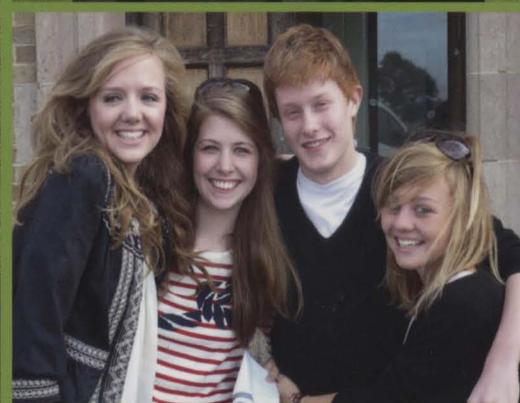
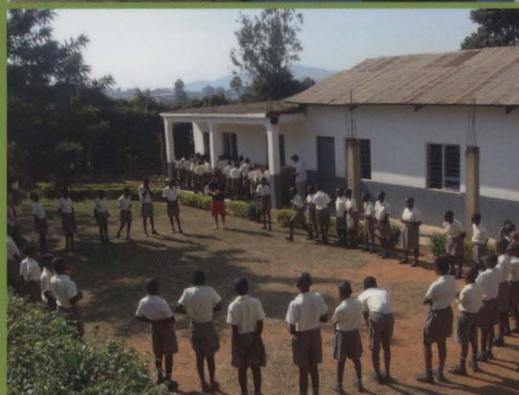




The Sibfordian

Student Life & Activities at Sibford School
& News of the Sibford Old Scholars' Association



2010



A year at Sibford School...

September 2009: Harvest celebration ... Junior pupils sell their home-grown vegetables to visitors at Apple Day.

October 2009: Long Way Round ... Actor, adventurer and former pupil Charley Boorman pops by to say 'hello'.

November 2009: Howzat! ... International cricketer Darren Gough officially opens our new sports changing complex.

December 2009: Nativity scene ... Junior pupils present The Gigantic Star.

January 2010: Snow joke ... Boarders have the school to themselves as bad weather cuts us off from the world.

February 2010: Raising awareness ... Students take part in International Dyscalculia Day.

March 2010: Sporting triumph ... Young rugby players descend on Sibford for the annual Sevens Tournament.

April 2010: Under the hammer ... A charity auction raises more than £7,000 for the Sibford Uganda Appeal.

May 2010: Top marks ... Sibford student Guiming Zhang is awarded a merit in the 2010 UK Mathematics Trust Intermediate Mathematical Olympiad and Kangaroo.

June 2010: Match of the day ... students enjoy World Cup inspired meals.

July 2010: Thatch the way to do it ... Junior pupils appeal for more reeds to help them finish their Celtic Roundhouse.

August 2010: Reaching for the stars ... students celebrate exam successes.

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A summarised set of Accounts for year ended 31st July 2010 will be available upon request from 31st March 2011 following the approval of these figures by the School Auditors.

WELCOME

I know an elderly woman who never reads newspapers. She says that she doesn't like reading the news 'because it is all bad'. I reflected that, since news was by definition reporting the rare, unusual and infrequent it was perhaps a good thing that the news was full of difficulties. What a terrible world it would be if newspapers were only full of 'good news' – if kindness, charity and wonderful events were so rare that they became newsworthy.

This year's Sibfordian is, of course, full of 'good news' and I am sure it is right to celebrate our successes, remember our joys and congratulate those who have done so well.

However, reading it through, especially this year, with its references to the new history of the school, the 80th birthday of 'The Hill' and the 21st birthday of the Junior School, I am reminded again of our roots. These roots are firmly grounded in our Quaker testimonies to truth and integrity and I have found myself asking whether the images and articles that follow are truly representative of the school.

In one sense the answer is, 'of course not'. Like all institutions, communities and families we have our less good days, and I hope we can be honest about these and learn from them, even if we don't write them up in our annual magazine! In a more profound sense though I am struck that we can only ever see part of the picture.

As I read the school history in proof form I could imagine all those countless pupils and staff whose stories are not heard – how could a history ever begin to give everyone a mention! I am confident that their stories are no less valid; it is just that they never made the headlines.

In any story, a part of the picture is hidden and I want us to be aware that there is a large supporting cast behind the stories told here. As the school has grown, we now employ around 140 staff and without their support, the headline acts would never surface. To give a few examples:

- Jayne Turner (caretaker) and Percy, her husband and head grounds man, have served the school for over 30 years.
- Wendy Finch, who works in the school office supporting our curriculum team and the school data base, has worked here for longer than this, and
- Philip Gilbert, grounds man, has worked here for an amazing 46 years.

Their stories might not be as punchy as some of the stories in this magazine, but they speak of loyalty, commitment and 'lives well lived', of something that it is central to our Quaker way, of 'faith in action'.

I hope we can applaud this service and recognise its value. I think too that we should recognise that we don't always have to shout out about our actions. The school and our Meeting House community have worked quietly this year to support young asylum seekers in Oxford, and some of us have attended Meetings for Worship with prisoners at Grendon Underwood; it is the values that underpin this kind of service that I hope we can celebrate and continue to extend within the wider school community.

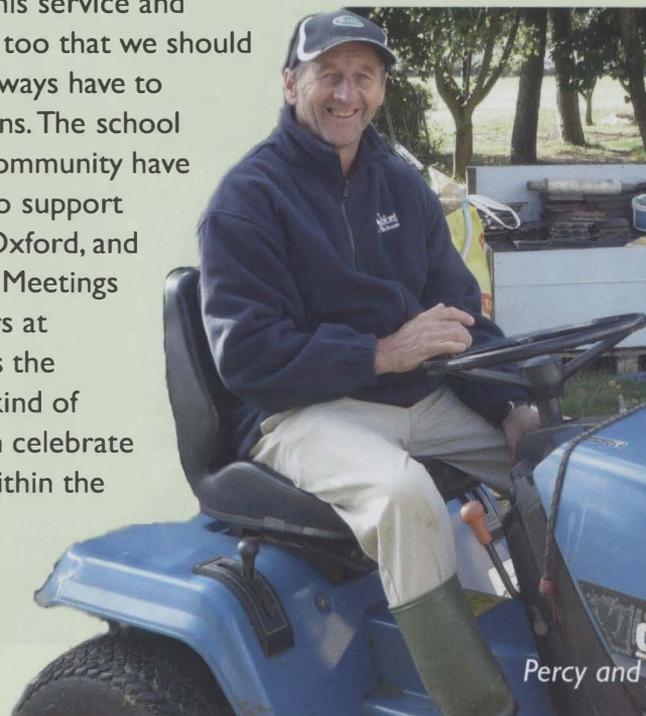
Michael Goodwin
Head of Sibford



Wendy Finch



Philip Gilbert



Percy and Jayne Turner



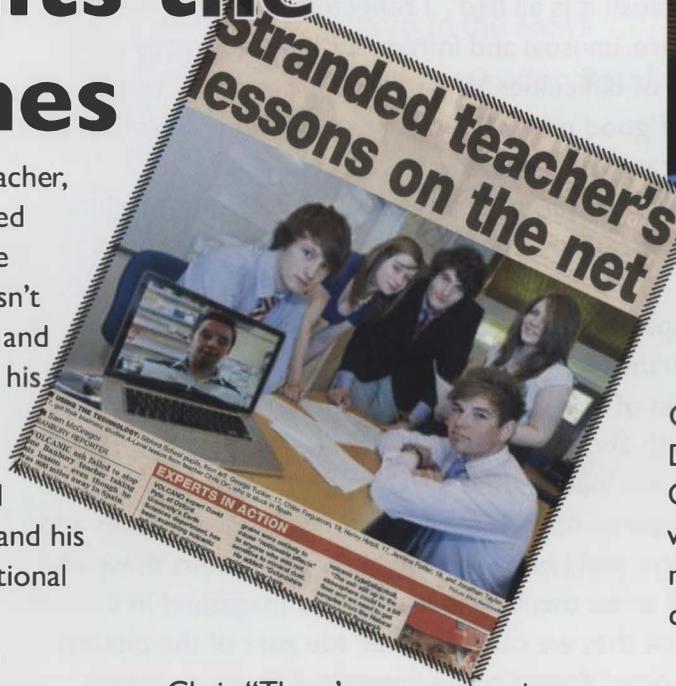
Chris hits the headlines

When business studies teacher, Chris Orr, became stranded in Spain in April due to the volcanic ash cloud ... it wasn't just his Sibford colleagues and pupils who were aware of his predicament.

The fact that he wasn't going to let a few hundred miles come between him and his A Level students made national and international news.

