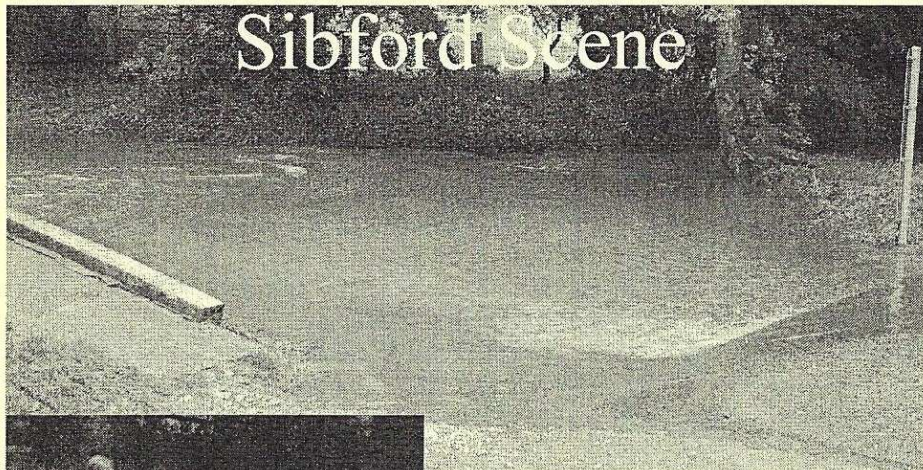


# Sibford Scene



August and September 2007 No. 296

Traitors Ford. Above; 22nd July 2007  
Left; July 1976

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## Playbus Art Roadshow

At the Village Hall

Thursday 2nd August 10-12 noon

Holy Trinity Church

## Summer Fête

Saturday 11th August in the Village Hall

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## Barbeque with Music

Friday 24th August 7pm at Woodway Farm

Sibford Horticultural Society

## Annual Flower and Produce Show

Saturday 25th August 2.30 pm at the Village Hall

Entry night, Wednesday 22nd August 7-9 pm in the Village Hall

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## Village Hall Quiz

Saturday 22nd September 7.00 pm in the Village Hall



## Nature Notes

June. 25th. I went to a neighbours house to watch a kestrel attacking magpies that were threatening its nest where there are 3 or 4 well grown chicks. Repeated low level swoops over the magpies were enough to keep them away for now but magpies can be very persistent.

June. 28th. Three foxes were seen in different parts of a grass field at Sibford Gower all moving stealthily, listening and then pouncing. I presume that they were all hunting mice or voles.

July. 3rd. An unusual road casualty on top of Oatley Hill turned out to be a guinea fowl. It had probably escaped from the houses nearby.

July 6th. I found a wasp nest under our plum tree yesterday and today find that a badger has tried to dig one out of our rockery but had given up before it reached the comb, suggesting that they may not be completely immune to wasp stings.

July 7th. While crossing Ireland for a holiday in Donegal a dark coloured hare ran in front of our car which must have been a blue hare as I find that our brown hare is not native to Ireland. Further on, near the sea and a river there was a dead otter on the road. We arrived at our bungalow near Falcarragh, 2 miles from the north coast, in time to walk some of the little roads that cross this peaty area where bog asphodel and marsh orchid are making a great show at the moment.

July 8th. Walked on Horn Head which has a wealth of wild flowers that like acid conditions such as bog pimpernel, milkwort, lesser spearwort, sheepsbit, pink and blue butterwort, lousewort, woodsage and ragged robin.

July 9th. Having had two pretty dry days today it has rained all day. We went to see a very well restored water powered flax and grain mill. On route we crossed Glenveagh National Park where golden eagles and red deer have been reintroduced but we did not see any.

July 10th. A family of stonechats were flitting round our garden fences this morning. On the Ards Peninsula we came across otter tracks in a soft patch of sand.

July 11th. Went down to the harbour early as we were told that we might see otters, mink and the hares that come to eat seaweed. We didn't see any of them but there were a few seals and sand eels were swimming by the pair. There were curlew, shelduck, herons, hooded crows, cormorants and oystercatchers. Later 5 of our party took a trip to Tory Island involving a 40 minute journey on a small boat so we opted out. They were escorted into harbour by a dolphin and escorted out again later in the day. It apparently does this with every trip. They listened to the rasping of corncrakes while having their sandwiches and saw wheatears, puffins, razorbills, guillimot, chough, manx shearwaters, ringed plover and gannets. My 50 year old bird book tells me that there are no buzzard in Ireland but we have seen several so they must have spread over the whole of the British Isles now.

July 12th. After waiting for the cloud to lift off the top, three of our party climbed Muckish, our nearest mountain. Then down to the 2 miles of sandy beach where we saw two ringed plovers that seemed to be playing with a red setter. It started with the dog rushing at them barking and away went the birds to be chased to the sea when the dog stopped and the bird turned and swooped over the dog again and away they all went across a shallow river, at times one bird in front of the dog and one behind. We walked along the sand and when we came back half an hour later they were still at it but the dog was slowing down. It may be a game they play regularly.

July 13th. On a recreation area we found wild thyme, white thyme and butterwort, and in a pond a bed of bogbean. We also saw goldfinches and heard a grasshopper warbler. There are very few crops grown in this area. There are a few cattle and sheep but it is mostly peat which is dug for fuel on a small scale in many places. There are a few fields that I think could have been stripped of peat in the past that grow good grass and clover but this is not always so. On Tory Island much of the peat has been used for fuel leaving only stones. The main crop now seems to be bungalows which are springing up everywhere. The one we are in was completed last year. There are so many sites being levelled and half built one's not being worked on, that I wonder whether there are enough builders. I asked one builder whether there would be people to occupy them all. He said that years ago he, like most young men, came across to England to earn more money but now they don't need to do that so more houses are needed. We have not seen or heard any aeroplanes here only one helicopter, nor have we seen any big ships on the stretch of water in our view.

