

SIBFORD SCENE  
July/August 2021

NO 435



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The "Swalford" Cricket Team- see page 33 for review



## ED'S THOUGHTS

Nice selection of Sibford Gardens for our front & back cover this month

### HEDGEROWS

Vital features in the landscape, hedges are more than essential refuges for wildlife. Small but mighty, they also clean our air, capture carbon, reduce flooding and give clues to historic land management.

#### Thought for the month:

"Summer breeze makes me feel fine

Blowin' though the jasmine in my mind"

Seals & Crofts



## LETTERS AND NOTICES

### MATTHEW SPICER

Matthew now has another job and has stopped delivering our newspapers. At the shop I was told that he has been a paper boy for 20 years in the Gower. So, on behalf of all residents, thank you for your long and dedicated service keeping us up to date with the news

Ed

### VILLAGE HALL LOTTERY!!

Lottery winners this month picked by Juliette Glazebrook and Tim and Jo Huckvale

1st Prize - Selina Chard - £68

2nd Prize - Nigel Fletcher - £40.80

3rd Prize - Nigel Yeadon - £27.20

01295 788 650

contact [juliette53@btinternet.com](mailto:juliette53@btinternet.com)



## LETTERS AND NOTICES

### **Sibford Photography Club**

Sibford Photography Club is an informal group with a shared interest in photography. Activities include instructive presentations and regular photo topics with the resulting images presented and discussed at meetings (face to face or virtual).

On 27th July, Jane Stillwell, a local photographer, will be talking to us about her photography and how it has developed over the years. We will also be discussing members' photos 'In monochrome' and in August the topic will be 'Modes of Transport'.

We also hold outdoor photoshoots, for example walking round the Sibfords finding photo opportunities or visiting a local nature reserve. In the future, we hope to put on a club exhibition. We would like to welcome more members to the club, so if you are interested in joining, please contact Colin Lamb at [colinlamb.cl@gmail.com](mailto:colinlamb.cl@gmail.com) or phone 01295 780357.

Dear friends,

This month Polly would really appreciate any food contributions you could make to the vulnerable people she helps to look after in Banbury.

Sandwich fillings, like corned beef, tuna, ham or other fillings that keep, snacks, cereals and apples and satsumas would all be most useful. As usual, things can all be left in the wicker bins at the entrance to the church.

Many thanks, Diana Thompson



## HOLY TRINITY CHURCH CHATTER

**Services at the Church in July:** 11<sup>th</sup> July 8am Holy Communion; 9.30am Morning praise; 18<sup>th</sup> July 9.30am Holy Communion; 25<sup>th</sup> July 9.30am Holy Communion

**Services at the Church in August:** 8<sup>th</sup> Aug. 8am Holy Communion; 9.30am Morning praise; 15<sup>th</sup> Aug. Holy Communion; 15<sup>th</sup> Aug. 9.30am Holy Communion; 22<sup>nd</sup> Aug. 9.30am Holy Communion; 29<sup>th</sup> Aug. 9.30am Holy Communion.



## LETTERS AND NOTICES

### The Ark Nursery, Epwell

This last year has proved to be an extremely difficult time for the nursery due to the coronavirus pandemic. It is with great sadness and a heavy heart that I am sorry to inform you that I am having to close 'The Ark' nursery. I can assure you that this has not been a decision that I have made lightly but the nursery will be closing at the end of the summer term.

I opened 'The Ark' nursery almost 24 years ago, caring and providing early education for children aged from 2-4 years; initially serving families within Epwell and surrounding villages and then from as far as Bloxham and Banbury as our reputation spread. I believe in excess of 500 children have started their journey in education with us.

I have always been fortunate to have a good team of loyal, caring, and professional staff too and together we have always received 'good' or 'outstanding' from OFSTED; of which I am truly proud.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank families of Sibford and the surrounding area for their continued support and for entrusting their children into our care.

Many thanks

Julia Neal

### SIBFORD SUPPORT GROUP

Hopefully things are now getting back to normal and there will be less need for the Support Group. Many many thanks to Davd Allen for setting it up and doing an altogether spendid job

#### Advertising Rates

The Sibford Scene is delivered to 480 homes in Sibford Gower, Sibford Ferris and Burdrop

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## VILLAGE HALL NEWS

### **JAZZ PICNIC**

Thank you to all who attended this event on June 12th. What a lovely evening!