Using an Internet café in Alicante and the software application Skype, Chris was able to continue conducting his lessons ... with tutor and tutees both being able to see and hear each other despite the distance between the two.

"With the exam looming I wasn't going to not be there for my pupils so, as soon as I realised I was going to be stranded, I started thinking of ways round the situation," said



Chris. "There's no reason why 900 or so miles should be a barrier to education!"

Chris's heroic action hit the headlines ... including the BBC on-line news channel and was soon being picked up around the world.

"Even before I'd got back to the UK friends were ringing me from overseas saying they'd heard about what I was up to," says Chris.



Cricketer, Darren Gough, caused a media flurry when he called in to open our new £850,000 sports changing complex.

The international all-rounder and Strictly Come Dancing champion unveiled a special plaque to mark the occasion.

He also treated Sibford pupils to an informal coaching session.



BBC finds out how pupils use their bottle

Junior school teacher Ed Rossiter is pictured being interviewed by BBC News about the creation of a new eco greenhouse ... made out of more than 2,000 discarded plastic bottles.

Guests from All Saints School in Nuneaton joined our own pupils to help build the greenhouse which is now being used to propagate seedlings.

A Level Results

Tom reaches for the stars!

Sibford students once again did themselves proud when the long-awaited A-Level results were published.

Out-going head boy, Tom Roger, was walking on air after achieving three A* grades at A Level. The new top grade, introduced for the first time this year, requires marks of at least 90%.

Tom – who already holds an A Grade in A Level Mathematics having sat the exam a year early – achieved his latest results in Chemistry, English and Physics. In a further boost he also achieved an A grade for Further Maths at AS Level. He is now heading off to Oxford University where he has been offered a place to read Mathematics at Worcester College.

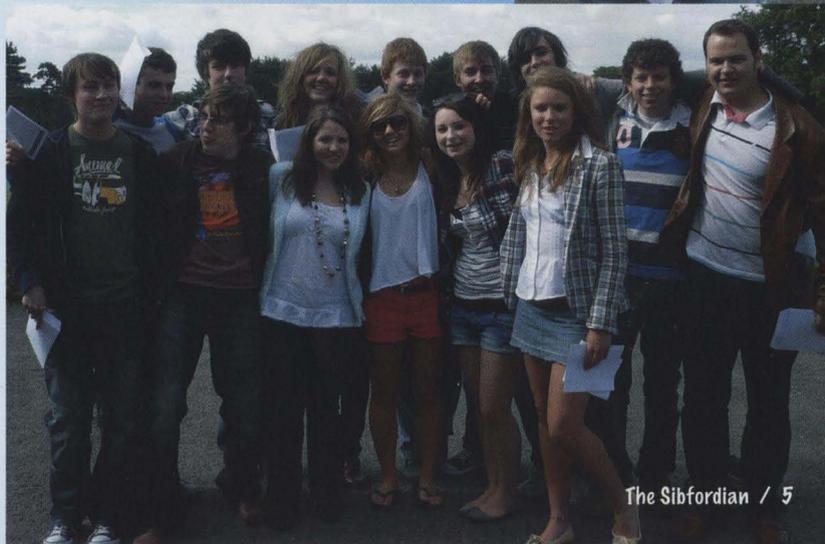
Other Sibford students achieving excellent grades included: Harriet Fletcher, who gained four A grades in Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics and Music; Alex Jardine who achieved As in English, French and RS, complementing her existing A grade in Applied Business Studies A Level which she achieved last year; Imogen Gartside, who gained three A grades in English, French and History and Cleo Jones who achieved A grades in Art, Music and German.

In addition, Jonty Taylor gained an A* grade in Media and Ali Mohammad Mohebbian an A* in Persian.

Sibford's overall pass rate at A* - E was 97.1% with 22.5% of students gaining all A*, A or B grades.

Michael Goodwin said: "Sibford is an academically strong school, as these students who have gained all A*s or As testify. But that's only part of the picture. We pride ourselves in welcoming students with a wide range of abilities and today's results represent some fantastic achievements right across the board."

Head of sixth form, Mary Memarzia, added: "This year we have seen some fantastic results, with many students reaching their full potential and securing university places. It is a testament to their commitment, determination and enthusiasm that so many have exceeded their target grades."



BTEC Results



Chris Elliott and Harry Petrie gained Distinctions in their BTEC National Diploma in Countryside Management ... the equivalent of an A grade at A Level.

Meanwhile Simon Couzens and Kate Mitchell have each gained Distinction* in their First Diploma in Countryside and the Environment ... the equivalent of four A* grades at GCSE.

Angy Bovill, head of Countryside & Environmental Sciences, said: "This is a fantastic achievement for all of our students and, in the case of Simon and Kate, has given them the qualifications and confidence to move on to A Level studies and beyond."



Leavers' destinations

Having gained some terrific results, our upper sixth pupils leave us for an exciting future. Here are some of the different places and activities they are heading to:

James Andrew	Southampton University ~ Music Technology
Frances Bolton-King	Lancaster University ~ Maths
Andrew Campbell	Portsmouth University ~ Building Construction
Patrick Campbell	Lancaster University ~ History
Becky Cockcroft	Southampton Solent ~ Interior Decorating
Lucas Colley	Aberystwyth University ~ Military History and Politics
Joshua Cooper	Sunderland University ~ Animation
Reuben Davies	Stratford College ~ Drama
Chris Elliott	Pershore College ~ Foundation Arboriculture
Chloe Ferguson	Gloucester University ~ Business Management
Harriet Fletcher	Warwick University ~ Chemical Biology
Imogen Gartside	Exeter University ~ History
Pippa Guy	Leeds Metropolitan University ~ Sports Science
Emma Hearle	Oxford and Cherwell College ~ Foundation Art and Design
Elinor Hirst	University of Western England, Bristol ~ Creative Product Design
Alex Jardine	Bath University ~ International Business and Modern Languages
Cleo Jones	Aberystwyth University ~ Fine Art and French
Ali Mohebbian	University of Western England, Bristol ~ Computer Studies
George Neighbour	Canterbury Christ Church University ~ Commercial Music
Edward Nicholls	Bournemouth University ~ Accountancy
Jemima Potter	Southampton University ~ Economics
Tom Roger	Worcester College, Oxford ~ Maths
Jonathan Taylor	Sussex University ~ Anthropology and Cultural Studies
George Tucker	Sheffield Hallam University ~ Hospitality Business Management
Alexander White	Canterbury Christchurch University ~ Geography
Charles Wilkinson	De Montfort University, Leicester ~ Creative Writing and English Language
Charlie Wymer	Brighton University ~ Foundation Degree, Construction (Building Surveying)

A number of students have also secured jobs while others are taking a gap year.



GCSE Results All change ...

as results come out on Tuesday

GCSE results have been published on a Thursday ever since they were introduced back in 1986.

But this year it was all change with the long-awaited results arriving on Tuesday instead.

And here at Sibford we were ready to celebrate, with every one of our 50 pupils who sat the exams gaining at least five A* to G grades and 92% achieving at least five A* to C grades.

A number of pupils achieved the top A* grades including Katie Taylor (six A*s) Emily Winter (five A*s) and Peter Oxley (five A*s). Edward Preece and Nick Smith each received four A* grades.

Katie Taylor said: "I'm delighted with these grades and can't wait to move into Sibford Sixth Form in September to start my A Level studies."

Overseas student Guiming Zhang, pictured left, achieved three A* and four A grades. In a further boost, Guiming, who hails from Guangdong in China, is just one unit away from achieving his A Level maths.

The 17-year-old gained top grades in three of his A Level papers which he sat earlier this year. He now hopes to sit the final paper in January 2011 and needs just four points to achieve an A grade.

Commenting on the results, Michael Goodwin said: "All of our students have done exceptionally well and I am extremely proud of them.

"Obviously the top A* grades are the ones that hit the headlines but I also want to congratulate those students whose grades, while not perhaps being A*s, represent real hard work and effort."

A pupils Katie Taylor, Peter Oxley and Emily Winter.*



Beff Birkbeck with Alastair White
(Green Party, Banbury constituency)



Julius Wills



Graeme Moorhouse



Helen Thain with Les Sibbey
(Labour, Banbury constituency)



Mock Election

April saw the school hosting a mock election ... with local Prospective Parliamentary Candidates coming in to share their experiences. Three of our own candidates tell what it was like to go head to head at hustings.

