

Sibford Scene.

Dec/Jan 2025.

Number: 469



**Sibford Players Present**

# **JUST A TRIFLE**



Show dates: 7:30 pm - 6th, 7th, 8th February, 2025

Ticket Price £7.50

On sale from January 2nd

Contact Maria

[mocanagil@aol.com](mailto:mocanagil@aol.com)

07879 632959



## ED'S THOUGHTS

Hello!

A very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Lots to look forward to:

So, we have an evening with Kaleb Cooper (page 6),

Music & Carols (page 27),

"Love Actually" (page 34),

The Sibford Belles at the Wykham Arms (page 34),

And the return of the Sibford Players (page 3)

Let's hope for some sanity in 2025 - no more ludicrous planning applications, and hopefully, fixed potholes.

Lets look forward to happiness all around..... and I hope that you have all enjoyed reading the Scene in 2024

**BIG thankyou to all our advertisers, contributors and distributors**

### Thought for the month

"Have yourself a Merry Little Christmas

Let your heart be light"

Ralph Blaned, Hugh Martin

Cover picture by Nicola Durrant

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You can pay for ads directly into our account:

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## Deadline for February Issue

12 NOON - 18th JANUARY 2025

## 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 263331 (Ferris). We are also lucky enough to have a really great village website at: [thesibfords.uk](http://thesibfords.uk)



## LETTERS AND NOTICES

### VILLAGE HALL LOTTERY

**YOUR Lottery needs YOU!**

MAKE some extra cash by playing the lottery and help raise funds for Sibford Village Hall.



This month's tickets were drawn by Distribution Manager Fiona Pidgeon's 4 year old granddaughter Beatrix Pidgeon. Good job Bea!

For a one off payment of £48 you stand to win a cash prize of £70, £42 or £28 every month for the next 12 months.

The lottery provides vital funds for the hall and this year has generated a massive £1,440.

Cash prize winners in November were:

**First Prize Alex Harbord, Second prize Joanne Connor, Third prize Judy Abbott.**

More information from Anne: [crucialpr@macace.net](mailto:crucialpr@macace.net)

### **Mary Nash - Christmas Greetings**

Mary Nash wishes all her friends a very happy Christmas. No cards please. I will not be sending cards locally. Don't make me feel guilty !



# LETTERS AND NOTICES

## CHRISTMAS CHEER

The Town Estate Charity is offering a Christmas gift of a lunch at the Wykham Arms to anyone living alone and elderly in Sibford Gower or Burdrop and who is not a member of the Lunch Club. This lunch may be taken at any time during December in exchange for a voucher. To obtain a voucher please contact Oswyn Murray (01295 780723 or [murrayoswyn@gmail.com](mailto:murrayoswyn@gmail.com))

## COTSWOLD CLOSE PLAY AREA

How wonderful to see the play area in Cotswold Close having a revamp, an important amenity for the youngsters of the villages. Thank you to all those involved in providing a safe & fun space for children, it is greatly appreciated.

Bernie Jones

## Tashi Lhunpo monks

Thank you to all those who came and took part in the Tashi Lhunpo monks' weekend from 18 to 20 October. It was great to watch people's enjoyment of the workshops and the sight of the beautiful mandala growing each hour, and of course the Performance was superb.

The children at the Primary School really impressed the monks with their enthusiasm, and the visit was a perfect start to the weekend.

After payment of the overheads, we had £1050 to give to the Tashi Lhunpo UK Trust, and they were delighted. Extra thanks to Tim Huckvale, who managed the publicity brilliantly, to Sue Tompkins for all her organising, to Miss T for the super curries, to Ginny Bennett, to Keith Hicks, to all those who so generously offered accommodation, and the helpers at the door!

Also of course to the inimitable Jane Rasch, who tirelessly tours with the monks, and to the monks themselves.

