

SIBFORD SCENE
FEBRUARY 2022
Number 440



Nursery Places

at Sibford Gower Primary School

We recently ran some Saturday morning Open Days at our Early Years Unit for parents interested in our setting for their child.

If you missed these, but would like to know more about us or would like to explore whether we are the right setting for your child, please do get in touch.

If you would like to have a chat or arrange a visit, you can contact the school office at office.3005@sibford-gower.oxon.sch.uk or by calling **01295 780270** during school hours.

We would love the opportunity to share the excellent practice of our Early Years staff in our caring and nurturing learning environment.

You can find further information on the Nursery Provision page of our school website at www.sibford-gower.oxon.sch.uk/nursery-provision including our admissions policy and an application form.



We now offer nursery places for children from the term after their 3rd birthday in our dedicated Early Years Unit.

Success starts with the right choice for early education



ED'S THOUGHTS

Happy New Year to you all!!

2022 looks like it's going to be a GREAT year! Covid seems to be getting under control with all the vaccinations being made available, the Queen's Platinum celebrations are under way (more of this on page 7) and let's hope we can keep greedy developers out of our village. If you haven't already done so, please join the Sibford Action Group (email: sibfordactiongroup@gmail.com, for details of how you can make a difference)

Hoping that you all have a safe and joyous year (and thanks for your continuing support for the Sibford Scene!)

Cover pic by Fiona Steane

Thought for the month:

There's too much talk about the clouds of grey

When there's a great big sky of blue

Jude Cole



LETTERS AND NOTICES

VILLAGE HALL LOTTERY!!

December Lottery winners picked by Dave and Sue Rowley:

John Perriss 1st Prize £70; Claire Evans 2nd Prize £42;

Clive Warner 3rd Prize £28

January Lottery winners picked by Charles Glazebrook:

1st Prize - Bryn Williams; 2nd Prize - Norman Nash; 3rd Prize - Jo Connor

CPR TRAINING

The next CPR training will take place at the Village Hall from 6pm until 8pm, on the 15th of February.



LETTERS AND NOTICES

RBL POPPY APPEAL 2021.

The appeal raised the fantastic sum of £1391.64 from house-to-house and static collection points. In addition donations for wreaths and the collection in Sibford church raised another £427.62, giving a combined total of over £1800. As usual, a huge thanks goes to all the people who helped with the fund-raising, and to the people in the Sibfords who donated so generously.

Peter Abbott.

WELL.. WELL.. WELL

I wonder if any local inhabitants can help me. Do you have a well or a spring in your garden (or even in your house)? I am compiling a list of all the water sources in the Sibfords and Burdrop, which served the population before mains water came to the area in the early twentieth century. If you are able to help, please email me at lettercarve@gmail.com

Michael Spring

MILLENNIUM FIELD CLOSURE

In order to retain "permissive path" status on the paths around the Millennium Field it will be closed for 24 hours only on Thursday 10th February. The closure will not affect the use of the public path at the top of the field.

Peter Morgan, Secretary, The Town Estate Charity Sibford Gower and Burdrop

COP26 talk

We have heard from The Mulberry Bush, the charity which we supported on 1 December when Stephen Gomersall spoke about the time he spent at COP26 in Glasgow and what climate change might mean for us all in the future. Our event took place during the week when annually The Big Give offers match funding to charities. We are delighted to say that with match funding we raised £4750 and we would like to thank everyone who was involved, not least Stephen. The event was sold out and we would like to thank all those of you who attended, donated, volunteered, or spread the word. Gift Aid has yet to be added to the total, so the final to sum should be around £5000.

The Mulberry Bush School, at Standlake near Witney, is a residential school for traumatised children aged from 5 to 12. Apart from the school itself they have an excellent outreach programme.

We are already planning a similar event in November or December 2022.

Julie Lynn-Evans

Sue Bannister



VILLAGE HALL NEWS

Book Swap Saturdays: 10am – 12pm February 19th; March 19th; April 23rd ; May 14th; June 18th

Books for all ages and genres at this popular event. Come and have a drink and a chat in the Small Hall. Teas and coffees available. It's free to borrow books but donations welcome towards the Village Hall Roof fund.

Birmingham Symphonic Winds Concert, June 25th

We are excited to share that we are in the early stage of planning another amazing event, in collaboration with Keith Allen and the Birmingham Symphonic Winds. Please bookmark June 25th in your diaries and watch this space!