July 14th. On our way back to the ferry we visited the Giants Causeway and were amazed at the number of people. When my wife went there many years ago they were the only ones there.

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a fundraising extravaganza in aid of the current building project, to provide a new Information and Technology Suite for Sibford Gower Primary School.

On

***Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> October, 2007***

in

***Sibford Gower Village Hall***

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- from School Office during School hours
- or by contacting Brian or Carolyn on 01295 780695

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Sunday 5.30am to 1.00pm



Emma, Helen and Nikki hope all the children have a great summer holiday, returning in September full of stories of what they have been busy doing. Playgroup reopens after the summer break on 5<sup>th</sup> September 2007 at 9am.

Sibford Playgroup is open to 2 1/2 to 5 year old children from 9am to 11.45am each morning. On Monday, Thursday and Friday, we also run a successful lunch club

from 12 noon to 12.45pm where the children enjoy eating together, whilst discussing the contents of each others lunch box! If you would like more information, please contact Emma or Nikki on 01295 780998 during playgroup hours.



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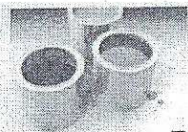


Women's  
Institute

## Sibford W.I. Meeting – Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup> July 2007

Fortunately, the weather was fine enough for our Annual Garden Meeting, this year hosted by Secretary Lynda. Tables and chairs were set out on her sheltered patio with beautiful views across to the Ferris. The usual business took place first. Glennis described the lunch on 27<sup>th</sup> June at the King's Centre, Oxford which had been attended by five members to hear Lars Tharp of Antiques Roadshow fame. The meal was excellent and Lars proved to be a most entertaining speaker treating us to hilarious behind the scenes anecdotes of his experiences in the world of antiques. He finished by discussing and valuing various items that each Institute had brought along. Jane spoke about the residential digital photography course that she had enjoyed at Denman College and we were treated to a mini exhibition of some of the brilliant photographs she had produced. She also gave out programmes for the coming year which she had personally smartly designed and printed. The President thanked all those who had helped, both baking and serving, with the teas at the Village Hall Fete on the 23rd June with special thanks to Team Leader Gaynor. Thoughts then turned to future outings starting with a boat trip along the Thames to Mapledurham on the following day to see a working water mill and an Elizabethan Manor, the coach trip to Windsor on the 17<sup>th</sup> July, arranged by Hook Norton W.I., a guided walk of Warwick followed by tea on the 25<sup>th</sup> July (a group event) and our own day out by coach to Belvoir Castle on 14<sup>th</sup> August leaving the Village Hall at 9am. We were then free to enjoy Lynda's wonderful tea and catch up with each other's news. Altogether, a very

enjoyable afternoon indeed. Glennis warmly thanked Lynda and presented her with a M&S token in appreciation of her hospitality. We are back in the Village Hall at 2pm on the 11<sup>th</sup> September when the speaker will be Fiona Mountain, her subject being "Isabella and the love story of the Mutiny of the Bounty".  
GYH



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## Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust Sponsored Ride or Stride

Saturday 8th September 10 am - 6 pm

Once again the Ride or Stride is coming up. The idea is to visit places of worship (Churches, Chapels, Meeting Houses etc) on foot or by bicycle and to raise funds both for the Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust and for your nominated place of worship - which receives 50% of your sponsor money directly. With so many churches having increasing maintenance costs the need for the work of the Trust in giving grants for repairs is increasing. Our own church received help from the Trust when the roof was repaired a few years ago.

A number of our Tuesday Night Bike riders will be taking part, some (like your editor) with children, so if you are an occasional cyclist who would like to join in please get in touch. If having to raise sponsorship puts you off, come and join in and sponsor yourself - all contributions help however small. If you are worried about the distance travelled, remember that you only ride or stride to the next Church before the next break. Most Churches offer a cheery welcome

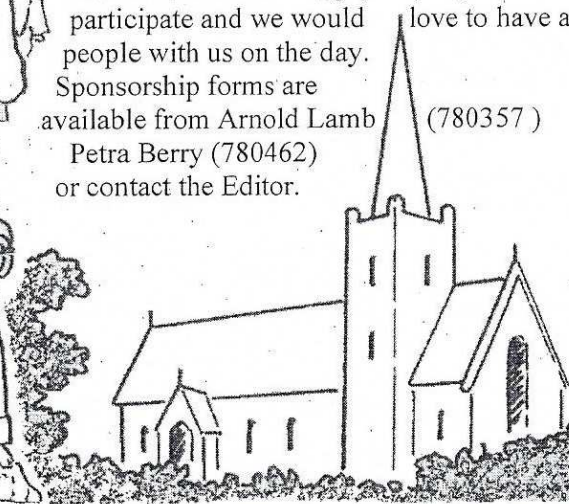
and some form of refreshment and a few, like Hempton, have achieved a reputation for their catering! With kind

weather it makes an enjoyable day out for all who participate and we would love to have a few more people with us on the day.

Sponsorship forms are available from Arnold Lamb

Petra Berry (780462)

or contact the Editor.





# **SUMMER HOLIDAY** **ART ROADSHOW**

***THE PLAY BUS WILL BE PARKED***

**In Sibford Gower - Village Hall**

**On Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> August, 2007**

**10.00 – 12 Noon**

**Children aged 5 - 12yrs are all welcome**

**£3.50 per child**

**Due to limited numbers places must be  
reserved by phoning – 01295 266763**

**Lots of art and craft activities.**

## **RAGWORT KILLS.....**

This common "hooligan" weed, subject of the Ragwort Control Act 2003, **MUST BE PREVENTED FROM SPREADING.**

It is **POISONOUS TO HORSES** and other grazing livestock (resulting in liver damage leading to slow painful death).

