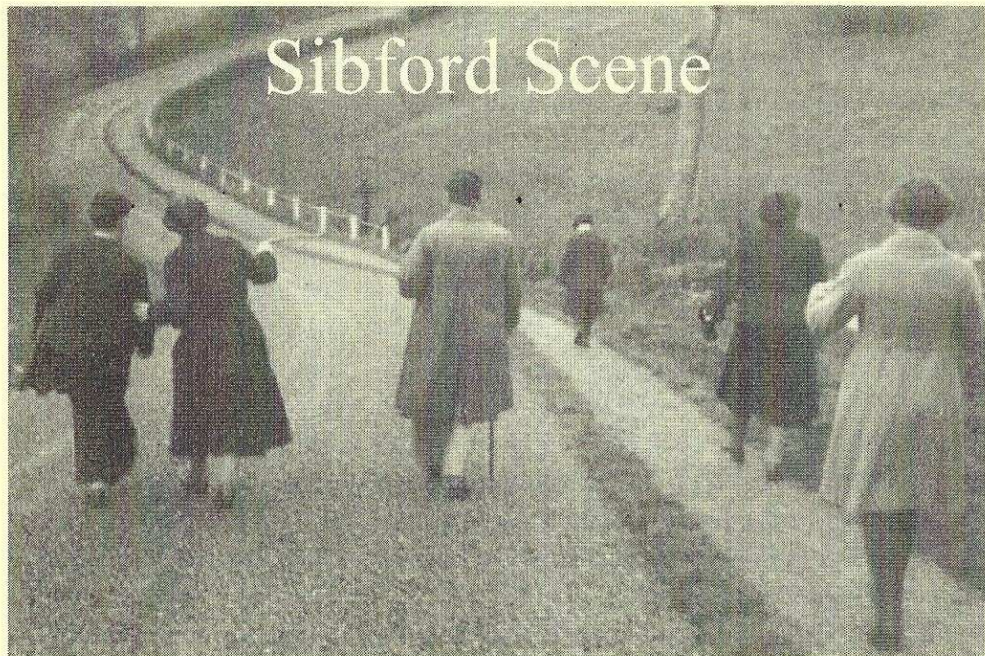


Sibford Scene



February 2008

No. 300

The Cosmic Sausages
Performing in the Village Hall
Saturday 26th January 7.45pm

Sibford Playgroup
In conjunction with

The Pampered Chef
invite you to an evening of food and wine
Wednesday 30th January
8pm In the Village Hall

North Oxfordshire Guild of Weavers, Spinners & Dyers
Invite you to a

Weaving Day
Saturday 9th February
Baptist Schoolroom, Hook Norton

Nature Note

Nov. 24th This morning I saw that the badger carcass that had been on the road verge on Sibford Heath for a while had been dragged back onto the road and much of it was eaten. A buzzard was on it but I doubt whether buzzards alone could have eaten that quantity of flesh. I had thought that badger flesh must be unpalatable as bodies tend to lie around for a long time but most of this has now been eaten.

Dec. 1st Pigeons, redwings and blackbirds have already cleared the huge crop of berries from our holly tree and the redwings and blackbirds are now busily stripping our yellow pyracantha berries.

Dec. 13th This colder spell of weather has brought more life to our bird table including coal, blue, great, long tailed and marsh tits, several chaffinches and about 20 blackbirds at a time feeding on fallen apples. As in the last few winters a single fieldfare seems to stay around feeding on the apples. It would be interesting to know whether it is the same bird each year.

Dec. 14th This morning a male blackcap has joined the birds that are feeding on apples.

Dec. 15th While on a short car journey this morning we saw 3 or 4 roe deer disappearing into Birch Wood, near Epwell White House and a muntjac by Tyne Hill.

Dec. 19th It was nice to see a mistle thrush on our lawn this morning after a long absence.

