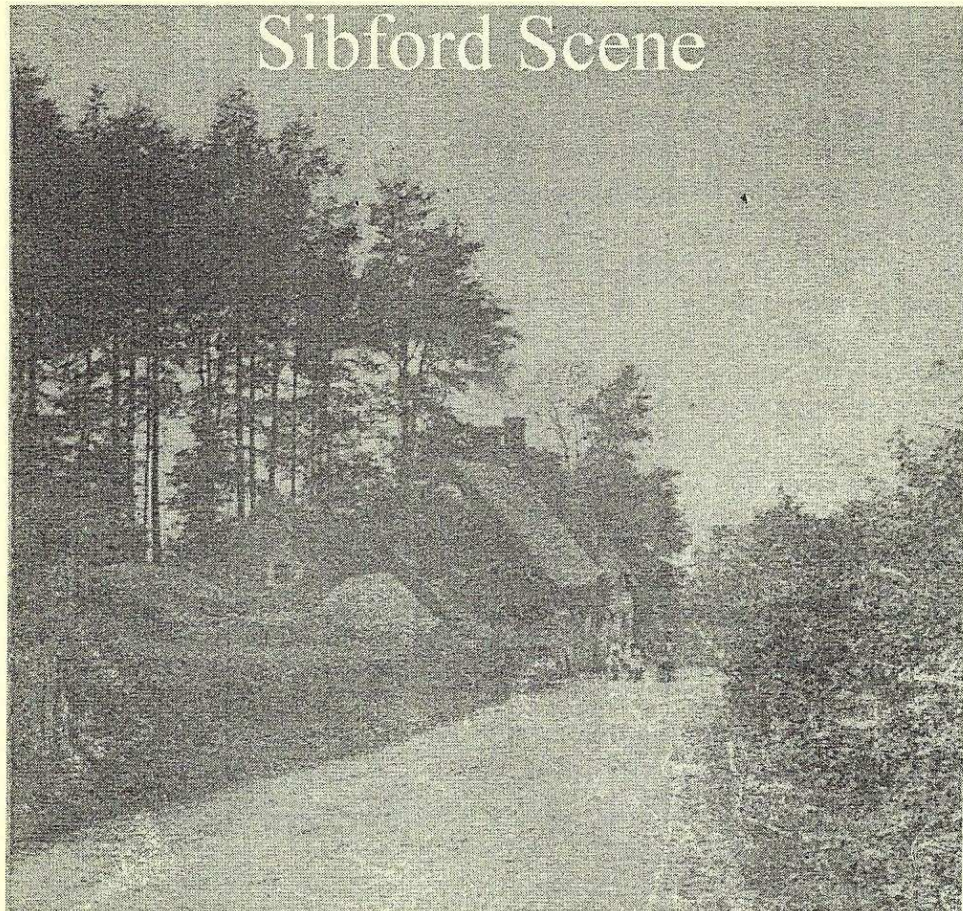


# Sibford Scene



October 2007

No. 297

Sibford Gower Primary School  
**Auction of Promises**

To raise funds for the building work  
providing the new classroom

Saturday 6th October in the Village Hall at 7.30pm

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## **Jumble and Recycling Sale**

In aid of Katharine House Hospice

Saturday 13th October in the Village Hall at 2.00pm

## Nature Notes

July. 31st. During May, June and July I have measured 15.88 inches of rain which equals more than 7 months of average rainfall.

Aug. 1st. Last Sunday we went to the railway cutting reserve at Hook Norton and saw a fine show of wildflowers just at their best. Today we walked along the bottom of a nearby field and saw more and better clustered bellflowers than I have ever seen. There were also good shows of scabious, harebells, common centaury, burnet saxafrage and some splendid wooly thistles. It is nice to know that there are such good sites locally but sadly not at Sibford.

Aug. 14th. I was told today of a black snake that was recently seen crossing a farm road in Sibford Ferris. I don't know much about snakes but having looked in some books the only possibility seems to be a black adder which is apparently quite common in some parts of Britain although I have never heard of one in this area.

Sept. 8th. While on the annual Historic Churches Cycle ride we saw a dead hedgehog on the road in Tysoe. They used to be common road casualties but are now seldom seen which reflects their declining numbers.

Sept. 15th. I have seen fewer butterflies on our wildflower patch this summer but hear that numbers have been about normal in most places. I wonder whether I am managing my patch as well as I might.

