

February 2007

Nó. 290

SIBFORD GOWER PRIMARY SCHOOL
JUMBLE SALE
SATURDAY 27TH JANUARY
10.00AM - 12 NOON

Sibford Gower Parish Council
Special Parish Meeting
Thursday 8th February 7.30pm in the Village Hall

Sibford Village Hall present
Kirsty McGee in Concert
Saturday 17th February 7.30pm

Sibford Ferris Post Office Closure
Wednesday 21st to Saturday 24th February

Nature Notes

Nov. 26th My grandson tells me that there has been a fall of woodcock around Grounds Farm and Swalcliffe Common. He put up several as he walked that area today.

Dec. 10th A song thrush has been singing for more than a month now and occasionally there have been two within hearing but today one flew into the glass of our front door. It stood on the doorstep for 15 or 20 minutes before it recovered enough to leave. If that was a male we may not hear it for a while.

Dec. 11th On the weather forecast I heard that 180mm (7 inches) of rain fell in the Lake District yesterday. They are used to heavy falls but that is beyond a joke.

Jan. 1st Despite all the talk of drought we have finished the year with above average rainfall. The first half of the year was well below average with less than an inch in 4 of the months. June was the driest month of the year with only a quarter of an inch and May the wettest with over 5 inches. The second half of the year produced just twice as much as the first half making nearly 31 inches for the year.

Jan. 3rd There has been much talk and some very interesting articles written about global warming over Christmas. Some scientists are now saying that it will only take 25 years for the north pole to be ice free in the summer months which is bad news for polar bears. Apparently we need a 70% reduction in our CO2 emissions as a fair contribution towards combating the worst effects of global warming but in spite of losing most of our heavy industry to the far east our emissions are still rising and those figures exclude our aviation, which I

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was surprised to read, is doing as much harm as all our road traffic because their gasses are produced at high altitude, yet there is more talk of expanding airports than reducing flights. With all our marvellous communication technology I cannot believe that we need to travel as much as we do.

Jan. 10th After two months with hardly any blackbirds around we are now seeing a few, mostly males, but they are a quarrelsome lot spending much of their time chasing others away which makes me think that most of them are recently arrived migrants encroaching on the territory of local birds.



In the run up to Christmas, the children had a great time making decorations and special gifts to take home at the end of term. At the Christmas party, there was an extra surprise visit from Santa, which was well received by the children (and parents alike!). We would like to thank Sibford Santa for his help and support in making it a special time for the children.

The Playgroup Bazaar was a great success raising over £1,000! A big thank-you to everyone who helped organise and support the event, especially those who were in the blitz team to help clear the hall.

The topics for this term include colours and shapes, people who help us, and our homes. So far the children have made colourful rainbows, lanterns for Divali. We are looking forward to meeting some people who will help us to find out what they do.

If you know of any 2 1/2 - 5 year olds, who would like to meet other children of their own age, then enrol them at Playgroup. It is a lively place with lots of activities, with things to make and do! We also run a successful lunch club on Monday, Thursday and Friday from 12 noon to 12.45pm. Please ring Nikki or Emma on 01295 780998 for further details.

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Our annual Social went with a swing, with over 70 people present enjoying each others company, with delicious food provided, as usual, on a bring and share basis. A tricky quiz had been devised by Maureen and Keith, testing everyone's knowledge of musicals and the newly formed Sibford Society Singers led the hearty sing-song, accompanied by our organist, Peter, which brought a very enjoyable evening to a close.

The next event is to be a snowdrop walk on the 17 February, although we are somewhat concerned that by that date, the snowdrops will be over this year. However, Robin and Ann are leading a walk in Sherbourne Park, a National Trust property with free access, situated the other side of Bourton on the Water. To cut down on the number of cars, please meet at the Village Hall at 9.45pm and the walk will take between one to one and a half hours. There could be muddy paths to negotiate, so suitable footwear should be worn. Ann will provide hot soup, for which we would ask for a donation to Katharine House Hospice. We will be eating in a barn at the end of the walk and as there is limited seating, could you bring folding picnic chairs along, please.

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Village Hall News

Sunday Market returns on **4th February** in the Village Hall from 12 noon. Refreshments available.

On **Saturday 17th February** Kirsty McGee and Mat Martin in concert at the Village Hall at 7.30pm for 8 pm. Licensed Bar. Tickets £7 concessions £5 available from the Village Shop or telephone 780025.