Jan. 1st 2007 was an erratic year for rainfall with fairly average falls over the first 3 months including a fall of about 5 inches of snow on Feb. 8th which only lay for 2 or 3 days by which time the temperature was up to 40°F. We again had some cold days with a few snow showers towards the end of March. After an exceptionally dry April and early May, when I only measured 0.13" of rain in five weeks, came

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the really wet summer months. We had 15.88 inches in 3 months (May 5.33", June 3.77", July 6.78"). Some areas fared even worse hence the record floods. August and September were drier than average allowing most of the harvest to be rescued. The last 3 months were again pretty average leading to a total for the year of 35.04 inches which is almost 9 inches above my 20 year average of 26.25". It was in fact the wettest of those 20 years producing 0.74" more than 2000.

Jan. 6th A female brambling, which is rather like a lighter coloured chaffinch with a white rump, has visited our bird table several times in the last few days. We have only seen bramblings a few times before.

Jan.10th The 2 cock pheasants that were on our lawn this morning were still happy enough together. They may become less tolerant of male company in a few weeks time. My granddaughter had a good view of a barn owl close to the village this evening.

Jan. 17th A song thrush has been singing over the last few days. There were 8 long tailed tits and a marsh tit together on the bird table this morning.

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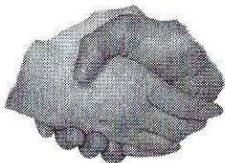
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Friendship Club

Another year has begun and I hope it will be as successful as 2007.

On **February 5th** we are having lunch at the Coach and Horses at Shipston on Stour. Val is arranging this. i.e. the menus. As there are so many Birthdays in February we are having a **BIG BIRTHDAY PARTY** on the **19th**.

On **March 4th** Julie Williams is to demonstrate her beautiful work in Polymer Clay, we will have a chance to buy as well. Thanks to Evéline and Gladys for tea in January.

P.S. Our friendly coach driver Martin has had his op. and has recovered well. So he tells me.

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What is a local bus? Most-bus routes that stop at least once every 15 miles would be classed as a local service.

How do I get a new national bus pass? If you already hold a bus pass, you should have received an application form in the post. If not, please contact Customer Service on 01295 227001. However, please note that if you joined the current scheme after 31 July 2007, you will automatically be sent a new bus pass in April 2008. You will not have to complete a new form.

I do not have a current bus pass, how do I apply for one? Contact Customer Service on 01295 227001 or visit one of our local offices to obtain an application to the current scheme. Once accepted you will automatically be sent a new bus pass in April 2008.

Will I be able to enjoy free travel everywhere within the UK? No. The concession will only apply within England.

How and when will I receive my new national bus pass? Your new bus pass will be posted to you during March 2008.

Will I be able to use my new national bus pass on Cherwell District Dial-a-Ride? Yes

Will I be able to use my new national bus pass on the trains? No. You cannot use your new bus pass on the trains.

Can my carer still travel free with me? Yes. If you requested, and are eligible

for this support, your new bus pass will allow a carer to travel with you within the Cherwell District. **Will any new national bus pass have an expiry date?** Yes. The expiry date will be in four years time. We will contact you nearer the time to explain what to do. **Can I still apply for national travel tokens?** You can choose either a new bus pass or travel tokens for the current year, but not both **Will I be able to use my new national bus pass on the London Underground** No However you will be able to use your new bus pass on London buses. **Will I be able to use my new national bus pass on any of the Oxford to London express services.** No these are not *local* bus services. **Who can I contact if have any other queries.** Please contact Customer Service on 01295 227001.

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Sibford Ferris Parish Council - Notes on meeting of 9 January 2008

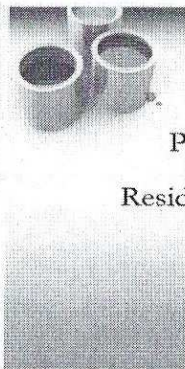
There were apologies from M Hicks and N Kitchen.

