

December 06 & January 07

No. 289

Methodist Chapel Coffee Morning

Saturday 2nd December 10.00 - 12 noon

Playgroup Christmas Bazaar

Saturday 2nd December 2 - 4 pm in the Village Hall

Nativity Play and Carols in the Church

Wednesday 22nd December 6.30pm

Carol Services

Sunday 17th December 11.00am in the Chapel

Friday 22nd December 7.00pm in the Church

Carol Singing around the Villages

Friday 22nd December 5.30pm from the Village Shop

Nature Notes

Oct. 25th Once last week and again this morning I have seen what I think is a short-eared owl searching for prey in the fields between Lower Tadmarton and Broughton.

Oct. 26th A group of ravens flew over at 8 o'clock this morning. There are some red admirals around but few, if any of them ever survive the winter in this country.

Nov. 5th. Fieldfares are late arriving. I saw my first flock of the winter near Chipping Norton this afternoon.

Nov. 10th Fieldfare have reached Sibford now. I saw a few this morning over Hawkes Lane where untrimmed hedges have a good crop of haws for them to feed on.

Nov. 15th About 10 years ago I sowed some seed of the ivy broomrape, which is a parasitic plant that takes its nourishment from the roots of ivy, amongst some bushes in our garden. Seeing no sign of it for a few years I gave up hope of it coming to anything but today I found quite a lot of spikes that had gone over without our seeing it in bloom. I have however managed to collect some seed from them. As there are so many spikes I think it could have been there unseen for a few years and seeded itself around.

Nov. 18th Despite the dry start to the year the weather has now paid its debts and brought the rainfall to date up to average.

Nov. 20th My daughter tells me that she went out when she heard a commotion near their pet animals and on seeing flashes of black and white thought at first that a fox was attacking their ducks but it turned out to be two pairs of magpies fighting each other, so engaged in their separate battles that they took little notice of the pets or people around them, which seems very strange behaviour for this time of year. Later in the day when they were walking near the flooded Cherwell valley a red kite patrolled overhead possibly looking for

flood casualties.

Nov. 21st There is a song thrush here that thinks that spring has come. He has been singing for the last 12 days even on the frosty mornings. It is usually a solo performance but occasionally a robin will join in rather weakly.

Nov. 24th Where have all the blackbirds gone? We normally have a few hopping round our lawn but recently they have

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been 'conspicuous by their absence.' Back in the early summer my sister in law saw one that looked unwell feeding young ones on her lawn. The two young ones died on her doorstep and the old bird disappeared. They still have one or two around so hopefully they have only spread out into the field and we shall see them again in the winter.

Friendship Club

Our November meeting with Derek Parkes talking about being Father Christmas in Lapland was very entertaining. It sounds fun but also entails a lot of hard work, travelling and long hours plus the fact that you always have to be happy and laughing.

The afternoon was rounded off with our usual raffle and tea and biscuits provided by Erica and Ann.

Our Christmas Tea will be in the Village Hall on Tuesday 5th December, 3.00 to sit down at 3.30pm We shall have our usual raffle and hopefully some entertainment.

The Good Companions of Tysoe have been invited to join us for the afternoon.

Our Christmas Lunch will be on Tuesday 19th December when we are going to the Wychwood Golf Club. Coach details later.

The Warriner Choral Society
are presenting
A WINTER WONDERLAND
a celebration of Christmas in
seasonal songs, readings and carols
on Saturday 9th December 2006 at St
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Methodist Chapel Christmas Coffee Morning
Our Christmas Coffee Morning will be held as usual in the Chapel
10.00 to 12 noon on Saturday 2nd December.

Entrance 65p which includes coffee and biscuits.

Hope to see you all there for a friendly natter.

Our Carol Service is on Sunday 17th December
at 11.00 am with Mary Newman.

We look forward to seeing you all at both events.

Swalcliffe Village presents...

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Thursday 25th January at Rye Hill Golf Club 7.30pm

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**Notice to Residents of Burdrop and Sibford Gower from
Sibford Gower Parish Council
Street Lighting in High Meadow**

You will find with this issue of the Sibford Scene a notice from Sibford Gower Parish Council setting out the background to the proposal that three street lights be installed in High Meadow. You are urged to read it as the Parish Council is most anxious to know whether or not the proposal is favoured by residents.

