

December 2007 and January 2008

No. 299

Arts at Large at the Village Hall

Salsa Oxford

Saturday 1st December from 7.00 pm

And the

The Cosmic Sausages

Saturday 26th January at 7.45 pm

Sibford School Scottish Ceiledh
Wednesday 5th December 7.00 pm

Saturday 8th December
Methodist Chapel Coffee Morning
10 - 12 noon

Nature Notes

Oct. 21st. Walked in woodland to the east of Oxford. There were quite a few dragonflies patrolling one ride but we were too late to see the butterflies for which the woods are renowned. A few flowers mostly devils bit and betony still flowered at the edges of the recently trimmed rides. I wondered whether the unnecessarily wide trimming of the rides was not destroying seedheads that could have been winter food for birds and perhaps damaging caterpillars and chrysalises from which next seasons' butterflies come.

Nov. 3rd. To Betws-y-coed, North Wales, for a few days.

Nov. 4th. Llyn Ogwen was glassy smooth giving marvelous reflections of the sunlit mountains when, at 9 am we dropped off 2 of our party to climb Tryfan. The only bird I could see near the lake was a heron. We thought we would be a bit late for the autumn colours but they are at their best in the valleys with silver birch, larch, oak and beech and a few conifers for contrast.

Nov. 5th Got in a nice walk through riverside woods down to the Swallow Falls before it started to rain at 11 o'clock. We saw dippers, grey wagtails and several buzzards and in the woods a good variety of ferns. The gravestones here are made of slate. One that looked new I found was dated 1890 and had recently been cleaned. Some of the field fences are made with 4 foot upright strips of slate with twisted wire bands top and bottom rather like chestnut paling.

Nov. 6th We walked up the miners track on Snowdon as far as Llyn Glaslyn from where we could see and hear ravens as they flew in and out of the cloud covering the peak. A lot of repairs have been done to this track making it wide enough but not yet smooth enough for a vehicle as far as Llyn Glaslyn. The others saw a herd of wild goats while

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on the way to the summit. They also saw wild goats on Tryfan. At the summit it was all go with a new restaurant being built and work being done on eroded paths. There were four portacabins and a J.C.B. up there. With a bit more wind the roads through the woods are now edged with yellow larch needles that are now falling. We later watched a dipper feeding by walking under the water. It is thought that they swallow stones to make this possible.

Nov. 12th I recently bought a new rain gauge which I put alongside the old one to see that they were recording the same amount. I was surprised this morning to find that the new one was completely free of ice while the old one had a quarter of an inch on it.

Nov. 16th A friend tells me that he saw a group of 6 ravens near Broughton recently.



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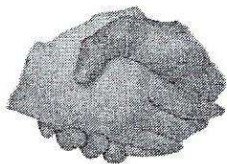
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Friendship Club

I suppose everyone is knee deep in Christmas cards and presents at the moment or at least thinking about them. Our Club Christmas tea is on Dec 4th in the Village Hall. WILL ALL MEMBERS

WHO ARE COMING PLEASE ARRIVE AT THE HALL AT 2.45p.m, to START AT 3 00. We will once again welcome Tysoe Good Companions. Thanks goes to Val and Ann for tea in Nov. The 1st meeting in 2008 will be on JAN 8th PLEASE NOTE. On that day the tea rota will be ready for nominations. Sibford Friendship Committee and Members wish everyone in Sibford and villages around A Very Happy Christmas

Temporary Road Closure

The road from the White House, Epwell to Christmas Corner will be closed from Monday, 10th December for a maximum of 5 days.

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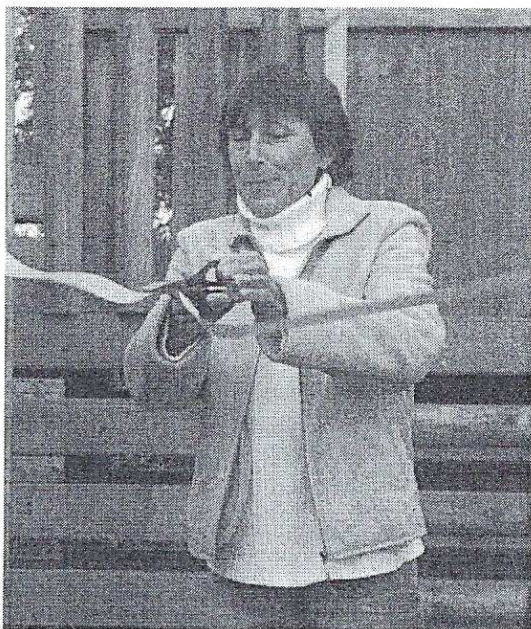
OPENING HOURS

