

December 2013 & January 2014

No. 358

Tuesday 3rd to Thursday 5th December at 7.30pm Sibford School presents - Oliver!

Christmas Coffee Morning at Silver Birches Saturday 7th December 10 - 12 noon

Village Hall Film Nights
Arthur Christmas at 5pm on Saturday 14th December
Chicago on Tuesday 21st January

Sibford School Carol Concert 6.30pm Wednesday 11th December Methodist Chapel Carol Service 11am Sunday 15th December Traditional Carol Service in the Church 7pm Friday 20th December Community Carol Singing 6pm Saturday 21st December Christingle Service at 4.30pm Sunday 22nd December

Boxing Day Charity Football Match at Swalcliffe Park
Thursday 26th December

Nature Notes

Oct 19th I had not seen any hornets this year but today my grand-daughter called me out to show me one that was resting on the leaf of a phlox.

Oct 23rd Since I was shown a hornet I have been looking out for more. Today it was warm and sunny with a stiff breeze and several of them were flying around in a sheltered corner of the garden, probably because that was where the flies were. I saw two that seemed to be fighting, or mating, or even trying to claim the same fly.

Oct 28th A stormy night brought nearly an inch and a quarter (32mm) of rain. The worst of the winds, that kept to the south of us, brought down trees disrupting rail, and for a time, air travel.

Oct 30th A few redwings are feeding on our yew berries. They could have been there for a few days but I only got a clear view of one today. Normally there would be quite a commotion with the blackbirds trying to chase them off but there are very few blackbirds around at the moment.

Nov 15th In the month from the 13th of October to the 12th November, I have measured 7.56 inches (192mm) of rain which is more than a quarter of an average years rainfall.

Nov 16th I heard a mistle thrush sing a few bars in the valley between the vil-

lages. Although not as tuneful as the song thrush it has a powerful strident song that carries a long way. It is a bird that I always like to hear ever since, as a boy, I heard one sing loudly throughout a driving snow storm. It is often called the storm-cock.

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Tel/Fax: 01295 788145 Email: info@annwoolgrove.com www.annwoolgrove.com Nov 17th We still have fewer blackbirds than usual in the garden but on the radio I hear that unusually large numbers are arriving on the east coast from Europe so I expect we will be seeing more soon.

Sibford Ferris Parish Council wish to recruit a new CLERK to the PARISH COUNCIL

This is a paid post based on 5 hours per week and involves attending all PC meetings (6 per year) and the Annual Parish Meeting, taking minutes and dealing with all correspondence as required. This could be increased to 6 hours per week if the role of Responsible Financial Officer is covered as well.

If you are interested or require more information please contact vanessa.dyble@btinternet.com or one of the councillors



Friendship Club

As I write this piece, the Club have just returned from one of our most enjoyable trips ever.

We went to the Guide Dogs Breeding Centre near Learnington Spa. The Club spent 2 1/2 hours at the

centre, enjoying tours with staff and dogs. I think we ALL appreciate the work they do there.

The Club's Christmas Lunch is on December 3rd at Becketts and Christmas tea in the Hall on December 17th.

PLEASE remember members NO MEETING IN JANUARY therefore we

will be together again on February 4th 2014.

The Committee wish all members A Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year.

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Sibford Horticultural Society

Our November meeting saw the extremely entertaining Tom Duncan come to tell us about how his garden in Aynho came about. It helped to have a

famous garden designer as a close friend and the result is a collaboration

between the two of them. The garden is completely full of colour and pots, over a hundred of them, and a very entertaining evening was had by all. There is no meeting in December or January.

Boxing Day Charity
Football Match
Swalcliffe vs Sibford
At Swalcliffe Park School

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VILLAGE HALL NEWS

FILM NIGHTS

Our next film on Saturday December 14th,, will be "ARTHUR CHRIST-MAS", produced by Aardman Animations with voice overs by James McA-voy, Jim Broadbent, Bill Nighy, Imelda Staunton and Hugh Laurie. Film starts at 5-30pm [doors open 5pm]There will be light refreshments available. Entry £2 per adult, £1 for students and children. This film is suitable for all ages and great fun.

In January 2014 we plan to show "CHICAGO" on Tuesday 21st January. Doors open 7pm for 7-30pm start. Film stars Catherine Zeta Jones and Renee Zellweger and Richard Gere.

