

SIBFORD SCENE

APRIL 2023

Number 452



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ED'S THOUGHTS

Happy Easter and welcome to our new bumper edition - 36 pages, no less.

My sincere thanks to all contributors and advertisers. You are all truly amazing - we couldn't do this without you!

Cover picture by Penny Spring

Thought for the month:

"I don't ask for much
Just give me someone who cares"

Steve Forbert



LETTERS AND NOTICES

VILLAGE HALL LOTTERY!!

MARCH Winners:

1st prize Liz Kirkman

2nd prize Claire Evans

3rd prize Malcolm Bannister



Beryl Sabin

My grandma, Beryl Sabin, recently had a hip replacement after a fall and she is now back home after a stay in the Horton. So many people from the village have been so kind and friendly, visiting her and bringing lovely gifts of flowers and food, and sending cards. We want to let everyone know how grateful we are for their love and support.

My grandma lives at Farview on Pound Lane.

Many thanks, Gemma Tomalin

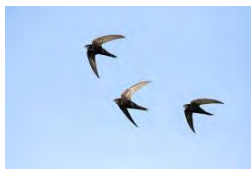


LETTERS AND NOTICES

CPR TRAINING

We have got dates in the diary for CPR Training of the 4th of April and 11th of May. It really is important that everybody can know what to do if somebody drops down beside them having had a coronary thrombosis. Please volunteer and let Kirsty Buttle know – email sfpc@thesibfords.org.uk

PLEASE HELP THE SWIFTS!



Our swifts spend their lives almost entirely in the air – sleeping, eating and bathing on the wing. They stay in Africa during our winter but at the end of April they return to the UK with just one thing on their minds – to mate and raise their young. They pair for life and return to the same site each year to lay and incubate their eggs. They like to live in houses and churches, squeezing through tiny gaps to nest inside roofs. But as more old buildings are renovated and gaps in soffits are closed up, swift nest sites are fast disappearing. This, in part, has resulted in swifts being added to the Red List, the UK's highest conservation priority, needing urgent action. By installing a swift brick in a wall, or putting up a nest box, you could give a pair a place to rest and raise a family, as several folk in Sibford have already done.

POLLY

Polly would be most grateful once more if you could spare any underwear for the folk she looks after in Banbury. She emphasises that as long as they are washed, the underwear doesn't have to be brand new. Sounds desperate doesn't it? And I think it is.

Of course any food that you can spare is always most welcome. Please put donations in the Polly boxes in the church porch.

Many thanks

Diana Thompson



LETTERS AND NOTICES

LOCAL ELECTIONS

From **4 May 2023**, voters in England will need to show photo ID (Eg: Passport, Driving Licence, Bus pass, etc) to vote at polling stations in some elections.

This will apply to:

- Local elections
- Police and Crime Commissioner elections
- UK parliamentary by-elections
- Recall petitions

From October 2023 it will also apply to UK General elections.

MADDY BOARDMAN

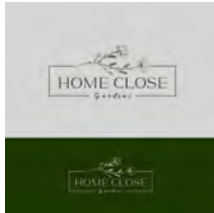
My niece Maddy Boardman was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis 25 years ago, aged 17. She has managed wonderfully well until now but the disease is beginning to seriously handicap her and, in the words of her husband Phil, life in a wheelchair is getting scarily close. The kind of MS that Maddy has and the length of time she has had it means there is zero treatment available in the UK for her.

However there is a treatment called HSCT available at a clinic in Mexico, and if we can get Maddy to that clinic there is a 75% chance her MS will be stopped. It won't be cured - the damage already done cannot be undone, but it will hopefully not progress further. It will cost £50,000.

Maddy's husband Phil, has set up a crowdfunding page, and as part of his fundraising efforts he is going to run a marathon every day for 10 days in May, starting on May 20th - my younger son David is going to join him, and indeed all Maddy's cousins have volunteered to run at least one leg to support her.

The crowdfunding page is <https://gofundme/baba327c>. If anyone felt able to donate any amount, no matter how small, to this family effort to raise the money for treatment which will hugely improve the quality and length of Maddy's life, we would all be so very grateful.

