

SIBFORD SCENE



SEPTEMBER 2015

No. 375

SIBFORD HORTI & PRODUCE SHOW

Saturday 29 August, Village Hall, 2.30 - 4 pm

SUMMER REWIND WITH DAVID ALLEYN & MATT PLATT, BAR & BBQ

Saturday 29 August, Village Hall, 7.30 pm

KATHARINE HOUSE HOSPICE COFFEE MORNING

Friday 4 September, 3 The Colony, 10.30 am - 12.30 pm

POPPY APPEAL COFFEE MORNING

Saturday 12 September, 4 Acre Ditch, 10 am - 12 noon

TEA AT THE MANOR

Sunday 13 September, The Manor House, 3.30 pm

SIBFORD FERRIS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

New date: 21 September, Sibford School, 7.45 pm

VILLAGE FAYRE

Saturday 26 September, Village Hall, 2.30 pm

WELCOME TO SIBFORD

If you are new to the Sibfords and have not yet received a copy of the *Welcome to Sibford* booklet, please call Ivor Hopkyns on T: 788367 (Gower and Burdrop) or Nic Durrant on T: 788865 (Ferris) and a copy will be delivered to you. We hope the information will help to make you feel at home by telling you about the services, schools, clubs and societies currently active in the villages.

LETTERS & NOTICES

Margaret Wealsby

I know that everyone in the Sibfords joins me in sending condolences to Bill Wealsby and his family following their recent loss. *Ed.*

Vera Jones

One-time Sibford Gower resident, Vera Jones - wife of the late Ernest Jones, both formerly of Temple Close - died peacefully at Godswell Park in June. Our best wishes to Vera's family and friends.

Sibford School Arts Hub

Please note that Pottery classes starting at Sibford School's Arts Hub on Tuesday 8 September will take place from 6.30 to 8.30 pm. Textiles classes starting on 10 September will take place from 7 - 9 pm and not as stated in the last issue. Please see page 16 for full details.

Church Mission Society Collection

Thank you to all those who contributed and for continuing to have a CMS box in your home or make an annual contribution. The amount raised this year is £661.71 including Gift Aid, a small increase on last year. If anyone would like a box for their small or large change, I would be very happy to deliver one. T: 01295 780731. *Judy Abbott*

Brown Envelope Appeal

You should have received a brown envelope with this issue of the Sibford Scene. Please see page 5 for details of our donation appeal. Our very grateful thanks to those of you who have already donated so generously.

Holly Jones

Wishes to thank the kind but anonymous person who raised the alarm on spotting her recent house fire. Without their swift intervention things could have been much worse.

Katharine House Coffee Morning

Join us for coffee and cake in aid of Katharine House Hospice on Friday 4 September from 10.30 - 12.30 at Briar Cottage, 3 The Colony. Pick ups from Gower Main Street crossroads at 10.25 am and 10.45 am.

Poppy Appeal Coffee Morning

Matthew & Tina Spicer invite you to a coffee morning in aid of the poppy appeal on Saturday 12 September, 10 - 12 noon, 4 Acre Ditch, Sibford Gower. They are also seeking house-to-house collectors.

War Graves Visit Presentation

A fundraising event in aid of the Church - incorporating a lunch, pics of the war graves visit earlier in the year, and WW1 artefacts and information - will take place after the Remembrance Day service on Sunday 8 November. More in the October issue.

FIVE MINUTES WITH ...

THIS MONTH: JOHN PERRISS

John and Penny Perriss moved to Sibford Ferris in 2004. When he worked (which many former colleagues dispute he ever did), John was Chief Executive of ZenithOptimedia, one of the largest global media agencies. In the seventies and eighties he was at Saatchi & Saatchi.

These days he and wife Penny spend most of their time managing and following their string of nine National Hunt racehorses, some of which they have bred and all of which spend their summers in Sibford. They also have hunters. John is often seen around the Sibfords walking his pack of dogs, recently sadly reduced to three but occasionally supplemented by Jean Kennedy's black Labradors.



What brought you to the Sibfords?

Chance. Penny saw West Town House advertised in Country Life.

What is your earliest memory?

Sitting on the potty listening to *Listen With Mother*. Now I read in the loo like all men.

What was the first record you ever bought?

Baby Face by Little Richard on the London American label. I still have it, along with thousands of other records.

What is your favourite book or film and why?

Conversation With The Blues by Paul Oliver, a nonfiction oral history of blues music in the Deep South recorded and written in the 1960s by an Englishman. It created and encouraged a lifetime passion for the music and culture of the Deep South.

Name someone who has inspired you and why

Penny, who by her own admission was never the hardest working person but, through an extraordinary combination of charm, humour and guile, achieved success and popularity by getting others to do her work for her - a real skill.

Tell us something surprising about you

I voted Labour (Harold Wilson) in 1970.

What's the best thing about living in the Sibfords - and what would you change?

Best thing: the people and the countryside. Slow the traffic speed through the village.

NATURE NOTES

1 July - The hottest day ever recorded, reaching 36.7C (98F) at Heathrow. Our thermometer, which is in a cool position on our north wall, got up to 90F (32C).

5 July - There seem to be more butterflies around at the moment. I saw 6 skippers, several ringlets and a tortoiseshell in my daughter's garden today.

9 July - A record low July temperature in Northern Ireland last night 0.6C (33F). My uncle used to say that the truest thing he was taught at school was that the climate of Britain was variable.