Monday to Saturday 5.30am to 6.00pm

Sunday 5.30am to 1.00pm

Cotswold Close Play Area

Thank you to all who attended the re-opening ceremony on 19th October. It was a very pleasant occasion, with a good number of people attending and plenty of refreshments, kindly sponsored by a local company, and the weather stayed fine. Balloons to decorate the equipment were donated by Walrus Toys of Shipston-on-Stour, so thank-you to them for their support too. There were games for the children although mostly they just wanted to try out all the imaginative apparatus supplied by Trevor Stewart. Chris Franklin made a speech acknowledging all the volunteers who had contributed to the achievement of the refurbishment and then handed over to Bernie Jones to cut the ribbon and declare



the play area officially open. Bernie joined the Play Area Liaison Group that did a lot

of research into the best scheme for the site; but her involvement goes back a lot further and there would have been no play area to refurbish without her perseverance and determination 15 or so years ago. The Parish Council and all involved hope that this facility will give enjoyment to children and their families for a number of years.



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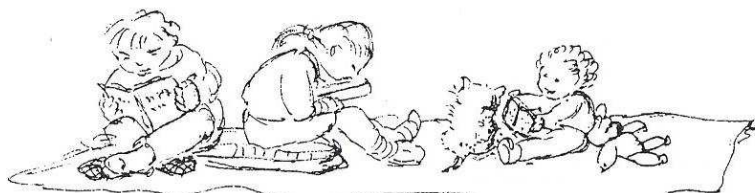
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Autumn Gold

Like a full tide
Autumn,
Is in.
Finally,
The colours brighten to their glory glow;
Crimson, gold, orange, yellow.
This year it seemed to be so long
Watching summer
Come down off his
High throne.
Then, sudden clickswitch season change
As clocks go back
And straightaway,
The leaf carpet is deep and crisp kicking,
And in the clear sky
Of a new November afternoon,
Golden light is born.
In the flood of it
New greens and creams flow along hedgerows
Thick with growing Old Man's Beard,
And I am no longer afraid
Of the pallid lips
Of a washed out, blue-veined winter
Kissing me with its cold.
Autumn has shone for me
And bathed my soul
In GOLD.

Jo Huckvale November 1st 2007.
Written on the way back from Burford.

CHRISTMAS PRESENTS.



Carol Singing Evening

Monday 10 December.

Carol Singing in the Ferris. Meet at the bottom of Holly House drive to join Sibford School in carol singing around the village. Proceeds to Banbury Young Homeless Project. Drinks afterwards at Holly House.

(I have not managed to find a time for the meet but look out for a poster in the shop window nearer the day - Ed)



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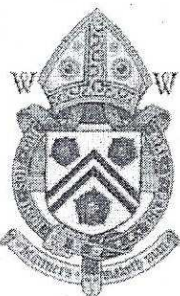
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SALSA THE NIGHT AWAY

Salsa Oxford will get you learning the moves
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On **Saturday 1st December** in the Village Hall you can Salsa the night away offered by Salsa Oxford. Lisa Anscomb has performed in London groups and assisted some of the top teachers on the international scene. You can have fun with Salsa as soon as you start learning. No previous experience needed or even a dance partner - just come along and enjoy the music. Licensed bar opens at 7pm. Free welcome cocktail and nibbles. The dancing starts at 7.30 pm. Tickets £7 / £5 - please ring 780410 or 780025. In partnership with Arts@Large run by Cherwell District Council part of the Community Touring Network.

The Cosmic Sausages

Saturday January 26th 7.45pm, in Village Hall

Licensed bar open at 7pm.

The Cosmic Sausages, a five piece Psycoskiffle Folk Roots Street Band, present a madcap Musical World Tour.

Lively with a lot of audience participation.

