Sibford Scene. November 2026 Number - 488





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ED'S THOUGHTS

Applefest was a real treat. Well done to everyone who organised, helped, baked and cheered on the live music - a wonderful village event. Looking forward to next October!

A special 'thankyou" to Damien and Debbie for the last 21 years at the Wykham Arms. And a HUGE Sibford welcome to the hew landlords, Helen and Kevin!

Sibford Art Group's art exhibition on the 21/22nd (page 26) sounds good and we have 2 Film Nights this month (4th and 25th)

Have a lovely November!

Thought for the month

"May you build a ladder to the stars

And climb on every rung

May you stay forever young"

Bob Dylan

Deadline for Dec/Jan Issue

12 NOON - 18th November 2026

Cover picture : "Bright snd Beautiful" painted by Sibford Primary School pupils

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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**. Many people find the website's 7am daily newsletters very useful, detailing the local weather forecast, what colour bins to put out and what's on, etc. Sign up at **thesibfords.uk/newsletters**

Thank you so much to everyone who supported the Macmillan Fundraising Day last month.

It was again a great day. We raised well over £1200.
A great achievement for this worthwhile cause.
I really appreciate your continued support.
Petra Berry

LAST ORDERS FROM THE BRADLEY'S!!

Well, the time has come for almost 21years of running The Wykham Arms to leave it to someone else to pull those pints!

We want to say a massive thank you to every single one of you who have supported us over the years, from popping in for a coffee or a pint, eating in the restaurant or enjoying a takeaway to being humiliated at the quiz. Through the good times & tough times you've kept the doors open & our community together. The WA is nothing without you all & we have been so lucky to have had the best.

Sibford will always hold a special place in our hearts. Connor & Tyler growing up in the village with George (the softest black lab in the world!) was the perfect upbringing.
It was bought home to us on our last Saturday at the pub, just how much you all mean to us & how we will miss it. It was such a memorable evening. Thank you.

We are handing the reigns over to Helen, Kevin & their family, & hope to see the pub continue to grow & be supported by us all.

We very much look forward to seeing you on the other side (of the bar) very soon.
From the bottom of our hearts, thank you all.

With love

Damian, Debbie Connor & Tyler

Are you worried about rising electricity bills as we enter the winter months?

Take a look at the Hooky Energy Club to see how Sibford residents can avoid the National price rises by joining an energy scheme that sets its own tariffs.

Hooky Energy Club (HEC) has been accepting members from Hook Norton, Sibfords, Brailes, Epwell and Shutford since March 2025. In April 2026 we were able to increase the area to cover Bloxham, Tadmarton, Milcombe, Adderbury and Bodicote.

Current prices were set by the Club in April 2026 and will be reviewed in April 2027. The more members we have, the better tariffs we can offer. They certainly won't be affected by the Iran crisis or anything else that is happening to world's oil and gas prices.

Current Tariffs
Daytime: 8am to 5pm electricity price per unit - 13 p/kwh + VAT
Nighttime: 5pm to 8 am electricity price per unit - 20 p/kwh + VAT
Grid rate (very rarely needed): 22.3 p/kwh incl VAT
Daily standing charge: 56.5 p/day incl VAT
Monthly 100Green admin charge £5.95/month incl VAT

Over 160 homes and businesses have joined and are saving on average 25% relative to the energy price cap. Our experience over the last 20 months means we are now convinced that whoever you are we can save you money on your electricity bills. Get in contact and we can talk you through how to spend less as well as being green.

How can we offer such a good deal? It is by working with our partner electricity supply company 100Green to match your electricity consumption to our **local renewable energy generators**. From April 1st we have added locally based Stour Energy in Swalcliffe who can generate renewable electricity 24 hours a day with their Anaerobic Digester. This complements Wattcrop solar farm in Sibford generating low price electricity from their PV panels.

Accessing the tariff does not require any changes to the electricity connection to your property, and is no different to switching energy suppliers or tariffs as is commonly done.

Go to www.hookyenergy.com for more information and for assistance with switching to HEC contact energy@hn-lc.org.uk

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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 22nd the times will move forward to 2.00 – 4.00pm as the evenings get darker.

Book Swap Saturdays and Café continue: Nov 21st, Dec 12th, Jan 16th, Feb 13th 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.

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CHRISTMAS TEA PARTY

MONDAY 14TH DECEMBER AT 2.45PM
SIBFORD VILLAGE HALL

We are delighted that our Christmas Tea Party is returning this year, and we look forward to welcoming residents of the Sibfords.

