

Sibford Scene.

October 2026

Number - 487





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## ED'S THOUGHTS

Our lawns and verges are back!  
So nice to see green fields  
again. A simple thing, but I'm  
always amazed how nature  
comes back.

Will the rain hold off so we can  
continue pizza parties?

See you all at Applefest on the  
3rd (if we have any apples left -  
they seem to have fallen early)

I've been invited to judge the  
Applefest Bake Off - looking  
forward to tasting your apple  
entries! Bring them to the  
Village Hall between 9 and 11am

And, look out, look out, there  
will be scarecrows about! Have  
some fun and enter yours

Oh, and don't forget to put your  
clocks back on the 25th - I  
always do...

### Thought for the month

"He turned his bottle up and  
down

And I saw him lost  
And I saw him found"

Shawn Mullins

## Deadline for November Issue

12 NOON - 18th October 2026

Cover picture :

The Colander Girls watch the eclipse

## The Scene Team

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# 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)

## ART GROUP

I would like to start a friendly art group to be held in our homes . Meeting once a fortnight during an afternoon. Water colours pastels etc or any other medium – subjects selected by you . Sue Tompkins; tel 01295 780541

## RBL POPPY APPEAL.

This year's appeal will start on October 22nd. Please support it if you can as it provides help to so many people who suffer directly or indirectly from war. I am still short of collectors for this year so if you can spare 2-3 hours of your time please let me know on either 01295780731 or 07811 918926.

Peter Abbott.

## WILL YOU JOIN OUR SUCCESS?

The Sibford Lunch Club has been operating in the village in one form or another for over 34 years. We provide lunches and a social environment for elderly members of our community every Wednesday in the village hall.

Such is our success, that if we are to accept new members, we need more volunteers to support us on a Wednesday lunch time. Volunteers are generally on duty just once a month and form part of a team of six led by an experienced Team Leader. Duties include setting up in the village hall from 12 noon, serving meals from the kitchen, chatting with members and clearing the hall at the end of lunch (usually sometime after 2pm).

If you feel you would like to be part of our on-going success and support members of our elderly community, please contact Keith Hicks on either 01295 780259 or 07802 317471, [keith@hicks-sibford.co.uk](mailto:keith@hicks-sibford.co.uk)



# LETTERS AND NOTICES

## ACRE DITCH RESURFACING

### Location:

OCC have programmed to complete the full width resurfacing to **Acre Ditch in Burdrip between the junctions with Pound Lane and the junction with Hawks Lane.** This is purely a maintenance scheme so currently everything will be reinstated 'like for like'.

### Dates & times:

Resurfacing works are programmed to take place over a **series of x7 overnight full road closures**, following which we will reinstate all legal and existing road markings.

Works are programmed to **commence Monday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2026**, with working hours being **20:00 – 06:00Hrs.**

A fully signed diversion will be installed routing traffic around the overnight road closure during the working hours.

Please also note that the road will be fully reopened outside of the working hours and during the weekend of 31<sup>st</sup> Oct / 1<sup>st</sup> Nov.

**Please note that Pound Lane will also be closed to provide sufficient room for material and plant deliveries, between the junctions with Backside Lane and Barley Close.**

### Access Arrangements:

- *As there is limited room for plant and materials in Acre Ditch, Pound Lane will be used to stack HGV deliveries, materials and plant.*
- *Residents of Pound Lane and Main Street will have unrestricted vehicular access during the works, noting that no access is possible via Acre Ditch.*
- *Pound Lane will be closed at Barley Close and Backside Lane, with both these cul-de-sacs fully accessible throughout; Barley Close from the south and Backside Lane from the north.*
- *A 'No Parking' enforcement comes into restriction during the working hours, as any parked vehicles on Acre Ditch could cause delays or result in areas being omitted. No Parking cones will be deployed 24Hrs prior to starting to assist with achieving this.*
- *Residents of Acre Ditch should approach the gatemen at the closure point for advise on access. We will be working in sections starting from Pound Lane, laying approx. 150m each shift. Access will be possible from either end but not through the section being worked on, as once hot materials are laid, it is not safe to drive on for a couple of hours and until it has cooled sufficiently.*
- *Pedestrian access remains unaffected.*
- *Works are programmed for overnight so as not to affect school, business or commuting traffic. No bus services run overnight.*