Village Hall Website

Our very own website www.sibfordvillagehall.org.uk launches in February. Many thanks to Tim Huckvale and Chris Cullen for all their hard work. Please use the website to request a booking. We have preferential rates for village residents, only £10/hr (one hall); and £18/hr (both halls). Please use us for your next birthday party or for your community group.

Village Hall Committee and Friends Group

The Committee are delighted to welcome our newest Trustees: Isabel George, Carolyn White and Martin Garnham. We also said a big thank-you and farewell to those members who stepped down at the end of 2021: Clive and Jan Warner, Peter Conway, Sally Hopkyns and Diana Hughes.

The Friends Group is run by Joan Broady and has been formed to support the Committee in holding events and looking after the Hall. If you have a little time and are looking for ways to be more involved in the village, we would love you to join us. Please contact Joan on 780410 or joanfbroady@gmail.com



VILLAGE HALL NEWS

Cont'd

Hall Hire and Heating

If you are hiring the Hall and need to adjust the temperature, please check the thermostat first (next to the stage) before adjusting the radiators. When leaving, please reset the thermostat to 18°C and radiators to between 3 and 4. This way we can keep the Hall cosy for everyone this winter. There is a stall in the kitchen if needed to get a better view of the thermostat.

Remember we still have some COVID guidance in place, so please continue to prioritise hand washing and sanitising, keeping space around you and opening windows to improve ventilation. It's also a good idea to chat with friends after an event by moving outside into the open air!

Charlotte Davies

Please will all hirers of the Village Hall remember to leave it clean and tidy after use ready for the next hirers .

Please sweep the floor and check that toilets are flushed, no taps dripping, no lights left on..

Clean the tables if needed. No muddy shoes in the hall .

Many thanks

Ginny Bennett

THE VILLAGE SHOP HOOK NORTON

National Lottery

Grocery - Greengrocery - Bakery - Wines

Spirits - Confectionery - Newspapers

Magazines - Cards - Bottled Gas

Open Monday to Friday

8 am to 8 pm

Saturday 8 am to 8 pm

Sunday 8 am to 6 pm

Te le phone: 01608 737245

Please note: On Sunday, we open at 9am

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Sumptuous self-catering

Newly refurbished self-catering accommodation set in stunning private gardens with heated swimming pool, tennis court and croquet lawn. 4 beds, 5 bathrooms. Sleeps 8 (plus 4 in the main house for larger groups).

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E: sally.wass@btinternet.com

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The Queen's Platinum Jubilee 02-05 June 2022

The Sibfords have a long and proud history of celebrating royal events.

For Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee in 1887, a committee of 17, raised £28.10s.3d to fund a dinner for 400 villagers. The costs included 265lbs of meat at 8d a pound and 18 gallons of beer at one shilling (5p) a gallon.



For the Diamond Jubilee in 1897, a committee organised children's sports, a celebratory meal and a firework display at a cost of £29.17s 4d.



In 1977 the celebrations for the Queen's Silver Jubilee included a torch light procession, a fancy dress parade and a supper and entertainment in the village hall that went on until 1 o'clock in the morning.

The 2002 Golden Jubilee celebrations included helicopter flights over the village, a street Fayre, fireworks and beacon, a tea dance and a concert and supper at the Manor.



Ten year's ago, open gardens, sports, a picnic tea and a dog show were included in four days of celebrations for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

We plan to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in an equally exuberant manner. To plan this, the Parish Councils have set up a steering group and are looking for ideas and villagers, young and old to help. **If you would like to be involved, please contact Keith Hicks 780259 keith@hicks-sibford.co.uk. We can't really do anything without the support of the whole community.**



We have had a really positive start to the New Year here at Sibford Gower Endowed Primary School. We have had a number of visitors to school and one thing they have all commented on is how beautifully behaved, enthusiastic and engaged in learning our children are and how caring and thoughtful our staff are.

We were delighted to be invited to take part in the Christmas tree Festival at the church in Sibford Gower. It was lovely to be able to place our Forest school inspired tree, made from branches collected by the children and decorated with 'baubles' made by them, alongside trees decorated by so many other groups linked to the local community.

I mentioned in our last newsletter that our democratically elected pupil school council have decided to run a fundraiser across the school in support of Team Seas. Although our fundraising event is still to come, we were delighted to receive the news at the beginning of this term that the children have received a 'Picture News Impact Award' for their work related to this project so far.



Ice is wonderful stuff!
It makes different shapes, you
can see through it, and you can
break it with your feet!
We love learning outside.