14 July - There have been fewer bumble bees round the nest in our gate post recently and now they seem to have all gone so the postman can come that way without getting stung again. My brother, who lives in Banbury, has been looking at the bumble bees in his garden and thinks that the majority of them are tree bumble bees, which we thought these were. I expect they do better than other bumble bees if they nest out of reach of badgers.

20 July - I put a beautiful drinker moth out of the bathroom at dusk. It had been there all day but I thought that if I put it out earlier it might be snapped up by a bird.

21 July - A good day for butterflies on our wild flowers. There are still quite a lot of ringlets and today more gatekeepers and one pristine brimstone. I am told it's generally a better butterfly year and that there are a few hummingbird hawk moths around, although I have not seen one yet.

30 July - The weatherman on the radio mentioned that the temperature at South Newington went down to 1C (34F) last night.

7 August - A young bullfinch died when it hit one of our windows but looking out a few minutes later I could still see 4 bullfinches on the bird table, including a young one that waited until a cock bird came and fed it with sunflower hearts that he had chewed up well first.



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BROWN ENVELOPE APPEAL

It's been several years since we ran a donations appeal for the Sibford Scene. You already know that the Scene is produced entirely by volunteers who give their time freely, but there are printing and materials costs associated with its production.

We hope you're enjoying the Scene's new look and that you'll want to support us by making a modest donation towards its continued production. We suggest £4 which, with advertising revenue, would fund production for a full year if every household donates, but we are grateful for whatever you can afford or feel is appropriate.

If you prefer, you can transfer your donation directly into the Sibford Scene's bank account: Account No 52612236. Sort code 60-01-35. Alternatively, please seal your donation in the enclosed brown envelope and, to make life a little easier, you can drop your donation through any of the letterboxes shown below.

In anticipation, a GREAT BIG thank you!

Sibford Ferris -

Sally Wass, Holmby House
Sarah Gale, Springfields,
8 Wolford Road
Jean Kennedy, Home Farm,
(corner of Woodway Road)

Burdrop -

Fiona Pidgeon, Burdrop Green
Caroline Harley, Park
Farmhouse (next door to
church)
Rev Ronald Hawkes, The
Rectory

Sibford Gower -

Ivor Hopkyns, Elmridge
Farmhouse, Main Street
(behind pond)
Caroline Seely, Home Farm,
(end of Backside Lane)
Louise Harwood, Leasowe
House, Bonds End Lane
Petra Berry, 2 Barley Close



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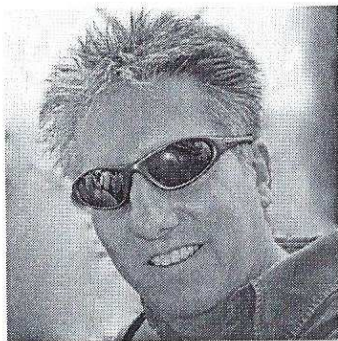
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SUMMER REWIND

One of the most-quoted reasons for enjoying Sibford living is how friendly and welcoming our community it is. But it's a two-way street, and we are very lucky when newcomers arrive and happily volunteer themselves for roles and responsibilities that improve Sibford's services and amenities.



Step forward David Alleyn. Since moving to Sibford Gower in September 2014, David has been actively promoting events that raise funds for the Village Hall through initiatives like the new Sibford Hall Promotions Facebook page and of course his upcoming gig at the Village Hall, **SUMMER REWIND with David Alleyn & Matt Platt**,

taking place this coming weekend, on Saturday 29 August.

A guitarist and singer performing cover versions with acoustic and electric guitar, David started playing in semi-professional bands as a teenager, later forming a duo with a friend playing at parties, pubs and gigs around the country. Most recently he performed at Hook Norton's Fine Ales festival in July.

"The biggest fundraisers for the Village Hall are the music nights." David tells us, "And I'm really keen for people to get together and put on some regular music events for the village."

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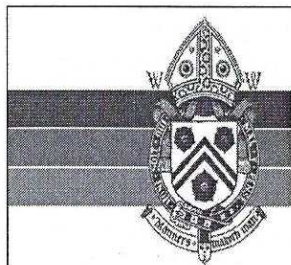
www.holmbyhouse.com

SUMMER REWIND

David's hoping that the format of these events will vary – a ceilidh is possible for later this year, for example – and he is happy for any local musicians to get in touch with him to explore the idea further. You can contact David by email at: david_alleyn@outlook.com, or search for David Alleyn on Facebook.

Now retired, David was a chartered engineer and asset manager in the water industry before becoming the UK director of a global management consultancy. He and wife Marianne have 6 children and 8 grandchildren between them and before moving to Sibford took off on an extended gap year – actually lasting two-and-a-half-years - touring the UK and Europe in their motorhome.

Some tickets are still available for **SUMMER REWIND with David Alleyn & Matt Platt**, taking place after the summer Horti Show on Saturday 29 August. There will be a Bar and BBQ, so come along and bring your friends.



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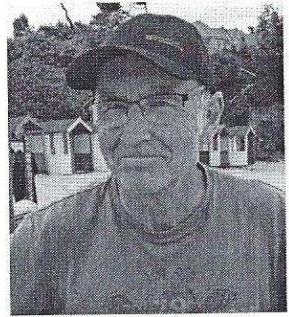
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E: info@wykhamarms.co.uk www.wykhamarms.co.uk

SIBFORD'S GOT TALENT

The Sibfords are fortunate to be home to a great many gifted and talented people and we're delighted to welcome back artist, Nigel Fletcher, after a spell painting in France.

One of our best known local artists, here Nigel tells us a little about himself ...



