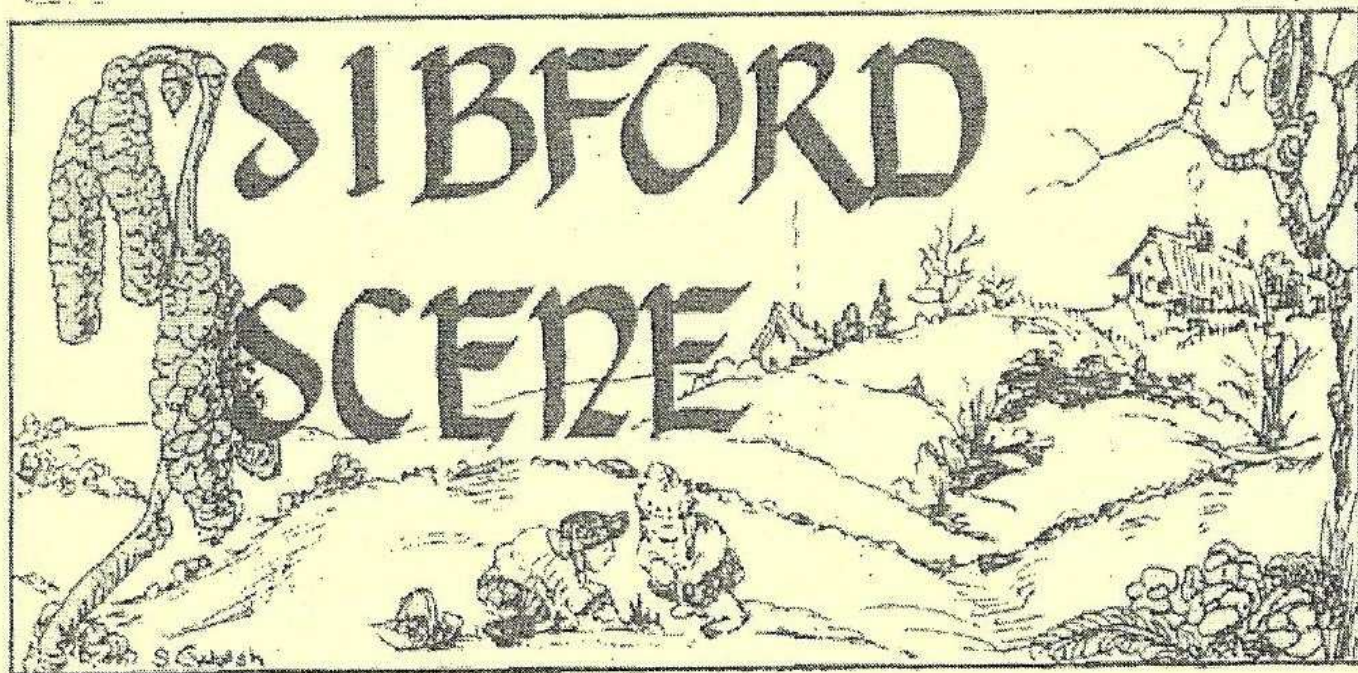
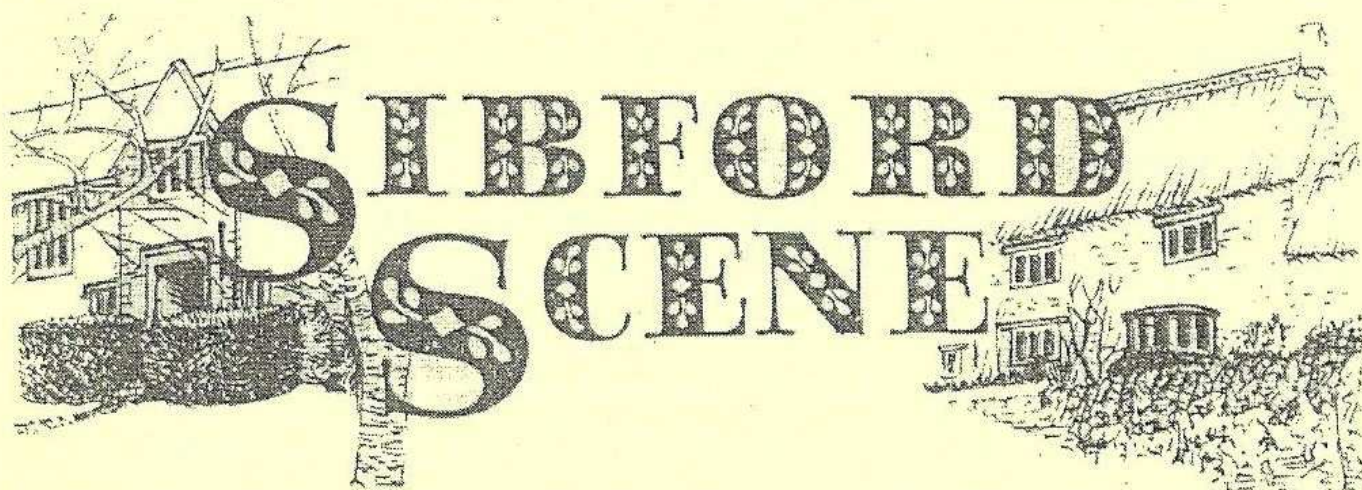


