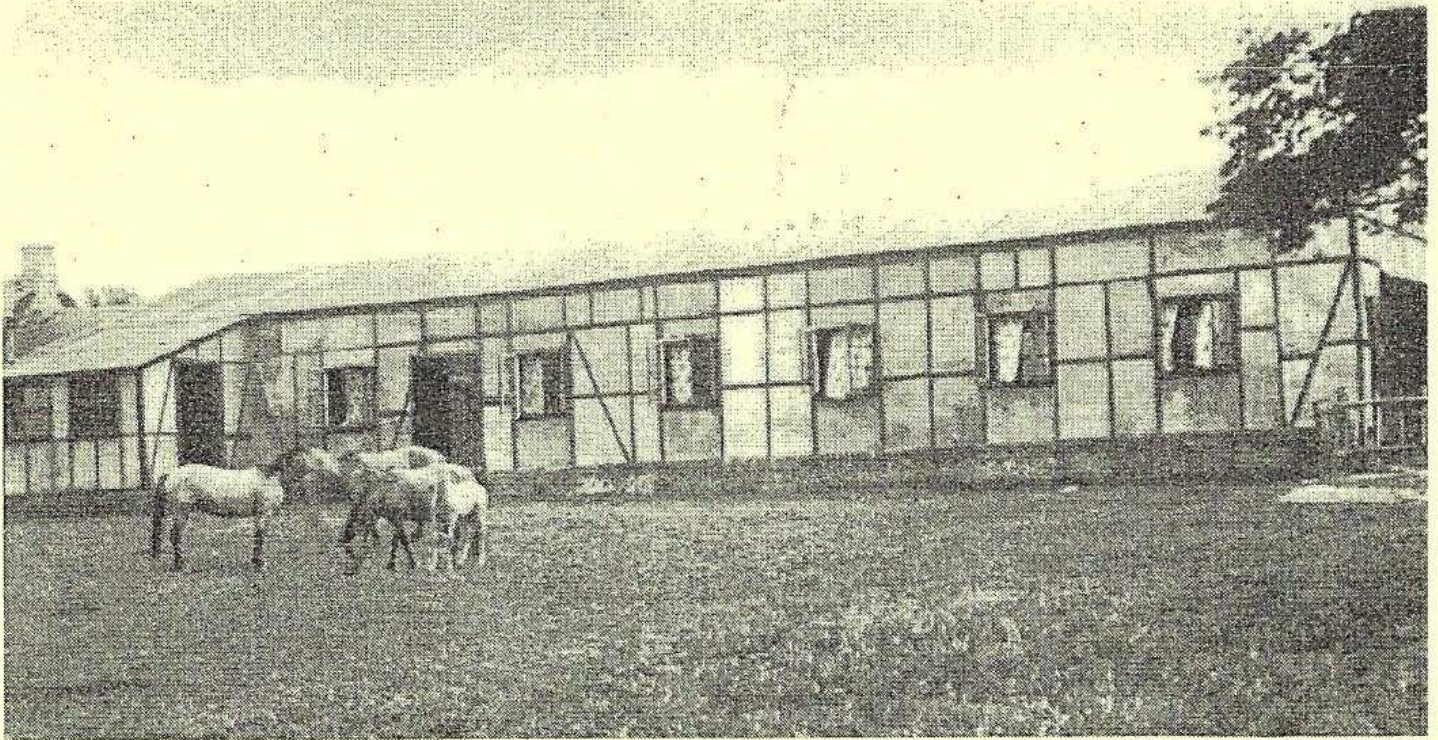


# Sibford Scene



October 2006

No. 287

Sibford Village Hall Markets  
Sundays 1st October & 5th November  
From 12 noon

Harvest Festival and Bring and Share Lunch  
Sunday 8th Oct. 11.00 am in the Church

Jumble/Recycling Sale  
Saturday 14th October, Village Hall 2pm  
In aid of the Katharine House Hospice

The Heart of England Jazz Band  
In the Village Hall on  
Saturday 21st October at 7pm



## Nature Notes

July. 22nd. To Jevington on the South Downs near Eastbourne where we are staying in Jiggs Cottage. Jiggs, known as Jevington Jiggs, was the leader of one of many smuggling gangs in the area. Our bedroom has a square box shaped roof light with vertical windows that would have given all round vision to check on the movement of customs men.

July. 23rd. At Seven Sisters Country Park we saw a good range of wild flowers including houndstongue, yellow-wort, yellow horned poppy and red star-thistle which I had not seen before. On a muddy river bank there were cormorants, shelducks, herons and 25 little egrets. My old Collins bird book published in 1954 list the little egret as an "accidental" which means that less than 20 had ever been seen in Britain and here we are now, seeing more than that on one small section of river bank.

July. 24th. This morning before it got too hot we walked up the South Downs Way on to the chalk hills and along what was probably an old drovers track with wide un-grazed verges. There were more butterflies than I have ever seen, including appropriately, chalkhill blues. When a cooling evening breeze brought some relief from the afternoon heat we went to look at an ancient field system and also found a wonderful area of chalkland wildflowers.

July. 25th. Walked to see another field system passing through fields that were being successfully managed to benefit the wonderful variety of wildflowers including autumn gentian, round-headed rampion, common century, clustered bellflower, eyebright, marjorum, vipers bugloss and the one that always makes me think of Fawlty Towers on TV, wild basil.