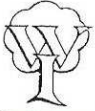
Sept. 16th. I find that we have a strong wasps nest in our roof safely away from the badgers that dug out two from our garden earlier in the summer. One of the ones they dug out was almost football size which amazes me when I think of all the grains of soil that the wasps have to carry away to make an underground chamber of that size.

Sept. 18th. Feels like autumn with the temperature down to 35°F at 8 o'clock this morning but still a lovely day followed.

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

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*Facilities include indoor/outdoor pool, tennis courts. Dogs permitted. Excellent base for North and South coast beaches, National Trust, Devon, Dartmoor and Plymouth. Very reasonable rates: call Sue Lovatt on 01295 788848. email: [lovfam@btinternet.com](mailto:lovfam@btinternet.com) or pick up leaflet in the Ferris shop.*



Women's  
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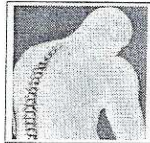
Sibford W.I. Meeting — Tuesday, 11th September 2007

Valerie Powell and Carol Evans were welcome guests and the Meeting was well supported. Lynda gave an account of the four outings that had taken place during the summer — Mapledurham, Windsor, Warwick and Belvoir Castle — which were all very enjoyable indeed. We now look forward to a Celebrity Evening with Ben Fogle, a Food and Flower Arranging Christmas Demonstration, the British Museum to see the Terracotta Army Exhibition and a Shopping Trip to Solihull.

Our charming speaker, Fiona Mountain, entertained us by describing her first book, an historical novel "Isabella". Based on truth, this story of romance and suspense tells the haunting love story of Fletcher Christian and Isabella Curwen and provides answers to many of the mysteries that have always surrounded the Mutiny on the Bounty. When she wrote the book, Fiona lived in Hook Norton with her composer husband, Tim, and did all her writing in the peace and quiet of a garden shed. She only just managed completion by the birth of her first child. The family then moved, with shed, to Kingham where she wrote thrillers set in the Cotswolds and with each book came a new baby! Now she has decided to concentrate on historical novels and has lots of new ideas.

She is not sure whether future publications will produce new babies. Well, she says, maybe just one more — making five. Members asked many questions and Lynda thanked her for her fascinating talk. An enjoyable tea was served by Greta and Sheila and the competition for a shell was won by Ann with Glennis (second) and Greta (third). We meet next on Tuesday, 9th October in the Village Hall at 2pm when the speaker will be Alistair Lack on the History of the University of Oxford. The competition will be for a leather bound book.

GYH



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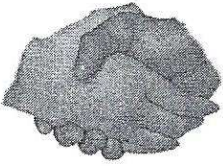
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McTimoney-Corley Practitioner  
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## Friendship Club

Haven't we had some lovely weather lately? And hope it lasts just a little longer. Sept 18th saw the Club at Waterperry Gardens, I hope we all had a nice time? On Oct 2nd. we have a speaker, Ann Hepworth, who will tell us all about DOGS IN THE THEATRE. and then Oct 16th we go to Worcester, Val will give all the info. nearer the date. Once again Thanks to those who did teas in the Hall at the Sept meeting.

### **Check out your energy use**

#### **Low energy light bulb "try before you buy" scheme**

If you would like to borrow a plug-in meter that measures the energy used by your electrical appliances and/or a "light bulb library" which enables you to find out which low energy bulbs fit where in your home, please contact Anita Spencer on 788557. The meter and bulb library will be available during October

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Monday to Saturday 5.30am to 6.00pm

Sunday 5.30am to 1.00pm



# CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

24 NOVEMBER AT 2PM IN  
SIBFORD VILLAGE HALL

Come and join in the fun at the Sibford Playgroup Bazaar. Santa and his elf will be in the grotto, there will be lots of activities and games to play, and magic elves will be serving festive fayre! Our raffle includes tickets to Silverstone Race course, Blenheim Palace, Twycross Zoo, Lunch at The Wykham Arms and many more fantastic prizes! Do come along and support Sibford Playgroup on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> November at 2pm.

This term the children have been learning some new action rhymes and songs, drawing faces with vegetables, and learning new craft techniques. They have also been playing outside making good use of the sunshine! We will be saying "Good Bye" to Nikki this term as she leaves to have her baby, but look forward to seeing the new arrival in November!

If you know of any 2 1/2 to 5 year olds, who would like to join in our fun, then enrol them into Playgroup. We also run a successful lunch club from 12 noon to 12.45pm on Monday, Thursday and Friday. Please contact Emma or Nikki 01295 780998 during playgroup hours.