I was given the Labour Party to represent. In the run up to our election we had presentations to organise and manifestos to read. Given the situation in Government at the time, I knew I had a tough job on my hands. I found it interesting listening to people's opinions and trying to debate and back up Labour's policies. Everyone seemed to have a real interest in the election and what each party stood for. Although the results didn't exactly turn out in my favour, it was a good experience and taught me a lot about politics.

Helen Thain



Patrick Reckitt with Martin Turner
(Liberal Democrat, Stratford-on-Avon constituency)



I really enjoyed doing the mock election – it certainly gave me a lot to do over the campaign and really got me enthused about the election, not to mention allowing me to shower people with my views! A wonderful opportunity, well executed.

Patrick Reckitt



A Conservative victory for both Tony Baldry and Sibford's Alex White.

I very much enjoyed the mock election campaigning. I found the hardest thing about the election was standing for a party that I did not believe in and being regarded as the 'evil' one. However the Conservative Party were very open and helpful and I received a wealth of material from them. Some of which I still cannot get rid of. The campaign itself went well and I enjoyed canvassing and arguing with the fellow candidates. It was also interesting that some of the actual candidates who were standing in the Banbury and Stratford constituencies came into school. I was struck by how some of them did not know some of their policies, but found the opportunity to debate with them enlightening and much fun.

Alex White



The day I met the Queen's daughter

by Yohan Huria

It's January 2010. I am with my family on the east coast of New Zealand, basking in the late-afternoon sun. In three days time I will be going to snowed-under England on a GAP year. We're sat at the picnic table, slapping mosquitoes when suddenly I am bombarded with a list of things to do on my Gap Year. Outstanding features include: Running with the bulls, asking Pope Benedict XVI for the lotto numbers, doing a Haka outside Buckingham Palace and, my personal favourite, meet The Queen of England! 'Wow. What a ridiculous list.' I thought to myself. Fast-forward to April and ~ along with our Head, Michael Goodwin, and fellow superstar GAPS, Marvin, Clive and Jessie ~ I very nearly get to tick off one of the boxes on that pretty much impossible list.

We were extremely lucky to receive an invitation from Paul Rompani, CEO of Lattitude Global Volunteering (the GAP organisation that blesses Sibford with superstars) to meet the Royal Patron of Lattitude, Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal.

The meeting took place at Lattitude's Head Office in Reading and, while I know

meeting the Princess Royal is not quite the same as meeting

Her Majesty The Queen, this small glitch definitely did not nullify our spirit, excitement and anxiety.

After sharpening up into our best formal wear, we became seated in the Head's vehicle. We were treated with delicate chatting and a CD of some sort (I was the lucky one with an ipod) and before we knew it we had arrived at our destination.

We were greeted immediately by Paul Rompani and his friendly staff. Everyone was organised into three groups. The first group consisted of the Mayor, the Chairman of Lattitude, Board members, former Board members and the CEO. The second assortment of personalities included paid and volunteer staff of Lattitude and the final group was made up of specially invited GAP students in the UK and their hosts and past GAP students who have recently returned to the UK from abroad.

We were arranged like this so that Princess Anne could spend five minutes with each group. This gave everyone an



Yohan with The Princess Royal

equal opportunity to blush and get sweaty palms in the presence of royalty.

As The Princess came closer to our group our anxiety grew. Marvin, stroking his beard. Clive, rustling through his hair. Jessie, smiling brightly. Me, standing in the direct path of the air conditioner. Finally, Her Royal Highness arrived and we all shook her hand and participated in a very pleasant discussion.

I felt humbled and privileged to have shaken her hand and met royalty and I am sure everyone within the vicinity of the office felt the same way. She said goodbye to our group and presented her speech in front of the assembly.

Meanwhile all I could do was admire my hand... the hand that shook the hand of royalty.

Meeting the daughter of The Queen of England is kind of like meeting The Queen. Don't you think? Half a tick on the box it is then.



Gaps in waiting: Marvin, Jessie and Clive

Hands on History



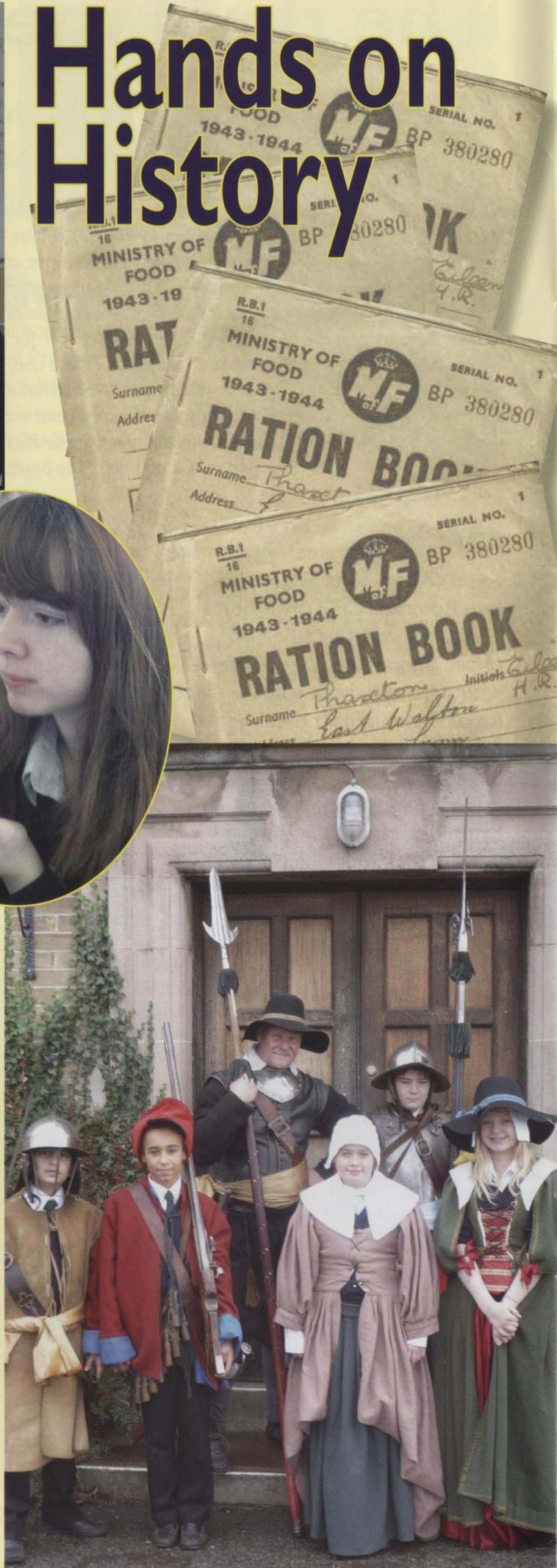
Connor Wakefield and Abby Weston try their hand at a spot of World War II cooking.

When 9AW studied rationing as part of their World War II history lessons, the meagre portions of food that families had to survive on for a week came as something of a shock. "I thought I could probably eat it all in one day!" said Oliver Walker-Savings.

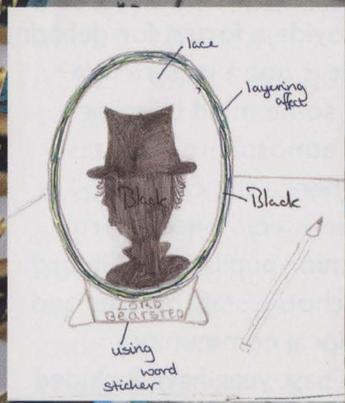
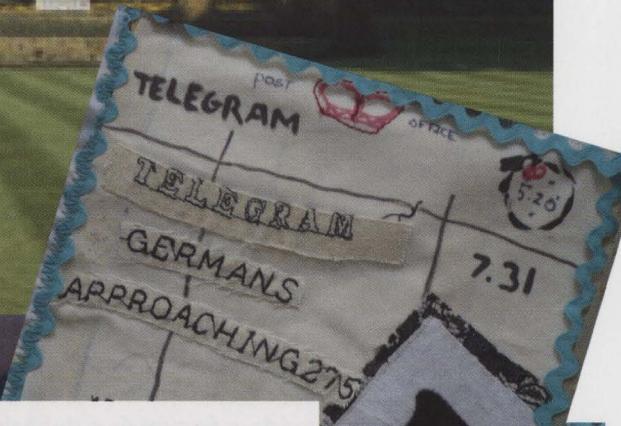
So it was great to have the chance in Food Tech to make cakes without eggs ... just like they used to in the war.

"We thought it would be impossible but they were delicious," said Ollie. Added Willow Woodward (inset): "I thought that cakes without eggs would be flat and tasteless, but they were just as tasty as normal cakes."

