

SIBFORD SCENE

March 2021

No 431

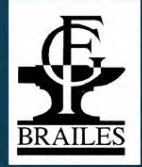


Painting by: Evie Fletcher 10yr old student at Sibford Endowed Primary School

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This embroidered model of Little London was made for the FlowerShow at some time in the past from Kathleen Winter



ED'S THOUGHTS

Brown Envelope Appeal - There's still time to contribute. So far, we've reached £600! Fantastic - thank you thank you and thank you to you all who donated. We couldn't do it without you.....

Thought for the month....

"Someone else's dreams will get you nowhere....."

Paul Brady



LETTERS AND NOTICES

CENSUS 2021

The Census is coming on 21 March. Information from the digital-first Census will help decide how services are planned and funded in our local area. Census outputs inform where millions of pounds of public funding is spent on services like transport, education and health, and on cycle routes, schools and dental surgeries. Everyone will receive a letter with a unique access code in the post, allowing them to complete their questionnaire online. Paper questionnaires will be available on request. For more information visit [Census.gov.uk](https://www.census.gov.uk).

Village Hall Lottery!

Don't forget to take part in the Sibford lottery draw on March 1st!

There will be three cash prizes so lots of opportunity for your number to be picked!

You can opt to pay £48 a year or pay 6 monthly, or even monthly - £4 per go.

It is a lovely way to support your Village Hall as well as possibly winning a prize!

For more details and to register your interest please contact Juliette Glazebrook

juliette53@btinternet.com



LETTERS AND NOTICES

Cont'd

Sibford Photography Club

Recently formed, Sibford Photography Club is an informal group with a shared interest in photography that began holding monthly meetings (currently online) just a few months ago. Activities include instructive presentations and regular photo topics with the resulting images presented and discussed at meetings (face to face or virtual). For example, in March we will be using "rules" of composition to create our photos. In the future, we hope to arrange photoshoots and possibly exhibitions. We would like to welcome more members to the club, so if you are interested in joining, please contact Colin Lamb at colinlamb.cl@gmail.com or phone 01295 780357.

Polly Boxes

Polly wants to thank everyone in the Sibfords for the support we have shown to the group of vulnerable people that she cares for. Their daily meetings give structure to their days and provide a high point.

As ever, she would greatly appreciate food to help her bake for them, or to give them basic hot food

So margarine, mixed fruit and flour and sugar

Cup a soup and pot noodles

Lemon/orange barley water

Tea and coffee, peanut butter (smooth) tins of meat - spam, ham, corned beef for sandwiches and biscuits are always most gratefully received.

Thank you so much to everyone who contributes. The Polly wicker boxes are still outside the church for your contributions

Diana Thompson

JEAN BRYANT

Terry Bryant and family wish to announce the sad passing of Jean Bryant of Cotswold Close, who died peacefully in the Horton Hospital on February 9th aged 87. Jean was a much loved wife, mother, grandmother and great grandmother



VILLAGE HALL NEWS

The Trustees are looking for a new Treasurer to take over from Peter Conway, who has controlled the Village Hall finances for many years. If you are interested in taking on this task please contact Charlotte, our Chairperson on charandjas@icloud.com

EASTER EGG TRAIL

We are still hoping to put on this popular event on Good Friday , April 2nd, from 2pm to 4. More details next month, when it is clearer what the Pandemic regulations will allow.

CAR BOOT SALE

Planned for May 2nd , Sunday. Again more details will follow next month.

JAZZ and PICNIC

This is booked for June 12th and will be on the Village Hall field and socially distanced in your family or "Bubble" if we still need to be. We are really hoping this will enable us all to have an evening out!

HALL CLOSED

We hope to open up the Hall again as soon as regulations allow. We need to raise money to replace the cedar shingle roof on the main hall, so we are keen to get you all back!

Contact Ginny for enquiries : ginnybennett@googlemail.com or 01295780373



SIBFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

As we certainly won't be able to meet in the Village Hall until the autumn, we have decided to put together a spring and summer programme of Zoom talks with speakers, some of whom are very well known to you, who have adapted to giving Zoom talks from home.

The first is Liz Woolley, who will be speaking on 'Local History, how to do it!' on March 18th at 8 p.m. Tim will let you know how to join the meeting by posting the details on the website, nearer the time.

More details of the programmes on Zoom will follow in the next Scene, when your secretary has found time in between house- hunting to sort it out!

TONY HAYNES

An Appreciation



During the past year, Coronavirus has restricted us all in so many different ways. Tony was buried in Holy Trinity Churchyard with just ten family members able to be present. His local friends were unable to share an appreciation of all he had meant to us and our community.