Mobile Library Service at Burdrop

A letter has been received by Sibford Gower Parish Council from Oxfordshire County Council advising that there has been no use made in Burdrop of the Mobile Library Service for some three months. The Library stops are currently being evaluated and serious consideration is being given to the viability of this particular stop. Should there be no serious objection, the intention is to withdraw the Burdrop stop at Christmas. Any comments should be directed to Ken Saberi, Mobile Library Services Manager (Tel 01865 810209)

Peter Hardman Clerk to Sibford Gower Parish Council

David Randall

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BOXING DAY CHARITY EVENT

All Welcome!

Fancy walking off that Christmas Day excess? Want a little fresh air to get your appetite for Boxing Day lunch? Like to support local charity? Want to watch a bunch of amateur footballers make a complete hash of it trying to play in the snow & frost?

If the answers to at least the first three above are "yes" or "maybe", then disregard number four (and treat it as a bonus) and turn out to watch your two local footballing giants battle it out for Seasonal Supremacy!

SIBFORD GENTLEMEN F.C. vs SWALCLIFFE COTTAGERS F.C.

Swalcliffe Park School Ground, Boxing Day 11.00am k.o.

Last year's game was a 5-5 belter (see <http://www.swalcliffe-cottagers.com/xmasreport.html>) - let's hope this year will be similar.

Team subs & kind donations from the spectators (with only minor tin-rattling) will be donated to local charities such as Katharine House Hospice & the Frank Wise School

Afterwards why not join your heroic players (& perhaps nab an autograph or two, or even buy them a pint?) for light refreshments with Steve & Tracey at the Stag's Head, Swalcliffe

North Oxon Guild of Weavers, Spinners & Dyers

Sat Jan 6th **ACTIVITY DAY — SPINNING & WEAVING GUILD EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE**
Beginners welcome. 10am-4pm
VENUE: HOOK NORTON BAPTIST CHURCH SCHOOL ROOM.
Bring your own lunch.
Day Session cost - £6 Half day sessions possible.
TO BOOK TEL.01295 251088

Sat 10th Feb **ACTIVITY DAY — SPINNING & WEAVING GUILD EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE**
Beginners welcome. 10am—4pm
VENUE: HOOK NORTON BAPTIST CHURCH SCHOOL-ROOM.
Bring your own lunch.
Day Session cost - £6 Half day sessions possible.
TO BOOK TEL.01295 251088

Tuesday 20th March **TALK, PLUS HANDS - ON EVENING "SPINNING AND ANGORA RABBITS**
TUTOR — JOAN LEIGHTON
AT 7.30PM IN HOOK NORTON BAPTIST CHURCH SCHOOLROOM.
BRING WHEEL.



Carol Anderson, the curator of the Woodstock Museum enlightened the members about the history of Woodstock Steel, with the help of slides, at the November meeting. In 1705, the Eldrige family, who had previously been cutlers, started a new business using scrap steel, often only old horse shoe nails and fashioned beautiful and glittering items, such as buttons, buckles, sword hilts and chatelaines. Each item was studded with small screws, the heads of which were cut with the same facets used on diamonds but concave in shape and 'which shone and glittered just like diamonds', according to contemporary reports. These items were only made in Woodstock and became world famous.

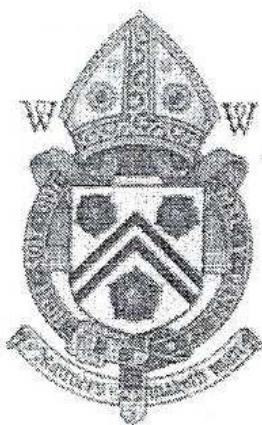
The trade flourished with the building of Blenheim Palace and rich visitors to the Palace purchased the expensive items. However, inferior copies were made in Birmingham, by Matthew Boulton, which were cheap to buy and by 1805 the trade had died in Woodstock. The items held at the Museum are very rare, as the steel became rusty over the years and very little survives.