Right: Stepping back even further in time are Behshad Shafaatian, Neno Dodd, Imogen Creed, Will Campion and Amie Roberts who are pictured with 'Time Traveller' Dave Lord, who came to speak about the Civil War. "I couldn't believe how heavy the weapons were," said Neno. "The soldiers used to walk through the night carrying them so it must have been really difficult. Some people used to saw off the end of their pikes so that they weren't so heavy but if they got found out they were punished!"



Upton House Quilt



Year 7 Textiles students visited Upton House and Gardens near Banbury during the summer term to gain inspiration for a special class project.

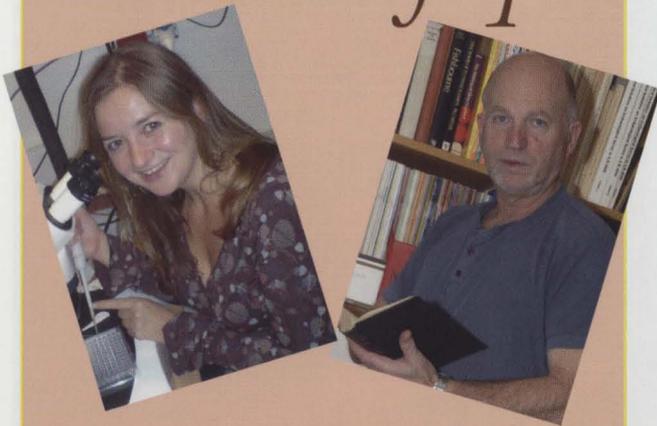
Upton House is a late seventeenth century house, which was remodelled by Walter Samuel, 2nd Viscount Bearsted, after his purchase of the property in 1927.

The son of the founder of Shell, Bearsted was a great art collector and, in 1948, left his collections, the house and the magnificent gardens to the National Trust.

Following their visit, Year 7 created a quilt depicting some of the many aspects of the house. Their work is going to be displayed at Upton House in the Autumn where it will be on show to the many visitors who pass through its doors.



Café Scientifique



This year has seen the launch of Café Scientifique at Sibford.

The first Café Scientifique in the UK was held in Leeds in 1998. From there, cafés gradually spread across the country and subsequently to schools.

Sibford Head of Science, John Charlesworth, explains: "The aim of Café Scientific is to provide a forum for debating science issues ... it is not a lecture. We are able to enjoy some mind boggling stuff, in a relaxed atmosphere, with tasty refreshments ... hence the café."

Café Scientifique is held once a term and is open to senior pupils from Sibford and other local schools, staff, parents and members of the local community.

Speakers in the past year have included Dr Glenn Patrick of the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory who led a discussion on the large Hadron Collider; Georgina Miles, who worked for the British Antarctic Survey and spoke on ice core drilling; and Jim Endersby, consultant to the new BBC television programme, *The Story of Science: Power, Proof and Passion*.

The next Café Scientifique will take place at the end of September when the speaker will be Erika Mancini who will pose the question 'What's in your genes?' Erika is a Royal Society University Research Fellow based at the Henry Wellcome Building for Genomic Medicine in Oxford. Speaker for the March café is John Hunter, professor of Ancient History & Archaeology at Birmingham University who will talk on forensic archaeology.

Pictured above: Erika Mancini and John Hunter.



National Science Week

Once again we participated in the National Science & Engineering Week which took place from 12–21 March.

The theme was 'Earth' and we provided a series of exciting lunchtime activities which were particularly popular with pupils from years 7 and 8 who were able to try out some fun experiments including dyeing eggs and making bath bombs!



Sibford four on the murder trail!

Trying to track down the identity of a murderer isn't the normal day-to-day activity of Sibford science students.

However, that was the challenge put before four of our year 8 pupils when they attended the Salters' Festival of Chemistry at Warwick University!

Abi Cooley, Ed Cullinane, Neno Dodd and Sydonie Brewis were given the task of solving the 'murder at Saltmarsh Farm'. Here's their report.



Neno: I really enjoyed the day. We did some fun experiments. We had to solve a murder mystery and do chromatography. Our team did really well and we all worked well together. Although we didn't win I am still pleased with what we did and it was great fun to take part.



Abi: When we arrived at Warwick University we were welcomed into a small room for drinks and biscuits. We were quickly briefed on safety in the lab and told about the day's timetable. After that we got straight to work.

Sydonie: Our first assignment involved us working out the answers to a murder. We split into pairs and whilst one pair had to test the salts found on the suspect's clothing the other pair had to test the inks of a pen and see if there was a match to the inky handkerchief found at the crime scene.

The Salters' Festivals of Chemistry are an initiative of the Salters' Institute to help promote the appreciation of chemistry and related sciences among the young. The Festivals are one-day fun events held at universities throughout the UK and Ireland. They provide the opportunity for enthusiastic young students to spend a day in a university department and to take part in practical chemistry activities.

plane, plain, to, two, allowed, aloud, bored, board, break, brake, caught, court

check, cheque, find, fined, flower, flour, hour, our

Homophone Bonanza was the Easter Project for all Years 7 – 9 on a dyslexia/ learning support programme.

Students were given a pair of words (homophones) which had a similar sound but were spelt differently and had different meanings. eg 'saw' and 'sore', 'hair' and 'hare'.

They were asked to make a poster that would illustrate the different spelling and meaning of the two words. Over 45 posters were produced, with the judges declaring entries by Orla Gay, Esther Hudson, Danielle Tharani, Oliver Harrison, Joe Attley and James Paton as the winners.

Homophone Bonanza



new, knew, piece, peace, paw, shore, sure

see, sea, here, hear, made, maid, bare, bear, pair, pear, won, one, week, weak

National award for Brigid

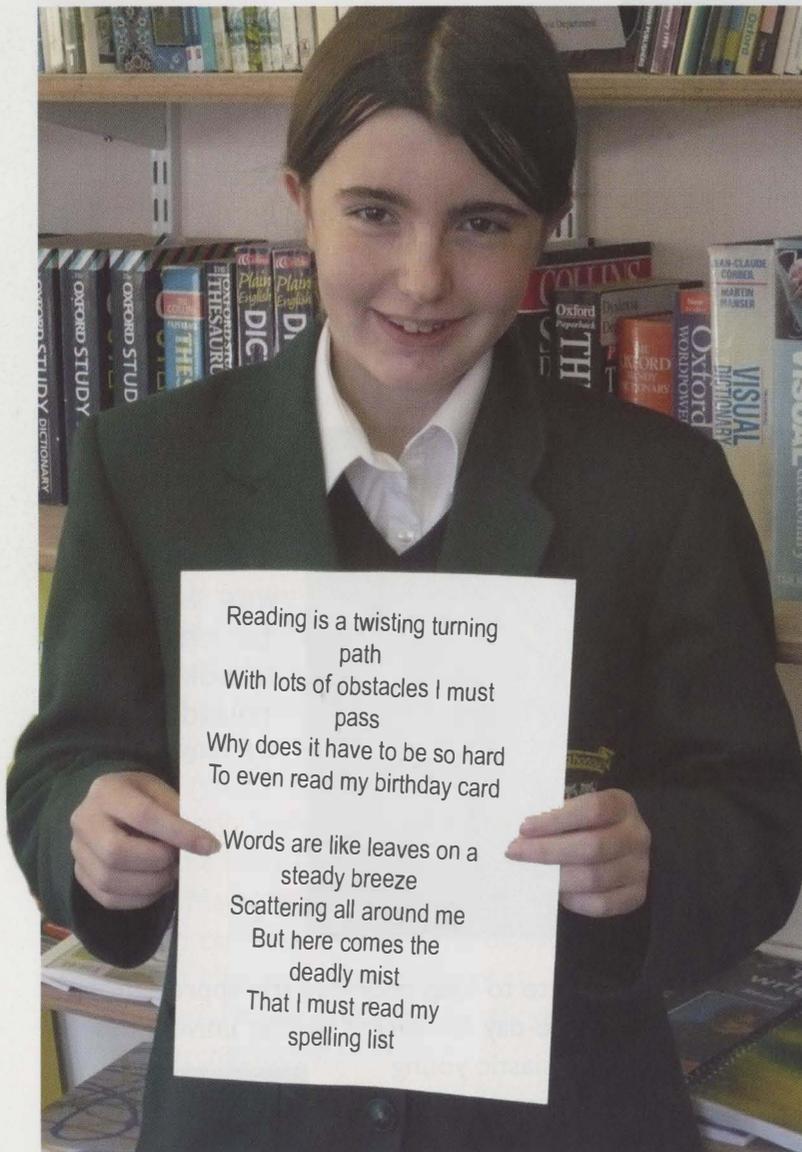
Sibford pupil Brigid Davidson scooped the top prize when she entered a poetry competition organised by Dyslexia Action.