July. 26th. As we walked up the South Downs Way to Lullington Reserve which is probably as quiet a place as can be found in Southern England. It is too far from roads to hear traffic and there are very few

aeroplanes. This time we located the splendid dewpond which still has plenty of water in it and lots of birds especially linnets coming to drink. It is fringed with reedmace, bur-reeds and rushes which may well help to collect the dew and fog and certainly help dragonflies and damselflies. The reserve is noted for an area of acid soil that

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overlays the chalk on part of it, providing a good show of heather, vervain, mellilot, dropwort, ploughman's spikenard and crosswort were all growing on or near the reserve. Also some patches of hemp agrimony which I thought was a strange plant to be growing on that dry chalk down. The butterflies included chalkhill and common blue, small copper, brimstone, painted lady, small skipper and a clouded yellow.

Aug. 5th. Yesterday and today I have watched a hornet catching flies on a patch of wildflowers in our garden. It always stopped to chew them up before carrying them away.

Aug. 15th. While cycling this evening we spotted 2 spikes of broomrape which is a parasitic plant that takes its nourishment from the roots of knapweed.

Aug. 16th. We saw three humming-bird hawk-moths feeding on one budleia bush this afternoon.

Aug. 21st. My daughter saw 2 green and 2 great spotted woodpeckers all clinging to one telegraph pole.

Aug. 24th. My granddaughter took me to see how well the roman snails are doing at Swalcliffe Common. They are finding the un-cropped corner of the adjoining field ideal for egg laying with plenty of rotting vegetation to provide cover and food and the high calcium soil needed to make their big shells. In one of the little pits that they dig to lay their eggs in we found newly hatched snails.

Sept. 9th. A young blackbird died when it hit our window recently. Our neighbours had a blue tit and a sparrowhawk hit theirs. The sparrowhawk soon recovered and carried the blue tit away but the most unusual window casualty was a kingfisher that hit a window at Blenheim Farm Cottages and took quite a time to recover enough to fly away.

Sept. 16th. Headless bodies of pigeons have been found recently. Can anyone tell me what would take the head and leave the pigeon?

---

May I say how nice it is to see cattle once again in the Church field, it does help to remind us where we are. JS



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## Hook Norton Tennis Club

Regular sessions for Junior players from age 8 to 16 years will be held on Tuesdays from 4 to 7pm, Wednesdays from 4 to 6pm and Thursdays from 4 to 6pm from week commencing 30th October for 6 weeks.

On Saturday mornings Indoor sessions will be available for players from 5 years old at Sibford School. These sessions can only be held if numbers are sufficient, so

please call or email Gareth Jones (Club Coach) for full details of the HNTC Programme, early booking greatly appreciated. Telephone 01295 811886 or email [gareth.tlc@tesco.net](mailto:gareth.tlc@tesco.net)



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Sunday 5.30am to 1.00pm

## Friendship Club

We had a most entertaining afternoon when Lady Saye and Sele came to talk to us. We thought it may have been a history lesson on Broughton Castle but instead she began by inviting us in to do the house work, explaining how it should be done and we finished in the garden among the roses and making the compost. I don't think we have ever had such a hilarious afternoon. Even at question time when she was asked about her ancestry and how she coped when the film companies were there and on open days with all the visitors she still found the funny side and we all ended up laughing. The afternoon then concluded with the usual raffle and a delicious tea supplied by Jean and Marian.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 3rd October at 2.00 pm in the Village Hall when a representative from Age Concern is coming to talk on Neighbourliness.

Our outing will be on Tuesday 17th October when we are hoping to go somewhere for lunch.

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Our first speaker of the Autumn session was Dr Malcolm Graham, who spoke on Victorian Schools in Oxfordshire. He brought with him a few of the 3,500 photos taken between 1901 to 1903 by Percy Elford, who was Director of Schools at that time in Oxfordshire. Percy Elford was probably the first person to be issued with a car by the Education Board, for travelling around his large area and he has photographed it standing outside schools he was visiting.

These photos showed schools of all sizes, from small, one room buildings in villages, to schools built at the end of the 19C in towns, with more rooms and larger windows. Many of the schools had a house attached to them, for occupation by the teacher.

The photos are a wonderful record, as they show the buildings, both inside and out, even the grim outside toilets and also of the teachers and their pupils. Children of different ages were often all taught in one room and kept warm by a stove, which was usually sited near the teachers desk. One of the photos was taken at Sibford Primary School and shows a group of children with their teacher, outside, learning about growing vegetables.

The next meeting will be on 19 October, in the Village Hall at 8.00pm. Liz Young will talk about Churchyards and their Monu-

ments and, as usual, we welcome non-members to join us.

### Katharine House Hospice Jumble/Recycling Sale

Sat Oct 14th 2 pm Sibford  
Village Hall

Adm 25p Raffle, teas, cakes.

Recycle all your unwanted goods to help raise funds towards this worthy cause. Jumble, books, bric a brac, toys etc. can be left with or collected by Bernie & Andrew Jones 780343 as from September. Many thanks for the villages support.