We hold our Annual Social on 18 January and invitations will be sent out to members and this year we would ask everyone to kindly to respond with an RSVP to Kay Harries, her details will be on the invitation. As usual, we shall have a Bring and Share Supper, so please bring ready prepared and cooked food and also a drink to enjoy with your meal. The proceedings will commence at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall.

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NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Distraction - deception - card cloning - you name it - it is happening and on our doorsteps.

Please note especially as Christmas is approaching: Royal Mail and Trading Standards want you to be aware of this scam. A card posted through your door from P.D.S. and resembles Royal Mail card suggesting "unable to deliver a parcel" and "please ring (a premium rate) telephone number" - in Belize! If you do and a connection is made it costs you £15.00.

If you should get a card tell Royal Mail on 02072396655 or Trading Standards.

Christmas: Do not leave presents on show in a car or in your house, be vigilant, look after your neighbours do not leave letters showing or parcels at the door, remember to check the identity of any unknown persons before allowing them into your home.

A happy Christmas to you all.

John Mulley

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Village Hall News

The Village Hall Lottery Game 05/06 made £234 for Village Hall funds and paid out the same amount in prizes over the 12 months. For £12 a year you can take part in the fun. 39 people took part last year - can we exceed this number for 2007. The more who join the bigger the prizes. Please telephone Muriel on 780025 or Ginny on 780373. Sunday Markets in the Village Hall on **December 3rd and 10th** from 12 noon to approximately 2.30 pm. Only 20p entry fee. Handmade and homemade inexpensive and varied items including lovely cards, hand knitted baby and dolls clothes; wood turning items, pies, cakes, jams etc. Wide variety of good bric-a-brac, Forever Living aloe berry products, lots of books, videos, small paintings, fabulous handmade jewellery, gift boxes etc.etc. Refreshments.

On **Saturday 17th February** Kirsty McGee and Mat Martin in concert in the Village Hall at 8 pm. Kirsty is one of the most respected writer/performers of contemporary acoustic music in the country with a very distinctive poetic style and a hauntingly beautiful voice to match. She tours with her partner Mat who is a multi instrumentalist and also sings harmony vocals. Tickets £7 / concessions £5 will be on sale in the Sibford Stores in January or telephone 780025. Licensed bar.



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Sibford Gower Parish Council Meeting - Friday, 10th November 2006

The Parish Council met in Sibford Gower Endowed Primary School. Four Parish Councillors were in attendance with apologies received from Cllr Peter Abbott. Also present were County and District Cllr George Reynolds, three local electors and the Clerk. Matters arising comprised the possible repairs to the seat at Burdrop Hill, the Bishop Blaize now being under new management and the availability of land at High Meadow for parking to prevent obstruction and the consequent verge damage on the days that refuse collection vehicles call. Cllr Robin Spicer (Chairman) gave a brief report of his attendance with the Clerk at the Annual Parish Liaison Meeting at Cherwell DC Office with full minutes to come. The Clerk reported that a replacement kissing gate was now in place at Holy Trinity Church. He referred to a letter from Oxfordshire CC advising that thought was being given to stopping the visit of the Mobile Library Service in Burdrop in view of the apparent lack of use. Since the previous Meeting only one planning application had been received for consideration but four planning application decisions had come in. The Clerk was instructed to contact Oxfordshire Highways regarding a flooding problem in Hawkes Land and to speak with the owner about a hedge which is overhanging the roadway, again in Hawkes Lane. The Clerk has investigated a couple of footpath problems, the first to have remedied hedges overhanging the footpath between Pound Lane and



