

Sibford Scene

October 2023

Number: 457





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Saturday



4th November 2023

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Sibford Gower Endowed Primary School, Acre Ditch, Sibford Gower, OX15 5RW

APPLEFEST

SIBFORD'S BIG APPLE CELEBRATION

SUNDAY OCTOBER 1ST. 12-4pm AT THE VILLAGE HALL
FREE ENTRY

GET PICKING

Get your own apples pressed. Bring them on the day or drop them the day before at the Village Hall in the apple box provided. Bring your own bottles and you'll go home with delicious juice!

GET SCOFFING

Apple soup with sourdough
Pulled pork baps with
apple sauce, BBQ sausages



GET MAKING

Join in the fun - make a scarecrow for your front garden. The theme is "Movie Mania". You can make these up to 2 weeks before and they will be judged on the day

GET BAKING

Apple Pie and Apple Cake competition. Bring your entries between 9 and 11am on the day

GET DONATING

Please donate raffle prizes to Isabel George 07989 968736

FUN FUN FUN

Bouncy Castle, Jam and Pickle Stall, Ice Cream Van, Children's games, Licensed bar

GET CELEBRATING

Live entertainment including Morris Dancers and local talent: Belle Collective, R&G, and Dave Singers



ED'S THOUGHTS



Well - here's Autumn. The nights are drawing in. Still, lots to do in the garden (see Jupe's gardening jobs - page 26). Or, how about going to see 'The Eight Mountains' at the Film Night on the 26th

Of course, there's our Applefest on the 1st of October (have you remembered your scarecrow??) and a v-e-r-y interesting talk on the 'Shrunken Garden' on the 11th!

Should be a great night on the 18th, when the 'Meeting for Music' gets under way at the Quaker Meeting House - details on page 14.

Hooray! The return of 'Dancing in the Dark' on the 7th. Make a fool of yourself without the embarrassment of being seen.....

And lastly, thoughts on Muriel Chandler on pages 16 & 17. She was a super lady who gave so much to our village. I'll miss her.....

Cover pic by Michael Spring: "The Woodcarver's Bench"

Thought for the month:

'Make me an angel that flies from Montgomery'

John Prine

BROWN ENVELOPE APPEAL

Our printing costs £2500 per year and advertising receipts are approx £800 so donations are very important. We haven't made an appeal for funds since 2019.

So, you can either give a cash donation in the brown envelope that was in the last Scene and then you can leave it at Oonagh's or my house (addresses on page 30), or leave it at the Shop or Surgery

You can also donate online into our bank account. The details are:

Sibford Scene. Sort code: 60-01-35. Acct: 52612236

THANKYOU!



LETTERS AND NOTICES

VILLAGE HALL LOTTERY!!

Lottery winners for September:

1st Nigel Fletcher
2nd Nic Durrant
3rd Carolyn White



THE VILLAGE WEBSITE - A thought from Tim Huckvale

Although we do make a nice mention of the website every month under "Welcome to Sibford", most folk are not aware of all its features. So, here is a short piece highlighting one aspect of it.

I will come up with something similarly short next month and thereafter.

Family history research on thesibfords.uk

Like Diane Hackling (p5, last month), many people have found intriguing information about their ancestors on the village website, which holds very nearly all editions of the Sibford Scene from its appearance in March 1977 to the present day. Going a bit further back in time, the website has a catalogue of churchyard burials; and, of course, most residents of the Sibfords in the last quarter of the 19th century are mentioned at least once in the 3169 daily entries transcribed from Vicar Edward Stevens's diaries.

Begin your research at thesibfords.uk/family

THE SIBFORDS CHRISTMAS LUNCH

This year, the Town Estate Charity have asked that the Sibford Lunch Club Christmas Lunch should be open to all members of our community over the age of 65 and especially those living alone. With this support we have readily agreed and very much look forward to welcoming all eligible villagers to our Christmas lunch at the Village Hall on Wednesday 20th December - 12.30 for 1.00pm.

The lunch will be provided by the excellent, Miss T Catering, including roast turkey, Christmas pudding with all the trimmings or something special for any dietary requirements.

If you are not a member of the Lunch Club and are over 65, please let me know if you would like to join us on this happy festive occasion by contacting either person below.

Keith Hicks 01295 780259 keith@hicks-sibford.co.uk

Jean Scouse 01295 780529 jeanscouse7@gmail.com

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NATURE NOTES

During the unusually hot weather in early September large numbers of Red Admiral butterflies were seen attracted to split greengages and windfall apples. It has been suggested that it has been a good year for these colourful butterflies as more may have survived last year's relatively mild winter.

