

Sibford Scene

February 2024

Number: 460





THE ANNUAL SIBFORDS' BOXING DAY FOOTBALL MATCH
Match report on page 20

Pictures from the Sibford Photography Club



Frozen Web by Paul Friend



Little Tractor by Carol Fieldhouse



ED'S THOUGHTS

This month I would like to say a big THANKYOU to our team that make the Scene happen.

I've brought back "Village People" with me as the first, followed by Oonagh next month and then our distributors. But - please feel free to put yourself forward as well.

"Great Taste" has also returned with a delicious recipe from Oonagh.

Lots of things going on in the village:

Come along and laugh at the latest Sibford Players production. (Page 35)

Also, it is lovely to have the Village Hall as a warm hub and don't forget the Book Swap!

Thought for the month

"The bottle's almost through
Let me paint a picture
A picture for you"

David Crosby

Cover picture: 'Footbridge below West Town House' by Mike Spring

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Deadline for March Issue

12 NOON - 18th FEBRUARY 2024

WELCOME

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 also lucky enough to have a really great village website at: thesibfords.uk



LETTERS AND NOTICES

The Mulberry Bush School, Julie Lynn-Evans and I would like to thank Oli Broom for a wonderful talk about his 14-month bike ride to Australia for the Ashes in 2009 and the book he wrote about his adventures. We are most grateful for all the support we received from attendees, donors, canapés makers and all those who helped on the night. We still await a final figure but with doubling by the Big Give we will have raised over **£12,000** for The Mulberry Bush School, Standlake.

We are already thinking about next year and do hope that you will join us then.

Sue Bannister

VILLAGE HALL LOTTERY

Lottery winners for December:

1st Amanda Ransom

2nd Judy Hine

3rd Tracy Morbey



Lottery winners for January

1st Tim Huckvale

2nd Sandra Clacy

3rd Fiona Pidgeon

Millennium Field closure

In order to retain “permissive path” status on the paths around the Millennium Field it will be closed for 24 hours only on **Saturday 10th February**. The closure will not affect the use of the public path at the top of the field.

Peter Morgan, Secretary, The Town Estate Charity Sibford Gower and Burdrop



LETTERS AND NOTICES

Planning Applications on thesibfords.uk (February 2024)

Do you want to know what changes to properties and trees are being planned in your neighbourhood? The map at thesibfords.uk/planning shows the locations of current development proposals. In addition, if you sign up to the website's "New posts" newsletter at thesibfords.uk/newsletters you will be informed immediately of each new application in the Sibfords.

If you zoom in far enough, you can also use the map to find the names of properties.

Tim Huckvale

WHIST DRIVE

Sue Tompkins writes to ask if anyone would be interested in a monthly whist drive in the Village Hall. If so, please phone her on 01295 780 541 – or [contact the webmaster](#).



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NATURE NOTES

In early December Joan Broady sent me the following email.

I was aware of an unfamiliar bird down the garden where I frequently see a Jay, it was different, so I started watching, it came up to the terrace below the window I was watching from, and I realised a pigeon had died there. After a minute or so it flew into a tree about five yards from my window, it had its back to me displaying a white rump, then it turned and looked straight at me, no doubt a hawk but what hawk, as we were looking at each other for possibly a minute I was able to take note of its markings. After searching the bird books and online I realised it was a Goshawk, most likely male as it wasn't much bigger than a sparrowhawk.

What a treat, such a beautiful bird

My own observations have been a bit few and far between over the last couple of months so I will have to resort to another moth story!

The tray we cook our turkey on only comes out once a year and is stored on top of sacks of chicken food. On Christmas day I was giving it a wipe over and an interesting looking moth dropped off it. On closer examination this turned out to be a Mediterranean Flour Moth, probably the first Oxfordshire record since 1939. These moths are found throughout the world and are classed as synanthropic. That is species (like rats and cockroaches) that benefit from living in close association with humans and the habitats we have created.

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

Andy and Gill Newbold

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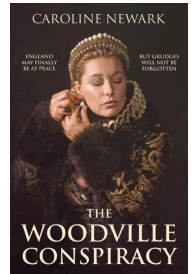




VILLAGE HALL NEWS

Warm Hub Social Afternoons: Thursdays 2.30–4.30pm. Warm Hubs are a chance to meet up with friends and even make some new ones. Keep warm, have a tea/coffee and cake, play games, have a chat, or get crafting. Socialising is good for our mental health and it's nice to have something to get you out the house in the winter months. The Town Estate Charity is kindly funding the sessions, so they are free to attend, just "drop in". Warm Hubs will be on every Thursday until March 29th except for February 1st.