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High Meadow and the second related to the collapse of a stone wall adjacent to the path between Backside Lane and Main Street. Solicitors have advised that, although the paperwork is not quite complete, the levelling and fencing of the Burial Ground purchased from the Diocese may proceed. The Parish Councillors approved the annual grants to the Village Hall Committee, the Sibford Scene and Sibford Gower Endowed Primary School. With regard to the Audit for the financial year ended 31st March 2006, the external auditors have confirmed that all is in good order. The Councillors considered the Clerk's salary for the next financial year and were pleased to grant a £46pa increase. Attention was turned to the Clerk's Contract which is to be adapted from the Model Contract issued by the National Association of Local Councils and the Society of Local Council Clerks and which will be personalised to meet what is particularly required by the Council. The Councillors have been pleased to appoint Prof. Oswyn Murray as the Parish Council's Appointed Trustee to The Town Estate Charity. Prof Murray is a former Master of Balliol. His speciality is History and he has been involved with four charities including the Oxford Charity of Historical Buildings. Cllr Martin Layer gave a comprehensive report on the formation of the Pond Action Team where some sixteen willing volunteers have come together to implement the recommendations for the village pond received from Ponds for People. Already some initial work has been carried out. Mrs Glennis Hardman informed the meeting of this and the acquisition of some bushes. Appropriate oxygenating water plants are to be purchased very shortly. Suitable soil for submersion in the water for planting purposes is to be obtained. The final item on the agenda was that of Street Lighting in High Meadow. Mr A Mullis, a resident living there, acting on his own initiative and with Health and Safety in mind, has been in consultation with Charter Community Housing Ltd and Oxfordshire County Council with the result that Charter has promised to finance the cost of the lights which would then be supplied and maintained by Oxfordshire CC. Thus, there would be no cost to the village's community tax payers. The Parish Council is on the point of enquiring of all village residents as to whether they would find the introduction of street lighting, albeit in a small and somewhat out of the way area, acceptable. Mr Mullis, who was at the Meeting expressed the view that the Parish Council had been dilatory in progressing the matter but this was robustly rejected by Cllr Martin Layer who considered that the timescale was not overlong. The Chairman closed the Meeting at 10.20pm thanking all those present for attending.

The Next Meeting will be on 12th January 2007 In Sibford Gower Endowed Primary School commencing at 8pm.

Sibford Ferris Parish Council Meeting 30th October 2006

The meeting was attended by all Councillors, the Clerk and three members of the public. Cllr Lamb was thanked for attaching the new sign to the notice board. The subject of play facilities was discussed in the light of the forced closure of the Cotswold Close facility due to timber rot. Due to the ongoing insurance and legal difficulties frustrating progress with the project for older children, it was decided to treat the two projects separately and hopefully speed up the refurbishment of Cotswold Close.

Oxfordshire County Council has confirmed that two small-leaved limes will be planted some time before the spring close to the sites of the horse-chestnuts felled along the Hook Norton Road. Councillors were to attend a meeting at Lanes End with two Oxfordshire Highways officers to discuss pedestrian safety at the junction. Cllr Hicks reported on an ORCC Affordable Housing meeting she had attended at which she learned that the Sibford Gower site had definitely been ruled out and there had been no further progress on any other sites. Cllr Simms proposed to raise the issue of how to improve the chances of achieving affordable housing at the Parish Liaison Meeting at CDC on 9 November. Permission from all parties has been granted to install a lockable barrier in the gap in the wall along New Road and Cllr Lamb kindly volunteered to undertake the installation.

The drainage improvements in New Road have been completed and will be monitored for effectiveness. A complaint about the state the bench at Lanes End has been left in was made by a resident and the Clerk was asked to pass this on to the drainage engineer. It was agreed that further contact with landowners at the Hook Norton Road end of the village would be made regarding the installation of new drainage pipes there to alleviate the run-off at the corner with Main Street. On the matter of footpaths, although the ownership of the path between Penn House and Orchard End has not been established, the School has kindly agreed to maintain it. The Clerk was asked to reconfirm to OCC the incorrect positioning on their new definitive footpath map of the path behind the garages on Cotswold Close.