Our new Early Years Unit is wonderful. The nursery children are a delight and it is such a pleasure to see how engaged they are in all the activities their teachers organise for them. The Acorn Class theme this term is Winter and our littlest children have been making the most of their outdoor area to explore seasonal changes. They have been making ice mobiles and had a lovely time exploring the ice formed overnight in outdoor containers and seeing the different ice shapes they made. There were lots of ice circles in the 'mud kitchen'! If you are considering us for a nursery place for your child once they are three year olds and you missed our recent Open Days, please do contact the school office to arrange a chat or a visit. We would love to show you around and answer any questions.

We have all sorts of exciting learning planned across the school. Beech Class are finding out all about historical figures who have changed our world, Willow Class are finding out all about Natural Disasters, including earthquakes and volcanoes. Oak Class are exploring The Victorians and their impact on society, science and technology.

To find out more about our wonderful, welcoming village school and the things that are going on in each class, please take some time to visit our school website at

<http://www.sibford-gower.oxon.sch.uk/>

Explore Sibford School at Open Events in 2022

Don't miss your chance to attend a Sibford School open event in 2022. All other Autumn open events were fully booked so book your place today to join us in the new year.

Sibford School is offering whole school open mornings on Friday 4 March and Friday 29 April, as well as a Sixth Form open evening on Thursday 17 February.

These events will offer the opportunity to talk to staff, meet current parents and take a tour of the school with student guides.

Toby explains 'At Sibford we value holistic education where the happiness and well-being of pupils is paramount. We encourage pupils to live adventurously, and foster resilience and we look for the unique talents in every individual that comes to the school.

'If you are interested in entry for September 2022 and beyond or perhaps for immediate entry, we encourage you to come along and learn more about what we offer here at Sibford.'

Sibford School is a co-educational independent day and boarding school set on a 50-acre campus that offers a junior school, senior school and separate Sixth Form, as well as its own forest school, a state-of-the-art climbing wall and 25 metre swimming pool.

The school offers a gifted and talented programme for the most able pupils, a wide range of sporting opportunities and an excellent support for learning department to support those students with additional learning requirements. Scholarships and bursaries are also available.

Don't miss out and book your place today online at www.sibfordschool.co.uk/events, or call Elspeth Dyer, Admissions Officer on **01295 781 203**.

Sibford Surgery

It is with regret that we announce that Dr David Spackman is retiring from the partnership at Sibford Surgery. David joined the practice 34 years ago, initially working alongside Dr Agnew and Dr Heath and for the last 20 years with Dr Haskew.

David will be greatly missed. However he is not hanging up his stethoscope completely and will continue to work at the practice, usually on a Wednesday, for the forthcoming months. We will make a further announcement before he finishes completely.

Dr Barney Fontaine will be joining the practice team from the 1st of February. Dr Fontaine completed his specialist training in General Practice in the South West, worked overseas and recently has been working in London.

We look forward to welcoming him to the practice.

Dr Fontaine will be consulting Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and alternative Fridays and will be running diabetic clinic.

Dr Haskew will be consulting Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and alternative Fridays.

We continue to aim to provide a responsive and personal medical service at the practice. Although most of our appointments are available to book in advance we always keep some to be booked on the day in case there is an urgent need. It helps us if these appointments are used appropriately and not for matters that could wait until the next routine slot, otherwise it gets very hard to manage work load. Although you may think your problem will only take a few minutes those few minutes add up when there are 3000 other patients who may also need our time!

Thank you for your continued support of the practice and dispensary and for the gifts received at Christmas which were much appreciated.

Emma Haskew

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



NATURE NOTES

There have been a number of reports of Jays appearing in gardens more frequently than normal this winter. This may well be because they are hungry as a result of an exceptionally poor crop of acorns this year. Oak trees tend to produce a large crop of acorns every few years with low numbers in the intervening years. This strategy helps to keep down the numbers of animals that eat acorns. In a good year there are more than enough acorns to go round and Jays and other birds and mammals will bury some of the surplus seeds. They will forget where some are buried and this is important in the dispersal of oak trees.

I was surprised to see that the Woodpigeon has recently been moved from green to amber listed conservation status. In the UK they seem to be thriving but apparently, we now have over 20% of Europe's Woodpigeons making our population of international importance.

Recent research has shown that many of our songbirds sing more loudly in noisy urban areas compared to quieter rural locations. We recently heard an example of this when we stopped at a motorway service station and a Robin was singing so loudly that we thought it must be coming from a loud speaker until we spotted the bird in a nearby bush.

