

Sibford Scene  
November 2023  
Number: 458

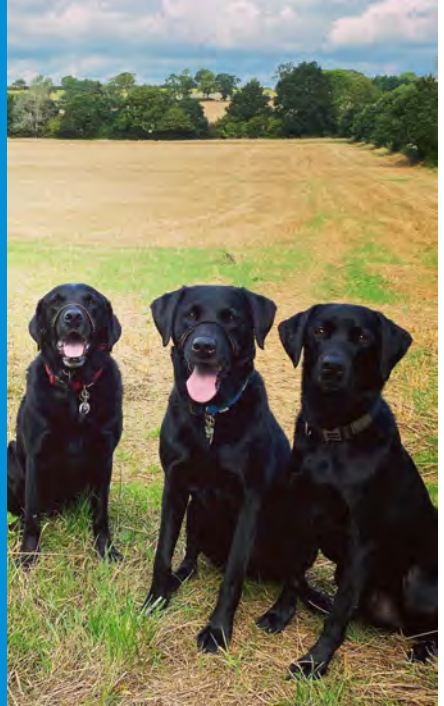


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## ED'S THOUGHTS



Bumper edition this month - events to watch include Bonfire Night - 4th (don't forget to lock up your pets); Quiz & Curry Night - 11th; Meeting for Music - 18th; Christmas Fayre - 25th and the Mulberry Charity Event - 29th. All details are in this edition.

The Applefest went extremely well and it looked as though it was a good old Village Fete - many thanks to the organisers for a brilliant day! Looking forward to Christmas now, but meanwhile have a happy November.....

Cover photos: A collection of scarecrows, with the winner in the middle!

### Thought for the month:

"Everybody's talking at me  
I don't hear a word they're saying  
Only the echoes of my mind"

Harry Nilsson



## LETTERS AND NOTICES

### VILLAGE HALL LOTTERY!!

#### Lottery winners for October:

- 1st prize Alex Harbord
- 2nd prize Rachel Levell
- 3rd prize Petra Berry



### RBL POPPY APPEAL

As usual we will be having a house-to-house collection as well as boxes in the schools, pub, village shop and surgery. Please support this very important appeal if you can. Last year you raised nearly £1400 so it would be wonderful to exceed that total this year.

Thank you in anticipation of your support.

Peter Abbott



## LETTERS AND NOTICES

### **POLLY PREEDY. HELP FOR THE HOMELESS**

Dear friends. As most of you will know by now, Polly gives help to the most vulnerable folk in Banbury. In the past she has asked for clothing. She doesn't need any more clothes at the moment, but would be very grateful for any food you could spare in these difficult times.

We are hoping to put together another supply of 'Polly Boxes' this year. These are shoe boxes, covered with festive paper and which contain some of the following:

Toothbrush and paste; Shower gel/soap; Hand cream, Face cream, Body lotion, lip balm; Small bag for belongings; Socks (these are often needed); Gloves or scarf; Small torch - windup or with spare batteries; Sweets, biscuits, chocolate; Pen, notebook; Puzzle book or pocket puzzle; A Christmas card  
These will be given to Polly's clients as Christmas presents.

If a box is beyond you, then individual items will be gratefully received by me or Barbara Foster and we will box them up and make sure we get everything to Polly before Christmas. Final delivery to Polly - 20 December.

Diana Thompson [diana\\_thompson@btinternet.com](mailto:diana_thompson@btinternet.com)

### **TO ALL KNITTING ENTHUSIASTS**

A few of us thought it would be nice to start a knitting group during the winter months, meeting fortnightly.

So if you like knitting or want to take it up again and like the idea of a knitting group please contact Petra Berry on 07792053724 or email [petraberry@hotmail.com](mailto:petraberry@hotmail.com).

### **JOHN LOGGINS CHARITY**

Once again it is time for distribution of funds from this charity. Those who wish to apply, please do so in writing to: E.Boughton, c/o Wyatts Close Sibford Gower, by Dec 1st.

### **MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING**

A huge thank you to those who supported the Macmillan coffee morning /day. Our total amount raised was **£810**

I am very grateful for everyone's support for this worthwhile cause.  
See you next year!