Bird numbers visiting the garden feeders have also started to increase as would be expected at this time of year. It is particularly pleasing to see more Greenfinches as their numbers had declined a lot due to a virus disease. It is very important to clean bird-tables and feeders thoroughly to help control the spread of disease.

Sue Etherington-Smith found an Elephant Hawk-moth caterpillar. These caterpillars leave their foodplants (Willowherb and Fuchsia) when they are fully grown and wander around looking for somewhere suitable to pupate. They have large eye-spots to deter predators.

Jan and Diana Thompson found a Giant Wood Wasp in their house. Initially they were concerned as it had some of the characteristics of an Asian Hornet. However, the Wood Wasps are completely harmless to humans. They lay their eggs under the bark of pine trees and the larvae feed on the wood for up to five years. As a result, they sometimes emerge from pine furniture in houses.

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

Andy and Gill Newbold



Giant Woodwasp



Elephant Hawkmoth



VILLAGE HALL NEWS

Sibford Applefest!! Sunday Oct 1st 12-4pm

Look out for the posters around the villages, and info about this exciting event in this edition of the Scene. AppleFest is our inaugural village celebration of everything "apple". Apple pressing, BBQ, live music and bar, and baking competition, children's 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!! Make sure your scarecrow is visible from the front of your house. The theme is Movie Mania – any character from your favourite film. There will be a scarecrow trail around the village on the morning of Applefest. Register for the trail with Juliette: juliette53@btinternet.com

Book Swap Saturdays and Cafe: 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.

Help look after our Village Hall

Do you have 1-2 hours spare a week to help look after the Village Hall? We are a small band of volunteers and would welcome some additional supporters from the Village, who have time to pop in and check the Hall on a semi-regular basis. Please contact Ginny on 780373 or ginnybennett@googlemail.com for more info.

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 reminders

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 is now up and running. Regular users will be advised when they need to start putting their bookings through and Ginny will be on hand to support. Bookings are made via 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

This month's film, on Thursday October 26, is **The Eight Mountains**.

In a secluded village in the Italian Alps, an unlikely brotherhood forms between two young boys : Pietro, a boy from the city, and Bruno, who has only ever known life in the mountains. Over the years Bruno remains faithful to his home while Pietro aspires to greater heights, but as decades pass and lives unfold, their paths ultimately lead them back to where they first met – and back to each other. Set against a truly magnificent Italian landscape, **THE EIGHT MOUNTAINS** is a profoundly moving portrait of a lifelong friendship.

Doors open at 7. Film starts at 7.30 refreshments available. Admission £3 pp.

Petra Berry



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

Between Sibford Ferris and Sibford Gower. Welcome to view.

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FRIENDSHIP CLUB

The club still meets on the 1st Tuesday of the month,
Possible members are always welcome to come and see what we do
Our Oct meeting is, as usual, on the 1st Tuesday in the month and a trip on the
3rd Tuesday.
Oct 3rd we are having a pottery demo, we may even get our hands dirty!!!
Oct 17 sees the Club Members off on a train ride

Evey Boughton

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We have had an excellent start to the new school year here at Sibford Gower Endowed Primary School. The children have settled quickly and learning has already begun in earnest. Learning themes range from a local history study with a focus on motte bailey castles to the Ancient Greeks and The Stone Age to the Iron Age.

For the first few weeks of term we are having a particular focus on literacy. This began with a celebration of International Literacy Day and then a Reading Week in the second week of term when parents and

other family members were invited to come into school to read with their children at the start of each day. We were delighted with the turn-out and it was very special to our children to be sitting in the classrooms and library areas with their mums, dads and grandparents.



We have celebrated Roald Dahl's birthday and have established a weekly 'Book Club' in each classroom which is focused on further developing our children's enthusiasm for reading and for sharing books with others.

We have also appointed pupil reading ambassadors across the school whose role it is to advocate the joy and value of reading, both by example and by organising a range of reading events which involve everybody. This is what one of our reading ambassadors had to say about reading at school:

"I like reading at school because there are a lot of books to choose from. We can get lost in the books and have our own adventures."