The mild spell in the middle of December brought out large numbers of the aptly named December Moth. Actually, they do start appearing in November. Most of those caught are males with highly feathered antennae. When a female is caught, they often lay eggs in the moth trap. These eggs will hatch in April and the tiny black caterpillars can be transferred onto fresh Hawthorn leaves.

Please send contributions for the next Nature Notes to ajnewbold88@gmail.com

Andy and Gill Newbold



SUNDAY SMALLHOLDING

17th January 2022

The smallholding has undergone some pretty harsh changes; most recently, in fact last night, the hens moved out of their pen. It has become the way of things that migratory birds bring Avian Flu to, predominantly the coastal areas of the UK, and our native birds become infected. The virus is spread through direct contact or through contaminated food and water supplies. A directive from the government was issued in November 2021, stating that ALL bird keepers must house or net all poultry to keep them separate from wild birds. Last year my action was to net my chickens in a shanty town set up with a wire 'ceiling'. As the winter progressed this area became a quagmire, neither the chickens nor I were not happy and I didn't want to repeat it. I decided to invest in a polytunnel. The chickens would be warm, dry and completely protected. When the crisis ends the tunnel will be used for growing plants. So, an 18x42ft polytunnel was delivered at the beginning of December; a mammoth task to put together and one that has taken me until just now to get finished. But it's fabulous! The hens seem very happy after their first day and night. Their outdoor run will be cleared and cleaned up ready for them to return to in the Spring.

Also missing from the field are the two pigs, Gus and Betty. It seems both harsh and heartless but they failed to procreate. And so my four-year project of breeding my own pork comes to an end. It has been a delight to have the pigs around, three litters of piglets being the icing on the cake. However, small litters meant it just didn't quite add up, but they will be missed. For the first time, the pork is being made into ham and bacon as well as sausages by Henry at Hook Norton butchers. This will be arriving next week and of course will be for sale. With chickens moved house and no more pigs, it seems strange to not be walking down the field each day.

My recent suggestion of community style garden project resulted in very little interest (almost none). I still believe the village should grow its own veg. The ground vacated by the pigs, being so large, will be harrowed using a tractor and root crops will be put in along with some peas and beans. The impending disaster happens when the weeds take over. I am going to do my best to fight the weeds but acknowledge I can't do it alone. Offers of help will be gratefully received in exchange for a share of the veg.

Sue Sabin



SIBFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

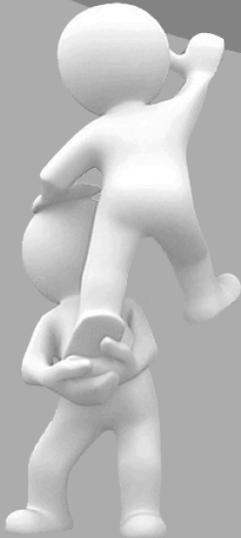
Last year was anything but normal, but we were still able to have a full programme of either virtual or conventional meetings. Sincere thanks to Tim Huckvale, who masterminded the Zoom sessions, and to Keith Hicks, whose help was invaluable on some occasions.

Our programme for 2022 is complete, and can be viewed on the Sibfords website.

We have yet to decide where to go on our outing in June, and this will be discussed at the AGM in March. We will not be holding our Social Evening in February, as we thought nobody would want to be sitting in the hall for a long period with the windows open to prevent the spread of Covid. Instead this will be postponed until July!

The committee members wish you all a much better year than 2021, and we look forward to seeing you soon.

Diana Hughes



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SIBFORDS WALKING GROUP

WALKING DATES

7 February; 21 February; 7 March; 21 March

We leave the village hall on foot or by car at 10 am sharp to do a circuit of approximately 2 hours. You are advised therefore, to get to the village hall by 9.55 am latest.

Dogs are welcome provided they are put on the lead when requested. Walking boots and poles are recommended but not compulsory. Some routes include stiles. If you would prefer a shorter walk, please contact Sue to discuss as it is sometimes possible to leave a car about halfway, so the less energetic may drop off and drive home. At the village hall, please park either on the road or on the grass field beyond the tarmac.

Please don't hesitate to ring me on 01295 780365 or email sebannister@gmail.com if you have any queries.