The party is for people who are 75 and over, living alone. Couples where one or both are 80 and over.

Invitations will be going out from November 9th
With replies requested by 23rd November

If you are eligible and have not received an invitation by November 17th please get in touch with Joan 07977004302 or email sibfordtec@gmail.com

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SIBFORDS HISTORY SOCIETY

On Thursday 15th October we were very happy to welcome Dr Gillian White back to Sibford, this time to give us a talk on John, 'First Duke of Marlborough.' We will all have visited Blenheim Palace at some stage, to admire Vanbrugh's ornate baroque palace, built to honour the national hero, John Churchill, for his great victory at the Battle of Blenheim – Blindheim, in Bavaria, on 13th August, 1704. Queen Anne, who had already bestowed the Dukedom on him, decided that he deserved even more.

Gill's talk was not only to look at the man at the peak of his success, but to trace his journey up to the top. Gill took us through all the ups and downs of Marlborough's exciting lifetime in her entertaining and inimitable way, aided by the many fascinating visuals, including stills with arrows shooting across the screen to show the course of the Battle.

Many thanks to Gill once again for a stimulating evening. We look forward already to next time!

Our final talk this year will be by Dr Stephen Wass on Thursday, 19th November: 'Secret Gardens and Science: Tales from Oxfordshire Gardens, 1600 – 1680'. During the 17th century Oxfordshire was home to a series of impressive water gardens that had important links to the development of scientific thought at Oxford. These gardens have become 'lost' and their true nature has only recently been revealed through a programme of archaeological and historical research.

Doors open at the Village Hall at 7.00pm and we will be serving Christmassy refreshments. Talk starts at 7.30pm. Visitors £5.

Don't forget to let us know if you would like to go to the Ashmolean for another look at the art with Lizzy Rowe on November 27th.Cost is £10 p.p.



FRIENDSHIP CLUB

Our next meetig il be on Nov 3rd when our friend Mike will regale us with his trips and photos

Evey Boughton

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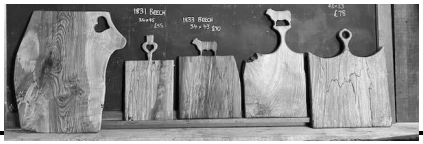
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**** *5th Wedding Anniversary: 'Wood'* ****

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For more information, please contact Linda on 01295 780 242 or 07973 226 032 or lindalaneyolo@gmail.com.


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NATURE NOTES

Nature Notes - November 2026

Several people have commented on the low numbers of Blackbirds around recently. The BTO suggests several reasons for this. It may be that the birds are moulting and become more secretive as they are more vulnerable to predators when they can't fly as well. There is the possibility that they are affected by the mosquito borne Usutu virus. This year they may also be suffering from a lack of earthworms as an important food source over the summer months as the worms will not have come to the surface during the dry weather.

On the other hand, Green Woodpeckers seem to be having a good year. There are probably plenty of ants around for them to feed on.

On milder nights in early October there have been plenty of flying insects around, and bats have been a common sight at dusk and dawn feeding on them.

In mid-October I caught a Spiny Hook-tip moth. This moth is a mediterranean species that seems to have become established in the UK since 2020 probably expanding its range northwards as a result of global warming. It is quite difficult to distinguish from the closely related Oak Hook-tip.

Contributions for the next Nature Notes would be most welcome.

Email ajnewbold88@gmail.com

Andy and Gill Newbold



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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

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We will Remember Them

As the leaves begin to fall on another autumn it is a special time of remembrance for all who have fought and fallen in their service to our country. As we gather at the War Memorial on Remembrance Sunday the names of all those village men are read out and I would like to focus on just one - Flying Officer Major 'Hugh' Oddie who served and died during WW2 on June 25th 1943. The grandson of a former headmaster of Sibford School, he was a secondary school Science teacher and was commissioned as a Pilot Officer in the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve on the 4th of November 1941. Promoted to Flying Officer on the 1st of October 1942, he served with the 78 Squadron.

He took off from RAF Breighton in a Handley Page Halifax JB928 EY-S at 23.40 on the 26th of June 1943 for an operation on Gelsenkirchen, noted for its oil refineries. 214 Lancasters, 134 Halifaxes, 73 Stirlings, 4 Wellingtons and 12 Mosquitos were dispatched for the first raid on the town in two years. After crossing the Dutch coast, the bomber stream encountered 10/10ths cloud all the way which prevented the bombers making a concentrated attack resulting in only minor damage to the target. During this mission Oddies aircraft was attacked by a German night fighter, a Bf 110 G-4 piloted by Major Rolf Luchs of 11/NJG1. Hugh Oddie continued to pilot his plane enabling his crew to bail out. They all survived and were taken prisoner by the Germans. Hugh Oddie's brave actions saved his crew while he was killed when his plane crashed at 00.51 on the 26th of June in Northern Holland.