Play areas It was agreed to put roofing felt on the roofs of the play-house and tower unit and over the bolts on the swing cross beams to prolong the life of the equipment. It was also agreed that any volunteers mowing or strimming the grass should be reimbursed for fuel used. These costs will be included in the budget for 2008/9. The help of Mrs Margaret Gardiner in producing an article for the OPFA newsletter on the refurbishment of the play area was acknowledged, with thanks for her valuable assistance. Many thanks also to Mr Knowles for kindly fixing the information and SITA signs onto the gate. Enquiries were ongoing with the Planning Department about public access to the School multi-use games area. **Trees** The Clerk was asked to chase OCC in February about replanting of felled trees. **Verge erosion on Main Street** A meeting with Highways will take place in the next week or two to look at kerbing and drainage. **Speed limit between Sibford Ferris and Burdrop** Although Highways are in principle against altering the speed limit, Speedwatch has agreed to do a speed survey of traffic between the two villages. **Blue bin scheme** A further £20 has been paid by the District Council as a result of blue bin orders made through the Parish Council. **Post Office Closures** J Simms has drawn up a letter supporting the retention of the Sibford Post Office which will be sent to the appropriate authority. **Parish Plan** It was agreed to put this on the agenda of the 2008 Annual Parish Meeting to see if there would be any interest from the village in putting together a plan of how the community could develop in the future. **Finance** The precept amount for 2008/9 was set at £3599. **Planning** There had been one notice of decision since the last meeting. It was reported on the Bishop Blaize that the appeal period was coming to an end and it would soon be known whether an appeal against the planning decision had been lodged. J Simms had attended a Local Development Framework consultation event at the District Council where those attending had been asked whether infill or extension were preferred for new building; four out of five of those present were in favour of preserving the open spaces within their villages so had indicated a preference for extension. There being no further business, the meeting closed at 10.00 pm. The next meeting will be on **19 March, 7.45 pm** in the Sports Hall classroom, Sibford School. All welcome.

The Sibfords Society

Once again, the Social was enjoyed by members and their guests, with the usual wonderful array of delicious food provided by all present. We were treated to a musical interlude by three talented young musicians from the Friends' School, who played a selection of jazz. to the delight of us all. To shake off the gloom of winter, Robin is organising a walk on the **1st March** and

asks us to meet at the Village Hall car park at 9.45am, when we may share cars to travel outside the village. We welcome non-members to join us and would advise strong waterproof footwear, as there is a strong possibility of encountering a little mud!



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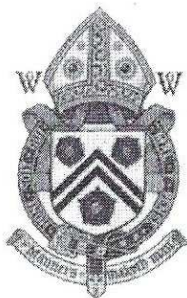
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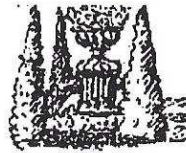
Sibford Playgroup Fundraiser
Wednesday 30th January at 8pm in the
Sibford Village Hall

Playgroup in conjunction with The Pampered Chef would like to invite you to an evening of food and wine. Come along to see The Pampered Chef prepare a simple recipe with dramatic results using high quality kitchen tools. If you who are already familiar with the products there is a special offer of 20% off Stoneware! Places for this event are limited, please contact Nicki Kitchen (780633) or Carolyn Heather (780495) to guarantee your place. We look forward to seeing you on the night and thank you for supporting Sibford Playgroup.

Sibford Playgroup Open Morning
Tuesday 4th March from 10am to 11.30am

Sibford Playgroup provides a bright and stimulating environment for children aged between 2 and 5 years of age. Why not come along to our open morning and experience what we have to offer. Our trained staff will be happy to discuss your Child's needs and any questions you may have regarding our facilities. We look forward to welcoming you and your children on Tuesday 4th March. If you require any further information, please contact Emma or Helen on 01295 780998 during playgroup hours (9am to 12 noon).

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Sibford Gower Parish Council Meeting – 22nd November 2007

