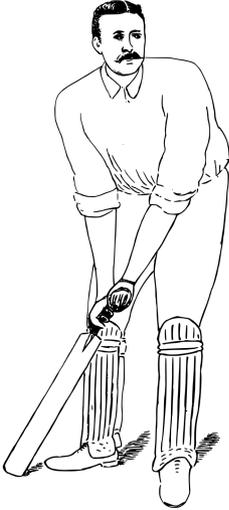


SIBFORD SCENE

MARCH 2023

Number 451





SIBFORD CRICKET

PRE-SEASON NETS

We welcome newcomers
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OR 07595223655**



ED'S THOUGHTS

My picture library is almost empty and so I'm appealing to all Sibford residents to send me pictures of Sibford for the front page of the Scene. Anything you find of interest would be great!

Cover photo by Evey Boughton - "Spring is just around the corner"

Thought for the month:

Put on your colors and run come see
Everybody's sayin' that music's for free
Take off your clothes and lie in the sun
Everybody's sayin' that music's for fun

David Crosby



LETTERS AND NOTICES

VILLAGE HALL LOTTERY!!

February Winners:

1st prize - Judy Hine

2nd prize - Joan Broady

3rd prize - Judy Abbott



Village Hall Garden Spring Tidy

Sunday 2nd April 10am-12noon - Calling all gardeners!

If you can spare an hour or two, please come along with your secateurs, trowels, edgers and loppers etc to help tidy up the gardens ready for the spring and summer. We would also welcome any easy care plants or bulbs if you have any spares. A great community gathering and fun if we all pull together to spruce up the surroundings to our invaluable village hall! Tea and biscuits will be provided.

Carolyn White. 07711 897902



LETTERS AND NOTICES

DOG WALKERS

If you walk your dog through the Friends Meeting House burial ground, please keep an eye on your dog, and pick up anything your dog may have deposited.

Community Speedwatch

Sibford Gower and Sibford Ferris Parish Councils jointly purchased a speed detection device in August 2021 in order to run a Community Speedwatch Scheme in response to concerns raised by parishioners about speeding within the Sibfords. Taking part in the scheme would provide us with data that can help identify the level of speeding issues in the village informing future plans for speed reduction whilst also educating and encouraging drivers to drive sensibly. Unfortunately the minimum number of volunteers required to run the scheme was not achieved so the scheme could not go ahead. The Parish Councils have agreed to make one more attempt to get a group together to run the scheme with the hope of having volunteers trained and ready to start the scheme when we get some warmer weather.

If you would be interested in volunteering to take part in the Community Speedwatch Scheme in the Sibfords please advise the Parish Clerk by e-mailing sfpc@thesibfords.org.uk or Sibford.gower.pc@thesibfords.org.uk or telephone 07419 126 206.

Lent Lunch

Wyatts Close on Tuesday 14th March for charity 12 to 2pm

Everyone welcome.

Sunday March 19th is Mothering Sunday.

Service in Holy Trinity Church at 9.30am where we welcome everyone to come to this service to celebrate Mothering Sunday.

COTSWOLD CLOSE PLAY AREA

The Sibford Ferris Parish Council is working to refurbish the play area. Within the next few weeks the old fencing will be removed and replaced by a neat picket fence with two gates. The play house will be taken down as part of the plan for new equipment. A new baby seat will be installed. It is planned to replace the wooden elements in time, but the beautiful slide will be retained, as we know it is popular. We will keep you informed of changes, as there may be an occasion when the play area will not be available.

Ginny Bennett. Parish Councillor



VILLAGE HALL NEWS

Join the Sibford Lottery this year!

We have an amazing community lottery running in Sibford with fantastic cash prizes every month. Join now and April could be your winning month! Existing members, just a reminder to renew your annual subscription. Funds from the lottery are also supporting the Village Hall Roof Fund. Please contact juliette53@btinternet.com or 07703 836856 to join or renew. £48 for 12 months or £4 a month.

Warm Hub Mondays, from Monday 6th March 9-12pm

Come and keep warm in the Village Hall on Monday mornings, socialise with friends, and make some new ones. Lots of activities will be on offer including cards, scrabble or just come with your artwork, magazine or simply come along for a chat. Refreshments will be served. We would like to thank the Town Estates Charity for funding this initiative meaning there is no charge for Villagers to take part. Contact Ginny on 01295 780373, if you would like to find out more.

