



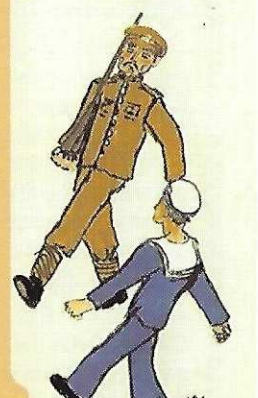
The Communities of
Sibford Gower,
Sibford Ferris and
Burdrop
present

**SIBFORD
MILLENNIUM
PAGEANT**

Sibford Gower, near Banbury,
Oxfordshire

22nd, 23rd & 24th June
2000

7.30pm nightly



Sibford

FORWARD BY Deborah Ryan

*Frank Lascelles: the Man Who Staged the Empire
and lived in Sibford Gower (1875-1934)*

In the early twentieth century a new meaning was given to the word 'pageant' when Louis Napoleon Parker produced his elaborate outdoor play at Sherborne in 1905. This new form of drama captured the popular imagination and a wave of 'pageantitis' swept Britain. Pageants were dramas in which the place is the hero and its history is the plot, performed by casts of hundreds, if not thousands, of amateurs of all classes. They were thought to induce local and national pride and were thus a good way of educating the public.

One of the most prolific pageant masters was Sibford Gower born Frank Lascelles. Frank was born Frank William Thomas Charles Stevens on 30 July 1875. His father was the Rev. Edward Thomas Stevens, the village's vicar. Frank attended the village school and won his way to read English Literature at Keeble College, Oxford University, where he was a leading light of the dramatic society. After Oxford, he worked as an actor in London between 1904 and 1906 at Sir Herbert Beerbohm Tree's His Majesty's. It was during this time that he changed his name from Stevens to Lascelles. Frank invented a grander persona for himself that misted over his humble origins. Indeed, he held the title of Lord of the Manor of Sibford Gower and created a new manor house out of an old barn in the village, despite the fact that there was already a manor house standing. He entertained friends such as Ivor Novello lavishly, also putting on plays for the villagers in his gardens. He was passionately attached to Sibford and the beautiful house that he created. Lascelles was a prominent member of the local community, serving on the Parish Council and the Town Estate Trustees and also building a new village hall.

Lascelles' staged his first pageant in 1907. The Oxford Historical was a great success, despite initial reservations by the University authorities and a student riot. The following year he organised the celebrations for the Tercentenary of Canada at Quebec. Lascelles enlisted the services of the Iroquois Indians and was made an honorary chief under the name of Tehonikonraka, 'the man of infinite resource'. In 1909 he organised the Bath Historical Pageant and was Master of Pageantry at the celebration of the opening of the Union Parliament of South Africa in Cape Town. He was made a chief of the Basutos under the name of Rakalello, 'the father of wonderful thoughts'.

The following year he organised the Pageant of London, performed by a cast of 15,000. In 1912 Lascelles was Master of the Pageant at the Coronation Durbar at Calcutta with the participation of over 300,000 indigenous peoples and troops and also produced Thomas Hardy's *The Dynasts*. In 1923 he was Master of the Harrow Pageant and the following year Master of the Bristol Pageant (*Cradle of the Empire*) and the Pageant of Empire at the British Empire Exhibition, Wembley. Lascelles' imperial triumphs earned him the epithet 'the man who staged the empire'. A number of local historical pageants followed in Carlisle (1928), Stoke-on-Trent (*Wedgwood Bicentenary Celebrations*) (1930), Rochester (1931), Bradford (1931), Barking (1931), Leicester (1932), Essex (1932), and Kent (1932).

Lascelles also practised sculpture; among his subjects were the Prince of Wales, the Duke of Connaught, Earl Grey and the Aga Khan. He sculpted a memorial to

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SIBFORD MILLENNIUM PAGEANT

The Sibford Millennium Pageant is a community project to celebrate the year 2000. It depicts important events in the life of the three communities of Sibford Gower, Sibford Ferris and Burdrop.

Events that were often of national and sometimes international importance.

This small north Oxfordshire community has reflected the development of life in rural England from early Roman times through to the start of the third millennium. Names and locations have revealed a wealth of history and formed the basis of research that led to the creation of this exciting project.