Cllr Hicks reported on some measures being adopted by the Primary School to encourage parents and children to walk to school, which included a grant to build a bicycle shed, cycling proficiency training, encouragement to use the school bus for those outside the villages and to walk for local residents and an offer from the Wykham Arms to use

their car park for a "park and walk" scheme. There had been three planning applications and three planning decisions since the last meeting. Amongst these was the refusal for the change of use of the Bishop Blaize and in response to a request from a resident, the Parish Council confirmed its support for the pub and its new managers. Budget figures for 2007/8 were discussed and the RFO was asked to put together a draft budget for consideration, to be finalised at the next meeting when the precept amount will be set. It was agreed to consult with residents at the next Annual Parish Meeting on the inclusion of donations to ensure support from the community for these. Under Any Other Business, the increased incidence of sewage flooding in Woodway Road was reported and it was proposed and agreed to write to the Environment Agency and the Rights of Way Officer to notify them of these pollution events, as well as continuing with pressure on Severn Trent to rectify the problem. Finally, the Clerk was asked to make enquiries about a cherry tree in Cotswold Close whose roots were reported to be damaging nearby property.

The meeting closed at 10.30pm. The date of the next meeting is Wednesday, 10th January 2007 at 7.45 pm in the Sports Hall classroom, Sibford School. All welcome.



Mobile Library in the Ferris - New Time

From January the mobile library visits to the Ferris will be at a new time: **arriving at 3.40 pm, departing at 4.10 pm.** The first visit in January will be on Wednesday, 10th.

Come Carol Singing around the Sibfords on Friday 22nd December

We're meeting outside the Village Shop at 5.30pm and will be singing at strategic points around the village. All monies raised will go to charity.

Just bring your voice, enthusiasm and a torch!
(Mulled wine and mince pies served afterwards)

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Sibford Horticultural Society

Our November evening talk saw Mr. White come to talk to us about orchids and bringing some beautiful examples to show as well. He

told us about the commercial cultivation of the plants so we could appreciate the higher cost of the plants as they take 4 - 5 years to get to the flowering stage. Slides were also shown of different varieties and of exhibits that he has staged all over the world. A very enjoyable evening. The next meeting will be on Wednesday 13th December at the Village Hall starting at 8.00 pm. This will be our Christmas Social and Kate Randall will also be talking about plants in unusual places. All very welcome. We have also been deciding on the handicraft and photography section for the show in August which are as follows.

1. An item of costume jewellery.
2. A dried or pressed flower exhibit.
3. A Christmas tree decoration.
4. An item of cross stitch.
5. An item of papier mâché.
6. A greetings card - made from any medium excluding computer generated.
7. A handicraft exhibit.
8. "The spirit was willing" ... a craft item started but not finished.

Oddjob

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9. Photograph - Tree / Trees

10. Photograph - Fruit & or vegetables

11. Photograph - "Taken within the parishes of Sibford & Epwell"

12. Photograph - Sunrise / sunset

13. Photograph - People / person at play

14. Photograph - Animal / animals

15. Photograph - Bird / birds

16. Photographs of 4 related views mounted on one sheet & named

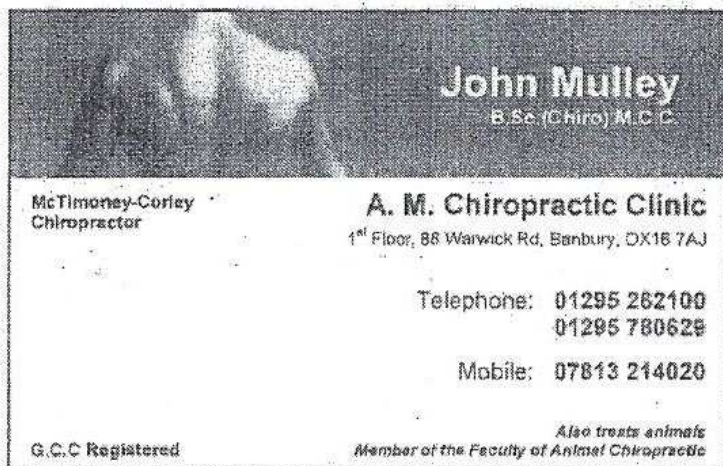
17. A black and white photograph - any size

18. Most amusing mistake - a photograph not as intended

19. An amateur painting or drawing. (must not be signed on the front)

So get snapping!!!

There are no meetings in January or February.



John Mulley
B.Sc. (Chiro) M.C.C.

