Mr Bowden also agreed to look at securing the gap in the wall adjacent to the new footpath for the safety of small children, possibly using two suspended poles. There was a discussion on the new junction re-alignment at Lanes End to incorporate a bell-mouth to slow down traffic turning left off Main Street, The issue of the safety of pedestrians rounding the blind corner on the east side of the junction and of those waiting there for the 480 bus was also discussed. Mr Bowden agreed to look at putting a bell-mouth on the east side and would report back.

A question was raised from the floor on the number of heavy vehicles coming through Main Street from Hook Norton. Mr Bowden agreed to look at this issue and also to re-examine the kerbing put in at Temple Mill which did not allow two vehicles to pass. He confirmed that the speed surveys undertaken had not shown a significant speeding problem. However, in view of feedback from villagers on this matter, it was agreed, with approval from the floor, that Sibford Ferris should join Speed-watch, who could loan signs encouraging speed reduction. Cllr Crabtree reported that a complaint had been received from horse riders about the slippery nature of the new surface on Mannings Hill. Mr Bowden confirmed that the tarmac used on the hill was of an especially durable type but that it was slippery for the first two to three months. Surface dressing of the new material would take place during the summer. There was a question on the re-naming of the Manor as Sibford Grange and whether this was duplicated with other Granges in the area. Cllr Reynolds advised there were no powers to prevent duplicated use of a name, but the meeting hoped that in any event local people would continue to refer to the Manor by that name. There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.15 pm with thanks to all who had attended.

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Friendship Club

What a wonderful experience it was to go on the London Eye. Everyone was so busy picking out all the well known landmarks no-one thought about how high we were and most people would have loved to go round a second time. Although it rained for most of the journey, when we reached London the sun shone and we were able to see for miles.

As a complete contrast, in May we went to Winchester Cathedral, a beautiful old building made up of many different architectures and parts had been added on over the centuries making it very interesting. Two most enjoyable outings and many thanks go to Eveline for doing all the arranging.

We had a very amicable A.G.M. The committee were all re-instated and it was decided that membership should remain at 35 plus 3 honorary members and we would keep the membership fee at £5. After the meeting we had a lovely tea which was provided by Joan and Alf.

Instead of meeting in the Village Hall on 7th June, Sandra has arranged a meal at the Bishop Blaize, 12 for 12.30. She will need to know who will be going and the choice of meal in advance.

On Tuesday 14th June we have an outing to Longleat. The coach will be leaving Sibford at about 9.00 am (time to be confirmed).



sarah walker
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Sibford Cricket Club Match Reports

24th April Gawcott at home:

Well I'm afraid I can't contain my excitement, we only went and won the first league game of the season. A reasonably uneventful, but very satisfying start. Gawcott batted first and were bowled out for the thoroughly unremarkable total of 121 in the final over with wickets being shared among the bowlers who were helped by some good fielding.

The runs were knocked off quite easily with the loss of only six wickets and I'm pleased to say no ducks.

30th April Stonleigh home

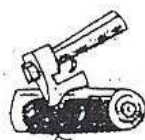
For our second game we encountered the team who's promotion hopes we dashed in the final game last year.....and proceeded to give them another good stuffing! Top notch I say. We put them into bat and they fiddled around for their 40 overs and came up short with only 96 on the board. The runs were again knocked off with the minimal of effort and again no ducks to report of, Sibfords tail has yet to be called into the breach (good job some might say).

7th May Wroxton away

This week we faced our old rivals and we had something to prove as last year we were bowled out for 34 on this ground. Wroxton opted to bat first and quite frankly after scoring only 10 runs from the first 10 overs they wished they hadn't. A great spell from Jason Barton and Tom Holliday saw their innings in tatters at the halfway stage then Lee Gilbert and Chris Sabin mopped up the stragglers and they were all out for 100 in 33 overs. Chairman Ian Davies then carried his bat (after changing it halfway through because it was rubbish) to see Sibford through to a comfy eight wicket win. Superb!



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QUIET DAYS AT HANDYWATER FARM, SIBFORD GOWER DATES FOR 2005

The evening of Tuesday 21st June from 6.30pm

An opportunity to observe the natural world during the evening,
with St Francis at the centre of our reflections.

The evening of Wednesday 13th July from 6.30pm

An interfaith evening, with representatives from six of the world's great faiths
gathering to pray and reflect together.