Petra Berry



## LETTERS AND NOTICES

Cont'd

### Village news daily from thesibfords.uk

In between issues of the invaluable Sibford Scene, you can stay informed of village happenings by subscribing to the website's emailed newsletters. Arriving in your inbox at 7 am each morning, In the Sibfords today provides the local weather forecast and lists village events coming up in the next seven days. Many subscribers are now addicted to its appendix of a daily dip into village life as it was exactly 137 years ago, extracted from the then Vicar's diaries.

The second newsletter New posts appears whenever a news item or new planning application is added to the website.

Subscribe at [thesibfords.uk/newsletters](https://thesibfords.uk/newsletters)

Tim Huckvale

### 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](mailto:keith@hicks-sibford.co.uk)

Jean Scouse 01295 780529 [jeanscouse7@gmail.com](mailto:jeanscouse7@gmail.com)

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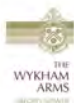
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# QUIZ EVENING

**Sibford Players are proud to present a quiz and curry evening.**

**SIBFORD VILLAGE HALL  
11 November 2023.**

Get your team together now and be ready to test your knowledge against the villages legendary Quizmasters.

Doors open at 6.30pm, quiz starts at 7pm.

Teams of up to 6 are welcome to enter.

Entry is £10 per head, to include a curry (please notify any vegan or gluten free requirements in advance). Bring your own drinks.

Entries are in advance only. Team representatives should email/text/WhatsApp their team name and number of people in advance to Jo at [joanneconnor@rocketmail.com](mailto:joanneconnor@rocketmail.com) or text 07970483917.

All proceeds go towards Sibford Players next production  
“Murdered to Death” 1-3 February 2024. A comedy murder  
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Tickets on sale shortly

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## VILLAGE HALL NEWS

### **Book Swap Saturdays and Cafe: Nov 11<sup>th</sup>, Dec 16<sup>th</sup> 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**

We really need more local volunteers to help us look after the Village Hall. A couple of hours every week or two would make a huge difference. Please contact Ginny on 780373 or [ginnybennett@googlemail.com](mailto: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. Please contact [juliette53@btinternet.com](mailto: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 using our new online booking system!**

Bookings are made via [www.sibfordvillagehall.org.uk](http://www.sibfordvillagehall.org.uk). When you are paying the invoice for your event, please include your name and the invoice number. 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.

### **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.

**Please respect our community facility and grounds.** Sadly, there has yet again been damage to our grounds, this time to the fence next to the horse field. Please do not damage or tamper with the fencing in any way.



## FILM NIGHTS

This month's film on Thursday November 30th, is **BELFAST**.

Written and directed by Academy Award nominee Kenneth Branagh, Belfast is a poignant story of love, laughter and loss in one boy's childhood amid the music and social tumult of the late 1960s. Buddy's family lives in a largely Protestant district with a few Catholic families, but one day his community and everything he thought he understood about life is suddenly turned upside down.

Buddy's family gets caught in the mayhem and must decide to stay or leave the only place they have ever called home. Through it all, his passionate parents (Catriona Balfe and Jamie Dornan) and quick-witted grandparents (Judy Dench and Ciaran Hinds) keep the joy alive through music and the magic of movies in this feel-good story that reminds us that no matter how far you go, you never forget where you came from.

Doors open at 7. Film starts at 7.30

Refreshments available. Admission £3 pp.

Petra Berry



## SIBFORD PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB

Our meeting on 31st October, was an opportunity to discuss the use of various accessories such as tripods, filters, flashes, teleconverters and extension tubes. We discussed how they work, how, why and when would you use them. We also viewed and commented on an impressive variety of members' images on the topic of "Squares".

On 28th November, we will have a practical session on how to make use of the settings for aperture, shutter speed and ISO setting to use your camera creatively. This will include creating motion blur to portray movement, or for Intentional Camera Movement (ICM) and conversely using a fast shutter speed to freeze motion, which will also include the use of flash.

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](mailto: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.

## APPLEFEST

Thank you to everyone who came and took part in the many varied activities of our very first Sibford AppleFest!

It was a huge success and feedback was that it was very much enjoyed by everyone attending. We had the most wonderful entries into our Apple Pie and Apple Cake competitions. Visitors of all ages enjoyed seeing their very own apples juiced before their eyes by Richard and Derrek who were kind enough to bring their press from Hook Norton.

The tasty pulled pork baps, BBQ sausages and autumnal soup all proved very popular followed by award winning apple pie and cream for desert! The bar was very well supported and our younger visitors delighted in the inflatable castle and slide, face painting and necklaces. We were accompanied throughout the day by super local musicians and our resident artist Nigel Fletcher painted the scene as it happened. As always, tea and cake was very popular and a big thank you to everyone who donated raffle prizes and took part in the draw!

