

Sibford Scene. September

2024. Number: 466

The Great Sibford



APPLE FESTIVAL

Sunday 6th October 12-4pm

Live Music . Apple Pressing . Bar . Delicious Food. Morris
Dancing . Apple Cake & Dessert Competition . Kids Inflatables
. Scarecrow Trail . Raffle

SIBFORD VILLAGE HALL - free entry

YOGA

SIBFORD VILLAGE HALL

FLOW YOGA:

THURSDAY 9-10

CHAIR YOGA:

MONDAY 10-11

THURSDAY 10:15-11:15



STARTING

SEPTEMBER 5TH 2024

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Alpaca by Colin Lamb



THE SIBFORDS SCARECROW TRAIL

THEME: HISTORICAL EVENTS

PART OF SIBFORD APPLE FESTIVAL
ON 6TH OCTOBER

CREATE A
SCARECROW AND
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YOUR HOME
FROM
25/09/2024

To enter competition email
joanneconnor@rocketmail.com
Judging at 1pm 5/10/24



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Come and join the Sibford Players!

Thursday September 5th at 7:30
Sibford Village Hall,
for a new production in February
2025.

Whether you would like to tread
the boards or help with costumes,
props, sets... you are welcome to
come along and see what we are
all about.

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ED'S THOUGHTS

Response to my thoughts on the School wooden barrier:

"These were installed by Oxfordshire County Council Highways after they had spoken to the school headmistress regarding safety of children from the school in that area so you may get the answers you seek from Highways" Kirsty Buttle

Thankyou!

Well, there's SO much going on in September and October!!

Starting with the return of Applefest and the Scarecrow Trail.

Next is the return of the Tibetan Monks at the Village Hall in October.

A super film - "1976" at the Village Hall and finally, "C.S. Lewis & J.R.R. Tolkien at the Village Hall

Have a super September!!

Thought for the month

"Grab your passport and my hand

I can make the bad guys good for a weekend"

Taylor Swift

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You can pay for ads directly into our account:

Sort Code: 60 01 35 Acct 52612236

Deadline for October Issue

12 NOON - 18th SEPTEMBER 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: 07972 26333 (Ferris). We are also lucky enough to have a really great village website at: thesibfords.uk



LETTERS AND NOTICES

VILLAGE HALL LOTTERY

Lottery winners for July and August

1st David Bennett	1st Li Kirkman	1st
2nd Sue Cook	2nd Kate Paul	2nd
3rd Jane Dorrell	2nd Martin Garnham	3rd



POPPY APPEAL COLLECTION.

I am looking for some new people to help with this year's appeal. If anyone could help, please let me know. It involves approximately 2-3 hours doing a house- to- house collection during the 2 weeks before Remembrance Sunday.

Please contact me on tel no 780731 or mobile 07811918926 if you are able to help. Peter Abbott.

SIBFORD LUNCH CLUB

The success of our weekly lunches for the senior members of our community has seen a rapid increase in numbers this year. Consequently, we are in need of more volunteers to help run our Wednesday Lunches.

Can you give us three hours on a Wednesday lunch time, usually about once a month, to help set up and serve the provided food, chat and generally socialise with our members? If you have a car, perhaps transport one of our less mobile members to and from Sibford Village Hall.

The Lunch Club was started 32 years ago and provides a weekly social environment for over 30 of our senior citizens.

Contact Keith Hicks on 01295 780269 or keith@hicks-sibford.co.uk



LETTERS AND NOTICES

HARRY BERKS

Harry (24), our youngest, went to Sibford School and then Bristol University where he got a First class honours Master degree in Palaeontology and Evolution. He has since been trying to get a PhD in the subject and working on various projects and papers. One of the papers he is co-author of has just been published in Science magazine and the press release below from Bristol Uni explains it and some of Harry's involvement.

<https://www.bristol.ac.uk/news/2024/june/prehistoric-pompeii.html>

He has no idea I'm contacting you and will probably curse me, but I thought it was interesting.

Best wishes

Catherine Berks

James Bond revisited by Ian Sharp, Village Hall May 29th 2024

The Village was treated to a unique evening courtesy of Ian Sharp, Director of the James Bond film Goldeneye. We saw the film with Pierce Brosnan and then were entertained to a wonderful insight into the tank chase filming in St Petersburg and another important stunt in this film hanging off a dam. Nowhere in the country could this have happened other than in Sibford. It was hugely entertaining and to get the inside track of some of these amazing cinematographic stunts was simply wonderful. Needless to say the Village Hall was packed and we all had a wonderful evening for which we thank Ian Sharp very much indeed.