In attendance were four Parish Councillors, two local electors and the Clerk with the benefit of County and District Councillor George Reynolds being present. Cllr Robin Spicer (Chairman) gave a brief report of his attendance, with the Clerk, at the Annual Parish Liaison Meeting held on 7th November at Bodicote House. Since the previous Meeting two planning applications had been considered. Two Highway matters had raised concerns, one in respect of the displacement of kerb edging stones in High Meadow but this has now been the subject of repair work, The other related to the ownership of trees at Burdrop Hill and this is still in the hands of Oxfordshire Highways. As to Footpath matters, complaints had been received regarding two problem areas and the Clerk was instructed to speak with the residents of the adjacent properties. The Parish Councillors were pleased to sanction grants of £300 to Sibford Village Hall and £100 to the Sibford Scene in acknowledgment of the benefits to the local community. With regard to the Village Pond and the attendant matter of Health and Safety, Cllr Martin Layer has undertaken to provide information for discussion by the Parish Council as to what sensible warnings should be given either by way of advice published from time to time in the Sibford Scene and a notice to be displayed adjacent to the pond for the benefit of people visiting it. With regard to vehicles parked at the side of the pond, the local feeling is that "No Parking" markings on the road are not desirable but an appeal should be made, from time to time, in the Sibford Scene seeking drivers' cooperation in trying to avoid pondside parking. The Clerk reported that work continues with regard to the new Burial Ground and the subject of fencing is currently being discussed. In the matter of the Churchyard, work continues in the building of a wall to divide it from the new Burial Ground. The Parish Councillors expressed a willingness to assist the Church in meeting the cost involved. During Public Question Time, two matters concerning Highways were raised and the Clerk was instructed to check out the situations. Under Any Other Business, Cllr Muriel Chandler raised the matter that the light at the Pound Lane steps is out of action and the Clerk was instructed to speak with Charter Community Housing Ltd. Cllr Robin Spicer rounded off the Meeting by speaking briefly about his recent visit to Thailand where he had the opportunity of comparing life, very poor in quality, in a village comparative in size with ours and which made him appreciate how lucky we are. The Chairman closed the Meeting at 9.37pm after thanking all who had attended. The next Meeting is scheduled for 31st January 2008 commencing at 8pm to be held in the same venue, Sibford Gower Endowed Primary School. A warm invitation is extended to all local residents.

Holiday Charity Football match raises £350 for Local Charities

On a beautiful Boxing Day morning at Swalcliffe Park School, with the sun shining and clear blue skies, two football teams representing Sibford and Swalcliffe gathered to participate in probably the most anticipated fixture in the whole of the football calendar the Annual Charity Football match.

Despite an early first half goal from the Swalcliffe Cottagers the visiting Sibford side went into half time with a 2-1 lead.

Following substantial substitute changes for the second half the Swalcliffe Cottagers quickly dominated proceedings by scoring two goals in a seven minute period.

In the last twenty minutes the Cottagers maintained their grip on the match by not conceding any further goals to the opposition. Another two goals from the Cottagers late on in the game and the 5-2 victory was sealed. Special thanks to Ray Hooper, Swalcliffe Park School, Phil Sherer and the Swalcliffe Cottagers players, David Spackman and the Sibford players, Referee Mick Foley, Steve at The Stags Head and all those generous people who added their donations to the appeal.

The total Funds raised on the day amounted to £350. Cheques for £175 have now being sent to the two nominated local Charities namely Katharine House & Frank Wise School.



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Women's
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Sibford W. I. Meeting — Tuesday, 8th-January 2008

It was lovely to have an almost full turn-out of members boosted by two members from Hook Norton W.I., Theresa and Alrys plus Theresa's friend May visiting from Australia. We also had the pleasure of Caroline on leave from Hong Kong. All were warmly welcomed by the President, Glennis. It was also good to have Lynda back in the secretary's chair and Margaret was thanked for deputising at previous meetings.

Lynda gave a full report of the Resolution Meeting which had taken place during the morning at Chipping Norton Methodist Church. A Programme Meeting will take place at Glennis' home on Tuesday, 29th January at 2.30pm. Sincere regrets were expressed at learning that the Tadmerton W.I. has had to be closed down due to lack of officers. The Institute was due to host the Group Meeting on Thursday, 24th April. Sibford W.I. has agreed to take this over. The arranged speaker, Mr Brian Little, will now change his venue to Sibford Village Hall. Exciting Group events are planned for the Spring and Summer.

