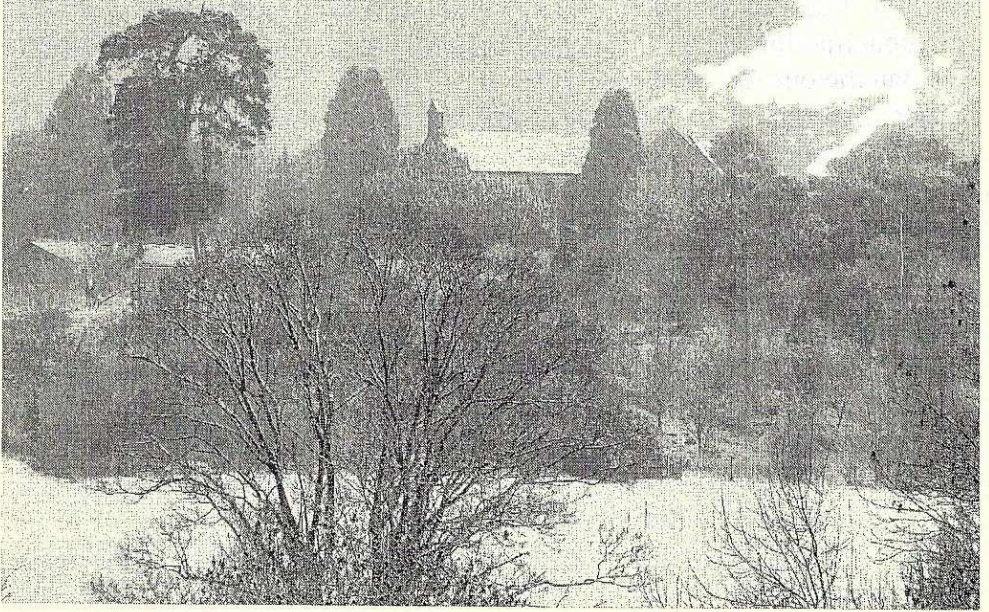


# Sibford Scene



December 2014 and January 2015

No. 368

## THE CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING

Saturday 6th December 10am - 12 noon

Will be at Silver Birches, Backside Lane Sibford Gower

In aid of Holy Trinity Church

## Village Hall Family Film - Frozen.

Saturday 13th December Door open 5.00pm film at 5.30pm

Friday 19th December **Traditional Carol Service** in Church. 7pm

Sunday 21st December **Christingle Service** in Church 4.30pm

Tuesday 23rd December **Village Carol Singing**

Starting at Barley Close or Holmby House at 6pm

## Great Expectations by Charles Dickens

Rain or Shine Theatre co. Live theatre in the Village Hall

Saturday 3rd January



## Nature Notes

Oct 24th Now that there are fewer moths around I look at them more carefully. I looked in a book for a rather nice one that appeared in our shower room and found that it was a feathered thorn. It was a bit more colourful than the one shown in the book.

Oct 28th There was a yellow brimstone butterfly around the garden today. I expect with this mild weather it is not in a hurry to hibernate.

Oct 29th My granddaughter who saw a brocken spectre in the Lake District a few years ago has seen another one, this time in North Wales. A brocken spectre appears when the sun projects your image onto mist and gives you a coloured halo. What surprises me is that if several people are present, as was the case this time, you each see your own image and nobody else's. I thought that the conditions needed were so exacting that you were lucky to see one in your lifetime let alone two while you are still young.

Oct 31st A shirt sleeves day. My thermometer showed 19C at one o'clock but 22.5C was recorded in Surrey and 23.6C at two places in the London area which is an all time record for hallowe'en.

Nov 9th A group of bullfinches came to the bird table today. There were two cocks and four hens or young ones. They must be the same ones that were here for most of last winter as they go straight to the globe feeder and hang on while they get a beakful of sunflower hearts which is a skill that it took them a long time to learn. Someone told me that when her dog and some others were barking at each other as they often do

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she noticed a badger walking close by and taking no notice of the commotion. I wonder whether it was ill to be out in daylight.  
Nov 18th For the last few days a song thrush has been singing halfheartedly. Today it gave a much better performance.

---

## VILLAGE HALL NEWS

### FILM NIGHT.

Our December film is one for the whole family - Saturday 13th. Who said cartoons are for kids? This one will have you singing all the way home! "FROZEN" is not to be missed and worth seeing again if you have already seen it.