John Wass



FUN CORNER

This month's corner comes from Phillip Hilton:

Two parrots sitting on a perch. One turns to the other and says 'Can you smell fish?'

Why did the late actor Edward Woodward have 4 D's in his name?

Because if he didn't he would be Ewar Woowar!



LETTERS AND NOTICES

Cont'd

Macmillan Coffee Morning

Can't believe that we are planning the next coffee morning again for this worthwhile cause.

It does not seem a year ago since the last one.

This year's coffee morning/ day will be on Friday October 4th from 10 until 4 at 2 Barley Close, Sibford Gower.

Everyone welcome. Look forward to seeing you.

Petra Berry and her team of helpers.

Dementia Oxfordshire, a service provided by Age UK Oxfordshire, is holding an information drop-in event at the Windmill Centre, Deddington on Wednesday 4th September, 10am - 3pm.

As well as lots of information from Dementia Oxfordshire's own team of advisers about how to live well with dementia, there will also be a host of other organisations with helpful support for older people, including advice for family carers, how to avoid scams, where to access community activities and how technology can make life easier around the house. There will also be delicious refreshments, craft stalls, a Zumba taster session and musical entertainment.

Admission is free. For more information, please contact Katie on katiesmok@dementiaoxfordshire.org.uk or call 07827 235441.

Housekeeper Required

Searching for a fantastic housekeeper.

Four hours a day, preferably mornings, Monday to Friday.

Roles include: laundry, ironing, cleaning, cooking, and general help around the house.

Must like young children! Preferably able to drive.

Please contact Kate and Alistair: Kate.ali.paul@gmail.com”



NATURE NOTES

I just sat down to write these notes and I was intending to start by commenting on the pleasing number of dragonflies and damselflies seen around the garden when I was called to help rescue an Emperor Dragonfly that had got into the house. These large impressive dragonflies are attracted by garden ponds where they will breed and the adults catch and eat other insects on the wing.

The warmer days have finally brought out a few more butterflies but I don't think I have seen any Small Tortoiseshells this year. The other insect that seems to have only been present in tiny numbers are wasps. Although this may be good news if you are having a picnic or a drink in the garden wasps are important pollinators and predators of many pest species. This lack of wasps has been noted nationally and could be due to the weather earlier in the year.

In dry weather it is a good idea to provide garden birds with a source of water for drinking and bathing. Although Blackbirds seem to prefer a shallow area of the pond the various species of tit and nuthatches all seem to prefer a tiny little birdbath that I was given a few years ago. It needs to be frequently topped up.

I have had increasing numbers of reports of Muntjac and Roe deer coming into gardens around the villages. They can do a lot of damage to garden plants in a short time.

There are 54 species of Pug moth found in the UK. Some are extremely rare and many are quite challenging to identify. I had recorded 26 different species in Sibford over the years and thought it unlikely to add any more and then in July on 3 successive nights I caught 3 new species. Experts confirmed my identification based on photographs. The most surprising was a Marsh Pug only recorded twice previously in Oxfordshire in 1972 and 1986.

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

Andy Newbold

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VILLAGE HALL NEWS

The return of AppleFest! Sunday 6th Oct 2024. Please see the poster in this edition of the Scene for more info about AppleFest and the scarecrow competition that will be running in September.

Wednesday Film Nights: 25th Sept, 30th Oct, 27th Nov, 18th Dec. Make the most of the Autumn and Winter evenings at our friendly film nights. Film details will be shown on the board outside the Village Hall and on www.TheSibfords.uk Doors open at 7pm. Film starts at 7.30pm. Admission £3. Refreshments available.

Book Swap Saturdays and Cafe: Sept 21st, Oct 26th 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.

Theft at the Village Hall. Following the theft of all our geraniums in July, the new tubs have been planted with a selection of plants kindly given by Sue Bannister. Sue grows a variety of plants for sale to raise money for the Horti and the NGS and anyone can visit her by appointment.

Help look after our Village Hall. We need more volunteers to help look after the hall and gardens. A couple of hours every month would make a huge difference. 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! £48 for 12 months or £4 a month. Contact juliette53@btinternet.com for more info.

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.



VILLAGE HALL NEWS

Cont'd

Quick reminder on Hirers' responsibilities: Considering the thefts at the hall which included three bags of compost as well as the plants, can we please emphasise how important it is to watch over our village facilities. Hirers of the hall are asked to double check that doors are locked after use, and if anything, suspicious happens to please report it.