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**SATURDAY 3 OCTOBER**

**12PM TILL 5PM**



# **SIBFORD APPLEFEST**

**CHILDRENS GAMES \* BAKING COMPETITION**

**LIVE MUSIC \* BAR \* DELICIOUS FOOD \***

**DANCING \* FRESHLY SQUEEZED APPLE JUICE**

**TOMBOLA & RAFFLE**

*see you there !*

# SIBFORD APPLEFEST

Our popular village annual Apple Festival comes round again on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2026 from noon until 5.30pm celebrating all things apples and our village!

## *Apple Baking Competition*

Get busy baking! Enter your favourite apple bake in the Big Applefest Bake- Off Competition. Free entry. Classes for adults and children under 6, 7-11 and 12 and above. Bring your entry to the Village Hall between 9 and 11 on the 3rd for the chance to win a coveted Bake Off rosette.

## *Entertainment*

A wonderful mix of non-stop dancing, singing and music is on offer. A veritable cornucopia of talented locals covering an array of musical genres - from rock (R&G) and folk/classical to acoustic (Main Street) including the lustrous harmonies of our very own Belles Singers as well as the very talented youngsters from Sibford Young Performers with a smattering of Morris Dancing and maybe a few surprises in-between - there's something for everyone!

## *Children Fun & Games*

Little ones can join in the fun with art, games and craft activities celebrating the apple and some of our much loved children's stories!

## *Apples!!*

Besides our lovely village, this is all about the Apple.... weighing down the trees all around village. There will be an apple drop off point at the village hall from Thursday, 1<sup>st</sup> October for any spare apples you may have for pressing.

## *Food Drinks and more .....*

The delicious food stalls and bar will be back. In addition to the raffle, there will also be a tombola. If anyone has any donations/unwanted gifts (large or small) please contact Alex on 07500 441992 - all gratefully received. The Primary School will celebrate the apple with their annual art festival.

## *Scarecrows*

Our village Scarecrow theme for 2026 is Children's Stories & Nursery Rhymes! Bring your favourite characters to life—from the Hungry Caterpillar and the Gruffalo to the BFG. Get creative, have fun and make your scarecrow one to remember!his year. Get it out there from 26 Sept

for more information follow Sibford instagram page or tune into Sibford daily email

**SATURDAY 3 OCTOBER**  
**2PM TILL 5PM**



### Seasonal Wreath Workshop

Carolyn will guide you to create  
your own beautiful Christmas Wreath  
in this two hour workshop - £65 with all materials, festive  
drinks and treats provided!

Sunday 29th Nov 10am - 12 noon

Wednesday 3rd Dec 2-4pm

Thursday 4th 2-4pm & 7-9pm

Friday 5th 10-12 & 2-4pm

Thursday 10th 2-4pm & 7-9pm

Saturday 12th 10-12 & 2-4pm

Sunday 13th 10am - 12 noon

See website for further details

or contact [carolyn@homecloseflowers.co.uk](mailto:carolyn@homecloseflowers.co.uk) 07711 897902 !

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## VILLAGE HALL NEWS

**Volunteering to join the Hall Management Team.** Thank you to all the volunteers who have stepped forward to support the Village Hall. As they settle in, please remember that all hirers can help do their bit and tidy up well after a session including sweeping the floor if it needs it. If you have just a small amount of time to help with the management of the hall, please consider a “bite-sized” job that could be done from home or online – see The Sibfords website for more details. If you are given some volunteering time or a volunteering day as part of your day-today job, please consider using this time to support the Village Hall.

**Thursday Community Cafe 2.30 – 4.30pm** We would love to welcome new members to come and join in the activities, have a chat and a cup of tea and cake! There is no charge as these events are kindly sponsored by the Town Estate Charity. From October 22<sup>nd</sup> the times will move forward to 2.00 – 4.00pm as the evenings get darker.