Following many requests, we have arranged a showing of the entire 50-minute documentary film **'Escape from Tibet' on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2025 at 2.30 pm in the Village Hall**. We'll be scattering the remains of the mandala sand on the village hall field before the film, at about 2pm. No charge, but a small contribution towards hire of the hall would be appreciated.

# YOGA

SIBFORD VILLAGE HALL

FLOW YOGA:  
THURSDAY 9-10

CHAIR YOGA:  
MONDAY 10-11  
THURSDAY 10:15-11:15



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**An evening with Kaleb Cooper**

**Mark Pougatch**, sports broadcaster extraordinaire, will talk to Kaleb, major star of **Clarkson's Farm**, about his journey from anonymous farm hand to celebrity farmer

Tuesday **3rd December** at 7pm  
Village Hall, Sibford Gower, OX15 5RN  
with wine and glorious canapés included

Book your place with a **£25 donation** to **Cotswolds Arts Through Schools**. Email Sue Bannister on [sebannister@gmail.com](mailto:sebannister@gmail.com)



## LOCAL LOGS DELIVERED

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## NATURE NOTES

The relatively mild weather up until mid-November has resulted in late sightings of various wildlife including wasps, Comma butterflies and Large White butterfly caterpillars.

By far the most notable report in the last month was from Sue Thompkins who saw a Hoopoe in her garden. These spectacular birds are rare visitors to the UK and are mainly seen on the South Coast.

Hedgehogs have been in the national news recently as their conservation status has been upgraded to Near Threatened. However, in the Sibfords and surrounding villages there have been a lot more sightings in the last few years. It is thought that in towns and villages populations may be stable due to people adopting Hedgehog friendly measures such as leaving gaps in fences, reducing pesticide use and providing food and shelter such as log piles or purpose made hedgehog boxes.

It is worth keeping an eye out for Goldcrests. These are Britain's smallest bird weighing about the same as a 20p coin. They flit around in tree-tops looking for small invertebrate to eat. Younger people can often locate them by their high-pitched calls but by the age of 55-65 these calls have often dropped out of the human hearing range.

The birds have very large broods as winter mortality tends to be very high in cold winters. On average the birds only live for 2 years.

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

### 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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## VILLAGE HALL NEWS

### Village Hall News

**New volunteers needed to support the management of the Village Hall.** We need individuals with some time and dedication to help manage the hall and gardens and ensure these jobs are in safe hands. At the present time Ginny Bennett is Hall Manager and Bookings Manager and eventually she will retire! It is vitally important that we secure some additional support in the coming months to ensure we can maintain the hall as a safe and pleasant space for everyone to use. It is such a valuable community asset and vital for the many groups and societies that depend on it. Please consider lending your support if you can. Contact Ginny 780373 or [ginnybennett@googlemail.com](mailto:ginnybennett@googlemail.com)

**Dancing in the Dark! Friday 6<sup>th</sup> Dec 7.30 – 8.30pm.** Come and shake your booty in the dark to some fab dance tunes. Bring £1, some water and your best moves.... Dance like no-one is watching and feel amazing afterwards!

**WARM HUBS: Every Thursday afternoon 2.30–4.30pm** Our social Thursday afternoon "Get Together" have restarted and will run every week until the end of March in the small hall. Just come along and enjoy a cup of tea or coffee and cake. You can play table games, do a jigsaw or art and craft work, or do your knitting. Free of charge as kindly sponsored by the Town Estate Charity. If you need transport to help you get here, contact Ginny on 780373

**Wednesday Film Night: Dec 18<sup>th</sup>** 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](http://www.TheSibfords.uk) Doors open at 7pm. Film starts at 7.30pm. Admission £3. Refreshments available.

**Book Swap Saturdays and Cafe: Dec 14<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.

**Do you have a spare picnic bench in your garden or garage?** If so, please consider donating to the Village Hall as we would gratefully receive any donations to improve our outside space.

**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 Anne: [crucialpr@macace.net](mailto:crucialpr@macace.net) for more info.