I have been drawing from an early age and my father often reminds me that he encouraged me to see things through a painter's eye, showing me how railway lines got closer and closer together until they almost touched in the distance to demonstrate linear perspective. I was often asked to paint family portraits, rather badly in truth, and as a child to design Christmas cards.

At the Friends' School I was pretty average academically but did well with art, technical drawing, rural studies and any kind of sport, so it was an artistic career I opted for and found myself firstly at Banbury School of Art specialising in painting and pottery, then illustration at Harrow School of Art.

After many years as a graphic designer and illustrator I gave it all up and travelled for a year with a friend and our backpacks, firstly by bike to France and Italy, then on to India, Nepal and south east Asia, Australia, Peru and the Americas. The whole time I was drawing and painting, filling up sketchbooks and posting them back to the UK.

I'd heard of a small coastal village on the west coast of Thailand where fishing boats are still built on the beach using mainly traditional techniques – I had to go! Eventually I found a small group of men and women amongst a cluster of boats under palm trees. I spent the whole day there painting. At one point they all stopped working, gathered around a makeshift

SIBFORD'S GOT TALENT

table and waved me over; it was lunchtime and I had to join them. I was unable to communicate, but no matter - after spicy chicken and some very strong rice wine we continued with our day. I made several paintings and drawings and it was one of the best days of the trip.

Like so many people in the past I took the plunge a few years ago and bought a small cottage in the middle of the French countryside and built a studio overlooking the garden. The year before I left I began painting a small oil painting every day and sold them to my email contacts so, as long as I had internet availability, I could continue to do the same in France. I also exhibited with some success, but it wasn't long before I realised that I missed England too much and through a friend's kind generosity I was able to move back to Sibford Ferris. So here I am again, with a new studio and living in a place where I first started painting about 30 years ago!

I'm still painting and exhibiting locally (look out for posters in November and May), and painting small oil paintings, but not every day - if you'd like to subscribe to receive them by email just let me know. I am also teaching painting at Sibford Village Hall, so get in touch if you'd like to take part in an informal class or a one-to-one for a couple of hours once a week:

E nvfletcher@btinternet.com

cotswoldsketchbook.blogspot.co.uk

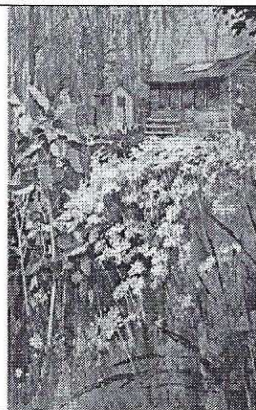
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VILLAGE HALL NEWS

VILLAGE HALL CAR PARK - The yellow 'no parking' lines have been repainted on the Village Hall car park next to the main hall entrance. The clear area is at the request of the Fire and Rescue Service who tell us that they will fight any fire at the Village Hall from the field and therefore need access at all times. The Village Hall Management Committee thank all users of the hall in anticipation of their co-operation.

SUMMER REWIND presents David Alleyn & Matt Platt, Saturday 29 August from 7.30 pm. Licensed Bar and BBQ (see page 6).

The VILLAGE FAYRE is on Saturday 26 September, starting with a fancy dress competition at 2.30 pm in two classes - children 5 yrs and under, and 6 yrs to 11 yrs. The theme is *Film and TV Characters*, and we are delighted that Sue Cook and Ian Sharp have agreed to judge the competition. There will be lots of games, competitions, stalls, teas and cakes, and we welcome donations of cakes for the cake stall and bottles for the tombola. Contact Ginny on T: 01295 780373 for collections. Donations for the bottle tombola can be anything in a bottle, from tomato ketchup to alcoholic drinks! Please bring your donation to the Village Hall on the morning of 26th (11 am onwards) or give them during the previous week to Tony Haynes T: 01295 780083 in Sibford Gower, and Bryan Mills T: 01295 780248 in Sibford Ferris. Alongside the Fayre attractions we are holding a CAR BOOT/ TABLE TOP SALE in the field. Pitches at £6 each are limited so please book early. Contact Joan on T: 01295 780410.

FILM NIGHTS will be held on 1 October showing *The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel*, 29 October - *Dark Horse*, and 26 November - *The Choir*.

VILLAGE HALL LOTTERY WINNERS for June were: 1st Mr & Mrs Nash, 2nd Mr D Rowley, 3rd Mr C Denner, and 4th Mr J Skinner. July winners: 1st Mr & Mrs M & K Allen, 2nd Mrs G Bennett, 3rd Mrs R Neal, and 4th Mrs E Wimbush.

SIBFORD HALL PROMOTIONS - Keep an eye on the website: thesibfords.org.uk/sibford-hall-promotions for info on forthcoming events, and for Village Hall hire contact Ginny Bennett on T: 01295 780373 or via the website.

CHURCH CLOCK APPEAL

Two very special fundraising events for the current church clock appeal ...

Sunday 13 September

Take tea at The Manor House. Join us from 3.30 pm for a glass of bubbly (or tea of course), a delicious selection of sandwiches, scones with jam and yummy cakes galore. Tickets, to include live music, are £10 each from John Marshall T: 01295 780348. Book early to avoid disappointment.

Saturday 3 October

A very talented group of students from **The Purcell School for Young Musicians** will perform at Sibford School from 7 pm, with all profits from the evening going towards the clock renovation funds at Holy Trinity Church.

The prestigious Purcell School for Young Musicians is the oldest specialist music school for children in the United Kingdom. Founded in 1962 by Rosemary Rapaport and Irene Forster, the school was awarded the UNESCO Mozart Medal in 2003, which was received on behalf of the school by Prince Charles - the school's Patron - and Sir Simon Rattle, honorary president.