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Firstly this term, we say goodbye to Emily, Charlie S, Chloe, Finlay, Tilly, Isobel, Samuel, Emma, Matthew Isabel, Henry, Tom, Tyler and Jack who have moved up to "big" school, we wish them good luck on their new adventure. We also say a huge goodbye, good luck and thanks to the three valued members of staff who have also moved on, Michelle, Judith and Mandy, you will all be sorely missed. But, on a happier note, we say hello and welcome to our new playgroup team. Emma Lewis and Nicky Hill are our new joint supervisors, who I'm sure with help and guidance from our existing member of staff Helen Earle, will slip into their new roles easily. The lunch club is hugely popular, and is available on Monday, Thursdays and Fridays from 1145 until 1245. children who have just started school are also eligible to join us for lunch club, please ring either of the numbers below for further information. Please note some dates for your diaries AGM Thursday October 5th 8pm (small hall) Without a committee the playgroup WILL have to CLOSE, so please join us if you are able to offer your help throughout the next year. Saturday December 2nd 1pm - 3pm Plans and preparations are well under way for our annual Christmas Bazaar, with a chance to meet Father Christmas, amongst lots of games, stalls, raffles and much much more We still have spaces available for our playgroup, so please call Emma, Nicky or Helen on 01295 780998 during 9 - 12pm Monday to Friday. Out of these hours, please call our Chair of the committee, Claire Inns on 01295 780035

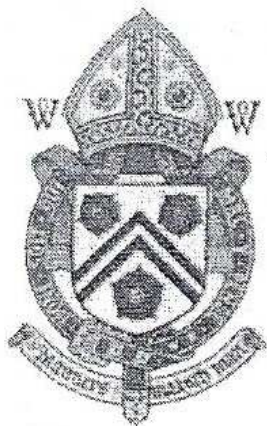
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# The Warriner Choral Society

Here is some news for those who relish "the tingle factor" in music:

The Warriner Choral Society, and soloists, are combining with the Akeman Voices for a massed choirs and instrumental presentation of Carl Orff's stunning **Carmina Burana** at Deddington Church (St. Peter & St. Paul) on Saturday evening, 18<sup>th</sup> November. This extraordinary secular work shall be balanced, on the same evening, by a performance of Carl Jenkins' haunting **Mass for the Armed Man**. Even people unfamiliar with these titles are almost certain to recognise immediately their distinctively dramatic themes.

There shall be refreshments during the evening and ticket details etc, shall be announced shortly. In the meantime, note the date in

your diary.

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## Sibford Horticultural Society

Another year, another show and despite the season we had a good display of flowers, fruit and veg. It was great to see an increase in the number of children entering their classes and long may it

continue. The cookery section was well represented with scrumptious cakes and biscuits, jams & chutneys making everyones mouth water.

A big thank you to the show committee whose hard work makes the day run smoothly and makes it an enjoyable day for everyone. A special thanks to the Lamb family for putting up and taking down the marquees and moving all those tables!

If anybody is missing a plate, saucers and a couple of vases from the show, please contact Gill Soden as she has them.

The cup winners were; Sibford Rose Bowl - Andrew Newbold. Albert Spicer Trophy - Mike Clarke. The Society Cup - Bill Wealsby. Mrs. F Padbury Cup - Glennis Hardman. Dr. Taylor Cup - Kate Randall. Mrs. F Padbury Rose Bowl - Christine Summerell & Valerie Haw. Ted Webb Trophy - Gill Soden. The Village Cup - Pauline Inns. John Sabin Cup - Eileen Haynes. Banbury Marquee Trophy - Megan Gilkes. The Junior Cup - Polly Berks. Keith Hicks Cup - Kilian Aston. S.J. Sabin Cup - Tom Lovegrove. Committee Cup - Jayne Thomas.

Our first meeting of the season was a talk by Janet Copley on plants that should be better known. An informative and entertaining evening was had by all as Janet is such a good speaker and no doubt a lot of the plants she recommended will be finding their way into our gardens, such is her enthusiasm. Our next meeting is on Wednesday 11th October in the Village Hall at 8.00pm. James Arbuthnot will be coming to talk to us on Unusual Climbers and Wall Shrubs. Please do come and join us for an interesting evening talk.



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## Sibford Ferris Parish Council Meeting 6 September 2006

The meeting was attended by all Councillors, District and County Councillor George Reynolds and two members of the public. **Highways matters** on the agenda included the junction at Lanes End which has been narrowed by the addition of the bell-mouth build out. Plans to construct a safety platform on the east side of the junction have been dropped by Oxfordshire Highways due to lack of funds. However it was agreed to write again to the County Council pointing out that the junction alterations they had insisted upon have increased the danger to pedestrians and that the safety platform should have been completed long before the funding restrictions were imposed. Other sources of finance are being investigated in the event that negotiations with the County Council do not succeed. The OCC drainage engineer had advised that surface water drainage improvement works to the upper part of the village would commence on the 18th September (see note about road closure). A drainage scheme for the Woodway Road/Hook Norton Road junction was provisionally booked to start in 2007, County Council budgets permitting. Camera investigations into the state of existing surface water drains have been carried out. Regarding the **play area**, it was agreed to request a 25-year lease from Cherwell District Council for the Cotswold Close play area; this is required to secure usage of the Section 106 funds for its refurbishment. Progress has been made on the proposals to share the multi-use games area at Sibford School: it has been confirmed that the Parish Council can use funds to add refurbishments to the area in accordance with its statutory powers, subject to a satisfactory legal agreement and to appropriate insurance liability cover.

Mike Spring has provided a fine "Sibford Ferris Parish Council" sign, engraved on an oak board, to be installed on the new **notice board**. It was recorded in the minutes that the sign was in memory of his father, Ken

Spring, who had engraved the sign for the previous notice board, in accordance with Mike's wishes. The Councillors thanked Mike for this very kind gift to the parish. The Clerk had spoken to OCC about outstanding matters con-





cerning **Ferris Hill Farm** and reported that instances of lorries using the village route will only be investigated if registration numbers, dates and times are noted. Similarly, if bonfires are reported, it must be clear that they are on the Ferris Hill site, with dates and times recorded. It was confirmed at the meeting that lights are still being left on, but it is possible that this is a district council matter and the Clerk will investigate further.

