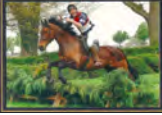


SIBFORD SCENE

April 2021

No 432





ED'S THOUGHTS

Front cover pic by Sue Sabin - can anyone think of a caption??

Hey hey - It's SPRING!!!! Our front cover sets the scene (pun intended). Hopefully things will get back to the new normal in April. However, one thing that hasn't changed is the appalling state of our roads in the Sibfords. So, I thought it a good idea to give you this link from the SFPC minutes:

Fixmystreet.com

FixMyStreet is an online system for reporting issues to the County and District Councils. This can include reports of potholes, overhanging/dangerous trees, damaged pavements, blocked drains, flytipping etc. Anyone who reports a problem using this system will receive updates about their report and it also allows you to see reports made by others and the response given which helps to see which issues are already in the system.

BROWN ENVELOPE APPEAL

A staggering **£1020** from 44 separate individuals has been raised. AN ENORMOUS THANKYOU to all of you. So, please keep the stories, photos and jokes coming!

Thought for the month....

Little darling, it's been a long cold lonely winter
Little darling, it feels like years since it's been here
Here comes the sun.....

George Harrison



LETTERS AND NOTICES

For the benefit of us all would it be possible to restrict the use of garden machinery to 6 days a week, so on Sundays we may all enjoy the peace and tranquility of our beautiful village. We realise it is more difficult for those who work but the evenings are getting lighter so could it be possible we could do our noisy gardening in the evenings or on Saturdays?

Maybe all villages could adopt this idea and give residents the opportunity to enjoy the birds, the wildlife and quiet of the countryside at least one day a week. Please give this some thought!

from Sibford Residents.



LETTERS AND NOTICES

VILLAGE HALL LOTTERY!



The first lottery draw was made by Ginny Bennett, Jo Connor and Juliette Glazebrook on a chilly 1st of March.

1st Prize Village Hall Lottery Winner was Brian Joynes!

2nd Prize of £40 went to David Bennett

Don't miss out on your chance to enter the next Lottery Draw on April 1st!

A wonderful way to support your Village Hall and win an Exciting Cash Prize!!

Email juliette53@btinternet.com

Tel: 01295 788 650

SIBFORD FERRIS LITTER AWARENESS DAY

A BIG "THANK YOU" to those who gave up their time to collect litter from around the Ferris recently. Let's all help to keep it tidy and keep a bag in your pocket when you go out. Sadly we have a lot of passing traffic who don't value the countryside as much as we do. If we all do our bit then we can keep it under control. Your Parish Council endeavours to keep the bottle bank area clear.

Many thanks again.

Ginny Bennett

And the Award for the 'Most Pretentious House Name' in the Sibfords goes to:



(What was the matter with Muddle Barn Farm? Ed)

THEN AND NOW

Mike Spring thought it would be nice to have some pictures of Sibford, comparing them with days gone by - here are this month's:



The Elms

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VILLAGE HALL NEWS

EASTER EGG TRAIL

We are hosting this event on Good Friday, April 2nd, from 10am until 4pm. The extended time frame will give everyone a chance to participate. We suggest you set off no later than 3.30pm in order to complete the trail. £2-50 per child, who will then receive a chocolate egg at the end of the trail. No need to book—just turn up.

The start is in the Village Hall car park. Please observe social distancing in the car park and wear a face covering when you approach the entry table to collect your paperwork.

NB Do the trail with just your family OR `bubble`. Government guidelines do not allow mixing of different households yet.

Village Hall toilets will be open for use.

CAR BOOT SALE

On May 2nd, Sunday on the hall field. Bookings will be taken from April 12th to Ginny 01295 780373. Pitches must be booked in advance as we have to allow for social distancing. Final details to come in next Sibford Scene or on the website.

JAZZ AND PICNIC

This is booked for June 12th on the Village Hall field. You can sit with your family or `bubble`, but may not mix with other households.

Bring your picnic and drinks, and perhaps we can enjoy a lovely summer evening. Final details to come soon.

HELP WANTED = DO YOU HAVE WEB DESIGN EXPERIENCE?

We are planning a re-design of the village hall community website and are looking for a little volunteer help from someone with relevant experience to assist.