The school's students come from all over the world, and many go on to study at the Royal College of Music or Royal Academy of Music, frequently distinguishing themselves later as instrumental performers, singers, conductors and composers.

The students will be playing a variety of beautiful music, so do come along and enjoy what promises to be an exceptional evening.

Tickets £10 each (£5 for students 18 or under) available from E: Sibfordchurch@gmail.com or T: 01295 780274.

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SIBFORD FERRIS PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting, 16 July 2015 - The meeting was attended by Cllrs Huckvale (Chair), Hicks (Vice-Chair), Lamb and Robinson, the Clerk, District and County Cllr Reynolds, and three members of the public. Ongoing matters discussed included: the provision of faster broadband, community first responder scheme, affordable housing, Rural Community Energy Fund, the annual inspection of fitness equipment, replacement of swing frame at Cotswold Close play area, liquidation of payroll provider Douglas Tonks Ltd, the Local Plan, gravel heaps at Sibford Hall, dog bins, mowing at the graveyards, verge maintenance, fly-tipping, use of land at Wheathills, Cherwell District Council Parish Liaison Meeting, the poor condition of Back Lane, the casual vacancy. Other items on the agenda were: an update to the PC complaints procedure, funding of the parish website. Correspondence received reported at the meeting: a complaint against the parish council, changes to the mobile library service, a donations appeal from the Sibford Scene, a consultation on proposed changes to the subsidised bus service and Dial-a-Ride. Under Finance, there had been outstanding points on the external audit resulting in a revision of the assets register, and compliance with the new Transparency Code was confirmed. There were two planning applications and one decision since the previous meeting. Cherwell District Council had asked if electronic notifications of planning items would be acceptable. The full draft minutes are available from the Sibfords website: thesibfords.org.uk/sfpc or the Clerk T: 01295 788557.

Next meeting: Monday 21 September (changed from 7 September), at 7.45 pm, Sports Hall Classroom at Sibford School. The two candidates for the PC vacancy will to speak about their application and members will vote for their preferred candidate.

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Wednesdays 1 - 3 pm, Spelsbury Memorial Hall
Fridays 9.30 - 11.30 am, Holly Tree, Deddington
(All drawing and watercolour classes)

**To register your interest or find out more, please ring
01608 730401 or email jgw4art@gmail.com**



SIBFORD HORTI SOCIETY

Sibford Horti Show - 29 August

The Sibford Horticultural and Produce Show takes place on Saturday 29 August from 2.30 – 4.00 pm at the Village Hall. Entry night is on Wednesday 26 August from 7.00 – 8.00 pm in

the Small Hall.

Do come along and support the Show and admire the flowers, fruit, vegetables, flower arrangements and preserves. And then enjoy a cup of tea and some home-made cake!

There is no Horti Society meeting in September.

THIS MONTH IN YOUR GARDEN - SEPTEMBER

Another busy month in the garden ...

- Perennials can be lifted and divided now.
- Still time to sow winter spinach, and lettuce Winter Density will thrive in a cold frame or tunnel.
- Collect and store seeds - sweet peas, cerinthe etc
- Continue to deadhead dahlias and salvias, and they'll keep going.
- Take cuttings of geraniums and fuschias.
- Sow hardy annuals like nigella, marigold etc for early spring flowering.
- Pick fruit, freeze, make jam, and munch!
- Clean the greenhouse before bringing in tender plants.
- Lift and pot up strawberry runners.
- Start planning your winter and spring tubs and pots. Order tulips, hyacinths, crocus etc.

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Top results are spread across the board

2015 has seen Sixth Form students from Sibford School gaining top A Level grades across a broad range of subject areas.

A* and A grades have been achieved in Art, Biology, Business Studies, Chemistry, Chinese, English, French, History, Maths, Further Maths, Music, Philosophy & Ethics, Physics and Russian.



Lainey Howard with Sibford
Head Michael Goodwin

Michael Goodwin, Head of Sibford School, said: *"Our prospectus states that we offer a broad and balanced curriculum which reflects the view that while some students may have a talent for mathematics, science or history, others may be gifted in the arts, horticulture or sport."*

"This year's A Level results illustrate precisely this. For example, student Myles Atherstone achieved A grades in Chemistry and Physics and a B in Maths. Meanwhile, Joe Slatter gained an A in Art (coincidentally one of his pieces was a portrait of Myles!), a B in Design & Technology and a Distinction* (the equivalent of an A* at A Level) in his Level 3 Countryside Management course."*

Other students achieving A* grades include Abigail Cooley (English), Lucy Homer (Philosophy & Ethics) and Lainey Howard (Art).

There was success too for Sibford's overseas boarders. Keshav Sharma achieved an A* in Chemistry, and A grades in Biology, Maths and Physics. The boarding pupil, who moved to the school from India in 2013, is planning to study medicine. Meanwhile Chinese student Vladimir Ip, who has been at Sibford since 2008, gained an A* in Maths and A grades in Physics and Further Maths. Year 12 Polish student, Justyna Urbanczyk, who took her French A Level a year early, achieved an A*.



Lucy Homer with Head of Sixth
Form, Cate Mallalieu-Needle



SIBFORD GOWER PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

There was a distinctly international feel at Sibford Gower Endowed Primary School towards the end of the summer term, as children across the school marked Bastille Day with an exploration of French culture, customs and cuisine. Dressed in the colours of the French flag, the children played boules, learned traditional French country dances, ran a French café, explored the French language using ICT, and created some stunning artwork inspired by the 'cut-outs' of Henri Matisse (*pictured*). This was all



planned by Mrs Perkins, our dedicated Music and French teacher who joined our staff at Christmas. Mrs Perkins has put us forward for an International Schools Award and, as well as cultivating an interest in all things French in our children, she has established links with a school in Quebec. Over the last two terms, the children of Willow Class have been corresponding in French with their new friends in Canada. Très bien!

