

April 2007

No. 292

**Post Office Official Opening**  
Friday March 30th 12.15pm

**Parishes Litter Blitz Saturday 31st March**  
10.00 am at the Village Hall and Lanes End Corner  
Give an hour or two to help tidy up our villages

**Sibford Gower Special Parish Meeting**  
Thursday 12th April in the Village Hall at 7.30pm

**Sibford Ferris Annual Parish Meeting**  
Wednesday 25th April 7.45pm  
In the classroom above the Sports Hall at Sibford School

**Friendship Club Jumble Sale**  
Saturday 21st April 2pm - 4pm in the Village Hall

**Coffee Morning in Church**  
Sturday 28th April 10 - 12 noon

**Village Hall Annual Quiz Night**  
Saturday 28th April, 7 for a 7.30pm Start

## Nature Notes

Feb. 17th. When the snow was around two cock pheasants came to eat the bird food that we were putting out. Now that the snow has gone they are still around and seem to get on well together but that may change as the breeding season gets closer. At least one of them roosts close by and makes as much noise when leaving his roost at 6.30am as they sometimes do when going to roost.

Feb. 22nd. It has been very mild for some days now and a blackbird has been giving a short recital each morning. The rooks and jackdaws are making a lot of noise as they collect twigs for their nests and there are a few queen bumble bees around. They seem to be attracted to our winter honeysuckle, so hopefully they will get enough nectar there to keep them alive after coming out so early in the year.

Mar. 1st. This morning it was said on the radio that the last year on rolling average has been the warmest on record. Later in the day it was said that it was the second or third warmest since reliable records began in 1659. Anyway it was there or thereabouts.

Mar. 2nd. I was woken at 2.15am by the scream of a vixen right under my open window. When close like that it one of the wierdest sounds in nature. A dog fox barked as it followed through immediately afterwards.

Mar. 7th. Saw my first brimstone butterfly of the year.

Mar. 8th. The song thrush that has sung so bravely through the winter months has now stopped. I hope it has not come to grief.

Mar. 10th. A red kite has been seen at Temple Mill recently. Apparently the buzzards were not very welcoming but I have no doubt that its greater manoeuvrability would take it away from them. Two more people saw one at around the same time, one of them low down in the valley between Ferris and Gower.

Mar. 11th. Up to now the rooks have been getting most of their nest twigs from our beech tree but this morning some of them are taking finer, more flexible twigs from the silver birches. Next it will be moss from the lawn to line the nests.

Mar. 17th. A rook's nest that has been blown down already has some moss lining in place.

Mar. 18th. Only one of the cock pheasants now comes to feed often accompanied by a hen pheasant.

Mar. 21st. After a few cold windy days the temperature was down to 24F this morning and there was nearly half an inch of ice on an exposed water tank but we are told that it will be a bit warmer tomorrow.

**Sibford Gower Annual Parish Meeting**  
**Thursday, 10<sup>th</sup> May 2007**

The Annual Parish Meeting, to which all residents are warmly invited, will take place in the hall of Sibford Gower Endowed Primary School commencing at 7.30pm. At the Meeting, reports will be received from the Town Estates Charity, the Neighbourhood Watch and the Parish Council. Invitations have been extended to our County and District Councillor, Mr George Reynolds, and to Thames Valley Police.

The Meeting will, as always, be an opportunity for views and comments regarding local matters to be raised.

**Sibford Scene Brown Envelope Campaign**

Many thanks to the 90 households who have so far contributed to the Sibford Scene funds. For those who have yet to consider a donation please hand it in at the counter in the shop where they keep the Sibford Scene collection box. If you have lost your envelope don't worry because Terry and Judith will make sure your donation arrives safely.

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## The Tuesday Bike Ride Is Back

The Tuesday evening bike rides will be starting again now the clocks have changed. We meet at Lanes End Corner in the Ferris (by the Manor) for a seven o'clock departure. All ages are welcome to join us. We normally split the group up based on ability, enthusiasm and experience so nobody gets left behind or left out. All children joining us must be accompanied by an adult responsible for that child.