Please call or text Chris on 07714 838108



Virtual open events

It's not too late to enquire about a place for entry in September 2021. You can watch our virtual open event online today to discover what Sibford offers to pupils aged 3- 18, and learn how to enquire. Simply visit www.sibfordschool.co.uk/events to learn more.

Sibford School Wellbeing Day!

Having asked our staff and pupils to work online on their academic work for two full lockdowns, we decided to have a go at organising a remote Wellbeing Day in order to prioritise the wellbeing of our community: staff, pupils and parents, who have all worked incredibly hard over the past few months.

We felt that spirits were running low and it was time to inject a little spark of magic into what had become the humdrum daily existence for many.

Through three sessions throughout the day, staff hosted an exciting range of activities for pupils and their families from cooking to iPad art, arm knitting to bird watching and even dancing at DJ V's lunchtime disco! In total we offered 33 online sessions and offered ideas for further activities.

The day was genuinely a huge success and it was fantastic seeing lively activity on screens filled with parents and pupils all enjoying themselves together. The weather was kind so lots of families were able to engage in our selection of outdoor activities. The selection was so huge that it left pupils wanting more and many of them continued into the weekend with the activities they hadn't completed! We have been asked if we can do it every year but hopefully without a further lockdown!

Parents wrote in to tell us that there had been a 'palpable lift' in spirits in the home; that they had gelled as a family again and most importantly, that people felt happy for the first time in a not inconsiderable period. Despite being trapped in the house for months, families acknowledged that they hadn't been able to spend good quality family time together doing fun things and this day helped to facilitate that. Many of our families spent time present and connected which is not always easy with learning and working on a screen all day long and it helped to send a little bit of our Sibford family spirit into homes.



How lovely to be back at school together!

It has been such a pleasure, and such a relief, to welcome all of our pupils back into school for the last few weeks of the Spring Term. At time of writing this article, we have had 100% attendance every day, everyone is fit and well and the children are eagerly getting on both with their learning and playing with their friends.

Quite naturally, we are having a strong focus on well-being as part of the transition back into school. The children are having many opportunities

to spend time outside in our beautiful grounds and have been engaged in creative projects too.

The thematic 'topic' for the younger children is Splendid Skies. As part of this, they have been exploring and developing the language of feelings through talking about images reflecting the changing seasons, by artists including Seurat, Monet, Rousseau and Van Gogh. This has linked well to their outdoor explorations of all the changes that indicate the coming of Spring.

When it comes to practical art lessons, some artwork has been completed individually, with an emphasis on calm expression and 'mindfulness' through the process of creating. We love these 'circle' drawings by children in Willow & Oak Classes (luminously bright colours in their original form) which were inspired by the work of American artist, Bruce Gray, and linked to their topic of 'Bright Lights, Big City'.



Some work has been completed collaboratively. It is amazing how much can be done collaboratively even when we are all being careful to maintain social distancing. The children are becoming more adept than ever at articulating their ideas to share their thoughts with others, and at turn taking. The impact of these collaborations can be seen in these carefully produced examples of outdoor 'pavement' art in gentle pastel colours using chalks and masking tape. Very simple, yet highly effective, and created by happy, smiling children on the first day back at school.



To find out more about our wonderful, welcoming village school, please take some time to visit our school website at <http://www.sibford-gower.oxon.sch.uk/>

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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 lindalaneyolo@gmail.com



SIBFORDS WALKING GROUP

It appears that the rule of 6 for outdoor activities will come in on 29 March. I think therefore that if we walk for the first time on 12 April and again on 26 April, in groups of leader + 5, gap, leader + 5 and so on as we did before, we won't be breaking the law.

All walkers need to book in with me by phone or email as I need to work out leaders beforehand.

Perhaps also people should bring masks with them though as things stand wearing them won't be mandatory.

Leaving the village hall on foot or by car at 10.00 am sharp to do a circuit of approximately 2 hours' duration. It is therefore recommended that you get there for 9.55am.

Dogs welcome provided they are put on leads when requested. Walking boots and poles recommended but not compulsory. (Some routes include stiles). Walkers should either park on the road or on the grass field at the village hall and not on the tarmac area which is reserved for the painting class.

Once we get a bit closer to opening up I will add in more dates.