McTimoney-Corley
Chiropractor

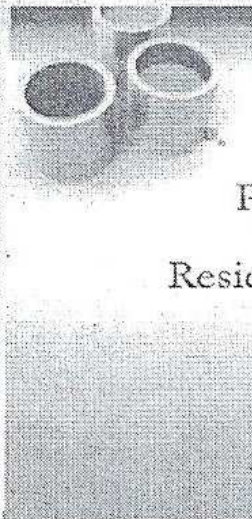
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WELCOME TO SIBFORD

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.

This month we welcome to the Ferris Julie and Andrew Bloomfield who have moved into Orchard End in Back Lane. They have come from Andoversford, and have two daughters, Sarah who is at University, and Jennifer who is a nursery nurse at the Ark in Epwell.

HOMŒOPATH **Sheila Job LCH**

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The Parish Councils of Sibford Ferris and Sibford Gower warmly welcome the decision of Cherwell District Council to refuse planning permission to change the use to a residential house. Had permission been given, it would have meant the closure of the pub and the loss of a valued village facility. The proposal generated a passionate and vocal response from all sectors of our communities demonstrating the determination of the villagers to protect their local services. However, we must not be complacent. The long term future of the Blaize, the Wykham Arms and, indeed, the shop is, in part, in our hands. All must use these facilities on a regular basis to demonstrate their continued value. To reduce the risk of another threat to our services, please support the local pubs and shop.

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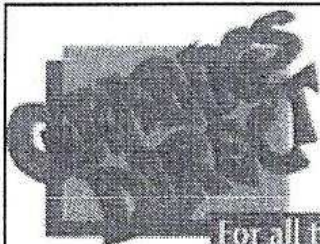
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FROM CAPE TOWN TO SIBFORD

As some of you may know, Steve and I returned to Sibford in June this year. I thought I'd write one more letter about our experiences to finish the journey of our time in South Africa.

It was with great reluctance and heavy hearts that we said goodbye to our many friends in Cape Town. Steve felt that the job he was doing was getting too stressful for his condition (Parkinson's disease) and that meant the end of his contract, and his work permit, for SA. He is now working part time for his company, mainly from home. However, what started out as a two-year contract went on to be nearly six wonderful years. Steve set up a manufacturing plant from scratch, which was held up as a model for the rest of the company. I enjoyed doing voluntary work and engaging with kids from different cultures and backgrounds. We met a lot of interesting people and had some wonderful experiences.

So what has this year been like, and how have we found living back in the UK? Well, as you can imagine, the last five months in SA were a mixture of trying to go to places we have never visited before and making preparations for the move.

We had a lovely trip to the Robertson valley, which is about a two-hour drive from our home in Somerset West. It is an excellent wine producing area that is not as well known as Stellenbosch and Constantia. Apart from sampling the fruits of the vine we discovered a restaurant hidden up a dirt track where we had an incredible lunch overlooking their lavender garden. We also found a man called Joey who makes things out of wire. His claim to fame is a life sized baobab tree, which is in the South African embassy in Berlin. We bought a much smaller umbrella tree.

We then went to Mozambique via Johannesburg and Vilanculos where we took a small plane to Bazaruto Island. Mozambique is opening up as a tourist destination after many years of war and is still very poor but on the other hand, it is still unspoilt. We stayed in a small resort, which was the only 'hotel' on the island. There were no tarred roads and the Mozambiquens live in typical African straw hut villages. Steve did some game fishing and managed to catch several sailfish, which were returned once tagged. However, he also caught some dorado, king mackerel, and skipjacks, which are good for eating. The snorkelling was also amazing to see the colours of coral and fish.

After all our years in Cape Town I finally got to have tea at the famous Mount Nelson Hotel. It still retains its old colonial atmosphere but you need time and a good appetite to consume all the lovely goodies. We also went to our favourite B&B on the west coast at Paternoster. However, it was touch and go as to whether we would have to return as the Helderberg Mountain behind our house caught fire. It got alarmingly close to the estate but the fire-fighters bombed it with water and it eventually changed direction and went back over the mountain.