Our Year 6 children have now left us to move on to their new schools. We will miss them, but we do have something to remember them by. They and their parents have left the school a very special gift in the form of an Oak tree which has been planted in our beautiful orchard. This will be studied and cherished by future generations of children who attend our delightful village school.

The school re-opens to the children on Thursday 3rd September with new staff in place and closer links forged with some of our partnership schools as we move forward as part of the Warriner Multi Academy Trust. All sorts of extra-curricular events are already being organised, from stargazing to class trips, as we embark on what promises to be another exciting year of learning for children and staff.

SIBFORDS' ARTS HUB

A reminder that Sibford School launches its specialist Adult Arts Hub this month, offering evening classes at the school.

Please note the correct class times below:

- Starting Monday 7 September: **Painting and Drawing** Classes (including some life drawing) - £60 for six-week session. Mondays 7 - 9 pm.
- Starting Tuesday 8 September: **Pottery** Classes - £60 for six-week session. Tuesdays 6.30 - 8.30 pm.
- Starting Thursday 10 September: **Textiles** Classes - £60 for six-week session. Thursdays 7 - 9 pm.

All classes take place at Sibford School. For further details, please contact Ali Bromhall E: abromhall@sibfordschool.co.uk or visit the school's website: www.sibfordschool.co.uk/community/classes-clubs/

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SIBFORD GOWER PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting, 14 July 2015 - The Chairman spoke of the Church's recent 175th anniversary celebrations, greatly enjoyed by all, and thanked the Rector and all who took part in its organisation and presentation. He reported that high speed broadband is now available in Sibford Gower, but not Burdrop or the Ferris. **Miriam Tebbs' land:** a recent site meeting discussed the creation of an orchard with approval of Burdrop residents. The Chairman is arranging for a tree expert from Cherwell DC to discuss tree work and exploring grants for a community orchard. **Defibrillator:** Cllr Gilian Soden reported that one resident has started training and three people are waiting to be contacted by HQ. She is starting consultations with a trainer and contacting the volunteers advisor. A notice will appear in the Sibford Scene and on the Sibfords' website seeking volunteers. **Planning Matters:** Cherwell DC has advised that it is considering sending planning applications in electronic format. Sibford Gower PC has responded that paper format is more practical for its purposes. Since the previous Meeting, five planning applications have been considered. **Clerk's Salary:** The company appointed to handle the Clerk's salary payment, Douglas Tonks Ltd, has gone into receivership and the PC has received a demand from HMRC for £319.82. The PC has agreed to pay this amount and any loss on the Clerk's salary and lodge a claim with the Official Receiver. **Highways:** Road potholes were discussed and the Clerk instructed to liaise with Oxfordshire Highways on required works. **Footpaths:** Cllr Susan Bannister has arranged remedial work to a stile near Rye Hill Lodge. **AOB:** Parking - a local resident again raised the issue of the area in front of The Old Rectory which she maintains should be available for public parking. Those pressing to reopen the matter are invited to put forward concrete proposals for what they wish to see. The PC will then consider the matter further. It was noted that car owners may be reluctant to use parking areas some distance from their homes. The Meeting closed at 9.30 pm.

Next Meeting: Monday 5 October at 8 pm, Primary School staff room.

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SIBFORDS WALKING GROUP

Forthcoming Walks

7 September, 21 September, 5 October,
19 October, 2 November

Leaving the village hall on foot or by car at 10.00 am sharp to do a circuit of approximately 2 hours' duration. Dogs welcome provided they are put on leads when requested. Walking boots and poles are recommended but not compulsory. Everybody welcome. Enquiries to Sue Bannister T: 01295 780365 or E: sebannister@gmail.com

Please notify Sue, village footpaths warden, if you discover things that need repairing or cutting back on the footpaths within the Sibfords' parishes.



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July 2015 - Due to rain on 14 July, what should have been our Garden Party by necessity became a Drawing Room Gathering. However this by no means spoiled our enjoyment as our hostess, Jan Warner, has an attractive and very spacious room. President Glennis Hardman welcomed a guest, her penfriend of over sixty years, Monila De, from Kalimpong, India. After a short business meeting, we indulged in a delicious tea baked by the Committee. Glennis thanked Jan for her lovely hospitality and presented her with a garden token and an arrangement of flowers.

On 21 July, this time a warm and sunny day, we joined Hook Norton WI on their coach trip to Highclere Castle and much admired the magnificent interior and glorious gardens. Filming of the final series of *Downton Abbey* had only recently completed.

We meet again on 8 September at 3 pm for a Members' Tea at the Wykham Arms. The highlight of the afternoon will be the unveiling of our new banner, designed and created by Mollie Mulley. On 15 September it will be taken to Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford to be paraded with all Oxfordshire WI banners, followed by a special service to celebrate the WI's centenary.

Glennis Hardman

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THE SIBFORDS SOCIETY

On 1 July, the hottest day on UK records, Sibfords Society members met Chris Mason, Cherwell's swift conservation expert, for a stroll around the Sibfords to look for signs of swift activity. Although there were no definite sightings at Burdrop, we walked back to the pond and saw swifts circling about the Old Rectory and a couple going into the boxes provided. Those who did not have young to look after would spend the night on the wing far above the villages. In the Ferris we visited Home Farm's beautiful and tranquil garden, whose tolerant owners invited us to watch the birds for some time. A very special and enchanting evening, we have already asked Chris to take us with him again next summer.