Three **footpaths** requiring attention had been reported at the last meeting: Cherwell District Council has agreed to clear the path behind the garages in Cotswold Close; Sibford School has kindly cleared the path alongside Orchard End in Back Lane and the poor condition of Coffin Path in Burdrop had been reported to Sibford Gower Parish Council.

Repairs to the **light cover on the barn on Mannings Hill** had been carried out by Cllr Lamb, and the Chairman thanked him for attending to this matter. The Clerk was asked to write requesting reinstatement of the **annual joint Wheathills Committee Meeting**.

On **planning matters**, there was one application and one notice of decision. It was agreed to meet with officers at Cherwell District Council to discuss the review of village categorisations. An objection to the inclusion of the Horton Hospital site in the North Cherwell Site Allocations document for residential development was posted on the Council website. Following requests for information on the new house next to the Church, and also in light of the recent application to change the Bishop Blaize to a private dwelling, it was agreed between the two Sibford Clerks to exchange information on planning applications that affect both parishes. The matter of the Bishop Blaize was brought up under Any Other Business with questions from the floor and following discussion it was agreed that the Parish Council would write with objections to the application on the grounds of loss of amenity, and that all households would be notified of the application by way of a leaflet drop.

The **audited annual return** was received with no issues arising and would be displayed in accordance with regulations for 14 days on the notice board. Financial regulations and a Financial Risk Assessment and Management strategy were formally agreed and adopted.

It was agreed there was no objection from the Parish Council to the **fencing around the electricity pylon** on New Road being removed.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.30pm. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, 1 November at 7.45 pm in the top floor room of Sibford School Sports Hall.



With ripening blackberries on our hedgerows (if the trimmers haven't had them already) I have been sent this recipe by Diana Thompson to make the most of the fruit.

### Blackberry Clafoutis

3oz/90g soft unsalted butter plus 2tbsp more

3oz/90g caster sugar, plus 3 tbsp more

1 1/2 lbs / 750g blackberries

5 large eggs

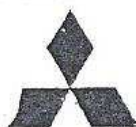
3fl oz/100ml double cream

3oz/90g ground almonds

grated zest of 1 orange

Heat the oven to 180C/350F/gas mark 4. Melt the 3oz/90g butter and remove from the heat. Line a gratin dish with the 2tbsp softened butter, followed by the 3tbsp sugar. Scatter in the berries and set aside.

Whisk the eggs together with the 3oz/90g of caster sugar; add the double cream, ground almonds, orange zest and melted butter. Whisk together until smooth and pour over the berries. Bake for 30 minutes until firm and golden on top.



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According to local government statistics, if Oxfordshire does not reduce its waste by 25% by 2009/10, a fine of £3million will be levied by central government, meaning service cuts or an extra £13 charge for every household on band D council tax. The fines would go up every year. Targets for 2012/13 are for 50% waste reduction. Last year, people in Oxfordshire produced around 300,000 tonnes of household rubbish, which is half a tonne of rubbish for every person in the county. If it was put on a football pitch it would be 1600 feet high, equivalent to 110 double decker buses stacked on top of each other. Landfill waste emits greenhouse gases that contribute to global warming. Alternatives to landfill are under investigation and a new waste strategy is being prepared for the period 2010 to 2035. In the meantime, every bit helps and if you would like to contribute to waste reduction in Oxfordshire, you may like to call 08450 50 45 50 for a waste reduction pack and a free "bag for life" (aimed at reducing the number of carrier bags we use).

**Sibford Ferris Parish Council**

Have you thought of volunteering but are not sure? The Oxfordshire Befriending Network, who support people isolated by illness are looking for new volunteers. For more information contact Linda on 01865 791 781.

The Oxfordshire Befriending Network

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## SIBFORD FUN RUN SEPTEMBER 3rd

The Fun Run was held on a lovely, bright day, although a little windy and with some parts of the track rather muddy. 10 children entered and ran about 2K around the playing fields of Sibford School. The winner was Naomi Spencer aged 8, with Lydia Kitchen aged 8 in second place, both from Sibford Ferris. Megan Brown aged 6, from Burdrop was third. In the Adult's race of 6k there were 11 runners. First was Ross Gilkes, from Sibford Ferris, in just under 24 minutes. Second and third were William Smith and Reg Smith, both from Epwell, in just under 28 minutes. The winning lady was Kay Harries, from Sibford Gower in 32 minutes. All runners received medals. Proceeds from the run were given to Sibford Village Hall.

The organisers would like to thank Sibford School, and the Lamb, Gilkes and Taylor families for allowing the runners across their land, and Anita Spencer, Graydon Kitchen and Mike Clarke for acting as marshalls, and helping to clear up afterwards. Thanks also to Minuteman Press for printing the race numbers.

### Barking Dogs

There has been a substantial response to the letter about Barking Dogs in the last Sibford Scene. Too many to print them all. The range is from "that's what dogs do, buy yourself some ear plugs" to the more general agreement that there is a problem with the disturbance caused by noisy pets, particularly during the summer when we all have our windows open. Nobody has offered any sort of solution to the problem so I will not be re-visiting the issue in the near future. (Ed)

### Crisis Care Plans

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Hello my name is Dave Hibbert and I am the Sergeant responsible for the Policing of the rural area around Banbury, and I hope to be able to submit further articles covering various topics in the future.

Over the summer we have seen a slight increase in rural crime, particularly cases of burglary, and with a number of so-called 'Distraction' type offences. In these, one or two persons will turn up at your home and claim they are from one of the utility companies, gas, water, electric, and will ask to come and check out fuse boxes, water supply etc. One person will then distract the owner, and the other will enter the house and go through drawers/cupboards looking for cash or jewellery.