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## W.I. Outing to Belvoir Castle

Our Annual Outing on the 14<sup>th</sup> of August this year was to Belvoir Castle, the home of the Duke and Duchess of Rutland. The forecasters were right and the rain was pouring -down as 48 of us boarded Jeffs Coach at 9am., but, nothing daunted, we set out to enjoy ourselves. After a journey of about 2 hours we arrived at Belvoir, drove up to the Castle door itself and were welcomed by our 2 excellent guides.

Apparently, there have been 4 castles on the site. The first was built in 1077 by Robert Todei who was the Standard Bearer to William the Conqueror at the Battle of Hastings. Legend has it that he was travelling in the area, saw the view and decided to build his castle there, calling it Belvoir — Beautiful View. The Anglo Saxons of the time couldn't, or wouldn't, speak French, so it became known as Beaver' Castle. It would probably been a wooden structure later reinforced with stone. During the Wars of the Roses a crisis in the affairs of Belvoir came when Thomas, Lord Ros, who supported the Red Rose of Lancaster, was executed in 1464. The castle then fell into disrepair. It was restored to the Ros Family by Henry VIII, a distant relative. It later passed to the Manners Family, who have now lived there for 500 years, on the marriage of Eleanor, sister to Lord Ros and soon after 1523 the castle was rebuilt. It was once again destroyed, this time by Cromwell in the Civil War when it was a Royalist stronghold. In the late 1700's Elisabeth Howard, aged 19, of Castle Howard in Yorkshire married the 5<sup>th</sup> Duke of Rutland. She immediately set about altering the castle, employing the Architect Matthew Wyatt. She was something of an amateur architect herself and was responsible for the lay-out of the castle and the gardens. She oversaw the planting of the woods that cover the hillside below the castle, and she managed to produce 11 children — a remarkable lady! A Great Fire in 1816 destroyed much of the rebuilding work and sadly she died 5 years

before the work was totally completed so she never saw the Fairy Tale Castle she had helped to create. The castle today, inside and out, is as she planned it and is simply beautiful. Wonderful paintings, amazing ceilings, glistening chandeliers, huge mirrors etc., quite breathtaking and yet, it has the feel of a home as the Duke and Duchess and their 5 children live



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there.

After a tasty lunch we were able to explore the lovely gardens and their surrounds as the rain had stopped and whilst not sunny, it was so much better than we had feared. At 4.30pm we were collected by our coach from the front door for the return journey. We were travelling along the A46 in fine style when we were halted by long lines of traffic. A message came through that the road was completely closed 12 miles ahead of us. We crawled forwards, overtaking our neighbours and being overtaken in turn, comforting ourselves that at least we weren't involved in what we imagined must be a very bad accident. We finally reached the exit junction and our driver quickly found another route. Soon we were back on the M1 and M69 and on our way to Sibford.

Once again our Outing had been a great success. Many thanks to Jane who found the venue and made all the arrangements so that we could have such an enjoyable day out at beautiful Belvoir Castle. RVN

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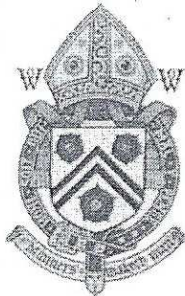
## Vacancy - Sibford Friends School

Sibford Friends School are currently seeking a minibus driver for a new school route, hours are 7.00 until 8.30am and 4.00 to 5.30pm Monday to Friday term time only, this may suit a retired person or someone seeking additional work, if you are interested please contact Peter Robinson on 01295 781210 for further details.

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

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'Hooky Night' Wednesday  
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[www.wykhamarms.co.uk](http://www.wykhamarms.co.uk)

email: [info@wykhamarms.co.uk](mailto:info@wykhamarms.co.uk)

## **Sibford Ferris Parish Council Notice Board - Keep to the Right!**

Please could users of the Sibford Ferris notice board please place their items on the right-hand side of the board, as the left-hand side is reserved for parish council related notices only. Many thanks. The Clerk.

### **Cotswold Close Play Area Refurbishment News**

The play area is close to completion and will be open for use once it has been inspected and approved by a RoSPA inspector. There will be an official opening event - please look out for announcement notices for further details. Sibford Ferris Parish Council would like to thank all those who have given their time, labour and skills to help get this project completed. People we should thank, in addition to members of the Parish Council, are David Stewart and Graham White, Jackie at N L Matthews, Stephen Hopkins, Bernie Jones and Joanne Connor. Stella Knowles and Bernie have offered to carry out the weekly inspections of the site and equipment that are required, for which many thanks also. Could we ask if there is anyone willing to volunteer to keep the grass cut and tidy during the summer months? If so, please could you kindly contact the Clerk on 788557.