Film starts at 5-30pm, doors open at 5pm. Soft drinks, hot drinks, snacks available. Entry is £2 for adults and £1 for student/children.

### MUSIC EVENING

An "Evening of Music" with Matt and Ilone will be on March 7th so do put this date in your diary

### BOOKING SECRETARY

Ginny Bennett is the village Hall booking secretary. If you want to make a booking or check availability of the hall then call on 01295 780373, or contact via [thesibfords.org](http://thesibfords.org)

Could I please request that all regular users let me know their schedules for the new year before Christmas.

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## Great Expectations.

Sibford Village Hall, Saturday January 3<sup>rd</sup> 2015

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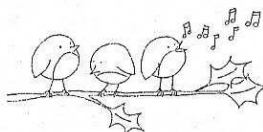
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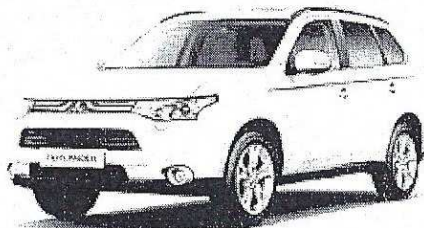
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## NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

December 2014

Thank you to all residents who are following police advice, remaining aware and observant. It is in all our interests that we continue to follow police advice especially with Christmas coming.

The good news is that we have had less police information, as the crime level has been lower. Some people phoning 101 have had a long wait; please be patient and continue to report all suspicious behaviour.

Please look after your neighbours, make sure their post and papers are pushed through their letter boxes and that parcels and boxes are not left on their door steps. Please do not buy or sell at the door and do not agree to have work to your property undertaken. Do not allow anyone who you are not expecting into your home. Please make sure your garage, sheds, doors and windows are all closed and locked when out of your sight. Timed electric bulbs also help with security. Remember the telephone and computer are also used to target people so never give out personal information to strangers.

Oil has been stolen nearby in Warwickshire also cars and vans have been broken into. Please lock your vehicle and remove all items including tools. Make sure your oil tanks are secure.

Our Neighbourhood Watch Team have information on security, if you need advice, stickers or "Message in a Bottle" pots, please contact them or me. Be careful and look after your handbags etc. in crowded areas and car parks.

We all wish you a lovely and happy Christmas period. Mollie Mulley 780629

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## A History of the Sibford Table Tennis Club

The Table Tennis Club has now closed. It was in 1948 that Roland Herbert, who taught woodwork at the Friends School suggested that we should form a club and a meeting was called at Sibford Gower School. Twenty two people came including several of the younger members of the Friends School staff and it was decided to hire the Mission Room for four nights a week for what was very much a social club. We applied for rations of tea and sugar. We also got a licence to get fuel for the fire as wartime restrictions were still in force.

We managed to buy a rather poor full sized table. Also in the same year the Banbury Table Tennis League was formed and it was decided that if we wanted to play in that we would need a better table. Again it was Roland Herbert who came to the rescue by offering to make us a table and obtaining the wood, which was still in very short supply, especially the thick plywood for the top.

In 1949 we entered two teams in the Banbury League although our playing space was restricted by a big cupboard, a raised platform at the far end of the room and a harmonium and a piano in front of that, but mostly by the coke stove that stood out from the wall.

The lower age limit for club members was fifteen but in 1950 we started using Thursday evenings for ten to fifteen year olds. Among the first youngsters were George Hall, Fred Inns, Stan Haynes, Bill Dunkley and Bill Barton. They had no computer games or television to keep them at home in those days.

Travelling to matches was quite a problem in the early years as very few members cars and petrol was still rationed. We cycled to some matches but that was not much fun in winter weather and we were thankful when more people got cars.

In the early years of the league, Sibford players won many of the ladies trophies and had two ladies that played in the Oxfordshire team.

At this time four players formed a team but that soon dropped to three as it has been ever since.

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As time went on more young players wanted to play in the league and the number of teams increased until in the 1980's we had eight teams for a few years which made it very difficult to find a night to replay postponed matches.

The youngsters practise night has continued for almost all of the clubs 65 years and although they got no proper coaching several of the young players have developed their natural abilities and become top players in the Banbury League.

In recent years the A team has usually taken one of the top two places in the first division and Jason Tustain and Sean O'Keefe have won the mens doubles and singles trophies.

We have now closed and the two teams that wanted to go on playing have formed a new club and play at Tadmarton.

---

## 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 14th. All applications will be considered in complete confidence by the trustees and distribution will be carried out in time for Christmas.