Another favourite ruse is to claim they are looking for a friends address, needing a glass of water for a friend who is feeling faint, or a football has landed in your back garden.

ALWAYS CHECK for any identification at the door, DO NOT let them in but close the door and check with whichever company they claim to be from. If in doubt ring the Police on 08458 505 505 and explain your concerns and we will try and get an officer to you asap.

I would also like to mention Neighbourhood Watch, which is a great way of uniting the community to deter crime where you live. There are two neighbourhood watch co-ordinators at Banbury DEBBIE TONKS and RON GLYNN, and they can be contacted via the 08458 505 505 number.

They will give you advice and help to set up a watch for your area, and you will get warnings of crime happening around your area, plus as members of neighbourhood watch many insurance companies will give you a discount, usually 5%, on your home insurance.

Finally there is a national drive to recruit PCSO'S- Police Community Support Officers, and we here in Thames Valley are looking to recruit at least another 300 by April next year.

PCSO'S provide a vital link with the communities we serve, and provide a visible uniform presence in addition to regular Police officers. It is an important job and one which is central to the neighbourhood management plan.

They help to reduce anti-social behaviour, reduce crime and provide intelligence allowing Police officers to arrest offenders for a variety of offences

If you wish to know more about this interesting and challenging role please ring the recruiting line 0845 600 0925 or log on at either the Thames valley police website [www.thamesvalley.police.uk](http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk) or the recruiting website [www.rewardingrole.co.uk](http://www.rewardingrole.co.uk).

Alternatively you can always speak to one of the PCSO'S that are currently working in Banbury, ask for either GENI PAGET or NEIL HENRY. They will be happy to share their experiences with you.

Until next month have a great and safe time

Dave Hibbert



## SIEFORD VILLAGE HALL NEWS

2007 is the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Village Hall and it is hoped that the Village Hall Committee will be joined by all groups regularly using the Hall, together with additional helpers, to organise a weekend of great entertainment around the Annual Fayre date (which has been booked for 23<sup>rd</sup> June, 2007). Any ideas and offers of help will be gladly received and please contact a member of the Village Hall Committee (or the Chairman, Terry Young on 780386 or Secretary, Muriel Chandler on 780025).

The main hall of the Village Hall has now been redecorated thanks to a grant from SITA (landfill trust) of £3,065. The curtains have been washed and ironed and when doing this job a number of the curtain rails and attachments have been broken. We would now ask everyone hiring the Hall to PLEASE not hang decorations from these rails - and if you do hang decorations up elsewhere please take them all down afterwards and this includes tapes, ribbons etc. With the paint left over we are hoping to refresh the store room and back toilet.

We have also erected additional fencing with a gate opening in the play area and field, to avoid anyone falling down the banks. We have applied for grant help from Cherwell District Council for this.

After over ten years as Booking Secretary, Kathleen Winter has passed on the job to Mrs Anne Spackman, who can be contacted on 01295 780734. The Committee are extremely grateful to Kathleen for all her assistance over the many years, and to Anne for agreeing to take over.

SUNDAY MARKETS on the first Sunday of each month, began again in September and the next two are 1st October and 5th November, with two more in December. We do need to keep this Hall fund raiser going but REALLY DO NEED YOUR SUPPORT so please come along if only for a few minutes to ensure we keep our vendors happy. We start around 12 noon (although we do have people walking in from 11.30 a.m.) and finish around 2.30 p.m. and you will be surprised at the variety of items on sale — it is NOT a car boot and items on sale include new goods, handmade items, homemade pies, cakes, jams and marmalades. Top quality second-hand goods (some almost brand new) and items people have kindly donated to help raise funds including many books. We also have an agent selling Aloe Vera natural products, which many people are finding helpful. When possible we have vegetables and plants on sale — if anyone has any of these extra to their needs we would be grateful. There are refreshments served in our small hall. Entry is ONLY 20p. If you wish to book a table for £5 to sell your own items, please telephone Josie on 01295 251339. To donate unwanted items please ring Muriel on 780025. We are very grateful to the people who regularly supply items. It takes quite a few



hours of voluntary work to run these Markets so please do come along – we had only 33 people through the door last month!

On SATURDAY, 21st OCTOBER, 2006, from 7 p.m. The Heart of England Jazz Band will again be performing (by popular request) at the Hall. The Band has a great band of followers so please book tickets early - £10 and concessions £8 and will be on sale at the Village Shop or ring 780025/780386. There will be a licensed bar. We are self promoting this.

On SATURDAY 25th NOVEMBER, 2006 at 7 p.m., we have Cornelius and Jones presenting Oscar Wilde's The Happy Prince which tells of the friendship between the statue of the happy prince and a little swallow on his way to Egypt for the winter. Suitable for families and children 5+, tickets are £6 adults and £4 children, with family tickets at a reduced price. Tickets will be on sale at the Village Shop or ring the above numbers. There will be soft drinks and snacks after the performance.

In February we have Kirsty McGee and Mat Martin in Concert, details later. Both these last two performances are in partnership with Cherwell District Council's Arts @ Large Scheme and part of the Oxfordshire Community Training Network – we pay 60% of the cost of the performances but now have to provide tickets as well. A copy of the Scheme's Programme of Touring Arts Events can be found in the Village Shop or in the Hall and can also be accessed on the website;

[cherwell-dc.gov.uk/leisure/rural.cfm](http://cherwell-dc.gov.uk/leisure/rural.cfm).