Peter Hine



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VILLAGE HALL NEWS

Film Night: Mrs Harris Goes to Paris, Thursday 30th March, doors at 7pm, film starts at 7.30pm

The very popular Film Night is finally returning to Sibford. Refreshments available. This is a free event, but donations welcome.

Annual Garden Tidy-Up, Sunday April 2nd 10am-12pm

If you have a spare hour, some secateurs, and a spade, please join us for our Spring Garden Tidy Up. Refreshments and biscuits will be provided. Thank you to the Horti Society for supporting this.

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.

Monday Warm Hubs continuing for April

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.

Book Swap Saturdays and Cafe: 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.

Join the Sibford Lottery!

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.

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.

Charlotte Davies: chair@sibfordvillagehall.org.uk

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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NATURE NOTES

During some of the sunny days in mid-February it was good to see several Brown Hares in the fields around Sibford.

The sunshine brought out a lot of honeybees and bumble bees that visited the crocuses that have naturalised in our lawn. Although they are not native these crocuses are a valuable source of nectar when little else is flowering. Apparently, the cup shaped flowers allow a small pocket of warmer air to build up which encourages the nectar to flow even when the surrounding air is quite cold.

I managed to get a really good view of a Barn Owl flying across the road on the outskirts of Hook Norton one evening as it was just getting dark.

Rooks are very noisy at this time of year when they are nest building probably because they are trying to steal twigs from each other's nests. The expression "as the crow flies" is thought to come from the observation the Rooks returning to their nests fly in a very straight line.

As well as all the usual garden birds we had a female Blackcap visiting the garden almost every day for a week at the end of February. It seemed to be particularly attracted to the sunflower kernels. Apparently, more Blackcaps seem to be spending the winter in the UK rather than migrating. This may be partly due to people feeding birds in their gardens as well as milder winters.

Contributions for the next Nature Notes would be particularly welcome as we are going to be away for some of the next month. With spring on its way there should be plenty to see!

Contributions should be emailed to ajnewbold88@gmail.com

Andy and Gill Newbold



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



Those of you who live locally to the school may have heard the school bell pealing out across the valley again. The bell was disconnected for far too long following some building work. We are very thankful to local residents Mr Fred Inns (ex-governor) and Mr Alan Burke for reconnecting it so we can use it again. The bell is tuned to Middle C and ringing it is one of the special privileges we reserve for our Year 6 children. Staff and children are all delighted to have it working again. Thanks also to Mrs Humphrey's father for supplying us with a proper bell rope with a 'sally' at the bottom. This makes the job of bell-ringing even more special ... and great fun!

Here at Sibford Gower Endowed Primary School, our **Outdoor Classroom Project** is underway. Huge thanks to our friends at **Town Estates** (the charity that 'endows' us) and our hardworking **P.T.A.** Between them, they have provided the funds for us finally to begin the development of the walled outdoor learning area behind the Victorian part of the school.

Their funding will cover the cost of resurfacing the cracked and broken ground and installing a 'sail' canopy to give shelter. This project has been in our school development plan for a number of years. It is wonderful, finally, to be able to get to this stage, which could not have happened without this considerable financial support. We really are hugely grateful. Once the work has been completed, we will be able to work with the children to plan which resources we want to introduce to the space to support learning across the curriculum.

We love to read and share books

We have had a reading focus here at Sibford Gower Primary School over the past few weeks. During our Reading Week, we invited parents and grandparents in to read with their children for the first few minutes of each day. This was a very simple activity but VERY exciting for the children. Those grown-ups who were able to come in to read said that they really enjoyed it.



World Book Day was created by UNESCO back in 1995 as a worldwide celebration of books and reading. It is marked in 100 countries around the planet and at Sibford Gower Endowed Primary School we always like to take part in our own small way. While some children attended school as the readers and writers they are, many of the children chose to dress up as favourite book characters. We started the day with a special assembly where the children were able to share and celebrate the imaginative costumes that children wore to school.