SIBFORD SCENE



30 Years Old

Nature Notes

Feb. 1st. In spite of having a few sharp frosts and almost a covering of snow on the 24th it was the warmest January for 90 years.

Feb. 6th. Saw a pair of nuthatches in the garden. One of them was looking into the nest box that I put up for them.

Feb. 7th. 19F (-7C) at 3.00 am but a beautifully sunny day and although it was still freezing in the shade at midday there was a queen bumble bee on the wing. This morning an injured fox which was walking on three legs came to look round the back door where it ate a few bits that we had put out. This afternoon we walked to Swalcliffe Common where we saw some roe deer and also tracks of muntjac and fallow deer. What a change from my young days when deer were rarely seen in this district. In fact I only remember seeing one in my first 20 years or so.

Feb. 8th. A fall of about 5 inches of snow brought many more birds to the feeders, and the apples that I put out attracted a good number of blackbirds, a fieldfare and some redwings one of which was spreadeagled in the snow looking very dead after crashing into a window. However when I went to pick it up an hour later it had gone and as there were no cat tracks there I presumed that it must have recovered and flown away. We have not seen any greenfinches although they were probably the commonest birds on the feeders five years ago. Tracks showed that the three legged fox had been this way again. It probably scavenges the village regularly while it is disabled.

Feb. 11th. We have listed 22 different species of bird in the garden over the last three days ranging in size from cock pheasants to a female blackcap, coaltits and long tailed tits. Some of the commoner birds like collared doves, sparrows and wrens did not put in an appearance.

Feb. 12th. Mild again which is just as well as the rain we have had since Thursdays snow would, as snow, have added another 9 inches. A male blackcap died on hitting a window today. Twenty years ago it was a very rare thing to see a blackcap in winter.



FROG ALERT

Drivers, cyclists and pedestrians, please try not to squash frogs, toads and newts as they leave their places of hibernation (mainly crevices in dry stone walls) and make their way to the village pond and smaller garden ponds. Please check under vehicles before moving off. They won't be out on frosty nights, preferring milder wet conditions. The last two weeks in March and the first in April are usually the busiest times and the roads needing particular care are Main Street leading down to the pond. Bonds End Lane. Barley Close. Colony Road and Hawkes Lane.

Sibford Cricket Club AGM

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At the next meeting on the 15 March at 8.00pm in the Village Hall, we would like you to raid your cupboards and bring along treasures from your childhood or schooldays, which we can display and then tell why these items have special memories. Preceding this, we shall hold a brief Annual General Meeting.

It is with great regret and sadness that we had the last remaining larch in Acre Ditch felled on 31 January. The tree had suffered during the recent torrential rain and high winds. We took advice from three expert sources – all of them saying the same thing. The damage to the root base was irreparable and since there was a very real possibility that the tree would come down by itself, we took the decision to have it felled. We hope to replace it with a young tree soon.