### Village Stores Open Evening. Thursday 09 November 2006.

After our most successful Open Evening last year we have decided to repeat the event. As usual on these events we will provide everyone with a free raffle ticket as they arrive and there will be refreshments provided. This is our opportunity to have time to speak with our customers without the pressures of daytime trading so we look forward to meeting as many of you as possible. We hate to mention the word so early in the year but most of our Christmas lines will be displayed on the evening, as will examples of our hampers, which proved so popular last year. More details will be in next month's Scene. Terry & Judith

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## **'Anyone? for a Drink' campaign to tackle under-age drinking**

**Did you know that** 11-15 year olds are now drinking twice as much as children of a similar age who were surveyed in 1996 and those who drink at least once a week has risen from 17% in 1994 to 21% in 1999.

**Did you know that** it is estimated that in the UK that at least half of all 15-16yr olds get drunk at least once a month.

**Did you know that** in an interview in 2004, 93% of 13-19 year olds in Banbury had drunk alcohol with 81% consuming this between the ages of 10-14 years.

Underage drinking has been identified as a cause of antisocial behaviour on our streets. So, Oxfordshire Trading Standards in conjunction with Cherwell District Council and Thames Valley Police have launched a 'Hotline' in a new initiative to help tackle underage drinking.

Called **'Anyone? for a Drink'**, the hotline encourages members of the public to report where young people get alcohol. By doing this, Trading Standards and Thames Valley Police will be able to target their actions on the shops that are causing the most harm, making it harder for young people to buy alcohol illegally.

The telephone number will be displayed in a number of public places and buses and all reports can be anonymous.

To report under-age drinking call the **'Anyone? for a Drink'** line on **01865 815500**.

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## The end of an Era

Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2006 saw Nick, the Ferris/Burdrop postman of many years, finish his duties in the village to move on to pastures new with Royal Mail further south in the county.

Over the years Nick proved to be a good friend of the community undertaking more than simply delivering our post. Earlier in September he was seen high up a ladder, to help out a pensioner who had locked himself out of his home and Nick was only too pleased to help by climbing through an open upstairs window. On many occasions Nick has raised a query when he hasn't seen someone around for a few days, just checking that all was well.

We were given little notice of Nick's intended departure but once alerted Norman Nash lost no time in organising a farewell collection. Every household in the village served by Nick was advised and the Post Office became the central collection point for donations. On Saturday morning a subdued Nick was given an envelope with donations totalling £375 plus several sealed cards so we must assume that the total was well over £400 as I'm sure several other people left donations for him on their doorsteps.

Certainly a hard act to follow!! Terry & Judith

---

Many thanks to all of you, not only for the parting gifts which somewhat overwhelms me, but for the kindness and support during my time working in Sibford and Burdrop.

In many ways I am sad to leave but as you know 'life must go on!' I shall however, be returning on occasions to see the many friends I have made over the years....so you've not seen the last of me!! Once again, many thanks

Nick Williams Postman Ferris/Burdrop etc.

---

## Car Parking in Sibford Ferris

This is an appeal to car owners please to avoid on-street parking or parking on verges where alternative facilities exist and not to park on footpaths, as this is illegal, damages the footpath and obstructs pedestrians. Thanking you kindly for your cooperation.

**Sibford Ferris Parish Council**



## 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.*

*sarah walker*  
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Sibford Scene  
to the Shop or Editor  
by  
October 17th

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## Road Closure - Mannings Hill - 4 weeks from 18 September

The road closure on Mannings Hill has been applied to permit Oxfordshire Highways to install new surface water gullies and drainage pipes. These will divert rainwater from the top part of Sibford Ferris, along New Road, into the field opposite Woodway House and down to the brook. A cleaning system will be installed to protect the brook from pollution. It is hoped that this work will reduce the flooding to the lower part of the village, which has been quite severe even after relatively short spells of heavy rain. Work was started in the field initially, anticipated to last one week, after which the channelling in the road is to commence. This will take approximately two weeks. The road closure barriers will be set up when the work in the road starts (25 September approximately) and access will then be restricted to frontages only until work is completed. Towards the end of the closure, there will be traffic lights at the Lanes End T-junction to permit the installation of gullies which will cause added congestion at peak times. It may be advisable to avoid using Main Street at busy periods if at all possible. The Warriner School bus and the 480 Geoff Amos service have been diverted during the closure.

Thanking you for your cooperation and patience during these works.

**Sibford Ferris Parish Council**

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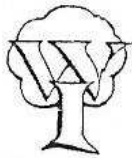
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Sibford W.I. Tuesday, 12<sup>th</sup> September 2006

At the start of the new W.I. programme, the President welcomed thirteen members plus one guest, Valerie Taylor. Gaynor stood in for Secretary Lynda who was in Italy celebrating her Ruby Wedding and Rosemary was in Treasurer Barbara's place whilst she was busy moving house. Cards of good wishes were sent to them both. Our annual coach outing on the 8<sup>th</sup> August was voted a great success with perfect weather. We were very comfortably transported by Martin of Tysoe in his new coach - the air conditioning being very much appreciated. We called at Hilliers Garden Centre for lunch before making the short journey to Whitchurch Silk Mill, a historic grade II Georgian working water mill. Since 1830, the Mill has produced beautiful silks now used in the making of exotic costumes and hats for theatre, films and TV dramas. At the end of the tour, an attractively set out tea was most welcome. There was then time to visit the well stocked shop and wander in the pretty gardens surrounding the Mill. Thanks were extended to Jane and Barbara for organising this enjoyable trip. Travel arrangements were made for the evening with Pam Ayres on 26<sup>th</sup> September in Oxford. Mary Bristow gave a beautifully written and delivered tribute to Brenda Power who recently died suddenly. Prior to her move to Stratford-upon-Avon two years ago, she had been a regular member of Sibford W.I. with spells as President and Group Convenor. Six members attended her funeral on 31st August.