A memorial window on the south side of the Nave in Holy Trinity Church recognises his extreme bravery and sacrifice. The inscription is at the base of the light and reads: In loving memory of Flying Officer Hugh Oddie. Born 21 July 1914. Gave his life 26 June 1943. Buried at Bergen in Holland. "Thy Son Liveth" John 4.51. Immediately above the inscription is a medallion picture of Hugh Oddie in uniform.


Dedication of Memorial Window
by
The Rt. Rev. the Bishop of Oxford
at EVENSONG, 6.30 p.m.
SUNDAY, JULY 15th, 1945
to
Flying Officer Hugh Oddie,
Royal Air Force.
ORDER OF SERVICE.

The whole light is bordered by a narrow, treble banding consisting mainly of plain glass strips interrupted by shades of blue stained glass. At the top of the light is the Royal Air Force crest beneath which are two heraldic shields. It is a single-light, stained-glass window depicting two colourful centralised figures, comprising Saul at the feet of Gamaliel. (Gamaliel was a Pharisee, a wise man a member of the Jewish Council and well versed in Jewish Law. He was teacher and mentor to Saul before his conversion and before he became the Apostle Paul.) The memorial window was dedicated by the Rt Rev the Bishop of Oxford at Evensong in Holy Trinity Church on Sunday 15 July 1945

Maureen Hicks



SIBFORDS WALKING GROUP

Sibford Strollers
Future dates:
22 October, 5 November, 19 November, 26 November

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 ora short drive to start/finish point. Any queries to me on 07711 131399 or sebannister@gmail.com welcome. Future dates will be added.

Sibford Striders

Striders Walks in November will be on 18 November and 25 November. Please note the date of 18 November breaks the normal routine of walks at two weekly intervals (it will then be three weeks from the walk on 28 October). Normal service resumes on 25 November. At each of these Christopher can relate stories of his experiences in Japan….

FOOTPATHS

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



HORTI SOCIETY

As I mentioned last month, November's meeting is our last of the year and our Christmas celebration.
Timothy Walker will be coming to talk to us on **Wednesday 11 November on the Subtle Science and Exact Art of Colour in English Garden Design.**
Timothy is our most entertaining speaker so be prepared to be entertained, educated and enchanted.

Doors at the Village Hall open at **7.00pm for an7.30pm start.** In addition we will be offering mulled wine, mince pies and other delightful treats. Members free, non members, always welcome, £3.00 Diana Thompson

October Horti meeting
"A garden for all seasons" speaker - Diane Clement

Diane lectures widely, is a keen exhibitor, an RHS trial and show judge and loves to travel far afield to see plants growing in the wild. She is a member of the RHS Alpine Expert Group. This was a different kind of talk and a very personal one based on her small, North facing urban garden, half of which only sees the sun for 6 months and a quarter of which is in deep shade for 3 months and never sees the sun at all. And yet Diane has something in bloom every month of the year.

Her talk was well illustrated with excellent, colourful photographs – the Hamamelis (Witch Hazel) which never sees the sun at all was particularly stunning in full bloom. She focussed on the different areas of her garden and it soon became clear that it is her intimate knowledge of the plants that make it such a unique garden. There are too many to mention here but our Horti members will receive her plant list for future reference.

As well as seeing the miracle she has achieved in her small garden, there were a few other snippets of information that were new to me, 3 things for example :

I love drifts of iris reticulata in the early Spring and I have always blamed the squirrels for them not returning the following year. I have followed the advice to plant them to a depth of twice their height however I learned from Diane that in order for them to return year after year they need to be planted to a depth of 8 inches! She also said that if you have them in a pot you would need to discard them and plant anew each year. It would seem that I owe the squirrels an apology.

I was surprised to learn that Hamamelis could be pruned at any time of year. I was also struck when she described how she cleared a very steep bank that was covered with ivy. She left the roots in the ground because ivy (apparently) does not regenerate from the roots. Leaving the roots in situ meant that the bank remained relatively stable. She then replanted with low growing plants each supported by a stone. An elegant solution.

