

Sibford Scene

June 2003

Number: 454



ART IN THE HALL

THE STOURTON MARK MAKERS

FRIDAY - MONDAY

JUNE 9TH - 12TH

10.00AM - 4.00PM



Paintings:- oils, acrylics, watercolours, mixed media.

Cards, cakes, tea and coffee available.

THE HALL, STOURTON & CHERINGTON

CV36 5HG

This is Ginny Bennett and her group of artists who meet on a Monday at Cherington Hall.



ED'S THOUGHTS

Phew - what a month May was!!! First there was the FABULOUS Music Night - an absolutely fantastic bash big thanks to Nikki Cullen for organising it and singing with her great band and welcome to Sibford's newest singing group Singing Belle Collective. Then of course, there was the Coronation Street Party - lots of thankyou's and memories of the day in this edition. And finally, there was the splendid farewell to the Gower's long-serving postie, Steve (a few words from Steve on page 35. And dont forget the Sibfords Cookbook (page 32)

Thought for the month:

"Bring me sunshine, in your smile

Bring me laughter all the while"

Sylvia Dee



LETTERS AND NOTICES

VILLAGE HALL LOTTERY!!

May Lottery winners

1st prize Sue Lovatt

2nd prize Roger Mallows

3rd prize Amanda Ransom



All Aboard Opera at Holmby House

We've been asked to host this in our field next door and it's run by two splendid sopranos Katie Blackwell and Emily Sloan. They are doing four operas by Mozart, Holst, Lehmann and Sullivan. It starts at 6:30 on Wednesday the 2nd of August. More details in next month's Scene

John Wass



LETTERS AND NOTICES

COTSWOLD CLOSE PLAY AREA

The new fencing looks great but the gates have already sustained some damage.

When they are flung open wide it puts strain on the brackets and these can become loose. The small posts were installed in the ground to prevent this, but someone has decided to remove and steal them!

Please can they be returned ?

We will look at alternative methods of protecting the gate mechanism.

If there is anything at the play area that concerns you please get in touch with our Parish Clerk,

Kirsty Buttle -sfpc@thesibfords.org.uk ,or Ginny -ginnybennett@googlemail.com

We have a quote for the replacement of the ageing equipment and are looking for funding so that we can move forward. Some smaller items like the Springers cost £400 to £500 so if any one would like to sponsor an item of equipment do contact us.

Ginny Bennett , Sibford Ferris Parish Council

STREET PARTY SUCCESS

A HUGE thankyou you the wonderful people who gave their time and energy to organise yesterday's street party. A spectacular success, and the committee member in charge of the weather deserves a special mention. Champagne corks popping, sunshine, egg sandwiches, sausage plaits, chickpea meringues, (yes! Delicious!) , too much coronation chicken, , crowns, bunting, table flowers arranged when most of us were still in bed, and on and on. Huge thanks to every single one of you, from those of us who had a wonderful time. These occasions when the village gets together to celebrate are one of the things that makes living in the Sibfords so special.

In addition to this, we'd also like to say a huge heartfelt thanks to Nicky and Chris and all the organisers/helpers/party goers at the Sibford Music Night, the generosity of everyone was outstanding, we're very lucky to be part of such a supportive, lively and fabulous village

Holly Jones



VILLAGE CORONATION CELEBRATION

I think it's fair to say that we are lucky to live in a wonderful community. 377 of us came to the Coronation street party on Sunday the 7th and the table stretched most of the way up Acre Ditch. Innumerable, generous hearted people have written in to say how much they enjoyed it and it was great to have the whole age range of our terrific village there. The children could enjoy a bouncy castle and a slide and there was a terrific fancy dress party organised by Clemmie Broom. The school took part and Jane O'Sullivan, the Headmistress, organised a competition between the classes for making a crown and there were some wonderful contributions to this and very original ones too! Everybody brought their own lunch and at the end of that there was country dancing in the car park, organised by Robin Spicer and Diana Thompson.

We were blessed with the most wonderful weather despite the fact that we had gone to quite a lot of trouble to have a Plan B in case of rain which we could have accommodated we thought.

The wonderful blue and red table decorations were organised by Diana Thompson as well as white flower arrangements throughout the whole length of the table.

The Engine Room of the organisation was done by Tessa Sparks who came to all our meetings with a list of to do's which we could go through and tick off. She is amazingly well organised and laid the whole length with numbers so that everybody knew where they were sitting and as a side-line we had a means whereby we could communicate with everyone through email.