Charlotte and Michael, Weston Mead

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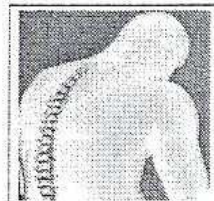
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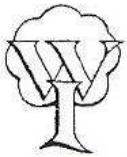
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Women's
Institute

Sibford W.I. Meeting — Tuesday, 13th February 2007

Illness and holidays prevented a number of Members from attending but three guests, Helena Alder, Jane's daughter, Kate, and grand-daughter, Lucy, helped to fill the gaps. In the absence of Lynda and Gaynor, Rosemary ably took over the job of secretary. Jane gave an outline of the exciting programme that she has arranged for the coming year commencing in September 2007. She also reported that the outing to Belvoir Castle on the 14th August is proving very popular and that the coach is almost filled. Names were taken for the Group Meeting at Hook Norton on 26th April and for another Group event, a Guided Walking Tour around Warwick on 25th July, also for the OFWI AGM at Oxford Town Hall on 27th March.

The expected speaker, Neil Rowe, was unable to come (he is a very busy farmer) and his place was taken by Dr Mary Innis who proved to be a delightful speaker with a direct and clear delivery. "Send a Cow" is a Christian Charity which was formed eighteen years ago by farmers and is extremely successful in Africa. Although not a farmer, Dr Innis has a special interest in the charity because she was born in Africa. The gift of a cow can make an enormous difference to the health and well being of impoverished families in places like Uganda where the staple diet is savoury bananas. Children are being cared for by grand-parents as most parents have been wiped out by AIDs. Recipients of cows are very carefully selected and are 95% women because they are known to have their families' interests and the comfort of the animals at heart. These women are given an intensive three weeks training course and once the cows are placed, vets make regular checks. For their safety, the cows are kept in pens but they have a supervised daily exercise. They are fed with elephant grass which is freshly cut three times a day. The resulting manure greatly increases crop yield. This is organic farming at its most basic. The milk provides valuable nourishment and any surplus is sold, raising money to spend at the local market (a small shack) for vegetables, oil and, occasionally, a little goat meat. Calves, once weaned, are given to another needy family thus spreading hope, pride and dignity throughout the community. The children play their part in looking after chickens and goats.

Greta thanked Dr Innis for her most enlightening talk on this not so well

known charity. The competition for a Bovine Ornament attracted some interesting entries including a bird carved from a cow's horn! However, Barbara's charming Mother and Calf was judged first with Kathleen W second and Valerie third. Tea and delicious cakes, baked by Jane and Rosemary and served by Jane, helped by her daughter and grand-daughter. Finally, our Meeting on Tuesday, 13th March will carry an Easter theme when Christine Whild demonstrates "Egg Painting for Everyone". An egg in any medium will be the competition. GH

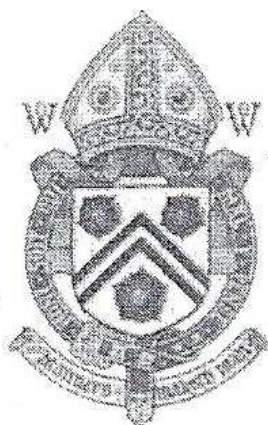
Katharine House Hospice Jumble/Recycling Sale. In anticipation of any Sibford residents considering their 'Spring clean', could we please ask that you might store any saleable items for the sale to be held on Oct 13th. Thank you for your support, Bernie & Andrew Jones

The family of the late Bernard Keen would like to thank everyone for their kind messages of condolence, their tributes to Bernard and their generous contributions in his memory, to Green Pastures Christian Nursing Home. Thanks also to the Rev. Timothy Wimbush for conducting the service so thoughtfully.

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Sibford Gower Special Parish Meeting
For the purpose of discussing Street Lighting in High Meadow

It was with great regret that the Parish Council felt it advisable, because of the extremely adverse weather conditions, to postpone the Special Parish Meeting that was to be held on the 8th February 2007 and apologies are extended for any inconvenience caused.