Highly visible at this time of year - it is tall with dark green fern-like leaves topped with a mass of bright yellow daisy-like flowers - it is also **TOXIC TO HUMANS** and must be handled very carefully, definitely not with bare hands.

**TO REMOVE IT NOW - BEFORE IT SPREADS ITS SEEDS** (thousands of them):

a) wear tough or rubber gloves, b) pull up (root must be removed) or use weed fork, c) bag up securely, and (d) burn, preferably incinerate.

**FOR VOLUNTARY HELP WITH REMOVAL** (or to join the volunteer ragwort clearing team or report sightings) please call Lexie Hopper on 01295 788260 (or 07879 443697)





## Sibford Horticultural Society

Our next event will be the Annual Show on Saturday 25th August from 2.30 - 4.30 pm at the Village Hall. Entry Night is Wednesday 22nd

August from 7 - 9 pm at the Village Hall. 10p per class for Horticultural Society members and 25p per class for non-members. If you have misplaced your schedule, spares can be obtained from the Village Shop.

There are plenty of classes to choose from so please do have a go at entering some and support this popular event. Contributions for the raffle, bottle stall, cake stall and book stall will be most appreciated.

The September meeting will take place on Wednesday 12th at 8.00 pm in the Village Hall. Timothy Walker will be "Telling Tales from a Small Garden". We thoroughly enjoyed his last visit to us so do join us for an entertaining evening.

### **Katharine House Hospice Jumble/Recycling Sale Saturday October 13th 2pm Sibford Village Hall.**

Adm.25p, Raffle, usual stalls, KHH xmas cards, teas.

Any donations can be left with or collected by Bernie/Andrew Jones  
780343 from September please.

Many thanks for the villagers support.

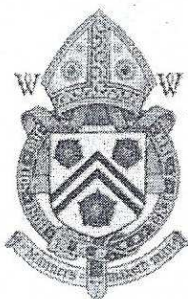
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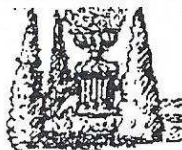
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## Sibford Gower Annual Parish Council Meeting – Friday, 29<sup>th</sup> June 2007

The Annual Parish Council Meeting was attended by three Parish Councillors, seven local residents and the Clerk. Cllrs Robin Spicer and Martin Layer were re-elected as Chairman and Vice Chairman respectively. The minutes of the previous Parish Council Meeting, the Special Parish Meeting of 12<sup>th</sup> April 2007 were accepted and signed. Additionally, the amended minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of 12<sup>th</sup> May 2006 were accepted and signed. The Chairman thanked Mrs Eileen Haynes and the members of the Bishop Blaize Support Group for all that they had done in the campaign to prevent the use of the building being changed from licenced to private dwelling. Reference is made to this later in the report. He also thanked his fellow Parish Councillors for their appreciated involvement during the previous year and his thanks went also to the Clerk for carrying out his duties. It was resolved that the new Code of Conduct be adopted as from 1<sup>st</sup> June 2007 and the Registers of Interest were received from all the Parish Councillors. The Clerk reported that he is still in touch with Charter Community Housing Ltd with regard to changing the light from yellow to white on the lamp at the steps to High Meadow and also the installation of a timer. Since the previous Meeting, just two planning applications had received attention and these included a resubmission regarding the change of use of the Bishop Blaize. Again it was rejected and this led to the application being referred to a meeting at Bodicote House of the North Area Planning Committee on 28<sup>th</sup> June. The Chairman, Clerk and several local residents attended to hear the Members of the Committee overwhelmingly support the refusal recommended by the Planning Officer. The way forward by the owners remains to be seen. The Parish Councillors took the opportunity at the Meeting to discuss the submission of amended plans for Oaklands, Acre Ditch and no objections were raised. The Annual Financial return to the External Auditor was approved as was the Receipts and Payments Account. Thanks go to Mr David Soden for the internal audit of the former and the independent examination of the latter. Copies of both will be exhibited on the Parish Council's notice board and they may also be viewed by arrangement with the Clerk. Turning to Highway matters, the Clerk reported that the damage to the stone wall adjacent to the Bishop Blaize had been repaired by Oxfordshire Highways which had also installed three verge protecting posts at Burdrop Corner. A request had been received from a resident at the other side of Burdrop Corner that posts be installed to protect the verge there and this will be the subject of a site visit by Parish Councillors as will places where it has been reported