Radway Exhibition - On 16 July, the Sibfords Society visited Radway to view the superb Edgehill Battle exhibition in St Peter's Church. We were privileged to be the first group to see the exhibition. After a walk around the village, informatively guided by Rachel Mander, the group returned to the church to take a close look at the finds cabinet and to watch the touch screen and the information towers. Happily, the finds cabinets

continues ...

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THE SIBFORDS SOCIETY



had been completed that very afternoon, just in time for our visit, and we are most grateful to the exhibitors. The depiction of the Battle with its consequences for local people is expertly presented and the exhibition is of considerable historic value and needs to be revisited numerous times.

On 17 September, historian Julie Ann Godson will give a talk and book-signing of *The Water Gypsy - how a Thames fishergirl became a viscountess*. The reality is far more intriguing than the myth! Village Hall, 8pm.

Bottle Tombola - The Sibfords Society is running the Bottle Tombola at the Village Fayre on 26 September. Please see Village Hall News on page 10.

ATTENTION DOG WALKERS!

For those of us walking our dogs over the coming weeks, please be aware that it's calving time for many of the cows in the fields we all walk each day. Please keep your dogs under control and remember that cows are frightened of dogs and will defend their calves if they think the dog is going to get close.

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Police phone: 101

Crimestoppers phone: 0800 555111

Trading Standards phone: 0845 0510845

At the recent Neighbourhood Watch meeting we were told that during the autumn, with darker nights and the approach of Christmas, there is usually an increase in burglaries. Please remain aware, follow police advice and report anything suspicious to 101 or 999 for emergencies. Oil is still expensive and oil tanks are often targeted by thieves especially after they have been filled. Make sure that your oil tank is securely locked. The police recommend an alarm lock.

'Nottingham knockers' have been operating in the area recently selling household products door to door. Traditionally they came from Nottingham, hence the name, but now they are recruited from anywhere. Often they have bogus ID and say they are deaf/dumb/just out of prison/reforming and working towards a better life. Their bag of household products is supplied by the man who employs them.

How it works - The lads are given a full bag and charged a small sum for its contents. They are dropped in an area, given a list of streets to work, and knock on your door offering cleaning items which you know are rubbish but often buy items to get them to go away. The price you pay often comes to a round sum - usually £10. When you disappear to get the cash the lad notices its condition and how long it took you to get it. If the note is crumpled, they accept it and move on. If it is crisp and new they are much more interested and may engage you in conversation to find out more about you. As they leave they smell the note: if it is slightly musty it is an indication that there is more in the property. Those addresses are noted, along with addresses of the elderly, vulnerable or gullible, and given to the employer. The lads are paid a small amount for each address, which is sold on in prisons and pubs. If there is a later break-in, the employer gets a further cut of the proceeds. The lists are bought by all sorts of people and, once on a list, your address could be sold on and on. In almost every case of a stop check, the lads have a string of burglary convictions.

Don't buy at the door. If a salesperson comes to your door the police suggest you ask to see their pedlar's certificate, only issued under very strict conditions.

SIBFORD GRAPEVINE

Tell us your news - let us know what you and your families have been up to. E: sibford.scene@btinternet.com

RESPECT to Tom Harwood and Sam Pougatch for recently completing a four-week trek in Bolivia. The boys, aged 18 and 17 respectively, worked on a school environmental project before trekking through the jungle and then to the top of the Laguna Glaciar (glacial lake), 5,098 metres above sea level. They would like to thank everyone who helped with fundraising for their trip.

CONGRATULATIONS to Dr Jennifer Guy - daughter of Chris and Maggie (Sibford School's Deputy Head) - for qualifying as a doctor after six years of study at Bristol University.

WELL DONE to Jan Thompson who completed the recent Prudential Ride London-Surrey 100-mile charity cycle challenge in a not too shabby five and a half hours.

COME HOME SOON Lara Skowronska, who has run away to Giffords Circus this year and is having the time of her life as the circus winds its way through the Cotswolds this summer. And also to her sister, Zosia, who is spending the entire month of August working at the world-renowned Edinburgh Fringe Festival.

BON VOYAGE to the Bishop family as they head off to Australia. Read more about their travels on page 25.

GOOD LUCK to Sibford dancer, Genna Heron, who has just joined one of the UK's leading touring ballet companies, Northern Ballet.

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DID YOU KNOW? ...

... There was no mains water in the Sibfords until 1935 and no mains sewerage until after the Second World War. Up until that time water was collected from wells or standpipes and pumped into portable containers.

Sibford Gower had a standpipe near the primary school on a green in front of the Court House. Some villagers had their own well, but others had to collect water from streams and springs. One reliable spring, The Tite, has never been known to run dry and is still here today, behind the primary school.

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Excellent references

FAREWELL, NOT GOODBYE

Samantha, John, Alicia and Andre Bishop from Sibford Gower are heading to sunnier climes in September, moving to Melbourne, Australia to spend more time with Sam's family.

Alicia and Andre are already enrolled in a local primary school, where they will spend just a few short weeks before starting the Australian school summer holidays! They are all looking forward to spending more time outside and at the beach. *"Having lived amongst such beautiful countryside for so many years in Sibford, John and I can't imagine staying in Melbourne for long,"* says Sam, *"So we are hoping to settle on the coast to the southwest of Melbourne."*

After 20 years in the UK, Sam wonders if she's 'gone native' and will start longing for Radio 4, polite conversation, and orderly queues. *"Whatever happens,"* she says, *"I am sure that I will see Sibford in my dreams for a long time to come."* We wish them the very best in their new adventure.