He, and his wife Eileen arrived in Burdrop in 2002 moving from Potters Bar to be nearer to family in Bloxham. At that time, we were appealing for memorabilia for a village Exhibition to celebrate the Queen's Golden Anniversary. Despite being surrounded by packing cases, Tony and Eileen said they had some commemorative china and other items which they would willingly lend – they just had to find them! From that moment they were committed to village life and total involvement with their new community. New friendships were soon made, village clubs and societies joined including volunteering with Fielding Lunch Club. His love of boats meant that they spent their family holidays sailing in Devon waters near to Salcombe.

Despite being devastated by the sudden death of his beloved wife, Tony gradually returned to village life bringing his quiet, shy manner to help in so many different ways. He served on the History Group Committee and on the Fielding Day Centre Board, regularly collecting members and serving lunches. At village events he parked cars, helped to erect tents and marquees and moved hundreds of Village Hall chairs and tables. Once football was live streamed on television he was able to watch and follow the game he loved.

He was a life-long member of the Scout movement being in the cast of the London Gang Show produced by Ralph Reader in the 1950's, a member of the Red Scarf Masonic Lodge (for cast members), and was Group Scout Leader for his local Scout Group while he lived in Potters Bar. One of his last holidays was spent visiting an 'old' Scouting friend in Canada. He supported both the Oxford and Warwick Gang Shows and went to the WAGS show just a few weeks before his death.

He was a proud father and grandfather and loved living nearer to his grandchildren. His quiet, caring, willing manner endeared him to all those who were fortunate to call him their friend. He accepted his final illness with gentle fortitude. Tony we miss you and celebrate all that you meant to us here in Sibford.

Maureen Hicks

WELCOME TO SIBFORD

If you are new to the Sibfords and would like a 'Welcome to Sibford' booklet, providing details of village services and activities, please call Ivor Hopkyns on T: 788367 (Gower & Burdrop) or Nic Durrant T: 788865 (Ferris). And don't forget that we are lucky enough to have a really great village website too at: thesibfords.org.uk

THEN AND NOW

Mike Spring thought it would be nice to have some pictures of Sibford, comparing them with days gone by.....



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Excellent references

Holiday Cottage in Cornwall

On the beautiful north coast in Poldark country, character cottage set in a large south-facing enclosed garden, is available for holiday lets. It is situated on the outskirts of the vibrant and friendly village of St Agnes.

Scrumbles Hollow sleeps six in three double bedrooms, one with ensuite shower room, plus a family bathroom. Full central heating.

The spacious cottage has an open fire place in a cosy sitting room, while the dining room boasts a log burner. New, fully equipped kitchen and separate utility room for sorting out sportswear after a day on the beach or walking the breathtaking countryside.

Lots of good local pubs and restaurants, shops and galleries. Excellent public transport connections, including Newquay airport (half an hour by car).

For more information, please contact Linda on 01295 780 242 or 07973 226 032 or llindalaneyolo@gmail.com



Even though we are missing the majority of our pupils and the 'buzz' that indicates a happy and successful primary school full of children, the term has been a successful one. Our systems to support home learning are working well and communication between school and the children learning at home is good.

Some of our children have produced examples of very strong work in art & design over the last few weeks, both at home and at school, which we feel are well worth sharing.

To see more examples of their work please look at the new Art Gallery page on our website.

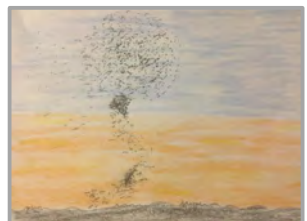


Evie, aged 10, has been inspired by the work of wildlife artist David Shepherd.

As well as producing the stunning tiger picture on the front cover of this edition of The Scene, she has created these two lovely art works (and more), using pencil and pastel.



During birdwatching month, children at school and at home explored bird murmurations. Here are some really varied but equally effective, artistic interpretations of this theme.



In school, some of our children created wonderful wild animal montages using cardboard boxes and paint.



Visit our school website at <http://www.sibford-gower.oxon.sch.uk/>

SUNDAY SMALLHOLDING

Just writing 'March' as a title for this news item fills me with hope. For the past few weeks I have been pouring over my seed catalogues. The first delivery has arrived and I have lettuce seedlings growing indoors that I may well be harvesting in April. When choosing varieties of vegetable seeds I have been persuaded not by the biggest, sweetest or juiciest but by the earliest possible date to sow, and hopefully to eat. Holding the new seed in my hand has been profound; this is life in its essence and in a dystopian view of Sibford being cut off from food supplies, we may all be holding our packets of seeds and thinking...my precious. This year, for the first year ever, I am sowing seeds to survive, not just for the fun. I am having a go at growing soya beans and chickpeas...I could be a vegetarian yet...but what would I do with all the cockerels I hatch?

As this Sibford Scene lands on your mat I will have reached the halfway stage of my project.