Please note that a new date of **Thursday, 12th April 2007** has been arranged and the venue will again be Sibford Village Hall with the Meeting starting at 7.30pm.

Once more, an invitation to be present is extended to all residents so that views may be expressed and heard but please note that where voting is involved only Registered Electors may participate.

12th February 2007

Peter Hardman -Clerk

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Friendship Club

As I write this, the Club is mourning the loss of Bea Haynes, our Chairperson. She was a friend to all and although she didn't really want the Chairman's position, but with a little friendly persuasion she took it on and did the Club proud with her workmanlike approach. She will be sadly missed by all our Members. Our thoughts are with her family and friends at this difficult time.

On Feb 6th we held our monthly meeting which was very hard, but we were pleased so many Members attended. I would like to thank, on behalf of the Club, Rev. Tim Wimbush for leading us in prayers and a quiet time to remember Bea, it was greatly appreciated.

The Speakers on the day were from The Oxfordshire Museum Woodstock who opened their "little boxes" the theme being fun and games from our childhood all of which was enjoyed by all.

Our next meeting is on March 6th at 2.00 p.m



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Sibford Scene

30 years old this month

The Sibford Scene was started in March 1977 with the following lines

We all stir into action with the spring, and SIBFORD SCENE hopes to keep everyone in Burdrop, Ferris and the Gower up-to-date with all the many village activities. The paper will appear monthly so please let us know what your organisation is doing. We shall also be glad to receive brief letters, articles, news, ideas and small ads. Contributions should reach the editor or the Rector by the 20th of each month.

Production costs will be about £20 a year. We want to circulate Sibford Scene free so that it reaches every household so we invite donations from organisations or individuals who think the project worth supporting.

The Scene started with Mrs. Jennifer Austing as Editor. The first issue was a single sheet printed both sides with items covering Dr. Agnews return from a year as a Flying Doctor in Australia, the Youth Club, when the fees were 7p for students and 10p for those at work, a W.I. Theatre trip and a proposal to form a "Sibford Young Wives Group". Also included was...

Royal Silver Jubilee

After the public meeting in January, a small committee is now planning an exciting series of events for the Jubilee weekend (4th June - 8th June). Keep the dates free and watch these pages for details.

It did not take long to grow into a multi page production and some regular writers to join in. Gardening tips have appeared quite regularly by several authors, most notably Geoffrey Law who contributed for many years as 'Jardin'. In May '87 'Nature Notes' appeared for the first time and have done so ever since and many interesting one off articles have appeared. The Scene soon benefited from some of our village artists and hand painted headings and cover pictures have appeared regularly, many by Mollie Mulley and Sheila Walsh. There follows a selection of items from past issues which I hope will be of interest.

In April 1986 strange goings on at the Meeting House were reported.

What - Sibford, Prime Minister?

"Whatever is going on?" everybody asked. "What are all these cables festooning the trees and crossing the roads?" There were people, equipment and cars everywhere. The Wykham Arms' car park was full of BBC vehicles and its bars full of BBC personnel! The inside of the Meeting House looked more like a film set than a place of worship - full of scaffolding, flood lights, cameras, monitors and technicians galore - and so much coming and going.

It was all simply explained. Paul Eddington of 'Yes Minister' fame had been invited by the BBC to be Cliff Michelmore's guest on the programme 'Home on Sunday' and, remembering his (happy?) days at Sibford Friends School and weekly visits to the Meeting House, he had asked that his choice of music be relayed from there.

By 10 a.m. on Wednesday 12th March the choir (from New College, Oxford) and musicians were installed and busy rehearsing. After lunch for about sixty at the Wykham Arms, the performance began and the cameras rolled - or whatever T.V. Cameras do, so that by 5 p.m. it was all over bar the clearing up.

Later in the spring, the cameramen will be returning to take some shots of the village, so please keep that litter down - or rather up! Then we must wait until June 22nd when the finished programme will be screened.

John Endersby.