The Second Deadly Sin, a morning with historical author Caroline Newark: Saturday 23rd March. A treat is in store for all book lovers. Historical fiction author Caroline Newark will be returning to Sibford Village Hall with more stories of her famous and not-so-famous ancestors. This time her talk is entitled "The Second Deadly Sin". If you can't remember your deadly sins, the second is the one about greed, wanting to have more than you're entitled to, wanting to live the fairytale. There are women in Caroline's family tree who most definitely wanted to "have it all" but if you remember those childhood stories from long ago, you'll know there were big bad wolves lurking in the woods and a clock about to strike midnight so not everything ends well.



Caroline has promised to bring copies of all her books with her so if you missed them last time you will have another opportunity to buy copies at a special discounted rate.

Help look after our Village Hall. We need more volunteers from the village to help look after our Village Hall and gardens. A couple of hours every month would make a huge difference. We really need help with keeping the plants looking lovely and gardening is good for the soul! Contact Ginny 780373 or ginnybennett@googlemail.com

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 you could be a winner! Existing members, just a reminder to renew your annual subscription before March. £48 for 12 months or £4 a month. We also need a volunteer to take on the task of drawing the



VILLAGE HALL NEWS

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

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. www.sibfordvillagehall.org.uk.

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. Finally, we have had the fencing improved at back of the hall so are ready with a better social space for our Spring and Summer events.



FILM NIGHTS

The film for our next filmnight on Thursday February 29th is **The Duke**.

In 1961, Kempton Bunton, a 60-year old taxi driver, stole Goya's portrait of the Duke of Wellington from the National Gallery in London. It was the first (and remains the only) theft in the Gallery's history. Kempton sent ransom notes saying that he would return the painting on condition that the government invested more in care for the elderly - he had long campaigned for pensioners to receive free television.

What happened next became the stuff of legend. Only 50 years later did the full story emerge - Kempton had spun a web of lies. The only truth was that he was a good man, determined to change the world and save his marriage - how and why he used the Duke to achieve that is a wonderfully uplifting tale. With Jim Broadbent, Helen Mirren, Fionn Whitehead, Matthew Goode Heather Craney.

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

Petra Berry



Poet's Corner

ALCOHOL

Our Lager,
Which art in barrels
Hallowed be thy drink
I will be drunk
At home as in the tavern
Give us this day our foamy head
And forgive us our spillages
As we forgive those who spill against us
And lead us not into incarceration
But deliver us from hangovers
For thine is the Beer, the Bitter and the Lager
Barmen

Anon

BILL CRABTREE

Bill Crabtree who has died recently aged 99, was one of Sibford's best known and oldest residents. Here is his eulogy:

Bill was born in Cheshire on 7th July 1924. He had a younger sister, Betty, their mother died tragically when Bill was just two years old. He was educated at Warwick School and then came to live in Sibford Ferris at the age of 14 when his parents bought Woodway Farm.

They ran a milking herd of Jersey cattle. They began milking 12 cows by hand but as the herd grew, so did the need for mechanical help. Bill's milking equipment is still in place in his barn today. The Jersey milk provided cream, butter and cheese.

Bill was born in the era of farming with horsepower. He said his earliest farming memory was watching a pair of steam powered tractor engines pulling a plough on a cable across a field of his farm in Ladbroke.

Bill had a keen interest in breeding and showing the cows. In 1987 he won the Thames and Isis competition for Best Jersey Herd in Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire. He also won the national milk record for Channel Island herds in Oxfordshire.

On the back of these achievements the decision was taken to give up milking and sell some of the farm. A few acres were retained so that he could have some livestock to look after. He had pigs, chickens, ducks and geese. Bill and Barbara were self-sufficient in dairy, fruit and veg. Bill took a fancy to Haflinger horses and soon had three in the stable. He drove them in a trap and ploughed with them. There will not be a person here who is unaware of Bill's black Hebridean sheep. Again he took great interest in this rare breed sheep and studied bloodlines carefully. He says in an article for the Sibford Scene that he 'had some success at local shows.' In fact, again he was awarded the top prize for Show Champion at both the Stoneleigh Agricultural Centre National Show and the Moreton in Marsh show (on several occasions) with his stock.



Bill has kept bees most of his life. He was an active member of the Shipston Beekeepers and was always keen to share his bee knowledge with anyone who showed the slightest interest. Bill regularly won prizes with his honey at the Sibford Horticulture Show.

In his younger days, Bill enjoyed badminton and country dancing and it was through these pastimes that he met local school teacher, Barbara and they were married in 1964. Bill and Barbara made a formidable team and it will be their 60th wedding anniversary in March '24.