Film Night, from Thursday 30th March

The very popular Film Night is finally returning to Sibford. More details on the first screening will follow - please look out for the poster boards around the village.

Easter Egg Hunt, Good Friday April 7th 2-4pm

Join us for our annual hunt around the village for answers to the quiz or take your little ones for a run-around in the Millennium Field to find the animal pictures. Tea and cake in the Village Hall. All children receive an Easter Egg.

Book Swap Saturdays and Cafe: March 18th, April 15th, May 13th, June 17th 10am-12pm

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.

Book the Village Hall for your next event

Visit our website www.sibfordvillagehall.org.uk to request a booking. We have preferential rates for village residents, only £11/hr (one hall); and £20/hr (both halls). Please use us for your next birthday party or community gathering.

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Sibford CC Fixtures 2023



Date	Opponent
29th April	Woodford Halse (A)
6th May	Evenley (A)
13th May	Bodicote (H)
20th May	Hanslope (A)
27th May	Wicken (H)
3rd June	Towcestrians 'A' (H)
10th June	Thornborough (A)
17th June	BYE
24th June	Chipping Warden (H)
1st July	Woodford Halse (H)
8th July	Evenley (H)
15th July	Bodicote (A)
22nd July	Hanslope (H)
29th July	Wicken (A)
5th August	Towcestrians 'A' (A)
12th August	Thornborough (H)
19th August	BYE
26th August	Chipping Warden (A)

Stay in style in the Sibfords

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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NATURE NOTES

On walking along the footpaths through the fields where Maize was grown last year I was surprised how many of the wild flowers (weeds) were in flower even during the very cold spells in January and February. Particularly noticeable were the blue Speedwell flowers. There are more than 20 species of Speedwell found in the UK but many are rare. If the plants are growing as weeds in arable fields they will almost certainly be the Common Field Speedwell which was introduced to the UK in the 1800s. If the plants are growing amongst grasses on roadside verges or in lawns they are probably the native Germander Speedwell. It is thought the name Speedwell derives from 'speed you well' as the plant was considered a good luck charm for travellers.

Megan Gilkes has commented on the large numbers of Lapwings she has seen in the fields around Sibford this Winter. Lapwings have declined in numbers by about 80% since the 1960s and it is now a Red List species for conservation purposes. Numbers during the Winter are supplemented by large numbers of visiting birds from northern Europe. Lapwing eggs used to be collected on a large-scale as food but this caused such a decline in numbers the Lapwing Act of 1926 prohibited this practice. Numbers recovered following this but from the 1940s changes in farming practices are thought to be responsible for further declines.

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

Andy and Gill Newbold

"WARM HUB at The Village Hall

A new Venture-

From March 6th. all are welcome to come and socialise in the warmth of the small hall.

Open from 9am until 12 midday, there will be tea/coffee/cake available, games to play such as Scrabble, cards and jigsaws. Do some art work or just chat.

Use the wi fi.

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For more information Contact Ginny 01295 780373 or Joan 01295 780410



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We are also looking for a HGV maintenance technician to work within our onsite workshop. The job entails carrying out any repairs that are need to our fleet and carrying out maintenance inspections at regular intervals inline with the guidelines.

For further information, please contact Ronnie Barton on 01295 680204 or seabeatransport@btinternet.com



We have continued with the World War Two learning focus here at Sibford Gower Endowed Primary School over the course of this half term, providing some exciting, immersive opportunities for the children in Oak Class to enrich their learning.

They spent a day at Holdenby House as evacuees where they learned about all sorts of war time experiences, including cooking with rationed ingredients and Make Do & Mend.



The learning fun continued back at school with children working collaboratively to make Anderson Shelters. They found out how these were structured and disguised and were very pleased with their finished models.

The children had a very interesting time when they visited ex-governor, Mr Fred Inns, who welcomed them to visit his real Anderson Shelter. As always, Fred took the time to talk with the children and share his extensive knowledge. They loved every minute of it and learned a lot. We can learn a lot from books and films but the experience of sitting inside a real Anderson Shelter is something the children will remember forever. Thank you so much, Fred, for inspiring the children in their learning journey.