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## SIBFORD SCHOOL OPENS PEACE GARDEN

Sibford School marked Armistice Day 2014 with the opening of a new Peace Garden.

Pupils at the Quaker School, in the Ferris, created the garden in recognition of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the start of World War 1 and also as a tribute to former student, Conrad Lewis, who was killed in Afghanistan on 9 February 2011.

Returning to the school to perform the official opening were Conrad's parents, Tony and Sandi Lewis. A commitment to peace lies at the heart of Quaker belief. Quakers think of peace as an approach to living in the world and working for social change, rather than simply an ideological opposition to war and to violence. The Peace Garden, which will be a place where pupils, staff and visitors to the school will be able to go for quiet reflection, therefore seemed a fitting tribute to Conrad.

"We couldn't be more humbled, pleased and delighted to be here today," said Tony Lewis. "What has been produced is absolutely appropriate for the school, really appropriate for Conrad and beautiful for us. I think it is a stunning memorial to Conrad and to peace and we will certainly be back with Conrad's brother and sister and other friends and family over the months and years to come." Features of the Peace Garden include:

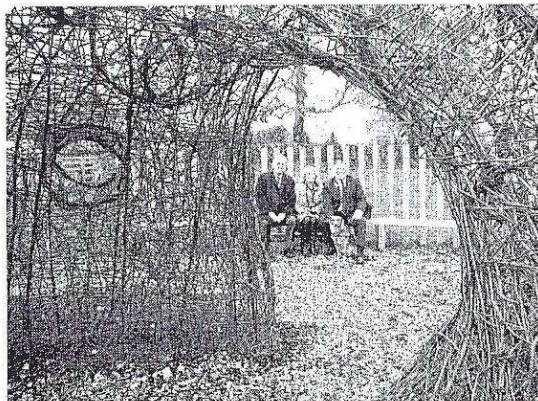
- Giant sculpture created by Year 10 pupils from willow withies;
- Wooden obelisk featuring the words: REFLECT, RECONCILE, RESPECT and REMEMBER;
- Commemorative bench dedicated to Conrad;
- 20 rose bushes planted by Sibford horticultural students;
- *and ... looking at peace in the widest sense of the word ...*
- 500 crocus bulbs, donated by the Rotary Club of Banbury, to represent the End Polio Now Campaign

In addition, inspired by the *Blood Swept Lands And Seas Of Red* installation at the Tower of London, Junior School pupils created a number of glazed clay red and white poppies that were 'planted' in the garden especially for the opening.

The Armistice Day ceremony, which was attended by more than 400 people, included readings by pupils, staff and parents and, following a silence at 11am, concluded with the playing of Abide With Me by 15-year-old pupil George Johnson-Briscoe on trumpet.

Tony Lewis said: "It is a real honour to open this Peace Garden. Conrad would be surprised, humbled and absolutely delighted to be remembered in anyway at Sibford School but certainly in this way. He loved being here, although I think it would be fair to say that the teachers probably found

him a little challenging and boisterous ... he certainly lived up to the school phrase of 'living adventurously'!



Pictured:

1. Sibford head Michael Goodwin with Sandi and Tony Lewis seated on the Conrad Lewis memorial bench. Also pictured is Peg, a stray dog that made friends with Conrad in the Quadrant compound when he arrived and was rescued and flown back to the UK after his death.



## The write stuff!

It is widely accepted that school visits by published authors can significantly boost children's writing skills and encourage young people to read for pleasure.

And at Sibford School, pupils have enjoyed not one, but two such visits this term.

Children's author Susie Freer visited Sibford to read extracts from her new novel, *Beach Dog*, and to speak about the importance of perseverance. The 65-year-old said: "I have written for many years. I have written short stories and plays but, until *Beach Dog*, I had never written a novel. Now my first novel has received great reviews from the New York Times, the second in the series is about to be published and I have nearly finished a third. If you're determined and work hard, exciting things can happen!"



Just weeks later, author Helen Watts, whose debut novel, *One Day in Oradour*, has been described as 'a profound WW2 book not to be missed' came to speak to Sibford pupils in years 7 - 9. Helen has also co-written two special centenary collections of stories from the First World War – the *Ghost of the Trenches* (for children) and a hardback collection for adults titled *First World War Folk Tales*. Her visit coincided with Armistice Day (November 11).

Pictured: Susie Freer with Sibford School pupils Henry Hargreaves (Year 6) and Eris Miles (Year 5).