There has been a main thread that has been the focus of Bill's life. He was a keen advocate of nature and wildlife conservation. He enjoyed rural life and traditions. He was a member of The Banbury Ornithological Society for many years.

Bill was the volunteer reserve manager at BBOWT's (Berkshire Buckinghamshire Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust) Harry Williams/Lamb's Pool for more than 20 years. The Pool is a nature reserve with a large lake fed from the Stour with an island in the middle. Bill chatted with neighbours upstream and down to create a wildlife corridor through the valley. Bill had to get onto the island to do his wildlife management and so he made himself a lightweight coracle with the help of the then, Bloxham WATCH Group Nature Volunteers, which Bill then, painted with pitch. He could carry this down to the pool and row himself across. Over the years the coracle became rotten and so BBOWT volunteers made him another. This however was not as well made nor sturdy and when Bill set it on the water he stepped in and ...as the tailer of Gloucester..went up to his middle! He would have been chuckling to himself as he carried it up to mend.

Bill was very much liked and respected by all at BBOWT and he was a firm supporter of the Association's work. Bill and Barbara regularly volunteered at BBOWT's fund raising events and also raised money by collecting and bagging up manure which they sold from their farm. In all Bill did, he was quiet and careful. He moved around his sheep with such sensitivity, the relationship he had with them was inspiring.

On a rainy day, Bill would be in his workshop tinkering. One of his hobbies was to make walking sticks which some lucky people received as gifts.

Wine making was another of Bill's interests and he would gather all sorts of hedgerow and vegetable produce; always keen to experiment.

Bill followed the hunt throughout his life, only very recently at the age of 98, and very reluctantly did he decide against driving around the lanes with his flask.

Apple grafting was a relatively recent interest. He enrolled on an apple grafting course. Following this he would drive around the lanes. If he saw an apple tree that was perhaps a lovely colour, shape or was an early or late fruiter in someone's garden he would stop and knock on the door to ask if he could take a cutting. At the Brambles he built up an orchard of over 50 apple trees; all different and all with a back story even though he couldn't always remember it.

Bill kept two geese. The gander was over 24 years old and the goose 15. Each year the pair would give Bill and Barbara some very good sized eggs and on occasion he would let them hatch some goslings.

Bill was often regarded as an expert in many fields and was eager to share his interest and knowledge. On one occasion he took his butter churn over to The Warriner School farm so that the children could experience the magical change from liquid milk to solid butter just through the turning of a handle. He was always keen to talk about bees or walking sticks or cider making or wine.

Bill and Barbara were members of the Sibford Lunch Club in Sibford. In Bill's final weeks getting back to the Lunch Club was one of his main aims.

Bill couldn't go past a skip without poking his nose in to see if there was anything he could use either on a current project or just to store for the future.

Bill and Barbara have kept dogs for most of their married life. Bill would often have one down at The Brambles with him. Bill passed away in Banbury hospital at 1030pm in the evening. At exactly this moment, in Sibford, Martin and Oonagh heard Marnie, the Crabtree's dog, yelp loudly twice.

He led a full and active outdoor life for 99 years, his only regret-not to get to 100. Barbara would like to express her gratitude to the people who cared for Bill both whilst at home and in the hospital.

Barbara would also like to thank everyone for their kind words and donations, she has been overwhelmed with the many cards and the amount donated to COUNTRYSIDE REGENERATION TRUST of £508.00.

Bill Crabtree - Personal thoughts from Sue Sabin

I fell on my feet when I came to live at The Brambles in November 2010. Living the dream. But for Bill it was his reality; his life lived to the full. Bill was always doing something, even though sometimes it looked as if he was doing nothing at all. Watching the sheep or the trees or the soil formulating plans, getting ideas or simply monitoring the natural world. In all things we did together he was careful, wise, never rushing; his experienced hands seldom faltering.

Bill watched on quietly whilst I forged away at my own projects. He never interfered and only on very seldom occasions when he really couldn't contain his concern, would say, over one of our regular coffee breaks, "I hope you don't mind me saying, but..." And he would then continue to put me right on whatever it was. Of course, I altered whatever it was I doing straightaway and rightly so. Bill taught me how to press apples and make cider, he taught me how to grow vegetables and the practice of keeping bees. For the past decade I have helped him as much as I could, particularly with sheep. He passed the flock to me and I am happy to keep them on. Bill taught me about preservation and about conservation. He taught me that living farming and self-sufficiency is as good as it gets. He generally taught by example; his world was tidy and ordered and I could only wistfully observe this whilst knowing that my life is untidy and chaotic, but I have his example and I will endeavour to make him proud.