We were able to raise quite a lot of money and thank Kirsty Buttle for her significant efforts here, our Parish Clerk. We got money from the National Lottery, Cherwell District Council, the two Parish Councils and the Town Estates Charity. This enabled us to give the village a free drink on arrival, a special commemorative coaster delivered with Sibford Scene to each household in the village, free ice cream kindly organised by Diana Hughes and cupcakes from Victoria Taylor.

The Village Hall with great prescience, had been reserved by Ginny Bennett who was up and down there like a yoyo willingly helping and getting things organised.



VILLAGE CORONATION CELEBRATION

Cont'd

Our historical gurus Keith and Maureen Hicks, had organised a most informative and detailed exhibition around the Coronation which was incredibly interesting and instructive, showing amongst other things, what part villagers had played in previous coronations - hopefully we've got good records of this for the next exhibition! There are a lot of photos that have gone onto the website. It is not too late to add your own via - photos@thesibfords.uk

The whole celebration was set off by Revd Neil who, after the Church Service, came and blessed the gathering and the food. At the beginning too, Tom Dyson, his daughters on the violins and Ant Harwood on the guitar played some wonderful and lovely music in the street which set the whole thing off terrifically.

Andrew Meyler kept everybody on track with the utmost efficiency, financially.

James Garstin wonderfully got drinks which we were able to serve throughout the afternoon; Tim Huckvale masterminded the Sibford website; Chris Cullen was our marvellous Master of Ceremonies; Will Gray, who did a splendid job as our Coronation Celebration photographer

What a wonderful group of people who voluntarily gave their time to make sure that we had a wonderful celebration which nobody will forget in a long time.

We are lucky to live in a village and I think most people will have met people they hadn't already - there was such a wonderful feeling of togetherness. Very grateful thanks for all those who helped clear up at the end as well. A truly perfect celebration!

John Wass. Coronation Working Group

From the Lovatts

Many many thanks to the hardworking team who gave us such a wonderful celebration on Sunday 8th May. A village street party to join in with the Coronation celebrations was perfect and we are eternally grateful for all the efforts put in for so many generations to enjoy the Big Lunch and raise a glass to King Charles III, together in the warm sunshine. THANK YOU



VILLAGE HALL NEWS

Thursday Film Night: June 28th, doors at 7pm, film starts at 7.30pm

Please look out for the poster boards or check The Sibfords website for more details. Refreshments available for a small charge or please feel free to bring your own wine. This is a free event, but donations welcome.

Book Swap Saturdays and Cafe: June 17th, July 15th, Aug 19th, Sept 16th, Oct 21st, Nov 11th, Dec 16th 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.

Sibford Applefest!! Saturday Sept 30th 12-4pm

A celebration of everything "apple". Apple pressing, hog roast, live music and bar, apple pie and cake baking competition, children's edible apple surprise competition, games and more! Save the date in your calendars, it's going to be fun!

Scarecrow competition

The Sibfords will be holding a scarecrow competition this year to rival Tadmarton!! Start planning now for the most memorable or wackiest scarecrow and where you'll stick them in your front gardens. There will be a scarecrow trail around the village on the morning of Applefest. More details to follow.

Support the Village Hall by joining the Sibford Lottery

We have an amazing community lottery running with fantastic cash prizes every month. Join now and next month could be your winning month! Existing members, just a reminder to renew your annual subscription. Funds from the lottery are 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.

Polite reminder – please do not walk your dogs on the Village Hall field

This is a play area for children and a public facility where for obvious reasons dog walking is prohibited. Keep dog walking for our beautiful countryside paths and fields instead.

Book the Village Hall for your next event using our new online booking system!

Our online booking system will launch on June 1st, and you will be directed there via our website www.sibfordvillagehall.org.uk. 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.



FILM NIGHTS

On Thursday June 29th we are showing *A Man Called Otto*. Based on the comical and moving New York Times bestseller, *A Man Called Otto* tells the story of Otto Anderson (Double Oscar-winner Tom Hanks) a grumpy widower who is very set in his ways. When a lively young family moves in next door, he meets his match in quick-witted and very pregnant Marisol, leading to an unlikely friendship that will turn his world upside-down. Experience a funny, heart-warming story about how some families come from the most unexpected places.