Please remember that if you hire the hall, it must be left as you would like to find it. The chairs must be stacked (use the chair trolleys) as per the photograph and advice notice on the door of the chair store, because we need to comply with our Health and Safety Policy. The dishwasher must be emptied completely and rinsed with clean water and the mesh plug must be cleaned of all food residue before replacing in the machine. Please remember that the Village Hall has a NO SMOKING policy which includes the outside space.

Charlotte Davies



FILM NIGHTS

The film on Wednesday September 25th is 1976.

1976 is a Spanish-language political thriller film directed by Manuela Martelli about a wealthy woman who becomes involved in Chile's anti-Pinochet resistance in 1976. The film is set in the winter of 1976, three years after Augusto Pinochet's military coup and dictatorship in Chile.

The film follows Carmen (Aline Kuppenheim), a middle-aged woman who lives a sheltered life with her doctor husband. When the local priest asks Carmen to help care for a wounded young man who is part of the resistance, Carmen begins to realise the dangers of living in a country where people who disagree with the leaders face consequences. Carmen's involvement in the resistance also explores her spiritual development and the Roman Catholic Church's attempts to address human rights abuses.

Some reviews of 1976 have praised the film's central performance by Kuppenheim and Martelli's debut as a director. Others have described the film as a 'compelling drama of privilege and dissent', a 'nerve-jangling noir', and a chilling picture of a dictatorship.

Rotten Tomatoes 91%

Doors open at 7. Film starts at 7.30

Admission £3 pp. Refreshments available.

Petra Berry

SIBFORD LUNCH CLUB



In the early 1990's Oxfordshire Social Services recognised that the rising number of elderly people living in the rural villages of North Oxfordshire had little or no support compared to their contemporaries living in the major towns where Day Centres provided support serving meals and social contact. At the same time some of the senior pupils at Sibford School were studying vocational courses preparing for careers in vocational work. These courses included catering, business, horticulture and health and care. Each of these courses had a practical requirement and the Health and Care course was led by the then Head of Sixth Form, Gill Manthorpe who lived with her family in the Fielding Boarding House. Judith Weeks, who lived in the Gower and worked for Social Services, was also a parent with a child at Sibford School who was taking the Health and Care Course. A connection was made. Sibford School could provide a safe environment for elderly people who lived in the rural villages around Sibford and who would benefit from the much-needed social contact. Fielding Day Centre was born in April 1992.

Each Wednesday the school minibus, driven by Gill provided transport, Sibford School provided meals and the pupils prepared the friendly dining room. With the additional help of village volunteers, the elderly of our community soon enjoyed a full day programme of games, quizzes, coffee, lunch and tea plus the chance to meet up and chat together. The Sixth form pupils had a first-hand opportunity to understand and observe the needs of the elderly villagers.

The Day Centre in Sibford was one of the first set up in the rural communities of north Oxfordshire and was later funded by Oxfordshire County Council with a full-time organiser. Members had to be recommended by Social Services, the local surgery and the health Service.

In 2017, OCC ceased funding for transport and staff and what was a full day changed into a lunch club, meeting in the Sibford village hall with the continued support of Sibford School. With no OCC restrictions, membership was now open to villagers over 65 and members continue to value the opportunity to meet and enjoy a chat and lunch together every Wednesday.

New members are welcome – if you are interested, please contact Keith Hicks, Tel. 780259 or keith@hicks-sibford.co.uk for further information.

SUNEDAY SMALLHOLDING

I had planned on cutting back some sections of the smallholding, particularly those that had legs! 'Concentrate on the veg' I had told myself.

I can spend all day everyday working here and yet there is always another job to do...and then grandchildren came along...more legs...and more reason to keep everything ticking over.

I am determined to give my two Little Wonders an understanding of the difference between want and need, work and reward.

So much so that this year I have decided to rear my own Christmas turkey. In July I went to Norfolk and returned with 21 black and bronze turkey chicks. Many years ago Tony and I used to rear 100 turkeys and some people reading this may well have bought one. I know what I'm taking on. They're quite small now and are not eating much, quite cute and make a sweet tweeting noise as bedtime approaches and they can all cuddle up together. The change happens almost imperceptibly until towards the beginning of December you realise they're not cute at all and are eating their own weight in feed everyday and the daunting prospect of killing, plucking and dressing becomes overwhelming.

I will be seeking Christmas tables for these birds and any that I haven't sold will come with me to Cirencester Livestock Market...where incidentally I recently purchased a young pedigree Oxford Sandy and Black boar named Jimmy...more legs!!!!

Sue Sabin



www.sibfordschool.co.uk

Sibford School is an independent co-educational day and boarding school that welcomes pupils from the age of 3-18

Discover Sibford School

Sibford School is inviting students and their families to come and learn more about the offering for children aged 3 – 18.