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that bushes are overhanging pathways. A report was received that a plot of land, also at Burdrop Corner and where a plough is sited, is vastly overgrown and untidy. As the land belongs to the owners of the Bishop Blaize it was suggested that matters are left until the way forward with the pub becomes apparent. The Council Members then discussed the new Burial Ground and a working party, with two members each from the Ferris and Gower Parish Councils, is to be set up to deal with administrative aspects. The Clerk will liaise with the Clerk of the Ferris PC. A local resident, Mr Bruce Woodall, very kindly offered to mow the very long grass prior to the required leveling of the land after which fencing will be erected. The Parish Councillors then turned their attention to the maintenance of Holy Trinity churchyard which is an ongoing problem. However, some solution is on the horizon in that two parts of the churchyard receive the attention of two willing volunteers and arrangements are in train to have other areas maintained by a local resident on a paid basis. Details of this arrangement are in course of discussion. Sibford Ferris Parish Council is currently considering its involvement in the maintenance work. Following the issue of Health and Safety relating to the Village Pond being raised at the Annual Parish Meeting, Cllr Martin Layer has been undertaking considerable research to establish what reasonably needs to be done. He has been talking with a local expert in Health and Safety and also to ROSPA. A great deal of information has been received but as there is some more to come, he asked that he be allowed to report again when he is armed with all the facts. Mr Bruce Woodall kindly offered to assist with any risk assessment that may prove to be necessary. The next item on the agenda was the Village Pond and Mrs Glennis Hardman, as a member of the Pond Action Team, was asked to give a brief report. She thanked Cllr Martin Layer for his excellent and full report at the Annual Parish Meeting. She thanked the members of the team for their involvement and went on to say that the pond is looking extremely good and compliments have been received. Water plants have been installed and appear to be flourishing well. Wild flowers that had been ordered and delivered had been potted up and will soon be planted on the bank at the rear of the pond. Four Indian Runner ducklings have been supplied by local resident Mrs Joey Woodall and are to be seen on the pond during daytime. The Chairman thanked Mrs Hardman for the report. The Clerk advised the Meeting that there appeared to be some dissent recently expressed by a local resident as to the work being carried out by the Pond Action Team and the expenditure involved. The Parish Councillors rejected this and are very satisfied with what is currently being done to enhance the pond both in appearance for the enjoyment of visitors and the well being of pond life. No items were raised at Public Question Time, those wishing to speak had spoken, by invitation, during the course of the Meeting. The next Meeting will be on Thursday, 13<sup>th</sup> September 2007 in the Sibford Endowed Gower Primary School commencing at 8pm to which local residents are cordially invited. The Chairman closed the Meeting at 9.10pm having thanked all those present for attending.

Cherwell District Council  
**ENERGIZE SPORTS ROADSHOWS.**

The Sports Roadshows will be bringing fun, games and multi sport activities to Sibford Village Hall this summer.

Activities include relays, team and skill games, soft ball, parachute games and much more.

The road show will be at Sibford Village Hall from  
10 am to 12 noon on Tuesdays

from 31st July until 28th August.

Energize Roadshows are for 5 to 11 year-olds and cost £3.50 for the 2 hours (bring 3 children from the same family and pay for only 2)

There is no need to book, just turn up and register your child on the day.

The Energize Roadshow can be found at  
Hook Norton Primary School at the  
same times on Wednesdays from 1st to  
29th August

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## SIBFORD -CRICKET REPORT

Unfortunately due to the poor weather recently, I don't have a lot to report on this month. Since my last one, all the Sunday matches have been called off and only 3 league matches have been played. Not the summer we were hoping for!!

The lack of regular games and match practice (along with the bad weather) has all contributed to the team's inconsistency with the bat and so the inevitable fall in Div 1. Going from 2nd to 7th in those few, short weeks. When we played (and lost) against Fenny Compton, we later found out that we were the only game completed in the Division. Everyone else getting 10 points each.

O how we wish we had had more rain that morning!!

Dunchurch and Bilton was played on a glorious sunny day and a very nice wicket, but with the same result. Sibford (138) losing by a heavy 10 wickets. OUCH!! The only real high point was an unbeaten 34 (off 25 balls) by Wayne Barton who decided to "take it to the bowlers". Dave Simms made 30 while Matt Simms chipped in with 13.

Bodicote's game was played on one of Bloxham Schools grounds but a resilient 49 (jug avoidance) from Nick Peters and a long awaited 42 (jug avoidance) from Chris Sabin couldn't stop Sibfords 4 wicket defeat. If you think this doesn't make fun reading, spare a thought for this poor soal that has played these games and now has to write about them.

Still, lets hope the weather improves so that our games do and I can stop crying over my keyboard. Look out on the village notice boards for posters advertising the Bert Gilbert Memorial match due to be played Aug/Sept.

A very funny day for all so please come watch and support your local cricket squad past and present.

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## VILLAGE HALL NEWS:

The re-enactment of Sibford Club Day got the Village Hall's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Fayre off to a great start, thanks to all the hard work put into this by Maureen & Keith Hicks and The Sibfords Society. The elegant Victorian ladies, gentlemen and children were a joy to see and thanks to everyone who went to so much trouble, it certainly made the Day special. The winners of the Victorian Fancy Dress competition were:

Child Under 4 – William Connor, a very smart Guardsman Soldier wearing many medals. Child 4 to 9 – Harry Berks, a very sooty Chimney Sweep. Child 10 & over – Lydia Thomas, an elegant young lady finely dressed to meet her Beau. Best Victorian Family – Anita & Philip Spencer with daughters Naomi, 9 and Sarah 6. Best Ladies Hat – Jenny Barratt. Best Victorian Gent – Richard Thomas.

The afternoon was fun packed with something for everyone and the Village Hall Committee's thanks go to Ginny Bennett who organised this day (and all of us!). There was a wonderful array of children's art, winners being: Under 5 – Tom Lovegrove, Epwell. 5 to 10 – Megan Watts, Sibford Gower. 11 to 17 – Lucy Steel, Middleton Cheney. Grateful thanks go to Vicky Leyburn who made a wonderful cake in the shape of the Hall – the prize for Guess the Weight (11lbs 10 ozs) was won by Mrs Anne Spackman. Our thanks also go to Sibford School, who made most of the cakes for sale. Other winners were: Football Game – Joe Gray, Sam Pougatch & Michael McGuire. Golf Game – Under 14's was shared by Kit Lamb & Matthew Harris. Over 14's Michael McGuire. Ladder Game – Simon Mattinson. Scarecrow competition – Lydia Kitchen, closely followed by Naomi Spencer. Wheelbarrow Race – Alistair Wealsby and Jonathon Roberts.