'Mystery Objects' was the subject of this month's speaker Patrick Bowen, an antiques valuer and consultant. He showed slides of various different antique objects, most of which were a complete mystery to us, though there were one or two that we could identify. He not only explained what they were but also gave their age and value. He explained that giving a valuation of an antique was like detective work, a matter of discovering the age of the item, its origin, what it's made of and its rarity. Each member had been asked to bring a mystery object for Patrick to examine. He looked at each one (and there were lots) and gave as much information about them that he could. He certainly gave us a good idea of what we should be looking for as we search the Charity Shops and Car Boot Sales for that 50p item which is going to make us very rich indeed! He was thanked by Gwen for giving such a fascinating and enjoyable talk. Patrick then selected his most favourite interesting items for our competition and judged 1st - a little dog ornament (Barbara), 2nd — a horn and silver vesta case (Gaynor), and 3rd — a Nailsey glass walking stick (Rosemary). Norma and Ann were the servers of tea and superb apple and fruit cake.

A treat is in store for our February meeting on the 12th. Celia Cook will be coming to give her talk "That Hat". She will be bringing along lots of beautiful hats and promises to cheer up a mid winter afternoon. Members are requested to look in their wardrobes and find a posh hat for the competition. Visitors will be made very welcome.

RVN



Sibford Horticultural Society

Our indoor meetings re-start on March 12th with Rob Cole talking on 'Building a

Dream'.

Meanwhile here are the Handicraft and Photographic classes for our Annual Flower Show at the end of August.

Handicraft . 1 Cushion any medium. 2 A piece of tapestry.

3 A decorated egg. 4 An item of cross stitch. 5 An item of papier mache. 6 A greetings or Easter Card - made from any medium excluding computer generated. 7 A handicraft exhibit

8 "The spirit was willing" A craft item started but not finished

9 Photograph - flower/flowers. 10 Photograph - fungi.

11 Photograph - taken within the parishes of Sibford and Epwell.

12 Photograph - "Sunrise or Sunset". 13 Photograph -

people/person at play 14 Photograph - water, water everywhere.

15 Photograph - Any seascape scene. 16 Photographs of 4 re-

lated views - mounted on one sheet and named. 17 A black and

white photograh - any size one

only. . 18 An enlargement - any

subject - max size A4 - black and white or colour. 19 An ama-

teur painting or drawing

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WELCOME TO SIBFORD

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

This month we welcome two new families to the Ferris.

The first are new houseparents at Fielding House at Sibford School. John and Celia Lendis have moved to Sibford from Tasmania. They have two children, Sunday (age 9) and Emile (age 3). John is a professional landscape painter who has exhibited in Australia and New Zealand, and works closely with Celia, who is experienced in arts management, promotion and publishing.

Also, Nicola Sims and Mark Rayment have moved into 14, Cotswold Close with their 20 month old son, Archie. They have moved up from Bicester, so Nicola and Archie would like to make some new Mum and Tot friends in the village.

Weaving Day - Saturday 9th February

Held at the Baptist Schoolroom in Hook Norton

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"Bishop Blaize" - February Update


Happy New Year to you all. We were hoping to have some positive news, but nothing as yet!

Mr. & Mrs. Noquet (our absentee landlords) have not lodged an appeal against the planning decision of 28th June, but apparently they may have 2 more weeks in which to do so.

As long as we can prevent them from getting permission for change of use, we have a chance. So we must keep up the pressure, and make sure that they comply with the planning authorities. We will keep you all informed.

Thank you for your continued support, and watch this space!

Eileen Haynes (790083) p.p. Bishop Blaize support Group



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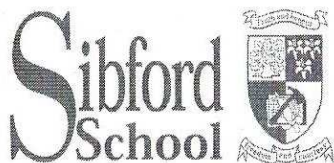
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Further details available from Peter Robinson on 01295 781200.

SWIMMING POOL

A reminder that Sibford School's 25 meter indoor swimming pool is open for public swimming sessions at various times throughout the week and at weekends. Opening times are displayed at the school, on village notice boards and on the web at www.sibford.oxon.sch.uk or you can call the school on 01295 781200 for further details.