## 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 £12/hr (one hall); and £22/hr (both halls). These rates are effective from November 1st, 2024, or for those groups who have pre-booked dates until the end of this year, effective from January 1<sup>st</sup>. Please use us for your next birthday party or community gathering. [www.sibfordvillagehall.org.uk](http://www.sibfordvillagehall.org.uk).

**Quick reminder on security and vigilance at the Village Hall:** It is important that we keep a watch over our village facilities. Hirers of the hall are asked to double check that doors are locked after use, and if anything, suspicious is noticed, to please photograph it and report it.

**Quick reminder on Hirers' responsibilities:** 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



## GREAT TASTE

This month's recipe comes from Peter Hine.....

### **CHRISTMAS CRUMBLE** Serves 4

14oz eating apples

500g mincemeat

Zest and juice of 1 orange

4oz plain flour. 2oz roughly chopped walnuts. 3oz brown sugar. 2oz cubed butter.

Peel, core and chop apples. Combine with mincemeat, zest and juice of orange. Spoon into 1litre ovenproof dish.

Combine dry ingredients and butter and rub until breadcrumb-ish. Scatter over apple mix and bake at 180 fan or gas 6 for around 40 minutes.



The days and weeks continue to be as busy and fun-filled as always here at Sibford Gower Endowed Primary School.

Our Year 5 & 6 children have been on a residential trip at the beautiful Condoover Hall in Shropshire. They have had action-packed days and evenings with activities ranging from abseiling to climbing to marshmallows around the campfire. They really had a lovely time!

We were delighted to welcome an Olympic Champion into school. Hattie Taylor, a member of the Team GB Rowing Team who attained a Bronze Medal at the recent Paris Olympics, came into school to give a special assembly for the children. She talked about her journey to the Olympics and made time for the children to ask all sorts of questions about her experiences. The children found her both reassuringly down to earth, and very inspirational. And she passed around her bronze medal, letting every single child in the school hold it! It was surprisingly large and very heavy. Thanks Hattie!



Hattie Taylor with our Sports Leaders



### FIREWORK FUN

The annual P.T.A. organised Bonfire Night and Firework display was great fun. There was a really good turn-out and a lovely atmosphere, with possibly the biggest bonfire we have ever had! Thanks to everybody who gave up their time and worked so hard to make this event such a success: it takes a lot of organising! It was really lovely to see the familiar faces of many of our ex-pupils and parents in the crowd.

**Thursday 21st November 2024, 9:30 to 11:00**

We are holding an Open Morning for prospective parents, beginning with an introduction to the school and Q & A session.

*To find out more about this, 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/>*



## FILM NIGHTS

Our Christmas film in December is on **Wednesday 18th**. The film I have chosen is **Love Actually**. This blockbuster film includes a fantastic all-star cast and an outstanding soundtrack.

The hilarious Love Actually explores the ups and downs of relationships in the weeks building up to Christmas. Boyfriends & girlfriends, husbands & wives, fathers & sons and rock stars & managers all combine to make Love Actually not just one story but ten very different ones. Starring Hugh Grant, Liam Neeson, Emma Thompson, Bill Nighy and Rowan Atkinson

Touching, Merry and Romantic. Mince pies and mulled wine will be served. Doors open at 7. Film starts at 7.30. Admission £3pp.

The first film in the new year is on **Wednesday January 29th**

The film is the Mike Leigh film **Another Year**.

A touching story which follows happily-married couple Tom ( Jim Broadbent) and Gerri (Lesley Manville) and their friends and family over four seasons. Featuring love and warmth, joy and sadness, hope and despair, companionship and loneliness.

Rotten tomatoes 93%.

Amusing, Poignant and Charming. Doors open at 7. Film starts at 7.30. £3 pp.

Petra Berry



Visited the Long Table at Brinscombe Hill, Stroud and this notice was in the loo.