The Fun Dog Show was again very well supported, even though it finished with a downpour of rain. Results: Best Young Handler -Emily Darvill 12 with 8 yo Daisy. Best Pedigree—18 month old Red Setter "Soloman" shown by Victoria Fletcher. Best Cross Breed – 18 month old Poodle cross "Pepper" shown by Ben Morbey. Handsomest Dog – 7 ½ yo Springer Spaniel "Jack" shown by Richard Wallington. Prettiest Bitch - 5 yo Scottie "Ruby" shown by Millie Braviner. Veteran Winner - 11 yo brindle Whippet "Wes" shown by John Simms. Best Puppy was 9 month old Springer Spaniel "Zara" who went on to be SIBFORD TOP DOG winning the lovely Challenge Cup for a year and shown by owner Richard Wallington from the Gower. Reserve went to "Pepper", the Best Cross Breed.

The afternoon finished with Sibford's own "Great Egg Throwing competition" and our thanks go to Joanna Gilkes for arranging both this and the Wheelbarrow Race and providing her wonderful chocolate cakes as prizes.

The Grand Raffle first prize of £100 was won by a family in Epwell.

Thanks go to everyone who helped in so many ways, sponsored and supported the Day, just too numerous to mention but we do very much appreciate this.

The evenings live music Concert was very well supported and thoroughly enjoyed by everyone, with local couples and families aged from a few months old to 80 years dancing the night away to the stupendous "DAMN RIGHT I GOT THE BLUES", with the effervescent Floella Benjamin, certainly one of the best evenings at the Hall and an audience who did not want it to end! Local resident Antony Harwood, who



founded the Band with best-selling Author Ken Follett (on bass guitar) , supported the Hall in having them play for us which was very much appreciated and was a great success. We have asked them to come and play in the Hall next year. MANY THANKS to everyone who helped on the evening and clearing up the next day. The profit from the Fayre is approximately £2,200 which will go to Village Hall funds, to help make the Hall an even nicer place to use.

ON THURSDAY, 2nd AUGUST -10 a.m. to 12 noon the Summer Holiday Art Roadshow Play Bus will be parked in the Village Hall car park when children aged 5 to 12 years are all welcome - £3.50 per child. Lots of art and craft activities. DUE TO LIMITED NUMBERS PLACES MUST BE RESERVED BY PHONING 01295 266763.

By popular request, we have arranged another Village Hall Quiz evening on Saturday, 22nd September, at 7 p.m. for a 7.30 start. Teams of up to six maximum £24 (or £4 per person for teams of less) which will include a hot supper. We will have a licensed bar - so no need to bring your own drinks! Team names to be booked no later than Monday 17<sup>th</sup> September by phoning either 780025 or 780373 (but the second number only in evenings please) or giving them to Mr Timothy Wimbush. Please book early to avoid disappointment.

To hire the Village Hall please ring our Booking Secretary, Mrs Anne Spackman on 01295 780734. For other queries please ring our Secretary Muriel Chandler on 01295 780025.

The Village Hall has an Electric Organ for sale. Ring 780025 make your offer.

### ***Barbecue with Music now on***

***Friday, 24<sup>th</sup> August 2007 at 'Woodway Farm, Sibford Ferris***

***commencing at 7pm in aid of the funds of Holy Trinity Church***

The extreme wet weather caused the postponement of the Barbecue with Music on Saturday, 21<sup>st</sup> July. Admission is £10 (free to accompanied children) to include the first drink, food and the enjoyment of live music. Tickets are available from Sue Wilson (780254), Norman Nash (780980), Peter Hardman (780391) and Sibford Stores. Please use tickets that were purchased for the postponed event but should the new date be inconvenient, refunds will be made on application.

#### **Micks Sticks**

Fire Lighting Wood For Sale  
£2.50 per big bag  
Call in anytime and ask for  
Mick Canning, at  
The Old Malt House,  
Sibford Ferris  
Tel; 01295 780321

#### **Wanted**

#### **House to Rent in Sibford**

(or nearby)

Local family seeking unfurnished house for  
minimum 12 months from September onwards.

References Available.

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email; si.edwards@btinternet.com

### **Report of Sibford Ferris Parish Council meeting on 11th July.**

All Councillors and one member of the public were present at the meeting.

**Play Areas** - the Clerk reported that the contractor refurbishing the Cotswold Close site has been delayed by problems with the supply of wooden installation poles. The Parish Council has been contacted again by the School about sharing facilities for older children and hopes to renew discussions. **Trees** - Oxfordshire County Council inspected all highways trees in the parish and has carried out works to some and felled three. The tree officer confirmed to the Clerk that all felled trees will be replaced, including the horse chestnuts on the Hook Norton Road. **Burial Ground Extension** - the repairs to the stone wall dividing the old and new burial grounds have been done. It was agreed that John Simms, Adrian Lamb and Maureen Hicks will be available for joint discussions with Sibford Gower Parish Council on the management of the burial ground extension. **Affordable Housing** - James Alcock of ORCC contacted the Clerk to advise that all the alternative sites suggested for consideration had been rejected and she was asked to respond to him requesting, in the light of the acute shortage of affordable housing, that all previously considered sites are looked at again. **Verge Erosion on Main Street** - Oxfordshire Highways has rejected the Parish Council's contention that erosion from vehicles along the Main Street verge is destabilising the stone wall. However, a proposal to put wooden bollards along the verge by Newstone has been put by the Highways Inspector to the Parish Council. The Councillors agreed to the installation of bollards provided they are in line with the driveway to the two properties. The Clerk was asked to propose that wooden bollards could also be used to protect the verge alongside the Small House boundary wall in Main Street. **Horses in Holly Tree Field** - It was reported that the horses had been removed permanently and had been replaced by sheep. **Dog Bins** - The Clerk was waiting for information from the Dog Warden on parishes that had recently installed bins in order to gauge their effectiveness in reducing fouling. **Speed Signs** - the Clerk was asked to apply to the District Council for grant aid towards a fixing point for a portable speed sign. **Locality Primary School Review** - Maureen Hicks reported on a meeting at Bodicote to discuss the County's pilot review of Banbury and Bloxham primary schools, which aims to maximise good use of existing schools although there is still the possibility that some schools may close. There is also a proposal to overcome the difficulty in recruiting head teachers by creating federations of schools that share a head between them. **Finance** - The RFO reported that the Annual Return has been sent to the external auditors. It was confirmed that out of the Parish Council's donations to local good causes, only the donation to the Warriner School Farm will be discontinued for March 2008. It was agreed that the parameters of Parish Council's contributions to Church expenses not relating to the burial ground extension will be set at the joint meeting on the management of the extension. **Planning** - it was noted that