JUST A REMINDER that-- overnight from 30th November to 1st December morning there will be walkers in the villages using the Village Hall as a base.

They will be quiet and considerate and should cause no concern.

BOOKING SECRETARY

Ginny Bennett is now the Booking Secretary on 01295 780373, or through the website E-mail [thesibfords.org]. If you want to hold a party or celebrate an anniversary or reunion do make contact and see what we can offer.

THANK YOU to all those who have supported the events at the Village Hall during the year. We are busy planning new events for you.

Film nights- February 25th, March 25th, April 29th. Easter Egg Hunt on April 18th. Dog Walkers Breakfast on April 27th. A Grand Dog Show in June and a separate Village Hall Fete on July 12th.



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The Sibfords Walking Group

Departure at 10.30 sharp from the village hall again as ever. Given wet weather and winter, walking boots or wellies and a stick or poles are recommended.

02.12.2013 White House Brailes circuit, plough, shorter version (flattish) possible, pl discuss

16.12.2013 Sibford Ferris Swalcliffe circuit, flattish but plough, lunch for walkers with Bannisters

06.01.2014 Wroxton circuit - to confirm

20.01.2014 Long Compton Little Compton quarry circuit, steep climb initially, then wide tracks on flat or downhill, great views 03.02.2014 destination tbc

Phone 01295 780365 email sebannister@gmail.com.

Important: Please confirm lunch with the Bannisters on 16 December to Sue, along with any dietary restrictions.

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Sibford Ferris Parish Council Affordable Housing Scheme

The Sibford Ferris Parish Council has been working towards an affordable housing scheme for people who reside in Sibford, or have family connections here and wish to remain here, for some years now and there is now the real possibility of getting 6 homes built under the District Councils scheme. In order to proceed with the scheme, we ask all residents who would like to be considered for these homes, from either parish or further afield if connected to the villages, to fill out the form delivered with this Sibford Scene and return it in the envelope provided before the deadline. If you know of family members or friends living away from the village at the moment who would be interested then please get them to fill the form in too. The form can be downloaded from the Sibford Ferris Parish Council page of the Sibfords website; thesibfords.org.uk/org/sibford-ferris-parish-council

John Loggins Charity

The trustees of the Charity will soon be meeting and the annual distribution of funds will be considered. As in previous years, those people, older or younger, who feel themselves in need of the financial assistance offered, please write to The Trustees, c/o The Rectory, Sibford Gower by December 6th. All applications will be considered in complete confidence by the trustees and distribution will be carried out in time for Christmas.



The staff and volunteers of Age UK Oxfordshire, based at 5 White Lion Walk, Banbury, OX16 5UD, want to let everyone in Banbury and Dis-

trict know what we can do to help older people locally. We have recently launched a major campaign, known as "Age UK Oxfordshire TODAY", to raise awareness of and funds for the services we provide. These include:-

- free Information and Advice on a range of matters from benefits and housing to care, legal issues, dementia and much more;
- one-to-one Computer Classes tailored to your precise needs, costing £5 per hour, held at our White Lion Walk Centre;
- Phone Friends service whereby a volunteer befriends lonely or isolated older people and rings them up weekly for a friendly chat;
- Home Support service arranges for someone to visit people at home, for a modest fee, to help with jobs such as shopping, light housework or simply to have a chat. Transport to the doctor, hospital or to take you shopping can also be arranged;
- Group Activities are held at our Centre and include Book Club, Knit and Natter, a Singing Group and free monthly Films are shown on Friday after- noons;

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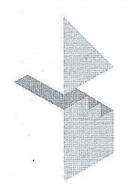
- Insurance Services tailor-made for the over 50s cover Home, Car and Travel;
- Electricity, Wills and Funeral Plans can all be arranged through Age UK Oxfordshire;
- Help for Carers. For further information, please feel free to ring us on 01295-278040 between 10am and 4pm Monday to Friday or just call in to the Centre at 5 White Lion Walk, Banbury.

Age UK Oxfordshire always welcomes new Volunteers to help with a variety of tasks. If you have an hour or two to spare, please call us on 01295-278040 or call in to the Centre. Fundraising is of major importance to us in order to maintain our help and advice services. We receive less than 2% funding from Age UK nationally and so have to raise all our funds ourselves. If you could be a Fundraiser in any way, for instance by signing up to a regular donation or by hosting an event for us, please come in to the Centre or give us a call.