The competition was run by the charity in partnership with Readathon and was supported by Connaught Education and the children's newspaper, First News.

As part of her prize, Brigid had the delight of having her poem read on film by none other than Dyslexia Action president (and former Sibford pupil) Charley Boorman.

Commenting on the winning entry, Charley said: "Being dyslexic I could really identify with Brigid's poem; she did exceptionally well and I am sure her family must be very proud of her."

The competition was judged by Brough Girling, chairman of Readathon, who commented: "Judging something like this is terribly difficult. However, I was looking in particular for poems where the personality of the writer comes through – where they are writing what they really feel about reading, and not merely what they think a poem about reading should be like! On this criteria Brigid, who obviously finds reading difficult, was my clear winner."



Reading is a twisting turning path
With lots of obstacles I must pass
Why does it have to be so hard
To even read my birthday card

Words are like leaves on a steady breeze
Scattering all around me
But here comes the deadly mist
That I must read my spelling list

Wind in the willows!



This year we extended our willow tunnel, which was created last year.

All of us had to design what we would add to it, and then we chose bits of several of the designs to make up what we wanted.

We chose to have a small tunnel leading into a dome.

We measured the space we would use and worked out how many sticks of willow we would need. Altogether we needed about 170.

On a cold and frosty February morning we went to Sue Sabin's farm to cut down our willow.

We collected it in bundles of 10 sticks and took turns going in the truck to stack it in the back. (This part was recorded on video and was on the school website.)

Back at school we sprayed a circle on the grass so Jason knew where to cut the grass out for the dome. Then we put the sticks into the ground and tied them together in the shape.

We watered it well and it had little shoots in May. Last year's tunnel is very thick now and we have to look after that too.

We are planning to get some logs and look forward to sitting in the shade under the dome.

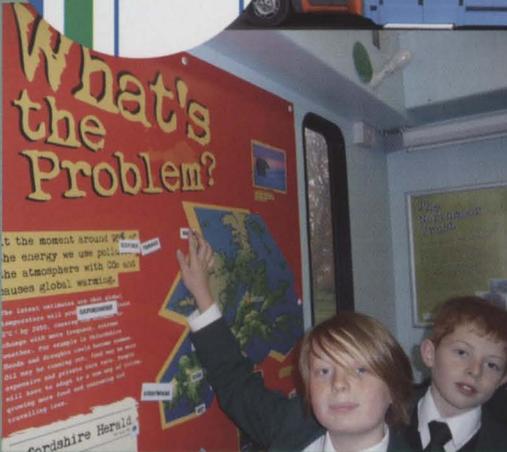
Year 3



Sibford has been awarded the and here's what we did to get it ...



A campaign to switch off lights and equipment that had been left on standby around the school saved 23% of our electricity consumption.

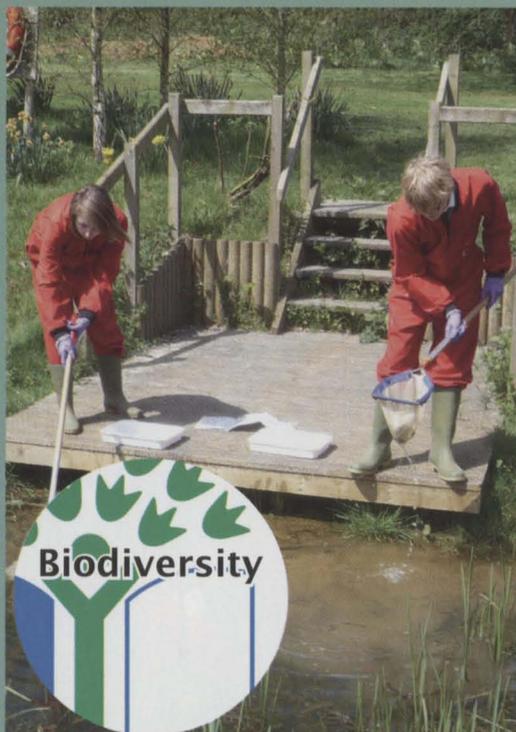


Oxfordshire's new Energy Bus came to visit us to help raise awareness of climate change and suggest ways in which we can reduce energy consumption. Students had the opportunity to cycle furiously to produce enough electricity to power a CD player.



The Sixth Form Fair Trade Group run the Fair Trade Cafe every Friday in the dining room. They planned Fairtrade Fortnight in February and promoted Swap Your Cuppa.

Staff and pupils are all recycling. Every classroom, tutor base, the Library, Health Centre and all of the school offices now have their own blue recycling bin. Computer hardware, empty ink cartridges, cans, plastic bottles and green waste from the kitchens and gardens are all recycled.



2010 is the National Year of Biodiversity. Students have carried out biodiversity studies on the conservation area and pond to monitor which organisms are present and to compare these with the previous year's records. Their surveys have enabled us to discover the rich biodiversity of flora and fauna that we have within the school grounds.



We are keeping a constant eye on our own environment:

- Planting bulbs and trees
- Litter Picking
- Growing Organic fruit and vegetables

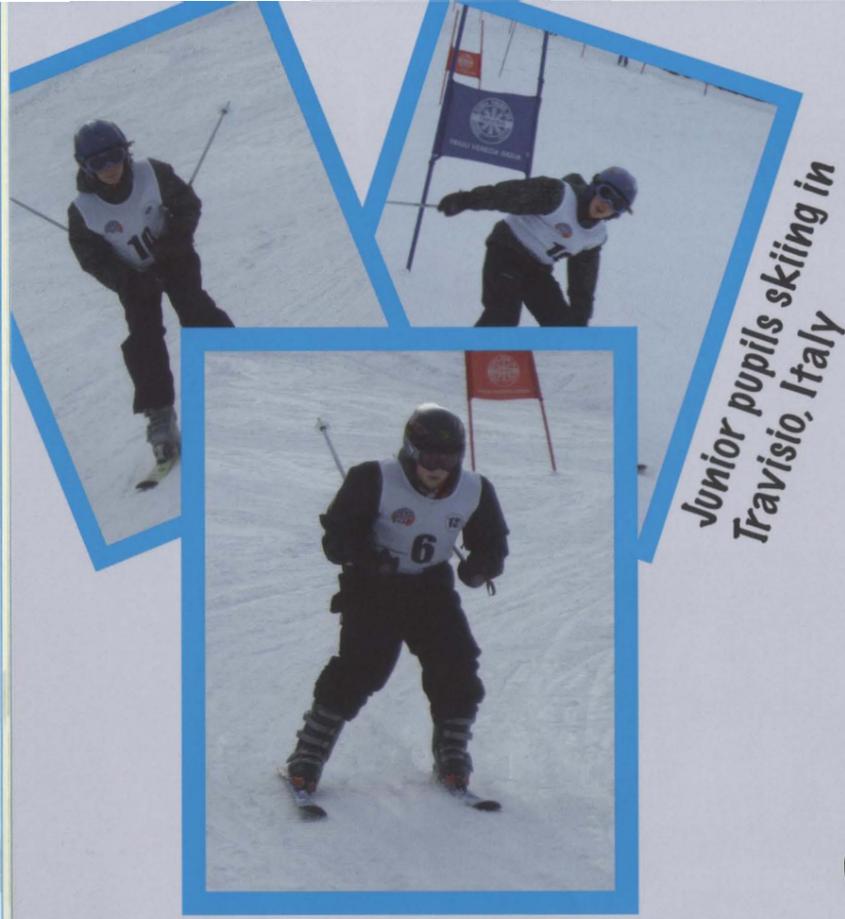
For the record



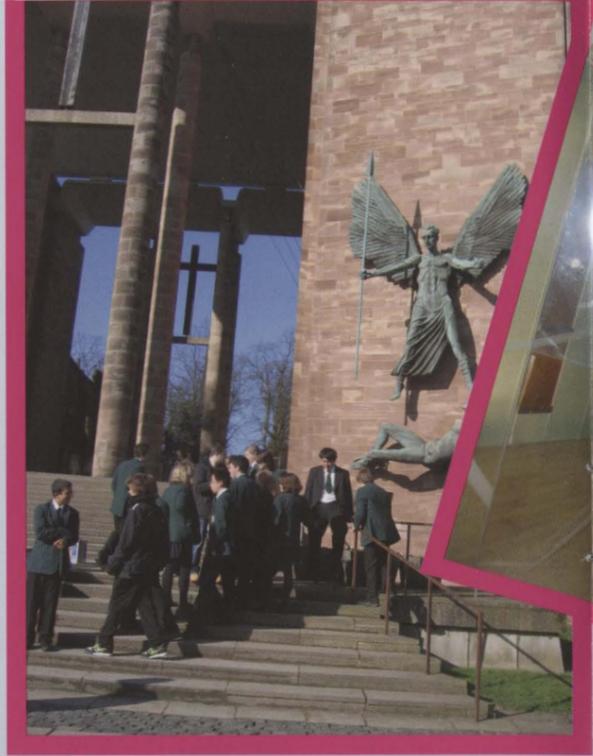
Sibford students formed a human letter 'R' which will be used in a film to celebrate World Fair Trade Day. This will be shown across Europe by student groups campaigning on Fair Trade issues.