I am happy to answer any queries. Phone: 780365

Email: sebannister@gmail.com

Sue Bannister

FOOTPATHS

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.

Aaron O'Rourke

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SUNEDAY SMALLHOLDING

Pigs

Ginger the boar, who has been renamed by new owners and is now known as Sandy, answered my call and has been living with Esme for the last three weeks. Let's hope he has more success at getting her pregnant than I did. Prior to Sandy's arrival at the beginning of March, I moved Washington the weaner into a pen of his own as I was concerned that the boar, with his fearsome tusks, might be aggressive towards him. It was with consternation, and some surprise, that one morning soon after he had arrived, I found that Sandy had managed to get over the electric fence, into Washington's pen and the two of them appeared to be happily lying down together. I sent Sandy back to Esme and put the battery on charge.

Goats

If all goes well, Rosie Red Collar should be kidding before the end of April. In preparation for this event I must prepare her stable, top up with best hay and put together a 'birthing kit'; clean buckets, towels, iodine, torch batteries, Hibiscrub, lubrication, baby monitor, feeding bottles ...and vet's phone number. How can you tell that I'm excited...?

Alan has enjoyed a couple of trips into the village with me this month. We delivered some eggs to the school and it was a nice surprise for the children, who regularly come to see him in his field, to have him visit them at school! Last year I made him a pack saddle so that he could carry the eggs. In principal (and when he stood still) it worked, but in practise it was a disaster and this year will need quite a bit of product development before I trust it to the eggs.

Dawn Chorus 1st May

Iain Brown and I would like to take a group of people on a very early bird walk to listen to the glorious sounds of the dawn chorus. Not many people will relish the idea of meeting up at 05.00am but for anyone who does, give me a call, text or email to get booked on. Breakfast (all home produced of course) will be provided. You will need waterproof boots etc., binoculars and £5. I absolutely love getting up to witness the arrival of dawn. Whatever the weather, this will be an unforgettable adventure. Numbers will obviously be restricted.

SUNDAY SMALLHOLDING

Food costs

When my year of self-sufficiency is over I hope to have a very clear idea of how much living off the land has cost me. I easily spend on animal feed each week, in excess of my previous weekly food bill. I often consider these two spends, one is me letting others produce, transport and package my food for me, hence my most vital need is out of my control. The other is independence, self-reliance, the benefits of hard work, responsibility, the joy of being fit and able, the ethical stance, the closeness to nature and the understanding of my relationship and interaction with animals. The patience and discipline when working with natural things. The food I eat is more precious than any I could buy.

The greenhouse is the place to be right now. In a couple of months all that will be growing in there will be tomatoes. However, right now it's a nursery. Currently the greenhouse is producing and protecting new life. In the same way that eggs hold all the nutrients that a chick will need at the

start of its life, the tiny cotyledon leaves that I have seen emerging, have all the energy to get the seedling established before the process of photosynthesis takes over. It will not be long before I will be sending the potted up young plants for their short time in the cold frame before getting them established in the veg patch.

Today 17th March

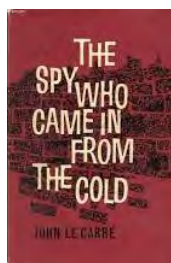
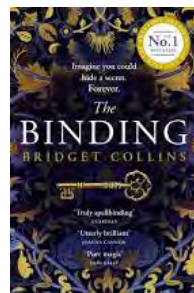
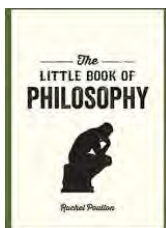
I got up as my room filled with light. Checked the sheep as first lamb soon expected... but not today.

Here is a rough guide to how my day will proceed.

Feed the dogs. Dog walk and feed the pigs. I will stop at the veg patch and dig two rows. Feed the chickens and goats. Milk Sophie and get the milk strained and in the fridge. Breakfast and finish writing this newsletter. Check and water the greenhouse. Prick out and pot up cabbage and tomato seedlings. Drive over to the farm to collect a couple of bags of rolled barley to add to pig's diet and some hedging plants. Later this morning Bill Crabtree will show me how to graft apple trees. Collect the eggs. Work on the front lawn until lunch. Continue work on front garden keeping an ear on the T20 cricket. Feeding and milking will start again at around 5pm. Dinner. Maybe have a look at Alan's pack saddle. Check sheep before bed.