**Book Swap Saturdays and Café continue: Oct 17<sup>th</sup>, Nov 21<sup>st</sup>, Dec 12<sup>th</sup>**  
**10am–12pm, Small Hall.** Come and browse a large selection of books for all ages and genres and have a drink and a chat in the Small Hall. Teas and coffees available. It’s free to borrow books but donations welcome.

**Fencing:** please do not climb over the fence into the horse field. If your football goes into the field, it will have to stay there until it gets thrown back.

**Parking space** does not include the yellow hatched area as that is for emergency access to the rear of the hall. Park on the field if needed.

**Do not walk your dog in the field:** Dogs are not allowed in the field or grounds due to the risk of infection that they can pass on, especially to children.

**Security:** Hirers, please double check that doors are locked after use. If you see anything suspicious, please photograph it and report it.

**Book the Village Hall for your next event using our online booking system:** When paying, please include your name and the invoice number. Preferential rates for village residents are only £12/hr (one hall); and £22/hr (both halls). Please use us for your next birthday party or community gathering.  
[www.sibfordvillagehall.org.uk](http://www.sibfordvillagehall.org.uk).

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### Opening Times

|           | <b>Bar</b>            | <b>Restaurant</b> |
|-----------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Monday    | 12-2.30-5.00-to close | 12-2.00-6.00-8.30 |
| Tuesday   | 5.00-to close         | closed            |
| Wednesday | 12-2.30-5.00-to close | 12-2.00-6.00-8.30 |
| Thursday  | 12-2.30-5.00-to close | 12-2.00-6.00-8.30 |
| Friday    | 12-to close           | 12-2.00-6.00-8.30 |
| Saturday  | 12-to close           | 12-3.00-6.00-8.30 |
| Sunday    | 12- 8.00              | 12-3.00           |

A lovely traditional thatched village pub, circa 1445. Open fire for the colder weather & pretty pub garden with countryside views covered pergola. Ales, Lagers, Cider, Guinness, Bottle Beers, Spirits International & Greek Wines. Lights Bites, Full Menu, Greek Dishes Sharing Platters & Specials. Local Products

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Check our website for up Coming Events



## FILM NIGHT

October's film is on Wednesday October 28th.  
The film is Sentimental Value.

Sisters Nora and Agnes reunite with their estranged father, Gustav, a once renowned director who offers Nora a role in what he hopes will be his comeback film.

Nora turns it down, but soon discovers he has given the part to an eager young Hollywood star. The two siblings must now navigate a complicated relationship with Gustaf while dealing with an American actress dropped right in the middle of their complex family dynamics.

A rich and sophisticated film in which sorrow and regret are mingled with joy and humour.

Rotten tomatoes review 95%

Doors open at 7. Film starts at 7.30

Tea and coffee available or bring your own bottle.

Admission £5

Petra Berry



## FRIENDSHIP CLUB

The Friendship Club will welcome A legal Eagle who will advise on Power of Attorney. Wills. Etc. An interesting afternoon. If anyone wishes to join us please come to to the Club meeting on **Oct 6th**.

**Nov 3rd.** Our friend Mike will regale us with his trips and photos

Evey Boughton



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~ Chopping Boards ~ Serving Platters ~ Etc ~

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

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[www.at-temple-mill.co.uk](http://www.at-temple-mill.co.uk)



## Holiday Cottage in Cornwall

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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](mailto:lindalaneyolo@gmail.com).



## NATURE NOTES

It is good to see everything turning green again now we have finally had some rain. The hot dry weather over the summer seems to have made it a good year for butterflies and other insects, but the longer-term effect of the drought on wildlife is difficult to predict.

Sue Etherington-Smith let me know that the swallows from her barn fledged safely this year, and the young joined a flock of about 20 feeding on the flies around the cows and horses. I understand that the local swifts also had a successful year with the young leaving the nest boxes without being caught by the Kestrel.

Anita Spencer found a Knot Grass moth caterpillar. Although classed as common, this is a species that seems to be in decline nationally. The caterpillars are probably more spectacular than the adult moth, which is rather grey in colour.

Kathleen Winter let me know that one of her Amaryllis bulbs that she got from the Scilly Isles 36 years ago flowered for the first time this year.