I have eaten and drunk ONLY food that has been produced by my efforts or by someone very local (Bill has been supplying me with brussel sprouts and honey). The next six months will be OK. Neverending spinach is wonderful, leek and potato soup is divine and the meat I am eating is absolutely delicious. Everything tastes better due to the fact that I have been involved in its life. Something strange has happened in that at the beginning of all this, I listed salt and pepper as two things I couldn't give up. I still maintain that view and yet I seem to be using less and less of it all the time; the food is somehow becoming more intense in its flavour... or maybe, because I have a limited menu I am appreciating it more?

As I write this (17th Feb), I wish I could announce that Esme was 'in pig' again. I artificially inseminated her three weeks ago today. She has not yet shown any sign of coming back in season and every day so far this week I have gingerly peeked at her with some anxiety. If she gets through to the weekend without showing any change then I will be extremely relieved and very happy...

Her piglet, at over three months old is now classed as a weaner. He hadn't been named but on the day of Joe Biden's inauguration I decided 'Washington' would suit him very well. The roots of the leylandii tree that has come from the garden has given the pigs some interest and a little shelter from the bitter east wind. I recently found Megan and Molly ripping handfuls of grass from near the pen and throwing it in for the pigs who were thoroughly enjoying it. I should try to find more time to give them fresh grass as their pen is pretty bleak just now.

SUNDAY SMALLHOLDING

Cont'd

It is becoming clearer by the day that Rosie Red Collar is indeed pregnant. The most likely litter size for her will be two kids...but it may be just one... or maybe three. Two years ago she had twins, Audrey and Annabelle who are doing very well and more than likely expecting their own first litters. Thank you to people who are feeding carrots to the goats. Goats (Sofie Black Collar especially) love carrots but like to bite small chunks off as they are being held. They can't manage a whole carrot, and if it falls to the ground they are not interested. I pick dropped carrots up, wash them and then they will eat them.

Disappointment; this afternoon I fed the pigs and noticed that Esme appears to be coming into season again. Time to phone Ginger. Sue Sabin



Photo by Chris Beach



NATURE NOTES

Peter Abbott from Bond's End Lane in Sibford Gower reported seeing 4 or 5 Redpolls regularly visiting their garden bird feeders in late January. Strictly speaking they should be referred to as Common Redpolls to distinguish them from the Lesser Redpoll. This is certainly a species I have not seen in our garden and one to look out for. They do not breed in the UK and are winter visitors most commonly seen on the east coast. They could be around anytime from October to April.

The best we could manage in our garden was a brief visit from a Goldcrest seen flitting around in our recently pruned buddleia presumably looking for invertebrates to eat.

Roe Deer seem to be becoming more common in the area with small groups of 3 or 4 being seen regularly. Muntjac are also around although probably seen less often being smaller and often feeding in the bottom of hedgerows rather than out in the open.

Megan Gilkes thought she might have caught a glimpse of a Water Vole around the Sibford School pond. If they are in the area it would be excellent news. The habitat there is right but the question remains as to where they would have colonised from. My son who knows what signs to look out for has said he will have a good look in the area in April if that is allowed by then.

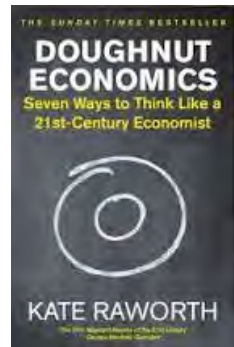
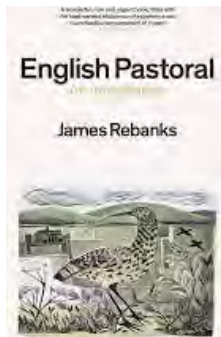
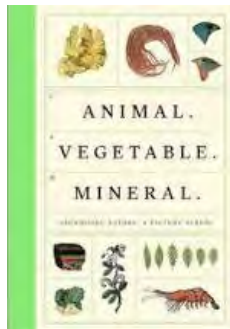
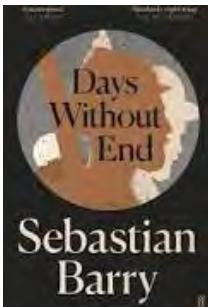
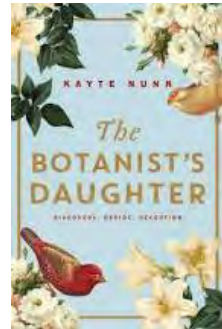
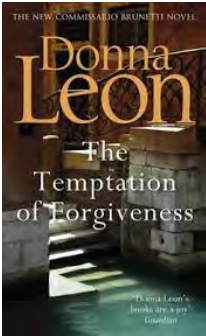
As always contributions to the next Nature Notes would be most welcome.

Email to ajnewbold88@gmail.com

Andy and Gill Newbold.



WHAT WE'RE READING.....