WHAT WE'RE READING.....



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 April we will be discussing our photos of "Spring". As and when COVID restrictions ease, we hope to arrange photoshoots and in the future, possibly an exhibition. 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.

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SIBFORD FERRIS PARISH COUNCIL

Hook Norton Road development

The Hook Norton Road site has been purchased by **Gade Homes**. Gade Homes has contacted the Parish Council to advise that fencing will be erected around the site in the coming weeks (completion by 2nd April) and to request a meeting with the Parish Council to discuss some of the detail of their plans. The Parish Council has agreed to hold a community meeting, involving both Parish Councils (Ferris & Gower) and all parishioners. The meeting will be held virtually via zoom on Wednesday 7th April at 7pm. The meeting will be open to members of the public and can be accessed using these details:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81660075654> Meeting ID: 816 6007 5654

Or dial in on 0203 051 2874

Gade Homes will provide the Parish Council with an agenda for the meeting along with any supporting documents and we will publish these documents on the parish website as soon as possible. If any parishioners have questions that they would like the Parish Council to consider putting to Gade Homes please provide details of your question to the Clerk by 31st March by e-mail to sfpc@thesibfords.org.uk or by post to 74 Beaulieu Close, Banbury, Oxfordshire, OX16 4FQ.

Annual Meetings

There are two meetings which the parish must hold annually – The Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual Parish Council Meeting. (A full explanation of these meetings is published on the village website).

The **National Lockdown Rules** currently in place mean that it would be unlawful to hold the Annual Parish Meeting in its intended format of a community meeting which brings parishioners together within the timescales required. Due to this the 'official' **Annual Parish Meeting for Sibford Ferris will take place via zoom from 6:30-7pm on Wednesday 5th May** immediately before the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council. If any parishioners have a particular subject that they would like on the agenda for the Annual Parish Meeting please let the Clerk know before Monday 26th April.

Sibford Ferris Parish Council Clerk – Kirsty Buttle

E-mail: sfpc@thesibfords.org.uk

Tel: 01295 275 372



HORTI SOCIETY

On 10th March, our first speaker of the year, Joff Elphick, talked to us via zoom on the subject of Crayfish on the Lawn. It was an entertaining and broad reaching lecture, by a man who has gardened at Le Manoir, Barnsley House, and for Pam Ayers, who read one of her poems, an ode to the departing hedgehogs of England.

Apart from hedgehogs, we were treated to the visual delights of some of the gardens he works on, as well as learning about the habits of box moth and caterpillar hawk moths and the origin of plant galls.

Our next speaker, who will also be addressing us by zoom, will be Victoria Logue who will speak to us on Wednesday 14 April at 7.30 on the subject of 'Practical Propagation, seeds, cuttings and beyond'. Zoom link to be published nearer the time on The Sibford Website.

Please note, if you would like to join the Horti Society or have already joined and do not appear on my mailing list, then contact me on diana_thompson@btinternet.com and I shall make sure that you are included in all further mailings.

Please be assured that the list is only ever used for Sibford Horti related events and will never be passed to a third party. There is no subscription to pay until March 2021 and in any case all zoom lectures are open to anyone so do join us!

As we are unable to hold our Plant sale in May, Sue Bannister is making individual appointments for you to buy plants from her. Please contact Sue direct on 01295 780365 or sebannister@gmail.com. She will send a copy of the list of plants available on request but would also be grateful for small clean pots and plants to sell.

Finally please note that we will be unable to hold our Spring Show in May 22nd thanks to Covid. I will let you know in the coming months whether our June and July outings will be able to take place.

Enjoy your gardens as they emerge from winter.

Diana Thompson



In Your Garden - April

There is something so heart lifting about spring in the garden. It is even better than a glass of bubbly. Today it happened as I opened up my greenhouse and found a beautiful auricula in flower (Page and the basil seeds had just popped through.



Joy! However loads of jobs need doing, but you will be longing to be outside all the time. Lockdown hasn't been good for any of us.