It has generally been an exceptionally good year for migrant moths, and I am sure many people will have seen the day flying Hummingbird Hawk-moths. I have also recorded some of the even more delicate migrants such as the Vestal and Olive-tree Pearl.

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

Andy and Gill Newbold



Palpita vitrealis



Vestal



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## **LOOKING TO RENT A SMALL GARAGE OR PART OF A BARN**

Our garage is being demolished so looking for something similar locally

For a car, bikes, few boxes etc

Availability - July onwards

Timings - flexible, month by month, could be up to 12 months

Any ideas welcome, please contact Will 07775 728772

## **Home Wanted to Rent**

Looking for a 2 or 3-bedroom rental in the Sibfords or nearby villages as landlord is selling. Mother and child looking to stay close to the local school.

If you know of any available properties, please get in touch via email:

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## A Bright Start to the New School Year

The new academic year is off to a wonderful start at Sibford Gower Endowed Primary School, and it has been a pleasure to welcome both familiar and new faces through our doors.

We were especially delighted to welcome our new Reception and Nursery children, who have started school full of enthusiasm and excitement. They have been greeted by a smartly refurbished outdoor space, thanks to the generous support of the Town Estates Trustees, who funded the resurfacing of our Early Years outdoor area over the summer. The transformed space looks absolutely lovely and provides a safe, attractive and stimulating environment for our youngest learners to play, explore and learn. We are extremely grateful to the Trustees for making this project possible.



We also have more exciting outdoor developments planned thanks to the incredible support we received through the Tesco Stronger Starts scheme. We are thrilled to have raised £500 through the blue token voting initiative, which will help us further develop our outdoor wellbeing and science area. A huge thank you goes to everyone in the community who took the time to pop a blue counter into the box for us during their shopping trips. Your support will make a real difference for our children.

We would like to thank teacher, Mrs Benjamin, for leading a fascinating whole-school assembly about Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year. The children learned about many of the traditions and customs associated with this important celebration, including the significance of reflection, new beginnings and hopes for the year ahead. To bring the learning to life, Mrs Benjamin kindly brought in apples and honey for the children to taste, helping them experience a traditional Rosh Hashanah custom which symbolises the hope for a sweet and happy new year. The assembly was a wonderful example of the enriching opportunities that help broaden our pupils' understanding of different faiths, cultures and traditions.



As always, we are immensely grateful for the continued support of our families and the wider village community. We look forward to sharing more news and celebrating our pupils' achievements with you throughout the year.

**To find out more about our wonderful, welcoming village school and the things that are going on in each class, please take some time to visit our school website at <http://www.sibford-gower.oxon.sch.uk/>**



# Sibford

## Discover Sibford School

Local families are warmly invited to visit Sibford School and experience life at our co-educational day and boarding school, which welcomes children from Early Years through to Sixth Form.

Set in the heart of the village, Sibford is known for its friendly atmosphere, exceptional pastoral care and strong sense of community. Small class sizes and dedicated teachers help every student to develop confidence, curiosity and a love of learning.

Alongside academic success, students enjoy a wide range of opportunities in sport, performing arts, outdoor education, technology, sustainability and horticulture, enabling them to discover their interests and follow their own path.

Families considering future school places are encouraged to visit and see the school in action. Prospective families can also learn more about scholarship opportunities available for Senior School and Sixth Form entry in 2027.

### Upcoming Open Events

- Tuesday 13 October 2026, 6.00pm–8.00pm – Sixth Form Open Evening
- Thursday 15 October 2026, 10.15am–12.00pm – Whole School Open Morning
- Friday 13 November 2026, 10.15am–12.00pm – Junior School Open Morning

To book a place, visit [sibford.org.uk/events](https://sibford.org.uk/events) or call 01295 781203.



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## DID YOU KNOW?

### Education in the Sibfords – Our Village School – Part 7

Sibford Gower Endowed Primary School continues to offer a wide and diverse curriculum to encourage all children to develop and reach their potential in a caring, safe environment where good behaviour and respect for others is an expectation. A recent OFSTED Inspection in 2023 rated the school as 'Good' with some outstanding features in behaviour, attitudes and personal development.