Thanks also to our own Mrs Wright who worked so diligently to clear the raised beds, for and with the children, in preparation for their Digging for Victory afternoon.

*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/>



Sibford School presents CHICAGO (teen edition)

Sibford School is excited to perform Kander & Ebb's legendary and award-winning musical about fame, fortune and acquittal!

In roaring twenties Chicago, Roxie Hart murders a faithless lover and convinces her hapless husband, Amos, to take the rap... until he finds out he's been duped and turns on Roxie. Convicted and sent to death row, Roxie and another "Merry Murderess," Velma Kelly, vie for the spotlight and the headlines, ultimately joining forces in search of the "American Dream": fame, fortune, and acquittal.

Performance dates:

Monday 6th March at 1pm:

All tickets £10 (This is a preview matinee with no refreshments at interval)

Tuesday 7th – Friday 10th March at 7pm. Raked Seating: Adults £12, Child* £10.

Cabaret Tables (with welcome drink, canapes and waiter service): Adults £25, Child* £20

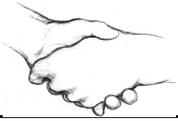
* A child ticket is for those aged 16 and under.

Please note due to themes within the performance, the audience age recommendation from Concord Theatricals is 11+. Run time including interval is approximately 2 hours.

Tickets are selling fast! Book yours here: <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/sibford-school>.

Public bouldering sessions

Join us on our climbing wall to give bouldering a go! Sessions take place on Monday evenings from 6.30pm - 8.30pm, during term time. £10 per climber, suitable for ages 12+. Please park in our swimming pool car park and use the swimming pool entrance to access the climbing wall.



FRIENDSHIP CLUB

Our meeting in March, will be with our friend Troy and, as I've said before, an afternoon of an awful lot of laughter.

April will be out Easter tea.

May is the club's AGM with hope that all members will attend.

Evey Boughtonn

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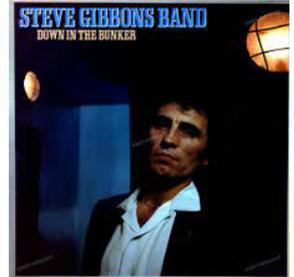
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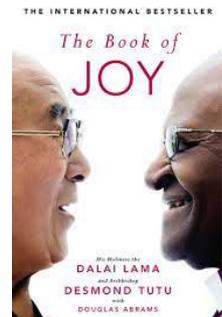
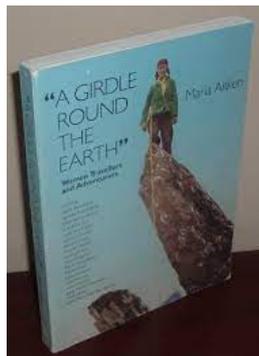
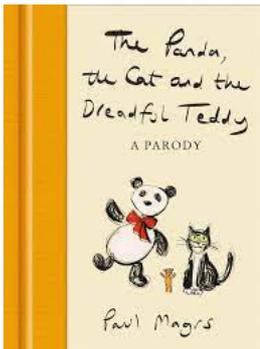
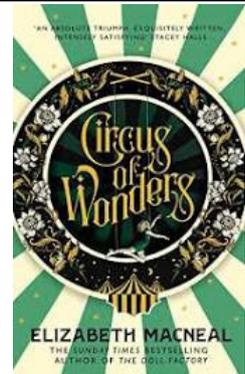
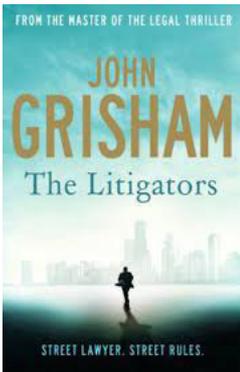
WHAT WE'RE LISTENING TO.....



★★★★★ 28



WHAT WE'RE READING.....





DID YOU KNOW?



Photographed by Colin Lamb, this springtime picture of Holy Trinity Church entrance with porch was voted the Villager's Favourite from the 66 pictures submitted in the Photographic Competition to select the pictures for inclusion in the Village Calendar. Thanks are due to Opus Property Services Ltd – a village business who kindly sponsored the first three months of the Village Calendar.