Kirsty began her singing career at 19 but turned to forming, and writing for, her own bands. In 2001 she drew a rapturous response to her performance from a 1000 strong audience at Brampton Live Festival. In 2002 the legendary John Wood produced Kirsty's debut album greeted by rave reviews bringing her to the attention of Radio 2. By mid 2004 she was attracting attention in the USA where she toured in 2005 and again in 2006. Her long term collaboration with Mat Martin, a multi-instrumentalist, started early in 2004. Mat trained classically as a violinist and wrote and performed in heavy rock bands during the 1990's. In 2005 they recorded their third album "Two Birds". This was partly recorded using instruments built by Kirsty herself. Her beautiful 'blonde' guitar, made of non-tropical sustainable timbers such as holly and walnut, can be heard throughout the record.

The Annual Quiz will be held on **Saturday 28th April** in the Village Hall to include a supper. Details later.

David Randall

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NOTICE TO ALL RESIDENTS OF SIBFORD GOWER & BURDROP
FROM SIBFORD GOWER PARISH COUNCIL

A Special Parish Meeting will be held in **Sibford Village Hall** on **Thursday. 8th February 2007** commencing at 7.30pm under the chairmanship of the Vice Chairman of the Parish Council (Mr Martin Layer).

The purpose is to discuss a request that street lighting
be installed in High Meadow

You will know, from a notice to all residents that was distributed in December; of the background to the move by a local resident for the lights to be introduced. The Parish Council, in an endeavour to assess local opinion, asked that any resident who had an objection to this should contact-a Member of the Parish Council or the Clerk.

Because of the number of objections received, the Parish Council was advised that the appropriate course of action is to hold a Special Parish Meeting to which all residents are invited to express their opinions following the Vice Chairman's account of the circumstances that have resulted in the Meeting. Following the expressing of views, the Vice Chairman will put the following question to the Meeting and call for voting, by way of a show of hands, to take place:-

DO YOU AGREE TO THE INSTALLATION OF
STREET LIGHTS IN HIGH MEADOW?

Each local government elector present at the Meeting is entitled to vote. The decision announced by the Vice Chairman is final unless a Parish Poll is demanded. A poll may be demanded at any time before the conclusion of the Meeting. A poll cannot be taken unless the Vice Chairman agrees or the poll is demanded by local government electors not being less than ten, or one third of those present, whichever number is less. In the event that a poll is to take place it will be arranged by the District Returning Officer and will be taken by ballot in accordance with the rules made by the Home Secretary. The procedure is generally similar to that for electing a Councillor.

The charge by the District Council to the Parish Council is limited to £1.05 per registered elector (presently 406 x £1.05 = £426.30) with the District Council subsidising any costs in excess of this figure. The Parish

Council will incorporate the cost charged to it by the District Council in a forthcoming Precept Request, the amount of which will be seen on a resident's annual Council Tax notice contained within the section which shows how the Council Tax is arrived at. The District Council has advised that postal votes are not available.

It is anticipated that strong views for and against the installation of the lights will be expressed and the Members of the Parish Council are very eager to be able to ascertain the majority view so that they may properly respond to the will of the local electors.

You are strongly urged to be present at the Meeting, to speak if you wish, hear the views expressed and then Registered Electors may vote. The Parish Council is most anxious that all those residents wishing to attend are able to do so and should transport be required, every effort will be made to provide it. In such cases, please telephone Peter Hardman, the Parish Council Clerk, on 780391.

Eric Payne
Parish Councillor

17th January 2007

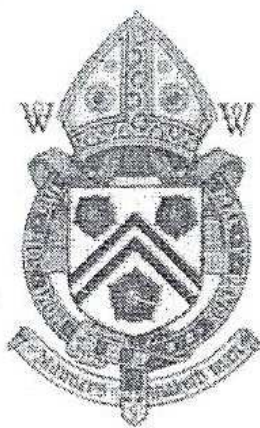
Peter Abbott
Parish Councillor

I have received other items about this subject but in the light of this forthcoming meeting have decided not to include them. (Ed)

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Friendship Club

Unfortunately I was unable to attend either our Christmas tea or lunch but I understand that everyone thoroughly enjoyed both events. Many thanks to the organisers.