VILLAGE PEOPLE

MICHAEL DOOLAN

I recently received the attached piece from David Dyer. Michael Doolan was the son of Pat Doolan (remembered by older villagers). Michael went to the village school and grew up in the village. He married and moved away but recently wrote this article for his local paper.

Maureen Hicks

My fantastic job.

I started working for the Probation Service as a part-time Community Service Supervisor in 1988 and retired in 2014 as an Offender Manager as my Multiple Sclerosis deteriorated. The strapline of the Service when I started was to Assist, Befriend and Advise my clients but over the years the objective was to protect the public and rehabilitate my offenders (no longer called clients). In truth, in my opinion, both objectives were inextricably linked. I worked with people who had caused harm but also people that had been harmed themselves. In 25 years, I worked with many offenders but I was never verbally or physically assaulted, however I did have to deal with offenders being aggressive towards each other.

There were three offenders I worked with who stood out in my books.

The first was a young man whose case was transferred to my caseload from the YOS (the Young Offender Service for under 18s) for theft. Whilst with the YOS he started a piece of art (making a mosaic) and asked if he could complete it on my books to auction for Children in Need? Such a task was not part of the adult statutory supervision process. However, I encouraged him to complete it in his own time which he subsequently did. Later we spent a Saturday evening at Radio Oxford to see it successfully sold.

The second case was a girl who was released from prison on license for armed robbery to fund her drug misuse. I had to recall her to prison for using (drugs) again. After another spell in the notorious women's prison Holloway (now closed), she was released to a hostel with curfew conditions to return in the evenings.

One evening she rang me to say the hostel was on fire and she couldn't return. Initially I thought that it was an unlikely story and I checked with the Fire Service who confirmed that, indeed, it was on fire. Having lost contact with all the original support agencies I made contact with when she was first released this had this happened again. But, on her own volition she found a list of new contacts. One day the local police rang about her and I thought not again! However, she rang the police asking if they could remove her fellow drug addicts from outside her flat.



VILLAGE PEOPLE

Cont'd

At the end of her Probation she won an award from Crown Court judges called "Turning Lives Around." Initially she thought she had caused the hostel fire by leaving her straighteners on but, on investigation, that was categorically not the case. Later I discovered that the girl (aged 13) had returned home from school to find her mum was dead on the floor from a heroin overdose.

The third case was a young man who just served three years in prison who had caused death by dangerous driving and excess alcohol (drink driving). The man invited his friend to his house and they had been drinking. The man asked his mum if she could drive his friend home but she said she was busy. Instead of waiting he decided to drive his friend himself. Inevitably they crashed the car and killed his friend. I supervised him on prison license. No matter what support I offered him he refused it because he felt so guilty. He wanted to apologise to his victim's family but that again was not part of my remit. I spoke to a restorative justice coordinator and we carefully arranged it. It may work but it could go awfully wrong. I took a chance and I've never seen so much courage (to say sorry) and never so much humility to unconditionally forgive him. Thereafter he seemed more receptive to the help I could offer. Later he did find a career (a commercial artist) and a job.

When I was young, I went through a schizophrenic stage of not knowing exactly what I wanted to be but on reflection, I did exactly what I wanted to do - rehabilitate my fellow human beings and, in my own small way, help to protect the public.

Michael Doolan

LOCAL MARKETS

Banbury - Every Thursday & Saturday. Farmers Market - 1st Friday of the month

Deddington Farmers - 4th Saturday of the month (click & collect)



HORTI SOCIETY

Dear friends,

By the time you read this, I devoutly hope that your gardens are springing into life, the weather is balmy and warm, and you are busily rectifying the predations of February's fierce weather conditions.

Joffy Elphic will be talking to us on March 10th at 7.30 on the subject of 'Crayfish on the Lawn' via zoom.

Please find the link which will be posted via The Sibford website nearer the date. I shall email Horti members separately to remind them.

Best wishes, Diana Thompson.

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In Your Garden - March

At last! I though spring would never come. This winter has surely been "our winter of discontent". Maybe Shakespeare went through a similar time when he wrote those thoughts in 1592. The plague was raging through London, and Stratford, and theatres were closed. But how much worse it must have been for him then - no central heating, no Netflix - how dare I complain! I'll stop whingeing now.