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/>



Don't miss the Sibford Whole School Open Morning

Sibford School is opening its doors for a whole school open morning on Friday 28 April. This event will offer the opportunity to talk to staff, meet current parents and take a tour of the school with student guides.

Head, Toby Spence, 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.

We encourage you to come along and learn more about what Sibford School has to offer children aged from 3 to 18.

To book your place, visit www.sibfordschool.co.uk/events, or call Elspeth Dyer, Admissions Officer on 01295 781 203.

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.

Easter swimming timetable

Our swimming pool timetable covering the Easter half term is now available on our website. Please visit: www.sibfordschool.co.uk/swimming-pool to see the timings for our open swim and kids splash sessions from Monday 3rd April - Saturday 15th April.



FRIENDSHIP CLUB

The Friendship Club always enjoy a party, and we have 2 coming up in the next 2 months.

April 4th is our Easter tea and on May 2 we will celebrate the Coronation of King Charles 111. with the rest of the country.

Also in May it will be the Clubs AGM we hope all members will attend that meeting.

If you stuck at home with nothing to do, why not join our Club. Enjoy an afternoon the tea and gossip with friends

Evey Boughton

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Coronation Celebration 6th, 7th and 8th of May 2023

A number of us have got together on a couple of occasions now to discuss the local coronation arrangements. Please have your say either by contacting one of those below or putting a message on the Sibford website. We urgently need volunteers! Please let us know by contacting John Wass – john.wass@nhs.net

The current plans on the day after the Coronation are to have a church service at 12:15 and a party in the village on Sunday the 7th at around 1, this will involve bringing and sharing your own food. There has been discussion as to whether there should be a street party between the village hall and the school or in the grounds of the village hall itself. Preference via the voting form on the Sibfords website or by emailing John Wass.”

We want to involve children as well as all adults and the Primary School has agreed to run a competition between the classes to produce a memorable crown. There are also suggestions of a treasure hunt, face painting, a dog competition and other things.

We have applied for a temporary events notice which means we can sell alcohol.

It is intended to give each household in the village a memento of the occasion for which we can get money from the council.

We want as many people to come as possible so that if you have ideas and/or are willing to help please let us know.

This will be a day which families will remember for the rest of their lives and we want to make it as much fun as is possible and hugely memorable.

Please get involved in our unique community.

Ginny Bennett ginnybennett@googlemail.com

Clemmie Broom clem_js@me.com

Sue Cook sue@suecook.com

Keith Hicks keith@hicks-sibford.co.uk

Tim Huckvale tim@siberris.org.uk

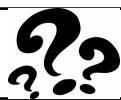
Diana Hughes dianahughesonline@gmail.com

Jackie Noquet cllr.jackie.noquet@thesibfords.org.uk

Andrew Meyler andrew.meyler@thesibfords.org.uk

Diana Thompson diana_thompson@btinternet.com





DID YOU KNOW?

Back Lane, Sibford Ferris

The verdant canopy towering above Back Lane in Sibford Ferris in this month's photograph, taken by Bernie Jones, is provided by an avenue of British native trees which form an avenue adjacent to the bridleway that is Back Lane in Sibford Ferris. These include beech, sycamore, horse chestnut and ash. In addition, John and his brother Joshua Lamb grew and planted a row of oak trees when John was living in and renovating Holly House in the early 1900's. Before the building of Sibford School on the Hill site in the 1930's, Back Lane, which lies parallel to the Main Street, was the only access to the area known as The Piece. The track provided a bridleway for horses and horse-drawn carts. Ina Lamb described 'cows being brought from pasture down to the buildings behind the Old House (now part of Lamb's Croft) for milking'. The roadway joining Holly House to Back Lane was only built in the 1950's so all the building materials for the school on the Hill site had to be delivered via Back Lane from the Hook Norton Road.