This is a great opportunity to meet key staff members, current parents and students. Take a look at our facilities, learn more about the excellent pastoral support on offer and find out more about our admissions process ahead of the Autumn Year 7 and 9 entry days.

To book a place at an upcoming Whole School Open Morning, call the Admissions Registrar on 01295 781 203 or book your place online at www.sibfordschool.co.uk/events.



SIBFORDS WALKING GROUP

WALKING DATES

Walking dates for the next month are: 02 Sept; 16 Sept; 30 Sept

All walks will leave the village hall on foot or by car at 10.00 am sharp to do a circuit of approximately 2 hours. You are therefore advised to get to the village hall by 9.55 am latest.

Dogs are welcome provided they are put on a lead when requested.

Walking boots or wellies and poles are recommended but not compulsory.

Some routes will include stiles and other similar obstacles.

For those leaving their cars at the village hall during the walk, please park it on the road and not on the car park.

Any issues please contact me on 07961 161358 or email

philtonphilip1@gmail.com.

Phil Hilton

FOOTPATHS

Our footpath warden is.....**Allan Smith , Arundel House, Backside Lane 07447 423043**. Any problems or complaints, then please contact Allan

LOCAL MARKETS

Banbury - Every Thursday & Saturday. Farmers Market
- 1st Friday of the month

Deddington Farmers - 4th Saturday of the month

Chipping Norton - Every Wednesday. Farmers market -
3rd Saturday of the month

Stourton Farmers - 1st Thursday of the month. 6-8pm



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HORTI SOCIETY

Horti entry September

After a summer of garden visits and culminating with The Summer Show on August 24, The Horticulture Society quietly subsides into the tranquility of September, along with the season, and pauses for a moment before we continue with our lecture programme in October when Diane Clement is coming to talk to us on 'Alpines in the wild and in cultivation' on Wednesday October 9. Usual arrangements; 7.00 at the village hall for refreshments for a 7.30 start. Members free, non-members, always welcome, £3.00

We look forward to seeing you all there

Diana Thompson



In Your Garden - September

It should start to get cooler in September, but it has been very unsettled this year. We have had floods in spring, and suddenly scorching days reaching record degrees of heat, so what should we expect in Autumn this year? Damned if I know, but writing this in the middle of August I can see that the berries in the hedges are starting to colour up, the blackberries look almost ripe, so we had better get on with normal jobs, and wait to see what happens!

1. Colour in your garden in autumn is produced by autumn flowering bulbs. Cyclamen hederifolium starts flowering soon, and likes to grow in dryish soil, and under trees. Also well worth planting are Nerines. They don't necessarily need planting against a south wall, as in the old custom, but as long as they get full sun in well drained soil, they will be happy. My favourite is colchicums, which flower like huge crocus, in pink or white. The only trouble about them is the annoying foliage that follows on, and should be kept there to feed the bulbs for next year. And glorious dahlias go on lighting up the borders until the first frost.
2. Alpine plants, like saxifrage, primulas and campanulas can all be divided up for more plants now.
3. As the seedheads develop on your favourite flowers, collect the seedheads, and put them to dry out on a tray somewhere warm, and when they have turned brown and dry, put them away in an envelope, and don't forget to label them.
4. As your lettuce and tomato plants start to come to an end, you can sow Lambs lettuce and Rocket seeds to have for your salads. plant the seeds in a cold frame or greenhouse. They grow very quickly.



In Your Garden - September

5. You can take cuttings of semi-ripe ripe salvias, verbenas and fuschias now, so that you can replace any that suffer in the winter, or give them away to friends.

6 Perennials, such as phlox and asters which have finished flowering, can be split up into smaller clumps. The ground is too hard to dig them out at the moment, but it will soften up with lots of rain. You can replant the outside rootings, and get rid of the tired old bit in the centre.

7. Time to order up your bulbs for spring, and to buy prepared hyacinth bulbs to plant this month so that they flower for Christmas. DO your planting at the end of September, but don't plant tulips until November.

8. As the weather cools down you can start moving tender plants into the greenhouse, or porch, but I hardly dare type this, because you will all say OH NO! But you must take all the plants out of the greenhouse and give it a jolly good clean first. Sorry.

9. It's Harvest time, so enjoy your apples, pears, grapes and late raspberries. Freeze them, or store them, or pass them on to friends. My favourite is Apple Strudel, and you can freeze loads of those, so that you have puddings to serve when anyone turns up for lunch

10. If trees grow over your pond, it helps to cover it with netting, and Oh! I forgot to say that your climbing roses need cutting back. You know how to do it, be fairly ruthless, and make the new long shoots grow sideways by tying them in horizontally.