If you are new to cycling we would like you to come along. The start of the season is a good time to come because there are many in the group who will not have been on the bike since last autumn!

If you need a bike please ask, as someone will probably be able to lend you one to get you going.

A number of parents with younger children (primary school age) have asked about an early evening ride for the younger children. I would be happy to try this out if there are a few families who would like to join me. Please contact Adrian Lamb 780380

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#### OPENING HOURS

Monday to Saturday 5.30am to 6.00pm

Sunday 5.30am to 1.00pm

## Sibford Cricket Club Pre Season Preparations

The Club has confirmed its 2007 fixtures and the pitch at Sibford School. At the recent AGM, Jason Barton was appointed Saturday Captain and Chris Sabin as Vice Captain. Dave Pratt agreed to continue with the Sunday team captaincy.

Indoor nets have been arranged at Sibford School for Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 7.00 to 8.30pm for the first three weeks in April. For the last week in April and the first week in May, the outdoor nets at Bloxham School have been arranged for 7.00 to 8.00pm. All players are welcome, particularly new players both young and old! Our Sunday fixtures are set up to give as many local players the opportunity to participate. In particular, any local youngster is encouraged to join in.

The Club is always looking for umpires for its home matches so anyone interested in doing an occasional stint would be very welcome - perhaps a retired cricketer wishing to maintain a continued local interest in the game?

Keep an eye out for our match reports and forthcoming fixtures in future editions of the Scene.



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### Sibford W.I. Meeting — Tuesday, 13<sup>th</sup> March 2007

Our March Meeting was well attended. Apologies were received from Greta, Kathleen (Winter), Lynda and Valerie. Gaynor was back in the Secretary's chair. Jane took names of those willing to serve on the next Committee and received an encouraging response. Coins were collected for ACWW, to help women involved with work abroad (for example, Colombia) training families in the growing of their own vegetables. Glennis urged members to visit The Mill Spiceball to view the Diamond Project Panels which are on display from the 3<sup>rd</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup> April.

Our intended speaker, Christine Whild, was unable to be with us because she was undergoing an operation. At short notice, she was replaced by Mr Alan Winterburn with his Talk and Slide Show on "Cotswold Curiosities".

Mr Winterburn began by telling us that the name Moreton-in-Marsh is a corruption of the much older Moreton Henmarsh, named after the Henmarsh family. He drew our attention to various interesting features in Moreton such as the Curfew tower with its ancient clock still in working order. Stow-on-the-Wold, where after the Battle of Stow the Royalists surrendered to the Parliamentarians thus ending the Civil War, was granted its charter by Edward the Confessor. Broadway once had one hundred and twenty three public houses down its wide street, and the beacon tower, outside the town, was erected by the Earl of Coventry so that his wife may look out as far as her own lands in Worcestershire. Later, the tower was converted into a house, occupied amongst others by William Morris and Dante Gabriel Rossetti. During the war it was used for fire watching.

We then learned fascinating details of many other Cotswold towns and villages, especially memorable being Winchcombe, with its altar cloth embroidered by Katharine of Arragon, Great Barrington's left handed swordsman, who wasn't; Fairford with its memorial to Tiddles the cat and the curious stacked tombs in Swinbrook church. Very interesting was the story of Francis Lovell, supporter of Richard III, who after the Battle of Bosworth and a skirmish in the north, vanished from history, and whose bones may have been discovered bricked up in a secret room at Minster Lovell, hundreds of years later.

An enthusiastic vote of thanks was given by Mary who said that she couldn't wait to get in her car and discover the many items of interest that are so often overlooked.

Whilst on holiday, Barbara found a piece of Irish bogwood which she had carved, beautifully, by Alan Jarvis into a smooth egg shape. This was the winner of the competition for "An Egg in any Medium". Rosemary took second place and Mary third. Gaynor and Rosemary made tea and served with cake and biscuits made by Barbara and Glennis. Our Meeting on the 10<sup>th</sup> April will be the AGM. Instead of a raffle, there will be a Bring and Buy stall run by Gaynor and Rosemary. Members were asked to reasonably price their donations. Gaynor

## Sibford Methodist Chapel.

This is a call to all Methodists within the villages.