The first houses on Back Lane were built before the second World War in the 1930's and were associated with the school. The semi-detached homes in Hillfield, two bungalows and Beech Cottage were built for school staff. The entrance and drive to Beech Cottage can be seen in the forefront of the photograph. Holly House Close was owned by the Harris family but in 1873, 143 acres of land were sold to Richard Holtom Lamb. On his death John Lamb moved into the house and some orchards were sold in 1911 to Edward E Boorne to build a new house, Home Close. This land contained the village Bowling Green which formed part of the new garden of Home Close, but villagers retained its use as their Bowling Green which was still accessed via Back Lane. Later, the old farm buildings were sold to David Messenger, a local builder, who converted the buildings into the residence now known as Lambs Croft. The sale of more orchards meant that further housing could be built. This included Cotswold Close in the 1950's and the bungalows at the Hook Norton end of Back Lane in the 1970's. Residents living in properties adjacent to Back Lane have established a right of way through usage, but have no ownership of the Lane which remains designated by the County Council as a Bridleway.

Maureen Hicks



C. A. Berger

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SIBFORDS WALKING GROUP

WALKING DATES

3 April; 20 April; April 3; April 17

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.

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 month of March, watching the snow and sleet tumbling down outside. I just hope that by the time you read this that Spring will have arrived, you can peel off all those layers of jumpers and coats and feel the sun on your cheeks. In the meantime, here are a few jobs to get on with and try muttering my mantra as you work - "There is promise and hope in the garden".

1. Tidy up the greenhouse, brush off the staging and clear up any mess on the floor. Ventilate by opening the door and vents on fine days, and if the frost has killed off some of your tender plants, you may have to chuck them out, but keep watching for any sign of life for a bit longer. On plants that have survived, watch out for the first greenfly and whitefly, and spray them. Give the glass a clean and really good gardeners give their flowerpots a wash in a wheelbarrow full of water. I do keep meaning to do it, honestly!
2. Lift and divide hostas - they will appreciate it. You can split them into two or three new plants, and watch out for slugs on the new growth.
3. When your forsythia has finished flowering, prune it back fairly hard
4. Tidy up the borders, hoe up the weeds or pull them out, but be careful you do not damage any perennials or bulbs just poking through
5. April is the best time to repair the damage to the lawn. Mine is covered with snow at the moment, so I can't see the awful damage that has been done to it (apparently by the crows and woodpeckers) - they see a large patch of moss and dig it up to find some sort of tasty grubs under there in winter. So I will scatter weed and feed, and then sow lawn seed on it when it is warmer.
6. Planting seeds is now a priority. Have your veggie patch finely raked over and dig some manure into it. If the soil is warm enough you can start sowing carrots, leeks, spinach and of course, your potatoes if they have chitted by now. Wait to the end of the month before you sow beans and peas.
7. Late-flowering bulbs can be ordered and planted out now and some of them go right on until the end of October. My favourites are nerines (plant them against a hot, south wall), colchicums, sternbergias, and hippeastrums for Christmas pots.



In Your Garden - March

Cont'd

8. Start sowing annuals for your picking border and I keep planting more sweet peas every two or three weeks to give me a long period of flowering. Dahlias too, need to start into growth. Put them in a large box and cover with dry sand or compost, but do not water until the first sign of growth, or they can rot so easily. Pot them on when you have two or three inches of growth, but don't put them outside until all danger of frost is past.
- 9 Climbing roses and clematis will now grow quickly and will need tying in to keep them neat, and to stop the wind from snapping them.
10. And good luck with your garden. I know we will have lost some treasures, but I went to a garden centre the other day and the amount of glorious new colourful plants for sale was exciting, rather like being lost in a Sweetie shop when you are six. I shall go back on a spree in a week or two. Hope to see you there.

