



February 2014

No. 359

## Sibfords Walking Group

Mondays 3rd & 17th February 10am from Village Hall.

Footpaths in paddock at Green Acres  
closed for one day only

Monday 10th February 2014

## Village Hall Film Night

Tuesday 25th February 7pm

## Sibfords Society Social Evening

Thursday 27th February in the Village Hall

## Nature Notes

Dec 15th The redwings and blackbirds have already stripped the berries from our holly tree. The redwings have mostly moved on as there are quite a lot of well berried holly trees still around and the blackbirds are now taking the yellow pyracantha berries. Our holly berries are always taken very early which may mean that they are the most palatable variety or that the tree is in a quieter position with less disturbance than most. Dec 31st I could see that a female bullfinch that came close to the window had a white covering over a foot and lower leg which seemed to be uncomfortable. I don't know whether it is diseased or whether it has trodden in something.

Jan 1st My measurement of the rainfall for 2013 was an above average 31.84 inches (809mm). The driest months were June with 1.18 inches (30mm) and April 1.2 inches (31mm). The wettest by far was October with 5.62 inches (143mm). The first half of December was very dry but in the month from December 16th to January 15th this year, I measured 8.17 inches (208mm) no wonder the ground is sodden.

Jan 4th A male bullfinch died when it crashed into one of our windows this morning.

Jan 10th A male blackcap was feeding on our fallen apples this morning and two nuthatches came to feed at the same time. It is always difficult to know how many there are as they tend to come singly and go away

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quickly with a sunflower heart. There were between four and five hundred fieldfares on the junior playing field at the Friends School today which is the biggest flock that I have seen this winter.

Jan 12th There were 5 female and 4 male bullfinches at our feeders today. They have really developed a taste for sunflower hearts. A few years ago we usually saw them feeding on the seeds of stinging nettles and ignoring what was going on on the bird table only a few yards away. When I went out on this fine frosty morning a great spotted woodpecker was drumming in our beech tree and another one answering from a few hundred yards away, a mistle thrush in full song and a robin singing. A song thrush also sang but not yet it's 'full rollicking song' as the diarist Joseph Woodruff might have said.

Jan 15th The male blackbird that we saw last winter that only has a half length upper mandible is feeding here again. I expect it has been around for the whole year but it only comes close enough to recognise in the winter. It looks well in spite of it's damage or deformity and does not seem to have much difficulty feeding.

Jan 18th A female blackcap put in an appearance today.

Jan 20th We have not seen a muntjac recently although I expect they are around nightly but one was eating our fallen apples this morning.

Jan 21st I have always thought of bullfinches as birds usually seen singly, in pairs or sometimes, in late summer, as family groups but certainly not an upland bird. My old birdbook says that they are 'secretive seldom leaving cover' so I was surprised to see on the TV programme

'Winter Watch' last night a film of a flock of bullfinches feeding on the seeds of heather in the Cairngorms in Scotland.

## **YOGA**

**Sibford Village Hall**

**Tuesdays 9 – 10am**

**Wednesdays 6.45 – 7.45pm**

**The Friends Meeting House**

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**Fridays 1.30 – 2.30pm**

Any enquiries to

Juliette – 07703 836856

Juliette53@btinternet.com

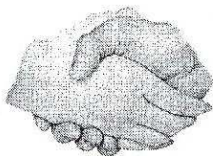
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## Friendship Club

Happy New year to All Members (if it's not too late) We start this year with a Meeting on February 4th in the small hall in the Village Hall, to discuss this years agenda. On February 18th we have

a trip out to either Evesham Country Park OR Webbs of Wychbold. This may also depend on weather!!! If anyone would like to join our trip please contact the Secretary.

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Monday 10th February 2014

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I did not realise that I had so many really good friends in Sibford. Thank you to you all, you have given so generously of your time, with visiting, lovely cooking and shopping, to help and support me and my sister. I appreciate it all, more than I can say or thank you. If anyone would like to sponsor me in the hopping race at the next Olympics, I'll guarantee to get a gold medal!

Kathleen Winter

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## Fed up with poor mobile phone reception?

Poor mobile phone reception is a problem for many in the villages. The Sibfords Community Plan household questionnaire indicated wide spread dissatisfaction, only 30% of respondents graded their mobile phone service as satisfactory. We now have an opportunity to do something about this situation. The Countryside Alliance (CA) is organising a "project to map rural mobile phone signals", they are looking for "evidence to ensure people living in the countryside are not forgotten by mobile phone companies and that they benefit from the Government's £150m mobile phone infrastructure project."