I think they are doing a wonderful thing here.... Ed

And I've just heard that Daniel Craig has given them £50K!!



## SIBFORDS WALKING GROUP

### WALKING DATES

Walking dates for the next months are: 9 Dec; 23 Dec; 6 Jan; 20 Jan

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](mailto: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



# HOME CLOSE

— F L O W E R S —

## **December Wreath Workshops**

Last few places available .....

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# HORTI SOCIETY

Dear friends please note that the 2025 Spring Show, is on 17th May.  
(Other dates for your diaries, Plant Sale on 10 May at Carter's Yard, and Summer Show on 23 August, more details next year). For now, please start preparing mentally and physically for the following:

## SECTION C

1. A piece of pottery
2. A piece of crochet
3. A hand knitted article
4. A hand woven friendship bracelet
5. A dried flower decoration. Please state size on entry
6. A greetings card made from any medium EXCEPT computer generated
7. A handicraft exhibit. Please state size on entry
8. A handicraft exhibit - aged 16 and under

## SECTION D PHOTOGRAPHY

photographs may not exceed 5"x8" (13x18) and should be mounted on a piece of A5 paper unless otherwise stated

1. Photograph - shapes in the countryside
2. Photograph - night sky
3. Photograph- texture
4. Photograph - macro
5. Photograph -make me laugh
6. Photograph - wildlife in the garden
7. Photograph - the beauty of trees
8. Photograph- pollinator/s
9. Photograph- water
10. 4 related photographs mounted on one sheet and named
11. A black and white photograph. Any size, one only
12. An enlargement- any subject (max size A4 black and white or colour)
13. A painting or drawing
14. A painting or drawing aged 16 or under



## HORTI SOCIETY

The Horti enjoyed its final meeting of the year with delicious mulled wine, mince pies and with our highly entertaining guest speaker Timothy Walker. The talk was entitled, 'Plants for shade and woodland'. The presentation was delivered at a pace, peppered with humour and with great slides. The first part of Timothy's talk took us on a whistle stop tour of many of the great forests of the world for example, the mist forests in the Seychelles where every surface is covered in mosses and ferns, and the Yellow Mountain forest in China which has more plant species than the whole of Britain and Ireland yet is only the size of Oxfordshire. Furthermore the valleys are so steep that each has its own unique species one of which is *Tricyrtis Formosana* – a plant which many of us enjoy in our gardens and which has just finished flowering. The second part of the talk focussed specifically on the plants themselves; those which prefer very dry shade right the way through to plants that like to have their feet in water as well as in deep shade. These are too numerous to mention here but I have asked Timothy for a plant list which we will send out to members when we receive it.

Véronique Tyrrell



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## DID YOU KNOW?



At Christmas time many of us enjoy eating a mince pie or two – but have you ever thought about how these small, sweet treats became part of a Christmas tradition enjoyed during the Christmas season by many English-speaking peoples across the world?

The mince pie we enjoy today is a sweet pie of English origin filled with mincemeat, being a mixture of fruit, spices and suet. Its ingredients are traceable to the 13th century, when returning European Crusaders brought with them Middle Eastern recipes containing meats, fruits, and spices. These contained the Christian symbolism of representing the gifts delivered to Jesus by the Biblical Magi. These early mince pies, were traditionally larger and made in an oblong or oval shape to resemble the crib or manger in which the Christ Child was laid. The pastry lid represented the swaddling clothes and sometimes carried a figure depicting the Christ Child. The early mince pie was known by several names, including "mutton pie", "shrid pie" – in Tudor times, and "Christmas pie". Typically, its ingredients then were a mixture of minced meat, suet, a range of fruits, and spices, including cinnamon, cloves, and nutmeg. Served around Christmas, this savoury pie was associated with supposed Catholic "idolatry", and during the English Civil War was frowned on by the Puritan authorities. Nevertheless, the tradition of eating Christmas pies in December continued through to the Victorian era, although by then its recipe had become sweeter and its size markedly reduced from its once large oblong shape. Writing in his memoir, John Anthony Oddie, grandson of Robert Oddie – headmaster of Sibford School, 1880–1906, remembers visiting Sibford as a young boy for their memorable family Christmas celebrations. All the female members of the family had to bake and bring a batch of mince pies to the family gathering. His grandfather would then select one from each batch. Parting his beard and moustaches he would take a large bite from each and then announce one as the best mince pie for that year. Today, the mince pie made remains a popular sweet seasonal treat. May I take this opportunity to wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and peaceful New Year.