Sue Bannister

FOOTPATHS

Ian Sharp, 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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WELCOME

WELCOME TO SIBFORD

If you are new to the Sibfords and would like any advice on our village, please call Ivor Hopkyns on T: 788367 (Gower & Burdrop) or Nic Durrant T: 788865 (Ferris). We are lucky enough to have a really great village website at: thesibfords.org.uk



FUN CORNER

What did the stamp say to the envelope on Valentine's day?
I'm stuck on you forever

What kind of flowers should you not give on Valentine's day?
Cauliflowers

How did the telephone propose to the other telephone on Valentine's day?
It gave them a ring

Neil Bowler

Holiday Cottage in Cornwall

On the beautiful north coast in Poldark country, character cottage set in a large south-facing enclosed garden, is available for holiday lets. It is situated on the outskirts of the vibrant and friendly village of St Agnes.

Scrumbles Hollow sleeps six in three double bedrooms, one with ensuite shower room, plus a family bathroom. Full central heating.

The spacious cottage has an open fire place in a cosy sitting room, while the dining room boasts a log burner. New, fully equipped kitchen and separate utility room for sorting out sportswear after a day on the beach or walking the breathtaking countryside.

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



HORTI SOCIETY

We are planning a visit to **Evenley Wood Garden** on **Wednesday 9 February** primarily to see the snowdrops but also because this is a lovely spring garden. Leaving from the village hall car park promptly at 11.00 and using our own transport, we are hoping to do as much car sharing as possible in these COVID times. Just over half an hour away, Evenley has a cafe, but bring sandwiches if you prefer. Entrance to gardens £7.00.

Diana Thompson



In Your Garden - February

Spring is coming! But on some of these grim, grey days, I do wonder when. To cheer myself up I go for a walk around the garden (with a naughty chocolate orange left over from Christmas in my pocket) to see how many plants are coming into flower. Snowdrops, winter flowering honeysuckle, daphne, primroses and fragrant sarcococca. Viburnum Bodnantense is flowering up the fence, and a large Mahonia hides the dustbins from view. And they all smell lovely. So with spring in your step let me remind you of some jobs to be getting on with.

1. Another batch of sweet peas could be sown now in the greenhouse or cold frame, but remember that mice love to eat them, so load up the mousetrap with cheese, or peanut butter. Don't waste the chocolate on them.
2. Hyacinth bulbs which flowered inside over Christmas can now be planted outside. Cut the flowering stem off. They are never quite so hearty the second year, but they still smell delicious, and can be popped into any spare corner.
3. Time to cut down the top growth of the perennials in the border, and to clear away leaves. Damp leaves left hanging around early green shoots will soon become a sluggy heaven.
4. Trim back Pansies and violas. It promotes new growth. Mine like flowering in troughs in the porch.
5. Did anyone give you some new gardening gloves for Christmas? Pull them on and start pruning the roses whilst they are still dormant.



In Your Garden - February

Cont'd

6 My lawn is looking a bit miserable. I think that, like me, it is longing for some sunshine. When it has dried out, give it a good raking, and get rid of some moss. And now is a good time to get your lawnmower serviced.

7. Gooseberries and currants need to be pruned now, and you can start forcing your rhubarb, with a bucket, or one of those posh forciers from Whichford Pottery. Winter flowering shrubs should have a light pruning in spring when they have finished blossoming.

8. It is a good idea to check wooden stakes, pergolas, arches etc. to see if the the struts have become loose or wobbly over winter. Probably need a few nails banging back into them.

9. Tidy up the greenhouse and throw out any rubbish to make room for all the new seedlings and cuttings that will soon be there. Also, I know it is a dreadful faff, but really good gardeners clean out the pots, and wash them, to get rid of mildew, spiders, slugs eggs and anything else that is nasty. It helps if you fill a wheelbarrow with water, and leave them to soak for a while, then stand them out to dry, upside down.

10. Dammit! It is time to get him up the ladder again to prune the wisteria. Be brutal (to the wisteria, not him), and cut back to two or three buds, and no wispy trailers should stay on. That way you should have wonderful flowers in June.

I'm looking forward to June.

Jupe Hitching

CHURCH SERVICES

Quakers

Sibford Gower, Sunday, 10.30 am

Roman Catholic

Brailes, Saturday, 5pm; Shipston, Sunday 9am

Kinton, Sunday 11am

Baptist

Hook Norton, Sunday, 10.30 am



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).

In the rearranged December meeting on 4th January, Colin Lamb delivered part 1 of a talk about a trip he made to Namibia in 2015. He showed a selection of photographs of the landscapes and wildlife found in the vicinity of the Namib Desert and Damaraland. We also reviewed members' images on the monthly topic of 'Wild'.

On Tuesday, 25th January, Colin gave the second part of his talk on Namibia. This was mostly about the wildlife of Etosha National Park in the north of the country. Etosha means "great white area", so named because at its heart is the largest salt pan in Africa covering some 4700 km². After the presentation, we looked at members' images on January's topic, 'Frozen'.