We recently made a successful application to Tesco Stronger Starts and our project will be put forward to a customer vote in the Tesco store in Shipston on Stour. Voting will commence in store from the first week of October 2023 until mid-January 2024. To vote, you need to make a purchase within store of any value. You will receive one token per transaction, which you can place in the collection box with our school project information on it. The project with the highest number of votes across our region will receive £1,500, the second placed project £1,000 and the third placed project £500. Our planned project is to develop the outdoor areas behind Oak and Willow classrooms as a pupil Wildlife and Science Garden to be used by all of the children. **"Help us create a wildlife haven and learning area at our school, a space where our children can explore and learn about the world around them!"**

We will be holding an Open Morning for parents of prospective reception parents (September 2024 intake) on Friday 24th November from 10:00 a.m. until 12:00. If you are planning to apply for a place for your child, or want to explore whether we might be the right school for your family, please do come along to meet the staff, ask questions and have a look around.

"From little acorns... mighty oaks do grow"

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/>



DID YOU KNOW?

Sibford Cricket Club

SCC has been in existence since 1874 when the field behind the current village hall was levelled, drained and the square prepared and sown. The Club has played continuously, with brief breaks during the two World Wars. Playing members in 1874 included some well-known Sibford names: Shelswell, Pettipher, Poulton, Rimell, Bishop, Woolgrove, and Lamb. Playing and non-playing honorary members raised £4.10s.0p in subscriptions. Expenses, including 3 days of ground works, 2 new bats, a set of bails and 4 second-hand balls, amounted to £3.4s.0p. – the Club were in credit! During the 1950's two sides were regularly fielded during the playing season. However, following the building of the village hall, and the loss of some of the ground, the club has had to play on various different sites around Banbury including Sibford School where the team currently play their home games.

The original cricket pavilion at Sibford School was built on Braithwaite field (now known as the Piece) In the late 1880's. In 1960 the Old Scholars built a new pavilion on the current site in memory of a former Headmaster, James T Harrod. A keen sportsman, who led the school from 1906-1930. This pavilion served well for over 60 years. In recent years, Sibford Cricket Club helped with its external maintenance but the facilities became outdated. It was finally demolished and replaced by a new, modern, wooden pavilion which was first used by SCC at the end of the 2021/22 playing season. The photograph featured this month was taken by Stuart Ralph and shows the new pavilion and club members at a home game.



When the Banbury Cricket League folded in the early 1990's, Sibford Cricket Club joined the South Northants Cricket League and were placed third in the second tier of this league in the current 2023 season.

The Club used to be sponsored by the Bishop Blaize Inn where photographs of past teams hung proudly on the pub walls. The Club is now grateful for its sponsorship by the Wykham Arms pub where they will hold their annual cricket dinner soon.

Maureen Hicks

Meeting for Music

Saturday 18th November

Doors open 5pm for 5:30 start

An evening of music at The Quaker Meeting House, Sibford Gower.
This is an event open to all, from the very young up to the very elderly.

We have 2 fantastic acts :

Gospel Bell are an acoustic collective who play traditional Gospel songs with an uplifting spiritual edge, blended with musical influences from folk, blues and country.

Main Street are an acoustic duo based in Sibford playing a mixture of covers from the 60's onwards.

There will be a tea and cake interval between the 2 acts.
Disabled facilities, access and parking. All under 16's to be accompanied by an adult.

Tickets £5. Under 12's free.

Call Megan on 07960 968050.

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SIBFORDS WALKING GROUP

WALKING DATES

02 October; 16 October; 30 October

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

MURIEL CHANDLER

Muriel always gave generously of her time, for twenty-five years she looked after our Village Hall. Welcoming hirers of the many events and making sure they understood the condition she expected the Hall to be left in after the event.

She was a brilliant raffle ticket seller, and always an enthusiastic supporter of all fund-raising events.

Without people like Muriel the Hall wouldn't be what it is today.

Those of us that knew and worked with Muriel knew her as a person with a great sense of humour, huge strength of character, hardworking and a force to be reckoned with.

She will be missed

Joan Broady, past chairman of the Village Hall

Ginny Bennet, current and long serving booking secretary of the Village Hall



MURIEL CHANDLER - A Memory.....

Years ago, I had a phone call from Muriel: "Hello Tony, would you like to be a back end of a cow?. We're running a competition at the Village Fete on where the cow pat will end"

"Of course" I said.

And so here we were dressed up as a cow - Muriel in front and me being the 'back end' with a plate on which was placed the cow pat.

"Muriel, what do you want me to do?"

"When I say 'drop' - you drop the cow pat on the ground"

And the winner was the person who guessed where it landed!

Ed..