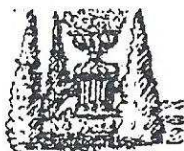
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On a very frosty November evening Graham Sutherland warmly entertained us with a wealth of Drinking Customs through the ages. Alcohol, in some form, has been enjoyed for over 5000 years – nomadic tribes fermented berries and later more static groups brewed ale from various cereal crops. The Romans introduced wine drinking to Britain and during the Dark Ages the Norsemen had many strict rules governing the drinking of beer. During the Middle Ages the church controlled brewing and the clergy allowed alcohol to be drunk at patronal festivals and other celebrations including life and death. Later during the reign of the Tudor kings the first Ale Houses were set up for the refreshment of bone fide travellers beginning the hospitality which remains until today afforded by Inns and Public Houses. He showed us lots of slides of traditional, humorous and interesting Inn Signs that he has photographed over many years.

Our annual Social will be held on **17 January 2008** in the Village Hall and members and their guests are asked to reserve the date of this popular evening in their new diaries. Our Winter walk has been arranged for Saturday 1 March next year – more details to follow.

May we wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and we look forward to meeting you in the New Year.



The Christmas Bazaar raised about £1000 for Playgroup funds. A very big thank you to all who helped, especially Father Christmas! Sibford Playgroup is open to 2½ 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.

John Loggins Charity

The trustees of the Charity will soon be meeting and the annual distribution of funds will be considered. As in previous years, those people, older or younger, who feel themselves in need of the financial assistance offered, please write to The Trustees, c/o The Rectory, Sibford Gower by December 14th. All applications will be considered in complete confidence by the trustees and distribution will be carried out in time for Christmas.

Timothy Wimbush. (Rector)

SIBFORD SCHOOL SCOTTISH CEILIDH

Pupils at Sibford School are hosting a Scottish Ceilidh on
Wednesday 5 December starting at 7pm.

This fund-raising event is being organised by the Sibford School Challenge team ... a group of eight pupils and two staff who will be traveling to Ghana in 2008 to help build an orphanage. Tickets cost £15 (adult), £7.50 (children), £40 (family ~ 2 adults/2 children) and include a two course Scottish meal. Call 01295 781200 or visit www.sibfordschool.net

All welcome.

Burglary in Sibford Ferris

There was a house burglary in the Ferris in October, so please be careful about the security of your home, and also report anything of a suspicious nature on 0845 8 505 505 or 999 if it is an emergency (that is if a crime is being committed, or is about to be committed, or if there is a risk of serious injury).



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Ferris Parish Council Meeting 21 November

Four members and one resident attended the meeting, with apologies from N Kitchen. District Cllr Reynolds arrived mid-way through and his presence and contribution were much appreciated. **Play Areas** It was reported that the Cotswold Close play area was re-opened on 24 September and is being well used. Two small children have fallen from one of the walkways and a notice has been put up asking parents and carers to supervise younger children closely as not all the equipment is suitable for younger children. A welcome and information sign has been purchased and Mr Knowles has kindly offered to attach it to the gate. There was no response to the appeal for someone to keep the grass tidy during the growing season; so volunteers would be welcomed. On the MUGA project, there is now agreement with the School to renew investigations into the feasibility of a shared facility. **Verge Erosion on Main Street** Gordon Hunt, the drainage engineer at OCC, met with members to discuss installing kerbs and gullies from the Small House down. Mr Hunt agreed that this system would help to address the dual problems of erosion and drainage, but said that kerbing was not part of his budget and he would refer the proposal to the Highways department. **Mobile Speed Signs** There has been one check, along the Hook Norton Road, between 7.45 and 9.45 am, which, despite most traffic being slowed by vehicles turning into the Sibford School entrance, found 16 vehicles exceeding 30mph and 3 over 40mph. Two further checks will be carried out. Based on the results, the Parish Council will then consider whether to purchase fixing points for the temporary Vehicle Activated Signs that can be borrowed from the District Council. **Blue Bin Scheme** There have been three more blue bin orders, totalling six since the start of the scheme. £5 per bin is paid to the Parish Council towards village funds. **Post Office Closures** J Simms reported from the Parish Liaison Meeting that a review on Oxfordshire post offices is being carried out in November, and there will be a consultation period in February. It is likely that four/five will close in North Oxfordshire. This consultation will not necessarily allow recommendations for closure to be overturned and so it was agreed to write as soon as possible with the strong arguments for the retention of our post office. Some of the criteria used when considering the future of a post office are: whether there is an alternative PO within three miles; whether there is public transport between the village and an alternative PO; geographic features between the village and an alternative PO; the population served; the age profile of the population. **Horton Campaign** The Parish Council has written to the Independent Reconfiguration Panel (currently scrutinising the review proposals made by the Oxford Radcliffe Trust that would move vital services to the John Radcliffe) to protest against the review's plans for the Horton. **Finance** A draft budget was circulated for consideration by members prior to finalising in January. Consideration will be given to the level of reserves held. **Planning** There were three planning applications and four notices of decision since the last meeting. J Simms will be attending a consultation event on the Cherwell District Council Local Development Framework - Village Policy on 27 November. The meeting closed at 10.00 pm with thanks to all attending. The next meeting will be on 9th January 2008, when the budget will be finalised and the precept set. All welcome.