The Endowed Primary School still continues to receive charitable donations from the Town Estate Charity which has benefitted our village children for almost 500 years. Diligent management by the appointed Trustees to the Charity since the reign of Queen Elizabeth 1st has provided invaluable financial support to the school and all its headteachers. More recently, and since becoming part of a Multi-Academy Trust with other feeder primary schools to the catchment senior school, The Warriner School in Bloxham, the whole site has returned into the Charities ownership.



Our village school celebrated its 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2025 with a summer party held in the grounds together with a display of pupils art work and an exhibition depicting the long history and development of the school. At the end of the Autumn Term in 2025 an oak tree was planted to commemorate the anniversary. It was planted by the youngest pupil and the oak tree was chosen for

its strength and long life, as well as its close link to the school's motto – 'From little acorns, mighty oaks do grow.' Head teacher Jane O'Sullivan said the tree marks the school's long history, its hopes for the future, and serves as a touching tribute to former pupil and long-serving governor, Fred Inns, who sadly passed away shortly before the ceremony.

The school buildings continue to evolve and develop as changes and extensions are required. The future role of the school within the village community is a matter for conjecture. Smaller families, parental choices and the cost of local housing all affect pupil numbers but those who are fortunate to spend their formative years in our village school are guaranteed a good, rounded education. Becoming independent learners prepares them for a successful transfer into secondary education where they can continue to develop the necessary skills to enable them to play their part as citizens in our ever-changing world.

Maureen Hicks



## SIBFORDS WALKING GROUP

### Sibford Strollers

Future dates: 8 October, 22 October.

Departure from VH at 10 sharp, therefore be there by latest 9.55. I won't announce destination in advance but choose according to mud factor. They might be on foot from VH or a short drive to start/finish point. Any queries to me on 07711 131399 or [sebannister@gmail.com](mailto:sebannister@gmail.com) welcome. Future dates will be added.

### Sibford Striders

Sibford Striders walk will be on Wednesday 14 October and Wednesday 28 October, starting at VH at 09.30

There is a Sibford Walkers WhatsApp group: if you would like to join this please contact Christopher Steane +44 7703 719749

### FOOTPATHS

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

### House Sitter wanted

Can you help? I need a house sitter for four nights from Tuesday 27 October. There are two dogs to feed but they don't need walking as they have a large garden to exercise in. Rural location off Shutford Road.  
*Sue Tompkins, 01295 780 541*



## WALTON HALL 10K FUN RUN / WALK

Run or walk through the beautiful grounds of the Walton Hall estate with medals and bacon/veggie rolls at the finish line!

**VENUE:** WALTON HALL

**DATE:** 18TH OCTOBER

**TIME:** REGISTRATION FROM 8.45AM

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On 17<sup>th</sup> September Dale Johnston, Exhibitions Manager at Banbury Museum, gave us his talk on a very dark subject: 'The Canary girls of Banbury'. Just outside the town there is a landscape that still reflects that something unnatural happened there. An area of 104 acres, now sliced into two by the M40, housed huts where 1,500 workers, 10% of the population of Banbury, toiled daily during WWI to fill with TNT and Lyddite, shells which were destined to attack the enemy in the trenches. These predominantly young women daily handled deadly materials, and photos show them with no PPE, just aprons, mob caps and clogs to "protect" them. They became discoloured with the bright yellow picric acid in the Lyddite, hence their nickname. TNT also turned them yellow; this was because it affected the kidneys and caused jaundice.

As the war progressed the work became more sinister: the production of mustard gas, which was instrumental in turning the tide of the war, being used to great effect, particularly along the Hindenburg Line.

How sad that these brave young women are virtually forgotten, and many thanks to Dale for bringing this aspect of Banbury's history to light.

Dale takes groups to the site, where the huts, surrounded by earth embankments, are still in existence. If you are fit enough to climb over a stile, Dale says, you should join him for a unique experience of discovery.