There have been only four Editors of the Sibford Scene (with one or two early issues edited by the Rector and Frank Rollett) which shows a remarkable enthusiasm on their part, or a total inability to get rid of the job once started! At the end of 1985 Jenny Austing passed the job on to Barry Davies who continued in the job until late in 1992. Ray Henbrey then took over, having been working as assistant editor for some time, and continued to be the editor until his unfortunate illness. In 1996 Ray decided that he could no longer manage to do the job every month and suggested that the Scene should become bi-monthly. Adrian Lamb offered to edit the Scene every other month and Sibford Scene Extra was born in March 1997. This arrangement continued until Ray's illness when I had to take over all the issues and decided that the Scene Extra should be ended. (We have only had one Treasurer!)

The first Sibford Scene Extra in March 1997 saw us congratulating Miss Kathleen Copley on her 100th birthday and a well timed article on the forthcoming lambing time.

The Scene Extra tried to find items to include beyond the scope of the Clubs and Societies events which make up the bulk of every issue and I pestered many friends to write. Many of the Village farmers contributed and we ran Mike Etherington-Smith's diary of the course building for the Sydney Olympic three day event over the three years leading up to the event.

One of the more unusual articles from the Scene Extra came from my parents family archive.

Account of the great Snow Storm of January 18th to 19th 1881 written by Joshua Lamb a few days afterwards.

The severe weather which culminated in the great snow storm of January 18th to 19th having somewhat abated gives me an opportunity of recording some of the difficulties we have recently passed through. It was after many sharp nights during which the thermometer seldom registered less than 28 degrees of frost (Fahrenheit) [-16°C] that on the morning of Tuesday January 18th we found the wind blowing strong from the North East with ten degrees of frost; the gale gradually increased in intensity until it blew a hurricane and the cold was almost unbearable to the strongest and most enduring, no one venturing out of doors except those of us who had livestock to attend to or for some other reason, were compelled to do so.

About two o'clock in the morning the snow which had fallen a day or two previously and was perhaps two inches deep, began drifting and a clearance of all exposed places was soon made together with large quantities of dust from the ploughed fields which might be seen coming like a cloud towards you and ultimately lay many inches thick under all the hedgerows and in sheltered spots and in many places will require carting away when the snow has all melted. Great damage was done at this juncture to thatched buildings and ricks. About dinner time it commenced to snow and we were soon surrounded by the most terrific storm ever known by anyone now living in this neighbourhood. It came so thick and fast that it was impossible to see any distance in front of us drifting very much all the time. The snow blew into my face and neck and the warmth of the flesh partially melted it till it became one solid

mass of ice and snow, my mouth, eyes and nose being the only parts visible when I reached home at night and at times they too were almost closed by it, great icicles formed even on my eyelashes and I found the effect of it for several days, my cheek swelling where one great cake of ice stuck all day.

We had got the turnip sheep in an exposed situation where hay racks and hurdles were blown (?) about like ninepins by the blast so we took them away into a meadow where, we found many of them snugly buried under the blow next morning. The storm continued through the night and all next day and closed about six in the evening having snowed continuously for about thirty hours.

All the roads which lay at right angles to the storm were liberally choked with snow and it took ten men a week to open them in our village, the drifts in many places being level with the hedges. A great number of lives have been lost in the snow, two strong men that I well knew were frozen to death, one of them being Henry Hosting(?) of Banbury who was out with a load of flour from Grimsbury Mill and was overpowered on his return near Deddington and took refuge in a hovel where his body was found eight days afterwards. The other was a wool buyer of Oxhill named Allitt who was returning from the Banbury Twelfth Fair and was frozen to death between Epwell and Shenington.

The week succeeding the storm was also very severe, the thermometer generally registering 20 degrees of frost (Fahrenheit) [-11°C] each night and on one occasion it went below zero. [-18°C]
(That's put last weeks snow in perspective - ed)

The Sibford Scene, I hope you agree, continues to keep the villagers informed of what is on offer from our clubs and societies as well as Churches and Village Hall events. With the Village Hall reaching 50 this year I look forward to reports of more varied events over the summer and to those of you who remember these articles, I hope they stand reading again.

I hope you have enjoyed this short and fairly random trawl through the archives and will be looking forward to another 30 years of the

Sibford Scene.