On 22nd February, we will have a short talk on the topic of digital image resolution, followed by a session on basic photo digital processing in Adobe Lightroom. To finish the meeting, we will look at members' images on the topic of 'Golden Hours'.

Sibford Photography Club also hold outdoor photoshoots, for example walking round nearby villages finding photo opportunities or visiting local nature reserves. 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 or phone 01295 780357.





HORTI SPRING SHOW

The Horti Spring Show 2022 will be taking place on Saturday 21st May at the village hall, from 2.30 - 4.00pm.

Cookery section B

1. Standard Victoria sponge with raspberry jam filling (6oz/175g mix)
2. chocolate cake - recipe given
1. Quiche Lorraine.
2. Loaf of brown bread
3. 5 white rolls
4. 3 croissants
5. 5 oatcakes
6. 5 flapjacks
7. Apricot frangipani tart
8. Bara brith
9. 5 Shortbread biscuits
10. 7 inch diameter cake, any type, decorated to celebrate the Queen's platinum jubilee. Only Decoration judged.
11. Box of Honeycomb
12. Coffee cake (men only class) own recipe

Handicrafts

- 1 piece of pottery
- 2 a patriotic apron
- 3 a hand knitted article
- 4 an item of cross stitch
- 5 a piece of metal or woodwork
- 6 a greeting card, including greeting! Made from any medium other than computer generated.
- 7 a piece of dough craft. Please state size
- 8 a handicraft exhibit
- 9 a handicraft exhibit - age 16 and under

Photography

1 landscape/country scene

1. A season
2. Doorways and entrances
3. Macro
4. Water
5. On the farm
6. The beauty of plants
7. A night photo
8. My best selfie - print from a mobile phone
9. 4 related views mounted one one sheet and named
10. A black and white photo any size, one only
11. An enlargement - any subject (Max size A4, black and white or colour)
12. A painting or drawing
13. A painting or drawing - age 16 or under.

Section E childrens

4 and under

- 1 cotton bud painting
- 2 an edible bracelet
- 3a garden flower arrangement in a jam jar
- 4 a decorated wooden spoon
- 3 decorated digestive biscuits

5 to 8 years

- 6 a cotton bud painting
- 7 a decorated pair of wellies
- 8 a Posy in a jam jar
- 9 4 colourful rice crispie cakes
- 10 a junk model vehicle
- 11 an edible necklace

9-13 years

- 12 write out and decorate a haiku poem
- 13 junk model of a windmill (with moving sales)
- 14 4 chocolate muffins
- 15 photograph of an animal
- 16 an arrangement of garden flowers in an unusual container

THE GREAT BOXING DAY FOOTBALL FERRIS VS GOWER MATCH!

It was standing room only for the fifty strong crowd on a foggy Boxing Day morning for the now traditional Ferris vs Gower football match. The more youthful Gower team started as favourites to win the third match in a row but the somewhat older and perhaps more experienced Ferris team had other ideas.

The game has been eagerly awaited after the forced cancellation last year and has become one of the highlights of Christmas for some.

The Gower took an early 1/0 lead but the Ferris equalised before a stunning strike from Tyler Bradley from outside the box restored their lead by halftime.

Sam Catlin from the Ferris had the dubious distinction of being the first player in the history of the fixture to be sent off, before sportingly being allowed by the Gower gaffer to return in the second half. Controversially, he then won a penalty which he dispatched to the back of the net. Family honour was however restored by his young nephew Zach who gave the demanding crowd a true exhibition of attacking skills and by the end had scored a hatrick . The Ferris were lucky and happy that he was staying in Sibford with Uncle Sam for the Christmas duration, and he will hopefully be invited back to hang his stocking out for Father Christmas in Sibford Ferris again next year.

It was a really entertaining game , some good passing and midfield play , and lots of missed chances to excite the crowd. It was wonderful to see players aged from 13 to 65 giving their all , the three ladies asked and gave no quarter and the football was truly end to end. There were at least 4 father/son/daughter combinations playing together as well as the uncle/nephew duo. Matt Gandy scored two goals, to make the final score 6-2 but the game was much closer than that until just before the final whistle.