the second Bishop Blaize planning application for change of use was unanimously rejected by the Planning Committee. There were two planning applications, and one planning decision relating to the operation of security lighting on the existing workshop at Ferris Hill Farm, which is now restricted to between 9.00 pm and 5.00 am, with a reduced bulb wattage and angle of illumination. **Any Other Business** - the Clerk was requested to ask residents of Mannings Close to cut back vegetation along their Main Street boundaries (*this was attended to very quickly - many thanks to all concerned*), and she confirmed that the School had been approached to cut their hedges and Oxfordshire Highways to remove the weeds. A resident kindly offered to look into setting up a village website and the Clerk was to send details of the free space available on the Cherwell District Council website. The meeting closed at 9.30 pm. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, 19th September at 7.45 pm in the Sports Hall classroom, Sibford School. All welcome.

### **Blue Bin Scheme - Sibford Ferris**

Sibford Ferris Parish Council has decided to register for a District Council scheme whereby £5.00 will be paid for each new blue bin purchased by residents through the Parish Council. The blue bins are £20 each. The District Council wants to encourage recycling in the area and is hoping this initiative will help. If you are thinking of purchasing a blue recycling bin (the wheelie version), please could you contact the Clerk on 788557.

### **Cotswold Close Play Area Update**

As reported in the Parish Council Meeting notes from 11 July, Trevor Stewart has been unable to obtain the installation poles and some other pieces for the new equipment and therefore to commence work on the site. This is due to a national shortage of certain types of wood. However, he has now informed us that his supplier will be delivering by the end of the week commencing 16 July and he can move onto site in the week commencing 23 July. We, therefore, hope that this time progress will have been made by the time the Sibford Scene goes to print!

### **Lodge to Let, Cornwall/Devon borders**

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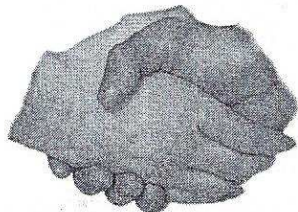
*pick up leaflet in the Ferris shop.*

## WELCOME TO SIBFORD

*If you are a new resident of Sibford and have not yet received a copy of the "Welcome to Sibford" booklet, please telephone Pauleen Inns on 780702 (Gower or Burdrop) or Ann Bishop on 788188 (Ferris), and a copy will be delivered to you. The information will help to make you feel at home - by acquainting you with the services, schools, clubs and societies that are currently active in the villages.*

This month we welcome Andrew and Brigitte Boyd. They have come to Sibford from Cheltenham and moved into Vine Cottage, Bonds End Lane, Sibford Gower. Andrew works in the world of computers and Brigitte will be looking for office work when they have emptied all the boxes and settled in. They both enjoy walking, swimming and photography.

### Friendship Club



Didn't we have a laugh at the "Little Boxes". It was about the Health Service of yesterday, with some very interesting bits and pieces to look at, remember, and squirm at. We will be having them again in the New Year.

Now for what's on for the next couple of months Aug. 14th, Gill Crisp is holding her Garden Party at 8 Pound Lane. Starting at 6p.m. All Are Welcome.

# Oddjob

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**Excellent local references available**

Sept 4th Village Hall. Martin Way to speak on the Home Front.

Sept 18th Trip to Waterperry

Oct 2nd Ann Hepworth on "A Dog Life in the Theatre"

Thanks are due to Beryl for July teas.

### Oxon Computers

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[www.oxoncomputers.co.uk](http://www.oxoncomputers.co.uk)



# The Sibfords Society

Members and their friends met at Juniper Hill for the start of our summer outing to enjoy a walk around the villages of Cottesford and Fringford that featured in the life of Flora Thompson and were fully described in her book, *Larkrise to Candleford*. We were led by local historian, Martin Greenwood who brought to life Flora's

early years and the characters that had featured in her life spent in these delightful villages. With short, engaging readings from the text we were treated to an insight into the life of a young girl in Oxfordshire nearly 150 year's ago. We walked around 'The Rise', visited the Church in Cottesford where she worshipped and enjoyed the wonderful gardens of The Manor House. After an al fresco lunch at the Butcher's Arms we spent the afternoon in Fringford walking around the delightful village where Flora had worked in the old thatched sub-post office. A delightful day in wonderful sunshine – a true rarity this summer!

Our next meeting will be in the Village Hall at 8pm on Thursday 20 September when John Foster will be coming to talk to us about 'The Ladies of Blenheim'. All are welcome to join us at the first meeting of our autumn programme – meantime enjoy the rest of the summer.