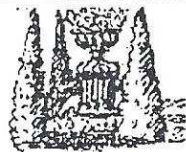
### **Dog Mess....**

There are still many instances of people not clearing up their dog's mess, whether on village footpaths or rural routes. Please note that free bags are available from Greens Shop for this purpose. Please think about other users of these paths, particularly children, who may inadvertently be taking mess into school on their shoes. Apart from the unpleasantness of stepping in dog mess, there are health risks, some serious, from contact with it.

**Enjoy owning your dog, with a clear conscience - clear up after your pet!**  
**Sibford Ferris Parish Council**

### Sibford Ferris Parish Council meeting of 19th September.

There were apologies from Maureen Hicks and Nicki Kitchen. The remaining three Councillors, Cllr George Reynolds and one member of the public attended the meeting. It was reported that the Cotswold Close play area was nearing completion. (see notes above)  
The burial ground extension was discussed. A joint meeting had been held on 15th August at which various matters were discussed. A suggestion



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was made to retain a movable section in the new boundary fencing to allow sheep to be put on to the unused part of the land to reduce grass cutting costs. Also, it was felt that the access gate between the old and new burial grounds should be installed at the point where the stone wall has collapsed already. Two requests for payment for levelling works to the new ground were received from Sibford Gower Parish Council and approved for payment. The question of maintenance of the churchyard was again discussed, with members preferring not to alter current arrangements, provided that the volunteer is still willing to carry on, bearing in mind that there is no statutory requirement on a parish council to maintain an open churchyard.

A meeting will be arranged in the next few weeks with the drainage engineer from OCC to discuss a possible gulley and kerb scheme that could resolve the problems in Main Street of verge erosion and drainage.

On the question of dog bins, members agreed not to purchase any bins for the present as they were not convinced the capital and ongoing expenses could be justified; there is some doubt that bins would encourage those who do not already clear up mess to start doing so, and there seems to be no consensus on where to put them. (see note above)

Unfortunately, the parish council has not been successful in obtaining a grant to purchase a fixing point for the new portable speed indicator signs available from the District Council. It was agreed to request a visit from the Speed-watch manned indicator to establish whether it makes a difference to people's speeds on entering the village. The possibility of purchasing a fixing point will then be discussed again.

The offer from Dr Martin Thomas to investigate setting up a village website was withdrawn as it was noted that there is already a site available at [www.sibford.info](http://www.sibford.info). It was agreed to look into whether it would be appropriate to include parish council information on the site.

The external audit was completed in August and the meeting approved and accepted the Annual Return which will be available for inspection for 14 days. There was one issue arising which was that the parish council had not reviewed the effectiveness of the internal audit during the year.

It was agreed to donate £25.00 to the Oxfordshire Association for the Blind in recognition of the fact that it is of assistance to persons in the parish.

There had been five planning applications and three planning decisions since the last meeting. It was reported that the owners of the Bishop Blaize are now in occupation. It was agreed to write to the Planning Department to convey the concern of Ferris residents that the pub should not by default lose its status as a licensed premises. Cllr Reynolds confirmed that the planning conditions regulating the use of the premises had been notified to Sibford Gower Parish Council. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, 21<sup>st</sup> November at 7.45 pm in the Sports Hall classroom at Sibford School. All welcome.

Katharine House Hospice  
**Jumble/Recycling Sale**  
Saturday October 13th

2pm Sibford Village Hall.

Adm 30p, usual stalls, raffle, teas, KHH Xmas cards.  
Any donations of unwanted items can be left with or collected by  
Andrew/Bernie Jones 780343.

Any offers of help on the day would be more than welcome.  
Thank you for your support.

**Catering Assistant Wanted**

For general duties in the Primary School Kitchen  
10 per week 11.15am - 1.15pm Term time only  
Uniform provided

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## Anchor Staying Put and Small Repairs

Anchor Staying Put is a not for profit organisation that is supported by Oxfordshire County Council and Cherwell District Council. They help older and disabled clients to remain in their homes in comfort and safety by assisting with repairs and adaptations.

They also run a small repairs service that can do a range of small jobs from fitting tapwashers, security, fitting keysafes to building ramps. This service is also supported and only costs older and disabled customers £15 an hour plus the cost of any materials. Their technicians carry out falls prevention checks and test the smoke detectors. Carrying out smaller repairs and maintenance can prevent larger problems occurring and is linked to better health.