There's a lot to organise for an international move but I'm glad to say that all went according to plan. We had a big party for all our friends when we tried to drink our wine stock (and failed). It was difficult to say goodbye to our many friends but particularly the people we had both worked with over the years. The students I was looking after for ECHO charity were very kind and gave me some wonderful

gifts, which I will treasure. One is a poem likening me to a storm in the Karoo and I have two sketches from the art students.

Then it was time to go and we landed in the UK just in time for the start of the summer weather so at least we were broken in gently. Since then it has been a case of settling back into our house and doing some decorating etc. So what changes have we noticed since we got back? Well, the price of everything seems to have gone up and I have had plenty of heart attacks when I've converted pounds to rands! Needless to say, the cost of living is much higher here. Not a lot has changed in the village apart from the Manor development but we saw that going on our annual visits. Everyone has been very welcoming and I am already back into a few village pursuits. I'd like to thank everyone for helping us to re-establish ourselves, especially our neighbours, who have helped in many ways.

We are now bracing ourselves for the first UK winter for six years. This Christmas will be very different from the last one when we ate our Christmas lunch outside in 30-degree heat at a wine farm in Franshoek. It's a traditional family affair this year, which I have volunteered to do having escaped for so long! Do we miss SA? Of course we do and we have plans to return next year for a prolonged visit.

I hope you have found these newsletters interesting and if anyone is thinking of going to South Africa for a holiday, please get in touch as I would be pleased to help you in any way, 780384.

Best wishes
Pat and Steve Bates

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Sibford W.I. Tuesday. 14th November 2006

The President, Glennis, welcomed Members and read out some apologies and in particular from Jean Puddle who is recovering from an operation and Mary Bristow who is moving house. Deputy Secretary Gaynor gave us the record of the October Meeting and Glennis reported on the trips to Wells and Milton Keynes and the Group Meeting - all very enjoyable events. Jane and Glennis will be going on the OFWI coach trip to the Birmingham German Christmas Markets on the 22nd November and Caroline and Glennis will attend "Absolutely Christmas" at Witney on the 7th December. Our speaker, May Parker, has many interesting talks to offer and on her second visit to Sibford WI we were treated to "Wildlife on you doorstep". Illustrated with wonderful slides, May entertained us with a fascinating tale on the wildlife sanctuary she and her husband had created in the garden of their hotel. In four acres, for the most part with natural planting, they had made a haven for all kinds of wildlife from insects, butterflies and moths, through many varieties of bird, to snakes, toads, frogs and newts, and all kinds of animals. With amazing patience, whilst running the hotel and arranging conferences and weddings, she photographed the wild things in their garden, often rising at dawn to do so and staying up late at night. So impressive were their efforts, that David Bellamy, the famous naturalist, voted it the best wildlife sanctuary he had seen. Sadly, eight or so years ago, the couple sold the hotel and subsequent owners have utilised the garden to provide facilities for their guests, thereby destroying the reserve, but May has written a beautifully illustrated book, entitled "Just before Dawn", on the subject of making a wildlife reserve and hopefully her example will encourage others to do so. Gwen gave the vote of thanks complimenting May on the outstanding quality of her slides. Caroline and Rosalind served tea with "naughty but nice" cakes. Rosemary was awarded first prize in the competition for a wild life picture with a beautifully framed photograph of a robin in the foreground of a frosty winter scene. Sheila came second and Caroline third. For our Christmas Meeting on 12th December, when we are looking forward to having Lynda back with us, there will be no raffle or sales table but Members are asked to bring a small plate of food, a wrapped gift and, if wished, a seasonal reading or poem.

Gaynor

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH NEWS

As is to be expected, there is much activity in the church around Christmas, with, at Sibford, a number of significant extras at that time and afterwards. The first of these is the **Benefice Confirmation Service on Sunday 3rd December at 10.30 am** with the Bishop of Dorchester, Bishop Colin attending and six confirmation candidates. **On Wednesday 20th December at 6.30 pm**, again at Sibford, there will be a Nativity Play. It is not too late for aspiring actors to come forward for a part, and they should contact Helen Earle on 788736.