Eco-Schools Green Flag!





Junior pupils skiing in Travisio, Italy



Year 10 visit Coventry Cathedral



Year 7 at Sibford Meeting House

OUT AND ABOUT



Zoe Connor with members of the sixth form in Brussels



Walking the D'Arcy Dalton Way



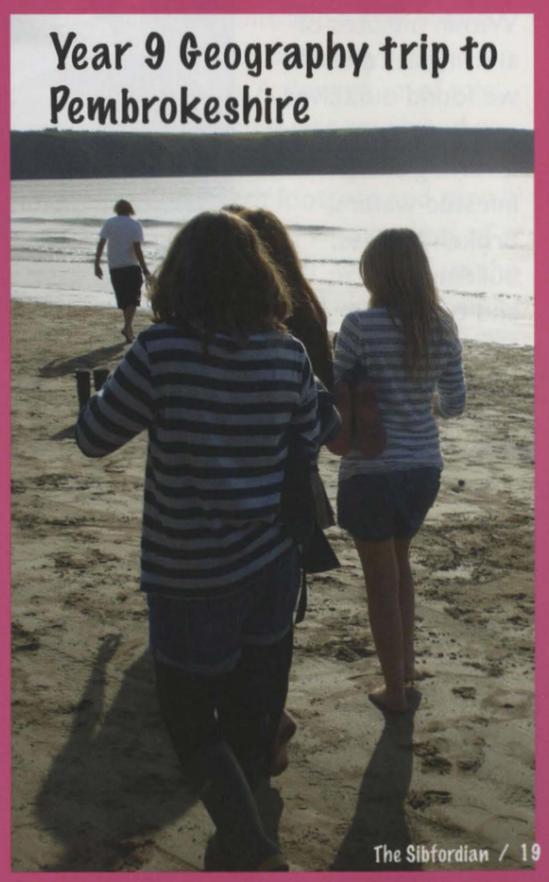
Sailing with Year 6



Easter 2010 saw the annual Ski Trip heading to the lovely little village of Rennweg, in Austria.



Gappies pictured during a visit to the Rollright Stones



Year 9 Geography trip to Pembrokeshire

Blogging from the Lakes

Day One: The teary-eyes witnessed at 8.45am were dry by 9.00am, cured by judicious use of Werther's Originals. The motorways were clear and we cruised to the first, and for some of the children, the most important, stop of the trip, the motorway service station! Only one child was sick ... and thankfully his mum was on the coach!

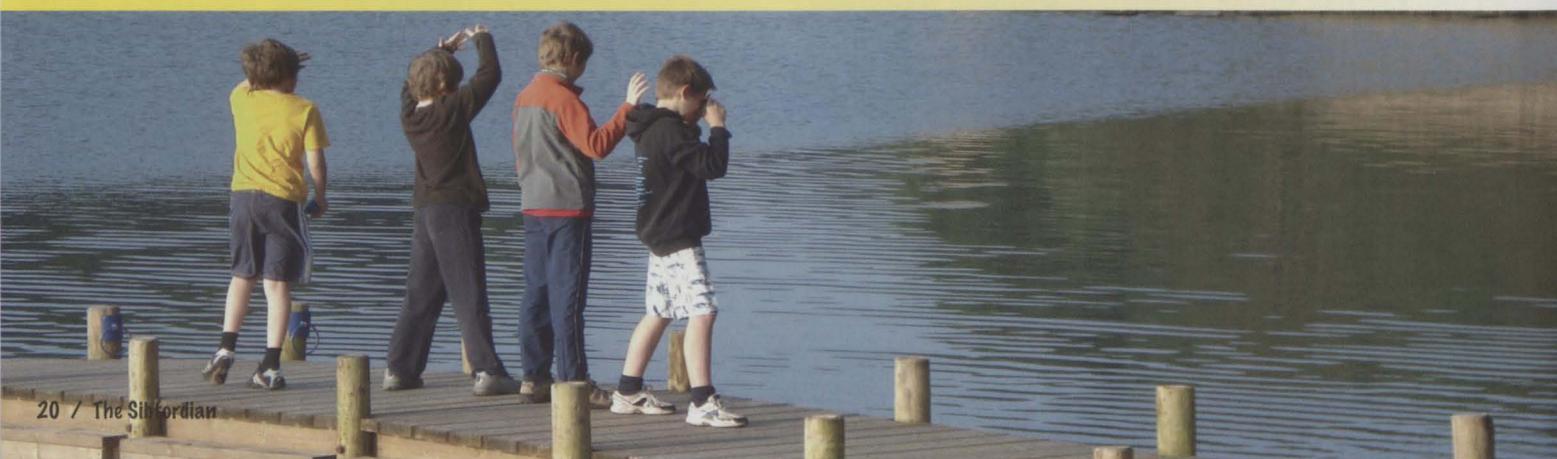
In May, Years 5 and 6 headed off to the Lake District for five days of fell walking, canoeing, caving, cooking round the campfire and generally communing with nature. Here are some highlights from the trip blog, compiled by class teacher Nicola Watson:



Day One cont: Within minutes of arriving at Lakeside we found ourselves sorting out problems involving shark-infested waters, broken bridges, building rafts and other taxing predicaments ... requiring the finest of team-working skills.

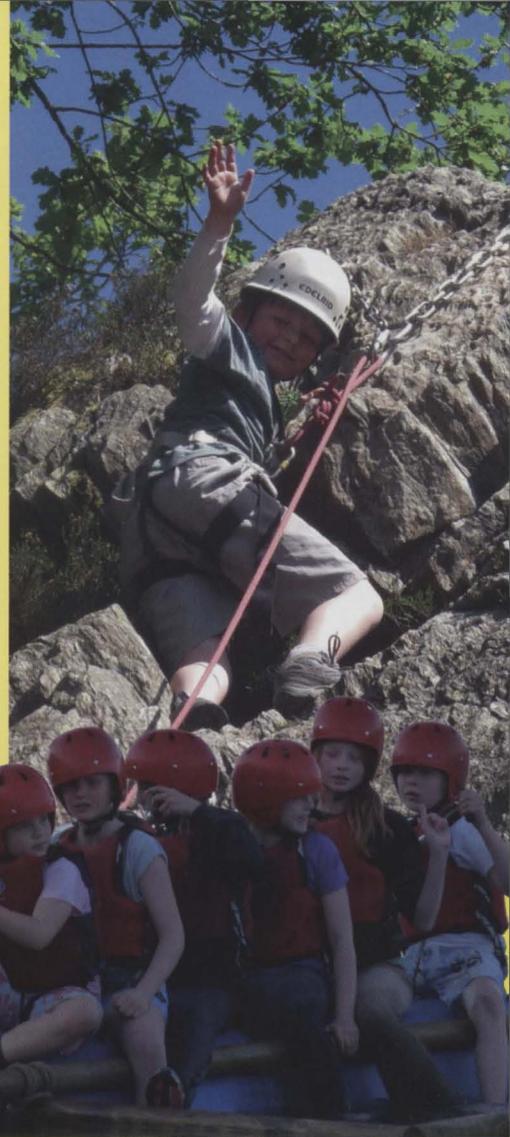


Day Two: The sun was shining all day and the energy of the children knew no bounds as we split into two groups to enjoy canoeing and caving. Some of the children expressed misgivings about caving, and particularly some of the small spaces such as the 'Cheese Press'. Tom Mahon, on completing squeezing through the 'Cheese Press' commented: "If I got stuck in there I'd be a Red Leicester". Another classic under ground pearl came from Freddie Fox Furniss ~ Leader: "We are in an area of the cave called 'The Baptistry'. This bit is called 'The Font'. Where would you find a font?" Freddie: "On a computer."