## Carol concert

Sibford's annual Christmas Carol Concert will take place on Thursday 11 December in the school hall. Refreshments will be served from 6.30pm and the concert will start at 7pm. All are welcome.

Damian and Debbie

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### The Crown Jewels

Colonel Gerald Lesinski delighted the Sibfords Society with another of his superb talks, this time on 'The Crown Jewels'. He managed to pack the entire history of the Royal Regalia, going back as far as the very first crown from the Bronze Age, into an entertaining and informative talk, which was enhanced by his personal anecdotes and views, as seen by an officer in the Grenadier Guards. He has always been fascinated by the Crown Jewels, since as a young guardsman he was allowed, as a special favour, to spend a long time in the Jewel House, just gazing at them.

We learned of the time when the Crown Jewels were very nearly stolen by the dastardly 'Colonel Thomas Blood', who had possibly been sent there by Charles II's henchmen, in view of the fact that he was not severely punished and in fact later received a pension.

We heard of Queen Victoria's unfortunate treatment by the Archbishop of Canterbury, who forced the ring on to the wrong finger during her coronation, causing her much discomfort. It had to be removed with the use of a great deal of butter after the ceremony. Another surprising story was that the portrait of Edward VIII, all ready for his coronation, dressed in his robes, with the State Crown, orb and

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sceptre, never used because of his abdication, was recycled by the replacement of his head with that of his brother, George VI!

There was the fascinating story of another Archbishop's blunder, this time at the coronation of George VI. He had been worried about placing the crown the wrong way round on the King's head, so had wound a small piece of scarlet thread around one of the ornaments at the front. Unfortunately the thread was removed by a "Mrs Mop", tidying up, and the Archbishop could be seen twisting the crown in vain, trying to find his 'clue'.

No short article can do justice to the Colonel's talk, delivered with élan, style and humour, and firmly backed by his solid knowledge of his subject.

He mentioned the Bayeux Tapestry - hopefully he will come back and talk to us about that one day. The next meeting of the Sibfords Society will be the Social Evening on February 19th 2015

### *Invitation*

### *A social evening*

### *for members and non-members*

*You are invited to a friendly get-together on*

*Thursday, 19<sup>th</sup> February 2015, at the Village Hall, 7p.m. for 7.30 p.m.  
Please bring a dish of food, hot or cold, ready to be served – plus your own drinks. Raffle and entertainment. Do come and join us!*

*RSVP by Monday, 16<sup>th</sup> February (latest)*

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*Diana Hughes: 01295 780506*

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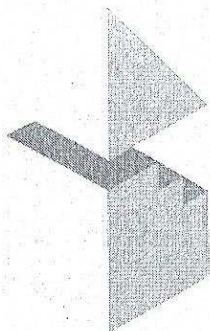
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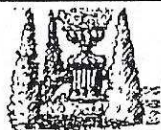
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## Sibford Horticultural Society

Neil Mattinson gave a fascinating talk to a packed audience at the last Horticulture Society meeting of 2014 on Wednesday 12th November. As the landscape architect who successfully won the bid to transform the landscaping round the Olympic Stadium, he described the project in all its complexity from inception and regeneration to its current state of transition and heritage resource. It was a fascinating evening and has made us determined to visit the gardens in 2015. Our next meeting is in March 2015.

A reminder of the Handicraft and photography classes for the Spring Show.

### Section C - Handicraft

1. A Piece of Pottery
2. A Tea Cosy
3. A hand knitted article
4. I made it with one needle
5. A piece of metalwork or woodwork
6. A greetings card - any medium excluding computer generated
7. A cushion - any medium
8. A handicraft exhibit
9. A handicraft exhibit - age under 16

### Section D - Photography

1. Photograph - A book title with caption (mounted on A5 white paper)
2. Photograph - Trees

3. Photograph - Train(s), Boat(s) or Plane(s)

4. Photograph - Reflections

5. Photograph - Shades of Red

6. Photograph - Insects

7. Photograph - Garden Flower(s)

8. Photograph - A Season

9. Photograph - 4 related views mounted on one sheet and named

10. A Black and White Photograph - any size (one only)

11. An Enlargement - any subject (max size A4, black and white or colour)

12. A Painting or Drawing

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Church News  
**Special Christmas Coffee morning**

at Silver Birches, Backside Lane

Saturday 6th December 10am - 12noon; delicious refreshments, raffle, coffee and chat, and there might be a mince pie or a cake!

Friday December 19th 7pm, the traditional **Carol Service**, with familiar carols for all to sing, poems and readings, special items by the Benefice Choir, and seasonal refreshments as we conclude.