Sibford W.I. Meeting – Tuesday, 13th November 2007

**Women's
Institute**

The President, Glennis, said that she was pleased to see Valerie (Taylor) at the Meeting having recovered from her appendicitis operation. She reported that Rosemary Neal is making good progress at home following her hip replacement operation. Gwen was thanked for inviting Sibford members to join the Hook Norton coach outing on the 6th November to Solihull for Christmas shopping. Four of us thoroughly enjoyed the excellent shopping precinct and returned with heavy parcels and light purses! Margaret acted as Secretary in the absence of Lynda and the Deputy Secretary, Rosemary. Regret was expressed for the late cancellation of the Group Meeting that Sibford should have hosted on the 29th November. This was for a number of reasons but mainly because the speaker was unable to come. The NF WI AGM will take place on the 20th June 2008 and will be held in the Arena Convention Centre, Liverpool.

Amanda Wood took us on a fascinating trip though Cuba. In 2000, she joined a small group with a knowledgeable female guide to travel from one end of the Island to the other, from Habana to Santiago, and then by sea to Baracoa. Shunning the five star hotels and company tour coaches, the group witnessed behind the scenes life in Cuba

mixing with the local people. Transport was rustic, to say the least, and on one occasion they stood for miles on the back of an open truck. Life is harsh for the farmers and fishermen who work very hard to earn a basic living. For example, when lobster is caught, it

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has to be given up and is sent to the big hotels where tourists languish beside luxury swimming pools learning absolutely nothing about the real Cuba. Amanda said that she felt very privileged to have had the opportunity to witness rural life at first hand. Her brilliant talk was accompanied by excellent slide photography. Greta gave 'an enthusiastic vote of thanks'. She had actually lived in Cuba with her husband and children during the fifties.

Jane and Valerie (Powell) served tea. Jane (and Sheila) had made delicious cakes and Valerie's cheese scones went down well. The -raffle continues to boost our funds and the prizes become more varied and interesting each month! The competition was also well supported, this time for an old map. Greta was an obvious first with her 1957 ESSO map of Cuba, Rosemary came second with an enclosure map of Epwell and Gaynor's beautifully framed map of Northumbria achieved third place.

December 11th will be our Christmas Meeting and members are requested to bring a small plate of finger food to share, a seasonal reading or poem and a wrapped gift for the Santa box.

GYH

WELCOME TO SIBFORD

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



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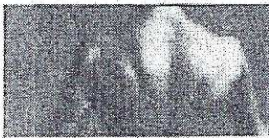
**Tel: Maggie Cripps
01608 685226**

The "Bishop Blaize" - December update

There is not much to report at the moment. Mr. Noquet & family moved into the pub on 14th August, ostensibly to live permanently in the village. However, on October 1st. they went away. On 13th November Mr. Noquet appeared again overnight, and has not been seen since.

We are still waiting (until the end of December) to see whether he goes to appeal, after which we shall continue our fight to keep the pub. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the "fighting fund" which has been very successful. (I have not issued a receipt to one un-named person who kindly left money at the Post Office.)

There is still a tremendous amount of feeling in the village to have our pub re-instated. A newsletter will be published in the New year. Many thanks for all the continued support.



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Tickets (£8 and concessions) are available from Bloxham Post Office, One Man Band Banbury, Hayward White Deddington, Jenny on 01295 721224, or on the door.