The original church did not have the porch as we can see in the original architect's drawing. A plaque, set into the internal wall in the porch records that it was erected in memory of Miss Elizabeth Dix who died in 1897. However, there is no record of her being buried in Holy Trinity Church graveyard. Elizabeth, known as Bessie or Betsy by her four sisters regularly worshipped at Holy Trinity Church



and ran the Boys Sunday School with her sister Sarah. The Dix's were a prominent local family living in Swalcliffe and Epwell as well as Sibford. Elizabeth and her sisters frequently visited their relatives in the locality travelling in a horse driven cart.

The picture also features the two wrought iron entrance gates and the magnificent cherry tree that flowers so beautifully in the springtime. I have discovered that the recently refurbished gates replaced some wooden ones which had fallen into disrepair. Whether they, and the cherry tree are memorial features I have not been able to establish – any further information would be most welcome.

Maureen Hicks

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SIBFORDS WALKING GROUP

WALKING DATES

6 March; 20 March; 3 April

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. Often a shorter version of the walk is possible but that it is advisable to check with Sue just before

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.

A small, rectangular wooden sign with the word "WELCOME" written on it in a simple, hand-painted font.

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



In Your Garden - March

I am writing this in the middle of February (as our Editor is a bit tough on having everything in by the 18th of each month), and my garden is still looking sad, bleak and , frost bitten.. And as if that was not bad enough, when I was away for a birthday weekend, something vile, malicious and unknown came into my garden and started digging and scraping up a large area of the lawn. was it squirrels, rabbits or badgers? And they seemed to take more moss than grass. Has anybody else had anything like this before? At least my snowdrops are looking cheerful and brilliant when the sun shines.

1. Once the frosts have left us alone for a week or two you can now prune some shrubs - ie Cornus, (dogwoods) Salix (Willow) and hardy Fuschias. Also clematis Viticella and Jackmaanii which are Group 1 for pruning.

2 Hurry up to prune hedges before the birds start mating and nesting. They are all beginning to sing very merrily in these rosy dawns and setting suns at teatime, so they are probably thinking about it!

3. Normally we should be getting on with sowing summer annuals, bedding plants, and even tomatoes, but unless you have a very warm green house, wait until everything has warmed up a bit more....

4. Bur you can run a hoe over the ground, as little weeds will start, and old ones may still be there. Use a spade to dig out nettles, docks, and bindweed etc.

5. If you forgot to prune your gooseberries and red currants you can do them now. Cut out any dead wood. Shorten the side shoots to one bud, and the upright branches by one third. Gooseberries tend to fruit on two to three year old wood, so don,t cut them back too hard.

6. Ground cover plants growing in the shade, have stood up to the frost very well. I have pulmonarias, periwinkles and Ajuga coming into flower, with shiny purple leaves and blue spikes of flowers.

7. Daffodils can last all month, you just can't have too many daffs. Cut off the flowers when over, but not the leaves. They should be left to shrivel down to the bulbs.

8. You probably have finished pruning your roses by now, but here is a hard nudge to go and get on with it soon.



In Your Garden - March

Cont'd

9. A warming job for a cold day is to dig over your veg plot, and add some nourishment to the soil, so when the soil warms up you will be ready to start planting. You can use compost, manure or mushroom compost.

10. Surely the spring will come soon, and the soil will warm up, and when it does you can plant out those new potatoes you have been chitting. Roll on Spring - even though the whole world seems to be in a sad space. Just remember that your garden is essential for you, to grow flowers, fruit and veg, and importantly to relax in and forget all the other problems And whistle while you work!

Jupe Hitching



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Special occasions will be themed craft sessions.

First up...Mother's Day Crafts on Saturday 11th March



Find us on  Kids and Caffeine

CHURCH SERVICES

Quakers – Sibford Gower, Sunday, 10.30 am

Roman Catholics – Brailes, Saturday, 5pm; Shipston, Sunday 9am Kineton, Sunday 11am

Baptists – Hook Norton, Sunday, 10.30 am

Methodists – Marlborough Rd Banbury. Sunday, 10.30am Shipston-on-Stour. Sunday, 10.30am (All the same circuit)

LOCAL MARKETS

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

Deddington Farmers – 4th Saturday of the month

Chipping Norton – Every Wednesday. Farmers market – 3rd Saturday of the month

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

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Coming up at Katharine House

Our calendar for the coming months is already packed! As well as our much-loved Moonlight Walk and challenge events, we're looking forward to our Open Gardens returning and the launch of Rose to Remember. It's thanks to your ongoing support that we can continue to care for local people and families when they need us the most.