Management Committee

Chairman	David Ryall
Secretaries	Peter Baseby, Ann Stevenson & Helen Evans
Treasurer	Vera Jones
Ivor Hopkyns · Norman Nash · Mary Nash · Tom Pratt	
David Soden · John Mulley · Amanda Laidler	
Keith Hicks · Elaine Booth · Paul Hobson	

Business Committee

Chairman	Keith Hicks
Secretary	Mary Nash
Treasurer	Vera Jones
Support Co-ordinator	Norman Nash
Fund Raising	Ivor Hopkyns
Public Relations	Elaine Booth

Supporting Village Organisations

Sibford Village Hall committee	Ian O'Hare
Sibford Society	Maureen Hicks
Sibford Friendship Club	Phyllis Webb
1st The Sibford Scout Group	Martin Layer
Sibfords Women's Institute	Lynda Conway
Sibford Playgroup	Sarah Darvill
Sibford Primary School PTA	Ann Lewis
Sibford School PSSA	Mrs Williams
Sibford Horticultural Society	Gilian Soden

SIBFORD MILLENNIUM PAGEANT

ACT ONE

Act 1 - Scene 1

In the Beginning

Our story begins two thousand years hence by a trickling stream in a deep wooded valley. A Roman ordinance depot is just two miles distant on the far side of the hill.

Time
Spirit

Richard Hartree
Vanessa Bloxham

Act 1 - Scene 2

Saxon Sibford

Several hundred years have passed and Saxon Britain has emerged from the dark ages.

1st Saxon - Sabin
2nd Saxon - Poulton
Time
Spirit
Young Sabin

Steve Wilkinson
Andrew Gordon
Richard Hartree
Vanessa Bloxham
James Keningale

Saxon Villagers

Act 1 - Scene 3

Norman Sibford

The year is 1066. News of events in the south travel slowly through the land.

Norman Soldier
1st Saxon - Sabin
2nd Saxon - Poulton
Young Sabin
Mrs Sabin

Tom Pratt Jnr
Steve Wilkinson
Andrew Gordon
James Keningale
Ann Young

Mounted Norman Soldiers, Saxon Villagers and Norman Soldiers

Act 1 - Scene 4

A Saxon Lament

The conquerors impose an iron will that is to change the land forever.

Saxon Villagers

Act 1 - Scene 5

Doomsday Book

Throughout the land new lords and masters claim their spoils of battle and make their mark with new and foreign sounding names.

Herald	Bee Webber
Edmund de Ferreres	John Mulley
Hugh de Goher	Dave Bennett
2nd Saxon - Poulton	Andrew Gordon
Mrs Sabin	Ann Young
Young Sabin	James Keningale

Saxon Villagers and Norman Soldiers

Act 1 - Scene 6

Medieval Sibford

Life relentlessly marches on. The Sibfords settle down to an ordered period with relative prosperity.

Herald	Bee Webber
1st Saxon - Sabin	Steve Wilkinson
Villager - Lamb -	Hugh Pidgeon
Miss Lamb -	Emily Smith
2nd Saxon - Poulton	Andrew Gordon

Saxon Villagers

Act 1 - Scene 7

The Knights Templars

As time goes by, Sibford's influence reaches to far and distant lands.

Knight Templars	Karen Websdale & Nick Walsh
Villager - Mrs Lamb	Liz Smith
Agnes of Sibford	Tara Overend
Agnes' Lady	Sue Freestone
Villager - Lamb	Hugh Pidgeon
Villager - Poulton	Andrew Gordon
Young Poulton	Jonathan Young

Villagers and Monks

Act 1 - Scene 8

A Country Scene

In wood and glade, on track or path, listen and watch. There are other inhabitants of this rural setting.

Spirit	Venessa Bloxham
Sprites	Cleo Jones, James Keningale
	Tom Keningale, Emily Smith
	Amy Walsh, Ryan Wilkinson

Act 1 - Scene 9

Shakespeare's England

The year is 1594 and yet more strangers find their way into the rolling hills that surround our small community.

Tom - a player

Dick - a player

Harry - A player

William Shakespeare

Hal

John

Spirit

Shepherd

Shepherd's Boy

Sheep Dog

Arnold Kuenzler-Byrt

Dave Bennett

Penny England

James Wimbush

Tom Spackman

Jonathan Young

Venessa Bloxham

Andrew Gordon

Lexie Agnew

Snaffles

Sprites

END OF ACT ONE.

INTERVAL

Light refreshments, ice cream, soft drinks and a licensed bar together with Panel greeting cards, tea towels and other souvenirs are available at the rear of the auditorium

Sibford Millennium Exhibition and Millennium Panels

An exhibition showing life in the Sibfords at the turn of the last century is being staged in Frank Lascelles 'Manor House' opposite the Wykham Arms Pub in Sibford Gower. In addition to many old photographs and memorabilia of the period, there are programmes, photographs and other items from some of Frank Lascelles pageants.