Jupe Marshall

SIBFORD FERRIS PARISH COUNCIL

Parking in Private Roads

Concerns were raised at the last Parish Council (PC) meeting about parking in private roads, in particular in Manning's Close. Although we understand that parking can be difficult in villages such as ours, we would appreciate it if villagers and their visitors could park considerately and not in private roads as this can block access for the residents. Vehicles should also not be parked on the textured area on the corner at the end of Hawk's Lane (next to The Manor) as this area has been put in place to allow buses and other large vehicles to get around the corner.

Cotswold Close Play Area

The upgrade to the Cotswold Close Play Area is now scheduled to take place in October.

For any Parish Council related issues the Parish Clerk can be contacted on sfpc@thesibfords.org.uk

LOCAL NEWS

HOOK NORTON HARRIERS

Hook Norton Harriers recently enjoyed a volunteer take over at Chipping Norton School parkrun. For those of you who are unfamiliar with parkrun it describes itself as 'a free, fun, and friendly weekly 5k community event. Walk, jog, run, volunteer or spectate – it's up to you!' Our local is Chipping Norton School which takes place (as the name suggests) at the secondary school in Chipping Norton. Parkrun is actually a really enjoyable Saturday morning activity and is totally inclusive of all abilities... you will NEVER be the last runner or walker as one of the volunteer roles is 'tail walker' to ensure that all participants finish in front of them. The success of the event relies on volunteers and members of the Hook Norton Harriers came together to support their local parkrun by filling the roster on a particularly rainy July morning! Skin is waterproof ... you will often hear Harriers say!

If you are interested in joining us for a social run or would like to find out more about our races, please contact our club chairman, Richard Hart. Richard would love to have an informal chat with you about our club. Please email him on info@hooknortonharriers.org.uk or give him a call on 07728 892177.

To find out more; please have a look at our website and social media - www.hooknortonharriers.org.uk

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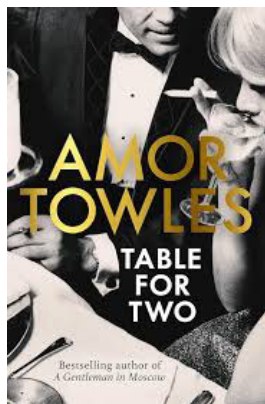
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WHAT WE'RE READING.....



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DID YOU KNOW?

Norman Manors in the Sibfords

After the Norman invasion in 1066 and following his coronation, King William divided vast areas of land between the Knights of Normandy who had brought about the defeat of the English at the Battle of Hastings. King William proclaimed all England to be his and his rewards to his knights were grants, in the form of Lordships to Manorial estates. The land and the powers of the Lords of each of the Manors were held on condition that all services, including military service, were rendered to the King.

Hugh de Grantmesnil, who came from Lisieux in Normandy was one of King William's most trusted knights and had master-minded the invasion in 1066. He was well rewarded, made Earl of Leicester and granted 100 English Manors in a number of counties including Oxfordshire. His Manor in Sibford Gower comprised 10 hides. The definition of a hide has been disputed by many medieval historians but most now agree that it was not a unit of area but one of value. The lands under Grantmesnil's grant were managed by a demesne tenant called Aba. The grant comprised "Land for 8 ploughs." The income from land under two of those ploughs was in demesne and payable in tithes to the Crown



via the Lord of the Manor. There were a further 'four acres of meadow and a mill.' A second Domesday Manor in Sibford Gower and Burdrop, also assessed at 10 hides, was granted to William Fitz Corbucion and held as one knight's fee. In 1086 the demesne tenant was Ralph and the income from one of the 7 ploughs was due to the Lord of the Manor. There was also 'a mill and four acres of meadow plus pasture 7 furlongs in length and breadth.' In the 12th century the fee was held by the Norman family of Goher, from which it is thought the Gower took its name. During the 13th century the manor descended in the line of the Earls of Warwick.

The actual areas of these two Manors remain unknown although the dovecote which remains in a garden in Main Street may have been part of the Grantmesnil Manor.

Maureen Hicks



VILLAGE PEOPLE

This month, we have Colin Lamb

Why Sibford?

I was born and brought up at Sibford Grounds Farm, and my family have lived in the village for generations, so when my wife, Mavis and I had the chance to move to my parents bungalow after their death, we took the opportunity without hesitation.