On 15<sup>th</sup> October Dr Gillian White will be giving us a talk on 'John, First Duke of Marlborough'. There is no need to say any more, as we all know it will be brilliant! Doors open at 7.15pm, the talk starts at 7.30pm, and light refreshments will be served afterwards. Visitors £5 p.p.

Please note that on 27<sup>th</sup> November Lizzy Rowe, art historian par excellence, will be happy to take us through one of the Ashmolean rooms, as she has done several times before. We meet at 11 a.m. We would like a group of 10 so that we each pay £10. Please let us know if you would like to come.

Diana Hughes

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## SIBFORD PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB

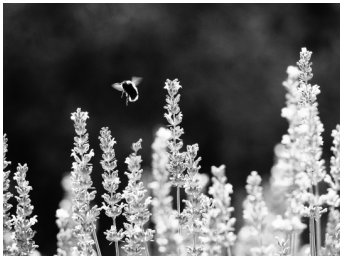
Having swotted up on London and how to make great photographs of it on 25th August, at our meeting on 29th September, our member Paul Friend will give a talk about the development of his photographic skills, including being awarded a LRPS, his first distinction, and working towards an ARPS submission. We will also review members' images on our monthly topic of Patterns, which I feel sure will yield a huge variety of subjects and techniques for creating the images.

Our next meeting is on 27th October and will include a talk on photographing plants and members' photographs on the topic of Changing Seasons.

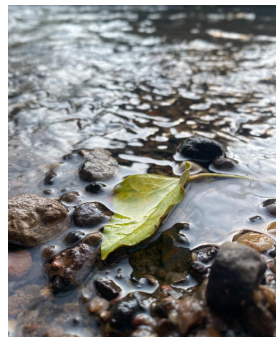
We would like to welcome more members to the club, so if you have an interest in photography with a camera or phone, please contact Colin Lamb at [colinlamb.cl@gmail.com](mailto:colinlamb.cl@gmail.com) or phone 01295 780357. We generally meet on the last Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm in the small hall at the Village Hall.



Blackfriars - Paul Friend



Bee and Lavender - Martin Layer



Leaf - Emma Such



## HORTI SOCIETY

The Summer Show 2026 must surely have been one of the most surprising events in the society's history. An unprecedented summer of heat and drought made me wonder whether we were going to have anything to display at all, and yet on entry night it became clear that plenty of people still had things to show. In fact we had to create more staging for the flower arranging section as we had twice the number of usual entries. I still don't understand what happened, but Sibford, you were amazing, Horti members, you surpassed yourselves. Thank you all. It was a great show and the potato in a pot was a personal favourite (27 entries for goodness sake. That's a lot of potatoes to sift out and weigh)

Anyway we will be doing more potato growing next year. And here's a hot tip from Paul Harffey, our potato growing champion. Liquid seaweed feed.

We start our autumn programme of talks this month with **'A garden for all seasons' on 14 October in the village hall by Diane Clements.** Doors open at 7.00 for refreshments and the talk starts at 7.30. All are welcome. Non-members £3.00

Looking ahead, our Christmas present comes in the form of **Timothy Walker on Wednesday 11 November who will be speaking to us on 'The subtle science and exact art of Colour in English garden design'** be there! It's fun, and there's food and mulled wine.

Diana Thompson

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## NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