Doors open at 7. Film starts at 7.30. Refreshments available. Donations only.
Petra Berry



HORTI SOCIETY

Sue Bannister organised another extremely successful Plant Sale on 13 May where approximately £1,000 was raised which will go both towards the costs of the society and to charity.

Do please note that there are only a few places on the coach going to RHS Wisley on June 14th. We leave at 9.45 from the village hall and won't return until 5.30/6.00. The cost, including entry to Wisley, is £12.00 for members and £17.50 for non members.

If you are interested, please contact Diana Thompson on diana_thompson@btinternet.com

After 3 very happy years in our cottage in Burdrop, our family of 4 (Mum, daughter, dog, and cat) must sadly find a new home in the Sibfords. Please contact me if you know of anything for rent. Tessa Sparks 07930375714.

Witness The Fitness - Wainwright's Coast to Coast Walk

Event dates: 17th June 2023 – 24th June 2023

Ian Mountford, Rich Spann and Team will be walking Wainwright's Coast to Coast over eight days from 17 June until 24 June, approximately one marathon per day. The walk starts from St Bee's Head on the Irish Sea and ends 190 miles later at Robin Hood's Bay on the North Sea, crossing the Lake District and Pennines into Swaledale, then Cleveland Hills and the North York Moors. It links three National Parks.

Witness The Fitness welcome any walkers to join along the way!

Please follow on Instagram and TikTok @Witness_The_Fitness2023 for regular updates. You can also scan the QR code to support the fundraising.

The reason for this challenge is to support Ian's brother Carl, wife and young family whose lives have changed drastically over the past year. Carl became terribly ill on a return flight from Jamaica last June, and for the past 11 months has been cared for in hospital but sadly the bacterial meningitis infection has been really damaging. This month (May) Carl moved to a rehabilitation unit in Staffordshire where he is starting to make really promising progress, he is having regular physio and will be having speech and language therapy to improve his recovery.

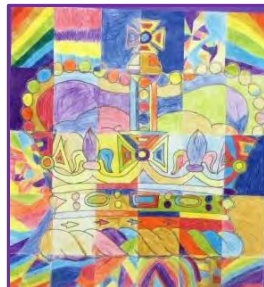
Support for this family has been incredible but the months and years ahead are still highly challenging. Headway North Staffs has been and continues to be a great support to the family and as Carl's journey progresses the charity will form a valuable part of his recovery. In time, the family will be required to make recommended adaptations to the family home to enable Carl to live comfortably and a portion of the monies raised will support these costs in addition to supporting Headway.



We have had a lovely start to the Summer Term here at Sibford Gower Endowed Primary School. The Year 6 children have now completed their Statutory SATs tests. Although this is always a bit stressful, the children went into the tests with a positive attitude and each of them tried their very best, which is all we can ever ask. They followed their daily tests with a special brunch of croissant or toast with jam or chocolate spread, which also helped to keep the spirits up! Very well done, Year 6!

While the oldest children were busy preparing for exams, the other children took part in an Art Day across the school. This was linked to the coronation celebrations and each class worked collaboratively to create an artwork on the theme of 'Crown'. The finished pieces were taken to Sibford Village Hall as entries in an art competition that formed part of the festivities that took place over the long coronation weekend. We had a lovely message from one of the organisers saying, *"The things that your lovely school put in were really wonderful. They were very original and very beautiful and we really appreciated the effort that everybody went to. Many, many thanks for contributing to what was a great occasion in the village."*

We were very pleased to be invited to contribute and all those children who attended the event had a wonderful and very memorable time.



Glorious Coronation Cake Sale

As part of the festivities, our wonderful PTA organised a 'bring and buy' cake sale at school. The contributions were beautiful and all very delicious.

Thank you so much to everyone in our school community for taking part in this fundraiser by baking, buying and eating!



We have so much more to look forward to as the summer term progresses. There is always lots of interesting learning going on, right up to the end of the academic year.

We also have special school trips planned for our younger children, the Key Stage Two Summer Performance, Sports Day and Reception Graduation to look forward to!

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/>



The Governors of Sibford Gower Primary School would welcome interest from any potential new Governors committed to raising educational outcomes of all children at our small, popular village school.



Potential new governors should have a willingness to;

- Work positively with others as part of a team to provide strategic leadership and challenge to the head teacher.
- Develop their knowledge and understanding of their role and of the key issues and priorities facing primary schools by; attending training, reading papers, attending evening meetings (6 per year), and visiting the school.