1. The flower borders have taken a great deal of rain and snow, and now need some feeding. As soon as you can get onto them, without making the soil claggy with your footprints, spread some manure, compost, mulch, mushroom compost - anything you have.
2. If you have a greenhouse, or sunny windowsills, start sowing your annuals, so that you have plenty to pick all through the summer. I used cornflowers and nigella, cosmos rubenza and a brilliant malope Vulcan last year, plus dahlias for flowering later, and it was a joy right through until October.
3. This is definitely the right time to clean out sheds and greenhouses. Oh yes it is. Do it on a fine day when you can put it all outside, whilst you sweep it out, and clean the windows. Throw away all the old rubbish. Hooks and nails along the wall are the best way to hang up all the tools. Good gardeners, (and people with oodles of time.) wipe their spades and trowels clean, and polish them up, before they hang them. I really do mean to do it one day.
4. Flower pots should be washed out too. Fill a wheelbarrow with water, and attack them with a stiff brush. Leave them to dry out in the sun. When it comes.
5. Even if the hairdressers have not opened shop yet, at least the lawn can have a hair cut, and trimming the edges always makes the garden look smarter.
6. Lavender, hyssop, santolina and sage all need trimming back to within one inch of the previous years growth.
7. Hostas vanish in the winter, but as they start to sprout you can dig them up and dived the clumps, to make more. Likewise the snowdrops.
8. Finish pruning roses, and it is still a good time to plant new ones. Do not plant them where old ones have been. You should also be pruning buddleia. lavatera, perovskia and ceratostigma.. Leave all spring flowering shreubs until they have well and truly finished.
9. Apple trees are best pruned in winter, but you can still do them now, if you hurry. But do not prune cherries or plums yet. Best done in June, otherwise they can develop silver leaf, which kills them off quickly. But now is the best time to prune autumn fruiting raspberries.
10. Children have suffered too with lockdown, so try to get them outside and grow something. Easy flowers for them to try are marigolds, sunflowers, poppies, and acorns and conkers are fun too - they can start their own little forest. Things to eat as well, carrots, radishes, tomatoes and beans. Let us encourage a vital, new generation of keen young gardeners. Jupe Hitching



From the Forge Garage in Brailles with your safety in mind.....

Hello There, my name is Simon and I run the Forge Garage in Brailles with my wife Katie. The garage was founded in 1952 by my grandfather and is now in its' third generation. With the closure of Firs Garage back last autumn we wanted to get in touch with everyone in the Sibford Villages and Burdrop to introduce ourselves.

We are aware that many people are not driving their cars as much as usual, so we wanted to give you a few suggestions for keeping your car ready for when you do need it.

- Start up your car once a week and let it run for around 15 minutes to give the battery time to increase its charge – maybe use the time to go on a little drive for some of those essential supplies. This should help to prevent a flat battery.
- Roll your car back and forth a few metres every so often if safe to do so to prevent brakes from seizing,
- Check fluid levels including oil, engine coolant, brake fluid and screen-wash to ensure they're at least at minimum recommended levels.
- Check that tyres have sufficient tread depth and no defects. The minimum legal tread depth in the UK is 1.6mm.
- Check that the tyres are properly inflated. Under-inflated tyres increase fuel consumption and can affect the braking performance of your car.

If you need help with any of these checks, need an MOT or service or have any concerns about your vehicle please do give us a call on 01608 685247 or drop us an email at enquiries@theforgegarage.co.uk. We will happily carry out a health check on your vehicle **at no cost** and let you know if anything needs doing to keep you safe on the road when you do start to use the car more again. You can then decide if and when to have any work carried out.

I'll leave you to digest all that and go back to the workshop now, please stay safe and look after yourselves,

Cheers for now

Simon Haycock

www.theforgegarage.co.uk

Cometh the Hour Cometh the Man

The hour was a day – 23 Mar 2020. And the day became a year. A year made from a patch work of shut downs and tiers. An unattractive coat that had to be worn.

The Man was not a man. It was the old Drovers' road running alongside Swalcliffe Lea. The salvation for many seeking activity away from creeping depression, the onset of cabin fever, loneliness and much, much more.

And the many were not just the locals of Swalcliffe and Tadmarton. Some came from such foreign places as the Sibfords and the metropolis of Banbury. Soon the overflowing car park at Swalcliffe Village Hall became twinned with a pop up one at the other end of the Drovers' road where it crosses the Shutford road.

They came in their hundreds. All ages strolled, power walked or jogged; from the very young to the very old. Some were pushed in buggies. Not even born before the crisis. Others had endured many national crises before. These people took it all in their slow stride and even brought picnics as respite from unexpected forced exercise. The children jumped in the puddles and ran through the mud. Happy were the dogs that did the same. Happy, because home offered the reward of a hot shower and a sleep before the fire.

The road morphed into different things for different people with different needs. For those who needed gossip it became a 17th century coffee shop. The wide diversity of animals and birds ensured that it will be remembered as a nature park. A garden shop satisfied the needs of horticulturists. Artists were in a studio enthused by the changing vista and colours; the sky blue beauty of the borage in summer and the frozen tears of the Mad Marston springs twinkling in the winter sun. Cyclists enjoyed a velodrome. Horse riders trotted along a bridle way. It was an outdoor office to many where fresh air sharpened the mind to resolve a problem that was impenetrable in the claustrophobia of a small make shift home office. In summer it was a balmy Mediterranean plaza to promenade along with a partner before supper. A concert hall appeared one hot weekend when musicians sat by the road playing their instruments. And a shop was there. Limited to honey and candles. But a shop nonetheless.