One of the most common comments that Anchor Staying Put receive is that not enough people know they exist and they are most anxious that this situation be remedied — hence this notice in the Sibford Scene. To make contact with Anchor Staying-Put, you are invited to phone 01869 324290.

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## Sibford Gower Parish Council

The Parish Council Meeting was held on 13<sup>th</sup> September 2007 in Sibford Gower Endowed Primary School. In attendance were four Parish Councillors (Cllr Peter Abbott being on holiday sent his apologies), County and District Cllr George Reynolds, five local residents and the Clerk. **Chairman's Report:** In his report, the Chairman informed the Meeting that he and Mrs Spicer would be attending, by invitation, on 16<sup>th</sup> September a Celebration of the Millennium of Oxfordshire hosted by the Lord Lieutenant. He and the Clerk had made a tour of the area to establish which road signs had been taken following the theft of signs throughout Oxfordshire and beyond. Cllr George Reynolds had requested this information so that replacements might be put in hand. Five signs indicating bends have gone from the B4035 and a directional sign from the Elms Cross roads. **Clerk's Report:** The Clerk reported that the wooden seat sited on Burdrop Hill is now in place and there is a plaque affixed in memory of the late Judy King. Letters of thanks and appreciation had been sent to Robert Tompkins who kindly provided the seat and to Mrs Eileen Haynes who researched the seat's purchase. The installation work was carried out by Mr Cedric Brown to whom thanks had been extended. **Planning Matters:** Since the previous Meeting, the Councillors had given consideration to four planning applications. **Highway Matters:** The repair work to part of the road adjacent to the lay-by in Pound Lane had been carried out by -Oxfordshire Highways. **Footpath Matters:** The Clerk was instructed to look into two reported problem areas. The first is the overgrown footpath behind The Jitty, Burdrop and the other was brambles overhanging the "Piggy" path, Burdrop. **Financial Matters:** The Parish Council approved and accepted the Annual Return in respect of the Audit for the financial year ended 31st March 2007 now that the audit opinion of the external auditors had been given and in respect of which no matters had been raised. **Village Pond:** At the request of the Parish Council, Mrs Glennis Hardman reported. She said that all is going well and the plants are becoming established. She maintains daily monitoring ensuring that the water is running freely and weekly clears the blanket weed which quickly forms at this time of year. The Councillors thanked her for the attention that she gives. Cllr -Martin Layer raised the subject of Risk Assessment which he had been researching. Initially, he looked to ROSPA to help and a visit to the pond by an expert was offered but at a cost of £375 plus VAT. However, this was considered far too expensive. Subsequently, Cllr Layer prepared, with the aid of information available, his own risk assessment questionnaire and this will now be passed to the other Parish Councillors and the Pond Action Team for consideration and further discussion. The Chairman thanked Cllr Layer for the consider-

able time and effort involved in this connection. The **Bishop Blaize:** Following enquiries from some local residents as to the current position, the Clerk spoke on 11th September with the involved Planning Officer, Cherwell District Council. He was told that a letter had gone to the owners stressing that, in the absence of planning permission, the first floor only can be used for living accommodation and not the ground floor. If the ground floor is occupied in this manner, planning permission will be required. The Planning Officer went on to say that the ground floor may be used only as an access to the garden and the first floor. There is nothing to prevent the **pub** signs being removed, as, indeed, they have. As to the removal of the directional sign on the B4035, the matter is in the hands of Oxfordshire Highways whose property the sign is and they were unaware that the sign had been removed. Local resident, Mrs Eileen Haynes and present at the Meeting, enquired as to whether the Parish Council would object if the Bishop Blaize Support Group provided an item for the next issue of the Sibford Scene setting out its thoughts on the current situation. The Parish Councillors raised no objection to this. **The Town Estate Charity:** The Clerk reported that the Town Estate Charity had accepted the resignation from Mr Mike Lovatt as a Trustee and who was a Parish Council appointment. The Charity asked that the Council consider appointing Mr Mike Lewis as a replacement and this the Council was pleased to do. The Charity is to be asked that copies of minutes of meetings be made available to the Parish Council. **New Burial Ground:** It was confirmed that the Working Committee to manage the New Burial Ground comprises Cllr Adrian Lamb & Cllr John Simms (with Cllr Maureen Hicks as Deputy) representing Sibford Ferris PC and Cllr Robin Spicer and Peter Hardman (Clerk) representing Sibford Gower PC **Holy Trinity Churchyard:** The Clerk reported that Mr Cedric Brown (to whom thanks were extended) has maintenance of that part of the ground for which Sibford Gower PC is responsible under good control. Dialogue with Sibford Ferris PC continues regarding the rest of the churchyard. **Public Question Time:** No matters were raised. **Any Other Business:** No matters were raised apart from Cllr Robin Spicer advising of a forthcoming holiday to be taken by him and his wife in Thailand where a good friend lives and a common connection is that a family member of the friend is the local mayor which equates in some way with Cllr Spicer's position as Chairman of the Parish Council. He is interested to discover common grounds. **Next Meeting:** will be on Thursday, 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2007 commencing at 8pm and to be held in the same venue. An invitation is extended to all local residents. There being no further business to discuss, the Chairman thanked all present for attending and closed the Meeting at 9.35pm.