Everyone is welcome, from any denomination, or indeed any faith, or none.

Please bring a contribution to a bring-and-share meal.

If you are curious to know more about quiet days, or if you would like direc-
tions to Handywater Farm, please telephone Sue on 01295 788770.

The London Marathon 2005

May I take this opportunity to thank the many people in the villages who supported my
efforts in the 25th London Marathon on Sunday, the 17th April last On a very pleasant
day, ideal for running. Runner 1227 finished the course in 3H 55M 05S in position
9243! slightly quicker than in 2004! Help the Hospices was the official charity and I
was delighted to raise just over £1,000 for Katharine House Hospice. The trainers are
now enjoying a short rest before I start preparations for my 22nd Great North Run; at
least it's only a Half Marathon !. Hope to see everyone at the Sibford Fun Run.

David Bennett

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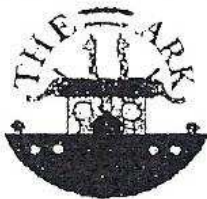
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WELCOME TO SIBFORD

If you are a new resident of Sibford and have not yet received a copy of the "Welcome to Sibford" booklet, please telephone Pauleen Inns on 780702 (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.


Sibford Fun Run - Sunday the 19th June 2005

On Sunday, the 19th June next, with kind permission of the Headmaster, Sibford School, Michael Goodwin, a Fun Run will take place over a course of 4 miles comprising undulating terrain, tracks and fields, including traversing stiles. Mud too will come into play !! The run will commence at 11.15am, having been preceded by a Children's Run for those of 8 years and under starting at 10.30am and over a relatively flat course of 2K.

Each run is good training exercise for Ladies taking part The Run for Life Race at Heythrop Park on Sunday, the 26th June and for Children participating in the Tesco Great School Run on the 12th July. The Start & Finish of the Runs will be located in front of the Main Building of Sibford School and each finisher will receive a Medal and Certificate.

An Entry Fee of £1.00 is payable, if registered before the 19th June; entries on the day will be £1.50. Children, students and OAP's will be at half price. There is a maximum entry level of 200 for the Fun Run. The School have kindly offered a number of facilities for the runners including the provision of picnic areas for families after the event.

For further information and entry forms please contact David Bennett on 01295 780373. For those wishing to take a more sedentary role opportunities are available for Course Marshals, Timekeepers and Finish Recorders.



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Methodist Chapel

Our Chapel Anniversary Service will be on June 7th at 7.30 pm

The Preacher will be the Rev. Philip Bevzeual.

The Chair will be taken by Mr. Peter Neal

Everyone is welcome to join us in our celebration.

The jacket left in the porch has not been claimed. Please think back to the Carol Service, did a gentleman come with you who does not live here and who might have left his coat?

It will be given to a jumble sale after June 30th. It is perfectly good.

David Randall



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Consideration by horse-riders to pedestrians.

I am writing to express my concern about the recent appearance of horse droppings on the footpath alongside Manning's Hill. I can appreciate that some horse-riders are reluctant to ride their mounts down the hill and that their horses are happier to walk down the hill on the pavement. Judging from the number, and volume, of droppings on the pavement, it is clear that the horses are greatly relieved to reach the bottom! May I ask that, if such 'accidents' occur, the people in charge of the horses could help by moving the droppings from the pavement either into the hedge bottom or onto the road?

Any action to make the pavement a 'safer' place to walk would be much appreciated."

Tony Skeath, Sibford Ferris.

Horse-riders - Caution on Mannings Hill

Oxfordshire Highways Department has advised that the re-surfacing of Mannings Hill was carried out using an especially durable material preferred for hills which receive greater wear due to the gradients. The drawback of the material is that it is slippery for the first two to three months until some wear has taken place. The two Parish Councils and Highways have received complaints from horse-riders about the new surface and there has been one accident involving injury to a horse. Unfortunately, the remedial action that Highways had hoped to take to speed up the wearing process will not be possible due to limitations of the specialised equipment on such steep gradients. The Parish Councils are in discussion with Highways on other possible methods which might be used to make the surface safer for horses.

In the meantime, if it is necessary to use the hill, please proceed with caution.