Our final Horti meeting will be on 11th November when Timothy Walker will entertain us with his talk entitled, "The subtle science and exact art of colour in English garden design" to be enjoyed along with mulled wine and mince pies. We look forward to seeing you there.

Véronique Tyrrell

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SIBFORD PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB

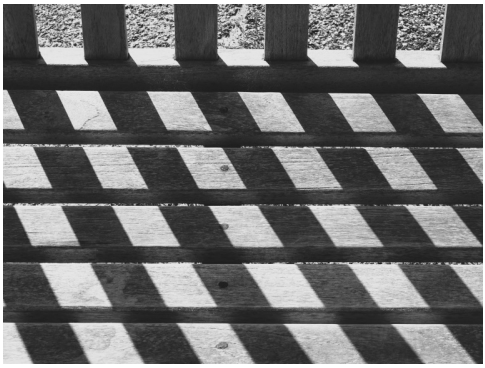
Low attendance at our meeting on 29th September meant that we postponed the talk from our member, Paul Friend about the development of his photographic skills, so instead we had a problem-solving discussion. This gave members an opportunity to raise issues they have with camera settings, choices of lens or any other photography-related issues they wished to discuss. Other members with appropriate experience could then advise on possible ways to solve or overcome these issues. We also reviewed members' images on our monthly topic of Patterns, with photographs of plants, shadows, reflections, city scenes, wildlife, vapour trails and even one created from a tablecloth and a radio grille!

With the planned night time resurfacing work on Acre Ditch potentially creating access and parking difficulties to the Village Hall, our October meeting is likely to be cancelled, which would mean that the next meeting would be on 24th November, when Paul will have the opportunity to give his presentation.

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 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.



Fritillary - Colin Lamb



Shadow Pattern - Martin Layer

Sibford Art Group Christmas Exhibition



Paintings and Christmas cards available to buy directly from the artists, Free entry, Teas and Homemade Cakes

Sat 21st - Sun 22nd Nov

10am to 4pm

Sibford Village Hall

Same old scams - slightly different versions.

1 NatWest scam email. A dodgy email claiming to be from NatWest uses accurate branding and tells you that you need to check that your account information is up to date. It includes a malicious link to follow in order to do this. Of course it's all rubbish, so please don't.
You can forward scam emails to "report@phishing.gov.uk ", or websites to the National Cyber Security Centre.

2 Hulu impersonation email. A scam email claiming to be from streaming platform Hulu tells you that your subscription has expired due to a payment failure and has therefore been cancelled. It then gives you a button to "update payment details." This leads to a phishing website which will steal your personal and payment details as you enter them. The website looks like Hulu's official website, so be cautious.

3 Scam speeding text. " Road Safety Notice: An automated camera detected a speeding violation for your vehicle. Please log into your account to respond promptly" It goes on to provide a link to a copycat government website etc, etc.

4 Whilst we are being bombarded with fake texts used to steal personal data and card details, victims may face a second attack, warns Which £Money. Earlier this year there was an Eon phishing email which escalated into a bank impersonation scam. People are being targeted after receiving other fake texts. This one-two jab can be highly effective for fraudsters as they refer to the initial bogus messages to establish trust and can more convincingly claim to be calling from a Bank's Fraud Department.

Information courtesy of Which



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FILM NIGHT

November's film is on **Wednesday November 25th**. The film is **Wild.**

Driven to the edge by the loss of her beloved mother, the dissolution of her marriage and a headlong dive into self-destructive behavior, Cheryl Strayed (Reese Witherspoon)makes a decision to halt her downward spiral and put her life back together again. With no outdoors experience, a heavy backpack and little else to go on but her own will? Cheryl sets out alone to hike the Pacific Crest Trail-one of the country's longest and toughest through-trails. Powerfully moving and emotionally resonant.

Rotten tomatoes reviews 88%

Doors open at 7. Film starts at 7.30 Tea and coffee available or bring your own bottle Admission £5

Please note that the October film Sentimental Value will be shown on Wednesday November 4th due to Acreditch closure from 6 in the evening.

Petra Berry



Holy Trinity Church Chatter

1 November 10.30am Benefice Service at Broughton. 6.00pm In Memoriam/All Souls Service at Broughton

8 November 8.00am Holy Communion BCP. 10.50am Remembrance Service

15 November 9.30am Holy Communion

Sunday 22 November	9.30am	Holy Communion
Sunday 29 November	9.30am	Advent Sunday Holy Communion

Christmas Tree Festival set up 11/12 December Contact Barbara Foster.