Day 3: Each of the three groups has chosen a name. They are: The Returnips (Yr 6), The Invincibles (Yr 5&6) and Cheese Puffs (Yr 5). The Returnips went off caving. The others went kayaking, rock climbing and then practised archery. Oliver Hancock is a fantastic climber and will be known henceforth as 'The Human Catherine Wheel' having turned full circle whilst grabbing on to one hold with his hands. Freddie Hall is a crack shot with a crossbow. Never cross him! Everyone is being very good, especially Mr Rossiter who has hung all the wet washing up nicely in the drying room. He is a credit to his mother!



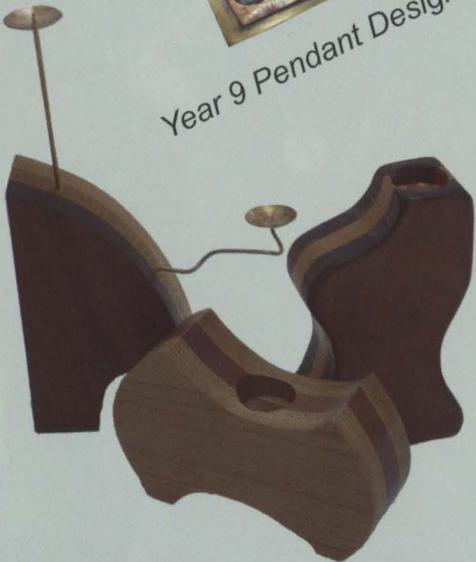
Day 4: Today was all about canoeing and fell walking with an end of the day cook-out in the lovely Cumbrian countryside. On our walk we sighted of a pair of Canada geese with six goslings, a nuthatch, two deer, a pair of black pheasants and a stag beetle. We cannot report any sightings of the rarely seen sea badgers or drop bears, which allegedly inhabit the area. A downpour of rain and hail failed to dampen spirits ... although it was touch and go for a while. The cook-out did, I have to say, test my resilience. It was throwing it down with rain and we were footsore and travel-



wearry. Issued with packets of pasta 'stuff' we fired up the stoves and waited. Spencer declared it to be the finest pasta he had ever eaten.... which surprised me somewhat!



Year 9 Pendant Designs



Year 9 Candle/Tea Light Holders

D&T

The Design & Technology department has worked hard to build on the success of last year's sensational results by introducing a variety of new projects and educational visits.

Sixth Form students gained the most benefit from these, with trips to local plastic manufacturer Glazpart ~ where they saw examples of commercial injection moulding, vacuum forming and robotics ~ and to Court Barn Craft and Design Museum in Chipping Campden, which gave us unprecedented access to genuine period artefacts and the Robert Welch collection.

The museum also arranged for us to visit Hart's the Silversmiths, who are still going strong after more than 100 years in their original Cotswold workshop.



This gave students an invaluable opportunity to compare an ancient craft with modern design practice.

The Sixth Form, joined by Year 11, also went on a trip to the Mini factory in Oxford. All students found this very impressive and extremely valuable in gaining an insight into industrial practice.

Clockwise: Corner Storage Unit (George Cowper); Coffee Table (Olivia Fletcher); Wine Glass & Bottle Rack (Alex Attley); Adjustable Laptop stand (Alex Chisholm)



TAKE ONE PICTURE

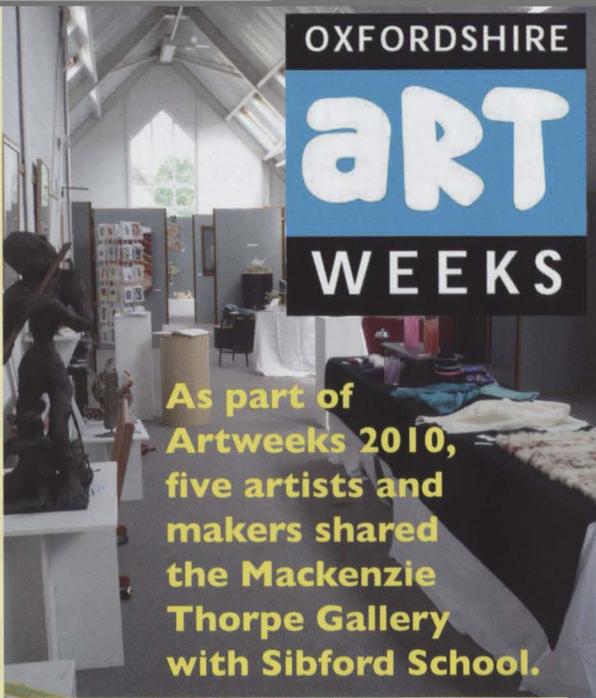
'Take One Picture' is the National Gallery's countrywide scheme for primary schools.

Each year the Gallery focuses on one painting from its collection to inspire cross-curricular work. For 2010 the painting was 'The Umbrellas', by Pierre-Auguste Renoir.

All pupils in the junior school took part and their work was exhibited in the school's Mackenzie Thorpe Gallery. We also made an outdoor version of the painting using recycled plastic carrier bags.







As part of Artweeks 2010, five artists and makers shared the Mackenzie Thorpe Gallery with Sibford School.

As one of those five artists, I was stunned by the quality and range of the school's art.

Particular highlights for me were the highly original ceramics, and the life studies. Brilliantly creative and beautifully glazed teapots and services, quirky if slightly macabre sculptures of kitchen activities, and Chinese-inspired forms remain in my memory, and were produced to standards that belied the students' ages.

At least one of the self-portraits was surely to standards of higher education; and visiting members of the public both enquired about the possibility of commissions and wanted to buy some of the school art on show.

There was originality and contextual engagement in some of the textile and fashion work, including a multi-layered and very beautiful piece about eating disorders.

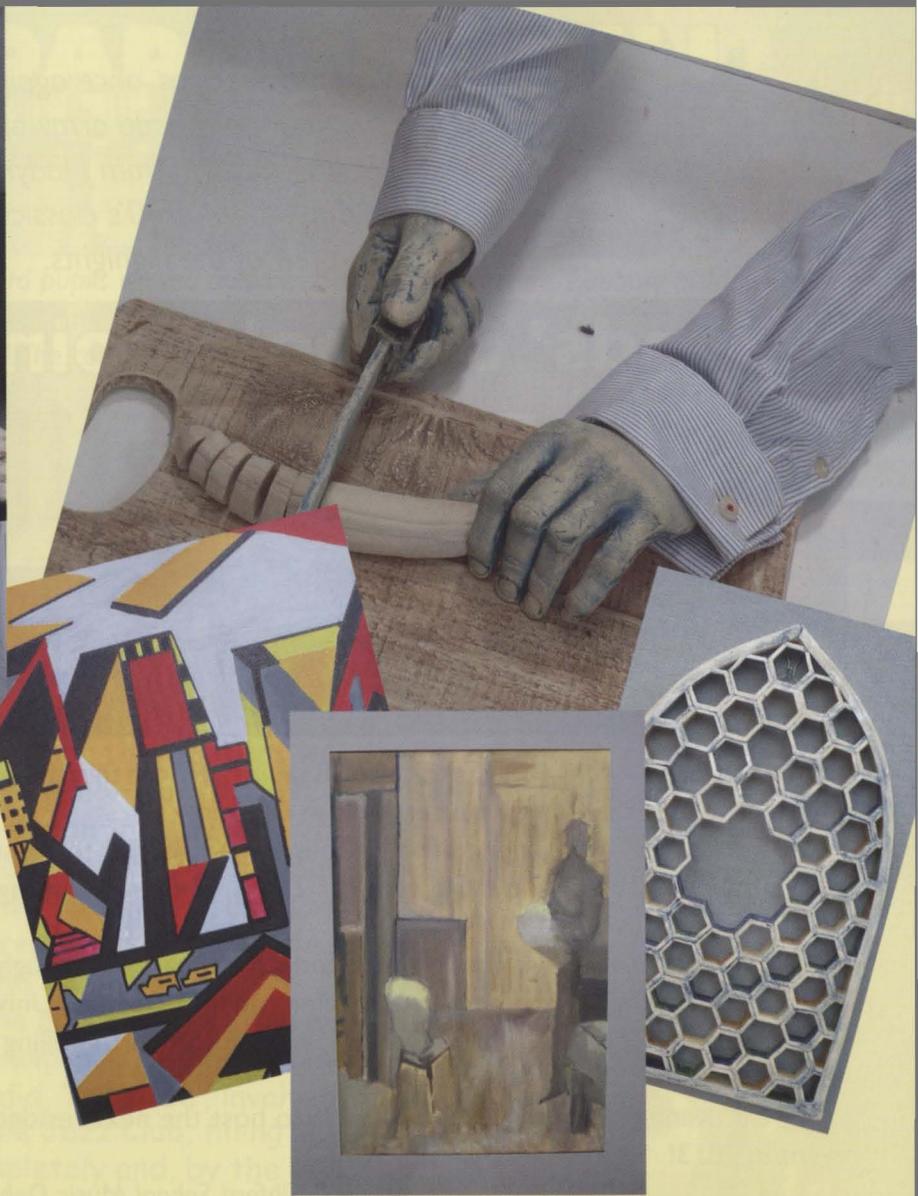
There was a range of paintings by staff, students, and friends. Younger students had produced competent and engaging sculptures and drawings. In general, there was maturity and enjoyment in the work on show.