*Maureen Hicks*



## In Your Garden - December

The weird weather we have had this summer has baffled some of the plants. Some bloomed earlier, and shot up to be much too tall, and my beautiful Cobea Scandens, normally covering the wall with purple blossoms in July, has just decided that November is the best time to flower. Crazy world. Never mind, here are a few suggestions for you to do in your garden.

1. It is a good time to prune your apple and pear trees back into shape, and don't forget to check the fruit you have stored away, and remove any that are mouldering.
2. Make sure your lawn mower is overhauled, once we've stopped mowing, and keep removing twigs and leaves from the grass. New turf can be laid as long as the soil is not frozen or too boggy.
3. Last year's primulas will have tripled in size, so you can split them up and replant. If you are lucky enough to grow some primula auriculas in a cold frame, they need to have any dead leaves pulled off. Best way to do it is gently with a pair of tweezers.
4. Check on any pots of Christmas Hyacinths you have placed in the dark. Once they have popped a nose up you can give them a little drink and place them in the light.
5. The borders will look better if you continue to do a bit of clearing up, removing dead growth, leaves and weeds, otherwise if left, they make cosy homes for slugs, who are just waiting for new delphinium shoots to come up for their favourite snack.
6. Hippeastrums (Amaryllis as I call them still) are traditionally forced to flower at Christmas. If you are given some new bulbs as a present, go ahead and pot them up, leaving the top two-thirds of the bulb exposed. Place them in a light windowsill, remembering to turn them round regularly.
7. If you have lifted your dahlias check them to make sure they are completely dry. If there are any signs of a rotten bit, chuck them away. Dahlias left in the ground should be cut down to three inches high, and smothered with thick mulch to protect them from the frost.
8. Hellebores are showing the first sign of flower buds, so now is the time to cut away some of the taller leaves around them, and let the light in.
9. Hang up bird feeders, and put out any food scraps on the bird table. Clean out the bird bath too. They seem to love having a cold splash in the icy weather.



## In Your Garden - December

Cont'd

10. Paths may get icy and slippery, so keep them clear of weeds and give them a good brushing regularly and when it is too chilly to be outside, why not go into your shed and sharpen and clean up your tools. A large mug of mulled wine will soon warm you up.

It is definitely time to flop into a big, comfy chair, by the fire, and go through all the lovely seed catalogues. Before you order them it might be a good idea to make a cunning plan of how, and where, you want to plant them. Annuals in a picking border are easiest if done in straight rows, but if you are planting them in a border amongst the perennials, they look best planted in groups, rather than being scattered about. Best not to plant your sweet peas until January, in long pots, or tubes, in the greenhouse. This is just a list of jobs you can spread over the next two months. We are all so busy in December, cooking, shopping and partying, so don't feel you need to tire yourself out in the garden. Sometimes it feels good to just stand out there and look and see what is good, and what's not. You have done a good job this year. Merry Christmas to you all, dear gardeners.

Jupe Marshall

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# NORTH OXFORDSHIRE WINE CLUB

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## SIBFORD PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB

At our meeting on 29th October, we watched an online video presentation about using wide angle lenses to capture dramatic landscape shots. This gave us many tips on how to create eye-catching images by getting close to smaller foreground features so that they fill a significant section of the frame. We also viewed our members' images on the topic "In the air", an inspiring selection of images with a wide range of subjects from aircraft and drones to mist and birds, from balls and eggs to people and their washing!