The exhibition also displays six magnificent embroidered panels depicting the rich tapestry of village life at the turn of the twentieth century.

Master-minded by Sibfordian Mollie Picken, nearly seventy people worked on the project over a period of three years, producing more than 100 hand painted and embroidered pieces.

The exhibition is open between 5pm and 7pm on Thursday 22nd June and Friday 23rd, and from 4pm to 7pm on Saturday 24th June

SIBFORD MILLENNIUM PAGEANT

ACT TWO

Act II - Scene 10

The Winds of Change

A hundred years have passed and the Sibfords find they are not immune from the influences of a wider world

Girl - Wycherly

Emily Smith

Mrs Wycherly

Ann Spackman

1st Putitan

Mike Lewis

2nd Puritan

Anne Lewis

Villager - Mrs Lamb

Liz Smith

Puritans and Villagers

Act II - Scene 11

Progressive Sibford

Our communities embraced the movement towards popular education and the school which can be seen at the top of the field was well established by 1590

Time

Richard Hartree

Villager - Wycherly

Steve Wilkinson

Villager - Poulton

Andrew Gordon

Villagers, Girls and Boys of Sibford Endowed School

Act II - Scene 12

The Eve of Conflict

Great armies mass just 10 miles hence, yet our community remains but lightly scared

King Charles

Tim Newcombe

Villager - Wycherly

Steve Wilkinson

Lt. Andrews

Tom Pratt Jr.

Mrs Wycherly

Ann Spackman

Soldier

Dave Bennett

Spirit

Venessa Bloxham

Villagers and Cavalier Soldiers

Act II - Scene 13

The Civil war

Strife and conflict rage throughout the land

Villagers

Act II - Scene 14

More Settled Times

"For the people. And truly I desire their liberty and freedom, as much as anybody whomsoever; but I must tell you that their liberty and their freedom consists in having of government those laws by which their life and their goods may be most their own"

From the final speech by Charles 1, January 30, 1649.

Villagers and Soldiers

Scene 15

A Major Influence

Thirty years have passed and Sibford is prepared to embrace new thoughts and ideals.

Villager - Payne	Norman Nash
Villager - Gilkes	Arnold Kuenzler-Byrt
Villager - Poulton	Andrew Gordon
George Fox	Sue Freestone
Margaret Fox	Tara Overend
Villager - Sabin	Steve Wilkinson
Harris	Hugh Pidgeon
Villager - Mrs Hopkyns	Glennis Hutchinson

Villagers

Scene 16

Sibford School

George Fox spent his last years in England, helping to establish Quaker schools and communities and lobbying for passage of the Act of Toleration.

Wagon Master	Daisy Sadler
Rebecca Thompson	Ilone Jones
Headmaster - Mr Routh	Timothy Wimbush

Pupils and Teachers

Scene 17

A Time for Reflection

So many events, so little time for reminiscence.

Time	Richard Hartree
Spirit	Venessa Bloxham
Villager - Sabin	Steve Wilkinson
Villager - Poulton	Andrew Gordon
Villager - Lamb	Hugh Pidgeon
Villager - Mrs Lamb	Liz Smith
Villager - Mrs Poulton	Erica Wimbush
Villager - Plague Victim	Dave Bennett

Villagers

Act II - Scene 18

Sibford at home

In the early 1900's the Sibfords were a thriving community supporting several shops, two bands and a host of societies and clubs.

Villager - Lamb	Hugh Pidgeon
Young Poulton	Jonathan Young
Villager - Sabin	Steve Wilkinson
Villager - Gilkes	Arnold Kuenzler-Byrt
Villager - Payne	Norman Nash
Mr Payne	Rosalind Pearlman
Frank Lascelles	John Mulley
Violinists	Cleo Jones
	Amy Walsh

Villagers

Act II - Scene 19

Perchance to dream

On the eve of war, the beautiful rolling countryside that surrounds our three communities provided a peaceful contrast to the dreadful years to come.

Frank Lascelles	John Mulley
1st Lady	Tara Overend
Ivor Novello	James Wimbush
Barry Jackson	Andrew Gordon
2nd Lady	Glennis Hutchinson

Act II - Scene 20

Finale

And so to the twentyfirst century, two thousand years since Romans first built roads and forts and forded the river Sib.

Frank Lascelles	John Mulley
Time	Richard Hartree
Spirit	Vennessa Bloxham
Villager - Lamb	Hugh Pidgeon
Shakespeare	James Wimbush
Villager - Sabin	Steve Wilkinson
Children	Amy Walsh & Tom Spackman

The Company

SIBFORD MILLENNIUM PAGEANT THE COMPANY

Villagers, Soldiers, Monks, Choir etc.