With a squad of 20, Sir Alex " the tinkler" Rippon opted for multiple substitutions over the 90 minutes in a changing formation that was so fluid it confused the opposition completely, while the Ferris gaffer with only 17 players opted for just two mass substitutions at 30 minute intervals and stuck to the traditional 4-4-2 formation. Everyone had a good run out and hopefully enjoyed it, and many retired to the Wykham Arms afterwards to analyse what had gone right or wrong, and plan for next year

David Spackman



Sibford Gower Parish Council



CEE Bill

Parish Councils in Oxfordshire are being invited by an organisation called Zero Hour Oxfordshire to sign an open letter to our local MPs in support of the proposed Climate & Ecological Emergency Bill (CEE Bill). This is a Private Member's Bill which includes legally binding targets for all levels of government to address the dual global threats to our climate and to our ecology.

Local interest in climate change has recently increased, with some well attended presentations at our Village Hall, and individuals may feel that they wish to sign the open letter which can be found at <https://www.cebillallianceoxon.co.uk/open-letter/>

However, given that the scope of the proposed CEE Bill extends significantly beyond the current policies of both our major political parties, the Gower Council is seeking views from our community before we decide, at our next Parish Council meeting in January, whether to sign the open letter as an organisation.

You can let us know your views by writing to our Parish Clerk, Kirsty Buttle, using the contact details below.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Kirsty Buttle

Clerk/RFO

Sibford Gower Parish Council

Tel: 07419 126 206

E-mail: Sibford.gower.pc@thesibfords.org.uk



POET'S CORNER

To illustrate the **February Church Calendar Picture**, taken by Carol Fieldhouse, I have used the form of a Japanese Haiku, followed by that of a Japanese Tanka. (5-7-5 and 5-7-5-7-7) There is a mystery to solve in the Calendar photograph ... if you can spot it! Jo the Po 15/Jan/2022

Snowscape.

The Snowscape. Tranquil.
A Table with cloth of white.
Clean on for the Spring.

A Table. Waiting.
Trees and fences look so grey.
Spring seems far away.
Look for the hidden colour.
Look deep for the branch of ... Gold.

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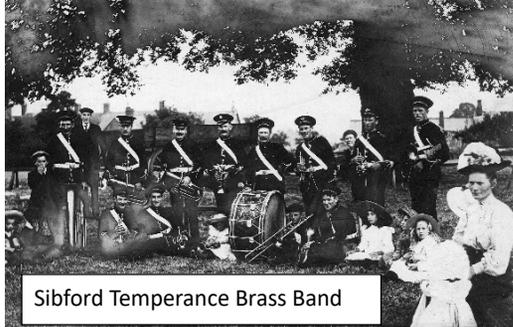
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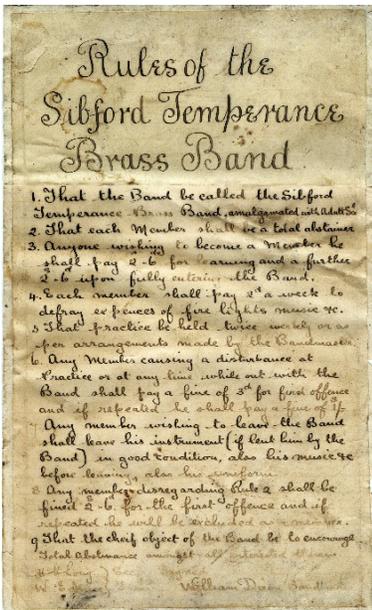
DID YOU KNOW?

Rev. Edward T Stevens, vicar of Holy Trinity, (1874 -1898) encouraged all his parishioners to 'Take the Pledge' and abstain from all forms of alcohol. He believed strongly that alcohol was a powerful influence on the behaviour of villagers and frequently preached about the evils of alcohol. Once he had organised the formation of the Sibford Brass Band in 1884 he drew up a series of rules for the formation of a Temperance Band. Members of this separate band were often the same as those who played with the main Brass Band



Sibford Temperance Brass Band

but they met and practised separately. The Temperance Band met in the Mission Room and paid subscriptions so that the band remained separate from the main Brass Band.



Rev Stevens drew up a series of Rules for the Temperance Band requiring the members to be 'total abstainers'. If any member broke this Rule, he was fined half a crown and, if he offended again, was dismissed from the band. In addition to the weekly subscription of two shillings and sixpence a further tuppence a week was charged to defray the costs of the fire-lights and music. If any band member caused a disturbance at practise or when out with the band, he had to pay a fine of three pence for the first offence and one shilling for any further offence.

I imagine these exacting rules may well have caused some difficulties for those who also played with the main Brass Band who often

entertained at social occasions!