MURIEL CHANDLER

Written on the morning of the funeral and kindly read by Glenis Hardman

Dear Muriel

I am sorry I cannot be here to wish you farewell, but in a way, as long as I am in the village, so will you be 'just around the corner - if you need me' as you often said.

We worked wonderfully well together with the hall bookings and I only suffered your sharp tongue for booking the same time-slot twice - probably a Saturday!

We had some good laughs and you were so kind on many occasions. Your ability to solve or work round problems was wonderful.

The celebration family meals you put on, all cooked and done by you, to which I and my sister came, were scrumptious.

Your love of animals drew us together. I have thought of the cold, dark and even snowy nights when you have got in your car and gone out through the Ferris to put your beloved ponies to bed - it might be 2am, but your dedication to them was admirable. We had a good cry together when they just grew too old and looking after them too much.

You gave the same devotion to the Village Hall and the standards you set for it, you have entrusted us to maintain. I think it is thanks to you the village has the hall it has. No task where you were concerned was too menial for you to do or put right.

You are now in God's keeping - sleep well, good friend.

Kathleen Winter



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LOCAL NEWS



Diary Dates

Saturday 2nd and Sunday 3rd September
Autumn Wolf Run, Offchurch Bury

Sunday 10th September
National Open Garden Scheme, Burmington Grange

Friday 15th September
Annual Golf Day, Feldon Valley Golf Club

Monday 2nd - Wednesday 4th October
Pop Up Shop, The White Bear, Shipston

Thursday 2 November and Friday 3rd November
Moda Rosa Designer Sale, Darlingscott Farm

Tuesday 14th and Wednesday 15th November
Christmas Gift Fair, Ettington Community Centre

Saturday 2nd December
Christmas Carol Concert, Holy Trinity Church

Friday 8th December
Christmas Craft Fair, Brailes Village Hall

Shutford Junior Table Tennis Club

Autumn term starts Tuesday 4 September

6.00-7.30pm @Shutford Village Hall

Beginners welcome
All equipment provided
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Contact: club organiser John Bailey
jbailey001@gmail.com/07502 408556

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



SIBFORDS HISTORY SOCIETY

On Thursday, 19th October, Dr Gillian White, our speaker who is now famously popular with the SHS, will be talking about 'Bess of Hardwick Hall'.

Bess of Hardwick is one of the most fascinating women of the 16th century. By a series of well-made marriages she rose to the highest levels of English nobility and became enormously wealthy. Bess was reportedly a shrewd businesswoman, increasing her assets with business interests including mines and glass-making workshops. Her most famous building, Hardwick Hall in Derbyshire, survives as a fine example of Elizabethan creativity, magnificence and pride.

Gillian specialises in the history and visual arts of late medieval and 16th Century England. She began her career at the Warwickshire Museum, and then worked for the National Trust as Curator/Collections Manager at Hardwick Hall, about which she wrote her Phd at Warwick University.

Who better to tell us everything about Bess's remarkable life, as well as the architecture and contents of Hardwick Hall? We can look forward to an entertaining and very informative evening.

Village Hall doors open at 7.15p.m. and the talk starts at 7.30 pm.
Refreshments to follow. Guests :£3 p.p.

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It costs more than £4.7m per year to run Katharine House Hospice. Although we receive funding from the NHS, we still need to raise more than £3m every year. We rely on our local community to help us raise this money so we can go on providing vital care – completely free of charge. We have some brilliant events and opportunities to support our hospice coming up this autumn and winter.

What's on the cards?

Get ahead of the game this autumn and order your Christmas cards now. We have a fantastic selection of charity Christmas cards again this year. Sending a Katharine House card is a great way to support our hospice and to spread some joy. Cards are available to buy in our shops as well as online in our hospice eBay Shop. Take a look at all the designs on offer and order yours today.

www.khh.org.uk/christmas-shop

eBay for Charity

Do you sell on eBay? Did you know that you can choose to donate a percentage of your eBay sales to Katharine House? The eBay Community Selling scheme allows sellers to choose a charity and donate between 10% and 100% of sales straight to a good cause. Simply select 'Katharine House Hospice Trust' and the percentage you'd like to donate from the final sale price. Find out more about eBay for Charity here: www.charity.ebay.co.uk or find our eBay shop here www.khh.org.uk/ebay.