We only had a few members at our January meeting, but as we had no speaker we had a few games of bingo with playing cards and finished with the usual raffle and refreshments.

Our next meeting will be on **Tuesday 6th February** at 2.30 pm in the Village Hall when our theme will be 'Little Boxes'. It sounds quite intriguing so come and see what it is all about.

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The event is suitable for imaginations over 7 years.

Many thanks to all who turned out to carol sing on a cold and foggy Friday evening, and thanks to those who generously contributed.

We raised a little over £100 for CLIC, the teenage cancer charity and had a very enjoyable evening too.

Watch this space for next year's event!

Michael Goodwin



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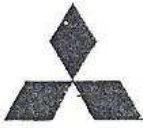
Thank you all x 2

Christmas seems a long time ago now, but just in case we missed thanking anyone for the cards and gifts, thank you all very much.

Our house looks very colourful with the plants we received and some bulbs are just starting to show colour, so we'll be reminded of the festive season for sometime to come.

As many of you will now know we were successful in the Best Rural Retailer competition, run by the Countryside Alliance in partnership with the Daily Telegraph and Farmers Weekly. We won the Best Village Shop / Post Office in Oxfordshire. Thank you all very much for your nomination and votes. By winning we were afforded much needed publicity in the Banbury Guardian, who did us proud with the best part of a page covering our win. We hope that this publicity and the win itself will stand us in good stead when the Post Office announces cuts later this year. Without all of our customers we couldn't have won the reward, so can we please ask you all to continue to use the Post Office whenever possible.

Terry & Judith



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Boxing Day Charity Match - Swalcliffe Park School

full report (with photos & video) on:

<http://www.swalcliffe-cottagers.com/new-reports8.html>

At least Boxing Day 2006 was a bit warmer than last year - no frost & snow - and the teams assembled in good spirits & in time to remove the "presents" left on the pitch by the local fox, badger, stray dog & wolf population.

Regular SCFC skipper Parkie put himself on the bench a bit worn out from a squiffy tum & New York City jetlag having only arrived back that morning, & manager Phil wussed out with a cold. Fortunately the Alway Associates (Lorne, Mark & Jimmy) stepped in, and "Fingers" McLindon left the comfort of the goalmouth to fill in at right-back - and a sterling job he did too; meanwhile father-son partnership of Stuart & Ed Ralph bolstered numbers further. Seasoned regulars Jack Foley, Brian Preston, Kev Wild & the Gilkes/McLaughlin strike-duo completed the Cottager line-up (with Justin Andrews arriving partway through the 1st half).

The game started fast & furious, with end-to-end breaks & chances for both teams. I know there's a reporting bias but Swalcliffe (again) had the edge - and soon a goalmouth scramble led to the ball trickling over the Sibford line for an own-goal credited to goalie & skipper Jerry: 1-0 to the Cottagers.

A few minutes later, an innocent head-clash between Ross Gilkes & Steve Bull sent the big man off with a handsome cut to his right eye - claret everywhere - the medical attention provided by Ray would've got Steve back in play after 15 minutes but for an accidental (?) locking-in incident in the school office which kept him off for some time longer! There was more Sibford blood spilled with one player catching the ball full in the face & bursting his nose. You wouldn't have thought it was a charity friendly would you?! The rest of the half was well-played with some great individual displays (particularly from the Sibford youngsters) & cracking shots, equalled by great saves. With the run of play however, Sibford managed to level things before the interval with Dr David Spackman's son Tom sneaking one past 'keeper Mark...1-1.

Referee Foley provided entertainment by liberally doling out £1, £2 & £3 charity fines for various offences: for unnecessarily holding up play; heckling from the spectators; backchat, swearing & abuse; and for anything else he could think of. Funnily enough, this turned out to be the best-behaved Swalcliffe-Sibford game in memory! Honours to Kev Wild & Richard Wilson for racking up joint highest fines. Itching to play despite his condition, Daz joined the fray in both halves & helped keep the Sibford attacks suppressed, and again a Swalcliffe break put Ben McLaughlin through to blast a shot (literally!) through the back of the Sibford net (to be fair there was a hole there already). Sibford took a while to respond and it was looking good for a Swalcliffe victory...until two quick goals from Sibford's Richard Wilson ("I don't believe it!" - sorry - couldn't resist!) and Barney Brown, 5 minutes or so apart, put the score at 2-3 in their favour... and that's how it stood after Mick blew the final whistle (after about 10 minutes of injury time!).