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Sibford Gower Parish Council Meeting

The Meeting was held on 13th May 2005 in Sibford Gower Endowed Primary School and was attended by four Parish Councillors and three members of the public. Cllrs Eric Payne and Robin Spicer were re-elected at Chairman and Vice Chairman respectively. Since the previous Meeting, just one planning application had been duly considered. Referring to the presentation by the Deputy Area Engineer, Oxfordshire CC at the recent Annual Parish Meeting, when he dealt with the highway matters which require attention and which he promised would be dealt with in due course, the Councillors decided to make a priority list and request the County Council to deal with them in that order. The Councillors adopted the accounts for the financial year ended 31st March 2005 and the Return required by the External Auditors was approved for submission. Thanks to Mr David Soden for acting as Internal Auditor were expressed. With regard to the village pond, Mr Rod d'Ayala of The Ponds Conservation Trust is to be invited to address a public meeting, which is to be arranged, so that he may present the case for improving the pond to attract pondlife and also to enhance its appearance. The venue and date will be announced when these arrangements have been made. Other matters discussed included the trees in Pound Lane, parking on grass verges with the resultant damage, the resurfacing of Burdrop Hill which has proved to be very slippery for horses. The next Meeting has been arranged for **Friday 15th July 2005** to take place in the same venue and starting at 8pm. The Chairman closed the Meeting at 9.25pm after thanking all those present for attending. PH

On-Road Parking

A plea was made at the Sibford Gower Annual Parish Meeting held on 4th May 2005 concerning parking. It is readily acknowledged that, in a village such as ours, it is not always possible to park a vehicle other than at the edge of a lane or road. What is sought is the co-operation of drivers to park cars in a position leaving suitable space for other vehicles to pass (bearing in mind that they may be, in unfortunate instances, those of the Emergency Services). Where car owners have the benefit of off-road parking facilities, it is asked that they be used. PH

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HOLY TRINITY CHURCH NEWS

Healing was the theme of the Family Service on 8th May and was led by Catherine Berks. There were 15 children in the congregation and 21 adults, so it was a lively occasion. Amy Spackman, Amelia Earle, Polly Berks, Lydia Kitchen, Naomi Spencer and Harry Berks helped Mary Nash perform a sketch based on the Raising of Jairus's Daughter. Members of the medical profession assisted in the readings and prayers. The next family Service will be on **June 19th at 10.00 am** when *Fathers Day* will be celebrated.

Trinity Sunday, our own special anniversary, was on May 22nd when the Rector took the service.

The latest in the series of **Quiet Days at Handywater Farm** took place on **May 21st**. The others are as noted separately.

Spring Cleaning of the church will take place on **Thursday and Friday 9th and 10th June at 5 pm.** both days. More help would be greatly appreciated.

The Annual Church Fete will be held in the Village Hall on **Saturday 30th July at 2.30 pm.**

Changes in Bus Service - Route 480

Oxfordshire County Council has advised changes to bus services in the Banbury area included in which is the one which serves Sibford Ferris and Sibford Gower. The changes take effect from Sunday, 5th June 2005 and the new details are shown inside the cover of the Sibford Scene.

Sibford Ferris and Sibford Gower
Parish Councils

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Church Services

Society of Friends

Methodist

Roman Catholic Mass

Baptist

Church of the Firstborn (Bridleways S.Gower)

Church of England, Holy Trinity, Sibford Gower.

Sunday at 10.30 am

Sunday at 11.00 am

Sunday at 9.00 am

Sunday at 11.30 am

Sunday at 10.30 am

Sunday at 10.30 am

June

Sun 5th Benefice Service at Swalcliffe at 10.30 am

Sun 12th Holy Communion at 8.00 am and Evensong at 6.00 pm

Sun 19th Family Service for Fathers Day 10.00 am

Sun 26th Holy Communion at 9.30 am

July

Sun 3rd Benefice Service at Sibford at 10.30 am

Sun 10th Family Service at 10.00 am

Sun 17th Holy Communion at 9.30 am

Sun 24th Holy Communion at 9.30 am

Sun 31st Matins and Holy Communion at 9.30 am

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Sibford Bus Services

Free Bus Service

To Banbury Thursdays June 2nd, 16th & 30th Departs 10 am
 To Chipping Norton Wednesdays June 8th & 22nd Returns 12 noon
 Pick up points are; The Colony, High Meadow, Cross Roads, Village Hall.