As the years passed, I watched him with admiration. His body slowed down, but his determination was great, and his sense of humour was as sharp as ever. I had a visitor here one day and as Bill passed by, I called out a greeting. But Bill seemed not to hear. He walked on and I whispered to my friend that he was a little hard of hearing, "No I'm not" he retorted, "I hear what I need to!"

Bill best enjoyed his coffee break sitting on the bench in front of his barn. There would not be many mornings when he was alone. He was sure that one of his many friends would pass by and share a few words with him. He was very well thought of and respected.

Barbara and I have, as Bill asked, scattered his ashes on the land by the half hedge on Woodway Road. Bill made the journey from the village to the farm almost every day, right up to last October at the wonderful age of 99...(and a bit) and must have thought the view from there quite incredible along with the memories he had of farming for many decades.



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DID YOU KNOW?

February 3rd – Feast Day for St Blaze



St Blaze, was the Bishop of Sebaste in Armenia (now Turkey) during the fourth century. Although little is known about his life various accounts record that he was a physician before becoming a Christian Bishop. During his life he became a healer of bodily ailments as well as a physician of souls. In 316 the Governor of Cappadocia began a persecution of Christians by order of the Emperor. While hiding from his persecutors in a cave, he continued to perform acts of healing including curing a young boy who nearly died because of a fishbone stuck in his throat. For this act of healing, Bishop Blaze, as he was usually called, has been associated

with those afflicted with illnesses of the throat. This last miracle brought him fame. Even now, in some Roman Catholic churches, including some in Oxford, you can still have your throat blessed on his feast day – 3 February.

The Bishop was finally captured, tortured and martyred, being beaten with heavy metal combs used to tease sheep wool. Bishop Blaze became popular in England from about the seventh century and, as early as 1222, the Synod of Oxford, held at Osney Abbey, not only pronounced that St George should be the patron saint of England, but also that all wool combers should not work on St Blaze's Day. This edict, in pre-industrial-revolution Oxfordshire, was soon translated as meaning a holiday for every wool worker who could take the day off. Since wool was very important to the local economy this would have meant the majority of the village's agricultural workers. Sibford's sheep farmers would surely have taken advantage of this additional holiday.

Maureen Hicks

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CHURCH SERVICES

Quakers - Sibford Gower, Sunday, 10.30 am

Roman Catholics - Brailles, 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



SIBFORDS WALKING GROUP

WALKING DATES

5 February; 19 February; 4 March

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 has hung up his boots! After many years of fine work on our footpaths, Ian has decided enough is enough! So - we're looking for a rather splendid person to fill his boots. If you would like to do this sterling work, then please contact him on 01295 70790 or email: ian@iansharp.net,

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THE SIBFORDS BOXING DAY FOOTBALL MATCH

It was standing room only for the fifty strong crowd on a foggy Boxing Day morning for the now traditional Ferris vs Gower football match. The more youthful Gower team started as favourites to win the third match in a row but the somewhat older and perhaps more experienced Ferris team had other ideas.

The game has been eagerly awaited after the forced cancellation last year and has become one of the highlights of Christmas for some.

The Gower took an early 1/0 lead but the Ferris equalised before a stunning strike from Tyler Bradley from outside the box restored their lead by halftime.

Sam Catlin from the Ferris had the dubious distinction of being the first player in the history of the fixture to be sent off, before sportingly being allowed by the Gower gaffer to return in the second half. Controversially, he then won a penalty which he dispatched to the back of the net. Family honour was however restored by his young nephew Zach who gave the demanding crowd a true exhibition of attacking skills and by the end had scored a hatrick. The Ferris were lucky and happy that he was staying in Sibford with Uncle Sam for the Christmas duration, and he will hopefully be invited back to hang his stocking out for Father Christmas in Sibford Ferris again next year.

It was a really entertaining game, some good passing and midfield play, and lots of missed chances to excite the crowd. It was wonderful to see players aged from 13 to 65 giving their all, the three ladies asked and gave no quarter and the football was truly end to end. There were at least 4 father/son/daughter combinations playing together as well as the uncle/nephew duo. Matt Gandy scored two goals, to make the final score 6-2 but the game was much closer than that until just before the final whistle.