It was so nice to see families and friends relaxing in the sunshine. The New York Jazz Quartet

were at their best again, and gave us a wide range of tunes.

Some keys were lost that evening, so if found please pop them through the Village Hall letter box.

### **HIRING OF THE HALL**

Restrictions are not fully lifted yet, but several groups and classes have restarted now.

To help maintain our Hall as Covid-secure we ask that people still follow all the current government guidelines in regards to hand washing, social distancing and cleaning.

Track and Trace is still required so each hirer is responsible for keeping records of all who attend their function, [and kept for 21 days]. QR code available.

### **BOOK SWAP SATURDAYS**

We will continue this opportunity to borrow some good books. Now you can also have tea or coffee and cake whilst seated. Donations welcome.

August 21st and September 18th

Ginny Bennett

### **SAVE THE DATE**

Sibford Gower Parish Council and Sibford Ferris Parish Council are delighted to be sponsoring The Village Hall Extravaganza and Showcase on Saturday 18th September. This will be an opportunity at last for our communities to come together again to celebrate. More to follow...

Regards

Kirsty Buttle  
Clerk/RFO  
Sibford Gower Parish Council

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Lots of good local pubs and restaurants, shops and galleries. Excellent public transport connections, including Newquay airport (half an hour by car).

For more information, please contact Linda on 01295 780 242 or 07973 226 032 or [llindalaneyolo@gmail.com](mailto:llindalaneyolo@gmail.com)





## SIBFORDS WALKING GROUP

### WALKING DATES

5 July; 19 July; 2 August; 16 August

We will discontinue the booking a place system unless the covid rules change as we should be able to be a group of up to 30 from 17 May.

Leaving the village hall on foot or by car at 10.00 am sharp to do a circuit of approximately 2 hours' duration. It is therefore recommended that you get there for 9.55am.

Dogs welcome provided they are put on leads when requested. Walking boots and poles recommended but not compulsory. (Some routes include stiles). Walkers should either park on the road or on the grass field at the village hall

I am happy to answer any queries. Phone: 780365

Email: [sebannister@gmail.com](mailto:sebannister@gmail.com)

Sue Bannister

### FOOTPATHS

Ian Sharp, [ian@iansharp.net](mailto:ian@iansharp.net), Lamb's Croft, Back Lane, Sibford Ferris, OX15 5RE. Tel. 01295 780790, is the footpaths warden and anyone who has a problem or complaint should contact him.

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# SUNDAY SMALLHOLDING

**17<sup>th</sup> June**

The longest day of the year approaches, but still the days aren't long enough. I could be busy all day, every day and just keep on top of the jobs here. Certainly, in the winter the pace of life slows to 'easily manageable', but now, with the growing season in its full glory, I have chosen to take time out in an attempt to secure needed income. Nature has seen cracks appear in my work and has gloriously burst them open. There is no chance now of recovering from the wilderness that has taken over the orchard, field and garden. But actually I quite like it.

With just two months remaining of my year of being self-sufficient, I can at least relax in the knowledge that my supply of fresh food has been turned on. Asparagus, lettuce, garlic, potatoes, broad beans, honey, rhubarb and elderflowers are being harvested now with peas and courgettes almost ready. The other root vegetables and brassicas are looking very good. Feeding myself for another year is not going to be a problem as long as I can harvest and store efficiently. Will I buy food from a supermarket in the future? Absolutely not; the imports, packaging and waste disgust me. I will buy any other food I want from local producers and if I have to pay more for it then so be it. I am in the perfect position to understand why that is the case.

## **Bees**

The cold, wet spring has resulted in a slow start to the work of the bees and consequently the honey harvest will be significantly less than the bumper crop of 2020. Incredibly we found 4 swarms and rehoused them all successfully. Three of the swarms all came out of the same (very full) hive in Hook Norton over the space of a week and incredibly, formed their cluster on the same branch of a tree, about 12 ft from the ground. The hive owner, John and I (both rookies at bee keeping) climbed up the same ladder so that one could hold the skep (basket) under the bees as the other sawed the branch off SO SLOWLY. An expert would have just knocked the cluster into the basket I have since learned, but we were afraid to do this in case they dispersed. The fourth swarm was found at ground level (less dangerous) in a Whichford field having wrapped itself around the end of set of farm rolls. Each swarm was waiting for its bee scouts to return with news of a new (less crowded) home. John and I have given them just that.