If you would like to find out more about becoming a Governor and how to apply for one of our vacancies, please contact Lauren Hayes, senior governance professional to the Warriner Multi Academy Trust l.hayes@warrinermat.org



NGS Sibford Open Gardens – Sunday 25th June 2–6pm
Combined admission for all gardens £7 adult – children free

A group of 6 very different and interesting gardens with 'Shrubbery Cottage' joining our opening for the first time for this year's NGS event. Do come along and enjoy afternoon, support the NGS and its Nursing Charities (plus many more) and enjoy some tea and delicious homemade cakes at the village hall in aid of Holy Trinity Church and pick up some plants for your garden at our plant stall at 'Carter's Yard'. Here is the link for the logo area should you need it.

<https://ngs.org.uk/my-ngs/account/resource-centre/brand-hub/>

Carolyn White

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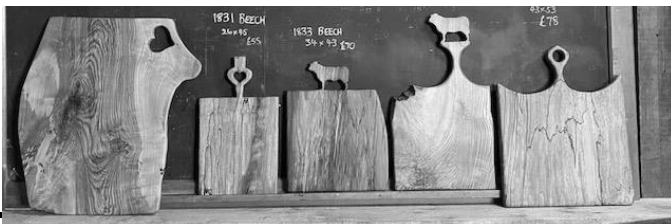
- ~ Presentation – Food Theatre! ~ Cake Boards ~ Cheese Boards ~
- ~ Chopping Boards ~ Serving Platters ~ Etc ~

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

Between Sibford Ferris and Sibford Gower. Welcome to view.

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FRIENDSHIP CLUB

As I've said before, Friendship Club do know how party! (Pictures on page 2). Even with a thunderstorm and a hail storm we had a great afternoon.

June 6 will be AGM and afterwards the speaker will be the Rev Neil .

We are hoping to arrange an outing in June. More on that at the June meeting

Evey Boughton

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June News

We've got plenty of ways to support our hospice as we head into the summer months. Whether it's visiting one of our Open Gardens, signing up for our events or organising a team to take part in our Accumulator Challenge – there's bound to be something for everyone! We've also got some great new resources on our website to share with our supporters as well as the wider community.

Upcoming Open Gardens

Have you taken a look at our Open Garden itinerary for this year? Once again, we have some incredible supporters opening their gardens and offering people the chance to pay a visit and enjoy the stunning outdoor spaces, all while raising money for our hospice. Make sure you get the dates in your diary now and check the website for full details of each event. www.khh.org.uk/gardens

The Accumulator Challenge is back!

Do you watch The Apprentice convinced you could do a better job than the candidates? If so, the Accumulator Challenge could be right up your street! We'll be challenging local businesses, schools and community groups to put their entrepreneurial and fundraising skills to the test by raising the most money from a starting pot of £50. Hurry – we only have 20 places available so you need to sign up quickly to guarantee your space. Find out more here: www.khh.org.uk/accumulator.



DID YOU KNOW?

Village Beacon for Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee

Queen Elizabeth II celebrated the 70th anniversary of her accession to the throne in June 2022. Sibfords have a long history of celebrating royal occasions and the Queen's Platinum anniversary continued the tradition and was marked by a four-day programme of varied events in the village. In line with other royal jubilees the nation prepared a series of beacons and bonfires throughout the country to mark the Queen's accession. Her Majesty started the chain of bonfires throughout the nation by igniting a fuse at Windsor Castle which spread to Buckingham Palace and then across the nation.



Sibfords' Jubilee Committee commissioned the building of a new beacon and Adrian Lamb, with family members and a tractor, constructed and installed this fine beacon in the Village Hall field. However, it was not filled with lighting material and timber until the afternoon just in case anyone felt it would be 'a bit of a laugh' to set it alight before the torchlight procession and appointed lighting time.

Some 125 years earlier in 1897, the Queen's great-great grandmother, Queen Victoria, had celebrated her Diamond Jubilee and beacons and bonfires were lit across the country in exactly the same way. The hand written accounts from 1897 show that Sibford villagers donated £29.17s.4d towards the Jubilee celebrations. The costs included 8s.2d. for the hiring of a man and his horse to build the bonfire and a further 4 shillings for 2 men to guard the bonfire overnight on Jubilee Eve. The same celebration and exactly the same precautions from more than a century earlier although the man and his horse had been replaced by Adrian and his tractor!