With a squad of 20, Sir Alex "the tinkler" Rippon opted for multiple substitutions over the 90 minutes in a changing formation that was so fluid it confused the opposition completely, while the Ferris gaffer with only 17 players opted for just two mass substitutions at 30 minute intervals and stuck to the traditional 4-4-2 formation. Everyone had a good run out and hopefully enjoyed it, and many retired to the Wykham Arms afterwards to analyse what had gone right or wrong, and plan for next year

David Spackman



VILLAGE PEOPLE

So, it's me this month - Tony Skowronski!

Why Sibford?

We visited my sister and her husband in Burdrop and loved the village. We came down for a weekend 35 years ago and saw a builder in the Ferris just putting up a 'For Sale' sign for Hollytree Cottage and we shook hands over the cement mixer. That's it.....



Earliest memory of Sibford

Looking from the Ferris over the valley to the Gower, thinking "we can't believe we're here"

Surprising things about yourself

I used to compete at the Swalcliffe Grange Horse Trials singing "Always Look on the Bright Side of Life" at full volume as I went over the jumps

Best thing about sibford and what would you like to change

Without doubt it's the people.. Planning Law - should be more in the hands of the Parish Council - That way, we would have more influence in what gets built in the village

What do you do?

Coach and mentor students to get them ready for the world of work and also working at the Oxfam bookshop in Chipping Norton

Hobbies

Reading, cycling (e-bike of course) and editing the Scene!

What really gets you going?

A daily yoga session and walking the dogs, looking at the wonderful views across the fields every day

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
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FRIENDSHIP CLUB

So it's February already and Spring won't be long coming.

Why don't you come on the first Tuesday in the month and join the Friendship Club for an afternoon of entertainment and tea. For your first visit its just £1. Just come along and meet us. Anyone over the age of 55 are welcome.

Just to get out of the house.

Evey Boughton

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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 lindalaneyolo@gmail.com.



HORTI SOCIETY

Welcome back to a cold garden! I'm keeping warm by raking leaves.

Looking ahead, our Horti programme starts in MARCH with a brief AGM and a talk. More of that in next month's Scene. For now, check back to your December edition to remind yourselves of the Handicraft and Photography categories which we hope will be bursting with entries at the Spring Show in May.

ALSO If I get enough interest, (75 bags) I shall be ordering a pallet of Melcourt Silvagrow 40l bags of compost again this year. I will be placing an order in early March but if you would let me know how many you'd like, I'll add you to the list. £6.30 per bag is the lowest discounted rate we could find - thank you Carolyn White! Let me know if you can find it cheaper.

Contact me on Diana_thompson@btinternet.com



In Your Garden - February

I have been browsing through an old gardening book, that told me that the winter months should have been very busy in the garden -composting and mulching, pruning roses and tying in ramblers. Mending the supports for climbing roses. Tightening the glasshouse fittings before the storms rattle them, new trees and hedges planted, and on it goes. Endless jobs. Well I didn't do any of them, but hunkered down in the warm, reading all the new books that came at Christmas, finishing the Christmas cake and the chocolates. But I suppose its time to pull my boots on and get cracking.

1. Lets start out in the greenhouse, as you can start planting sweet peas now, but if the greenhouse is not heated, bring them into the house and put them on a windowsill if there is frost forecast. And you can start chitting new potatoes.
2. If you left the borders and didn't cut them back, now is the time to tidy it up. I left mine for the insects and birds to find seed in, but it all looks very ragged and sad now.
3. Once you have done that, you can lift and divide any perennials and dig out any weeds that will have settled themselves in.
4. This is a good time to plant any new bare root roses, shrubs and trees. They will need plenty of watering, but do not do that if the weather is frosty.



In Your Garden - February

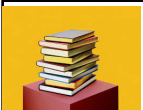
5. Cut the leaves right back which are smothering the hellebores, which are starting to bloom. They want the light, and you want to be able to see them.
6. Any cuttings, you took in the autumn will probably need repotting by now, particularly if you have five in a pot, and they may be getting pot bound.
7. Snowdrops and crocus will be flowering now, along with cellandines, primroses, mahonias, and pansies and violas that you have potted up, and placed in a sheltered porch will be making you smile. Increase your snowdrops by splitting them up when they have finished flowering.
8. I probably don,t have to remind you that it is time to prune back the Wisteria. Back to two or three buds, the long wispy growth removed. One does have to get tough with it, but it pays you with lovely flowers.
9. Check out your stored apples, as they don,t last that long. Make batches of stewed apples, or sauce, and put them in the freezer, for scrumptious apple crumble. Try making the topping with scrunched up ginger biscuits, mixed in with your usual crumble.
10. That old garden article I read made me feel like an extremely lazy gardener, but it did have a very good piece of advice, and that is, "If you have to move a large, heavy amount of stone, or compost, two journeys with a half filled barrow are better than one filled one. Then you are less likely to put your back out." Wise words.