1. Remove dead flowerheads from daffodils and tulips, but leave the foliage on to die back. If you didn't do it in March, split up the clumps of snowdrops and replant deeply.
 2. Trim back cotinus and sambucus, which most of us grow for their lovely foliage in flower arrangements.
 3. Keep the hoe moving: weeds are madly shooting up.
 4. Once the soil has warmed up you can start sowing hardy annuals outside - larkspur, poppies, cosmos and cornflowers etc, and if you planted your sweet peas in autumn last year, they will be longing to be transplanted outside. Hope you remembered to pinch them out.
 5. Quite a few veggies can be sown outside now - beetroot, carrots, leeks, radish, perpetual spinach, peas, and lettuce. I sowed Little Gems last year, and they were brilliant, and kept going until the first frost.
 6. My lawn is a mess - hope yours is better. But they need to be aerated, raked over to remove the moss, fed, mown, and trimmed around the edges. Bit like my hair, although I haven't grown moss, yet....
 7. Roses will be growing, so tie in climbing and rambler roses, so that any wind can't snap off any fragile new growth. They will benefit hugely for feed of manure or compost.
 8. Tomato seedling can be potted up separately when they have their first grown up leaves.
 - 9...If you stored your dahlia tubers indoors during this cold winter, don't be in too much of a hurry to get them out. Pot them up in dry potting compost, and don't water them until they start sprouting, otherwise that will encourage rotting. Plant out when all the frost should have gone. Pinch them out by about 3 inches on the main branch, and don't forget to stake them
 10. Make sure the bird bath has a good scrub out, and please do not trim your hedges once the birds start nesting. Enjoy the Spring, every minute of it.
- Cheers.

Jupe Hitching

PLANT SALE

Given government guidelines I won't be able to hold the plant sale in the usual way, so do please ring or email me to book a time to come and see the wide range of plants I have for sale in aid of the Horti and the National Gardens Scheme. As they need more time to reach a decent size you may prefer to wait until mid-April. However if you are happy to grow them on, please arrange to come sooner. This year I hope to receive plants from other Horti members so there may be some delicious surprises. To see the list and to order, please go to: thesibfords.org.uk. To book a time or to ask questions, please phone 01295 780365 or email sebannister@gmail.com. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sue Bannister

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SIBFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The committee has selected the following talks to be held via Zoom for the next few months until we are, hopefully, able to resume our meetings in the village hall in September.

The programme from March to June:

18th March: Liz Woolley, 'Local History - How to do it.'

15th April: Deborah Hayter, 'The Lost Villages of Oxfordshire.'

20th May: Marie- Louise Kerr, 'Romans of Oxfordshire: Roman settlements and impact on the local area.'

17th June: Stephen Barker: 'Saints, Soldiers, and Sinners: Oxfordshire's characters from the Civil War'.

These talks will all start at 8pm. Zoom meeting details will be emailed to members and posted on the village website shortly before each talk.

Something to very much look forward to!

Diana Hughes

LOCAL MARKETS

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

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

Chipping Norton - Every Wednesday



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NATURE NOTES

Sue Sabin noted the large numbers of birds to be seen on the Woodway sheep field,
60+ yellowhammers with maybe a siskin or two, 80+ fieldfares, 20+ redwings and 20 + skylarks.

Simon Hoare also mentioned the large flocks of Yellowhammers along with the following observations.

We have also noticed a group of 4 deer off Hawkes Lane in the fields.

It appears that barn owls may also have taken up residence in one of the old farm buildings on Hawkes Lane. We have seen a pair flying about over the last few weeks always over the scruffy fields.

Yesterday to our surprise, what initially we thought was a muntjac deer hurtling towards us, just off Colony Road, when it got close we realised that it was a very large hare!

Our bird feeders don't seem to attract many birds the most interesting one is a solitary Nuthatch.

The few sunny days towards the end of February brought out the first of the Spring butterflies including Brimstones, Red Admirals, Peacocks and Small Tortoiseshells. Bees were also making good use of the small purple crocuses that are spreading rapidly on our rockery and into the lawn. A valuable resource when there are few other flowers around.

It has been a very slow start to the moth season with nights being either too cold or too windy. I have seen a few Hebrew Character moths. One of the commoner spring species it is named after the 14th letter of the Hebrew alphabet 'Nun' (pronounced Noon).