The scarecrow trail proved a great success and the Morris Dancers provided a truly traditional British backdrop to the day!

Many thanks to the wonderful Sibford Village Hall Events Committee and their many helpers who made it all possible.

Carolyn White

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## NATURE NOTES

Hedgehogs seem to be back in Sibford and well established now after many years when I am not aware of any sightings. Megan Gilkes found two hoglets in her garden recently. She is hoping to fatten them up to increase the chances of them surviving the Winter.

Back in April there were articles in the national press expressing concern over the British amphibian populations following last year's drought. Toads seem to have had a good year this year probably helped by the wet weather in July and August. One night driving back from Chipping Norton on a mild wet evening I must have seen at least a dozen on the road.

Less good news is the explosion in numbers of two introduced pest species. The Allium Leaf Miner is a species of fly that attacks members of the Allium family especially Leeks and Onions. I lost all my shallots this year and have had to harvest all my leeks early to try and salvage something before they rot.

The Box Tree Moth is a striking moth, but the larvae destroy Box trees and hedges. It was probably accidentally introduced to the UK from S.E. Asia in 2007 and was first recorded in Kent. It has spread rapidly. In some areas people are reporting hundreds caught in moth traps. In Sibford I recorded 1 in 2020, 1 in 2021, 3 in 2022 and 30 so far this year.

Please send contributions for the next Nature Notes to [ajnewbold88@gmail.com](mailto:ajnewbold88@gmail.com).

Andy and Gill Newbold



The Box Tree Moth



# HOME CLOSE

G A R D E N S

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## DID YOU KNOW?

### Little London



This stone and rubble, thatched cottage, photographed by Bernie Jones, stands at the east end of Main Street in Sibford Ferris and is known as Little London. This name is often given to the last property in a village on the road towards the capital city. Originally two separate cottages, the

older part dates back to the 1500's. Some 100-200 years later the later built adjacent cottage on the village side, was joined to provide a single dwelling. The area between was infilled to provide extra living and bedroom space plus a new internal bathroom. Previously bathing would have been a tin bath in front of the fire and a privy in the garden would have served toilet needs and provided night soil for the garden. The outdoor privy would have been used until mains water and sewerage arrived in the village in the mid 1900's.

During restoration work carried out between 1998 and 2003, an Elizabethan silver sixpence, dated 1575, was found in the older part. It was common practice in the 16<sup>th</sup> century for the builder of a property to place a current coin of the realm in the house to bring luck to the new home. Similarly, a coin dated 1739 was found in the Inglenook fireplace in the newer cottage

In 1575 the land behind the cottage was an elm wood which may account for the elm boards that were found beneath the later added Victorian floorboards. During his restoration process Graham Piercy sourced a felled elm tree, had it planked and transported from Grantham to Sibford to reinstate the elm floors. Further sympathetic improvements and an extension have been added since the major restoration process.

The inviting footpath alongside Little London leads to farmland which stretches behind the cottage. This land used to provide allotments for Ferris villagers until they were incorporated and used for crop planting. The footpath bisects the field diagonally and leads to Folly Farm and Grange Lane providing access towards Swalcliffe Grange.

*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

13 November; 27 November; 11 December followed by lunch at Carter's Yard for those who walk that day. Please let Sue know if you can attend the lunch

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](mailto:sebannister@gmail.com) if you have any queries.

Sue Bannister

### FOOTPATHS

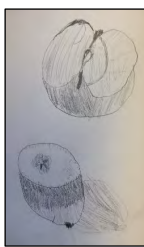
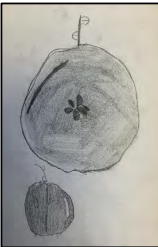
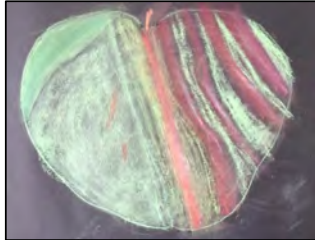
Ian Sharp, [ian@iansharp.net](mailto:ian@iansharp.net), Lamb's Croft, Back Lane, Sibford Ferris, OX15 5RE. Tel. 01295 780790, is the footpaths warden and anyone who has a problem or complaint should contact him.