Because of our recent loss our numbers are very low, too low for comfort. The annual chapel count (nationwide) includes, members of the chapel, Methodists who are regular attenders and those with allegiance in two camps (i.e. Church / Chapel). These however, are not really sufficient.

If you are a Methodist, who would be prepared to attend the occasional service, e.g. the anniversary, harvest or carol service, so that you could be counted as congregation, it might make all the difference between possible closure or not.

If you feel you could respond to this appeal, you will be warmly welcomed when ever you come.

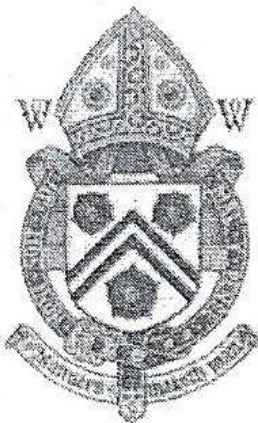
Thank you,  
Kathleen Winter (Services Steward)

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

### DAMIAN AND DEBBIE WELCOME YOU TO **THE WYKHAM ARMS**

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## **Sibford Gower Special Parish Meeting**

**For the purpose of discussing Street Lighting in High Meadow**

This notice is by way of a reminder that the Special Parish Meeting postponed from the 8<sup>th</sup> February 2007 is to take place on **Thursday, 12 April 2007** and the venue will again be Sibford Village Hall with the Meeting starting at 7.30pm.

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

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## **LITTERBLITZ - Sibford Gower**

**Saturday, 31st March at 10.00 am**

The Annual Litterblitz will take place on Saturday, 31st March 2007 and volunteers are sought to give an hour or so of their time to help with the work of clearing litter from where it may have gathered in Burdrop and Sibford Gower. We will meet at Sibford Village Hall at 10am when Robin Spicer will allocate the areas which require attention. The Members of the Parish Council hope that the occasion will receive the usual enthusiastic support and look forward to seeing you on the 31st of March.

## **LITTER BLITZ - SIBFORD FERRIS**

**Saturday, 31st March at 10.00 am**

Volunteers very welcome! Anyone wishing to take part in a litter blitz in and around the village on Saturday, 31st March, please meet at 10.00 am at Lanes End (Manor crossroads). Equipment will be provided. If you would like to take part, but cannot make the above date and time, please contact Arnold Lamb on 780357 or Anita Spencer on 788557 to make alternative arrangements.

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## Village Hall News

### Sunday Table - Top Sale at the Village Hall.

Sunday 1st April from 12 noon to approx. 2.30 pm.

Will include homemade cakes, pies and jams. Refreshments available. To book a table for £5 please ring 780025.

Please support this event in aid of the Village Hall

### Village Hall Quiz Night

Saturday 28th April 7pm for 7.30pm.

Teams of up to 6 (maximum) £24 or £4 per person for teams of 5 or 4. This includes a hot dinner. We will have a licensed bar - so no need to bring your own drinks! There will be a raffle - prizes would be greatly appreciated. Team names can be booked - NO LATER THAN 21st APRIL - by either ringing 780025 or 780386 (evenings) or given to Mr. Timothy Wimbush. This has always been a popular event, so please book early to avoid disappointment. Thanks go to the Wimbush family and to Joanna Gilkes.

### Village Fayre 2007

This year the fayre will be held on June 23rd. As the Village Hall is celebrating its 50th anniversary the Village Hall committee would like to celebrate with a weekend of activities - not just the fayre. The fayre will have regular attractions such as the dog show, fancy dress and children's entertainment. The painting competition will be open to adults as well as children - so get painting! The theme is "my house". Also we will have a scarecrow competition - use a broom handle and be creative! Offers of help or produce or great ideas for having a fun weekend will be welcome. Contact Ginny on 780373. We are working to earn money for your Village Hall so lets make it worth while.