Can you walk the walk?

Join us for this year's Moonlight Walk on Saturday 20 May and get ready to MOVIE! Choose from a six-mile or ten-mile walk and help us put the FUN into fundraising. From Darth Vader to Disney princesses, Mary Poppins to Marvel characters – the costume options are endless! So gather your crew, dress to impress and take part in our annual fundraising walk through Banbury to help raise vital funds for our hospice. www.khh.org.uk/moonlight

Rose to Remember

Remember a loved one at our special Rose to Remember event this June. Purchase your hand-crafted metal rose, designed especially for Katharine House Hospice, and dedicate it to the life and memory of someone special. The roses will form part of a stunning temporary installation at Sulgrave Manor for two weeks in June. We have a limited number of roses available, so visit our website for more information and to order yours today. www.khh.org.uk/rose-remember

Calling all budding gardeners

Can you help our hospice and take part in our Open Garden scheme this year? Whether you've taken part for us many times before or are just interested in finding out what it involves, then we'd love to hear from you! We are always so grateful to the green-fingered supporters who have made Open Gardens for Katharine House such a success over the years – and we hope it continues to grow. www.khh.org.uk/gardens

Three cheers for our volunteers

Could you spare some time – either on a regular basis or occasionally? We're looking to recruit volunteers across a number of areas, including: shop volunteers, gardeners, hospice companions, receptionists and patient drivers. Our volunteers are a vital part of Katharine House and we simply couldn't run the hospice without them. Find out more about how you can make a difference here: www.khh.org.uk/volunteering.

Yoga

Sibford Village Hall

Tuesdays: Slow Hatha Yoga
9-10am

**Tuesdays: NEW Beginner
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Thursdays: Flow Yoga
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SIBFORD PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB

We are a friendly, 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).

Our meeting on 31st January, was the first to take place in the small hall at the Village Hall, which is a more comfortable fit for our club. We opened the meeting by viewing the members' images on the topic 'Frozen', with a wide variety of shots taken in the cold, ranging from a portrait taken on a skiing trip, to close-ups of frosted seedheads and flowers, and from snow-covered scenes to macro shots of hoar frost.

We then had a practical session in which members could create images using cross-polarisation, a technique that exploits a property of clear plastic items such as disposable cutlery, that light passing through them is twisted, due to the stresses created during manufacture. When they are placed on a polarised light source and viewed through a polarising filter, this can be seen as beautiful rainbow colours. We created colourful photographs of a range of small items, similar to the knife and fork shown on the back cover of February's Sibford Scene.

At our meeting on 28th February, at 7:30 pm, we will have a Q and A session on getting to know your camera, so come along with your camera and its manual, and ask any questions you might have about how to use it to create the sort of images you would like to make. You might also like to bring examples of the style of image you would like to create. Feel free to come along if you have an interest in any aspect of photography. We will also review members' images on the topic of 'Minimalism' which I'm sure will have sparked their creativity. Our photo topic for March will be 'Rocks and Stones'. In addition to our regular meetings, we also arrange outdoor photoshoots at local nature reserves and other places of interest.

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.

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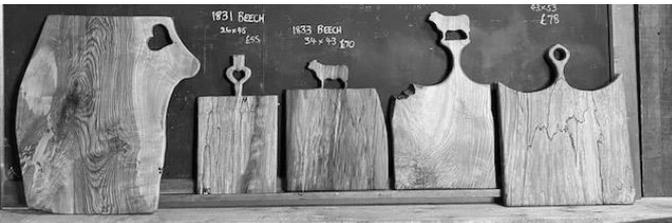
- ~ Presentation – Food Theatre! ~ Cake Boards ~ Cheese Boards ~
- ~ Chopping Boards ~ Serving Platters ~ Etc ~

**** 5th Wedding Anniversary: 'Wood' ****

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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 lindalaneyolo@gmail.com.