Tuesday December 23rd come Carol Singing through the Ferris and the Gower. Meet at 6pm at either Holmby House (for the Ferris) or Barley Close (for the Gower). Wrap up warm, bring your brolly (last year it tipped it down), bring your dogs and kids, your good humour and your voice, lanterns and torches, and we sing our way through the villages towards the mince pies and mulled wine awaiting us in the church at about 7.15ish., **EVERYONE** is most warmly invited to join us for a good old sing!

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**Contributions for the  
February  
Sibford Scene  
to the Editor by  
January 20th**





Sibford WI Report - Meeting 11th November 2014  
Members were welcomed by President Glennis Hardman and she thanked Val Powell for her colourful display of cyclamen plants on the top table.

Glennis reported that she and her daughter had attended the Bring & Buy Coffee Morning at Hook Norton WI on 23rd October which had been most enjoyable.

This month's speaker, Margaret Thomas, entertained us delightfully with her programme entitled "Letters and Loves".

The programme comprised a fascinating mix of excerpts from letters written by famous people across the ages. Occasionally Margaret burst into song to better illustrate the meaning and mood of the letters.

Samuel Pepys diary entries referring to his dalliance with his wife's maid, letters written by women of the Raj before and after they met their intended spouses and correspondence between Nelson and Lady Hamilton are just a few examples.

Margaret concluded her light hearted and humorous programme with the song "Love is the Sweetest Thing" and was then thanked by Glennis Hardman.

Margaret was asked to judge the competition for "A Letter of Note". She was most impressed by the fascinating entries and took time to read each letter. She found it difficult to decide on 1st, 2nd and 3rd but after careful consideration awarded 1st to Rosemary Neal, joint 2nd to Daphne Lenton and Kathleen Winter and 3rd to Glennis Hardman. Jan Warner and Mary Hill's entries were highly recommended.

Tea and delicious apple cake, scones and ginger biscuits were served by Barbara Crabtree and Jan Warner.

We meet again on Tuesday, 9th December and this will be our Christmas Party. Members are requested to bring a plate of finger food to share and a wrapped gift for the present box. The competition is for "A Robin Red-breast". No Raffle. There will be a table for Christmas Card Exchange.

Mary Hill

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Society of Friends  
Roman Catholic Mass

Baptist

#### Church Services

Sunday at 10.30 am  
Wroxton Sunday at 9.00 am  
Brailes Sunday at 11.30 am  
Hook Norton Sunday at 10.30 am

Holy Trinity Church

#### Services in December

Sunday 7th 8am BCP Communion  
9.30am Morning Praise  
6pm evening Prayer

Sunday 14th 9.30am Communion  
6pm evening Prayer

Sunday 21st 4.30pm Christingle  
Christmas Day 10am Communion

#### Services in January

Sunday 4th 10am Benefice Eucharist for Epiphany in Tadmorton  
6pm Evening Prayer

Sunday 11th 11am Joint Service with the Methodist congregation -  
Covenant Service, led by Rev Stephen Byfield  
6pm Evening Prayer

Sunday 25th 10.30am Worship with the Quaker congregation at the  
Meeting House  
6pm Evening Prayer



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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 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	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 £2.80 (Child£1.25)

Return £5.25 (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 412680 for more details.



## Calendar of Events

### December

Tue	2nd Friendship Club Christmas Lunch
Wed	3rd Mobile Library in the Sibfords (2.40-4.10pm)
Sat	6th Church Christmas Coffee Morning 10am - 12 noon p4
Tue	9th W.I. Christmas Party. p17
Thu	11th Sibford School Carol Concert p10
Sat	13th Village Hall Family Film - Frozen. 5.00pm p3
Sun	14th Deadline for applications to the Loggins Charity p9
Tue	16th Friendship Club Christmas Tea
Wed	17th Mobile Library in the Sibfords (2.40-4.10pm)
Fri	19th Traditional Carol Service in Church. 7pm p16
Sun	21st Christingle Service in Church 4.30pm p18
Tue	23rd Village Carol Singing. 6pm p16

### January

Sat	3rd Great Expectations. Live theatre in the Village Hall p5
Wed	7th Gower Parish Council Meeting. Primary School Staff Room 8pm
Tue	20th Deadline for contributions to the February Sibford Scene p16

Cover picture; Church in snow Feb 2009

A Merry Christmas  
and Happy New Year  
to all our readers

Sibford Scene

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