# SUNEDAY SMALLHOLDING

## **Esme**

Esme O'Brien arrived here as an 8 week old piglet in October 2017, along with her sister Peaches Malone. She was a fabulous pig, had a good temperament and was an excellent mother to ... not that many babies! Why she only ever produced 4 or less piglets at a farrowing remains a mystery to me. Over the past 6 months or so I have tried to get her 'in pig' again but it seems we have both failed. I underwent a great deal of soul searching and finally decided with regret that I had to move to the next step of the cycle. If I bought pork from a supermarket I would have no idea of how that animal had lived. With Esme I know she had the best life I could offer her and her final journey was calm and in my personal view acceptable. She loaded into the trailer with very little persuasion and simply walked calmly out at the other end. There is always a vet present at the abattoir in Long Compton ensuring that all animals are treated with the highest standards of care. My mind is engrained with an image of Esme sunbathing, an occasional twitch of the ear or a flick of the tail. If you knew Esme, don't buy your sausages from a supermarket, come and have some ridiculously good Esme sausages. I honestly think they are the best sausages ever.

## **Eggs**

Every Friday during July and August, I will put surplus eggs out in the desk 'shop' along with some of Georgie's homemade goats' milk soap. For the first time, a hen has taken the plunge and is sitting on eggs and so look out for the new family over the next few weeks.

## **Apple Day**

No decisions on an open day this year but I am considering an Apple Day event towards the end of October. My vision is a very large apple press in the orchard and the invitation to villagers to bring their apples for juicing. More details to follow.

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## NEW NURSERY PROVISION PLANNED FOR SIBFORD GOWER

We are very excited about our plan to extend our educational provision to include nursery-aged children within an Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) class. Our recent consultation regarding this provision was overwhelmingly positive and, at time of writing, we are only awaiting approval from the Department for Education before we 'get the ball rolling', hopefully for a September start.

The provision will be available for children from the beginning of the school term after their third birthday. For more information about this facility and how to apply for a place, please look on our school website at <http://www.sibford-gower.oxon.sch.uk/nursery-provision.html>.

Sadly, the delay in moving to Level 4 of the government's road map means that we will not be able to welcome parents back into school to share in many traditional summer term events in the way that we had hoped. However, we are still doing all sorts of lovely things in school with the children, including a Summer Sports Day and a Year 5 & 6 production of 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'.

As mentioned back in the April edition, if you live near the school you may well have seen the year 5 & 6 children in hi-viz jackets completing the Bikeability cycling proficiency scheme funded by OCC. The lead tutor commented on how exceptionally well-behaved & courteous our children are, how well they cycled and how attentive they are in listening and learning. We are very proud of all of them.



Our younger children have been exploring the topic 'Wriggle & Crawl'. We were very impressed with the careful detail some of our Year 2 pupils put into their line drawings of various minibeasts.

The beautiful dragonflies were created by Aura T and Liam W, the stripy, spotty scorpion by Harry S, and the fat and furry bumblebee by Cecily G.

Very well done!

To find out more about our wonderful, welcoming village school, please take some time to visit our school website at <http://www.sibford-gower.oxon.sch.uk/>



## Fun in the Country with Active Camps at Sibford School

Reserve your place today for a multi-activity summer holiday camp at Sibford School.

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Book your place today by visiting: [www.sibfordschool.co.uk/summer](http://www.sibfordschool.co.uk/summer).

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## Virtual open events

Due to current Covid-19 restrictions, Sibford School is unable to run face to face open events as originally planned.

The school has created a series of videos to enable those interested in Sibford to see the school in action, meet key members of staff and learn more about what Sibford offers to pupils aged 3- 18.

If you are interested in accessing these virtual open events, visit [sibfordschool.co.uk/events](http://sibfordschool.co.uk/events) and simply fill out the contact form to learn more about Sibford.



# HORTI SOCIETY

It is with regret that the Horti Show Committee has decided not to hold the Horti Summer Show In 2021. The ever shifting Covid situation makes any planning impossible, so we have decided to focus our attentions on making the 2022 spring and summer shows extra fabulous instead.

So, dates for your diaries! The Spring show 2022 will take place on May 21st and the Summer show will be on August 27th.