Robbed again (just like Liverpool v Blackburn)! At least it was for a good cause - Well done to all - it was hoped we'd get £200 but we raised the best part of £300 between us (both teams, families, spectators & a contribution from Steve & Tracey @the Stag's Head - where chilli & beer was provided & enjoyed by all) which SCFC will round up & send £150 each to Katharine House & Frank Wise School.

Once again, many thanks due to Mr Ray Hooper for the use of the Swalcliffe Park School pitch & facilities; and to Marie Robinson (manager's mother-in-law!), Julia Austin (SCFC 'keeper Mark's missus) and Carole Ralph whose tin-rattling duties raised the spectator contributions.

Sibford Gower Parish Council Meeting - 12th January 2007

The five Parish Councillors, six members of the public and the Clerk were in attendance. Since the previous Meeting, the Council Members had considered four planning applications and two decisions by the District Council had been received. In respect of Planning Matters, prior to the Meeting, a local resident advised the Parish Council that he intended to seek planning permission for the installation temporarily of a wind generator to establish its viability and local reaction. The Parish Council had no objection but suggested that the resident may care to consider putting an article in the Sibford Scene and the Banbury Guardian giving prior notice of his intention. He had said that the results of his research would be submitted to both those publications. With regard to Highway Matters, the Clerk reported that overhanging branches in Hawkes Lane had been cut back and Oxfordshire Highways had cleared the drain, again in Hawkes Lane, to prevent part of the road becoming flooded at times of heavy rains. The Precept for 2007/2008 was agreed at £3,000 (£3,700 in 2006/2007) to take account of known forthcoming expenditure and to cover other outgoings such as further costs in respect of the new Burial Ground. The Clerk's Contract had been agreed previously and was signed by the Chairman and the Clerk on 6th December 2006 as being mutually acceptable. Turning to the Village Pond, it was learned that various plants had been ordered for delivery in due course and that a mixture of sand and gravel is on site (with thanks to Cllr Martin Layer) to be placed into specified areas of the pond. Work is scheduled to take place on 13th January by Matthew Platt and Christian Fletcher assisted by Adrienne Sekerak and Glennis Hardman. Once settled, the water plants will be put in position. This will be followed by the planting of three shrubs (two of them berry bearing) on the grass bank opposite the Chestnut tree. Finally, in the Spring, wild flower plug plants will be positioned amongst the tall grass area behind the pond. Complaints had been received by Members of the Parish Council from various local residents about alleged obtrusive floodlights at the rear of the Bishop Blaize, a road overhanging bush in Colony Road, the poor condition of the footpath leading from Burdrop Hill towards Holy Trinity Church and a collapsing grass bank supporting stone wall near to the Bishop Blaize. All these will be investigated by the Councillors and the Clerk. The Parish Councillors resolved that a donation of £50 be made to Thames Valley & Chiltern

Air Ambulance Trust as being a cause worthy of support. Replacement of a broken seat at Burdop Hill is being researched by a neighbouring local resident who will be organising a general tidying up of the surrounding area. The Parish Council invited her to let it have details of the estimated cost of a new seat with the thought that a seat is seen as an amenity and worthy of funding. A major part of the Meeting was taken up with a discussion concerning the request by a resident of High Meadow that street lighting be introduced into that part of the Village. Residents will be aware of this subject from a notice from the Parish Council that was delivered to every household. The feedback was that there are serious objections with the result that the Parish Council has been advised that the proper course of action is to hold a Special Parish Meeting at which the matter may be debated and voted upon. To this end, the Parish Council will be writing to every household urging attendance at the Meeting so that views may be expressed and a vote taken. The Members of the Parish Council are most anxious to know the prevailing views so that they may decide whether or not to approve the installation of the said lights. The plot of land bequeathed to the Parish Council by the late Miriam Tebbs was referred to and it was agreed that the subject should form part of the agenda for the 2007 Annual Parish Meeting when local thoughts as to its future may be sought.