Our big new campaign, "Age UK Oxfordshire TODAY", aims to raise £50,000 a year for 5 years to enable us to continue providing the invaluable services we offer. This campaign is supported by patrons Sir Tony Baldry MP, Sir Frank Davies, Esther Rantzen, and Tom Blinkhorn as well as Banbury Town Mayor Cllr Nicholas Turner, The Banbuary Guardian, Godswell Park Care Home, DHL, Barclays Bank Banbury branch and others. In 2009, the charities Age Concern and Help the Aged combined under the new name of Age UK. The purpose of Age UK is to provide advice, services and assistance to everyone and anyone over the age of 50.

We look forward to welcoming you into our White Lion Walk Cafe one day soon and hope you will find lots to interest you. Please tell you friends about us.

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Oliver!

Pupils at Sibford School will be begging for 'more' this month when they present Oliver!

Lionel Bart's classic rewrite of Dickens' famous novel, Oliver Twist, will be performed from 3-5 December in the school's recently re-furbished hall.

Starring year 8 pupil Henry Jackson-Wells as Oliver, other cast members include Rae Fitzell (Year 12) as Nancy and Will Homewood (Year 9) as the Artful Dodger. And, in a novel touch, the part of the pick-pocketing Fagin will be played by a female actor ... year 12 pupil Eloisa Smith.

Maria Jackson, head of drama at Sibford School said: "There is a great sense of excitement among the pupils as we run the final rehearsals. The bar was set very high following the success of our last production, 'Little



Shop of Horrors' and the cast is definitely rising to the challenge. All the signs are there for this to be a wonderful production."

Performances start at 7.30pm. Tickets cost £7 (£5 for concessions) and are available now from the school on 01295 781200.

Pictured: Henry Jackson-Wells as Oliver and Rae Fitzell as Nancy.

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... Carol Concert

Sibford School's annual Christmas Carol Concert will take place at 6.30pm on Wednesday 11 December. All Welcome

Christmas Fayre

Sibford School's Christmas Fayre will take place on Friday 13 December from $2pm \sim 5.30pm$. There will be stalls selling gifts, crafts, home produce, cards, garlands plus much more. Father Christmas will also be making an appearance. Entry is £1.50 including a FREE hot drink and mince pie. All welcome.

Out and About

Year 7 pupils at Sibford School are sharing their talents far and wide this Christmas. Jacob Robinson is a member of the cast at Chipping Norton Theatre's pantomime, Jack and the Giant, which runs until 12 January; India Harwood is performing in the Christmas Ice Show at Oxford Ice Rink on 14th and 15th December; and Libby Griffiths will be playing the role of Lucy in The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe at the Playbox Theatre in Warwick from December 17th to January 5th.

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December 2013

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Please be very aware. Christmas is nearly here with extra shopping, etc. please take extra care to follow police advice.

Please do not leave items including sat navs. in your car. Always make sure windows are closed and doors are locked when not in your car. If you have a garage please use it.

Never give out information regarding your neighbours. Always make sure that papers and post are pushed through their letter box and that parcels are not left on their doorstep.

The Police do ask us not buy or sell at the door. This is in the interest of every resident. "We Do Not Buy or Sell At This Door" Stickers are very helpful, please display them, also Neighbourhood Watch stickers show that we are an active Neighbourhood Watch area.

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Sibford WI Meeting Tuesday, 12th November 2013

In her welcome to members, President Glennis Hardman remarked that it was good to have the presence of Kathleen Winbetween operations on her foot. Glennis briefly reported on a

ter who is in between operations on her foot. Glennis briefly reported on a number of Federation events and, in more detail, on the Group Meeting hosted by Hook Norton WI on 24th October which was very enjoyable indeed.