On the 26th November, we will be having an in depth discussion about photographing animals. Aspects covered will include choice of equipment, settings, locations and techniques. We will then review members' images on the monthly topic "Autumn". As you would expect, there were many photos showing leaf colour, but there were also shots of flowers, fungi, berries and even a stagecoach!

We will not be meeting in December. Instead, we will meet on **7th January and 28th January 2025.**

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



Red Arrow - Stephen Haynes



Sky Line Picasso - Stuart Ralph



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





## FRIENDSHIP CLUB

The Friendship Club are holding their Christmas Lunch on **Dec 3rd** at Hook Norton Brewery.

Then on **Dec 17th** Club will have Carols in Sibford Church by kind permission of Rev Emily followed by tea and mince pies.

All are welcome.

The Club does not meet in Jan.

So the Committee and Members wish all Friends A Very Merry Christmas and A Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Evey Boughton

### SAVE THE DATE – **SIBFORD ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM** 14 JANUARY 2025

On 14 January at 7pm in the Village Hall there will be an open forum to discuss renewables and further environmental improvements in the Sibfords. At this meeting, Tim Lunel, one of the founders of Hook Norton Low Carbon will talk about their success in developing an electric car club (open to members here), zero carbon housing and other initiatives. Of particular interest to us will be the proposed development of Energy Local North Oxfordshire – a renewables microgrid extending from Epwell to Hook Norton via the Sibfords which will allow small-scale generators of solar power to connect to others to create a sustainable low-cost power source at the local level.

Many Sibford residents are already involved in or considering their own plans to lower emissions and reduce cost, and the aim of the forum would be to encourage sharing of knowledge and experience and identify one or two projects of community interest which could be developed to general benefit in the short term.

Everyone is encouraged to attend – There is no formal organising body as yet, but volunteers are warmly welcome. If you have experience or ideas you would like to talk about or have questions or proposals on the agenda, please contact Jan Thompson ([janthompson50@hotmail.com](mailto:janthompson50@hotmail.com) 01295 788751) or Stephen Gomersall ([sjgomersall@hotmail.com](mailto:sjgomersall@hotmail.com) 01295 788911)

More details in the next issue. We would appreciate a line by email to say if you are planning to attend.

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## SIBFORD BUS SERVICE

### **Sibford Ferris - Banbury**

M-F: 6.21, 8.37,11.07,13.28,17.34. Sat: 6.56, 8.35,11.09,13.29,17.31

### **Banbury - Sibford Ferris**

M-F: 6.50 (Term time),7.28 (Hols),12.03,14.53,18.03.

Sat: 11.40,14.30,17.40

### **Sibford Ferris - Stratford**

M-F: 7.13 (Term time), 7.28 (Hols), 12.03,14.53, 18.03.

Sat: 12.03,14.53,18.03

### **Stratford - Sibford Ferris**

M-F: 5.45, 7.30, 10.30, 12.50, 16.25. Sat: 6.17, 7.57, 10.30, 12.50, 16.40

**No service on Sundays or  
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As we head towards the end of the year, we want to thank you for all your support. We couldn't continue to support our wonderful community without the help of people like you. Here's the latest news and events from Katharine House

**Make a run for it**

Get festive, have fun and support our community this Christmas by signing up for our Santa Fun Run on **Sunday 1 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)

# **JUMBLE SALE**

## **IN AID OF THE CHURCHILL CANCER HOSPITAL, OXFORD**

**Saturday January 25th at Sibford Village Hall**

**1-3pm. 50p entrance fee, children free**

To make this possible, I need donations of  
clothes, shoes, toys, books, DVDs, cd's,  
bric a brac.

Also anything suitable for raffle prizes.

I can collect any donations.