There will be a traditional Christmas Carol service in Sibford Church at **7 pm on Friday 22nd December**, there having been one at Broughton Church at 7.00 pm on Sunday 17th December. At the Sibford service, the collection will be for Bible Lands, who provide the best known carol sheet from which we sing.

On **Sunday 24th December**, Christmas Eve, the only service in the Benefice will be at Swalcliffe at 10.30 am. The **Benefice Midnight** service will be at **Sibford**, commencing at **11.30 pm** and the **Sibford Christmas Day Service** will be at **10.00 am**. The collections from both of these services will be shared with a charity to be chosen by the PCC.

The **Christingle Service** will be held on **January 14th 2007 at 4 pm**.

On **Sunday 21st January**, being the Sunday in the **Week of Christian Unity**, there will be a **Benefice Unity Service at Sibford at 3pm** to which members of all denominations are invited.

Finally, the **Candlemass Service** will be held at **Sibford on Friday 2nd February 2007 at 8 pm**.

The Annual Church Bazaar was held on Saturday 18th November 2006 at 2.30 pm. with the usual stalls, games and excellent teas, and was well attended. £1,040 was collected for Church funds. Sincere thanks to those who organized, donated and helped, also to those who spent.

The Sibford Parochial Church Council would like to wish all in the villages a very happy Christmas.

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Church Services

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

Church of England, Holy Trinity, Sibford Gower.

December

3rd Confirmation Service 10.30 am Bishop of Dorchester

10th 8.00am & 9.30am Holy Communion

17th 9.30am Holy Communion

20th Nativity & Carols 6.30pm

22nd Traditional Carol Service 7.00pm

24th Matins at Swalcliffe 10.30am. Midnight Mass 11.30pm Sibford

25th 10.00am Holy Communion

31st 10.30am Benefice Eucharist at Shutford

January

6th 6.00pm Epiphany Communion at Epwell

7th 10.30am Benefice Eucharist at Tadmarton

14th Christingle Service 4.00pm

21st 9.30am Holy Communion & 3.00pm Christian Unity service

28th 9.30am Holy Communion

February 2nd Candlemas Benefice

Eucharist 8.00pm

4th 10.30am Benefice Eucharist

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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				
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

Calendar of Events

December

- Sat 2nd Methodist Chapel Coffee Morning. 10 - 12 noon p4
Sat 2nd Playgroup Christmas Bazaar 2 - 4 pm Village Hall
Sun 3rd Village Hall Market from 12 noon p9
Tue 5th Friendship Club Christmas Tea. Village Hall 3pm p3
Sat 9th Warriner Choral Society "A Winter Wonderland" p3
Sun 10th Village Hall Market from 12 noon p9
Tue 12th W.I. Christmas Meeting. Village Hall. p20
Wed 13th Mobile Library in Sibfords and Burdrop (2.40 - 4.10pm)
Wed 13th Horticultural Society Christmas Social. Village Hall 8 pm p14
Sun 17th Methodist Chapel Carol Service 11.00am p4
Tue 19th Friendship Club Christmas Lunch. P3
Wed 20th Church Nativity Play. 6.30pm p21
Fri 22nd Carol Singing round the Villages. 5.30pm from Village Shop p13
Fri 22nd Carol Service in the Church 7.00 pm p21
Tue 26th Boxing Day Football. Swalcliffe Park School 11.00 am p6

January

- Sat 6th Weavers, Spinners & Dyers Activity Day. 10.00 - 4.00 pm p6
Wed 10th Mobile Library in Sibfords and Burdrop (2.40 - 4.10pm)
Wed 10th Sibford Ferris Parish Council Meeting 7.45pm p13
Fri 12th Sibford Gower Parish Council Meeting 8.00 pm p11
Sun 14th Christingle Service in Church. 4.00pm p21
Tue 16th Deadline for contributions to the February Sibford Scene p17
Thu 18th Sibfords Society Social. 7.30pm in the Village Hall p7
Wed 24th Mobile Library in Sibfords and Burdrop (2.40 - 4.10pm)
Thu 25th The Ultimate Burns Night Bash. p4
Cover picture - Snow outside Little London. 1947

Sibford Scene

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