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](http://thesibfords.uk)



The Autumn term has continued to be full of fun here at Sibford Gower Endowed Primary School. The children have particularly enjoyed being involved in the Big Apple Festival: it is always lovely to be involved in local community events. They created some beautiful artwork – some large scale pastel drawings, copies of which were displayed in the Village Hall, and some 15 minute observational drawings in their sketch books. You can see examples of both here.



Children who attended the event said, Martha: *“Neil Fletcher’s stall was amazing. He painted the festival while it was happening. It looked really beautiful.”* Emily R: *“The inflatables were really fun. It was nice that they had one especially for the younger children.”* Euan: *“I liked the live music. It was appropriate for all ages and I liked that.”*

Cecily: *“The stall, artwork and the scarecrows in the scarecrow trail were really amazing!”*

Esme: *“The apple pressing was good. The juice was really fresh and a very reasonable price!”*

Leo: *“I liked all the stalls. One sold really nice knitted things. I got a dangly dragon with a moustache. It’s hanging on my door. The money from the stall went to charity, which was good.”*

Please don't forget that we currently have a counter collection box in the Tesco store in Shipston on Stour. 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. We are up against some deserving competition and could really do with your support. 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.

**We will be holding an Open Morning for parents of prospective reception parents (September 2024 intake) on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> 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/>**

Is your child due to start school in September 2024?  
Are you looking for nursery provision for your 3 year old?

**Sibford Gower Primary School**  
would like to invite you to our

**OPEN MORNING**

**Friday 24th November 2023, 10:00 to 12:00**



**Please do come to have a look around, meet the staff and find out about all the things our friendly and welcoming village school has to offer your child.**

**Sibford Gower Endowed Primary School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people.**



Remember to watch out for hedgehogs...

In Sibford Early Years we have been exploring a story all about a hedgehog looking for a home. We have also had numerous sightings of hedgehogs on site at Sibford School which is very exciting. To this end, we have created a hedgehog house in our wildlife area, following the instructions from the National History Museum (<https://www.nhm.ac.uk/discover/how-to-make-a-hedgehog-house.html>). At this time of year, hedgehogs may well be looking for a home so we thought we would try to help them.

In our class story the hedgehog made its home in a nice pile of leaves, so do remember when you are gardening (especially when using a trimmer) to look out for hedgehogs. Other tips from gardening world (<https://www.gardenersworld.com/plants/10-ways-to-help-hedgehogs/>) include not using slug pellets, checking bonfires, making small gaps in your fence, leaving out food/water like cat food (not milk/bread) and making a hedgehog house or feeding station.

If you find a sick or poorly hedgehog you can contact the RSPCA or Hedgehog Friendly Town in Stratford upon Avon. We have been raising money selling beetroot brownies, made using beetroot from our garden, to buy items to support Hedgehog Friendly Town.



### Advertising Rates in The Scene

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

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On 21<sup>st</sup> September John Wass gave a talk on one of his great loves – music – and took us from its origins up to the present day.

His quote from Schopenhauer summed up the content of the talk: “The inexpressible depth of music – so easy to understand and yet so inexplicable.....”

He stated that music is fundamental in every culture, and that the progenitors of man, according to Darwin, charmed each other with musical notes and rhythms even before they had mastered speech.

John covered an astonishing amount of facts and topics, with reference to the greatest composers, the fate of the Castrati, aspects of musical memory including the Stuck Song Syndrome!, absolute pitch (Mozart had it but neither Wagner nor Schumann), and he concluded by mentioning how musical therapy is of great benefit to people with dementia and to calm anxiety in coronary heart disease and post-operative pain.

This short summary cannot possibly do justice to this excellent talk, and the number of people who had something to ask or say at the end was proof enough of our enjoyment.

Many thanks indeed to John!

On Thursday , 16<sup>th</sup> November, Tim Healey will be speaking on ‘Drovers’ Roads in Oxfordshire and Beyond’.