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September 18th



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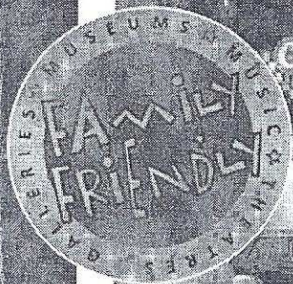
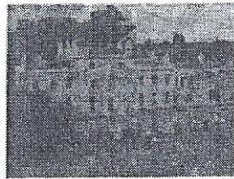
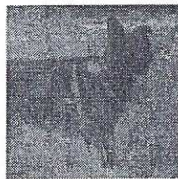
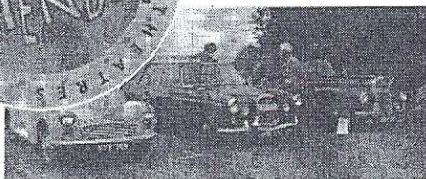
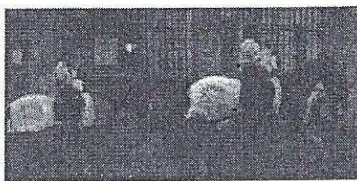
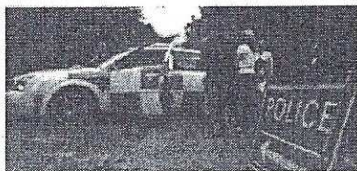
I'll be at Sibford Village Hall car park

**EVERY MONDAY from**

**approximately 4pm till 6pm**



# Thames Valley Police Open Day



## Thames Valley Police Museum Open Day

Saturday 11 August, 10am to 4pm at Thames Valley Police Training Centre at Sulhamstead near Reading.

Parking available on a first come first served basis.  
No stairs access available.

- Tour the Museum
- Meet Roads Policing officers with a motorcycle and car
- See the police helicopter and team
- Meet the mounted and dog sections

Admission: £1 per adult, kids go free

Log on to

[www.thamesvalley.police.uk/news\\_info/info/museum/index.htm](http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/news_info/info/museum/index.htm)  
for further details



## COME AND HAVE TEA WITH THE QUAKERS!

To celebrate Quaker Week, Sibford Quakers are opening the Meeting House on **Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> September** from 2.30 until 5.30 p.m. We shall be sharing cups of tea and slices of cake, so please drop in and meet with us, Besides letting you find out what good cakes we can make and what ordinary people we are, we shall endeavour to answer any questions you might want to ask about our beliefs, our way of worship and what we do in the world, We'd love to see you, so please come!

---

### **Agricultural Vehicles at Harvest Time**

This is plea to all those who park their vehicles in the vicinity of Green's Shop in the Ferris to be considerate to drivers of agricultural vehicles at this busy harvest period. It is often very difficult to get through, especially where vehicles are parked on both sides of the road. Long trailers on large tractors need a lot of space to pass a parked car. If all vehicles park on the same side of the road, leaving a straight passage it will make life a lot easier for the tractor drivers as well as avoiding snarling up the village quite so often.

#### **A little thought when you stop at the shop really will help traffic flow.**

Please remember when parking vehicles overnight that we farmers do work late into the evenings and, if we need to move large equipment, tend to do it very early in the morning when there is less traffic. Nothing seems to upset the residents quite as much as being woken up to move a car before 6 am! If all residents who have off road parking spaces were to use them it would help the running of, what the weather has ensured, will be a difficult harvest.

Many thanks from your parishes farmers.

---

### **Parking is cheaper with Chiltern Railways when '3 go free'**

Chiltern Railways is encouraging you to leave the car at home this summer with our great **FREE** car parking initiative. If you're travelling with family, friends or colleagues, then why not take advantage of our '3 go free offer'? If three rail passengers travel together to a Chiltern operated station in the same car at any time of the day, there is no charge for car parking! All you need to do is simply ask the car park attendant when you arrive at our station and collect for your '3 go free' voucher.



## NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

### BEWARE

Distraction Burglaries are on the increase in this area. One group have been travelling across several counties and are very aggressive. Guttering workers have been another group. Burglaries do happen in the villages around us.

The summer period is a great opportunity for Con-men — who are up to every trick including the use of children — and Opportunists. The weather is warm, Doors and windows are open, garden sheds are in regular use, people are away and are visiting this area.

### POLICE ADVICE IS

Never let strangers into your house, always check their identity with the authority concerned, never ask them for the phone number, always close the door while you look it up and check independently. Keep doors and windows closed when out of sight. Keep garden and other sheds locked.

Look after your neighbours, keep an eye on their property, make sure letters and papers are put through the letter box and do not leave parcels on their doorstep. If you see anything suspicious, please report it with details of people, vehicles etc. to the Crime Prevention Team on tel. 08458 505505. You may save someone great distress.

### **Serenity at Sibford Gower**

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## Windpower: Oswyn Murray

The Sibfords are windy villages: high on a ridge facing the prevailing wind they have more days of strong wind than anywhere else I have lived. With the government promoting environmental energy we decided to investigate how easy it would be to install a windvane.

The cost for a small wind turbine has recently come down: B&Q offer one complete with installation for £1500. It is visually only slightly larger than a television mast, and looks quite attractive as it whirs away. The turbine needs to be installed at rooftop level clear of tree turbulence, on a secure wall (not a chimney); the electricity supply generated is fed through the wall directly into the domestic supply via the nearest 13 amp ring main. A surveyor from the installation company comes and surveys the site free of charge.

In order to avoid the usual hype of manufacturers, we talked to someone in Great Tew, who has recently installed one: he happens to be a wind-pump engineer with long experience. He confirms that the product is both viable and nuisance-free. There is no external wind-sound greater than the actual wind itself produces, but the internal controls produce a humming sound which cuts in and out: it might therefore be irritating in a bedroom. He found that his actual saving was roughly 35 kwh per month (420 kwh per annum, which at current prices works out at around £50 a year); economically it would seem to need 30 years before you break even. The government however offers a 30% grant, which would make it a bit more attractive: the problem so far is that the grant money (which has to be applied for before installation) is allocated monthly, and the amount available is so small that unless you apply within the first few hours of the month it will have run out. Our friend also warned us that the turbine cuts out if the wind is too strong: it might be that the Sibfords are too windy, rather than not windy enough! Nevertheless it is clearly true that if enough people installed turbines, it would have a small but significant effect on electricity consumption at the visual cost of another aerial on the roof.