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# Coffee Morning and Wood Sculpture Exhibition.

Wednesday 2nd May 10.30 - 12.30

In aid of Breakthrough Breast Cancer  
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Wood Sculptures by Duncan White  
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# The Warriner Choral Society

Following last November's sell-out concert, the **Warriner Choral Society** are joining with the Akeman Chamber Orchestra for an evening of Beethoven. The first piece shall be his **First Symphony** which was Beethoven's first concert of his own responsibility, and was composed just before his distressing plunge into total deafness. The second piece shall be his **Mass in C**, this year being its 200th anniversary. This relatively early work has long been recognised as "a fully-formed masterpiece in its own right", and now appears to be undergoing popular re-discovery.

Musical Director Martin Quinn shall be conducting, with soloists Sara Ronsson (Soprano), Jeanette Ager (Contralto), Brendon McBride (Tenor) and Adam Green (Bass).

The concert shall be at the church of St Peter & St Paul, Deddington, at 7.30 pm on Saturday 12th May. Refreshments shall be served during the evening, and tickets £8 (£7 concessions) are obtainable from Hayward White (Deddington), *One Man Band* (Banbury), Bloxham Post Office, Jenny on 01295 721224, or on the door.

There is now strong choral representation from the Sibfords, and we invite you come and enjoy with us an evening of grand music.

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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 Inms 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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Our Annual General Meeting was held on 15 March and the existing members of the committee were elected again. It was decided that our subscription would have to increase, as speakers are now costing more and, in future, will be a flat rate of £5.00 per person, to include refreshments. As it will be fifty years since the Village Hall was built, we think it would be good to re-enact a Sibford Club Day, when villagers processed from the pond to the church, led by a band, after which there was a church service. This is in the early stages of planning but if all goes well, we hope to organise this on the same day as the Village Hall Fete. More details later but ladies, get out your long skirts and hats and chaps, your dark suits and bowler hats!

After the AGM, memories were stirred, as various treasures of childhood had been brought along and their owners told us how important these items had been to them as children.

On 19 April, Liz Young will be speaking on 'Churchyards and their Monuments'. She was due to speak to us last year but was taken ill at the last minute and was unable to come, so we hope that this time all will be well. We meet at the usual time of 8.00pm in the Village Hall and non-members are very welcome to join us.

The Society has submitted a bid to Cherwell District Council in connection with Oxfordshire Inspires as part of the counties celebrations for 1000 years of Oxfordshire. A successful outcome would provide grant funding to help us to carry out a re-enactment of Sibford Club Day. This day was the highlight of the Sibford's year in the early 1900's when the village's brass band and Church choir led a procession from the pond to the Church. A mid-day meal was served, (men folk only!) much ale was drunk and a village fair followed when ladies and children, dressed in their Sunday best enjoyed an afternoon of fun.

We also hope to mount an exhibition in the Primary School with the help of the children as part of the countywide 'Faces' project. We hope to exhibit pictures, photographs and portraits of villagers from the Sibfords both past and present.

This is where we will need your help – please start to look out any family faces of people who have been or are part of the fabric of our village community.

Both these events are planned to coincide with the 50th anniversary celebrations of the Village Hall on 23 June 2007 and are subject to grant funding from CDC. More information will follow in next month's Scene.