Village Hall doors open 7.15 p.m. and the talk starts at 7.30pm. Visitors £3.  
Refreshments will be served after the talk

Diana Hughes

## 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



# SWALCLIFFE CHRISTMAS MARKET

Saturday 2nd December 2023

At Swalcliffe Church

From 12 noon to 3:30pm

Swalcliffe is the place to be as the village hosts  
another exciting Christmas Market

Come and enjoy:

Market stalls with local traders featuring an impressive  
array of crafting skills and products

Raffle with luxury Christmas Hampers

Popular German Currywurst stall

**Entrance fee £2.50 (children go free)**  
card payments available, but please bring cash too

All proceeds will be shared between three Swalcliffe  
community causes & projects:

Swalcliffe Church, Swalcliffe Community  
Hall, and the Woodland Play Park



[www.swalcliffe.org](http://www.swalcliffe.org)

We may be coming to the end of another year, but we've still got some of our most popular and much-loved events to come. Or why not think about helping our hospice by volunteering or hosting your own fundraising event? Your support makes such a difference to the hospice at what continues to be a very challenging time. Thank you!

## **An 'ELFY way to kick off Christmas**

Get festive, have fun and support our community this Christmas by signing up for our Santa Fun Run on Sunday 3 December. Join hundreds of stylish Santas taking part in our 1.5km or 5km fun run at Spiceball Park, Banbury. We ho ho hope you can join us! Tickets are available to buy on our website now!

[www.khh.org.uk/santa](http://www.khh.org.uk/santa)

## **Remember a loved one**

We will be holding our annual Lights of Love event on Thursday 7 December at St Mary's Church, Banbury. We'd love you to join us for a special gathering where we come together to remember and celebrate the lives of those we have loved and lost. Find out more [www.khh.org.uk/lights](http://www.khh.org.uk/lights).

## **Talking shop**

As well as raising vital funds for our hospice, our seven charity shops across the area help people to shop more sustainably. But we couldn't run our shops without a brilliant team of volunteers. Could you spare some time to volunteer at one of our shops? We desperately need help across all of our stores to make sure we can keep offering the same great service people have come to know and love. If you'd like to find out more about how you could volunteer in one of our shops, visit our website here: [www.khh.org.uk/volunteer-shops](http://www.khh.org.uk/volunteer-shops)

## **How does your garden grow?**

A HUGE thank you to everyone who supported our Open Garden this year and for helping to raise nearly £6,000! We're already starting to think about our Open Gardens for next year... Could you help us grow our scheme and sign up to host your own event? Why not encourage your neighbours to take part in a whole village event? If you'd like to find out more, visit [www.khh.org.uk/gardens](http://www.khh.org.uk/gardens).

## **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](http://www.khh.org.uk/newsletter)

# 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

Any enquiries to  
[juliette53@btinternet.com](mailto:juliette53@btinternet.com)



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## FRIENDSHIP CLUB

Friendship Club are going to **Dobbies Garden Centre Tewkesbury** on Nov 21. We have a few seats left ,please contact E Boughton.

### 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)

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### **Holiday Cottage in Cornwall**

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

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

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

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

For more information, please contact Linda on 01295 780 242 or 07973 226 032 or [lindaneyolo@gmail.com](mailto:lindaneyolo@gmail.com).



## HORTI SOCIETY

Despite a wild and windy night, more than forty people turned out on October 11 to hear Martin Gascoigne Pees talk to us about butterflies and how to attract them to our gardens.

His macro photography was extraordinary and his passion for his subject was completely evident. Who knew that butterflies taste through their feet and smell through their antennae? Not me, that's for sure.

Anyway, for those of you who had hoped to come but couldn't, rest assured that the patch of nettles at the bottom of your garden is an absolute asset and is used as food source and chrysalis sanctuary for a number of different butterfly species. Marjoram was another suggestion from Martin as a plant that has attracted numerous species to his garden this summer.

Looking ahead to November (and this may give you a sensation of *deja vue*) our last speaker of the year is the ever 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 at 7.00 for refreshments - yes, there really will be mulled wine and mince pies this time, and the talk starts at 7.30. If you were sorry you'd missed it in October.... Good news! You didn't!

Non members always welcome. £3.00

Diana Thompson



## In Your Garden - November

Bonfire Night for me, always marks the end of the growing season, and its time to put the garden to bed. But don't think you can put your feet up yet, there are still plenty of jobs that need doing.

1. Pots of plants you are leaving outside need raising up on bricks, to stop them getting waterlogged, and put them in a sheltered place if possible, against a wall, or in the porch. Last winter was brutal, and killed off so many shrubs.
2. Plant your tulips now, as deep as possible. I have put some of mine into large pots, with a layer of little Narcissus called Tete a Tete. They flower before the tulips and look lovely with some little winter pansies popped around them.
3. Tidy up the borders, cutting back the perennials, and splitting up large clumps of Asters and Phlox.