# An "AUCTION of PROMISES"

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

***Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> October, 2007***  
***Sibford Gower Village Hall***

***@ 7.30pm***

Entry by ticket only @ £5 each to include admission, hot buffet & entry into a prize draw. Cash Bar all evening

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Catalogue available from... [www.sibford-gower.oxon.sch.uk](http://www.sibford-gower.oxon.sch.uk)

*We have many promises that cover a wide variety of events, experiences and services, which have been donated by companies and local people.. so don't miss the opportunity to bid for these unusual and interesting items.*

## **Holy Trinity Church, Sibford**

### **Barbecue held on 24th August at Woodway Farm, Sibford Ferris**

At the barbecue, hosted by and held in the grounds of Sue and Guy Wilson, the sum of £1,028.00 was raised for Church funds.

This is a wonderful result that was greatly enhanced by the generosity of Sue and Guy to whom grateful thanks are extended. The weather, the food and drink, the efficient service and the musical entertainment were superb and so obviously enjoyed by all present.

The Rector and the Members of the Parochial Church Council thank Sue and Guy and all those who supported the event.

Contributions for the  
November  
Sibford Scene  
to the Shop or Editor by  
October 16th



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## G.F.Handel's oratorio *Samson*

on November 10<sup>th</sup>, at the Church of St Peter and St Paul, Deddington.

The choir and soloists (Soprano, Keren Davis; Contralto, Jeanette Agar; Tenor, Brendon McBride; Bass, Robert Williams)\* shall be accompanied by Orchestra, and led by Martin Quinn, Musical Director. The Concert shall start at 7.30 pm and tickets shall become available from mid-October. There shall be refreshments during the evening, and the WCS (many of whose members are from the Sibfords area) are looking forward to giving a thrilling entertainment.

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### Sibford Horticultural Society

Our Annual Show was well attended and the Hall and tents looked wonderful with vegetables, fruit and flowers well presented and the cooking looking very enticing. Many thanks to all who helped with the setting up and taking down as without them the show would not take place and the hard work put in by the show committee.

The cups were presented as follows; Sibford Rose Bowl - Mike Clarke. Albert Spicer Trophy - Bill Wealsby. The Society Cup - Arnold Lamb. Mrs. F Padbury Cup - Kate Randall. Dr. Taylor Cup - Sally Wass. Mrs. F Padbury Rose Bowl - Valerie Law. Ted Webb Trophy - Gill Soden. The Village Cup - Pauline Inns. John Sabin Cup - Eileen Haynes. Banbury Marquee Trophy - George Berks. The Junior Cup - Polly Berks. Keith Hicks Cup - Harry Berks. S J Sabin Cup - Archie Randall. Committee Cup - Jayne Thomas. Roger Powell Cup - Guy Grasby.

Our first talk of the season was by Timothy Walker, Director of Oxford Botanic Gardens, who spoke about his own garden. He is a very entertaining speaker and all who attended had a great evening being regaled by how his wife had planned and planted their garden. (he being the grass and compost organiser!) He showed some super slides and a thoroughly enjoyable evening was had by all. Lets hope he can come and talk to us again. Our next meeting is on Wednesday October 10th at 8.00 in the Village Hall. It is our AGM (which won't take long) and will be followed by Roger Smith talking about photographing your garden. All are welcome to attend.

## 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 four new families to Sibford. First to arrive were Rachel & John Lovell who moved into 3 Sycamore Close Sibford Gower on the wettest day this year! They have come from Weybridge and have three children, Rory Sam & Evie. Rory & Sam attend Orchard Close Junior at the Quaker School. Evie is still at home with Mum. John is a management Consultant and they both enjoy music.

Emily & Alex Fovarque have come from London to live in Beecroft, Burdrop, both are in Marketing and enjoy cycling and singing.

Bryl & Derek Smith didn't travel too far to move into 11 Barley Close Sibford Gower. They are used to village life having come from South Newington and are looking forward to joining in our many activities. They have four grand children who are frequent visitors and Derek enjoys a game of golf.