Please send any contributions for the next Nature notes to
ajnewbold88@gmail.com

Andy and Gill Newbold



OPEN GARDENS FOR KATHARINE HOUSE – APRIL 2021 – SUMMER 2022

As we move into spring and look forward to summer we hope that our annual Open Gardens for Katharine House can take place this year. If you are interested in opening your garden in support of Katharine House or for more information please email getinvolved@khh.org.uk or contact our fundraising department on 01295 816 484 or visit www.khh.org.uk/gardens

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

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 ^{A bit more!} 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

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

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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

FIRE WALK FOR KATHARINE HOUSE – SEPTEMBER 2021

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

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

An Idea from Sue Sabin.....

If what I do is of any interest to readers, and partly due to my coffers running low (but more so because I am a teacher and naturally love sharing knowledge and experience), I am considering offering a Dawn to Dusk experience of self-sufficiency to any adult or child willing to part with £100. I can plan the day around my visitor's interests. Bread making, cheese making, horticulture, animal care, foraging and cooking, making jams, syrups and preserves, cider, bird moth study, fencing, fixing pack saddles... playing with the goat kids... Breakfast, lunch and dinner included.

Georgie might even be making soap...(She has recently launched her website- www.sunedaysoapery.co.uk).

As I walked past the goats this morning, the early sun shone on a Kestrel perching on the fence not 2 metres away. What a life.



DID YOU KNOW?

The Reading Room, Sibford Ferris

Reading rooms were originally provided for the working classes by the upper classes, mainly the church and local landowners. Their establishment reflected contemporary attitudes to philanthropy, recreation and self-help and confirmed the great class divide. They were developed in rural villages across the UK from the mid 19th to mid 20th century. Reading rooms offered an alternative to the public house for the working classes, although they tended to appeal more to the lower middle classes, and membership was mostly restricted to males.

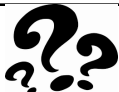
A Cutting from Banbury Guardian, 18 January 1894 stated that-

'On Wednesday evening of last week a company of over 30 members and friends of the recently-established Reading Room sat down to substantial old English dinner, Mr. R B Oddie sketched the short history of the reading room, according the lion's share of the credit of its existence to the kindly feeling and public spirit of Mr. Henry T. Dixon. He said "that comfortable room where the young men of the district could meet for improvement and recreation had long been a great want, and that the appreciation in which the provision of such a room was held was highly encouraging. He hoped the Sibford Reading Room would continue to prosper, and that it would be a means of good to all connected with it."



The Reading Room – sometimes known as Dixon's Room, was in the group of old stone buildings between Anne's Cott and Rymell's Corner, in Sibford Ferris, where the Main Street takes a sharp left hand bend onto Hook Norton Road. The old wooden doors of the stone barn were the entrance to the Reading Room which had been used to store Josiah Woolgrove's cart.

In March 1894, in his diary, Rev Edward Stevens refers to slips of the 'Sibford Chronicle' being hung up in the Reading Room for villagers to read the village gossip – something which Stevens rebukes and requests that Dixon 'desists' from displaying them. No freedom of the press enjoyed by our Sibford Scene today.



DID YOU KNOW?

Cont'd



Home Close on Main Street, designed in the Art and Crafts style by architect Baillie Scott in 1911, was built on the site of farmer Richard Austin's Barn. Mr and Mrs Hiles who lived in Home Close also owned the building which housed the Reading Room.

Senior villagers can remember their fathers meeting to socialise and enjoy a game of billiards there. After her husband's death, Mrs Hiles sold off some of the buildings that they owned, including the Reading Room.

The Reading Room which had served the Ferris villagers so well was also used to house an evacuee family who lived there temporarily in the 1940's until they moved to a house in North Newington. During WW2 The Home Guard met there and it is reported that once they were issued with 303 Rifles one of the guns was discharged leaving a bullet in one of the upstairs walls!

Later, it became a shop and residence for Jack and Esme Simms. Jack was a trained electrician in the RAF and once he returned home to Sibford after the War, worked at the hospital and opened an electrical shop and workshop where he repaired electrical items and bicycles.