Adrian Lamb




Our first meeting of the year will be on Wednesday 14th March at 8.00 pm in the Village Hall when Mr. John Cornwall will be giving us a talk. (Subject unknown to writer). We hope to see a hall full of members and many new members please.

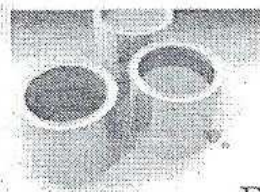
Our outing will be to the Royal Horticultural Society Gardens at Wisley in Surrey on Saturday 30th June. We will leave the Village Hall at 8.00 am and will be back at approximately 7.30 pm. The cost will be £10.00 per person as long as we fill the coach, so members and non-members are welcome to come 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 meeting in March.

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Praise for the Bishop Blaize

Thank you to the Blaize for the very warm welcome given to all members of the Fielding Centre. We all had a delicious Valentine's Lunch, finishing with coffee and chocolates. It had been Eric's birthday earlier in the week so a

perfect menu choice Shepherds Pie! Thank you from everyone.
Yours sincerely, Joey Woodall.



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DOGS IN LIVESTOCK

Once again there have been problems in the parishes with loose dogs in fields where livestock are grazing.

Last year four sheep were killed in the valley between the villages and this week there have been loose dogs there again.

If loose dogs become too great a problem landowners with footpaths crossing fields in which livestock graze will be left with few choices - either the path has to be fenced off from the field which is expensive and undesirable from most view points, or destroy the dogs.

The advice given by the police to one farmer in the area who had livestock worried by dogs was very simple - SHOOT THE NEXT LOOSE DOG YOU SEE WHETHER IT IS THE SAME DOG OR NOT!

This action seems a bit hard on the dog but makes the point to the owners in the area that having a dog in a rural area carries responsibilities.

SO PLEASE;

Keep to footpaths and bridleways.

Always have your dog a lead when in fields where livestock graze whether or not you can see the stock - they may be just round the corner.

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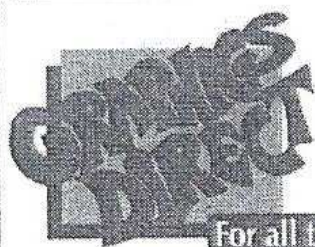
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Sibford Scene Brown Envelope Campaign

Once again a small brown envelope has arrived with your Sibford Scene this month. Please make your contribution (we suggest £3) to your parish magazine and return the envelope to the collection box in the Post Office. Please feel free to enclose comments or suggestions of what you would like to see included in the Sibford Scene in the future.

Funding for the Sibford Scene comes from the Brown Envelopes, the advertisers and donations from the clubs, societies and parish councils who contribute items for inclusion. Our costs are for printing the 430 copies 10 times a year. The people involved (about 25 in all) are all volunteers - no one receives anything but out of pocket expenses - and in general the Sibford Scene does achieve its objective of being delivered free to every household in the Ferris, Gower and Burdrop before the start of the month. We feel that we must try to achieve this to ensure that all events planned can be certain of their publicity.

As Editor I try to include everything that comes to me for inclusion but I will not use articles submitted anonymously, so please put your contact details on them somewhere.

Thank you for your contribution. Adrian Lamb, editor.

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My Bookstart Treasure Chest is available to 3 year olds and is delivered to your child's pre-school. If your child does not attend a pre-school collect your Treasure Chest from the library.

If you run a pre-school and have not given the Bookstart co-ordinator the number of 3 year olds in your setting, please contact her as soon as possible to ensure delivery by August 2007.

For more information contact the Bookstart Co-ordinator for Oxfordshire on 01865 810243.

Or visit the web site at www.bookstart.org.uk

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HOLY TRINITY CHURCH NEWS

The Lent Austerity Lunches will be held as usual in the six Benefice Parishes, all at 12.30 pm; Tadmarton, on **Friday 9th March** at the home of Lynn Deacon, Dash House, Upper Tadmarton (diagonally opposite the church in a group of 4 houses); Broughton on **Wednesday 14th March** in St Mary's Hall; Sibford, on **Thursday 22nd March** at Wyatts Close, Sibford Gower, the home of Gilian and David Soden; Swalcliffe on **Sunday 24th March** in the church; Shutford in the Village Hall on **Monday 2nd April**.