Digital monthly newsletter – keep up to date with your local 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

The BREAST CANCER NOW afternoon tea was held on August 17th and I would like to thank all those who attended and gave donations. This wonderful charity does such great work in supporting all those diagnosed with or affected by breast cancer, the whole way through their journey. It is funding over 70 projects of world class research at the moment which includes prevention, and treatment of primary and secondary breast cancer. I have already raised over £550 which has been boosted by a generous donation from a dear friend in the village. I hope there is more to come in. My just giving page address is www.justgiving.com/Ginny-Bennett
Please do gift aid your donations if you can.

Yoga

Tuesdays: Beginner's Yoga - 9-10am
Deddington Windmill Centre

Thursdays - All levels Yoga Flow.
9 - 10am

Gentle Yoga with a Chair - 10.15 - 11.15
Sibford Village Hall

Fridays: Hatha Flow Yoga - 9 - 10am
Deddington Windmill Centre

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SIBFORD PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB

Having dedicated our meeting in August to viewing the photographs from most of our recent photoshoots, our meeting on 26th September took the form of a demonstration of editing images using Adobe Lightroom. During this session, we discussed the difference between RAW and JPEG images and looked at the advantages of shooting images using RAW data formats to give you more detail and flexibility in your editing. We also reviewed our images on the monthly topic of "Circles" and our photographs from our photoshoot at Fenny Compton Tunnels Nature Reserve.

At our meeting on 31st October, we will discuss the use of various accessories such as tripods, filters, flashes, teleconverters and extension tubes. We will discuss how they work, how, why and when would you use them.

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. We meet on the last Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm in the small hall at the Village Hall.

In memory of Jeremy Dougall

Jeremy was a Trustee and Treasurer of the Village Hall, and also a great friend. He was instrumental in modernising the hall finances into a much more efficient state since joining the committee during the pandemic. Jeremy was always willing to help with events and give his time, guidance and support. He had the ability to motivate and inspire people and was great company as he was a man with many interests including horse racing, football – as a supporter of Brighton and Hove Albion, golf and the arts. He also had a great liking for cake! Jeremy loved living in Sibford and was proud of his garden and flower meadow particularly. We will miss him tremendously.

Charlotte Carey



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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.

Tinhay - St Ives Holiday Cottage

Our lovely St Ives 3 bedroom cottage is available - with stunning sea views, private garden and use of a parking space.

Whilst being a stones throw from Porthmeor Beach it is a short walk to gorgeous Porthgidden and Porthminster beaches as well as all the many shops and restaurants that St Ives has to offer.

<https://orangerooft.co.uk/properties/areas/st-ives/tinhay/> - please use this link to check out our photos and availability, and contact Brian & Carolyn direct at tinhaystives@gmail.com with any questions.

Sibford Ferris Parish Council

Concerns about vehicles going to/from the Hook Norton Road Development

The Site Manager has received a number of complaints and he has advised the Parish Council that he is dealing with the issues raised. If villagers have any concerns about issues with the site/site traffic they should contact the site manager on mark.frost@deanfieldhomes.co.uk or e-mail Deanfield Homes on Elliott.sentance@deanfieldhomes.co.uk.

For any Parish Council related issues the Parish Clerk can be contacted by e-mail: sfpc@thesibfords.org.uk or telephone: 07419 126206

Holy Trinity Church Services

Oct 1 Service at Epwell. 10-30; Oct 8 lay lead service 10-00
Oct. 15 H.C. 9-30; Oct 22. H.C. 9-30; Oct 29. H.C. 9-30

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)



HORTI SOCIETY

The show Committee was delighted with the number of people who had a go and entered the Horti Summer Show in August. The village hall looked wonderful and many more people than last year entered Category A, fruit and vegetables and B, Plants and flowers. There were, however, fewer Cookery entries (Section D) so if you are a strategic and determined entrant, intent on winning a cup, the smart money is on entering section D, where you will be more likely to clean up! Why not make some chilli jam with all those thousands of peppers you've grown inadvertently, some tomato chutney with all those wretched green tomatoes which will never ripen, or make some bramble jelly from the bountiful quantity of blackberries in the hedgerows at the moment?

Looking ahead to the last talk of the year, our speaker is the highly popular Timothy Walker who will be speaking to us on the subject of 'The Shrunken Garden. Moving and making a very small garden from scratch.' Doors open for refreshments at 7.00 and the talk starts at 7.30. Since this is our last event of 2023 we will be serving mulled wine and mince pies. Do come along! Non-members always welcome. £3.00 per head. Diana Thompson



In Your Garden - October

So, Autumn seems to be here, after such a crazy summer. How is your garden looking? Is there still plenty of colour, or is it just a tired bit of lawn, a bit of fence and a tired border? Well, I hope not, but if it needs some new thinking, now is the right time to do it.