The good news is that on an ordinary house you do not need planning permission; the bad news is that if like us you live in a listed house in a conservation area you do need it (but there is no charge for an application). We were visited by someone from Cherwell, who seemed less than optimistic that we would get permission, despite the fact that our proposed site was virtually invisible from any public place. Indeed the installation company warned us that (although it is not legal to prejudge the issue) they had not yet heard of any case in which a local authority had allowed a turbine on a listed building: it seems that, despite government directives, local councils have decided to oppose this type of installation wherever possible – although they have littered public roads with them to power speeding signs.

Despite these doubts we have decided that global warming is a serious issue and we should go ahead with an application for Glebe Farm; if we are successful, we invite all residents to enter our yard to see for themselves what it looks like, and we will report on our experiences to you. Watch this space!

### CASHMORE ANTIQUES

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## HOLY TRINITY CHURCH NEWS

The annual Church Fete will be held on **11th August** in the Village Hall; **Harvest Festival** will be at **11.00 am on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> September**, followed by **Harvest Lunch** in the Village Hall. This will be the customary bring-and-share occasion and has become very popular. The annual **Christmas Bazaar** will be on **10<sup>th</sup> November** also in the Village Hall.

Our new bishop Rt Rev John Pritchard will be in Tadmarton Church on **9<sup>th</sup> December** for the annual Benefice Confirmation service.


John Tattersall of Swalcliffe was duly ordained in Christ's Church Cathedral in Oxford on July 1<sup>st</sup> and there were many from the Benefice at the celebratory Benefice Eucharist in Swalcliffe Church that evening. Although John has a full time job in London, he will be assisting the Rector in the Benefice at weekends and increasingly at other times as his retirement approaches.

The Coffee Morning held in the Church on Saturday 7th July was, as usual, a very sociable occasion and a good opportunity for meeting friends from the villages and elsewhere. A useful £208 was collected, of which £100 was donated towards the rebuilding of a school in Kashmir. The next Coffee Morning will be on **Saturday September 22<sup>nd</sup> from 10.00 am to 12 noon**.

The Family Service held on 8<sup>th</sup> July celebrated Pets and there were many of them present; mostly dogs with a few very handsome Guinea Pigs and some white mice (perhaps thankfully, no cats.) All the animals were very well behaved and there were no interruptions. The Rector blessed them all by name but perhaps Roan Court who was baptised during the service stole the show.

Our Dyson vacuum cleaner has mysteriously disappeared. If someone has borrowed it, could they please return it as soon as possible as it is a much-needed item.

Many thanks to David Tustain who has beautifully repainted the Church front door.



**Sarah Walker**

**Vivienne Nott**



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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.

August

Sun 5th Benefice Eucharist at Epwell 10.30am

Sun 12th Holy Communion 8.00am and 9.30am

Sun 19th Holy Communion 9.30am

Sun 26th Holy Communion 9.30am

September

Sun 2nd Benefice Eucharist at Shutford 10.30am

Sun 9th Family Service 10.00am

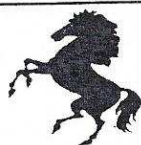
Sun 16th Holy Communion 9.30am

Sun 23rd Holy Communion 9.30am

Sun 30th Harvest Festival, Family Service & Bring and Share Lunch 11am

October

Sun 7th Benefice Eucharist 10.30am



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# Sibford Bus Services

## Free Bus Service

To Chipping Norton Wednesday Aug. 1st & 15th. Sept. 5th & 19th

Departs 10 am and Returns 12 noon

Pick up points are; The Colony, High Meadow, Cross Roads, Village Hall,  
Lanes End Corner & Cotswold Close (Ferris)

## 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

## August

- Tuesdays in August, Energize Sports Roadshow at the Village Hall p12  
Thu 2nd Art Roadshow at the Village Hall 10-12 noon 766763 to book. p8  
Wed 8th Mobile Library in the Sibfords (2.40 - 4.10pm)  
Sat 11th Church Summer Fête p25  
Tue 14th Friendship Club Garden Party p18  
Wed 22nd Mobile Library in the Sibfords (2.40 - 4.10pm)  
Wed 22nd Horticultural Show Entry Night 7 - 9pm in the Village Hall p9  
Fri 24th Barbeque with Music at Woodway Farm. p15  
Sat 25th Sibford Horticultural and Produce Show 2.30pm, Village Hall p9

## September

- Tue 4th Friendship Club - The Home Front. p18  
Wed 5th Mobile Library in the Sibfords (2.40 - 4.10pm)  
Sat 8th Historic Churches Bike Ride. p7  
Tue 11th W.I. Village Hall 2 pm p6  
Wed 12th Horticultural Society. Telling Tales from a Small Garden. P9  
Thu 13th Sibford Gower Parish Council Meeting 8 pm p11  
Tue 18th Friendship Club trip to Waterperry p18  
Tue 18th Deadline for contributions for October Scene p19  
Wed 19th Mobile Library in the Sibfords (2.40 - 4.10pm)  
Wed 19th Sibford Ferris Parish Council Meeting. 7.45pm p17  
Thu 20th Sibfords Society 'The Ladies of Blenheim' Village Hall 8pm p19  
Sat 22nd Church Coffee Morning 10 - 12 noon. P25  
Sat 22nd Village Hall Quiz. 7pm p15  
Sat 29th Tea with the Quakers. p22  
Sun 30th Harvest Festival and Bring and Share Lunch. P25

## October (part)

- Tue 2nd Friendship Club in the Village Hall 2pm p18  
Sat 6th Auction of Promises p4  
Sun 7th East House Open Day p20  
Sat 13th Jumble Sale in the Village Hall at 2pm p9

### Sibford Scene

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

e-mail [adrian.lamb@care4free.net](mailto: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