The following dates were agreed:-

31st March 2007 - Annual Litterblitz

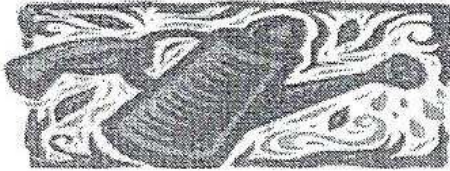
10th May 2007 - Annual Parish Meeting (to be held in the hall of Sibford Gower Endowed Primary School)

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday, 20th March 2007 in Sibford Gower Endowed Primary School starting at 8pm.

The Chairman closed the Meeting at 9.40pm after thanking all present for attending.

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Sibford Horticultural Society

There is no meeting this month but a good opportunity to advertise the trip being organised for June.

Our outing will be to the Royal Horticultural Society Gardens at Wisley in Surrey on Saturday 30th June. We will leave the Village Hall at 8.00 am and will be back at approximately 7.30 pm. The cost will be £10.00 per person as long as we fill the coach, so members and non-members are welcome to come along. Please let Ann Bishop know (on 788188) as soon as possible if you wish to book a seat.

It will be great time to go with the herbaceous borders and rose garden coming into their own. The new glasshouse can be seen along with all the other additions that have been made. Also a fantastic plant centre, shop and cafe, what more could you want!

Membership monies are now due which can be paid at the next meeting in March.



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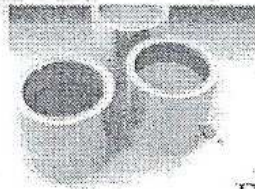
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During this period we will have no Post Office computer available but we will continue to offer as many services as we can by reverting to the old fashioned manual methods. We will be able to continue to accept most mailing items and will offer a personal banking service by cashing cheques. We apologise for any inconvenience this short closure will cause you but are confident that the wait will be well worthwhile. Our plans for improvement stretch into the summer so watch out for more changes over the coming months!

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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.

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Timothy Wimbush. (Rector)

Contributions for the
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Sibford Scene
to the Shop or Editor by
February 13th

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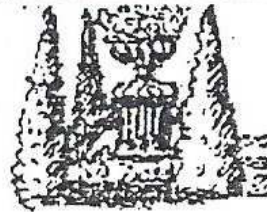
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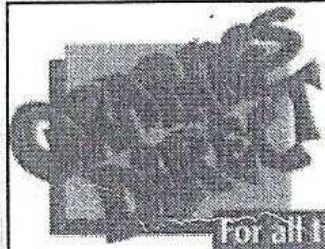
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Report on Sibford Ferris Parish Council Meeting of 10 January 2007

The Parish Council meeting was attended by all five Councillors, District and County Councillor George Reynolds, Mr Peter Robinson of Sibford School and one member of the public.

The play area was the first item on the agenda. Confirming the decision to split the junior play area and the facility for older children into two separate projects, the Play Area Liaison Committee was asked to pursue a small grant for equipment for Cotswold Close as a supplement to available Section 106 funds, and to contact the supplier to establish possible start dates. Regarding the facility for older children, there has been a very positive contact with the District Council, which has offered to collaborate closely with the Parish Council to try to overcome the legal and administrative difficulties encountered. This offer has been warmly welcomed and a meeting will be arranged shortly.

The outcome of a meeting with Oxfordshire Highways to discuss a platform build-out at Lanes End to protect pedestrians was less successful. Highways declined to provide a physical build-out but have agreed to put in hatched white lines and an edge line to guide vehicles turning left into Main Street away from the wall. They will also clear the verges on Main Street between Lanes End and Malvern House, on both sides, put another edge line, on the south side of Main Street, and move the "Slow" sign further east. The line-marking will take place after Main Street has been re-surfaced, which is provisionally scheduled for the week commencing 10 April. Unfortunately, Main Street will have to be closed for the re-surfacing which Highways estimate will be completed in one week.

It was reported that completion papers on the purchase of the burial ground extension had finally been received by Peter Hardman. (On behalf of Sibford Ferris Parish Council, I would like to take this opportunity to say many thanks to Peter for all the work put into acquiring this plot of land, which was a far more complex operation than anyone could have imagined at the start.) There was some discussion as to proposals for levelling the new land and also regarding the removal of some dilapidated stone walls and it was agreed that parties should meet on site. There was also a proposal to form a joint working party to discuss management of the burial ground.