Earliest memory of Sibford

My earliest memories of the village are of going to play at my friend, Michael Doolan's house in Cotswold Close and the great kindness shown me by his mother, who was a lovely lady.

Surprising things about yourself

I have rowed the length of Lake Windermere on three occasions in charity events to raise money for the National Grocer's Benevolent Fund!

Best thing about Sibford and what would you like to change

Walking the network of paths and lanes in and around the villages through beautiful countryside is something I enjoy greatly, but I would like dog walkers to be aware that some people are not comfortable around dogs, so please keep them under close control when encountering other people.

What do you do?

I am now retired from work as an electronics engineer. My last job was providing technical support and training to a worldwide customer base of engineers using sophisticated test equipment manufactured by my employers.

How long have you lived here?

I moved back to Sibford with Mavis almost five years ago.

Hobbies

My main interest is photography and being an active member of four different societies or groups takes up much of my time these days.

What really gets you going?

I really enjoy visiting nature reserves, with the opportunities it gives me for photography. We recently visited Ramsey Island, an RSPB reserve off St. David's Head and had a wonderful day, spotting birds, grey seals, red deer and other wildlife, as well as having a boat trip and a lovely walk in glorious weather. Fantastic!

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
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FRIENDSHIP CLUB

You will have heard of the Charity who, on motorcycles, delivers emergency blood etc, to hospitals.

On Sept 3 the club welcomes the Charity to speak at the Club.

I think it will be an interesting talk. So come along and meet us. Have a chat and a cuppa with old and new friends. Non members £1.

Evie Boughton

From the Roof of The World

Pictures



Tibetan Monks



Mountains and Hires



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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.

From the Roof of The World

2024 is an auspicious year for the people of Sibford, as it marks the return to our village after 10 years of the Tibetan *Tashi Lhunpo Monks* who live in exile in their monastery in India. Once again they will be sharing their unique culture, including the creation and ritual destruction of a sand mandala, and interactive workshops. The Saturday evening performance of masked dancers and sacred chants features ancient musical instruments and offers an opportunity to experience a mysterious and endangered culture.

There will be another anniversary celebration at this event. Exactly 30 years after the filming of the renowned documentary *Escape from Tibet*, the producers and film crew will be reunited with the two brothers, now British citizens, whose dangerous journey from the Roof of the World is told in the film. Using film clips and photographs, they will tell the story of how the film was made.

Some of the events are free and do not need to be booked in advance, but tickets will be needed for these events:

- Saturday morning Workshop: £5 per person
- Saturday afternoon Workshop: £5 per person
- *'Escape from Tibet' 30 Years On* presentation and Evening Performance: one ticket to cover both events: Adult £16, School-age child £5
- Curry supper (cost to be determined)

Please book and pay for your tickets online via thesibfords.uk/tlm if you can, otherwise contact Diana Hughes on 01295 788 214 or at dianahughesonline@gmail.com

For more information about the Tashi Lhunpo monks and their weekend in Sibford, visit thesibfords.uk/tlm

The net proceeds of the weekend will help support the monks, young and old, who study and live in Tashi Lhunpo, benefitting the whole community.

Friday 18th October: at Sibford Village Hall:

16:30 Dedication Ceremony of the sand mandala

Saturday 19th October:

10:00 - 10:20 Morning Prayers

11:00 - 12:30 Hands-on Workshop; making a sand mandala, printing prayer flags

14:30 - 16:00 Performance Workshop: an introduction to the musical instruments, dance moves and hand gestures used in the evening performance

16:00 - 16:30 Tea

16:30 - 17:30 *'Escape from Tibet' 30 Years On*: how the film was made

18:00 - 19:30 Curry supper

19:30 - 21:30 Performance of masked dancers and sacred chants

Sunday 20th October

10:45 Ceremony of Destruction of the sand mandala

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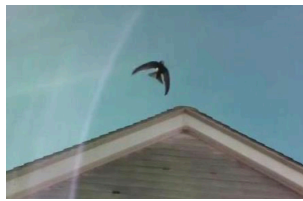
Quakers - Sibford Gower, Sunday, 10.30 am

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)

THE SIBFORD SWIFTS



THE SIBFORD SWIFTS

The photo captures the moment at about 10am on Sunday 28th July when the last chick fledged from our Mannings Close colony. Taking to the air for the first time, this swift will spend the next two or three years entirely in the air drinking, eating, preening and sleeping on the wing before possibly returning to us to find a mate and breed for the first time.

Compared to the previous two years, when 10 or 11 chicks fledged, this year has been disappointing, with just 5 fledgings. Each of our four boxes with a camera has its own unusual story to tell, often involving a pesky kestrel.