For many undeclared people it was a place of worship where they could commune with their God; alone, silently and directly. No ritual. How many thanks were offered for the blessing of our NHS? How many prayers for the recovery of a sick infected friend or relative? How many pleas were made for an end to this?

It will end soon. The hour will pass. But the Man will remain with our ghosts, those that went before and those that are yet to come.

Keep safe. The Sports Reporter



FUN CORNER

MILKMAN JOKES FROM MARY WEST.....

DEAR MILKMAN JUST HAD A BABY, PLEASE LEAVE ANOTHER ONE.

PLEASE LEAVE A PINT OF PARALYSED.

PLEASE LEAVE AN EXTRA PINT. IF THIS NOTE BLOWS AWAY PLEASE KNOCK.

NO MILK, THANK YOU. WE ARE AWAY FOR THE WEEKEND-WHICH IS WHY I AM HIDING THE NOTE UNDER THE DOORMAT SO THAT NOBODY FINDS OUT.

AND THESE ARE FROM IVOR (ouch!!)

Reading while sunbathing makes you well red.

The man who fell into an upholstery machine is fully recovered.

You feel stuck with your debt if you can't budge it.

A lot of money is tainted - Taint yours and taint mine.

FROM GINNY BENNETT

I've had a perfectly wonderful evening.

But this wasn't it."

-Groucho

AND LAST BUT NOT LEAST - JON MARSHALL'S CONTRIBUTION....

The motorway was closed when a lorry overturned, spilling a load of Thesaurus. Police say they were surprised, amazed, astounded and gobsmacked.



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SIBFORD FERRIS PARISH COUNCIL

SIBFORD FERRIS LITTER AWARENESS DAY

As the Parish Council in Sibford Ferris cannot organise a formal litter pick day because of the lockdown regulations being somewhat uncertain, we propose that any volunteers who would like to help, can clear litter on March 13th, Saturday.

Please take a black bag and gloves of your own and collect during your walk that day. We need to cover the following roads

Main St [right up to the main Banbury rd]

Hook Norton Rd

Woodway Lane

Hawks Lane [from the Sib to the T junction]

Grange Lane [as far as Grange Farm to the south and the main rd to the north]

The main rd between the end of the Shutford Rd to join up with Main St
If you want to do this on another day that's good. We want to encourage folk to keep the village as tidy as possible.

If you find anything bulky /heavy/old wheels etc! then please drop them at the bottle bank by 4-30pm and we will ask Cherwell to collect them. If it is just a black bag, please place it in your own green bin.

May we remind you that it is NOT normally OK to dump rubbish at the bottle bank as it is just for glass.

DOG POOP BINS

There are now several dog waste bins for your use, although some people seem to forget they are there!

Please do use them! Your parish Council has purchased them in order to keep our village clean for everybody.

Bins are now available at the end of Small House Lane -the Hook Norton Rd end of Grounds Farm track - Woodway Lane near the bridleway and Sibford School have one on the gate next to Hillside.



DID YOU KNOW?

Those who follow the transcription of the Rev Edward Stevens diary on the website will be familiar with the Dix family, especially the Misses Dix who often entertained Rev Stevens to tea and helped with the Penny Bank. Miss Sarah Dix, as a 13 year-old girl, in 1851, also kept a diary which I have been able to transcribe during Lockdown – but that is another story. At the end of her diary she copied out many religious texts, poems and other items of interest to her. Below is an amusing poem summarising the history of the English monarchy up till 1762

The Romans in England once did sway,
And the Saxons after them led the way.
They raged with the Danes till an overthrow,
They both of them got from the Norman's bow.
Chorus:
Thus barring all bother, the one and the other,
All came to be Kings in their turn.

Norman, Willy the Conqueror long did reign
Red Willy his son, by an arrow was slain.
Henry the First was a scholar bright
Tho' Stephen was forced for his crown to fight
Chorus: Thus barring...

Second Henry, Plantagenet's name did bare,
Richard, Coeur de Lion, was his son and heir.
Famed Magna Charta we gained from John,
Which Henry Third put his seal upon.
Chorus:

Edward the First was a tiger bold,
Second Edward by rebels was bought and sold.
Edward the Third was his subject's pride
His poor grandson, Richard, was popped to one side.
Chorus:

Fourth Henry of Lancaster was a very bold knight,
And his son, fifth Henry bravely did fight.
Sixth Henry, his son, like a chicken did pout
When fourth Edward, his cousin, turned him out.



DID YOU KNOW?