## Sibford Gower Parish Council Meeting — 20<sup>th</sup> March 2007

The Parish Council met in Sibford Gower Endowed Primary School. Cllr Martin Layer took the chair in the absence of Cllr Robin Spicer. In attendance were two local electors and the Clerk. With regard to the replacement of the seat on Burdrop Hill, Mr Robert Tompkins had generously offered to pay for it and the Councillors expressed their thanks and also to Mrs Eileen Haynes who had researched for something suitable. The Clerk reported that a letter had been received from Mrs Kathleen Winter suggesting suitable bushes and plants for the Miriam Tebbs land and her thoughts on enhancing the appearance of the village pond. A letter is to be sent thanking her for her views. The Clerk went on to refer and give information regarding presentations attended at Bodicote House. The first was Code of Conduct training and the second was in respect of Village Traffic Calming. Since the previous Meeting, the Council had approved two planning applications but objected to a third on various grounds set out in a letter to Cherwell District Council. Turning to Highway Matters, consideration is being given to the installation of wooden posts to protect the verge at Burdrop corner. Repair has been promised by Oxfordshire Highways to the damaged stone wall near to the Bishop Blaize. With regard to Footpath Matters, The Rights of Way Officer, Oxfordshire County Council inspected the very wet condition of part of the footpath from Burdrop Hill to Wheathills but said that nothing of practical use could be done, the problem being the current extremely wet weather. She had replaced the footpath sign indicating towards Holy Trinity Church with one that specifies "To the Church". Moss had been recently cleared by the County Council from various footways. The Parish Council has been making considerable effort to establish the true ownership of the village pond but with no success so far. Enquiries are continuing. A report was received from the Pond Action Team that since January 2007, approx 40 water plants have been positioned in the pond by Glennis Hardman and volunteers, Christian Fletcher, William Gray, Ivor Hopkyns, John Marshall, Adrienne and Matthew Platt

### Micks Sticks

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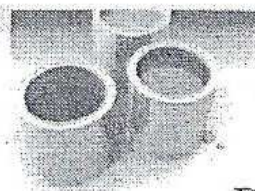
and David Soden,. The large plants were secured into a base of sand and gravel that was positioned in readiness. The smaller plants were put into special plastic baskets. They were planted around the sides and the back of the pond leaving the centre clear apart from some already established submerged plants. All appear to be developing nicely with signs of green shoots. Three shrubs were planted on the grassy bank to the left. One viburnum behind the seat and

two euonymus (berry bearing) on the corner where the track commences protected by a large boulder. Meadow plug plants are ordered and will be planted in the unmown grass behind the pond. All new pond plants were kindly donated by Richard Mullins, Pond Plant Specialist of Witney. Since the heavy rains, a "gunge" has been forming on the surface of the water. This is a mystery as it has not occurred before. It is most likely agricultural run off. Weekly skimming is keeping this problem under control. The Parish Council expressed its thanks for and appreciation of the work carried out. The two benches at the Pond require maintenance. One was provided by Mr Barry Davies and the Clerk will seek his approval of having the work carried out. The other was provided by the Village. Cllr Peter Abbott kindly said that he will carry out the required maintenance work and the other Councillors thanked him for his offer. A working party with Sibford Ferris PC is to be set-up with regard to the new Burial Ground. Discussions with Sibford Ferris PC and the PCC are in train with regard to financing the cost of repairing a collapsed wall in the Churchyard. The Special Parish Meeting concerning street lighting in High Meadow arranged for the 8<sup>th</sup> February had to be postponed in view of the severe adverse weather conditions and it has been rescheduled for the 12<sup>th</sup> April 2007 Mr Alf Mulliss, present at the Meeting, said that he had invited a reporter from the Banbury Guardian to attend the re-arranged Meeting. He demanded that it be minuted that he deplored the Parish Council's offer of 4x4 vehicles to take elderly High Meadow residents to the Meeting, prior to the decision to postpone it. He had two points in this regard. The first was how did the Parish Council think that the elderly residents could manoeuvre into high vehicles?; the second point being that he considered that the Parish Council could be biasing voting by offering transport to residents of High Meadow. The Chairman said that the comments would be duly minuted but the thought of providing transport had been intended purely as a helpful one. In the Public Question Time part of the agenda, Mr Alf Mulliss raised matters concerning the High Meadow area which he considered to have a Health and Safety aspect and the Clerk was instructed to take matters forward. With regard to Any Other Business, advice on a nuisance caused by bonfires is to be taken up with the appropriate authority. The recent closure of the Bishop Blaize was mentioned and it is known that some residents are in the course of arranging a petition against the closure. At 9.25pm the Meeting was closed after the Acting Chairman thanked all who had attended.