In box#1 the first swift to arrive, almost certainly returning from last year, roosted consistently, but its mate never showed up and apart from a few one night stands it did not manage to settle down with another. No offspring there.

I related in the July Scene the kerfuffle in box #4 when, after a fight with an intruder, two of the three eggs were discarded and a single fresh one laid. This resulted in two eggs hatching an unusual 4 days apart, so the two chicks differed considerably in size and their ability to get a share of the food. And then in late June one of the parents was taken by the kestrel. Although the remaining parent did seem to be feeding both chicks successfully, 3 weeks later the smaller chick took it upon itself to simply fall out of the entrance very early in the morning, to be predated by perhaps a crow or the kestrel. We found a few feathers on the ground below. Its larger sibling, the colony's oldest chick, appeared to fledge successfully a few days later.

In early July one of the parents disappeared from box #2, presumably taken by the kestrel, although we have no evidence of that. Since the widowed parent would have no chance of successfully raising three chicks, we took the two biggest ones to Oxfordshire Wildlife Rescue in Blewbury, where they know how to tackle the difficult and skilled task of hand-rearing swiftlets. A week later the remaining chick, routinely observing the world from the box entrance, was snatched out by the kestrel.

Box #3 was a model of swift breeding, all three eggs hatching within a day of each other so that the chicks all grew together at the same rate. But then the kestrel struck again, taking one of the chicks in the same way as for #2. Its two siblings fledged successfully a week later.

In our new "swift hotel", just round the corner from the main colony, we thought we had a breeding pair – until the kestrel took one of them as it entered its box. However, we did see a pair entering the box at the end of July, so perhaps they will return to breed next year.

Also on the bright side, several of our neighbours have put up nest boxes and we hear that both the church and Sibford School will be doing so shortly.

You can read more about all the drama, some illustrated with video footage, on the village website at thesibfords.uk/about/swifts/swifts-2024

Please email me at swifts@thesibfords.uk if you have queries about boxes, calls, or indeed anything swiftian and I'll do my best to help. We'll be thinking about how we can protect the colony from so much predation next year.

Tim Huckvale

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A strange survival from the Civil Wars

Oswyn Murray



David Soden has shown me a piece of wood six foot long, with a painted inscription, gold lettering on grey-blue. He believes it came from the yard of the Poulton family business who were long active in the building trade in the Sibfords. The lettering is in rough seventeenth century script, upper and lower case, and reads:

Qui rebellaverit ori tuo morietur ANN (in capitals, for 'anno', presumably it continues with a year date)

[Whosoever rebels against your words, shall be killed ANN]

This is taken from the Latin Vulgate version of Joshua 1.18, a famous passage in the Bible, where after the death of Moses Joshua tells the Israelites to cross the Jordan into the Promised Land and seize it from the poor Palestinians (very topical given Netanyahu's policy in Gaza). The first four words are quoted from an early Vulgate version by Trebellius (1569): the word 'rebellaverit' instead of the later 'contradixerit' proves that the inscription is genuinely seventeenth century. I have consulted the two most eminent historians on 16th-17th century religious history in Oxford and Cambridge but they know of no parallels for this use of such a rather bloodthirsty biblical text.

The secret Catholic church in Brailes was repanelled in the eighteenth century: Is this inscription what remains of the earlier decoration, preserved because it was inscribed and dated? Is the lost date related to the battle of Edgehill, fought in 1642 just down the road? The survival of the wooden text can plausibly be explained if the Poulton family business were employed in the eighteenth century renovation; they would have transported the old panelling to their Sibford base, and perhaps this section survived because it was lettered.

Maybe someone can come up with a better explanation!



Challenge accepted!?

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New volunteering role

Katharine House is looking for someone to take on a volunteer 'Patient Feedback' role at the hospice. This role will assist in the gathering feedback from patients in relation to all aspects of their time at Katharine House Hospice, as well as their thoughts on the hospital transport (if relevant). The feedback will be used to improve the services provided to patients and their families. Visit www.khh.org.uk/volunteer for more information if you are interested in this or any other volunteer role at Katharine House.

Get hands on with our the new KHH fundraising group

If you want to make a direct impact on the community around you, why not join the new Katharine House fundraising group. The group is already getting stuck in, organising fun events and fundraisers to raise money for the hospice. For a fun, sociable, flexible way to put your creativity and energy to good use, find out more at www.khh.org.uk/fundraising.

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

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SIBFORD PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB

On 27th August, we had an in depth discussion about photographing animals, both pets and wild animals. This covered picking the environment for a shoot, choice of lens and camera settings for static poses and action shots. We then enjoyed members' images on the topic of "Agriculture" encompassing animals, crops and machinery.