Email: [billybev25 @outlook.com](mailto:billybev25@outlook.com) 07977841483

Cont'd

## Lights of Love

We'd love for you to join us for our annual Lights of Love event on **Thursday 5 December** at St Mary's Church, Banbury, 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).



## HOLY TRINITY CHURCH CHATTER

We are again this year holding a Christmas Tree Festival with various organisations, groups and schools each providing a tree. The trees will be on display from Saturday 7th December until Epiphany, 6th January. Holy Trinity will be open each day from 9 am to dusk, please come and enjoy the trees, there is no charge.

We are also providing decorated shoeboxes with useful items and sweets for Polly Preedy to distribute to the homeless and needy in Banbury, showing that they are not forgotten and bringing a little joy. These will be delivered to Polly after the Carol Service. If you would like to contribute please contact Barbara Foster 07773 404088 [freespirit41@icloud.com](mailto:freespirit41@icloud.com) for further details.

### Services at Holy Trinity in December and January

- Christingle Service - Sunday 15th December 5pm
- Traditional Carol Service - Friday 20th December 7 pm.
- Christmas Eve - Nativity service 4pm
- Midnight Service 11.30 pm
- Christmas Day 9.30 am Family Communion.
- Sunday January 5th. 10.30 am Joint Benefice Service at Shutford
- Sunday January 12th. 8 am Holy Communion BPC.  
10am Family Service - lay led
- Sunday January 19th. 9.30am Parish Communion
- Sunday January 26th. 9.30am Parish Communion.

Wishing you all Christmas Blessings of love, joy and peace.

Barbara Foster



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## SIBFORDS HISTORY SOCIETY

On 17<sup>th</sup> October Tim Healey gave us an entertaining talk on 'The Trail of the Green Man in Oxfordshire.' He has devoted much time to his quest to find and photograph all the Green Men, but realised that he will always be discovering more. This mysterious, age-old presence, with a face made of leaves or a mouth which disgorges foliage, is to be found in numerous churches, and it seems, all the Oxford Colleges, at the entrance to Victorian terraced houses, at the Town Hall, St Aldates, at Blenheim Palace and Broughton Castle; the list goes on. What do they signify?

At ancient Roman sites they are associated with Bacchus as they appear to be disgorging vine leaves and ivy; they are thought to be a sign of fertility. Tim says they seem to be a subliminal message about the relationship between man and nature.

It was the folklorist Lady Raglan who coined the term Green Man in 1939. There is nothing ominous about them. There is even one to be seen on the invitation to Charles and Camilla's marriage ceremony.

**Tim Healey will be back in Sibford for our Social Evening on 20<sup>th</sup> February 2025, with his 17<sup>th</sup>-Century costume band 'The Oxford Waits'.** We are lucky enough to be welcoming the whole five-member band, who have appeared on Radio 3 and at the Holywell Music Rooms. In addition to the vocals, instruments include lute, fiddles, hurdy gurdy, cittern, shawm, nyckelharpa, hammered dulcimer and more! Miss T will provide a one-course meal after the performance. More information in the new year!

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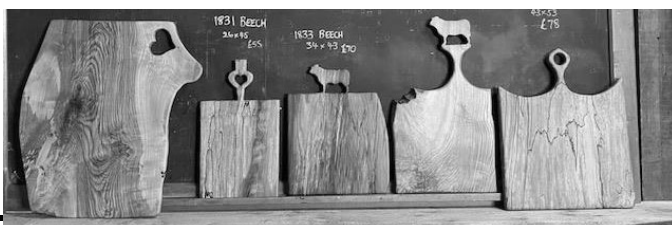
~ Chopping Boards ~ Serving Platters ~ Etc ~

**\*\* 5<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary: 'Wood' \*\***

Between Sibford Ferris and Sibford Gower. Welcome to view.

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NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

# NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

## **SCAM ALERT**

### **1. Useful winter advice from TV Police.**

'Leave a light on'. If you think your house looks like there's no one in it, a burglar will too. If you are able to leave a light or two on whilst you are out, it may act as a deterrent, especially during the winter months. Consider a light timer switch, close and lock all doors and windows when going out or to bed, keep valuables out of sight.