The Annual Parish Meeting takes place on the 10<sup>th</sup> May commencing at 7.30pm in the hall of Sibford Gower Endowed Primary School and all residents are warmly invited. Later on the 14<sup>th</sup> June the Parish Council will meet at 8pm in the usual room of the school.

## Sibford Ferris Parish Council

At the Parish Council meeting held on 7 March, apologies were received from Chris Franklin and John Simms took the chair. Items reported at the meeting included the Play Area, for which a grant application had been made to SITA Trust and the decision was expected for the middle of the month. Discussions with Cherwell District Council and Sibford School were ongoing to try to move forward the provision of facilities for older children. Adrian Lamb was thanked for installing the two poles in the gap in the wall on New Road to make the footpath safer for young children. It was agreed to monitor the surface water drainage in the village, which appeared to be working better, but had still to prove itself in storm water conditions. A meeting between the two parishes and the trustees of Wheathills Farm had been arranged for 21 March and it was agreed that Cllrs Franklin, Simms and Hicks would attend from the Ferris. A letter had been received from Severn Trent advising that the camera survey of the sewage pipes had found no problems; there have been no floods since November last year and it was hoped that the last intervention by Severn Trent engineers had finally resolved the matter. The practicality of installing a barrier on Back Lane to prevent vehicular access to and from the School was being investigated by the School. It was reported that the drainage system installed by Ferris Hill Farm was working well and no further flooding had occurred despite heavy rain. The Clerk was asked to forward a response from the Parish Council to a DTI Consultation on the future of Rural Post Offices. She was also asked to contact Oxfordshire Highways once again about the state of the verges on Main Street and to stress the concern of Councillors that adjacent walling is being put at risk by the erosion of the verges. It was reported that Main Street and New Road would be closed for two weeks from 2 April for resurfacing works. A complaint was received about the behaviour of a horse in Holly Tree Field. Councillors agreed that use of the footpaths in the field had declined and that this was partly because of concerns about the horse; it was therefore resolved to write to Sibford School requesting that all possible steps be taken to ensure that people can safely and confidently use the footpaths. Maureen Hicks reported on the Oxfordshire 2007 Celebrations in the Sibfords that grant applications had been made by



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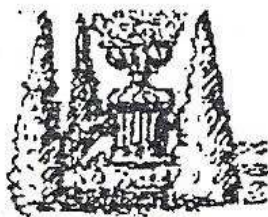


other organisations in the Sibfords. It was reported that the Annual Litter Blitz would take place on 31 March. There had been two planning applications, one notice of decision and one appeal notice. John Simms had attended the first of three meetings to discuss the Cherwell Site Allocations Development Plan Document Local Development Framework, which covers the Core Strategy Development Plan (formerly known as the Structure Plan), the Village Hierarchy Categorisation Review (in which villages are categorised according to their suitability for development) and a Sustainability Appraisal. In preparation for discussions on Sustainability, John Simms asked Councilors to think about whether they consider any open spaces in the village should be officially designated as such. The meeting closed at 10.15 pm. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, May 16 at 7.45 pm.

## Sibford Horticultural Society

Our first meeting of the year saw John Cornwell give a talk entitled "Look at the Trees". The stunning slides that he showed opened up everyone's eyes to the different shapes, textures and colours that can be seen on the trees around us. He is an excellent photographer and all really appreciated the pictures that he showed.

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 11th April at 8 pm in the Village Hall and is "How to give your garden the wow factor" by Rachael Myers. All are very welcome to attend.



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There are still a few seats available for the trip to Wisley on Saturday 30th June. Please contact Ann Bishop on 788188 to book a seat. This trip is open to anybody who would like to come.

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## Friendship Club

There are so many Members who have Birthdays in February that the Club held a huge party at our March meeting and I think that a good time was had by all.

On March the 20th we went to Webbs of Wychbold Garden Centre. During April we have our Easter Tea, the date being the 3rd and on April 21st we are holding a jumble sale in the Village Hall 2pm - 4pm

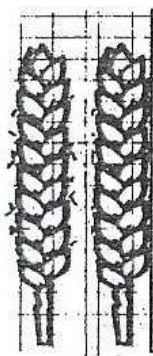
**PLEASE NOTE. NO JUMBLE IS REQUIRED.**

Members, please note, our A.G.M. is on May 1st, we have a lot to discuss this year!!!!