## In Your Garden - November

Cont'd

4. Now that you have cleared your beans and peas, dig over the soil. The frost will help the soil to become less clumpy, and much finer when you come to raking and sowing it in the spring.

5. If it isn't frosty, now is a good time to plant bare-rooted roses. Give them a good soaking in a bucket before you plant them.

6. Mulch the dahlias if you are leaving them in the ground, otherwise lift them after the frost has blackened them, clean the tubers, and leave them in the greenhouse to dry out, then store away in boxes or deep trays under dry compost, and sand. They must stay in a frost free place.

7. Store your apples carefully in a shed, but any that are showing signs of rotting must be taken out. Use them to make a delicious apple crumble. I like making my crumble topping with lots of broken ginger biscuits, added to the flour and butter, with some bits of preserved ginger chopped in as well.

8. As the hellebores start sending the little flower shoots up, cut away some of the large leaves around them, and they will shoot up and flower more happily, otherwise they are left crouching in the shadows. The Greeks used to use hellebores as a treatment for insanity. I understand they can be rather poisonous, but perhaps it was just a useful way to get rid of bonkers old relatives. And the Romans planted them near to their doors, to keep away evil spirits and witches. Maybe I will put a potfull of hellebores on my porch for Halloween night.

9. Remove fallen leaves away from little cyclamen, and rake all the leaves off the lawns and paths. You can compost them or put them in the bin, or on the bonfire, if you have one. But if any of your roses had blackspot this year - mine did - gather them up, and don't leave them lying around in the soil, as they will only come back again next year. I must remember to spray them early on next year.

10. The owls are hooting at night, the birds are flocking to the fatballs every day, and now it is time for you to sit down by the fire, perhaps with a glass of mulled wine, and browse through the catalogues dreaming and planning how your garden will look next year. Don't forget to check for hedgehogs before you light the bonfire. Have a jolly evening.

Jupe Marshall



## NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

TV Police are warning of an increase in online shopping fraud on social media. There are two different scenarios taking place;

1. Victims are contacted by the suspects who show a real interest in the goods advertised, attending the address to look at the item with a view to purchase. The suspect will obtain the victim's bank details and show the victim their mobile phone showing that the payment has been made via the banking app - and then walk away with the goods. The banking app is of course a fake, as are the profile used and contact details.
2. The other type of offending is online shopping where the suspect agrees to purchase the item but will not pay for the goods until proof of purchase has been provided, The victim will arrange for the item to be sent by post and will provide the tracking number to the suspect. The suspect is then able to track or redirect the item. This results in the payment not being received and the item disappearing. The address to which the item is sent is either used for just a day, or the item is redirected to another address resulting in the loss of the item.

Remember, make reports of such scams to Action Fraud, online or telephone 0300 123 2040.

Finally, to the **Midnight Phantom**, removing the bollard and filling in the hole is indeed extraordinary!

Peter Hine, Watch Co-ordinator, Gower and Burdrop. Tel 788830.

### 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://orangeroofs.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](mailto:tinhaystives@gmail.com) with any questions.

# SIBFORD GOWER PARISH COUNCIL

## **Oxfordshire County Council 20mph Scheme**

The Parish Council has applied to the Oxfordshire County Council 20mph scheme requesting that all roads currently 30mph in the parish be reduced to 20mph. This scheme has been offered to all parishes across Oxfordshire and will be consulted on and implemented if approved over the next 3 years.

## **White Lines painted on Main Street**

Concerns were raised by parishioners about some new white lines painted on Main Street that suddenly appeared without any consultation beforehand and it was unclear what the purpose of these lines were. After much chiding of Highways by Cllr Jackie Noquet they advised that the lines were painted in error by Highways when the team leader of the relevant department was on annual leave. Due to Highways' limited budget for road marking and the cost of removing road markings Highways will not remove the lines and will just wait for them to fade in time. Highways have confirmed that they will repaint the 'Keep Clear' markings outside Ryehill Farm as requested by the Parish Council  
(What a total farce - Ed).

## **Town Estate Charity Trustee Nomination**

The Town Estate Charity is a specifically Gower & Burdrop institution but much of the support it provides, particularly through its support for the school and the Village Hall, extends across the valley to embrace the wider community as a whole.