Jupe Hitching



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LOCAL NEWS

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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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E: hugo.seely@gmail.com

Excellent references



HOLY TRINITY CHURCH CHATTER

Holy Trinity church services in April

Maundy Thursday 6th April 7pm Holy Communion

Sunday 9th April EASTER SUNDAY 9.30am Holy Communion

Sunday 16th April 8am Holy Communion, 10am All age family service

Sunday 23rd April 9.30am Holy Communion

Sunday 30th April 9.30am Holy Communion

THE VILLAGE SHOP HOOK NORTON

National Lottery

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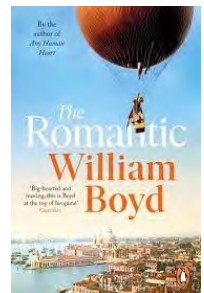
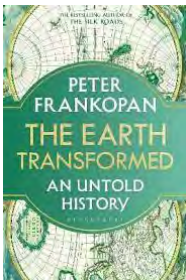
Sunday 8 am to 6 pm

Telephone: 01608 737245

Please note: On Sunday, we open
at 9am



WHAT WE'RE READING.....



Yoga

Sibford Village Hall

Tuesdays: Slow Hatha Yoga
9-10am

**Tuesdays: NEW Beginner
Yogalates (A fusion of Yoga and
Pilates)** 7-8pm

Thursdays: Flow Yoga
9-10am

Thursdays: Chair Yoga
10.15 - 11.15am

**Any enquiries to
juliette53@btinternet.com**



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

The Prices for 1 year (10 issues) are:

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You can pay for ads directly into our account:

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SIBFORD PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB

Sibford Photography Club

Sibford Photography Club is 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).

At our meeting on 28th March, we will hopefully have met early to photograph the sunset, if the weather cooperated! We will also have reviewed members' images on the monthly photo topic for March, '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.

WHAT WE'RE LISTENING TO.....



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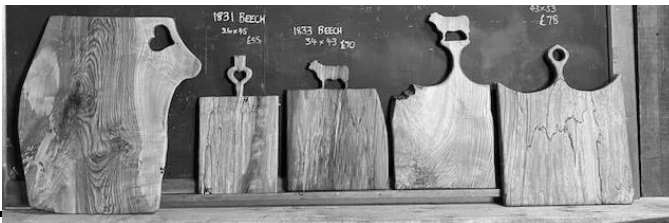
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Scrumbles Hollow sleeps six in three double bedrooms, one with ensuite shower room, plus a family bathroom. Full central heating.

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 lindalaneyolo@gmail.com.



SIBFORDS HISTORY SOCIETY

On 16th March we had a great evening hearing all about the legendary bandmaster Glenn Miller and listening to his unique music. Bill King is an immensely talented and experienced speaker, who has taken part in many local and national radio and TV programmes focussing on World War II, and contributed to the books 'Glimpses of War', 'D-Day Then and Now', 'Operation Market Garden - Then and Now' and 'Glenn Miller in Britain - Then and Now'.

He took us through the remarkable life of this country boy from Idaho, born in 1904, and tragically dying in an unexplained plane disappearance in 1944. The story was marvellous and fascinating and full of details too numerous to recount, but it was the passion and verve with which Bill introduced and explained the music that made the talk so inspiring. It wouldn't have taken much more before we were all up and dancing to 'In the Mood'!

Bill's talk followed the brief AGM in which Clive Warner remembered some of the highlights of last year, before handing over the baton to David Long. We are so grateful to Clive for everything he has done for us over his years as Chairman, and we are glad that he will still be on the committee. Thank you David, for taking over.

Next month we can look forward to Katherine Bradley talking about 'Creative Women in Oxfordshire and the Cotswolds, including Jane and May Morris'. This will be on 20th April at the Village Hall. Doors open 7.15 p.m. The talk begins at 7.30p.m. and will be followed by light refreshments. Visitors £3 p.p.

On 2nd August we are having a coach trip to Kelmscott Manor, Lechlade, home of William Morris. There will be a guided tour of the house, followed by a cream tea, and time to wander in the gardens. The price for the afternoon - £40. Please let us know, preferably at the next meeting, if you would like to come. We have booked a 31-seater coach.