SIBFORDS HISTORY SOCIETY

On 16th February we welcomed Steven and Penny Bruce to our annual SHS supper. Steven regaled us with anecdotes from his long career as an auctioneer, and illustrated his talk with a whole table full of fascinating artefacts, both charming and in one case gruesome! Most of us had brought treasures for Steven to value, which he did most helpfully and informatively.

Victoria, 'Miss T', and her helpers provided another marvellous meal, expertly served and cleared.

Thanks to everyone who turned out on a not very pleasant winter's evening, and to all those who contributed in different ways to making it such a success. It really is a pleasure to be part of a team of people who work so hard in their various roles to make the end result look effortless.

Our next event will be the AGM on Thursday, 16th March. This will be brief, as our speaker, Bill King, will be waiting to talk about 'The Magic and Mystery of Glenn Miller'. Bill's main interest is in the Second World War, with particular reference to the Airborne and Special Forces, and in clandestine warfare, and his talk promises to be intriguing, hopefully interspersed with plenty of Glenn Miller's unmistakeable music.

At the village hall, doors open at 7.15pm. The meeting begins at 7-30 pm. Visitors £3 and members please remember to bring your subscriptions, still £12. (Exact amount would be helpful). Refreshments will be served after the talk.

Diana Hughes



HORTI SOCIETY

Simon Gulliver will be coming to talk to us on Wednesday 12 April on 'Colour through the seasons' at the village hall at 7.30.

Doors open at 7.00 for refreshments and non members always welcome.

Diana Thompson

SUNDAY SMALLHOLDING

With winter on its way out and temperatures warming, life at The Brambles is literally buzzing. A goose has joined the team on a permanent basis and four pigs...just for a few months. The winter has not been that bad meaning that work carried on with little interruption. The apple trees were pruned in January, and February was busy with trimming hedges, rose bushes and wisteria and throughout, a battle has been fought with the rapidly spreading bramble. The Brambles was named as such for good reason!

Four Berkshire Pigs arrived in November, all siblings, just weaned. They settled in after a chaotic first couple of days when they went to visit the neighbours - not a good plan! They got used to the electric fence and stayed behind it rather than rushing through. Getting to work straight away, they dug out the potatoes that had been overlooked at harvest. Now they are being fed standard pig feed plus ...more potatoes and veg. I recall writing here a few years ago advising against feeding pigs raw potatoes. As a member of the Nightshade family, the potato must be used with care. Any green patches on the skins caused by exposure to sunlight are toxic, and potatoes can be difficult to digest. However, these pigs appear happy and healthy. The pigs will be on the smallholding for another month or so. If you walk past you will see what a great job they have done to clear the ground which will be replanted with potatoes, onions and carrots.

The hens are managing well in the polytunnel; they are warm and dry and out of reach of Avian Flu. Without a doubt, they long to be back outside and braver hens rush for the open door as I go in whilst others stare longingly through the green mesh tunnel walls. Today, as I was clearing weeds from the outside of the tunnel, the chickens on the inside were waiting hungrily for me to shove the pulled vegetation under the netting for them to devour. Since being in the tunnel, the eggs have become paler in the colour of the yolk. Free-range is the best life for hens...not long now girls!

The Hebridean sheep are due to lamb from the end of March. There are just five ewes and so ten healthy lambs would be wonderful. One of the ewes is really very old and last year she very sensibly had just one lamb and so this year we hope she does the same...nine lambs...perfect.

SUNEDAY SMALLHOLDING

Cont'd

The geese are called Charlie and Ruby. Charlie has been with me for the past two years. A couple of weeks ago he showed signs of becoming agitated, lots of wing flapping and charging around honking and screeching. 'He definitely needs a mate,' I thought and started searching. Ruby is a young female from a farm near Chipping Norton, probably hatched last year. Ruby entered the field and she and Charlie instantly became friends. As expected, Charlie is now ferociously protecting her and we are all waiting for her first egg. It will take her a week or so to get into regular egg laying. I will collect these first eggs then allow her to lay a clutch of about 6 eggs which she will hopefully incubate. But, she is young and the likelihood is that she will not manage to sit for the 28 to 35 days needed to hatch the chicks, so it may not be successful this year.

Once the hens leave the polytunnel it will become a place for soft fruits, melons, cucumbers, strawberries, aubergines and lots and lots of tomatoes. Tomatoes for making into soup, sauces and plenty to sell in the shop. I can't wait to get seeds started this year...I'm definitely hooked on growing veg...still have much to learn and need more stamina for the weeding!