Cllr Lamb produced a mechanism for supporting poles to secure the gap in the wall on New Road that he had very kindly devised. The poles will be padlocked in place and the paddock owners supplied with keys. Thank you to the Manor Residents' Committee and the residents involved for their kind cooperation.

It was reported that OCC have decided to put on hold further drainage works in the village as the engineers felt the works carried out last year had significantly reduced flows at the Main Street corner with the Hook Norton Road. This was acknowledged by Councillors although the system has not been fully tested by a heavy thunderstorm and it is believed that there is still sufficient surface water run-off from the Hook Norton Road and properties to the west of it to warrant a new drain in that area; this will be advised to OCC.

The Parish Council has been notified of works to improve drainage on the Hook Norton Road by Ferris Hill Farm to be carried out by OCC, but probably not until late March. It was agreed to request that the work be brought forward in view of the inconvenience caused by the regular flooding at that point.

It was agreed to support a petition launched by Tony Baldry MP to urge the Government not to proceed with action which will result in the closure of many rural post offices, and to send a copy of the petition to every household via the Sibford Scene.

The Parish Remuneration Panel Report has been received and it was agreed once again that Councillors will not be paid Members' Allowances or expenses.

There were five planning applications and five notices of decision since the last meeting.

The annual precept for 2007/8 was agreed at £4615, reduced from last year's figure of £4909. It was decided to join the Society of Local Council Clerks for one year to gauge its usefulness. It was agreed to invite comment from the village at the Annual Parish Meeting on the matter of a "sinking fund" for future refurbishment of the play areas.

Under Any Other Business, the Clerk was asked to inform Oxfordshire Highways of the increasingly poor state of the verge along Main Street, particularly by the boundary wall of the Small House.

The meeting closed at 10.00 pm. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, 7th March 2007 at 7.45 pm in the Sports Hall classroom, Sibford School. The date of the Annual Parish Meeting is Wednesday, 25th April 2007 at 7.45 pm at the same venue. All welcome.

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Sibford W.I. Meeting — Tuesday, 9th January 2007

The atrocious weather did not deter the majority from attending the January Meeting. Glennis expressed her pleasure that Margaret Gardiner, who had been a guest in the past, had decided to join Sibford W.I. At the same time, she said how sorry we all were to be losing vibrant Caroline who, on the following day, was accompanying her husband to Hong Kong for a period of approximately five years. Caroline promised to keep in touch and visit us when on home leave. Sadly, Jean will not be renewing her membership. Over many years she has contributed a lot to Sibford W.I., not least as the pianist for the playing of Jerusalem. She will be much missed and we wish her well. Barbara collected subscriptions for the coming year, and which will include the new monthly magazine "Life". Jane reported that final arrangements had been made for our coach outing on the 14th August to Belvoir Castle in Leicestershire. Lynda gave details of the Resolution Meeting that she and Greta had attended that morning in Chipping Norton.

Our speaker, Jill Bailey, arrested everyone's attention by opening her talk with "when you are fat and fifty and feeling low, what do you do to cheer yourself up?". In her case, she searched the internet for a free holiday and came up with a camping trip run by the charity Earthwatch to collect frog data in the semi-tropical rain forest of North East Australia, through the Great Dividing range of hills from Newcastle up to Queensland led by a professor from Newcastle University. She spent two weeks camping amongst the fern palms in competition with enormous spiders and huge flies and waking up each morning to find the tent canvas -covered with leeches. The -main part of the research took place at night, wading up river with powerful torches searching for any of the two hundred and eight species of frogs residing along the banks. Preparation for each nocturnal excursion was carried out in the daylight fixing luminous markers to the likely - sites and any - danger zones such as fallen trees across the river. This also gave the -opportunity to observe the beautiful fauna and flora and the numerous colourful wild birds that she had captured on her outstanding slides. The kookaburras proved to be very mischievous birds taking a delight in the sport of removing tent pegs. On one occasion, Jill returned to camp to find that her tent had completely collapsed! - hence the title of her talk "A Kookaburra Stole My Tent Peg". She concluded by saying that frog population and -health is an indication of the global climate and its effect on the human race.

Caroline thanked Jill for sharing her fascinating experiences with us. A "Walking Hat" was the competition and this was won by Glennis, Jane second and Valerie third. Norma and Ann served tea and delicious cakes. We meet again on **Tuesday, 13th February** when Neil Rowe will be giving his talk and slideshow entitled "Send a Cow". The competition will be a "Bovine Ornament". Visitors are always welcome.