### **2. The usual scams to watch out for:**

(a) Shoppers should beware a scam email impersonating Tesco. Crooks claim to offer a £750 voucher for the supermarket, stating you can "reward yourself with a gift card and that 'paid participation is required' to get the voucher". Of course, it all leads to the usual dodgy links for a phishing website. Don't be tempted. If possible, forward the email to '[report@phishing.gov.uk](mailto:report@phishing.gov.uk)'. Info from consumer website Which? and Money Mail.

(b) Early Christmas shoppers should beware a website impersonating Space NK. Fraudsters claim to offer a beauty advent calendar for £28.99, reduced from £125.03. They ask for your shipping and financial details. The calendar will never arrive and your personal details can be used for other frauds. The official Space NK calendar costs £250, but is sold out. Report such phishing to National Cyber Security Centre - '[nsc.gov.uk/collection/phishing-scams](https://nsc.gov.uk/collection/phishing-scams)'. Same source as (a).

(c) House holders beware fraudsters trying to cash in on changes to the Winter Fuel Allowance. They send texts impersonating the government which claim to be a 'reminder about winter welfare distribution'. The texts say 'we have discussed preparing to start issuing winter heating subsidies', and provide a link to apply for the subsidy whilst also claiming there is no age limit for the benefit. Don't be tempted, but you could forward the scam to 7726. Again, Money Mail and Which?

Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

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

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## DECEMBER

- 3rd - An Evening with Kaleb Cooper - Village Hall 7pm
- 4th - Ladies Coffee Club- Wykham Arms - 11am
- 6th - Mens Brunch - Sun Inn - 11.30am
- 9th - North Oxfordshire Wine Club - Village Hall 8.15pm
- 13th - Horti meeting "" Village Hall 7.30pm
- 14th - Book Swap Cafe - Village Hall 10am
- 17th - Friendship Club - Village Hall 1.30pm
- 18th - SGPC Meeting - Village Hall 7pm
- 18th - Film Night: " Love Actually" - Village Hall 7.30pm
- 20th - The Sibford Belles - Wykham Arms 7pm
- 21st - Sibfords History Society - Village Hall 7.30pm
- 22nd - Music & Carols - Quaker Meeting Hall - 4.30pm
- 26th - Model Railway Group - Village Hall 12pm

## JANUARY (Part)

- 7th - Sibford Photography Club - Village Hall
- 14th - Sibford Environmental Forum - Village Hall 7.30pm
- 18th - "Escape from Tibet" - Village Hall 2.30pm
- 25th - Jumble Sale - Village Hall 1-3pm
- 28th - Sibford Photography Club - Village Hall

## DECEMBER BIN COLLECTIONS

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

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.

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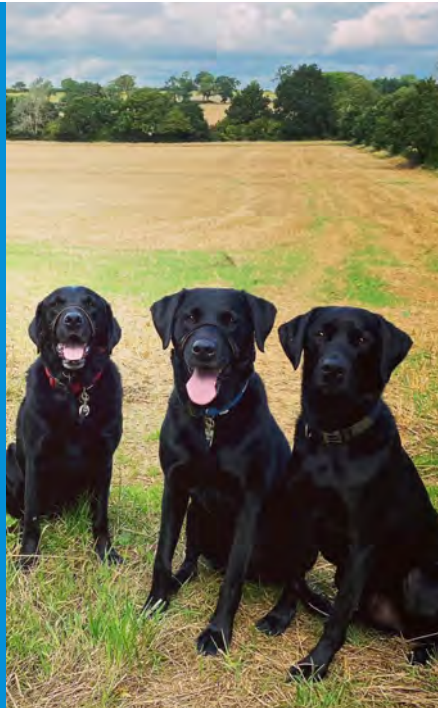
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