Over 200 villagers watched as our beacon was lit, smouldered and burst into flame to join the chain of beacons across the country. This photograph, taken by Barbara Foster captured the flaming beacon in the fading light.

Thanks are due to the local Sibford business 'Lettercarve' who kindly sponsored the photographs featured from April to June in the Village Calendar.

Maureen Hicks





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SIBFORDS WALKING GROUP

WALKING DATES

5 June; 19 June; 3 July; 17 July; 31 July

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.uk



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In Your Garden - June

Try and visit some of the glorious gardens which open up for the NGS this month. If your garden is looking a bit dull there is no better way to inspire you and encourage you to take some bold steps. I was originally inspired by my first visit to Sissingshurst, having studied Vita Sackville West's poetry for my GCSE exams (Only it was called O-Level in those days). Loads of jobs need doing, but do take time off to visit other gardens and sit in the sun and enjoy your own as well - just as important.

1. Start hardening off tender plants you have been sowing. Plug plants may look ready to go out, but wait until the nights stay warm enough - no hurry
2. Watch out for pests - slugs, snails, greenfly on roses, whitefly in the greenhouse and lily beetles are on the warpath
3. Any newly-planted trees and shrubs must be kept well watered
4. After the Iris have finished flowering, cut back all the leaves and divide the clumps up, then re-plant them shallowly, leaving the tops of the rhizomes level with the soil. They do not like to be covered right up.
5. Early flowering spring shrubs have finished blossoming now, so get out your secateurs and trim them. My favourites are Weigelas and Exochorda the Bride. Both of them are really worth growing for early colour in the garden.
6. Climbing plants like Wisteria, Sweet Peas and Roses will be sending out long shoots which all need tying in - horizontally if possible - to encourage more flowering.
7. Do not cut your hedges - hope they're full of nests, and can wait until August
8. Strawberries need some straw putting underneath them - that should help them not to rot on the soil or be munched by slugs. Tightly stretched netting over them needed as well to deprive the birds of their treats
9. If you have Pyrocanthus adorning your walls, prune off any lanky growth jutting away from the wall, and shorten the other growth.
10. This hard winter has had a cruel affect on all my Salvias, and left some gaps in the borders. My Astantas are flowering well now, and seem to be totally hardy. Colourful, usefull plants, and they're great for picking too. Just remember to dead head them, as well as the roses. Enjoy your garden - it is there for you relax and find calm

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

Drinks and snacks for kids

Fresh coffee and cake for grown ups

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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SIBFORDS HISTORY SOCIETY

Following on from our April meeting when Katherine Bradley told us about Jane and May Morris, wife and daughter of William Morris, we have planned a visit to Kelmscott Manor, the family home near Lechlade. William was much influenced by his country residence, which was thoroughly renovated recently.

On Wednesday 2 August we will leave Sibford Village Hall by coach at 11.45 am. Tickets are £40 per person, which includes the coach, light refreshments on arrival, a guided tour of the Manor, and a cream tea afterwards. Arrive back at the Village Hall at about 6p.m.

Tickets can be obtained from members of the SHS committee or by email to shs@the-sibfords.uk Please book your place as soon as possible, before we offer the opportunity to other groups.

Our next talk will be on Thursday 15 June, when Dr Simon Wenham will be telling us about 'Morris' Motopolis; the motor works and the transformation of Oxford.' Simon is a member of the part-time tutor panel of Oxford University's Continuing Education Department, where he teaches courses on the Victorian period. He has been a regular contributor to Radio Oxford, and has done interviews for a number of TV documentaries.

Doors to the Village Hall open at 7.15 pm and the talk starts at 7.30 pm. Light refreshments follow the talk. Guests £3 p.p. Diana Hughes

NGS Sibford Open Gardens - Sunday 25th June 2-6pm
Combined admission for all gardens £7 adult -
children free

A group of 6 very different and interesting gardens with 'Shrubbery Cottage' joining our opening for the first time for this year's NGS event. Do come along and enjoy afternoon, support the NGS and its Nursing Charities (plus many more) and enjoy some tea and delicious homemade cakes at the village hall in aid of Holy Trinity Church and pick up some plants for your garden at our plant stall at 'Carter's Yard'.