This months speaker, Dr Anne Borrowdale, entertained us with a talk entitled "The Invigilator Who Set Fire To His Trousers" . Anne has been working as an invigilator for nine years and had many interesting tales to tell. It is not a simple job, the rules and regulations when applied to a room of highly nervous candidates give rise to many and various situations that have to be dealt with calmly and quietly. We learnt of the items that can cause problems - no mobile phones allowed, only clear plastic pencil cases, no labeled water bottles and definitely no distracting pens. Even the innocent glasses case can contain crib notes. The invigilator has to observe various behaviours, and decide for example when the noise of a candidate sniffing becomes a distraction to others and is it the right call to wake a sleeping or dozing candidate. They also have to deal with missing equipment, mistakes on question papers, toilet breaks, and many other issues. The story behind the intriguing title of the talk was finally revealed. A colleague of Anne's became aware of a strange burning smell and a sharp pain in his leg. He had accidentally flicked on a cigarette lighter in his pocket. Anything can happen! An interesting talk taking us behind the scenes at the exam hall. The speaker was thanked by Jan Warner.

An "Exam Certificate" was this months competition and Dr Borrowdale studied the entries at length before choosing 1st: Jan Warner, 2nd: Joan Thomas and 3rd: Glennis Hardman. Val Powell and Theresa Tovell served tea and the usual high standard of cakes.

On December 10th, we are combining our Christmas Meeting with the celebration of our 85th Anniversary when, after a buffet tea, the cutting of a special cake will take place followed by the singing of "Jerusalem". The competition is for a "Father Christmas in any Medium". Members are requested to bring a small plate of finger food with them and a wrapped gift for the present box. There will be a table for the Christmas Card Exchange. No Raffle. Entertainment by Rosemary and Peter Neal and Peter Hardman.



The meeting on 21st November was devoted to 3 DVDs of specific local interest.

The first was '24 Square Miles', a documentary produced by the Oxford Agricultural Economic Research Institute. It depicted the demographics of agricultural

areas in 1943 and was based on a survey of an area of Oxfordshire which included "2 market towns, 3 large villages and 16 smaller ones", and the narrator was a very young John Arlott. The film produced a wealth of information about rural living and the general impression was how very far we have progressed in 70 years, certainly in as far as living conditions, transport, education and leisure facilities go. Housewives in 1943 had a tough time, with neither running water nor electricity in some villages. When we get sick of the pace of modern living and its plethora of electronic paraphernalia we might long for simpler days, but the film brought home how lucky we are to have left such hardships behind, not least in the matter of domestic sanitation!

The second film was truly charming and the result of much research and work on the part of Sibfords Society members – the re-enactment of Sibford Club Day, held in June 2007 to celebrate the Village Hall's 50th birthday,

and also to relive the tradition which goes back to 3rd June 1839 when the

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Benefit Society was formed. In those days, after the AGM the men had a huge, meaty lunch and there was a parade through the village and festivities for all the families. Maureen Hicks described how no effort was spared to create a nostalgic atmosphere - cars disappeared for the day, everybody dressed in Victorian clothes, and there was a procession from the pond to the Village Hall field, where a fête was enjoyed by all. In the evening they danced to music from 'Too Damn Right I got the Blues!' which added a very modern touch.

The third film was a visit by Keith Hicks to' Little London' in 2009, just after Graham Piercey had finished renovating his picturesque cottage on the very edge of Sibford Ferris. Graham took years to recreate the thatched cottage in a very sensitive way, using where possible authentic materials that would have been available hundreds of years ago. Part of the cottage dates from the mid—to- late 1500s, and Graham found an Elizabethan sixpence under the stairs. Other fascinating finds in this unique cottage were a beam full of notches on one side and little ritual stickmen which were carved to ward off evil spirits.

The next meeting of the Sibfords Society will be the 'social' on 20th February. Information on this will be given nearer the time.

Amendments to last month's article:

- 1) A fully hand-embroidered shawl, a Jamawar, çan take more than two and a half years to complete by a single artist.
- 2) The work to help slum-dwellers is the project of Chhoti Si Asha in Chandigarh.



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Contributions for the
February
Sibford Scene
to the Editor by
January 21st

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 Ivor Hopkyns on 788367 (Gower or Burdrop) or Nic Durrant on 788865 (Ferris), and a copy will be delivered to you. The information will help to make you feel at home - by acquainting you with the services, schools, clubs and societies that are currently active in the villages.



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Church Services

Society of Friends Sunday at 10.30 am Methodist Sunday at 11.00 am Roman Catholic Mass

Sunday at 9.00 am Brailes Sunday at 11.30 am

Wroxton

Baptist Hook Norton Sunday at 10.30 am

Holy Trinity Church Services

December 1st Benefice Confirmation service at Epwell at 10am December 8th 8am BCP HC & 10am Morning Praise for Advent

December 15th 11am Carols at the Methodist Chapel

Friday December 20th 7pm Traditional Carol Service with poems and readings, and choir pieces as well as favourite carols for all.