We need someone to play the organ/keyboard. Please contact The Rector, Emily Robottom-Scott if you could help.

We are short of Church cleaners, if you can help for an hour every 6 weeks please contact Stephanie Gill. We also need help with brass cleaning once a year and flower arranging two weeks a year. Please contact Gilian Soden

We are delighted to invite you to a

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

Saturday, December 19th

4.00 to 6.00pm

Quaker Meeting House

(opposite Wykham Arms)

Come to an evening of live seasonal music and sing-a-long carols, mulled wine, mince pies and cakes and more.....

Also kids Christmas crafting, face-paints, Christmas present dip, cuddly toy tombola and beautiful homemade foods and a few locally made gifts







In aid of Ukrainian Orphange and Leonard Cheshire Young Disabled Peoples Care Home, Banbury

A Creative Autumn at School

Art and design have been a particular focus for our children this month, both in school and through opportunities to work with and contribute to the wider community.

A highlight of the term was a whole-school visit, from Nursery to Year 6, to take part in a day of art workshops led by teacher training students from Oxford Brookes University. Thanks to the support of the charity **Cotswold Arts through Schools (C.A.T.S.)**, every child was able to attend, with the charity funding the coach transport and the university team organising the activities.
The workshops were based around the theme of **"Express Yourself"** and gave children the chance to explore a range of artistic techniques. Activities included observational drawing, pastel portraits and collage, and clay modelling. Pupils also contributed to a large collaborative banner which will become part of an outdoor sculpture exhibition at Kingham Lodge later in the academic year.
The day provided a valuable opportunity for children to work in a different environment and alongside aspiring teachers. Their behaviour throughout the visit was excellent, and they approached each activity with enthusiasm, care and interest. We are grateful to C.A.T.S., Karen Hosack Janes and the students from Oxford Brookes University for making the experience possible.

Our children have also been busy contributing artwork to the village's annual **Apple Festival**. The event is always a popular fixture in the community calendar and gave pupils the opportunity to see their work displayed as part of a public event. Inspired by apples, orchards and the changing season, the children's artwork added colour to the displays and helped celebrate an event that brings together people of all ages. Many of our families attended, and the children enjoyed spotting their work as part of the wider festival.

This month has also seen children producing a range of **autumn and harvest-themed artwork** linked to our Harvest Festival celebrations. Drawings, paintings, collages and mixed-media pieces explored the colours, textures and changes that autumn brings. A selection of this work was displayed in St Mary's Church, creating an attractive backdrop for our harvest service and giving families and members of the community the opportunity to enjoy the children's creativity.

Across all year groups, art continues to provide children with opportunities to experiment, develop new skills and express their ideas in different ways. Whether taking part in university workshops, contributing to village events or displaying work in the church, pupils have engaged thoughtfully with a wide range of creative activities this term. We are proud of their efforts and grateful for the support of the organisations and volunteers who help provide these valuable experiences for our children.







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/


SWALCLIFFE
CHRISTMAS
MARKET
Saturday 5th December 2026
At Swalcliffe Church
From 12 noon to 3:30pm
Swalcliffe is the place to be as the village hosts another exciting Christmas Market
Come and enjoy
Market stalls with an impressive selection of high quality, locally made gifts, crafts and decorations, just in time for your Christmas shopping, or just to treat yourself.
Luxury Christmas Hamper Raffle
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Tea, coffee and cake stall
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Net proceeds will contribute to village organisations and activities
www.swalcliffe.org

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or preferably
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

NOVEMBER

3rd/17/24 - Bridge Club - Villge Hall - 7pm

3rd - Friendship Club - Village Hall 2pm

4th - Film Night "Sentimental Value " Village Hall 7.30pm

6th - Mens' Breakfast Club - The George, Brailes - 9.30a

10th - SGPC meeting - Village Hall - 7pm

11th - Horti Meeting: "English Garden Design" - Village Hall 7.30pm

19th - SHS meeting "Oxfordshire's Secret Gardens" - Village Hall 7.30pm

21st - Book Swap Cafe - Village Hall 10am - 12pm

21/22nd - Sibford Art Group Exhibition - Village Hall 10am - 4pm

24th - Model Railway Group - Village Hall 12pm

24th - Sibford Photography Club - Village Hall - 7pm

25th - Film Night "Wild" Village Hall 7.30pm

BIN COLLECTIONS

Green Tuesday: 3rd; 17th
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.

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

No service on Sundays or Bank Holidays

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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