That said, we are absolutely intending to go ahead with our outing to Rousham on July 14th. We shall be leaving the village hall at 4.00pm. Please contact Veronique if you can either offer or need a lift. This may entail mask wearing in the car and hand sanitisation. Entry to Rousham costs £8.00.

[Veronique@humangivens.com](mailto:Veronique@humangivens.com).

We will have the place to ourselves and you may like to bring a picnic but please note, **there are no loos at Rousham** so bear this in mind when considering which liquid refreshment to take!

We are also absolutely intending to go to Ashwood Nurseries on July 22nd (**Thursday**) for a day's junket. The coach will leave the village hall at 9.30 and our day will include a guided tour of a 3 acre private garden, which costs £7.50. To members, the coach is free. To non-members, it's an extra £5.00. As outlined in the June Scene, there is a wonderful nursery which provides ample opportunity for purchasing indiscretions, especially hellebores, but also a tea room, a gift shop and much more besides. Google Ashwood Nurseries to see what they have to offer. Bring a picnic or use their tea rooms.

Please contact me by July 12th to book a seat on the coach. I will need payment by 14th. [Diana\\_thompson@btinternet.com](mailto:Diana_thompson@btinternet.com)

Our autumn programme of talks will resume on October 13th with Martin Gascoigne-Pees who will be talking to us about Sibford butterflies and how to attract them to our gardens.

Best wishes, Diana Thompson





## In Your Garden - July/August

Wow! Jobs for two whole months is going to look like a rather daunting project, so I will try and go easy on you. We all need to rest in a deckchair, and read a book, and perhaps think about autumn. The great thing about being a gardener is that optimism is always hovering around, as you plan for autumn colours, bulbs, autumn fruiting raspberries, apple picking. Always something to look forward to - even the first snowdrop can give one a thrill.. But back to the awesome list of jobs:-

1. Keep deadheading your roses, but leave the ones who have glorious red hips in the autumn. All the flowers will keep going longer if you dead head them. or keep picking.
- 2...Summer prune wisteria - long wispy new growth that can romp up into the gutters, and climb in through the bedroom windows. They put on so much growth they take the energy away from making flowering buds for next year.
3. If you have not staked tall delphiniums and dahlias, do it right now, as heavy rain and winds can topple them over.
4. Plants in greenhouses or conservatories are very prone to pests - whitefly, redspider mites etc. You can spray them, and also it is helpful to hang some yellow sticky traps dangling from the roof. (Forget about that if you have a tall husband. Bound to get his hair stuck in it.)
5. Watering and feeding has to go on endlessly, but Hey! We need it too.
6. You probably have loads of lawn mowings on the compost heap, so it will need turning, to let some air into it, and keep it covered with an old bit of carpet, to keep the heat in.
7. When runner beans reach the top of the stakes, pinch out the tops, and they will produce more beans down below, instead of wandering off hoping to reach the sky.
- 8 In the warmer weeks give your indoor plants a holiday and take them out into the garden. Put them by a sheltering wall, and some of them will not want too much sunlight. If you are going away, stand pots in deep trays, which can catch the rain water for them, and I hope you have a kind neighbour who can do some watering for you
9. Rambling roses need tying of new shoots, and some cutting back of old, tired growth. Box hedges should be pruned in August or September, and so should Holly, Privet, Yew and lavender when it has finished flowering'
10. If you have house martins or swifts zooming around your houses, they appreciate having a wide dish of moist mud left outside for them. It helps them to repair the nests for a second or third brood.

I think thats quite enough about jobs. I hope you have a lovely, peaceful summer. with veggies and fruits making delicious meals, and filling up your freezer, and a relaxing time.

Jupe Hitching

# QUARRY NURSERIES

Philip Gilbert

# 2021

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## LOCAL MARKETS

Banbury - Every Thursday & Saturday. Farmers Market - 1st Friday of the month

Deddington Farmers - 4th Saturday of the month (click & collect)

Chipping Norton - Every Wednesday

Stourton Farmers - 1st Thursday of the month. 6-8pm



## SIBFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

On Thursday May 20<sup>th</sup> we were lucky enough to have an impressively vivacious Zoom talk on 'The Romans of Oxfordshire', by Marie-Louise Kerr, 'the Curator without Museum'. She set the scene with pre-Roman Britain, showing that it was not at all the unsophisticated backwater it might have been supposed to be, indeed skilfully crafted artefacts have been unearthed, for example the Battersea Shield, the Henley Hoard, the Didcot Mirror, found by a metal detector and now looking beautiful rotating in a glass case in the Oxfordshire Museum in Woodstock.(Go and see it!).