Laura Andrews · Brian Barrett · Lucy Em · Gaynor Hapertarr · Beaty Haynes
Sally Hopkyns · Diana Hughes · Keith Manning · Sylvia Manning
Peter McGee · Mary Mills · Carol Moir · Alan Parkin · Amy Powell
Josie Radcliffe · Mary West · Tom West

Horse Soldiers, handlers and other mounted players

Fiona Pidgeon · Doreen Pratt · Ginny Bennett · Susie Bennett
Karen Websdale

Acrobats

Arnold Kuenzler-Byrt · Liz Kuenzler-Byrt

Scene 11

Pupils, Sibford Endowed Primary School

Scene 16

Pupils, Sibford School

And the many people who have joined the cast in any capacity since the programme went to press

continued from page 2

his mother in the church at Sibford Gower, as well as painting a Roll of Honour. He also contributed prose and verse to periodicals. In 1932 the Earl of Darnley compiled *Our Modern Orpheus*, a volume of essays paying tribute to Lascelles.

Towards the end of his life, ill health restricted Lascelles' finances and he died in poverty on 23 May 1934 in rented rooms in Brighton. Lascelles' dying wish that his estate should be used by his friend Frank Brangwyn, the painter, to set up a 'School of Nations' where children from all over the world could study was unable to be realised. Despite a gross value of nearly £13,000, the net value of Lascelles' personal estate was nil.

Dr Deborah Ryan

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Deborah is currently researching a biography of Lascelles and would love to hear from anybody who has any information on Lascelles' life and work.

SIBFORD MILLENNIUM PAGEANT PRODUCTION

Production Team

Directors	Amanda Laidler David Ryall
Assistant Director	Mary Nash
Script	David Ryall
Special music composed by	Guy Wolfenden
Stage Director	Keith Hicks
Costume Supervisor	Julia Bruggenwirth
Deputy Stage Managers	Jenny Barratt Penny England
Sound Engineer	Kevin Phillipson
Master of Horse	Tom Pratt
Make-up & Face Painting	Penny Spring
Properties	Ian Warden, Peter Hardman Terry Young, John Mulley Luke Mulley, Clem Hughes
Costume production	Kay Winter, Mollie Mulley Beryle Sabin, Joan Shields
Set and Groundworks	Mary Bristow, Rosalind Pearlman David Soden, Fred Inns Bruce Horn, Bill Crabtree Terry Young, Brian Barratt Peter Hardman

Front of House

Front of House Co-ordinator	David Soden
Box Office	Colin Frith
Programme	Keith Hicks
Programme cover design	Sheila Walsh
Programme Sales Co-ordinator	Brian Barratt
Programme Sales	Pupils of Sibford School
Other activities co-ordinator	Norman Nash
Press & Publicity	Elaine Booth - 01295 780287
Catering Supervisor	Gilian Soden

The SMP committee is also indebted to the numerous stewards, dressers, costume makers, set constructors and site workers without whom this production would not have been possible.

SIBFORD MILLENNIUM PAGEANT OUR GRATEFUL THANKS

Our grateful thanks to the many people and organisations who have helped to make the Sibford Millennium Pageant possible, in particular:

Cherwell District Council

- for their generous and detailed support

Sibford Village Hall

- for the generous use of the Village Hall for rehearsals and for the loan of tables chairs and other equipment

Mr and Mrs Hobson

- for the generous use of their land to stage the Pageant

The Town Estates Charity

- for the generous use of 'Wheathills' for car parking, access and dressing accommodation.

Mr and Mrs Booth

- for allowing the Millennium Exhibition to be staged in their house, originally built by Frank Lascelles

Daisy Sadler

- and her Shire Horses, Stanley and Harold for their generous support.

David Randal

- timber services

1st the Sibford Scout Group

- for the loan of tents, tables and other equipment

Mr and Mrs Crabbtree, Mr and Mrs Cripps, Jean Jones and Sally Rogers

- for the loan of farm implements.

Spirit Volkswagon, Spirit Motor Company

- for their generous support of the Sibford Millennium Panels

John & Maurice Humphis, Funeral Directors

- for their generous support of the Sibford Millennium Panels

SPECIALIST SUPPLIERS

ARB Audio Visual Hire Ltd - Sound and communications equipment

Dressing Up, Cropredy - Principle characters costumes

KMS Litho - Programme printing

Phoenix Scaffolding - Simon Wilks, scaffolding structures

Bishop Blaize - Sam and Shiela Merchant - bar facilities