You can help this project by providing mobile signal data from our villages. (At the time of writing data from our community is sparse). All the information you need to participate can be found at The Sibfords website,  
<http://thesibfords.org.uk/mobilesurvey>

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*Excellent references*

## Sibford Ferris Recycling Bottle Bank

Additional bins have now been provided to cope with the volume of bottles being recycled. This is the good news. However, other items are also being left alongside the receptacles – cardboard boxes, plastic bags and other unwanted household items. This is regarded as fly-tipping which is unlawful. If you find one of the recycling bins full please ring the Parish Council Clerk (Tel 07901 872 046) to inform Cherwell DC and *PLEASE* do not leave bottles, boxes etc. around the container – we will only retain the facility if it is used properly.

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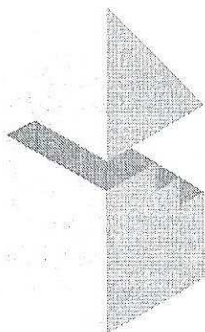
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## Church News

50 people took part in our "pincer movement" Carol Singing which converged on the church for warm refreshments. We also raised some money which bought 2 places at a CRISIS Christmas Centre.

Bruce Petter, our churchwarden, has now moved with Catherine to Provence en route for Spain so we are hoping, as Evey Boughton also retires this spring, that TWO PEOPLE, will offer themselves for these important roles. The APCM where Wardens will be elected is on April 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Part of the dry-stone wall in the churchyard has collapsed; please keep clear. Do join in some singing - we have recommenced our Wednesday Choir rehearsals in church from 6pm for about an hour; anyone and everyone welcome.



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President Glennis Hardman welcomed Members and five guests, Diana Hughes, Angela Boswell, Linda Obertelli-Roden, Mary Mills and Mary West. Secretary Lynda Conway gave a full report of the December Meeting when we combined our Christmas Party with the celebration of Sibford WI's 85th Anniversary. Glennis thanked the entertainers, Rosemary and Peter Neil and Peter Hardman, Lynda for the making of a special cake and all those who contributed to the serving of a sumptuous buffet tea.

This months speaker, Helen Phillips, entertained us with a talk about the history and production of Pashmina shawls and then gave us the opportunity to browse and purchase a lovely selection of shawls and other goods produced in Kashmir.

Helen told us of her journeys into Kashmir which is an area of conflict and a melting pot of different religions. Pashminas started out as an item worn by men around their waist or as turban but during the eighteenth century they appeared in the west as gifts for ladies. Napoleon's Josephine had a collection of 400! True Pashminas are made using the wool from the underbelly of a particular breed of goat found in the uplands of Kashmir. A master craftsman can take up to two and a half years to complete a finely embroidered shawl. Hand looms and hand block patterns are used. Videos were used to demonstrate the various processes. It is a dying trade as most of the experts are old men, the young are not so interested. Helen also told us of her work on a variety of projects in the region to increase employment and improve education.

This was a fascinating insight into a special part of India. Its way of life and the work of its master craftsmen. The speaker was thanked by Jan Warner.

Val Powell and Eleanor Joynes served tea with a selection of delicious cakes. The many entries for the competition "A Pashmina type Shawl" gave the judging by the speaker a difficult task. After some consideration, she chose 1st Jan Warner, 2nd Glennis Hardman and 3rd Valerie Taylor.

Tuesday, 11th February, is the date of our next Meeting. Mark Billen will be with us to give a talk on "Creating Books for Children". The competition will be "A Teddy Bear". Guests most welcome - Village Hall, 2pm.



## Talented Youngsters picked for support programme

Four pupils from Sibford School have been selected to take part in a special initiative to help gifted and talented young athletes maximise their sporting and academic potential. Junior Athlete Education (JAE) is a talent support programme run by the Youth Sports Trust. Sibford pupils Caroline Berkley (hockey), Kate Mills (swimming), Conor Taylor (football) and Callum George (rugby) were identified for the programme via the school's involvement with the North Oxfordshire Schools Sports Partnership.

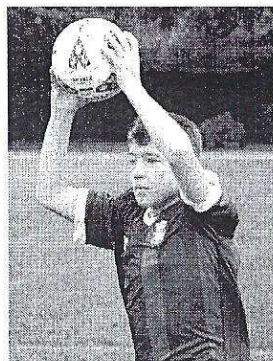
They attended their first workshop, led by Olympic Silver Medallist and Athlete Mentor Miriam Luke, in January.