Sibford Gower Parish Council (PC) are required to nominate five trustees to the charity and the term of office for one of the existing PC nominees will end in November 2023 so the PC are now looking for a new nominee. In the first instance interested applicants should let the Council know in their own words their relationship with the village, and the skills, knowledge and experience they feel they would bring to the role. The Charity are particularly interested in applicants with the following skills or interests:

- a keen interest in the village primary school and be prepared to attend the meetings of its Governors
- knowledge or experience of estate management and farming
- involvement in or knowledge of the other village organisations, and ideas of where the Charity might usefully employ its resources for the benefit of the village generally or for those individuals or sections of the community that might be in particular need
- Should be able to attend at least 4 Trustee meetings each year and take an active part in the Charity's activities throughout the year.

Applications should be e-mailed to the Parish Clerk at

[Sibford.gower.pc@thesibfords.org.uk](mailto:Sibford.gower.pc@thesibfords.org.uk). Sibford Gower Parish Council

Tel: 07419 126 206 E-mail: [Sibford.gower.pc@thesibfords.org.uk](mailto:Sibford.gower.pc@thesibfords.org.uk)

## DEFIBRILLATORS AND WHAT3WORDS



"What3words" (W3W) is a free web and phone app that gives a unique reference of three words to each 3 metre square on the planet's surface; for example Sibford Village Hall is located at "incursion.wheels.belt". It is useful for giving a very precise location in a way that can be quickly copied or read out with small chance of error. It thus differs from a post code, such as "OX15 5RW", which is very imprecise; it also differs from a latitude / longitude reference such as 52.03788degN, 1.482453degW which is precise but difficult to communicate correctly.

It is easy to see that in an emergency situation a W3W location reference could be very useful, especially in villages like the Sibfords where street addresses mostly lack numbers and can be hard to find.

The Emergency Services are aware of W3W and can identify the location of an emergency from its W3W reference. Open the W3W app on your phone and (if your phone has GPS) you will immediately see the three words for your location to read out to the operator. Why not write them down now and stick them on your fridge door?

In addition, if you are unsure of the location of the nearest defibrillator, the 999 operator may be able to give you its W3W reference to help you find it. The Sibford defibrillators are at [incursion.wheels.belt](#) (Village Hall) and [recount.melts.reader](#) (Sibford School Swimming Pool).

Tim Huckvale

**PC Problems**

a qualified PC Technician  
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Contact Dan on:

01295 788766  
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email: [dcptex@gmail.com](mailto:dcptex@gmail.com)

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to Brisbane

Wednesday 29 November 6.30 pm  
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All proceeds to support the vital work of the Mulberry Bush

To book a seat please [email julie.lynn-evans@live.com](mailto:julie.lynn-evans@live.com)

## ***Bonfire & Fireworks Night***

***SIBFORD GOWER ENDOWED PRIMARY SCHOOL***



**Saturday**

**4<sup>th</sup> November 2023**



**Gates open @ 5.00pm**

Discounted tickets available in advance until 3<sup>rd</sup> November

Please email: [chirpie34@hotmail.com](mailto:chirpie34@hotmail.com)

Tickets at full price available on the gate

**Refreshments available**

**Please come and support your local school!**

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



## 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](mailto:petermorgan2@hotmail.co.uk)) for further details.*

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# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## NOVEMBER

- 1st - Ladies Coffee Club - Wykham Arms - 11am
- 3rd - Friendship Club - Village Hall - 2pm
- 3rd - Mens Brunch - Sun Inn - 11.30am
- 4th - Bonfire and Fireworks - Primary School 6.30pm
- 8th - Horti meeting - Village Hall - 7.30pm
- 11th - Quiz and Curry - Village Hall - 7pm
- 11th - Book Swap Cafe - Village Hall - 10am
- 15th - SGPC Meeting - Village Hall - 7pm
- 18th - Meeting for Music - Friends Meeting House - 5.30pm
- 19th - Sibfords History Society - Village Hall - 7.30pm
- 21st - SFPC Meeting - Sibford School - 7pm
- 25th - Christmas Fayre - Village Hall - 2pm
- 28th- Sibford Photography Club - Village Hall - 7.30pm
- 29th - Mulberry Bush Charity Event - Village Hall - 4pm
- 30th - Film Night - Village Hall - 7pm

## NOVEMBER BIN COLLECTIONS

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


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 **DECEMBER/JANUARY** ISSUE -  
**12 NOON - 18th NOVEMBER 2023**

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# Arts and Crafts

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