The Meeting House Cottage was not empty very long before Alex & Seren Wildwood with their daughter Hannah moved in recently having moved from

Gloucestershire. Hannah attends Orchard Close Junior at the Quaker School & also looks after her pet rabbit and 4 fancy mice. Alex is a tutor & Retreat Organiser & enjoys cycling and photography. Seren is a Deputy Superintendent Registrar in Gloucester & enjoys walking.

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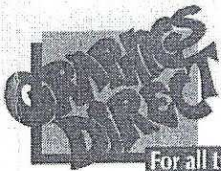




## REMEMBER THE SIBFORD CLUB DAY RE-ENACTMENT AND VILLAGE HALL FETE?

At the end of the afternoon I think someone went home with the wrong navy blue anorak. The Peter Storm one (marked Martyn Hicks on the label) which I had left on the back of a chair by the Club Day Exhibition had gone but a very similar gents, large, Originals Robey sportswear one was in its place. The bad news for me is that it is not nearly as waterproof as the one I previously had, but the good news is that there was some cash in the pocket! If we could arrange an exchange the money is still in the pocket! Please contact Maureen Hicks on 780259.

At our first meeting of the Autumn, our speaker, Lesley Deane gave a very interesting talk about the 'Ladies of Blenheim', explaining that, although history knows much about the Dukes of Marlborough, very little is known about their wives and daughters. In the mid 17C, Sir Winston Churchill started the dynasty and was the father of Arabella and John, the famous soldier who won the battle at Blenheim. Arabella became the mistress of the Duke of York, brother to King Charles 11, and bore him four children and she was influential in helping her brother's interests at Court. John's wife Sarah, was a very strong character, who oversaw the building of Blenheim and among others, fell out with her daughter Henrietta, who inherited the title upon the death of her father, as there was no male heir. Henrietta married Lord Godolphin, apparently the most boring man in London and eventually left him to set up house with William Congreve, the novelist. After William's death, Henrietta was obviously devastated and had two wax models made of him, one to sit at the dining table and the other one to lie in her bed! Many more stories followed of other wives and gave us a very interesting evening. The next meeting will be on the 18 October at 8.00pm in the Village Hall, when Martin Way will talk about the 'Cotswold Wool Trade and Shepherding'. We welcome non-members to our meetings, so do please come and join us.



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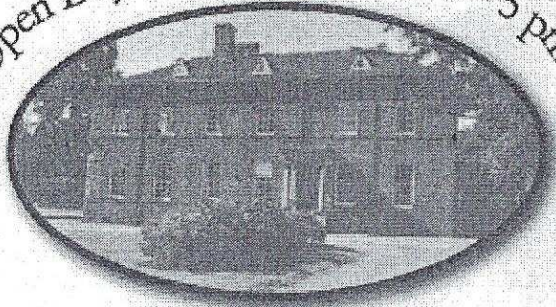
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## 'Bishop Blaize' October update.

As most of you will know by now, Mr. Noquet's application for change of use was refused by Cherwell District Council on 28th June, and we are waiting to see whether he will appeal against this - he has until December to do so. Mr. Noquet and his family moved back into the pub on or about 14th August, and have re-named it 'Bishop End'. He is apparently living in the upstairs accommodation, but the building is still legally a public house.

Please may I remind those people who (at the Sibford Gower Parish Council meeting in May) volunteered to pay towards a 'fighting fund', that we will be calling upon you for donations, as we recently received a bill from our planning advisor. For any further information, please get in touch with any member of the Bishop Blaize Support Group. Please watch this space - we will keep you informed.

Eileen Haynes pp 'Bishop Blaize' Support Group (780083)

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## Holy Trinity Church, Sibford

At a recent meeting of the Parochial Church Council, the subject of the Church's financial position was discussed, as is normal, and it was decided to let residents know how crucially matters stand at the present time.

The situation is that in the current financial year it is anticipated that expenditure will exceed income by some £1,560. It can be seen, therefore, that the Church is faced with something of a financial dilemma.

The purpose of this notice is to set out the facts and ask residents to give thought as to how they may help if they feel so inclined — which it is very much hoped they will. It is recognised immediately that many people already contribute generously towards the work of the Church but it could be that others, being made aware of how matters stand, may feel moved to help in a monetary manner because unless income can be improved the Church faces a crisis situation.