Diana Hughes

SUNDAY SMALLHOLDING

Ruby Goose

Ruby laid eight eggs over a period of 12 days. I had made her a lovely nest in her shed and had placed a ceramic egg to show her where to lay should she choose to. I looked every morning for an egg. Nothing. Then I noticed that another corner of the shed was looking very clean with lovely fresh straw. I lifted the top layer of loose straw and found three eggs. After she had laid eight eggs the nest started to look quite feathery. She had begun pulling lots of small downy body feathers out, I assume to provide a layer of warmth for the eggs when she was away from the nest. Now she has begun to incubate. This is all very exciting as I have not had geese laying eggs before, and unexpected as she is a young goose and only been with me for such a short time. She has sat solidly for four days, only leaving her nest to eat and drink... 24 days to go.

Pigs

The pigs will be leaving here on 30th March. I am sorely tempted to keep the one female in the group due to the desire to have more piglets in the future. Experience however, has led me away from this idea. I recognise that I can't do or have everything I'd like to and instead must focus on a manageable workload. I may also soon have to decide between eggs or veg. The work this month includes preparing the outdoor chicken run for the hen's and 1 cockerel's return. Avian Flu is becoming a big problem in UK and it is almost certain that indoor housing for the birds will be required again next winter. For me, using my polytunnel for chickens has been a temporary solution and is not workable as a way forwards. Something for me to think about...eggs or veg...?

Sheep

The Hebridean sheep at The Brambles are now being kept in at night as lambing is imminent. Last month I referred to an old ewe. Bill has since informed me that her name is Debra (as registered purebred sheep, they all have names), and she was born in the spring of 2009, making her 14 this year. Is that as astonishing as Bill turning 99 this year! Hopefully by next month's Sibford Scene I can report the safe arrival of her lamb.

SUNEDAY SMALLHOLDING

Cont'd

Open Day

Sunday Smallholding Open Day at the Brambles will be held on **Saturday 2nd September**.

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, painting demonstration by Nigel Fletcher, maybe felt making with Hebridean wool, and anything else I think of- plus of course, resurrection of The Windfall Café.

More details to follow.

Sue Sabin



HORTI SOCIETY

We were very much hoping that Anne Chambers was going to come to talk to us about her beautiful garden, Kiftsgate. In the event, snow and icy blasts prevented her from driving over, so our first speaker of the 2023 calendar is going to be Simon Gulliver who will be talking to us on Wednesday 12 April on 'Colour Through the Seasons' A cheery notion indeed when winter seems to be revisiting us! We will also hold a short AGM before the talk.

Please don't forget that the Horti Spring Show on May 20th is fast approaching. The schedule will be included in April's edition.

And a reminder that our calendar wouldn't be complete without a plant sale, which Sue Bannister is kindly hosting at Carter's Yard as usual on 13 May.

Diana Thompson



FILM NIGHTS

I have now been given the go ahead by Oxfordshire Age UK to restart our monthly filmnights.

Please look out for the Age UK posters on which I will put the name of the film and the date. It will also be on the website.

As we are using their film license we are unable to charge for the films but will ask for donations on the night towards the heating/lighting costs of the hall. Refreshments will also be available as before.

The film for April is **Empire of Light**. From Academy Award - winning director Sam Mendes, Empire of Light is a moving drama about the power of human connection during turbulent times. Set in and around a faded old cinema in an English coastal town in the early 1980s. It follows Hilary (Olivia Coleman) a cinema manager struggling with her mental health, and Stephen (Michael Ward) a new employee who longs to escape this provincial town in which he faces daily adversity.

Doors open at 7. Film starts at 7.30.

Look forward to welcoming you back to the Sibford filmnight.

Petra Berry



FUN CORNER

Did you hear about a famous lion hunter who always shot his prey between the eyes?

He was eaten by two one-eyed lions walking arm in arm.

Outside of a dog, a book is probably man's best friend; inside of a dog, its too dark to read (Groucho Marx)

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH CHATTER

Far from this foreign Easter damp and chilly
My soul steals to a pear-shaped plot of ground,
Where gleamed the lilac-tinted Easter lily
Soft-scented in the air for yards around;

Alone, without a hint of guardian leaf!
Just like a fragile bell of silver rime,
It burst the tomb for freedom sweet and brief
In the young pregnant year at Eastertime;

And many thought it was a sacred sign,
And some called it the resurrection flower;
And I, a pagan, worshiped at its shrine,
Yielding my heart unto its perfumed power.