1. AI Voice Cloning. (It would be clever if it wasn't so nasty.) This technology has been around for a while and the scammers have now got hold of it. If they can get a recording of your voice, whether live or through social media videos, or even a voicemail greeting, it can be copied and used to train AI to mimic you. This is a rare form of fraud being new and technologically expensive, but it is catching on. It's referred to as Authorised Push Payment (APP) fraud – the kind where the scammer persuades you to transfer the money yourself. Stories of victims being deceived are becoming more common, often with the complaint being along the lines of; "I'll swear it was my son / daughter /brother etc, I recognised their voice and they needed the money urgently."  
Another way in which your voice may be 'harvested' is if your mobile phone is constantly ringing from unknown numbers registered all over the country, but there is never anyone on the line. The temptation is to speak first. Well don't. It's time to be less British, less polite and less trusting. Either answer the call but say nothing or don't answer it at all.
2. Screen- sharing scams.( Also known as screen-mirroring fraud), Typically begins with an out of the blue phone call from fraudsters claiming that your account is at risk. These people often pose as banks, the police and Financial Conduct Authority. They will try to move the conversation to a video call on Face Time or WhatsApp where they can share your screen in a few clicks. Once this screen-sharing is enabled, scammers can see almost everything displayed on your phone, including notifications of one-time passwords (OTPs) sent by banks to authorise payments. They may even try to convince you to relinquish control of your device entirely, claiming that they need to use remote- access such as AnyDesk, TeamViewer or Zoho Assist to 'fix' an issue or secure your account. They will of course then drain your bank account and credit cards.  
Which? Does have a useful Scam Alert service, and if you do use a lot of technology it is well worth pursuing.
3. Just to lighten the load – there have been many warnings of scams on Booking.com. To test the site's security, [10 Downing Street](#) was listed as a holiday let. The platform failed to stop the listing and a booking was taken (from a researcher).

Being something of a dinosaur, I'm aware that warnings 1and 2 may make no sense to some of us. However, the usual rules still apply – Don't be rushed, Don't be panicked and put the phone down.

Content courtesy Daily Telegraph and Which? Magazine.  
Peter Hine Watch Co-ord Gower and Burdrop.Tel: 788830



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# SIBFORD FERRIS PARISH COUNCIL

## **Parish Councillor Vacancy**

Sibford Ferris Parish Council currently have a vacancy for a parish councillor. If you are enthusiastic about your community and would like to work as part of a team to maintain and improve the village then please consider joining the Parish Council.

As a councillor you must be able to:

- i) Attend Parish Council meetings
- ii) Be prepared to spend around an hour each week to read and respond to Parish Council e-mails

The Parish Council normally meets in January, March, May, July, September and November and the dates are set at the November meeting for the following year.

### **Criteria for standing to be a Parish Councillor:**

To be able to stand as a candidate at a parish council election you must:

- be at least 18 years old
- be a British citizen, an eligible Commonwealth citizen, a citizen of the Republic of Ireland, a qualifying EU citizen or an EU citizen with retained rights

## **AND**

Candidates must fit at least **one** of the following criteria –

- ✓ Be on the Electoral Register (i.e. registered to vote) for Sibford Ferris Parish
- ✓ Have occupied (as owner or tenant) any land or other premises in the Sibford Ferris parish/community area over the last 12 months
- ✓ Lived within 3 miles of the parish over the last 12 months
- ✓ Have your principal place of work in the parish for at least the last 12 months

If you have any questions or would like to put your name forward to be considered for co-optation on to the council please contact our clerk, Kirsty Buttle, on [clerk@sibfordferris-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@sibfordferris-pc.gov.uk) or on 07419 126 206.

# SIBFORD GOWER PARISH COUNCIL

Sibford Gower Parish Council manages the Burial Ground adjacent to the Churchyard. Following the official closure of the Churchyard in 2013, responsibility for its maintenance and all associated costs transferred to the Parish Council.

A key priority in managing both the Churchyard and the Burial Ground is keeping the site safe for visitors, which includes ensuring all headstones and memorials are secure. As routine safety testing is now due across all grounds, the Parish Council has updated the Burial Ground Regulations to clearly outline the inspection process and any required remedial actions.

These updated regulations were formally approved at the Parish Council meeting on 4th August 2026 and are available in full on the council website: <https://sibfordgower-pc.gov.uk/sibford-burial-ground/>

Should a memorial/headstone be identified as a Category 1 (Red) and fail the inspection, staff will need to take immediate action to make that memorial/headstone temporarily safe or cordon it off until permanent repairs can be made by the grave owner. These actions will be based on a number of factors and the best solution will be administered by the Parish Clerk based on the assessment of the memorial/headstone and the surrounding area. These actions may include:

- Laying the memorial/headstone flat - A warning sign will be placed near to the memorial/headstone.
- Staked and Banded – The memorial/headstone will be fastened tight to a wooden post which will act as a temporary support. The banding will also hold a warning notice. The stake and band will be re- inspected every 12 months to ensure neither have deteriorated.
- Monolith Conversion – This involves digging out a depth roughly one third of the overall height of the memorial/headstone from the last joint in order that it can be sunk into the ground and made safe. The memorial/headstone will have a suitable material wrapped around the part under the ground and a memorial/headstone warning notice will be added to the grave. Due to foundations it may be necessary for the memorial/headstone to be moved slightly forward into the grave space to avoid existing foundations.
- Cordoned Off – In some cases it may be necessary to cordon off a particular memorial/headstone or an area containing a number of memorials/headstones due to their safety. Warning signs will be attached to any cordon placed around a memorial/headstone or group of memorials/headstones.
- Removal – In extreme cases it may be necessary to remove a memorial/headstone from the grave and place it somewhere securely within the curtilage of the Churchyard/Burial Ground if none of the above options are suitable.

# SIBFORD GOWER PARISH COUNCIL

cont'd

## Memorial Safety Testing Details:

- **Memorials under 50 years old:** Maintenance remains the responsibility of the grave owner. The Parish Council will attempt to contact owners directly if any safety issues are identified with these memorials/headstones.
- **Memorials over 50 years old:** Responsibility falls to the Parish Council, which will arrange and fund any necessary repairs or stabilisation work.

## Would you like to volunteer as a FixMyStreet Super User?

Any member of the public can use [FixMyStreet](#) to report issues on the public highways but a Super User is trained to raise works orders, within criteria, for potholes, footpaths, kerbs and blocked drains. Orders go straight to the contractor for them to fix within 28 days. Oxfordshire County Council provides full training, equipment and ongoing support.

If you are interested in registering as a Super User with Oxfordshire County Council, you can contact them on [volunteercoordinationteam@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:volunteercoordinationteam@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

## Holy Trinity Church

### Services

|                   |         |                                |
|-------------------|---------|--------------------------------|
| Sunday 4 October  | 10.30am | Benefice Service at Swalcliffe |
| Sunday 11 October | 8.00am  | Holy Communion BCP             |
|                   | 9.30am  | Lay led service                |
| Sunday 18 October | 9.30am  | Holy Communion                 |
| Sunday 25 October | 9.30am  | Holy Communion                 |
| (clocks change)   |         |                                |

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# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## OCTOBER

- 2nd- Mens' Breakfast Club - The George, Brailes - 9.30am
- 3rd - Applefest - Villag Hall - 2pm
- 6/13/20/27th - Bridge Club - Villge Hall - 7pm
- 6th - Friendship Club - Village Hall 2pm
- 7th - Ladies Coffee Club - Wykham Arms 11am
- 14th - Horti Meeting: "A Garden for all Seasons" - Vilage Hall 7.30pm
- 15th - SHS meeting "The 1st Duke of Marlborough" - Village Hall 7.30pm
- 17th - Book Swap Cafe - Village Hall 10am - 12pm
- 26th - Acre Ditch resurfacing 8pm-6am
- 27th - Model Railway Group - Village Hall 12pm
- 27th - Sibford Photography Club - Village Hall - 7pm
- 28th - Film Night "Sentimental Value" Village Hall 7.30pm

## BIN COLLECTIONS

Green Tuesday: 6th; 20th;

Blue/Brown Tuesday: 13th; 27th

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.

# 75

## SIBFORD BUS SERVICE

### Sibford Ferris - Banbury

M-F: 6.19, 8.37, 11.07, 13.32, 17.34. Sat: 6.56, 8.35, 11.09, 13.32, 17.22

### Banbury - Sibford Ferris

M-F: 6.50 (Term time), 7.05 (Hols), 11.40; 14.30; 18.00

Sat: 11.40, 14.30, 17.40

### Sibford Ferris - Stratford

M-F: 7.13 (Term time), 7.28 (Hols), 12.03, 14.53, 18.23.

Sat: 12.03, 14.53, 18.03

### Stratford - Sibford Ferris

M-F: 5.40, 7.30, (Term Time), 7.35 (Hols), 10.30, 12.50, 16.25. Sat: 6.17, 7.57, 10.30, 12.50, 16.40

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