Jupe Hitchings



HOLY TRINITY CHURCH CHATTER

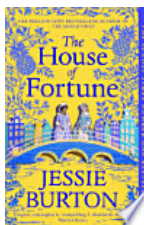
- Feb 4. Benefice Service at BROUGHTON 10-30
 Feb 11 Sibford. All age service 10-00
 Feb 14 Ash Wednesday Holy Communion 7-00pm
 Feb 18. HC 9-30
 Feb 25 HC 9-30



WHAT WE'RE READING.....



Rory Stewart





Homes for Hooky

Hook Norton Community Land Trust Homes are nearing completion

Hook Norton Community Land Trust (HNCLT) has created an innovative community – led solution to the challenge of the housing crisis by developing a small project of affordable, energy efficient homes for local people, that will increase community spirit and have a positive impact on the environment. Local architectural design team, Charlie Luxton Design, has worked with members of the community to design 12 sustainable homes, eight of which will be for affordable rent, in addition to four homes that will be for sale at market value. The homes are built to passivhaus thermal performance standards and will generate their own clean renewable energy from solar PV panels.

The homes are now under construction and the first four affordable homes for rent are close to completion and are soon to be allocated by Cherwell District Council (CDC). Applicants with a local connection to the parish of Hook Norton will be prioritised in the bidding process but if not enough applicants with a connection to Hook Norton take up a home, it will be offered to people with a local connection to the parishes of Sibford, Wiggington or Milcombe.

We would like to make sure that any qualifying families with a connection to The Sibfords, and in particular those needing 3 bedrooms, are aware of the opportunity. We are reaching out through the Sibford Scene and social media channels to ensure that anyone interested in renting one of the HNCLT homes is aware of the need to register on the CDC housing register as soon as possible. Information about registering can be found here : <https://www.cherwell.gov.uk/info/78/finding-a-home-in-cherwell/225/apply-to-join-the-housing-register/3>, and the application form can be found here : <https://www.cherwell-homechoice.org.uk/>

There will also be four 2-bed flats for sale in the spring, and we will be using our contact list to publicise the availability and price of those homes nearer the time. If you would like to be kept informed about anything relating to HNCLT, please register your interest or become a member using the forms on our website under the Join Us tab - <https://www.hooknortonclt.org.uk/join-us>

If you have any questions about the project please email hello@hooknortonclt.org.uk.

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GREAT TASTE

This month's mouth-watering recipe comes from our very own Oonagh O'Neill and is DELICIOUS!!!!

HADDOCK CHOWDER



INGREDIENTS

- 1tbsp oil
- 100g (4oz) pancetta, cubed, or bacon lardons
- 1 large onion, chopped
- 300ml (½pt) chicken or vegetable stock
- 350g (12oz) smoked haddock, skinned and cut into chunks
- 1 potato (around 225g/8oz), peeled and diced
- 300ml (½pt) double cream or crème fraîche
- 250g (9oz) frozen sweetcorn, thawed

METHOD

- Heat the oil in a large saucepan over medium heat, add pancetta or lardons and fry until lightly browned. Remove from pan, set aside drain on kitchen towel.
- Add the onion to the pan and cook until browned, stirring. Return the pancetta to the pan with the stock, haddock and potato. Bring to the boil then simmer for 10 minutes. Add the cream and sweetcorn and simmer for 5 minutes. To serve, season and serve with crusty bread.



SIBFORD PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB

Sibford Photography Club is a friendly, informal group with a shared interest in photography. Activities include instructive presentations and regular photo topics with the resulting images presented and discussed at meetings (face to face or virtual). In addition to our regular meetings, we also arrange outdoor photoshoots at local stately homes, gardens, nature reserves and other places of interest.

Our second January meeting on the 30th included a presentation by Colin Lamb of a photographic project he's working on to document the use of stone in the Cotswolds over the millennia, a discussion to plan a programme for the coming year and viewing our images on the monthly photo topic, "Festive Spirits".

At our meeting on 27th February, we will enjoy a talk by our member, Stuart Ralph who will be showing us photographs from his recent visit to India. This promises to be an entertaining evening, so please do your best to come along.

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

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 stone's throw from Porthmeor Beach it is a short walk to gorgeous Porthgwidden and Porthminster beaches as well as all the many shops and restaurants that St Ives has to offer.

<https://orangerooftops.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

Extracts form the recent meeting. Please go to the village website for the full minutes

Accidents at the Elms Crossroads

We have finally received confirmation that the repainting of the road markings has been added to the Highways work schedule and we hope that drivers will take care when approaching this crossroads.