### MISSING: ONE JELLY BAG

Some time ago, we lent someone our Jelly Bag and cannot now remember to whom we lent it. If any one can remember borrowing this invaluable item, could they please telephone 780980 or we might be short of apple jelly this year.

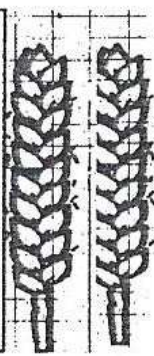
Mary & Norman Nash



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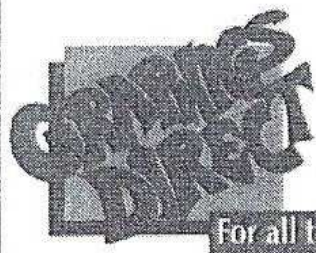
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**ROAD CLOSURE - SIBFORD FERRIS**  
**ACCESS TO SHOP - 480 BUS SERVICE**

Please note Main Street and New Road (Burdrop Hill) will be closed from 2 to 5 April and from 10 to 13 April for resurfacing works. This is to resolve the problem of melting tarmac, which has resulted in a slippery surface on Main Street, and the generally poor surface along New Road.

Greens Shop will remain open throughout, although will only be accessible on foot.

The 480 bus service will be diverted as during previous closures, with a temporary stop at the Elm for the duration of the closure including the Easter Saturday - No Service on Sundays and Bank Holidays.

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## **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING - SIBFORD FERRIS**

The Sibford Ferris Annual Parish Meeting will be held at **7.45 pm on Wednesday, 25 April** in the first floor classroom of the Sports Hall, Sibford School. This is a public meeting and is the main opportunity for residents to put forward matters of interest for open discussion. If any resident would like to submit an item for inclusion on the Agenda, rather than raising it on the evening, please do not hesitate to contact the Clerk on 788557. Items proposed for discussion by the Parish Council include the payment of charitable donations to local good causes and whether there is support for the inclusion in the precept of an amount each year towards the future refurbishment of the play area at Cotswold Close. The Chairman of the Parish Council will also give his report for the year and the Responsible Financial Officer will give the financial report.

### **Serenity at Sibford Gower**

Gautherns Barn (formerly The Beauty Salon) We are pleased to announce the re-opening of the new salon - Serenity.

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## Post Office – Official Opening

### Friday 30th March 12.15 pm


We are continuing to fight to keep your Post Office open and that was one of the main reasons behind our recent refurbishment! Hopefully, Post Office Ltd will appreciate that we have made a huge investment, (both financially and time wise) and decide that Sibford Ferris should remain as part of their network. Our thanks go to all of you who have written to Government regarding the proposed Post Office closures and to the many more who have signed petitions in support of rural Post Offices.

We are fortunate that our local MP, Tony Baldry, has offered to cut the ribbon for us on our refurbished Post Office and Stores and he is one of the MPs fighting for retaining rural Post Offices and other services. We would ask that the village show their support and desire to retain their Post Office by attending the Official Opening which is timed for 12.15pm on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2007. If you could plan to arrive shortly after 12.00 then we should be able to demonstrate the strength of feeling that exists in this area for the retention of local services.

After the official opening we hope you will stay on and join us in a drink and a bite.

Terry & Judith

|   |                      |   |
|---|----------------------|---|
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## HOLY TRINITY CHURCH NEWS

During Holy Week there will be services of Matins at 7.30 am in Sibford church on each day

Bishop James Johnson, formerly Bishop of St Helena will be returning to take our Easter Sunday Service which will take place at 10.00 am.