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SIBFORD PLAYERS

Help us put on a play!

We thought it would be fun to put on a comedy before Christmas in the Village Hall. The first meeting, on Thursday 24 September, will be to see if anyone is interested.

We would probably have to rehearse once a week to begin with but might need more time nearer the Show. The main thing is for everyone to enjoy themselves!

If you are interested, please come along to an informal evening of fun and frolics in the Village Hall on **Thursday 24 September from 7.30 – 9.30 pm**. Enquiries to Kat Davison T: 01608 737902 or Juliette Glazebrook T: 01295 788650.

Actress Juliette has performed at the National and other theatres, as well as working extensively in TV.

Kat trained at Rose Bruford, after which she spent 2 years in Paris at the Jacques Lecoq School of Physical Theatre. She has experience of directing and clown training.

Kat Davison & Juliette Glazebrook




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LETTER FROM THAILAND

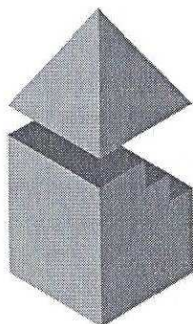
In 2009, wanting to do something a little different in retirement, Ann and Robin Spicer moved from Sibford Gower to Bua Lai in the north east of Thailand where they built a house and now spend some of their time teaching conversational English in local schools. Before leaving they both played an active part in Sibford life: Robin was Chairman of the Sibford Gower Parish Council for many years, and Ann helped to run 1st The Sibfords Scout Group for 27 years, and was a church warden for 10. They visit the Sibfords every year and send us occasional letters providing an interesting snapshot of their new lives. This is their latest letter, sent in June ...

We had a good flight and a five hour drive back to Bua Lai, arriving at midnight. We won't moan that we are cold, because it is around 38C! We had a week off before going back to school - we are now helping at five schools on 3 days a week.

Robin is busy getting his garden ready to plant, and we have had some bad thunderstorms and very heavy rain, but we did need the rain to help cool it down.

This weekend we went away to the seaside with our good friends and stayed in a lovely hotel right beside the sea. We visited a memorial to Sunthorn Phu, who was a Royal poet and storyteller in the 1750s. We also visited a fruit farm where they grow rambutans, mangosteens and other fruit and we tried the various fruits being grown. We visited a Temple on the way home, which is being built by a famous Thai actor and we had our photo taken with him. We are back to school again now and looking forward to our next day out with friends.

Ann & Robin Spicer



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LOCAL NEWS

Ride + Stride

The Friends of Oxfordshire Churches have given several million pounds in grants to Oxfordshire churches of many denominations. About half of the money has been raised by the annual (bike) Ride + Stride event. Raising nearly £137,000 in 2014, this year's event takes place on 12 September. 50% of sponsorship money comes straight back to our church. The Parochial Church Council is very grateful to those who have taken part in the past and hopes to encourage participants again this year. Information and sponsorship forms from Peter Hardman (Hon Sec, Holy Trinity Church PCC)
T: 01295 780391 or E: hardman214@btinternet.com

Upton House

'Cooking for Victory' on the AGA. Continuing its 1940s living exhibition, Upton House & Gardens is holding a special AGA demonstration in the house's authentic 1940s kitchen on Thursday 17 September, between 10 am and 3 pm. With demonstrations of delicious modern meals inspired by wartime AGA recipes, the day includes a private tour of the house, which will be closed to the general public that day. Booking essential T: 01295 671122.

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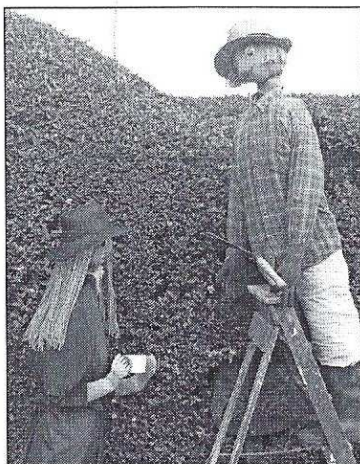
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LOCAL NEWS

Tadmarton

Who could not have enjoyed the recent Tadmarton Scarecrow Competition? Congratulations to Pat and John Salethorne of The Gables in Tadmarton, whose fabulous '*Hedge Cutters*' beat off stiff competition from nearly 40 other entrants to win first prize. Second prize went to the scarecrow taking the kite out of the tree on Ushercombe, and third was Cap'n Lampet, the pirate outside Lampet House. The competition, judged by Revds Ronald and Liz Hawkes, was such a success that there is talk of it becoming an annual event. Great traffic calming too ...