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(Sibford Gower) (Mobile)

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH NEWS

Christmas seems a long time ago, but the many services all proved as popular as ever, if not more so. There were three carol services in the Benefice, at Sibford and Broughton as usual and this year additionally at Tadmarton. All were well attended and the choir tried very hard not to hog all the singing, leaving the choir and congregation to join lustily together for at least half the service. There is a fine line between having no congregation or no choir and the choirmaster has a difficult balancing act to perform. The Christingle service returned to a more traditional time which seemed to be more popular with families and there was great enthusiasm in a beautifully decorated church.

Easter this year is earlier than ever, with Lent beginning on **Ash Wednesday 6th February 2008**. The Lent Austerity Lunches will be held as usual in the six Benefice Parishes, that in Sibford being held on **Friday 14th March** at Wyatts Close, Sibford Gower, the home of Gilian and David Soden at **12.30 pm**. There will be Discussion Groups on **Sundays at 3.30 pm** led by Rev. John Tattersall at his home at Abingdon House, Park Lane, Swalcliffe, commencing **10th February**. There will **not** be one on **March 2nd**. There will also be weekly discussion groups on Thursdays at **10.30 am** at the home of Margaret and Neil Howarth at 32 Danvers Close, Broughton commencing 7th



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Sibford Scene
to the Shop or Editor by
February 19th

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February. All living in the villages of the Benefice are invited to both of these series.

The Parish Annual Meeting will be held after the morning service in church on Sunday 9th March and all in the villages are invited to attend. There will be an election for the two churchwardens and for the 8 members of the Parochial Church Council. Nominations should be handed to Peter Hardman, PCC Secretary and should contain the signed consents for nomination.

The next Family Service will be on **Sunday 10th February at 10.00 am.**

The annual collections in Church Mission Society boxes, together with donations and Gift Aid tax benefits this year totaled £828.47, a good increase on last year's £783.18. All those who collect their small change in this way are sincerely thanked and congratulated and anyone who would like a box for this very worthwhile overseas medical, educational and spiritual charity should telephone 780980.

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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.

February

Sun 3rd Candlemas Benefice Service at Broughton 10.30 am
Wed. 6th Ash Wednesday. Benefice Eucharist at Tadmarton 8 pm
Fri. 8th Holy Communion 7.30 am
Sun 10th Holy Communion 8 am & Family Service 10 am
Fri 15th Holy Communion 7.30 am
Sun 17th Holy Communion 9.30 am
Fri 22nd Holy Communion 7.30 am
Sun 24th Holy Communion 9.30 am
Fri 29th Holy Communion 7.30 am
March
Sun 2nd Mothering Sunday. Family Service 10 am

The collection box place in the Village Shop in aid of the
Children's Society has raised £125.

Many thanks to all who have contributed.



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Sibford Bus Services

Free Bus Service

Chipping Norton Wednesday 6th & 20th. February

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

January

- Sat 26th The Cosmic Sausages. Village Hall 7.45pm
Wed 30th Playgroup Fundraising Event. 8pm in the Village Hall p8
Thu 31st Sibford Gower Parish Council Meeting: P9

February

- Tue 5th Friendship Club Lunch at the Coach and Horses p4
Wed 6th Mobile Library in the Sibfords (2.40 - 4.10pm)
Sat 9th Weaving Day at Hook Noton p13
Tue 12th W.I. Talk 'That Hat' p11
Tue 19th Friendship Club Big Birthday Party. P4
Wed 20th Mobile Library in the Sibfords (2.40 - 4.10pm)

March (part)

- Sat 1st Sibfords Society Walk. 9.45am at the Village Hall. P7
Tue 4th Playgroup Open Morning. p8
Tue 4th Friendship Club. Polymer Clay work. P4
Wed 5th Mobile Library in the Sibfords (2.40 - 4.10pm)
Wed 12th Horticultural Society Talk - Building a Dream. P12
Fri 14th Austerity Lunch at Wyatts Close, Sibford Gower 12.30pm p16
March 15 & 16 - annual Art Exhibition at the Primary School, including a ticket-only preview evening on Friday 14
Wed 19th Mobile Library in the Sibfords (2.40 - 4.10pm)
Wed 19th Sibford Ferris Parish Council Meeting. P6

Cover Picture; Walking down Mannings Hill, C 1938.

Sibford Scene

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