The Sibford Parish Annual Meeting was held on 1<sup>st</sup> March and was well attended. The two retiring churchwardens, Ann Spicer and Evelyn Boughton were re-elected unopposed. The 8 members of the Parochial Church Council elected were: Cathy Cawley (later confirmed as Treasurer), Helen Earle, Peter Hardman (later confirmed as PCC Secretary), Eric Payne, Tom Pratt, Ann Spicer, Gladys Stevens, Sue Wilson and Kathy Yorke. Erica Wimbush continues on the PCC as Deanery Synod representative. Reports were presented on Finances, Fabric, PCC meetings, Deanery Synod meetings and Electoral Roll and sidespersons were elected. Thanks were extended to the many villagers who assist with cleaning, flowers, garden maintenance, publicity, clock winding, organizing, events and services.

The Family Service on Mothering Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> March was attended by a great many mothers and their families. This was lead by Rev. Henry Ormerod and by members of the congregation. There were readings by Robin Spicer, Amy Spackman, Anne Spackman, Catherine Berks, prayers from Harry, Naomi, Amelia and Polly and an address by Rev Henry. Evie Boughton, Robin Spicer, Gilian Soden, Catherine Petter and Erica Wimbush supplied beautiful flowers.

The next Family Service on the theme *Colours* will be held at 10.00 am on Sunday 13th May.

The first in a series of Saturday Coffee Mornings in Sibford Church will be held on April 28th from 10.00 am to mid-day. The others in the series will be on June 2nd, July 7th, August 11th and September 22nd.

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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.

April

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

2nd to 7th inclusive 7.30am Matins

5th Maundy Thursday Service at Epwell 8.00pm

6th Good Friday;

Children's Workshop at North Newington Primary School 9.30am

Devotional Service at Shutford 1.30pm

Words and Music at Broughton 7.00pm

8th Easter Sunday; Holy Communion at 8.00am and 10.00am

15th Benefice Eucharist at Tadmarton 10.00am

22nd Holy Communion 9.30am

29th Benefice Eucharist on Ministry 10.30am Swalcliffe

May

6th Benefice Eucharist at Shutford 10.30am

13th Family Service



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To Chipping Norton Wednesday April 4th & 18th.

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

Fri 30th Post Office Official Opening. 12.15pm p20

Sat 31st LITTERBLITZ 10 am at the Village Hall and Lanes End Corner p8

## April

Tuesday Bike Ride. 7pm every Tuesday p4

Tuesday and Thursday Cricket Nets. 7 - 8.30 pm p5

Sun 1st Village Hall Table Top Sale 12 - 2.30pm p9

Tue 3rd Friendship Club Easter Tea 2pm Village Hall p17

Wed 4th Mobile Library in the Sibfords (2.40 - 4.10pm)

Tue 10th W.I. AGM and Bring and Buy. P6

Wed 11th Horticultural Society 'The Wow Factor' 8pm V. Hall p16

Thu 12th Sibford Gower Special Parish Meeting 7.30pm V. Hall p8

Tue 17th Deadline for contributions to the May Sibford Scene p17

Wed 18th Mobile Library in the Sibfords (2.40 - 4.10pm)

Thu 19th Sibfords Society 'Churchyards and their Monuments' p12

Sat 21st Friendship Club Jumble Sale p17

Sat 21st Last Bookings for Village Hall Quiz p9

Wed 25th Sibford Ferris Annual Parish Meeting 7.45pm p19

Sat 28th Church Coffee Morning 10.00 - 12 noon p21

Sat 28th In Touch Well Being Day. Village Hall 12 - 3.30pm p18

Sat 28th Village Hall Quiz 7 for 7.30 pm start p9

## May (part)

Tue 1st Friendship Club Annual General Meeting p17

Wed 2nd Coffee and Sculpture at Holmby House 10.30 - 12.30 p10

Thu 10th Sibford Gower Annual Parish Meeting. 7.30pm Primary School p3

Sat 12th Warriner Choral Society Concert at Deddington Church p11

Wed 16th Sibford Ferris Parish Council Meeting 7.45pm p16

Cover picture - Snow drift at the entrance to Grounds Farm in the Ferris on  
March 30th 1952

## Sibford Scene

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

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780555

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