1. Think about planting a small tree, one that will be covered with berries right now. There is a huge variety out there, but Cotoneasters look great up any walls, so long as you keep them under control, and little Crab trees are pretty in the spring too. Take a look at Malus "John Downie", or Malus "Marshal Oyama", who has bright berries almost as big as golf balls.

2. Autumn flowering bulbs are absolute treasures for adding colour now. Cyclamen hederifolium lightens up the shade under trees, and spreads quickly. Colchicums are very showy, but are best planted in a wilder area, as they leave large and messy leaves behind after they have finished, and you should leave them on to feed the bulb. Nerines are great, but need to be planted close to a south facing wall.



In Your Garden - October (cont'd)

3. You have probably ordered some new bulbs by now - so sorry , I do nag you about this - but if the hyacinths and Narcissus paper white go in much later, they won't be ready for Christmas. And a few pots of these make the house smell gorgeous, and are great presents to give away, or take with you to a party for your hostess.
4. Tidy up the border, cutting down tired plants that have done their best all summer, and make a note of those that need dividing, or moving to another place. Leave some seed heads on for the birds.
5. The dreaded time has come when you must clean out the greenhouse before you bring in all your tender plants for winter. I lost so many salvias and geraniums last winter, but heating the greenhouse can be ridiculously expensive now. They will survive on sunny windowsills, or in frostproof sheds and garages. Hold back on watering them. Must now admit I have not cleaned mine yet! But I will. I can see it is full of spiders and old dead leaves, which can cause mouldy places for the bugs to snuggle into. So, brush them all out, squirt the glass with a hose to clean it, inside and out, and you will feel a totally splendid person when you've done it. Promise yourself a reward - I do - perhaps a huge mug of coffee and a Crunchie bar, or a slice of cheese and a little glass of Sauvignon.... Yes.
6. Apples and Pears will have been picked, so store them away in a frostproof shed, and try not to pile them one on top of the other. Wrapping them up in newspapers can help stop any rot spreading. And do put a wheelbarrow full of windfalls out for grateful neighbours to help themselves too. Have you made all your plum jam and apple chutney by now? I can't believe it, but in about three months we will start making our marmalade. Blimey.
7. If your roses have had blackspot, and it seems very prevalent this year, try to pick off and rake away the leaves, rather than letting them rot into the ground beneath, as they carry the spores of the disease with them. And next spring make sure you have some rosespray ready if it appears again.
8. This is a good time to take cuttings of your salvias, geraniums and woody shrubs. Leave room for them in the greenhouse, or windowsills, and they should root well before winter comes. Fingers crossed it won't be too frosty, although I do love a frosty morning.
9. News has reached me that we must all be very careful when handling our compost. The dust coming up from it (and it might have dried out in the heatwave) has found to have made some people critically ill with Legionnaires disease, from inhaling. So be careful, wear a facemask. Stay safe.

Jupe Hitching

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.

Wheathills Farm Livery Yard, Sibford Gower

Wheathills Farm, about 8 acres of paddocks with stables and outbuildings, currently used as a D-I-Y livery, will be becoming available to rent sometime in the new year. The owner of the yard, The Town Estate Charity Sibford Gower and Burdrop, would like to hear of any interest in taking on the land and buildings for rental as a whole, either as an agricultural small holding, or for equestrian use.

*Please contact the Charity's secretary, Peter Morgan
(petermorgan2@hotmail.co.uk) for further details.*

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

OCTOBER

- 1st - APPLEFEST - Village Hall 12-4pm
- 3rd - Friendship Club - Village Hall - 2pm
- 4th - Ladies Coffee Club - Wykham Arms - 11am
- 6th - Mens Brunch - Sun Inn - 11.30am
- 7th - Dancing in the Dark - Village Hall - 7pm
- 11th - Horti meeting - Village Hall - 7.30pm
- 19th - Sibfords History Society - Village Hall - 7.30pm
- 21st - Book Swap Cafe - Village Hall - 10am
- 26th - Film Night: "Eight Mountains" - Village Hall - 7.30pm
- 28th - Sibford Farming Club Supper - Village Hall - 7pm
- 31st - Sibford Photography Club - Village Hall - 7.30pm

OCTOBER BIN COLLECTIONS

Green Tuesday: 10th; 24th
Blue/Brown Tuesday: 3rd; 17th; 31st

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 NOVEMBER ISSUE - **12 NOON - 18th OCTOBER 2023**

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