Our-speaker, Wendy Hillary, gave a fascinating presentation on Elgar's Life interspersed with extracts from some of his greatest works. She urged us to visit the Elgar Birthplace Museum in Worcester and mentioned that keen fans could join the Elgar Society. She was thanked warmly by Mary for a most informative and entertaining talk. The competition for an Edwardian photograph was won by Norma, second Jean and third Valerie (our visitor). An excellent tea was served by Jane and Greta. June and Geoff Todd will be with us on 10<sup>th</sup> October with their barrel organ. Visitors will be most welcome to what promises to be a most interesting and different subject. Competition - A monkey in any medium. GH

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## HOLY TRINITY CHURCH NEWS

The **Annual Harvest Festival Family Service** will take place on **Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> October at 11.00 am**, followed by the **Bring and Share Harvest Lunch** in the Village Hall. There will that day be a **Communion Service at 8.00 am**. All foodstuffs will afterwards be donated to Katharine House Hospice according to our usual custom.

There will be a **Coffee Morning in Church on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> October from 10.00 am to 12 noon**.

The **Annual Church Bazaar** will be held on **Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2006 at 2.30 pm**, with the usual stalls, games and excellent teas. Both this and the Coffee Morning are in aid of the Church's hard-pressed funds. Your support will help to ensure that a church remains in the villages.

**Remembrance Sunday** will this year be on **November 12<sup>th</sup>** and the usual service will start round the War Memorial from 10.50 am. This service takes the place of the monthly family Service.

The Annual Church Fete, be held on 22nd July, was a great success, not only if judged by stoicism. It was due to open at 2.00 pm and the heavens decided to open at the same time, on the dot in fact. Rarely has there been a wetter summer fete so not surprisingly, the takings were somewhat down on previous years. In all the circumstances, over £800 was not a bad result financially but socially, it was the usual popular village event.

There was cold but not quite such severe weather for the Parish *Barbecue with Music* at Woodway Farm on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> August. Sue and Guy Wilson provided a very warm welcome to over 70 people and the lucky majority ate delicious barbecue food under cover. It was just as delicious for the latecomers who didn't mind braving the odd raindrop, which was hardly noticeable anyway with the tremendous party atmosphere and wonderful live music provided by Steve Suttee and his band. A highly successful occasion, which produced £700 for the church coffers. Grateful thanks to Sue and Guy for running such a happy event.



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**Sibford Gower Parish Council Meeting held on Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> September 2006**  
**In Sibford Gower Endowed Primary School**

In attendance were four Parish Councillors (apologies having been received from Cllr Peter Abbott), County and District Cllr George Reynolds, the Clerk and for the first part of the Meeting fifty two residents from Burdrop, Sibford Ferris and Sibford Gower. The minutes of the Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> July were approved as a correct record after two inadvertent omissions had been corrected. In Matters Arising, no response had been received from The Town Estate Charity with regard to a local resident's request that the Charity might consider financing a replacement bench at Burdrop Hill. The Clerk pointed out that the Trustees' next meeting is in October when the matter may be on the agenda.

The Chairman, Cllr Robin Spicer, then introduced the next item on the agenda which was to consider a planning application to Cherwell DC from the owners of the Bishop Blaize in respect of a change of use from licenced premises to dwelling house. It was this matter that drew the exceptionally large number of local residents. The Chairman threw the Meeting open to ascertain the local views. In support of the application to Cherwell District Council, the owners have stated that the pub had traded at a loss since its purchase in February 2006 blamed on:

1. a lack of village support
2. a reliance upon passing trade which by virtue of its location is limited.
3. a general lack of support for pub/restaurant facilities in the area.
4. some doubt over the validity of the financial information provided by the previous owners
5. That the village cannot support two pubs. Although the Wykham has recently attracted new trade by discounting, this is not sustainable unless the Blaize closes.
6. The pub has been up for sale for four months with little interest shown and as a consequence the owners are seeking a change of use.

The Parish Councillors were grateful to County and District Cllr George Reynolds for his advice during the ensuing discussion. Many local electors expressed their views over a period of one hour and the overall feeling was that Burdrop, Sibford Ferris and Sibford Gower would not wish to lose this facility which previously was seen to be a thriving and vibrant business. To reflect the mood expressed, the Parish Council is to object to the application. Cllr Martin Layer advised all present that representations from individuals would also be taken into consideration by the District Council when making its decision on whether or not to approve the application. He gave advice as to the correct channel for views to be expressed. A note giving background information was dropped through the letterboxes of residents by a group of willing volunteers to whom the Parish Councillors express their gratitude and appreciation. The Chairman then thanked all who had contributed and invited those who had attended for the specific purpose to leave, if they so wished. With their departure there remained ten local electors for the remainder of the Meeting.

In addition to the above planning application, the Parish Council had considered, since the previous Meeting, a further five applications.