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Sibford Horticultural Society

At our last meeting Janet Cropley came to talk to us about Winter Gardening, starting with bulbs and going on to shrubs that give us cheer in the colder months. As always this was a very enjoyable evening. Our next meeting will be on December 12th at 8.00 pm in the Village Hall. Keith Hicks will be giving a slide show of their travels, followed by the usual festive drinks and nibbles. All are very welcome to attend. There are no meetings in January or February. Advance Notice - May 17th 2008. Plant Sale and Coffee Morning, so please think of us when you are dividing plants, taking cuttings or sowing seed.

North Oxfordshire Guild of Weavers, Spinners and Dyers
Spinning Day January 12th at Hook Norton Baptist Schoolroom
Come and have a go at spinning. Wheels available with fleece and other fibres. £6 for the day 10.00am - 4.00pm. Bring your own lunch.

Weaving Day February 9th at Hook Norton Baptist Schoolroom
Come and have a go at weaving on or off a loom. Equipment available plus all materials. Beginners very welcome. £6 for the day 10.00 am - 4.00 pm. Bring your own lunch.



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The Town Estate Charity

Sibford Gower and Burdrop

A free Christmas Special bus to Leamington Spa

has been arranged for

Wednesday 5th December.

Leaving Sibford Gower at 9.30am
and leaving Leamington Spa at 1.00pm

Pick up points: The Colony, High Meadow, Cross Roads, Village Hall and in the Ferris, Lanes End Corner and Cotswold Close.

(This replaces the free bus to Chipping Norton on this date but the normal service resumes on Wednesday 19th December

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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 England, Holy Trinity, Sibford Gower.

December

Sun 2nd Holy Communion 8.00 am
 Sun 9th Confirmation at Tadmerton with the Bishop of Oxford 10.30 am
 Sun 16th Holy Communion 9.30 am
 Fri 21st Traditional Carol Service 7.00 pm
 Sun 23rd Holy Communion 9.30 am & Christingle at 4.30 pm
 Mon 24th Midnight Services at Swalcliffe and Broughton 11.30 pm
 Tue 25th Holy Communion 10.00 am
 Sun 30th Benefice Service at Broughton 10.30 am

January

Sun 6th Benefice Service and Baptism 10.30 am
 Sun 13th Holy Communion 9.30 am
 Sun 20th Christian Unity. 10.30 at the Quaker Meeting House. No Service at Church
 Sun 27th Holy Communion 9.30 am

February

Sun 3rd Candlemas Benefice Service at Broughton 10.30 am



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Sibford Bus Services

Free Bus Service

To Leamington Spa Wed. 5th. Dec & Chipping Norton Wed. Dec. 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 £2.00 each way

Child (5-16yrs) £1.00

Family ticket (2 Adults + up to 3 children) £8.40 return

Calendar of Events

December

- Sat 1st Salsa the Night Away at the Village Hall from 7.30pm Tickets £7 & £5 from 780025 p8
- Tue 4th Friendship Club Christmas Tea. P7
- Wed 5th Free Bus to Leamington Spa. p17
- Wed 5th Sibford School Scottish Ceilidh 7.00 pm p10
- Thu 6th Village Store Open Day
- Sat 8th Methodist Chapel Coffee Morning 10 - 12 noon
- Sun 9th Village Hall Market 2 - 4 pm p8
- Mon 10th Carol Singing in Sibford Ferris. Lanes End corner at p7
- Tue 11th W.I. Christmas Meeting p12
- Wed 12th Mobile Library in the Sibfords (2.40 - 4.10pm)
- Wed 12th Horticultural Society Christmas Meeting. Village Hall. 8pm p16
- Sat 15th Warriner Choral Society Christmas Concert. Bloxham 7.30pm p15
- Fri 21st Traditional Carol Service in Church at 7.00pm p18
- Sun 23rd Christingle Service in Church at 4.30pm p18

January

- Tue 8th Friendship Club Meeting in the Village Hall p4
- Wed 9th Sibford Ferris Parish Council meeting. P11
- Sat 12th Spinning Day at Hook Noton p16
- Tue 15th Deadline for contributions to the February Sibford Scene p16
- Thu 17th Sibfords Society Social p9
- Sat 26th The Cosmic Sausages. Village Hall 7.45pm p8

HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO ALL OUR READERS

Sibford Scene

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

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

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