Ideally, what is looked for is a promise of a regular financial commitment, perhaps by standing order on a monthly basis, so that some indication of known income may be established to allow the Hon. Treasurer to plan accordingly. It goes without saying that "one-off" donations are always very welcome. Payments made on a "gift aided" basis would enable the Church to benefit by claiming back the tax element.

The Rector and the Churchwardens ask that you will feel able to give sympathetic consideration to the above and make a decision to help the Church meet its financial obligations because, otherwise, the way forward is not at all clear.

Should you feel able to assist, any one of the undermentioned Members of the Parochial Church Council will be more than pleased to hear from you.

Ann Spicer	(Church Warden) Tel:	01295780690
Eveline Boughton	(Church Warden)	01295263460
Cathy Cawley	(Hon Treasurer)	01295780860
Peter Hardman	(Hon Secretary)	01295780391

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## HOLY TRINITY CHURCH NEWS

In case this is published and distributed in time (generous distributors please note!), the Harvest Festival Service will be at 11.00 am on Sunday 30th 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 in the Village Hall will be on 10th November. There will be the usual stalls and games, and probably some new ones, and is a great opportunity to make a start for the Christmas shopping.

The new Bishop of Oxford Rt Rev John Pritchard will be in Tadmarton Church on 9th December for the annual Benefice Confirmation Service. Applicants for Confirmation will probably have already been in touch with the Rector but it is possible that it may not be too late to apply.

The Barbecue with Music held at Woodway Farm was an outstanding success. Originally billed for July 21st, "the day the rains came", it was postponed to August 24th when the evening was warm and beautiful. The excellent musicians provided a wonderful background for the delicious barbecue and helped various enthusiastic people, later on, to dance off their excess energy. The exceptional organisation and generosity of Guy and Sue Wilson made it a wonderful occasion and the Church has benefited by £1,028.

The Family Service on the theme of Forgiveness was well attended and a number of new youthful faces were seen to be present. The service was excellently led by Catherine Berks and many of the young and their parents took part in the readings and action. This has become

a service which all the young in the villages, and their parents, should not miss. The group which designs these services really has its finger on the pulse of all sections of family life in the area and are to be greatly congratulated on their endeavours. They are receiving considerable encouragement from the community but a little more is always welcome. The next Family Service will be the Harvest Festival mentioned above.



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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.

September

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

October

Sun 7th Benefice Eucharist 10.30am


Sun 14th Holy Communion  
9.30am

Sun 21st Holy Communion  
9.30am

Sun 28th Family Service  
10.00am

November

Sun 4th Benefice Eucharist  
10.30am at Swalcliffe



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# Sibford Bus Services

## Free Bus Service

To Chipping Norton Wednesday October 3rd & 17th.

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

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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

## September

Sun 30th Harvest Festival and Bring and Share Lunch. P21

## October

Tue 2nd Friendship Club 'Dogs in the Theatre'. Village Hall 2pm p4

Wed 3rd Mobile Library in the Sibfords (2.40 - 4.10pm)

Sat 6th Auction of Promises. 7.30pm in the Village Hall p14

Sun 7th East House Open Day p18

Tue 9th W.I. History of Oxford University 2 pm, Village Hall p3

Wed 10th Horticultural Society 'Photographing your Garden' 8pm V.H. p15

Sat 13th Jumble Sale in the Village Hall at 2pm p10

Tue 16th Friendship Club trip to Worcester. P4

Tue 16th Deadline for contributions to the November Sibford Scene p14

Wed 17th Mobile Library in the Sibfords (2.40 - 4.10pm)

Thu 18th Sibfords Society 'Cotswold Wool Trade' 8pm Village Hall p17

Wed 31st Mobile Library in the Sibfords (2.40 - 4.10pm)

## November (part)

Sun 4th Village Hall Market

Sat 10th Church Christmas Bazaar in the Village Hall p21

Sat 10th Warriner Choral Society 'Samson' Deddington Church p15

Sun 18th Village Hall Market

Wed 21st Ferris Parish Council Meeting. 7.45pm p9

Thu 22nd Gower Parish Council Meeting 8.00pm p13

Sat 24th Playgroup Christmas Bazaar in the Village Hall at 2pm p5

Sat 24th Christmas Bazaar for Katherine House Hospice. Rafters, Backside Lane, Sibford Gower 11.00am until 6.00pm.

## December(part)

Sat 1st Salsa the Night Away at the Village Hall from 7.30pm Tickets £7 & £5 from 780025

Sat 8th Methodist Chapel Coffee Morning 10 - 12 noon

Cover Picture; Little London taken in 1874

## Sibford Scene

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

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780555

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