From this we were transported to 43AD, when the Roman army under Claudius was able to invade Britain after two unsuccessful attempts by Julius Caesar in 55BC and 54BC. Within a year Claudius' troops had reached Oxfordshire. The grave of Lucius Valerius Geminus , Oxfordshire's earliest recorded resident, was discovered, and researchers have found out a huge amount about his life . He would have signed up for 30 years when he joined the Roman army, and every soldier received a plot of land and a pension on retirement.

Not many miles from us is one of the largest Roman Villas discovered in Britain, at North Leigh, a Villa Rustica, the term used to denote villas set in open countryside, the hub of a large agricultural estate. Marie -Louise described its aisled design, under floor heating, and many bath suites. Generations of families would have lived there, not only the privileged owners but also the estate workers and slaves. It is possible to visit the villa and see the mosaic floor, protected by the Duke of Marlborough in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century, after souvenir hunters stole a lot of tiles.

From here we went to a Roman Villa at Cholsey, and then, most interestingly, Marie -Louise touched on the Villa which has been discovered on Broughton Castle land. An overhead photo has shown it to be an aisled building, and it is said to be as big as Buckingham Palace.

What a whirlwind tour of the Romans in Oxfordshire! We want Marie -Louise to come to Sibford and do it all again, this time not virtually; it was so fascinating! Perhaps there will be an update on Broughton Castle by then.

The next talk will be in the Village Hall in September, fingers crossed!

Diana Hughes



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## NATURE NOTES

With the exceptionally cold dry April followed by an unusually wet May the timing of many events in the natural world has been rather disrupted this year. It will be interesting to see what, if any, the long-term implications will be for wildlife.

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> June I was pleased to hear a cuckoo calling for some time at around 7:30 in the morning. I have not heard it again so maybe it was just passing through the area.

I get the impression that butterfly numbers are quite low so far this year. There have been quite a few sightings of Holly Blues and Peacocks and Small Tortoiseshells are around laying their eggs on Stinging Nettle plants. Where possible it is a good idea to leave at least a few nettles for the caterpillars of these colourful butterflies.

As usual our small garden pond is a haven for wildlife with many birds using it for drinking and bathing. Newts and frogs are very much in evidence and there is often a small Grass Snake around. In mid-June on a sunny afternoon we saw a number of Red Damselflies and also a male Broad-bodied Chaser Dragonfly.



The males are blue and the females brown so they are easy to distinguish. Apparently they are often the first species of Dragonfly to colonise new ponds although this is the first I have seen around our pond which must have been there for at least 40 years!

Please send contributions for the next nature notes to [ajnewbold88@gmail.com](mailto:ajnewbold88@gmail.com).

Andy and Gill Newbold

**TRAFFIC REGULATION NOTICE  
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT, 1984**

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 14(2) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act, 1984, that the Oxfordshire County Council

**TEMPORARILY PROHIBITS THE USE OF THE HIGHWAY  
BY ALL MOTOR VEHICLES**

**LOCATION:** Sibford Gower, Pound Lane

**REASON:** Foul sewer repair works

**DURATION:** Starting on 21 July 2021  
The anticipated completion date is 23 July 2021  
(full closure 24hrs each day)

(Traffic Regulation Notices cover a maximum of 5 consecutive days.)

**ACCESS:** Limited access will be maintained for emergency service vehicles and for frontages within the closed section of road, subject to the progress of the works

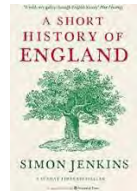
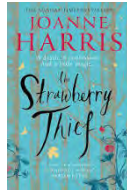
**SUGGESTED ALTERNATIVE ROUTE:** The alternative routes for traffic are via a combination of Pound Lane – Main Street – Acre Ditch – Hawk’s Lane – B4035 and visa-versa.