As to Highway Matters, Oxfordshire Highways has been asked to proceed with the matter of installing six wooden posts to safeguard the grass verge adjacent to the pond. The cost to the Parish Council will be £20 per post but thereafter the maintenance will rest with Oxfordshire Highways. It has been established that the land to the rear of High Meadow is owned by Cherwell DC which is now considering whether it may be used as a temporary parking area during the visits of waste collection vehicles which have difficulty in negotiating the road corners hampered by parked cars. Turning to Footpath Matters, a member of the public had reported that some branches overhanging the footpath at Burdrop Hill are causing a problem for pedestrians. The Clerk was instructed to check the situation. With regard to a previous complaint regarding the poor condition of the "Coffin" walk, the Chairman undertook to investigate. Relating to the New Burial Ground, the Clerk advised the Meeting that £3,440.70 had been paid to the solicitors acting in respect of the purchase to enable completion to take place in due course. There may be further, and it is hoped small, costs still to pay. A grant of £800.00 had been received from the Town Estate Charity (which was gratefully acknowledged) and £1,615.05 had come from Sibford Ferris PC being its pro-rata financial input. Moving on to Finance, retrospective sanction was given to the aforementioned payment of £3,440.70 to Messrs Herbert & Cholmeley (solicitors) being the cost of the purchase of the new Burial Ground. The payment had been discussed with all the Parish Councillors prior to dispatch and £94.00 to Oxfordshire County Council being the cost of four wooden posts installed to protect the grass verge to the footpath opposite the Surgery car park. The Chairman sought, and gained, the Councillors' sanction to the issuing of a cheque for £50 in favour of the British Legion in respect of a wreath for Remembrance Day. The annual cost is shared with Sibford Ferris PC on an alternate year basis. Next on the agenda was Street Lighting in High Meadow, The Clerk advised that matters have not moved forward. Charter Community Housing Ltd had not sent out the questionnaires, as promised, to the residents of High Meadow and Pound Lane to establish whether or not there is a majority desire to see street lighting installed. Charter has now promised that the questionnaires will go out during the week commencing 11<sup>th</sup> September 2006. Until the result is known, the way forward cannot be established. Under the heading Any Other Business, the following were raised. Village Pond: A Local Elector, Mrs Glennis Hardman, referred to the formation of a Pond Action Team so that the planting advice of Ponds for People may be implemented. Time is now of the essence and she was pleased to report that a number of people had offered to become involved. A date for the initial meeting is to be arranged. Next, a letter had been received from the Head Teacher, Sibford Gower Endowed Primary School, seeking opinions about a suggestion to open the school's PICT suite for use by community groups. The school is about to submit a planning application to build a new classroom which will be used as an PICT suite, enabling a classroom for the youngest pupils to be enlarged. As a new facility is to be built, it seems sensible to make it suitable for evening and weekend community use, with toilet facilities and the ability to shut off other classrooms. The room will have an interactive whiteboard, so will be suitable to use for power point presentations etc and 18 networked computers. The Parish Councillors undertook to provide their views in due course after having sought local opinions. The next Parish Council Meeting is to be held in Sibford Gower Endowed Primary School on Friday, 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2006 commencing at 8pm. There being no further business to discuss, the Chairman thanked all present for attending and closed the Meeting at 9.55pm.



# 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.

October

Sun 1st Benefice Eucharist 10.30 am Tadmarton

Sun 8th Holy Communion 8.00 am & Harvest Festival 11.00 am

Sun 15th Holy Communion 9.30 am

Sun 22nd Holy Communion 9.30 am

Sun 29th Matins and Holy Communion 9.30 am

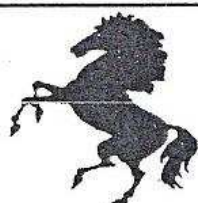
November

Wed 1st All Saints' Day. Epwell at 8.00 pm

Thur 2nd All Souls' Day Sibford 8.00 pm

Sun 5th Benefice Eucharist at

Broughton 10.30 am



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# Sibford Bus Services

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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				
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 £1.90 each way

Child (5-16yrs) £0.95

Family ticket (2 Adults = up to 3 children) £8.40 return



263460

## Calendar of Events

### October

- Sun 1st Village Hall Market from 12 noon p16  
Tue 3rd Friendship Club talk on Neighbourlyness. V. Hall 2pm p5  
Wed 4th Mobile Library in Sibfords and Burdrop (2.40 - 4.25pm)  
Thu 5th Playgroup AGM. P7  
Sun 8th Harvest Festival & Bring and Share Lunch 11.00 am p23  
Tue 10th W.I. "Barrel Organ". Village Hall 2pm p22  
Wed 11th Horticultural Society. In the Village Hall 8.00 pm p9  
Sat 14th Jumble/recycling Sale. Village Hall 2.00 pm p6  
Tue 17th Friendship Club. Lunch outing. p5  
Tue 17th Deadline for contributions to the November Sibford Scene p16  
Wed 18th Mobile Library in Sibfords and Burdrop (2.40 - 4.25pm)  
Thu 19th Sibfords Society. Churchyards. Village Hall 8.00 pm p6  
Sat 21st Coffee Morning in the Church 10.00 - 12 noon p23  
Sat 21st Heart of England Jazz Band at the Village Hall. 7 pm p17

### November (part)

- Wed 1st Mobile Library in Sibfords and Burdrop (2.40 - 4.25pm)  
Wed 1st Sibford Ferris Parish Council Meeting. 7.45 pm p11  
Fri 3rd Sibford Gower Parish Council Meeting. 8.00 pm p25  
Sun 5th Village Hall Market from 12 noon p16  
Thu 9th The Village Stores Open Evening. P17  
Wed 15th Mobile Library in Sibfords and Burdrop (2.40 - 4.25pm)  
Sat 18th Warriner Choral Society Concert. Deddington Church p8  
Sat 25th "The Happy Prince" at the Village Hall. 7.00 pm p17  
Wed 29th Mobile Library in Sibfords and Burdrop (2.40 - 4.25pm)

Cover picture - The original Village Hall.

### Sibford Scene

Editor; Adrian Lamb. Grounds Farm, Sibford Ferris. 780380  
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