Hook Norton Road Development

All questions from local residents have been answered by Deanfield Homes

Cotswold Close Play Area

A grant of £12k has been received from The National Lottery Fund to help with the refurbishment of the play area.

Update on the Local Plan 2040 from Cherwell District Council

The official timeline for the Local Plan Review 2040 is set out in the Council's Local Development Scheme <https://www.cherwell.gov.uk/info/33/planning-policy/382/local-development-scheme>

Pitch Hill Field

A tree has fallen down in Pitch Hill Field that is located next to the old telephone exchange near the Elm. The PC wondered if anyone would like to chop the tree up and make use of the wood? If you would be interested in helping with the tree or general maintenance of the area please contact the Parish Clerk (details below).

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



Hospice new campaign calls for support

Katharine House is calling on supporters, current and new, to pledge their support to the hospice this year and help ensure it can carry on its care in the community.

Whether people want to try something new, give back to the community, take on a challenge, be more sustainable or get fit in 2024, the hospice has an initiative for everyone.

As part of its I Am Katharine House campaign, the hospice is asking supporters to visit www.khh.org.uk/IamKHH and state what they will be doing for Katharine House Hospice (KHH) in 2024. They will then be added to a special KHH pledge page.

Some of the simple ways someone could support the hospice this year include putting some coins in one of the KHH collection bucket, visiting a shop, or making a one-off donation.

Or for those looking for something more on the adventurous side, the hospice is offering people the chance to take part in a host of bucket list activities such as: a 100ft Extreme Abseil off the tallest permanent abseil tower in the world; an adrenaline raising 160ft bungee jump at Bloxham Steam Rally; and an exhilarating skydive through the clouds from 13,000ft!

Other challenges include an extreme bike ride through the Cotswolds as part of Broughton Sportive,; the gruelling Blenheim Triathlon; a 100km walk through the picturesque Cotswold villages and a hair-raising hike around some of London's historic haunts.

Karen Welsh, KHH spokesperson said: "It takes our whole community to keep the hospice going, and everyone who supports us, be it through fundraising, volunteering or working with us, becomes part of the Katharine House family. The I am Katharine House campaign aims to encourage more people to join that family.

"It costs £12,995 every day to run Katharine House and every single thing our supporters do, be it big or small, helps us to raise these the vital funds we need to care for people affected by life-limiting illnesses.

How will **you** be Katharine House in 2024? Visit www.khh.org.uk/IamKHH to find out more about the I am Katharine House campaign.

To view the I am Katharine House video, visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G8SYzrugAk&t=7s>.



NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

QR Code Scams

Warning to drivers about QR code scams.

Drivers are being targetted in a growing QR code scam taking advantage of cashless parking and electric charging. The " Quick Response " codes , which are black and white squares used like barcodes, can be scanned with a phone and typically lead to websites. Customers then input their payment details. QR codes are also used for charitable fundraising, making it easier to donate money. Other uses include HM Revenue and Customs paying through an online government gateway, smaller retailers, restaurants and cafes.

Scammers are now putting stickers over legitimate QR codes on electric charging ports to misdirect drivers to fake payment sites.(Drivers are getting hit twice – losing out to fraud and being penalised for non payment of the parking fee).

The general advice is to be cautious and remain vigilant. There are a couple of things to be particularly aware of ;

1. Look at the stickers' edges - whilst fake codes can be stuck on, sometimes the whole sign or poster may be a scam.
2. Don't rely on the padlock symbol - it does not prove that the website is valid, only that your communication with it is private.
3. Consider the old fashion way! - The best option is not to use the QR codes for anything sensitive, such as payments, and use another method. Give up the convenience of QR codes and type in website addresses instead.

Source; D/Telegraph 5 Jan '24.

Peter Hine. Gower and Burdrop Watch. 788830

SIBFORD GOWER PARISH COUNCIL

Volunteer Driver Service North Oxfordshire

After a recent request from a parishioner regarding help with transport to an appointment the Parish Council would like to make parishioners aware of a volunteer driver service based in Banbury. They can be contacted on info@volunteerdrierservice.org.uk or 0300 3030 125. For further details about the service please see <https://www.facebook.com/VolunteerDriverServiceNorthOxfordshire>.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FEBRUARY