**Paul Fermer, Assistant Director of Communities**

**Date: 20 May 2021**



## WHAT WE'RE READING.....



## SIBFORD GOWER PARISH COUNCIL

### **A new opportunity to serve as a trustee of the Town Estates Charity in Sibford Gower**

The Town Estate Charity is a specifically Gower & Burdrop institution but much of the support it provides particularly through its support for the school and the Village Hall, extends across the valley to embrace the wider community as a whole. Sibford Gower Parish Council presently has a vacancy amongst the 5 members it nominates to the Charity's Board of Trustees and warmly invites interest from the community in applying. The appointment is for 4 years, renewable for a further 4.

### **In a nutshell**

Amongst all the many organisations, institutions, clubs and societies that contribute so richly to our community, the Town Estates Charity is unique – and the oldest. It has a 400-year-old+ history that began and continues to this day as the source for the endowment of the village primary school.

Another of its charitable arms is the personal support it provides for those in the area who are in need, might be experiencing particular hardship, or are in some personal distress; a quiet dedication that hasn't changed much over all those years.

What has changed is the increasing range of general benefits and grant funding it has provided or underwritten in the village over the years – all supported from the income it derives from its management of the estates and property it owns.

In recent years it has purchased significant plots of land in the village that have assured the future independence of the primary school, and in the case of Wheathills and the Millennium Field have together secured a landscape break in the Sib Valley between the villages.

### **Expressions of interest in becoming one of the Gower Council's 5 nominations to the TEC**

In the first instance applicants should simply let the Council know in their own words their relationship with the village, and the skills, knowledge and experience they feel they would bring to the role.

## SIBFORD GOWER PARISH COUNCIL

Applicants should meet as many as possible of the following criteria:

- Should have a keen interest in particular in the village primary school and be prepared to attend the meetings of its Governors.
- Management experience and experience in estate management in particular would also be highly valued.
- Should have been involved in other village organisations or otherwise shown commitment to the village.
- Should ideally have their primary full-time residence in the Gower or Burdrop but may be from the Ferris
- Should be able to attend at least 4 Trustee meetings each year some of which will be online
- Must be otherwise generally computer literate.

The Charity is independent of the Council and in making nominations the Council is acting on behalf of the TEC, but the Council values the relationship it has with the Charity highly and the new nominee will be expected to join its three other most recent appointments/re-appointments in meeting with members of the Council at least twice a year to review and update themselves on its work.

Expressions of interest in applying should be sent to the Council's clerk, **Kirsty Buttle** at least by **Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> July, 2021** at [sibford.gower.pc@thesibfords.org.uk](mailto:sibford.gower.pc@thesibfords.org.uk)

## SIBFORD FERRIS PARISH COUNCIL

### Emergency Plan

The Parish Council is trying to put together an Emergency Plan for the parish using a template provided by Oxfordshire County Council. The template suggests we include details of local people/businesses who may be able to help in an emergency such as Plumbers, Electricians, Builders, Mechanics, Carpenters, Local Shops, 4x4 owners, tractor owners, Farmers, and chainsaw owners. If you feel you could help in an emergency with any of these items and you are happy for your details to be included in the Emergency Plan please contact the parish clerk providing your contact details and the areas in which you could help. Please note the Emergency Plan is a confidential document that is held by the Parish Council, and the County Council and is only passed on to any emergency services in the event of an emergency so your details will not be made public.

The Parish Clerk can be contacted by e-mail: [sfpc@thesibfords.org.uk](mailto:sfpc@thesibfords.org.uk) or telephone: 01295 275372.



Would you like to join?

## **THE LOSERS**

(Sibford slimming club)

### **HOW IT WORKS**

Just once a week report in by email, phone or text your loss or gain! And say what you would like to achieve in the following week

Once a month meeting up to share ideas and recipes. The person with the greatest weight loss will be given a reward

There is a small charge to cover the hall rental and gift

For more details please contact

Joan Broady

Joanfbroadly@gmail.com / 01295 780410

### **HOOK NORTON GARDENS**

Gardens will be opening on Saturday 4th, and Sunday 5th September, from 2 to 5 p.m. Tickets and maps of where to find the gardens, will be on sale at the Hooky village shop, and at the Church. They are raising money for the village primary school, the Church and Katherine House. There will, of course be delicious teas, and the tickets, with maps, will cost £6, per adult, cash only. Children under 16 will go free.



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Saturday 8am - 6.30pm

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## DID YOU KNOW?

### SIBFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL HEAD STARTS BISCUIT BUSINESS

#### Part 2

In 1846, Huntley and Palmer opened a large factory on Kings Road in Reading.