Yoga

Sibford Village Hall

Tuesdays: Slow Hatha Yoga.
9-10am

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

Thursdays - All levels Yoga Flow.
9 - 10am. Chair Yoga 10.15 - 11.15am

Tuesdays and Fridays - Yoga Flow in Deddington 9. -10am

Any enquiries to
juliette53@btinternet.com



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SIBFORD PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB

My trip to New Zealand was the subject of our meeting on 25th April, when I showed images from the last two weeks of my holiday on South Island, Stewart Island and Ulva Island, covering the section from Blenheim in the North-East of South Island across to the West coast and travelling down that side of the country, with visits to vineyards, waterfalls, a glacier and pancake rocks! We also viewed our members' images on the monthly topic of 'Weather', with photographs that made the most of April's changeable conditions, as well as some excellent shots taken at other times of the year.

On 30th May, our photo topic was "Spring", producing an inspiring selection of photographs illustrating a variety of takes on the topic. We also had a practical session using exposure bracketing to take images with different exposure settings that could be combined to generate HDR images, and using focus bracketing to take a series of images in which the focal point differs slightly in each one, that could be combined to generate an image in which the subject is all in focus.

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).

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.



NZ Pipit



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

For more information, please contact Linda on 01295 780 242 or 07973 226 032 or lindalaneyolo@gmail.com.



NATURE NOTES

On 3rd May Colin Lamb saw the first Holly Blue and Speckled Wood butterflies of the year in his garden. On the same day he also observed Swallows starting to arrive in the area.

By mid-May fledgling Blackbirds and Robins were appearing in quite large numbers in our garden often begging for food from the adult birds.

Recently we were sitting in a very slow-moving traffic queue and were lucky enough to get an excellent view of a Tree-creeper just a few feet away from the car. It was searching for invertebrates in the moss on a tree trunk. Although I have often seen them before I had never had such a good view.

Hedgehogs seem to be making a bit of a come-back in the area and we have seen droppings in the garden again this year although have yet to see the hedgehogs themselves. Unfortunately, they often get killed on roads so do take extra care when driving.

I recently noticed our garden pond was teeming with what I thought were Water boatmen. Closer examination revealed that they were in fact the very similar looking Backswimmers. There are two main differences between the two. Backswimmers are carnivorous and swim on their backs! Water boatmen eat plant material and don't swim on their backs.

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

Andy and Gill Newbold



Speckled Wood



Holly Blue

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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Sibford Village Hall

(Friday's 1.30 - 3.30 - weekly)

nvfletcher@btinternet.com

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07792 657 248

SIBFORD FERRIS PARISH COUNCIL

What have we done for you lately? Well, contrary to popular belief, quite a lot!

As Councillors, we are locally elected volunteers who care about our villages and work to identify the issues that are important to our community as a whole. We employ Kirsty Buttle as Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer and her wonderful work is essential and much appreciated.

We play a key role in representing the community views in planning and policy. One of our roles is to comment on planning applications and we have also contributed to Cherwell's Local Plan Review, which will set Planning policy to 2040. Although at present we are still waiting for this document to be released for consultation, the first draft indicates that the Sibfords will be reclassified to small villages. In addition to this we have managed to get Tree Protection Orders on the two beautiful, 500 year old Oaks on Woodway road and the recent rejection of the Woodway Road site at Appeal was a welcome result.

As Deanfield Homes commence the construction of 25 new houses in Sibford Ferris this year, we will continue to voice our concerns that local people are given priority when it comes to Social Housing or the purchase of homes on the site in order for them to be able to continue to live in the village.

I would like to say a special thank you to our Clerk, Kirsty, for securing funding for our recent Village Coronation Street Party and to the Town Estates Charity for contributing to the costs. A very special thank you to the committee who made it happen (3 of whom are also Ferris Councillors). What a wonderful and memorable event it was with a fantastic turn out of villagers on a gloriously sunny day!

Other areas that our Council has played a role in are, setting up the Defibrillator training sessions, working to inspire the local Green environmental group, organising litter picks and reporting fly tipping. We maintain the village assets and contribute towards the maintenance of the Sibford Gower Burial Ground. We also maintain the benches, dog bins, grit bins etc. We have planted trees at the Pitch Hill field and continue to seek clearer road markings and signage at the Elm where accidents have occurred. We promote options for grants and funding for people facing the cost of living crisis and we communicate with our County and District Councillors.

Our meetings are held every second month in Sibford School in the Ferris and our agenda and minutes can be found on the Sibford's Website and Notice Board. Everyone is welcome to attend!