Cont'd

Chorus:

Poor Edward the Fifth was killed in his bed
By his Uncle Richard who was knocked on the head
By Henry the Seventh, who in fame grew big,
And Henry the Eighth was as fat as a pig.

Chorus:

With Edward the Sixth we had tranquil days.
Bloody Mary, his sister, made faggot to blaze.
But good Queen Bess was a glorious dame.
And James the First from Scotland came.

Chorus:

Charles the First was his son, and a martyr made,
Charles the Second, his son, was a comical blade.
James the Second, when hotly spurred
Ran away, I assure you, from William the Third!

Chorus:

Queen Ann was victorious by land and sea,
And George the First with glory did sway.
But as George the Second has long been dead,
Long life to the George that we have in his stead.

Final Chorus: And may his son's sons to the end of the chapter,
All come to be Kings in their turn.

I wonder if anyone would like to try continue the writing and bring this historical poem up to date?

Maureen Hicks

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As the temperature drops, why not turn up the fundraising heat by taking part in our fire walk to help support people facing life-limiting illness in our community. You'll be walking over embers burning at a temperature that could melt aluminium - without any injury or pain. You'll receive all the training needed to take part on the night during a 1 hour motivational session. To find out more head to www.khh.org.uk/firewalk

LONDON MARATHON - OCTOBER 2021

Are you looking for something to work towards this year? Have you always wanted to run a marathon? Why not take on the challenge and sign up today and take one of our two places to run in this year's London Marathon. We also have some virtual places! Katharine House will be with you every step of the way... just head to www.khh.org.uk/london-marathon-2021 to find out more

EASTER VIRTUAL BALLOON RACE - 4 APRIL 2021

Take part in our virtual balloon race - the perfect gift for everyone to enjoy this Easter. Enter the race for just £3, and you're in with a chance of winning £500! It's a great way to celebrate Easter, whilst supporting those affected by life-limiting illness. Find out more www.khh.org.uk/balloon

OXFORD HALF MARATHON - 10 OCTOBER 2021

Do you want something to work towards this year? Sign up to the Oxford Half Marathon this October! #RunForCharity for Katharine House and support our patients and families at the same time! Secure your place on Team Katharine House by registering at www.khh.org.uk/oxford-half-marathon

SWIM SERPENTINE - 18 SEPTEMBER 2021

Have you ever wanted to take part in an open water swim? Do you want something to look forward to, later in the year? Why not join the team as they swim the Serpentine this September!? There are lots of different swims to choose from to find out more head to www.khh.org.uk/swim

FREE DIGITAL KATHARINE HOUSE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Be first to hear about all of our upcoming events this year. Please sign up to receive our Katharine House digital monthly newsletter, which is designed to keep you in touch with what's happening at Katharine House Hospice, including news of our fundraising events and developments at the hospice. Just head to our website to sign up www.khh.org.uk/newsletter



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Sunday 8am - 1.00 pm

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SIBFORDS WALKING GROUP

Alas, we won't be walking until the lockdown is lifted. For any further information would people please email me on sebannister@gmail.com or 01295 780365.

Ian Sharp, ian@iansharp.net, Lamb's Croft, Back Lane, Sibford Ferris, OX15 5RE. Tel. 01295 780790, is the footpaths warden and anyone who has a problem or complaint should contact him.

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HOLY TRINITY CHURCH CHATTER

Dear friends,

I write this, my first letter in the Sibford Scene magazine, with great joy and excitement as your new Rector. I've already met many people across the villages, whilst going out for a walk, since my licensing in January as the Rector of the Wykeham benefice. I look forward very much to meeting many more whilst I'm out and about in the parish.

It has been lovely to have received such a warm welcome since I moved to the Rectory at 2 Sycamore close in Sibford Gower. I'm slowly getting to know my way around the country lanes as well as learning some of the fascinating history that is embedded in our local villages.

As your new Rector you will see me, when times allow that is, at all of our village events and I look forward very much to be a part of all that we do together. Holy Trinity Church in Sibford I know holds a very special place in the life of the community and as your Rector I would like to continue to grow our church family, because as a church in Sibford, everyone is welcome.

As a born and bred Yorkshire man, growing up as I did in a coal mining village, I know the importance of building a real sense of being a part of a community and what positive feelings that can come from being a part of it.

You may be aware that we've been able to continue safely to hold services in the Church throughout the lockdown period following all of the government guidance, but did you know we've also introduced new on line Zoom services on a Sunday afternoon at 5pm, as well as an Evening prayer service on a Wednesday evening at 6pm? If you would like at anytime to receive a link to one of our Zoom services so that you can come and see what happens on them, please do drop me a line by email: revneil@wykehambenefice.org.uk

Watch out for some upcoming special services in the church including a Mothering Sunday service on the 14th March at 10am and a Maundy Thursday service on 1st April at 7pm. Details of all our Sunday services can also be found on our notice board.