Cherwell Villager 55 Sibford ~ Banbury

Wednesdays Only	Outward	Return
Sibford Gower	9.55 am	The bus leaves
Sibford Ferris	9.57 am	Banbury at 12.30
Hook Norton	10.05 am	but arrival home
Milcome	10.15 am	is variable due to
Banbury	10.30 am	drop-off needs.

Cost £1.40 each way (National Bus Cards and Bus Tokens are accepted)

Cherwell Rural Dial-A-Ride Scheme

A mini bus with tail-lift to take **elderly or disabled people** and escort to Banbury (max fare £1.60) Door-to-Door service. Book at least one day in advance. Operates on Wednesdays & Thursdays. Phone 263777 for details.

BCTA also takes bookings for groups of 8 or more on a weekly/monthly basis (Wednesdays & Thursdays) to and from Banbury. Tel; 263777

BUS 480 - Times from 5th June 2005 - Mondays to Saturdays

From Banbury towards Shipston

Banbury Bus Station dep.	09.00	11.00	12.30	13.30	15.30	17.10	18.10
SIBFORD GOWER School	09.25	11.25	12.55	13.55	15.55	17.35	18.35
Shipston, Tilemans Lane	09.47	11.47	13.17	14.17	16.17	17.57	18.57

From Shipston towards Banbury

	NS	S	NS	NS				
Shipston, Tilemans Lane	06.50	07.45	08.50	09.50	11.50	13.20	17.10
SIBFORD GOWER School	07.12	08.07	09.12	09.12	10.12	12.12	13.42	17.32
Banbury Bus Station	07.37	08.35	09.37	09.37	10.37	12.37	14.07	17.57

Buses serve Sibford Ferris two minutes before the times shown at Sibford Gower towards Shipston and two minutes after the time shown at Sibford Gower towards Banbury.

Notes: S = Saturdays only, NS = Not Saturdays.

Most journeys, where possible, will operate low floor wheelchair accessible vehicles.

Sorry, No services on Sundays or Public Holidays

For complete times at all of the intermediate places that are served by 480 please see new timetables available from bus drivers and in the Village Shop.

The Fare structure has changed: Adult Fare £1.70 each way Child (5-16yrs) £0.85
 Family ticket (2 Adults = up to 3 children) £5.00 Monthly ticket £55.00

Calendar of Events

June

- Wed 1st Mobile Library in Sibfords and Burdrop (2.40 - 4.25pm)
Sun 5th Village Hall Market
Sun 5th Open Gardens at Katharine House Hospice, Adderbury. p2
Tue 7th Friendship Club meal at the Bishop Blaize. P14
Tue 7th Chapel Anniversary Service 7.30 pm p18
Wed 8th Horticultural Society Visit. 6.15pm from the Village Hall p5
Wed 8th Ferris Parish Council Meeting 7.45 top floor, Sibford School Sports Hall
Thu 9th & Fri 10th Church Spring Clean p21
Tue 14th Friendship Club outing to Longleat p14
Tue 14th W.I. Looking & Feeling Good. p8
Wed 15th Mobile Library in Sibfords and Burdrop (2.40 - 4.25pm)
Thu 16th Sibfords Society Sulgrave Manor visit p7
Sun 19th Sibford Fun Run p17
Sun 19th NGS open gardens in Sibford Gower 2.00 - 6.00 pm
Tue 21st Quiet Evening at Handywater from 6.30pm p16
Thu 23rd to 26th Deddington Festival p3
Sat 25th Sibford Village Fayre 12.30 pm at the Village Hall p3
Wed 29th Mobile Library in Sibfords and Burdrop (2.40 - 4.25pm)

July (part)

- Sun 3rd Village Hall Market
Sun 3rd Cherrington Open Gardens p18
Wed 13th Mobile Library in Sibfords and Burdrop (2.40 - 4.25pm)
Wed 13th Quiet Evening at Handywater from 6.30pm p16
Fri 15th Gower parish Council meeting p20
Wed 20th Ferris Parish Council Meeting 7.45 top floor, Sibford School Sports Hall
Wed 27th Mobile Library in Sibfords and Burdrop (2.40 - 4.25pm)
Sat 30th Church Fete in the Village Hall 2.30 pm p21

Cover picture - Mannings Hill from the Church Field. Note the pavement on the left hand side and the much more open view with the hedges laid.

Sibford Scene

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