1st;2nd;3rd – Sibford Players: "Murdered to Death" – Village Hall

2nd – Mens Brunch – Sun Inn – 11.30am

6th – Friendship Club – Village Hall – 2pm

8th;15th;22nd;29th – Warm Hub – Village Hall – 2.30pm

15th – Sibfords History Society Social Evening & Quiz – Village Hall – 6.45pm

17th – Book Swap Cafe – Village Hall – 10am

27th – Sibford Photography Club – Talk (Stuart Ralph) – Village Hall – 7.30pm

29th – Film Night (The Duke) – Village Hall – 7.30pm

FEBRUARY BIN COLLECTIONS

Green Tuesday: 13th; 27th

Blue/Brown Tuesday: 6th; 20th;

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 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)

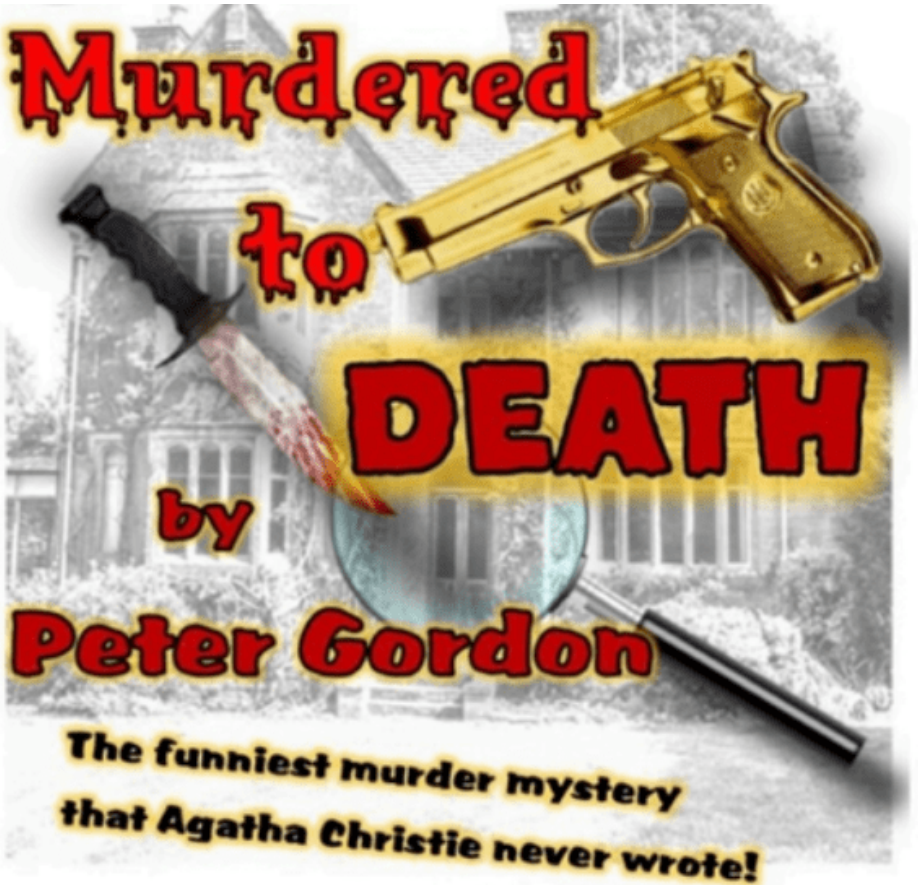
Leave from Banbury for Sibford: 11:35 (Sat), 11:40 (Mon-Fri), 14:35, 17:40

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.

The Sibford Players present:



February 1st & 2nd 2024 @ 7.30pm

February 3rd 2024 @ 7pm

SIBFORD VILLAGE HALL

Tickets (£7.50) from: gilkes.sibford@tiscali.co.uk or phone:
07498 713414



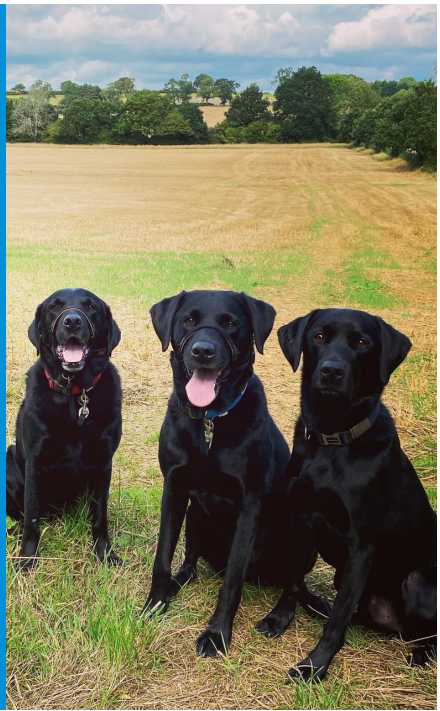
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