Maureen Hicks

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HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

Mirror in February

The day dawns, with scent of must and rain,
Of opened soil, dark trees, dry bedroom air.
Under the fading lamp, half dressed – my brain
 Idling on some compulsive fantasy –
I towel my shaven jaw and stop, and stare,
 Riveted by a dark exhausted eye,
 A dry down turning mouth.

It seems again that it is time to learn,
In this untiring, crumbling place of growth
 To which, for the time being, I return.
 Now plainly in the mirror of my soul
I read that I have looked my last on youth
And little more; for they are not made whole
 That reach the age of Christ

These opening two verses from the Dublin born poet Thomas Kinsella, have been described as being beautifully reflective in the way that they describe the moment that the man stands in front of the mirror and sees not just the image of the present but also of the past. The young man he once was is not looking back at him anymore and the time of his youth will no longer return. On a February morning he stands in front of the mirror and reflects upon his life, but the man only sees himself from his own perspective. He cannot fully see what others see as they look at him or what lies ahead.

I can't quite believe that I've been here as your Rector now for just over a year, smuch has happened. We have all lived individually and together as villages and communities through difficult times but also there have been many times and occasions of joy. As we enter into February 2022 it might be a good time to take stock and reflect, to look at ourselves in a metaphorical mirror, acknowledging of course we only see what we can see and maybe sometimes what we want to see. In my own case I might not always acknowledge that I can see an ever increasing amount of grey hair appearing on my head.

Whatever we might physically see, what we can't of course see is what lies ahead, but we can influence and effect greatly our lives going forward: what might be now truly important to us, how might we have been affected both physically, emotionally and spiritually by what we have lived through, how might this time have affected us to refocus our lives in the future?

Whatever answers might come to you to these questions, be assured that every day I hold you and everyone who lives and works in our villages in my daily morning prayers. If ever you would like to talk with me confidentially about any worries, concerns or upset, or anything which you think I might be able to help you with in the year ahead, then please do just be in touch.

Neil Bowler

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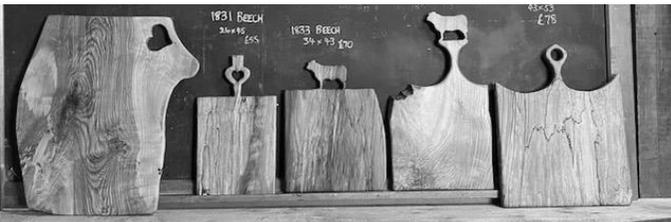
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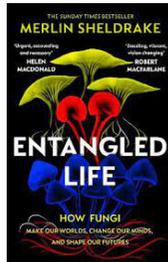
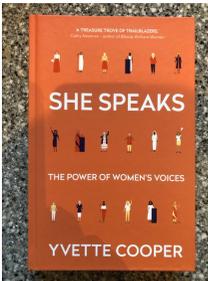


FRIENDSHIP CLUB

Hello Everyone. Is it toooo late to wish you all a Happy New Year ..I hope not. Again we are not sure what is happening for another month or two. The Committee will contact all of you. Please be patient with us.

Eveline Boughton

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SOA (adj Natwest bank)	6.15	7.35	9.15	11.15	13.15
Shipston (opp garage)	6.42	8.21	9.50	11.50	13.50
Sibford Ferris (opp school)	6.58	8.37	10.06	12.06	14.06
Banbury	7.21	9.00	10.29	12.29	14.29
Banbury	9.35	11.35	14.35	17.30	
Sibford Ferris (opp school)	9.53	11.53	14.53	17.48	
Shipston (opp garage)	10.11	12.11	15.11	18.06	
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FEBRUARY

- 4th - Mens Brunch - Sun Inn, Hook Norton - 1130am
- 7th - Sibford Walkers - Village Hall - 10am
- 9th - Horti visit to Evenley Wood Garden - Village Hall - 11am
- 10th - Millennium Field closed
- 15th - CPR training - Village Hall - 6-8pm
- 19th - Book Swap - Village Hall - 10-Noon
- 21st - Sibford Walkers - Village Hall - 10am
- 22nd - Sibford Photography Club talk - Village Hall

FEBRUARY BIN COLLECTIONS

- Green Tuesday: 1st; 15th
- Blue/Brown Tuesday: 8th; 22nd

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 MARCH ISSUE -
12 NOON - 18th FEBRUARY 2022

Editor: Tony Skowronski, Jasmine Cottage, Burdrop, OX15 5RN
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E: sibfordscene@gmail.com

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The Great
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Match Report on page 15

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