Palmer had begun to transform the business, developing the first continuously running machine for making fancy biscuits and setting up a properly organised factory. Joseph Huntley, senior, died in 1857 and George Palmer and his brothers bought Thomas' interest in the company becoming Huntley and Palmers, retaining the Huntley name. At their height the company employed

over 5000 people manufacturing over 400 different varieties of biscuit. They traded in 137 countries all over the world and their biscuits were taken on the ill-fated trip to the Antarctic in 1911 with Captain Scott.

In 1921 Huntley and Palmers merged with Peak Freen to form Allied Biscuits. W.R. Jacob and Co. joined the Group in 1960. The Reading factory was eventually closed in 1976 and moved to Liverpool.

In 1982 Associated Biscuits was bought by the American multi-national, Nabisco. Renamed the Jacob Bakery Company they were absorbed into the dairy group, Danone in 1994.



In 2006 Huntley and Palmers resumed separate operations in Sudbury, Suffolk. In 2008 they were acquired by the Freeman family who had three generations of biscuit manufacture.

In his diary Rev Edward Stevens included a cutting from the Banbury Advertiser, 26 September 1895:

*A LEGACY FOR THE FRIENDS' SCHOOL. Under the will of the late Mr. Joseph Huntley, of Earham Villa, Kendrick Road, London, the Friends' School, Sibford, receives £200. (current value £18,000). The will was proved at upwards of £74,000, (approx. £7 million today) and bequests were made to numerous benevolent and philanthropic institutions.*

That benefactor was Joseph Huntley, the tin maker – younger son of Joseph Huntley, the Quaker founder of the original biscuit company who had been headmaster at our village Primary School. How interesting that part of the financial success of the Huntley and Palmer bakery business returned to benefit Quaker education at Sibford School.

Maureen Hicks

# Vaalai's

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5.00pm - 7.30pm

SIBFORD STORES

ONCE A MONTH

JULY/AUGUST DATES:

17th July - Village Hall; 14th August - Village Shop

## Yoga

**Sibford Village Hall**

**Tuesdays: Slow & Gentle**

**Yoga 9-10am**

**Thursdays: Flow Yoga**

**10.15 - 11.15am**

**Fridays: Chair Yoga**

**10 - 11am**

**Any enquiries to  
[juliette53@btinternet.com](mailto:juliette53@btinternet.com)**

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## HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

Dear friends,

There have been so many things beginning to happen across our villages since some of the restrictions have been lifted, which has been wonderful to see and experience.

One of the things I've done over the past month is that I've been able to visit Sibford Gower school and meet the children, on different days and times, across all of the year groups. We sat outside on the grass, under one of the large trees, and I asked them if they wanted to ask me anything, maybe what I enjoyed or what it was like being a 'vicar'? I've done this at the beginning of my ministries in each of the parishes where I've been and although it is such great fun, I also am never quite sure what I'm going to be asked next!

As some of you may be aware I worked in a primary school for almost four years before moving to Sibford Gower, so I'm very much used to being in a school environment. The children were brilliant and we had a great discussion, especially when I got to ask them some questions about what they liked about being at the school and about living in the local villages. What was really lovely to hear and see was how much they enjoyed being together, an aspect that many of us have missed over the past year. My time working in a school last year really did show to me the huge impact that being away from their friends had on the children in the school where I worked.

I'm looking forward hopefully to being able to go into the school again in the coming weeks and months, because as many of you may also already know, I've also become one of the school governors. A role which I take very seriously and I've been a school governor in all of the parishes where I've been the incumbent in the past. Schools, I do believe, reflect very much the community in which the children live.

As we go forward through the Summer, if you or someone you know, might like to arrange a thanksgiving for the birth of a child, a Christening or a wedding, at the church, then please do be in touch, as these important life events are once again able to happen, hopefully with less restrictions as time goes on.

May I wish you all a joy filled summer and times when you can be together and have fun, with your families and your friends.

Love & prayers Revd Neil

**SUMMER GARDEN PARTY**  
**CORNISH CREAM TEA - WITH STRAWBERRIES**

Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> July 2021.

Drop in between 2-30 p.m. and 5-30 p.m.

to-

Silver Birches, Backside Lane, Sibford Gower

Cake Stall and Raffle

(in aid of Sibford Church)



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**\*\* 5<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary: 'Wood' \*\***

Between Sibford Ferris and Sibford Gower. Welcome to view.