If there is anything at all I can help you with, then please do be in touch either by email or give me a call on Tel: 788005. It is a real privilege for me to be your Rector.

Love & prayers



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Everyone needs a Project!

This morning I heard my neighbour putting his bins away and thought, "here's an opportunity for a face to face chat." I wasn't wrong. What was striking though was that he looked remarkably cheerful and I told him how lovely it was to see someone with a cheery face. "Ah!" said he, "there's a reason for that.... I've got a project"

He proceeded to ask me if I had any boxes of old photos, I said that I had. My neighbour had decided to sort out a box of photos going back 50 years and to put them in order so that his family can continue to enjoy a bit of family history before it is all forgotten.

I thought about my neglected boxes and realised that was a brilliant idea and the timing perfect. I put it to him that he might write a little piece for the Scene as an antidote to the Covid, winter blues. He was too busy (and I suspect, too modest) to do it hence my little contribution here.

We are deprived of so many of our essential human needs at the moment especially our primary need for connection to others and the need for control. Projects such as these are the perfect way to bring a bit of purpose into our lives.

When we have such little control over what goes on in the world, even a seemingly little project like this can be a source of strength and meaning and enhance our overall well-being - whatever else is going on.

I am now off to dig out my several boxes of old photos that have been waiting years for an opportunity such as this.

Mary West



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SIBFORD BUS SERVICE

TEMPORARY TIMETABLE COMMENCING 1.2.21	<i>NS</i>				<i>SSH</i>	
Monday to Saturday	50A	50A	50A	50A	50A	
SOA - Wood Street	6.15	9.05	11.05	13.05	16.05	
SOA - Bridge Street	6.17	9.07	11.07	13.07	16.07	
Ettington - Village Hall		9.20	11.20	13.20	16.15	
Halford - Bridge Inn		9.30	11.30	13.30	C	
Tredington, White Lion	6.32	9.32	11.32	13.32	C	
Shipston - Tilemans Lane	6.37	9.37	11.37	13.37	16.32	
Shipston - Pettiaphers Garage	6.40	9.40	11.40	13.40	16.35	
Lower Brailles - The Park	6.50	9.50	11.50	13.50	16.45	
Sibford Ferris - School	7.02	10.02	12.02	14.02	16.57	
Lower Tadmarton	7.12	10.12	12.12	14.12	17.07	
Banbury, Bus Station	7.25	10.25	12.25	14.25	17.20	
	<i>D/SSH</i>			<i>Sch</i>	<i>SSH</i>	
Banbury, Bus Station	10.30	10.30	12.30	14.30	14.30	17.30
Lower Tadmarton	10.43	10.43	12.43	14.43	14.43	17.43
Sibford Ferris - School	10.53	10.53	12.53	14.53	14.53	17.53
Lower Brailles - The Park	11.06	11.06	13.06	15.06	15.06	18.06
Shipston - Pettiaphers Garage	11.16	11.16	13.16	15.16	15.16	18.16
Shipston - Tilemans Lane	11.19	11.19	13.19	E	15.19	18.19
Tredington, White Lion	11.24	11.24	13.24		15.24	18.24
Halford - Bridge Inn	11.26	11.26	13.26		15.26	18.26
Ettington - Village Hall	11.36	11.36	13.36		15.36	18.34
SOA - Bridge Street	11.50	11.50	13.50		15.50	18.44
SOA - Wood Street	11.53	11.53	13.53		15.53	18.46
C - Operates via Ilmington at 16.24	Sch - Operates on Schooldays only	SSH - Operates Sat & Mon to Fri during School Holidays	NS - Does not operate on Saturday			
D - Operates via Ilmington at 8.17						



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MARCH

10th - Horti talk: 'Crayfish on the Lawn" Zoom

13th - Vaalai's Sri Lankan Food - Village Hall - 5.30pm

14th - Mothering Sunday Service - Holy Trinity Church - 10am

18th - Sibfords History Society talk - 8pm online

27th - Vaalai's Sri Lankan Food - Village Hall - 5.30pm

MARCH BIN COLLECTIONS

Green Tuesday: 2nd; 16th; 30th
Blue/Brown Tuesday: 9th; 23rd

Unwanted clothing and shoes may be recycled anytime at the Textiles/ Recycling Bank at Sibford School Swimming Pool. Bottle banks at Sibford Ferris: Elm crossroads and Sibford Gower: Wykham Arms car park.

Advertising Rates

The Sibford Scene is delivered to 480 homes in Sibford Gower, Sibford Ferris and Burdrop

The Prices for 1 year (10 issues) are:

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12 NOON - 18th MARCH 2021

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How many fieldfares are there in this photo from Richard Butt?