Ali Phillips from Sibford School's PE Department said: "This programme is designed specifically for young athletes who have great sporting potential and therefore need to understand how to prioritise their work/training schedule. We're delighted that Caroline, Kate, Conor and Callum have been given this fabulous opportunity."

Caroline Berkley said: "The first session was really good. We were given some excellent advice about how to juggle our sport training and our homework." Added Conor: "It went really well. There were some really good tips about how to combine our school, sport and social lives."

In addition to the sport they take part in at Sibford School, Caroline plays regularly for Stratford Hockey Club, Kate is a member of the City of Oxford Swimming Club; Conor plays for Birmingham City FC Under 14s and Callum plays for Claverdon Rugby Club and for the Oxfordshire county side.

*Pictured: Birmingham City Under 14s player, Conor Taylor.*



## Young Samurai author visits Sibford

Award-winning writer Chris Bradford, author of the popular 'Young Samurai' series, visited Sibford School near Banbury to chat about his books, his career ... and to give an exhibition of iaido (samurai swordsmanship).

Pupil India Harwood, age 11, said: "Chris Bradford was amazing and I really liked him being dressed as a Samurai." Added Matthew Clacy, also 11: "I thoroughly enjoyed the Chris Bradford talk and I can't wait to read the Samurai series."

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Chris Bradford's books are published in over 20 languages and have received more than 18 children's book award nominations.

Frances King, Sibford School Librarian said: "We were delighted that Chris was able to join us. He was an inspiring speaker and a brilliant performer ... the pupils loved him."



*Pictured with Chris Bradford are Sibford pupils: Louis Baker, Matthew Clacy, Emma Clacy and Amy Bothwell.*

## Fun in the Country

Sibford School will be operating its popular Fun in the Country holiday club during February Half-Term (Monday 17

Feb ~ Friday 21 Feb). Children can enjoy a range of activities including swimming, crafts, sports and cooking. Cost is £28 per child per day. To book a place call Elspeth Gregory on Banbury 781203 or email: [funinthecountry@sibfordschool.co.uk](mailto:funinthecountry@sibfordschool.co.uk). Pre-booking is essential.

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## NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

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February 2014

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We do hope you enjoyed a good Christmas and New Year and wish you all the best during 2014.

Please remain aware and follow Police advice at all times. If you see anything suspicious happening phone the Police with as much information as possible.

Some residents in the Thames Valley area have received phone calls from people claiming to be police officers. They have told the victim that their bank account has been involved in fraudulent activity and ask for personal details, bank details and pin no. "Never give out any personal or bank details to anyone who calls you unexpectedly even if they claim to be from the bank or police."

Remember the computer is also used by fraudsters to target people.

We have also had door to door callers one was offering to clean drains and gutters and claimed to be cheap. Please be aware and don't become a victim.

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## WELCOME TO SIBFORD

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This month we welcome Jason and Charlotte Davis

We moved to the village last month from Wokingham, Berkshire with our 2 cats Jemima and Freddy.

Jason (my husband) is an Engineer with the National Grid and a keen cricketer and Welsh rugby supporter.

I work in the Pharmaceutical industry and enjoy country walks, cycling and gardening

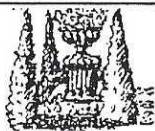
Charlotte Davies

## Sibford Walking Group Dates

3 February, 17 February, 10 March and 24 March.

Not all the destinations are set but anyone may phone or email me to find out. Departure as usual sharp at 10am from the village hall car park.

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The next sessions are on Wednesday 12th February and Wednesday 12th March from 7.30-9.30pm and costs £5. There is no need to book, just turn up and have some fun. Please contact Tracy Lean on 780710 or [tracylean@gmail.com](mailto:tracylean@gmail.com) if you have any queries.

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The Sibfords Society Social Evening will be held on Thursday, 27th February, 2014, not on 20th February, as previously advertised. All members and prospective members are warmly invited to a friendly get-together in the Village Hall, 7.00 p.m. for 7.30

p.m. Please bring a dish of food, hot or cold, ready to be served, plus your own drinks.

Ilone Antonius-Jones, plus members of the 'Antonius Players', will be entertaining us with a mixture of jazz, classic and folk and so hope to offer something for all tastes. Do come and join us.

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## VILLAGE HALL NEWS

### FILM NIGHTS

Our next Film Night will be on February 25th at 7-30pm [doors open at 7pm] Entry £2 per adult, £1 per student. Hot and cold drinks available. Following dates will be March 25th, April 29th and May 27th. No films in June, July or August.