The Woman's Institute and Woman's Bright Hour are known to have met there. Eventually the run of stone buildings was demolished and redeveloped by a local builder, David Messenger, into the single dwelling now known as Westerways.

In the twentieth century, as other diversions appeared and the countryside became more democratised, reading rooms gradually declined. They were an important part of village life and have left interesting evidence of former lifestyles and attitude.

Maureen Hicks



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Sunday 8am - 1.00 pm

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FUN CORNER

Some thoughts on dating:

It is interesting that at 11.30pm this evening, any brilliant astronomer will be able to tell you the exact location of every planet in the universe whilst having no idea where his teenage daughter will be.

Seeing your daughter go off with her new boyfriend on her first date is like watching a gorilla walk away with your Stradivarius.

A date can be very similar to a job interview except that it is unlikely in a job interview that you will end up naked.

John Marshall

"I am enclosing two tickets to the first night of my new play,bring a friend , if you have one"

-George Bernard Shaw

"Cannot possibly attend first night, will attend second, if there is one"

Winston Churchill , in response

A Member of Parliament to Disraeli;

"Sir, you will either die on the gallows or of some unspeakable disease."

"That depends,Sir,"said Disraeli,

"Whether I embrace your policies or your Mistress."

Ginny Bennett

* A boiled egg in the morning is hard to beat.

* He had a photographic memory that was never developed.

* A midget fortune-teller who escapes from prison is a small medium at large.

* Once you've seen one shopping centre, you've seen a mall.

* Bakers trade bread recipes on a knead-to-know basis.

* Acupuncture is a jab well done.

Ivor Hopkyns

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HOLY TRINITY CHURCH CHATTER

Dear friends,

There is no time like Spring,
When life's alive in everything,
Before new nestlings sing,
Before cleft swallows speed their journey back
Along the trackless track -
God guides their wing,
He spreads their table that they nothing lack, -
Before the daisy grows a common flower
Before the sun has power
To scorch the world up in his noontide hour.

This beautiful poem by Christina Rossetti captures for me the essence of Spring. When the natural world around us is seemingly bursting with life, be it in the new born lambs as they leisurely lay in the fields in the sun, or the flashes of colour that are appearing with the blossom and flowers in our borders. In this springtime comes the hope of course for a brighter future, at a time when we might well all feel we need the uplift of our spirit that the beauty of springtime can bring.

As a church family here in Sibford we had a lovely Mothering Sunday service together in March, even the fact that singing is still not allowed, couldn't dampen the noise that adults and children can make when they gather together! We are of course very much looking forward to being able to celebrate Easter day together, something that we weren't able to do last year, and there will be a special service in Holy Trinity church on Easter Sunday morning (4th April) at 9.30am, to which everyone is invited.

It's been great to be able to continue to have the church in Sibford safely open for services on a Sunday since I arrived, throughout the period of lockdown and we do hope that with the continued good progress of the roll out of the vaccines, more and more people will begin to once again return to the place which I know holds an important place in many of our individual lives, as well as the life our village community.

May I take this opportunity to wish all who live, work and go to school in Sibford Gower, Burdrop, and Sibford Ferris, a very happy and joy filled Easter and may we all have that feeling of hope, that comes with the beauty of new life and colour in Spring.

If you would like to receive information about all that is happening in the church or would like to have a chat with me, then please do be in touch; revneil@wykehambenefice.org.uk or Tel: 788005.

Love & prayers
Revd Neil



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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

Dinah and Julian Jeffery have recently moved to Sibford Ferris and are keen to get involved with the community.

They are interested in walking, gardening, wild life and cars.

Dinah and Julian are looking forward to joining some of the local clubs once lockdown restrictions have been lifted.



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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 - Pettiphers 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 - Pettiphers 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

APRIL

2nd - Easter Egg Trail - Village Hall - 10am

10th - Valaai's: Sibford Stores. 530pm-830pm

14th - Horti Societ: "Practical Propagation" 730pm zoom

15th - Sibford Historical Society: "The Lost Villages of Oxfordshire" 8pm online

24th -Valaai's: Village Hall. 530pm-830pm

APRIL BIN COLLECTIONS

Green Tuesday: 13th; 27th
Blue/Brown Tuesday: 6th; 20th

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

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12 NOON - 18th MARCH 2021

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