Dear friends,

This beautiful poem by Festus Claudius McKay, better known as Claude McKay, who was a Jamaican-American writer and poet at the beginning of the 20th century, captures I would suggest wonderfully, the physical beauty of Easter. Even though McKay was, as he describes himself in his poem, a 'pagan', he still could see and engage in the beauty of the meaning of Easter, through the fragrance and sight of the Easter flowers.

The beauty of the Lily as a flower, has significant Easter symbolism, because it is a flower that, if you see it painted in a picture depicting a Christian story, often is interpreted as representing symbolically, the hope of eternal life, that comes into the world in and through the resurrection of Jesus.

Whatever you might or might not believe, the beauty of the Easter Lily as it engages all of our senses, is for us all without discrimination or favour. As a Christian I believe that Easter brings to us all once again, the gift of the beauty of the promise of eternal life, into all of our lives.

Love & prayers

Rev'd Neil



SPRINGing into action

Whether you join us at an event, sign up to be a volunteer or shop with us – your support makes a difference! Without the generosity of our wonderful community, we couldn't keep caring for local people when they need us the most. Thank you!

Get ready to MOVIE

Our Fundraising Team is busy getting ready for the Moonlight Walk on Saturday 20 May. This year, we're going to the movies – and it's going to be spectacular. Get the date in your diary and tell your family and friends. Tickets are available on our website now. www.khh.org.uk/moonlight

Remembering a loved one

Roses are selling quickly for our new Rose to Remember event this June! You can remember a loved one by purchasing a hand-crafted metal rose as a tribute to the life and memory of someone special. These roses will then form part of a stunning temporary installation hosted by our friends at Sulgrave Manor, before people take them home to keep. We have a limited number of roses available, so find out more and order yours here: www.khh.org.uk/rose-remember.

Having a spring clean?

If you're having a clear out and have good quality clothes that need a new home, how about donating them to one of our six charity shops across the area? Rather than throwing out your pre-loved unwanted items, donating to a charity shop is more sustainable and helps raise money for our hospice. Find the details for all our charity shops here: www.khh.org.uk/retail.

A DRIVE for volunteers

Our Living Well service is desperate for volunteer drivers to transport patients to and from the hospice. Many patients are currently unable to attend the wellbeing services available to them because they can't get to the hospice. If you, or anyone you know, would be willing to give up some time to pick up and drop off patients, particularly on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, please contact volunteering@khh.org.uk.

Digital monthly newsletter – keep up to date with your hospice

Sign up to receive our Katharine House digital monthly newsletter and keep in touch with all our latest news and fundraising events at the hospice. www.khh.org.uk/newsletter



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

APRIL

- 2nd - Village Hall Garden tidy up session - 10am
- 4th - Friendship Club - Village Hall - 2pm
- 4th - CPR training - Village Hall - 6.30pm
- 5th - Ladies Coffee Club - Wykhan Arms - 11am
- 7th - Mens Brunch - Sun Inn - 1130am
- 7th - Easter Egg Hunt - Village Hall - 2pm
- 11th - Model railway group - Village Hall - 12pm
- 12th - Horti Club - Village Hall - 7pm
- 15th - Book Swap Cafe - Village Hall - 10am
- 20th - Sibfords History Society - Village Hall - 7.30pm
- 22nd - Car Boot Sale - Village Hall - 11am
- 25th - Sibford Photography Club - Village Hall - 7.30pm
- 26th - Film Night - Village Hall - 7pm
- 29th - Charity Music Night - Village Hall - 7pm

APRIL BIN COLLECTIONS

Green Tuesday: 11th; 25th
Blue/Brown Tuesday: 4th; 18th

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 MAY ISSUE -
12 NOON - 18th APRIL 2023

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T: 01295 788160. Mob: 07717 723919
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John Perris raises a glass to the Warwickshire Hunt when he hosted the recent meet.



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