Sophie goat should be pregnant. Having the billy goat here for six weeks went very well but he really did pong! Fingers crossed, kids will arrive at the end of May. Milk will flow, cheese and soap will be made, and there will be lots of smiles and laughter. All animals here have a role to play in the self-sufficiency which means that Alan and Boris will soon have to get back to work with the egg deliveries.

Running this smallholding is a joy for me. I have decided to once again share this amazing life by holding another Suneday Smallholding Open Day. Run on the same basis as before, demonstrations of soap making, cheese making, bee keeping, animal husbandry, cider making, tour of the polytunnel and orchard, maybe felt making with Hebridean wool, and anything else I think of- plus of course, resurrection of The Windfall Café. The suggested date is Saturday 3rd September but I will confirm this along with more details, next month.

I will be selling pork in 'half pig' quantities if anyone is interested. 07891 249526 or sue5595@aol.com



SIBFORD BUS SERVICE

Bus 75 - Timetable from 25 July 2022

- Leave Sibford Ferris to Banbury: 06:56, 08:37, 11:09, 13:59, 17:31 (Sat only)
- Leave from Banbury for Sibford: 11:35 (Sat), 11:40 (Mon-Fri), 14:35, 17:40
- Leave Sibford Ferris to Stratford: 11:58 (Sat), 12:02 (Mon-Fri), 14:53, 17:58
- Leave from Stratford for Sibford: 06:02, 07:30 (Mon-Fri), 07:54 (Sat), 10:15, 13:15, 16:38 (Sat only)

No service on Sundays or Bank Holidays.

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HOLY TRINITY CHURCH CHATTER

Dear friends,

A number of years ago now, on one of my visits to a primary school in the parish where I trained to be a Priest I talked with the children about what Lent is. At the end of the assembly one little girl in the youngest class, put her hand up, obviously very excited to ask me a question. She asked.

“Reverend Neil why didn’t Jesus get his mum to pack him a packed lunch so that he had something to eat in the wilderness?” Before I had time to reply she continued with a smile. **“My mum always packs my lunch every morning and she never forgets to put a milky way in. I’m sure Mary would have done the same had Jesus asked.”**

Lent is definitely a time that raises many questions for us.

Now one of the additional things I like to do each day during Lent, is to read for half an hour at breakfast. One of my favourite authors is Henry Nouwen, who was a Dutch Catholic priest, professor, writer and theologian. The book of his I read several years ago during Lent, was **The road to peace: writings on peace and justice** and a few lines have lived with me ever since.

Did I offer peace today? Did I bring a smile to someone's face? Did I say words of healing? Did I let go of my anger and resentment? Did I forgive? Did I love? These are the real questions.

Whether or not you will be observing Lent this year, these questions might be ones that might help us all in the journey of our lives, whoever we might be, and whatever we might or might not believe. Love & prayers Revd Neil

PS: Do you or someone you know need healing and/or reconciliation in your life? If so, why not come to the Healing & reconciliation service at Holy Trinity church, Sibford, **on Sunday 12th March 6pm**. The service will have times of music, the laying on of hands on a persons head as prayers are said for healing and anointing with oil that has been blessed by the Bishop of Oxford.

Church services at Holy Trinity church during March

Sunday 12th 8am Holy Communion (BCP)

Sunday 12th 6pm A service for healing & reconciliation

Sunday 19th 9.30am Mothering Sunday service

Sunday 26th 9.30am Holy Communion service.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MARCH

- 3rd – Mens Brunch – Sun Inn – 1130am
- 7th – Friendship Club – Village Hall – 7.30pm
- 8th – Horti Club – Village Hall – 7pm
- 14th – Charity Lent Lunch – Wyatts Close – Noon
- 16th – Sibfords History Society. AGM. Village Hall – 7pm
- 18th – Book Swap Cafe – Village Hall – 10am
- 23rd – SGPC Meeting – Village Hall – 7pm
- 28th – Sibford Photography Club – Village Hall – 7.30pm

MARCH BIN COLLECTIONS

Green Tuesday: 14th; 28th
Blue/Brown Tuesday: .7th; 21st

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 2023

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