Katherine Roussel (Chair), on behalf of Ginny Bennett (Vice Chair), Andrew Meyler (Finances), Michael Gordon, Professor John Wass and Kirsty Buttle (Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer)



HOME CLOSE

GARDENS

Locally grown Sibfords seasonal cut flowers

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NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH



The figures can be quite scary. More than 450,000 scams demanding payment for goods that never materialised, such as parcels which are purportedly being held by the Post Office, were reported last year. Fraud is now the most common crime in the UK, with 1 in 15 having fallen victim, costing nearly £7 billion a year. According to police data reported by the ONS, the number of cons has risen by 654 per cent over the past three years.

So, let's just have a look at what's going on. Some of the rise in these cons can be attributed to criminals taking advantage of customers' online shopping habits. The law firm, Kingsley Napley, have said that the significant rise in advanced fee fraud is one we can probably all relate to. Here scammers demand an up-front payment for goods or services that never materialise - via fake ads for loans, concert tickets or rental properties for example, or even targeting victims by text pretending to be a delivery company. (Source-D/ Telegraph,28.4.23)

Some recent Fraud Advice.

Email scams. Never click on the links. Report email by forwarding to; report@phishing.gov.uk.

Phone scams. Calls on texts can come from numbers you know, eg, a delivery you are expecting or one claiming to be from your bank. Forward text to 7726. (Text call to 7726 with any suspicious phone numbers).

If you have been scammed or think you have, call Action Fraud 0300 123 2040.

Bank Refunds. If you have been sent money unexpectedly or had money stolen from your account - contact your bank immediately. (Source- ITV1 news, 3.5.23).

Be suspicious of any communication which is remotely unexpected.(Even those purporting to be from your family).

Peter Hine.

Co-ordinator, Gower and Burdrop Watch. 788830.

THE LAST POST

As many of you will already know, I have decided after 38 years of service, to call it a day from postal deliveries. I can honestly say that the 13 years spent serving the people of the Sibfords and surrounding farms has been the most enjoyable of my time with Royal Mail.

I must firstly thank every one of you for the fantastic support that I received when I suffered my suspension a few years back - it was quite overwhelming and I am certain that it went a long way to helping my case. Also thank you for the good wishes I received when I went on 'Pointless' on TV, but also many thanks for being just a most wonderful group of villagers.



Steve and his partner, Alison

It has been an absolute pleasure to serve you and have enjoyed every moment of this period of my Royal Mail employment, but the times they are a changing and as far as I'm concerned not for the better, so I thought I'd better get out while I'm on top.

I will dearly miss the banter, chats and the warm-hearted people that you are and hope to keep in touch with as many as possible and will miss you all.

Once again - thank you all so much for your kindness, Steve the Postie

VILLAGE COOKBOOK

Sibford Church is planning to produce a Village Cookbook later this year and villagers are invited to share their favourite recipes, commenting in just a few words on where/how they came by it. We cannot guarantee that every recipe received will be included but look forward to your contributions. The closing date is 31 August 2023. Please send your recipes to: recipes@thesibfords.uk.

Barbara Foster

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SIBFORD PLAYERS RETURN

We are pleased to announce that Sibford Players will be returning to the stage at the Village Hall in February 2024.

We are looking for new members who can help with the production such as
Costumes (sewing not essential)

Props

Stage Management

Front of House

Publicity/posters/programmes

Hair/Make up

Set construction (working with our set designer)

If you want to be involved please do contact us. We hope to find new members who in future years might also join us on the stage.

Jo and Vee

sibfordplayers@gmail.com

07970483917



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JUNE

- 2nd- Mens Brunch - Sun Inn - 1130am
- 6th - Friendship Club AGM - Village Hall - 2pm
- 7th - Ladies Coffee Club - Wykham Arms - 11am
- 14th - Horti Club visit to RHS Wisley
- 15th - Sibfords History Society - Village Hall - 7.30pm
- 17th - Book Swap Cafe - Village Hall - 10am
- 25th - Sibford Open Gardens - 2-6pm
- 27th - Sibford Photography Club - Village Hall - 7.30pm
- 29th - Film Night - Village Hall - 7pm

JUNE BIN COLLECTIONS

Green Tuesday: 6th; 20th
Blue/Brown Tuesday: 13th; 27th

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 JULY/AUGUST ISSUE -
12 NOON - 18th JUNE 2023

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The Friendship Club's Party!

Read all about it on page 13



Mark Pougatch and retiring postie Steve outside the Wykham Arms with his farewell present - a signed shirt from of his favourite team.