GH

Note: If any Villagers would like to join us on the coach trip to Belvoir Castle on the 14th August then please ring Jane on 788564 or Glennis on 780391.

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH NEWS

Christmas seems a long time ago, but the many services were very well attended, including the Christmas Eve midnight service, where this year it was the turn for it to be held in Sibford. As an experiment, the Christingle service was held in January and clearly, this was not such a popular date, though those younger ones who attended were very enthusiastic, and the church, lit by candlelight, was particularly beautiful.

Now it seems very soon to be nearly Easter, with Lent beginning on Ash Wednesday 21st February 2007. The Lent Austerity Lunches will be held as usual in the six Benefice Parishes, but on varying days of the week. These will be announced shortly but that in Sibford will be held on Thursday 22nd March at Wyatts Close, Sibford Gower, the home of Gilian and David Soden. There will be 3 Sunday Discussion Groups on 25th February, 4th and 11th March at 3.30 pm led by John Tattersall at his home at Abingdon House, Park Lane, Swalcliffe to which all in the Benefice are invited. These will explore St Luke's account of the Passion. There will also be weekly discussion groups commencing 8th March at 10.30 am for 5 weeks at the home of Margaret and Neil Howarth at 32 Danvers Close, Broughton. Finally there will be Monday evening Reflective Worship in the six Benefice Churches from 8 to 9 pm commencing at Epwell on 26th February. Subsequent services in this series will be announced at the Epwell service. Non-regular church attenders are particularly invited to these activities and services to add different views and experiences.

The Parish Annual Meeting will be held in church at 7.30 pm on Thursday 1st March and all in the villages are invited to attend. There will be an election for the two churchwardens and for the 8 members of the Parochial Church Council. Nominations should be handed to Peter Hardman and should contain the signed agreement for nomination.

The next Family Service will be on Sunday 11th February at 10.00 am.

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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.

February

Fri 2nd Candlemas Benefice Eucharist 8.00pm

Sun 4th 10.30am Benefice Eucharist Broughton

Sun 11th Family Service 10.00 am

Sun 18th Holy Communion 9.30 am

Wed 21st Ash Wednesday Benefice Eucharist at Shutford 8.00 pm

Fri 23rd and every Friday in Lent, Holy Communion 7.30 am

Sun 25th Holy Communion 9.30 am

March

Sun 4th Benefice Eucharist at Swalcliffe 10.00 am

Sun 11th Holy Communion 9.30 am

Sun 18th Mothering Sunday Family Service 10.00 am

Sun 25th Holy Communion 9.30 am

April 1st Palm Sunday Procession and Service in Epwell 10.15 am



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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

February

- Sun 4th Sunday Market in the Village Hall 12 noon. P5
Tue 6th Friendship Club "Little Boxes" in the Village Hall 2.30 pm p8
Tue 13th W.I. 'Send a Cow' talk. P20
Tue 13th Deadline for contributions to the March Sibford Scene
Wed 7th Mobile Library in the Sibfords (2.40 - 4.10pm)
Thu 8th Sibford Gower Special Parish Meeting. Village Hall 7.30pm p6
Sat 17th Sibfords Society Snowdrop Walk in Sherborne Park. P4
Sat 17th Kirsty McGee in Concert in the Village Hall 7.30pm p5
Wed 21st to Sat 28th. Post Office Closed for refurbishment p15
Wed 21st Mobile Library in the Sibfords (2.40 - 4.10pm)

March (part)

- Thu 1st Church Annual Parish Meeting 7.30pm p21
Wed 7th Mobile Library in the Sibfords (2:40 - 4.10pm)
Wed 7th Sibford Ferris Parish Council Meeting 7.45pm p19
Sat 10th & Sun 11th Primary School Art Exhibition
Tue 20th Sibford Gower Parish Council Meeting. 8.00pm p13
Wed 21st Mobile Library in the Sibfords (2.40 - 4.10pm)

Many thanks to the group of young people who smashed a considerable number of Beer, Vodka and Whisky bottles on the playgrounds and paths of the Primary School and distributed paint on sports equipment, walls and windows on the evening of Saturday 21st January between about 9 and 11 pm.

We hope the hangover was worth it!

Cover picture - Burdrop.

Sibford Scene

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