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.

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

Colin Lamb



SIBFORDS HISTORY SOCIETY

On 20th June Dr Gillian White, our ever popular guest speaker, gave us in her inimitably stylish way, a talk on 'The Battle of Crécy, 1346'. She outlined the history of the Battle, which resulted in victory for the English against the French, in which the longbow proved to be more effective than the Genoese crossbow, which was affected by the rain. The brutality of medieval warfare was really brought home to us, and it is agonising to think that besieging and brutal killings are still part of our world today. Thank you to Gillian, who warned us that this was going to be her most "serious" talk.

Some of you who heard Bill King's talk on 'Dad's Underground Army' may be keen to visit a special 1940's event at Coleshill, which takes place over the weekend of 12th and 13th October. There will be displays about the Auxiliary Units and the replica operational base will be open. Bill and his wife Flora will be there. Please let us know if you are interested.

By the time you read this we will have had our trip to Hardwick Hall and we will be looking forward to Alastair Lack's talk on 'CS Lewis and JRR Tolkien' on September 19th. Doors open at the Village Hall at 7.15pm, and the talk starts at 7.30pm. Visitors £5. Light refreshments served after the talk.

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NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH



You will probably recognise a few of these scams, but they keep coming.

1. Scam emails impersonating Amazon. Scammers claim that your Amazon Prime membership is set to renew but your payment method is no longer valid. You get directed to a phishing website wanting your personal and financial details. Don't click on the link, send the email to:

reportascam@amazon.com

2. Warning from First Direct. If you receive an unexpected text message from your bank about your 'digital wallet' (this stores virtual versions of your debit and credit cards on your phone). Fraudsters pretend to be from your bank saying there has been a problem with the wallet, and please send your personal details via a link etc, etc. Forward suspicious messages to 7726.

3. Consumer website Which? warns of emails impersonating HM Revenue & Customs. Emails claim you are eligible for a tax rebate and must complete an online form immediately to receive it. The link leads to a malicious website etc. Once the crooks have these details they can register for loans and credit cards in your name. Do not click on the link - forward it to 'report@phishing.gov.uk.'

4. Beware emails purporting to come from Lloyds Bank which warn of an important security update. You are invited to complete an 'account verification process', and the rest is the same as 3. above, including forwarding the link.

5. Action Fraud are warning of scam emails impersonating NatWest. Crooks state that the contact number attached to your bank account has been updated and the change will take place in 24 hours. You are invited to click onto a link etc. Please respond as at 3. above.

6. Finally, fake QR codes are again being stuck on council owned parking machines, currently on meters in Llandudno and Colwyn Bay, north Wales. These are both attractive holiday destinations, so be alert.

Peter Hine, Gower and Burdrop Watch 788830.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

- 3rd - Friendship Club - Village Hall 2pm
- 4th - Ladies Coffee Club- Wykham Arms - 11am
- 6th - Mens Brunch - Sun Inn - 11.30am
- 4th - Coach trip to Hardwick Hall - 9am
- 11th - SGPC meeting - Village Hall 7pm
- 19th-Sibfords History Society "CS Lewis & JRR Tolkien" - Village Hall 7.30pm
- 21st - Book Swap Cafe - Village Hall 10am
- 24th - Sibford Photography Club - Village Hall 7.30pm
- 26th - Film Night: "1976" - Village Hall 7.30pm

SEPTEMBER BIN COLLECTIONS

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

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

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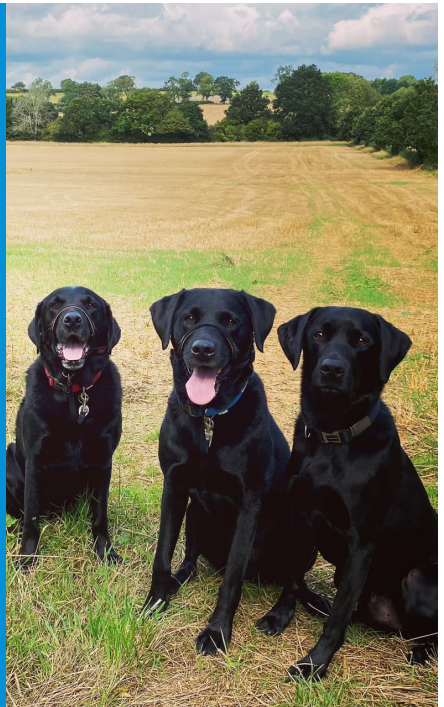
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