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## WELCOME TO SIBFORD

If you are new to the Sibfords and would like a 'Welcome to Sibford' booklet, providing details of village services and activities, please call Ivor Hopkyns on T: 788367 (Gower & Burdrop) or Nic Durrant T: 788865 (Ferris). And don't forget that we are lucky enough to have a really great village website too at: [thesibfords.org.uk](http://thesibfords.org.uk)

### HELP WANTED = DO YOU HAVE WEB DESIGN EXPERIENCE?

We are planning a re-design of the village hall community website and are looking for a little volunteer help from someone with relevant experience to assist.

Please call or text Chris on 07714 838108



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# **SAVE THE DATE**

**SATURDAY 18<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2021**

**SIBFORD VILLAGE HALL**

**SHOWCASE & EXTRAVAGANZA**

Kindly sponsored by

Sibford Gower Parish Council

&

Sibford Ferris Parish Council

The Village Hall Trustees hope to bring you a showcase of village amenities, clubs and societies as well as a host of games and events.

Further details to be provided in August, subject to Covid-19 rules.

We look forward to welcoming everyone.

It will also be an opportunity to welcome anyone who has moved to the village and to learn more about what is on offer on our doorstep as we start to open up again



## Their Cup Runneth Over



And so it was. And so it did.

Their cup was the 'Swalford' cricket cup. They were the Swalcliffe and Sibford village cricket teams.

Together they combine regularly to play twenty/twenty overs evening matches during the week against local village teams. Very popular they are too. But annually they meet on the wicket of dreams at Sibford School and lock horns and knock junks out of each other in a supposedly friendly Derby cricket match.

The players are a hardy bunch. And so they should be as the event is normally played in weather that supports the view of 'The Donald' that global warming is fake news. The best exercise is gained by dodging showers with regular runs to the pavilion. But on this occasion the weather was sublime; wall to wall blue sky, no wind and temperatures in the high 20's. A rare metrological event that even brought out a few spectators.

Cricket skills were evenly matched; there were even one or two excellent players! Sibford lost a couple of regulars who had preferred to spend the afternoon at Wembley watching England/Croatia match. But to be fair, we are all guilty of poor judgement at some time in our lives. However, the Swalcliffe captain, 'Captain Marvel' Perran Moon, offered the 'Facilitator' Richard Jones to the opposition during a moment of grace. He didn't disappoint.

Swalcliffe fielded a few players who had managed to achieve a Swalcliffe nationality earlier in the day to bolster the two who actually live in the village

There is no point in discussing the technical ins and outs of the game. Suffice to know it was a 30 over match. Swalcliffe won with 2 overs and 2 batsman to spare. So quite close according to Simon George the Sibford captain.

Not even Covid spoilt the day. In every cloud there is a golden lining; social distancing was in force and we had to bring our own tea. So no sharing at the festive board. The consequence of that was that one could take a large pork pie and devour it oneself in perfect solitude under a shady tree. And much pork products were devoured. Even by the large presence of local health professionals whose hampers seemed to be devoid of anything resembling 'your 5-a-day'.

A good time was had by all. And the Swalford cup now resides in the Stag's Head for the next 12 months!

Stuart Ralph



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### JULY

14th - Horti Society trip to Rousham - 4pm coach at Village Hall

17th - Valaai's - Village Hall - 5-730pm

17th - Book Swap - Village Hall - 10-12noon

22nd - Horti Society trip to Ashwood Nurseries - 930am coach at Village Hall

25th - Summer Garden Party - Silver Birches - 230-5pm

27th - Sibford Photo Society talk with Jane Stilwell

### AUGUST

14th - Valaai's - Village Shop - 5-730pm

21st - Book Swap - Village Hall - 10-12noon

### JULY/AUGUST BIN COLLECTIONS

Green Tuesday: 6th; 20th. 3rd; 17th; 31st

Blue/Brown Tuesday: 13th; 27th. 10th; 24th

Unwanted clothing and shoes may be recycled anytime at the Textiles/  
Recycling Bank at Sibford School Swimming Pool. Bottle banks at Sibford  
Ferris: Elm crossroads and Sibford Gower: Wykham Arms car park.

#### SIBFORD SCENE

DEADLINE FOR SEPTEMBER ISSUE -

12 NOON - 18th AUGUST 2021

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