December 21st 6pm Community Carol singing for anyone and everyone December 22nd 4.30pm Christingle Service, with children in mind. Christmas Day 10am Holy Communion

Methodist Chapel Services

December 1 st To be arranged

December 15th Carol Service - Mrs Chris Cond

2014 January 1st Covenant

January 15th United Service at Quaker Meeting House 10.30am



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Sibford Bus Services

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

Stagecoach – Timetable commencing 31st May 2009 Mondays to Saturdays (No services on Sundays or Public Holidays)

Bus 50A. From Banbury towards Stratford-upon-Avon

Banbury, Bus Station	08.30	10.55	12.45	14.26 16.05	17.10	18.10
Sibford Ferris, Cross Roads	08.52	11.17	13.07	14.48 16.27	17.32	18.32
Sibford Gower, School	08.55	11.20	13.10	14.51 - 16.30	17.35	18.35
Shipston,	09.15	11.40	13.35	15.11 16.50	17.55	18.55
Stratford on Avon, Wood St.	09.40	12.09	14.04	15.40 17.19	18.24	19.24

Bus 50A. From Stratford-upon-Avon towards Banbury

*	NS					Sch Hols	Term time	
S on A, Wood St	06.20	07.10	09.05	11.10	13.10	15.10	15.24	16.24
S G, School	07.04	07.55	09.56	11.56	13.56	15.56	16.10	17.14
S F, Cross Roads	07.07	07.58	09.59	11.59	13.59	15.59	16.13	17.17
Ban, Bus Station NS = Not Saturda		08.25	10.21	12.21	14.21	16.21	16.35	17.39

All buses will operate low floor wheelchair accessible vehicles. For complete details of all the stops that are served by service 50A, timetables are obtainable from the Tourist Information Centre in Castle Quay, Banbury.

Fares:-

Sibford Ferris & Sibford Gower to Banbury: Single £2.50 (Child£1.25) Return £4.70 (Child £2.35)

Sibford Ferris & Sibford Gower to Stratford: Single £4.30 (Child £2.85)

Return £6.30 (Child £4.20)

Unlimited travel Cards are available for 1, 7 or 28 days but are regional and need to be bought in advance. Contact the Stagecoach sales office in Stratford tel; 01789 294155 for more details.

Calendar of Events

December

Mon 2nd Sibford Walking Group 10.30am at the Village Hall p6

Tue 3rd Friendship Club Christmas Lunch p3

Tue 3rd to Thu 5th Sibford School - Oliver! 7.30pm P10

Wed 4th Mobile Library in the Sibfords (2.40-4.10pm)

Fri 6th Loggins Charity Application deadline p7

Sat 7th Christmas Coffee Morning at Silver Birches p7

Tue 10th W.I. 85th Anniversary meeting p13

Wed 11th Sibford School Carol Concert 6.30pm p10
 Fri 13th Sibford School Christmas Fayre 2 - 5pm p10

Sat 14th Village Hall Film Night - Arthur Christmas 5pm p5

Sun 15th Methodist Chapel Carol Service 11am p18

Mon 16th Sibford Walking Group 10.30am at the Village Hall p6

Tue 17th Friendship Club Christmas Tea p3

Wed 18th Mobile Library in the Sibfords (2.40-4.10pm)
Fri 20th Traditional Carol Service in the Church 7pm p18

Sat 21st Community Carol Singing 6pm p16 Sun 22nd Christingle Service at 4.30pm p18

Thu 26th Boxing Day Charity Football Match at Swalcliffe Park p4

January

Mon 6th Sibford Walking Group 10.30am at the Village Hall p6

Mon 13th Ferris Parish Council 7.45pm Sports hall classroom, Sibford School

Mon 20th Sibford Walking Group 10.30am at the Village Hall p6

Tue 21st Village Hall Film Night - Chicago p5

Tue 21st Deadline for contributions to the February Sibford Scene p16

Mon 27th Gower Parish Council meeting. Primary School 8pm

Cover picture; Sunny Bank Sibford Ferris

May we wish all our readers a very Happy Christmas

Sibford Scene

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