Warriner School, Bloxham

An island in the South Pacific has a problem. It's hollow. Eve's garden is bursting with next door's rubbish. Even the ducks have relocated ... to Bangladesh. From the four corners of the earth come colourful stories of humanity living with the unpredictable effects of climate change. *Baked Alaska* is the latest production from the highly-regarded Riding Lights Theatre Company. Taking place at the Warriner School on Friday 16 October, the production is commissioned by the Diocese of Lichfield with Christian Aid and Operation Noah, organisations committed to raising a compassionate voice in the call to worldwide action on climate change. Serving up a recipe for hope ahead of the *2015 United Nations Conference on Climate Change*, tickets from the Box Office on T: 01904 613000 or <http://ridinglights.org/baked-alaska>

Swalcliffe - Save the Date - Orlando Jopling is holding a cello recital at Swalcliffe church on Sunday 8 November at 4 pm. Orlando holds recitals around the UK in aid of our parish churches and has raised over £70,000 through his Cello Pilgrimage to date. Further details from Gay Harris

CHURCH NEWS

SERVICES

Society of Friends	Sibford Gower, Sunday, 10.30 am
Roman Catholic Mass	Wroxton, Sunday, 9.00 am
	Brailes, Sunday, 11.30 am
Baptist	Hook Norton, Sunday, 10.30 am

Holy Trinity Church, September 2015

6 September	Shutford	10 am	Benefice Eucharist (JT)
	Sibford	6 pm	Evening Prayer
13 September	Sibford	8 am	Holy Communion (BCP) (RH)
	Sibford	9.30 am	Morning Praise (EH)
20 September	Sibford	9.30 am	Holy Communion (RH)
	Sibford	6 pm	Evening Prayer
27 September	Sibford	9.30 am	Holy Communion (BCP) (JT)

(JT - John Tatersall, RH - Ronald Hawkes, EH - Liz Hawkes)

Sibford news Over 100 of you came to the Sibford 175th birthday party at the Primary School. There was wonderful cake baked by Jean Dunkley, amazing fizz provided by Peter Hardman, and roses and chocolate oranges given by Kathy Yorke. The School Choir sang wonderfully and the Sibford Songbirds were SUPERB – both under the direction of Keith Allen, to whom huge thanks. On the Sunday evening there was sunlit Choral Evensong with reminiscences of a Sibford childhood from Evey Boughton. The amazing display about the church provided by Keith and Maureen Hicks is still by the font – so DO go and have a look.

Thank you to everyone who has so far responded to our church clock appeal. We are well on the way towards our £10,000 target but we'd still like more of you to respond! Please do look at the Purcell School concert info on page 11.

** SAVE THIS DATE **

Family Harvest Service and Tea - Saturday 10 October, 4.30 pm. We'd love to have a harvest concert too. Do you play the spoons? Tell jokes? Have a keyboard piece? Sing? Everyone of any age is welcome to perform.

National Quaker Week takes place from 3 to 11 October. More details in the next issue of the Sibford Scene. Meanwhile, there is a new website for the Meeting House and Quakers in the area: www.banburyeveshamquakers.org

SIBFORD BUS SERVICES

Cherwell Rural Dial-A-Ride Scheme

A minibus with tail-lift to take the **elderly** or **disabled** and escort to Banbury (max fare £1.60) Door-to-Door service. Book at least one day in advance. Operates on Wednesdays & Thursdays.

T: 01295 263777 for details.

BCTA also takes bookings for groups of 8 or more on a weekly/monthly basis (Wednesdays & Thursdays) to and from Banbury. T: 01295 263777

Stagecoach – Timetable

Mondays to Saturdays

(No services on Sundays or public holidays)

Bus 50A Banbury to Stratford-upon-Avon

Banbury, bus station	08.30	10.55	12.45	14.26	16.05	17.10	18.10
Sibford Ferris, crossroads.....	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 on Stour	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 Stratford-upon-Avon to Banbury

	NS						<i>Sch</i> <i>hols</i>		<i>Term</i> <i>time</i>	
Stratford, Wood St	06.20	07.10	09.05	11.10	13.10	15.10	15.24	16.24		
S Gower, school	07.04	07.55	09.56	11.56	13.56	15.56	16.10	17.14		
S Ferris, crossroads	07.07	07.58	09.59	11.59	13.59	15.59	16.13	17.17		
Banbury, bus station	07.28	08.25	10.21	12.21	14.21	16.21	16.35	17.39		

NS Not Saturdays

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

Fares

Sibford Ferris & Sibford Gower to Banbury:

Single £2.90 (Child £1.45) Return £5.35 (Child £2.70)

Sibford Ferris & Sibford Gower to Stratford:

Single £4.90 (Child £3.30) Return £7.30 (Child £4.90)

Unlimited Travel Cards are available for 1, 7 or 28 days but are regional and must be bought in advance. Contact the Stagecoach office, Stratford
T: 01789 412680.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

Thur 3	Primary School and Sibford School terms begin
Fri 4	Katharine House Hospice Coffee Morning, Briar Cottage, 3 The Colony, 10.30 am - 12.30 pm
Tues 8	Mobile Library in Sibford Gower, 2.30 - 3.30 pm
Sat 12	Poppy Appeal Coffee Morning, 4 Acre Ditch, Sibford Gower, 10 am - 12 noon
Sun 13	Tea at The Manor House, 3.30 pm
Mon 21	Sibford Ferris PC Meeting, Sibford School, 7.45 pm
Tues 22	Mobile Library in Sibford Gower, 2.30 - 3.30 pm
Sat 26	Village Fayre, Village Hall, 2.30 pm

SEPTEMBER BIN COLLECTIONS

Green	Wednesday 9 & 23 September
Brown/blue	Wednesday 2, 16 & 30 September

OCTOBER (PART)

Sat 3	Purcell School Concert, Sibford School, 7.00 pm
Mon 5	Sibford Gower Parish Council Meeting, Primary School, 8pm
Tues 6	Mobile Library in Sibford Gower, 2.30 - 3.30 pm
Sat 10	Family Harvest Service and Tea, Holy Trinity Church, 4.30 pm
Tues 20	Mobile Library in Sibford Gower, 2.30 - 3.30 pm

SIBFORD SCENE

DEADLINE FOR OCTOBER ISSUE - 18 SEPTEMBER 2015

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