There will be a further 2 Sunday Discussion Groups led by John Tattersall at his home at Abingdon House, Park Lane, Swalcliffe. These will be on **4th and 11th March** at 3.30 pm and all in the Benefice are invited. This group is exploring St Luke's account of the Passion.

The Thursday discussion group at the home of Margaret and Neil Howarth at 32 Danvers Close, Broughton commences **8th March** at 10.30 am and will continue for 5 weeks. The Monday evening reflective Worship in the six Benefice Churches from 8 to 9 pm and which commenced at Epwell on **26th February** continues as follows: **March 5th**, Sibford; **March 12th** Swalcliffe; **March 19th** Shutford; **March 26th** Broughton; **April 2nd** Tadmarton.

The Sibford 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, PCC Secretary, and should contain signed agreements for nomination.

The next Family Service at Sibford will be on Mothering Sunday **18th March** at 10.00 am.

The Benefice Supper and Quiz will be held in the Tadmarton Village Hall at 7.00 pm on **Saturday 24th March** with two teams from each Benefice Parish and proceeds in aid of the Swalcliffe Church Tower fund.

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.

March

Thu 1st Sibford Parish Church Annual Meeting. 7.30 pm

Every Friday in Lent, Holy Communion 7.30 am

Sun 4th Benefice Eucharist at Swalcliffe 10.00 am → ? 10.30

Mon 5th Reflective Worship 8.00 - 9.00 pm

Sun 11th Holy Communion 9.30 am

Sun 18th Mothering Sunday Family Service 10.00 am

Thu 22nd Austerity Lunch at Wyatts Close.

Sun 25th Holy Communion 9.30 am

April

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



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Sibford Bus Services

Free Bus Service

To Chipping Norton Wednesday March 7th & 21st

Departs 10 am and Returns 12 noon

Pick up points are; The Colony, High Meadow, Cross Roads, Village Hall.

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

March

- Thu 1st Church Annual Parish Meeting 7.30pm in the Church p21
Mon 5th Evening Reflective Worship. 8 - 9 pm in Church p21
Tue 6th Friendship Club Meeting in the Village Hall at 2.00 pm p10
Wed 7th Mobile Library in the Sibfords (2.40 - 4.10pm)
Wed 7th Sibford Ferris Parish Council Meeting 7.45pm
Sat 10th & Sun 11th Primary School Art Exhibition 10.30 - 4.30 p5
Mon 12th Sibford Cricket Club AGM. 8.30 pm in the Bishop Blaize p3
Tue 13th W.I. 'Egg Painting for Everyone' p7
Wed 14th Horticultural Society Meeting. 8.00 pm in the Village Hall p15
Thu 15th Sibfords Society - Treasures from Childhood. 8.00pm V.Hall p5
Tue 20th Sibford Gower Parish Council Meeting. 8.00pm
Tue 20th Deadline for contributions to the April Sibford Scene. p17
Wed 21st Mobile Library in the Sibfords (2.40 - 4.10pm)
Thu 22nd Austerity Lunch at Wyatts Close p21

April (Part)

- Thu 12th Sibford Gower Special Parish Meeting 7.30pm V. Hall p8
Wed 4th Mobile Library in the Sibfords (2.40 - 4.10pm)
Wed 18th Mobile Library in the Sibfords (2.40 - 4.10pm)

Cover picture - Past headers from; top, Issue 4 (June 1977)
Second, Issue 109 (September 1987)
Third, Issue 184 (March 1995)
Bottom, Issue 220 (February 2000)

Sibford Scene

Editor; Adrian Lamb. Grounds Farm, Sibford Ferris. 780380
e-mail adrian.lamb@care4free.net

Treasurer; Timothy Wimbush, The Rectory, Acre Ditch, S.Gower
780555

Advertising; Ivor Hopkyns, Elmridge Farmhouse, Sibford Gower,
Banbury, Oxon. OX15 5RT. Tel 788367