On March 6th The ORCC are holding an event to welcome anyone who cares for or suffers from Dementia, or would like help and advice. The talk is from 2pm to 4pm in the small hall. Refreshments will be available.

### WINE TASTING

An evening of tasting and discussion on choosing good wines will be held in the Large hall on April 5th. Please put this date in your diary. More details next month or look at the Sibfords website.

### EASTER EGG HUNT

Our popular Egg Hunt Trails will again be held on good Friday -April 18th. Two trails will be detailed, one a bit shorter for younger children and one a bit more adventurous. £2-50 entry per child. Easter Eggs for all who finish. Re-



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Cranio-Sacral Therapy ; Herbal Medicine ;  
Homeopathy ; Hypnotherapy ;  
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Massage (inc deep tissue, hot stone and Indian Head) ;  
McTimoney-Corley Spinal Therapy ;  
Nutritional Therapy ;  
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\*\*\*\*\*

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\*\*\*\*\*

See website for further details:-

[www.bloxhamsurgery.co.uk](http://www.bloxhamsurgery.co.uk)



(follow the link to Godswell NTC)



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Contributions for the  
March  
Sibford Scene  
to the Editor by  
February 18th

freshments will be in the small hall to sustain mums, dads and kids etc. All welcome. Start at the village hall. From 2pm to 4pm.

#### DOG WALK AND BREAKFAST

This will be held on April 27th. An enjoyable walking route will be mapped out for you and your dog/s. Afterwards return to the Village Hall for a fabulous cooked breakfast for you and treats for the dogs.

The time will be advised next month.

#### FUN DOG SHOW

This will be a separate event this year on June 7th, with lots of extra classes to suit all shapes and sizes of dogs. We plan to have a Bar and refreshments and food, and doggy orientated stuff. Contact Ginny on 01295 780373 or Muriel on 01295 780025.

#### VILLAGE FETE

This will be held on July 12th in the afternoon with a range of stalls, games and attractions.

HUGE THANKS TO --SIMON AND ADAM for the fantastic Quiz that they did for us in November last year. The Graphics were amazing and made it great fun for all of us . [Just wish we had known the answers!]

BOOKING SECRETARY Ginny will be happy to help with any bookings you need. 01295 780373. or contact via the sibfords.org

## Serenity at Sibford

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Facials, Waxing, Pedicures, Shellac and all beauty  
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Reflexology and Indian Head Massage  
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Fully Equipped Pilates Studio with Maddie  
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Environ & Guinot Skincare

For appointments please email jo on [jo@serenityatsibford.com](mailto:jo@serenityatsibford.com),  
text 07891 220275 or leave a message on 01295 788463



## 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

## Holy Trinity Church Services in February

Sunday 2nd Benefice Eucharist in Sibford at 10am

We celebrate Candlemas - when Jesus was presented in the Temple and acclaimed as "a light to lighten the gentiles" by the aged Simeon

Sunday 9th 8am BCP Communion

10am Morning Praise - a cheerful brief service for all the family

Sunday 16th 9.30 Holy communion

Sunday 23rd 9.30 BCP Communion



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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 31<sup>st</sup> 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	Term	
						Hols	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	07.28	08.25	10.21	12.21	14.21	16.21	16.35	17.39

NS = Not Saturdays

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

## February

- Mon 3rd Sibfords Walking Group. 10am from Village Hall. p13
- Tue 4th Friendship Club meeting p4
- Mon 10th Footpaths closed in Green Acres paddock p4
- Tue 11th W.I. 'Creating Books for Children' p9
- Wed 12th World Dance in Swalcliffe p14
- Mon 17th Sibfords Walking Group. 10am from Village Hall. P13
- Tue 18th Friendship Club Outing p4
- Tue 18th Deadline for contributions to the March Sibford Scene p16
- Tue 25th Village Hall Film Night 7pm p16
- Thu 27th Sibfords Society Social Evening p15

## March (part)

- Thu 6th ORCC Dementia Awareness Event 2-4pm in the Village Hall p16
- Sat 8th Hospice Coffee Morning in Sibford Gower p5
- Mon 10th Sibfords Walking Group. 10am from Village Hall. P13
- Wed 12th World Dance in Swalcliffe p14
- Mon 24th Sibfords Walking Group. 10am from Village Hall. P13
- Tue 25th Village Hall Film Night 7pm p16

Cover picture; Main Street, Sibford Ferris

### Sibford Scene

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