We were privileged to meet some of the students, and they were genuinely interested in engaging us in conversation, and eager to talk about their own work.

Visitors lingered in the school's display, and were complimentary in their reactions. There were several enquiries about the availability of adult classes and, indeed, some of the evening life drawing was also on display.

As a visitor, too, I was struck by the courtesy and helpfulness of the students, and by the shared enthusiasm of students and staff.

Margaret Condon





The Music Department has, once again excelled itself with a host of events demonstrating the wide array of talents to be found here at Sibford. Performances have ranged from Hadyn's 18th century composition 'A Little Organ Mass' through to 1960's classics by Lennon and McCartney. Here are just a few of the highlights.



It was the turn of Leighton Park School, Reading to host this three yearly event involving all seven Quaker schools in England.

Sue Sabin, Martin Quinn and I had the pleasure of joining the vast choir and orchestra with our Sibford Year 7 girls, who were amongst the youngest taking part.

The Verdi Requiem is a massive work, and the rehearsals throughout the three days culminated in a wonderful performance at Reading University, with Rosemary Scales (Director of Music at Leighton Park) pulling it all together.

A great evening was had by all. Sibford is to host the next residential event in 2013!

Matt Platt, Sibford School Music Department

Music at Adderbury

It was the last Wednesday of the spring term and the choir had been rehearsing extensively for months in preparation for this one night.

As waves of the choir started arriving at Adderbury Church there was a real air of excitement and anticipation to get stuck into the performance.

The group finally all assembled in their set places, the sopranos chatting and giggling as usual, the altos singing songs that weren't on the set list, tenors joking about Martin breaking organs and the basses trying to hit those low notes.

It all started to fall into place, with a real mix of music ranging from classical Italian arias to musical theatre pieces, choral pieces to solos. All in all, it was a great night with a great atmosphere and of course, great music thanks to Mike Ahmad, Matt Platt and Martin Quinn ... the amazing musical trio that pieced the musical puzzle together.

Jo Wall, Soprano



Music Fest' 2010

Tuesday 6th July
Wednesday 7th July
7.30pm - Main Hall

Tickets - £7.50 each
(conc. £6.50 each)

Tickets available from school reception
(download your order form below)

CHORAL
JAZZ
FUNK
CLASSICAL
CONTEMPORARY
SWING
BALLADS
SHOW SONGS
ORCHESTRAL

Such a memorable night of music!

Once again, Sibford's prestigious music department has excelled in showcasing their glittering array of young talent.

To culminate a truly great year of music, the audience was treated to a melting pot of music of every kind performed by the diversely talented and dedicated young musicians.

Unfortunately, to the brilliant upper sixth music students along with Marcus, Yates, Alice Englert and Ed Woolley – we bid a tearful farewell. We are losing some truly inspirational young people. However, based on the sheer energy of the Music Fest we can rest assured that Matt, Mike and crew will continue to nurture and encourage fresh musical talent and we are all greatly indebted to them.

We eagerly await more from the cornucopia of talent as displayed in the memorable Music Fest.

*Peter Neighbour
Parent & Committee Member*

ABBEEY ROAD @ THE MILL



Sibford pupils wowed audiences at The Mill Theatre, Banbury in May when they presented their own interpretation of the Beatle's classic album Abbey Road. The concerts raised more than £500 for Epilepsy Action and received the backing of best selling author and Honorary Vice-President of Epilepsy Action, William Fiennes, who said: "I love Abbey Road, and I'm a bit jealous of these Sibford students getting the chance to inhabit the music like this." Performer George Purchon gives Sibfordian his take on the Mill Gig ...

The Jazz Club performed their best ever gig at The Mill in May to a capacity audience. We had all rehearsed and rehearsed for this concert, and I felt very excited to be part of one of the main music events of the year.

Some of the numbers were very challenging - for example 'Stairway to Heaven', and, from Abbey Road, 'Here comes the Sun' and 'Golden Slumbers', and I was very impressed with the professional sound we produced.

The audience reaction was phenomenal. The final number we did, 'Let it Be', involved the whole Jazz Club, filling the stage completely and, by the end, the audience were all on their feet. Personally, I would have liked to have done this gig every night and not just twice!

I couldn't single out anyone in particular as we were all playing our absolute best but I could mention Matt Platt, Michael Ahmad, Martin Quinn and Andy Foakes because of the work they put in and the inspiration they gave us.

The next time the Jazz Club has a gig at The Mill, it will be hard to top 'Abbey Road' but I think we will surprise everyone by being even better again, so I hope you get your tickets before they sell out.

If you haven't experienced a Sibford Jazz Club gig yet, you are missing out on something special!



Oh yes they were!

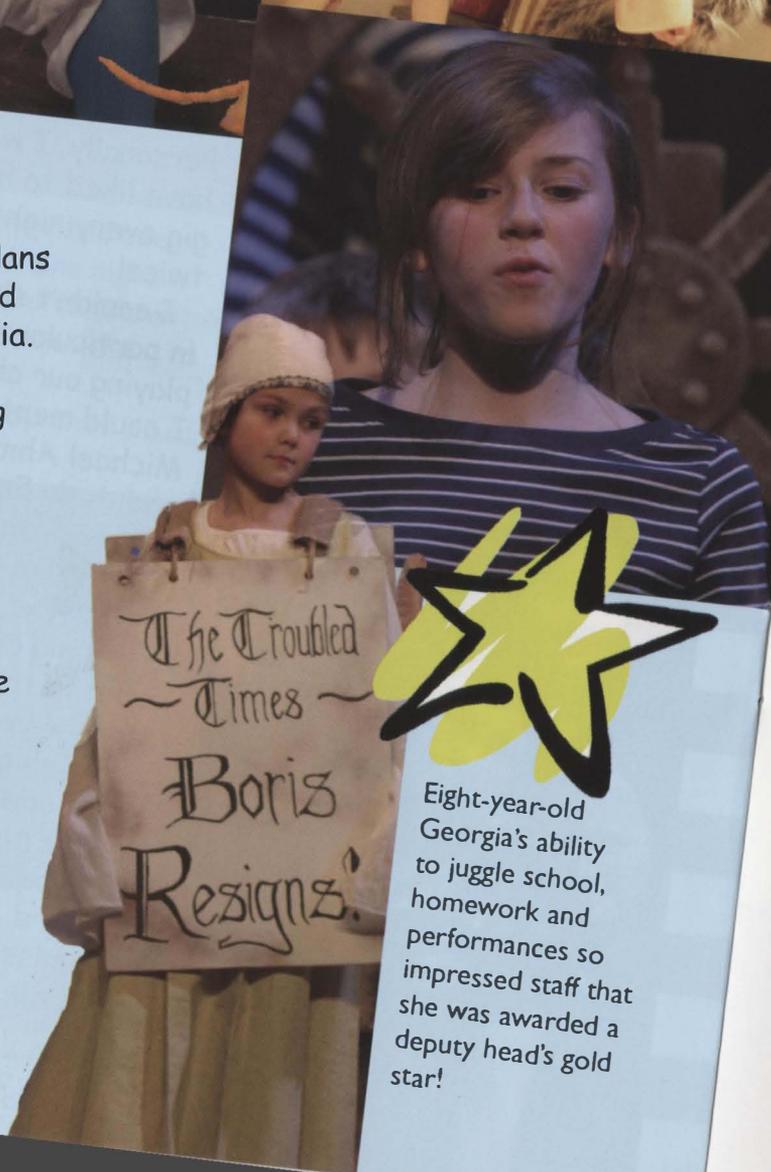
A visit to the theatre can often provoke the comment 'Haven't I seen them in Casualty or The Bill?'. However, last Christmas the phrase could equally have been 'Haven't I seen them at school?'. Sibford pupils Thomas Morel and Sydonie Brewis (left) were treading the boards in Cherwell Theatre Company's production of *The Snow Queen* at The Mill Theatre in Banbury. Meanwhile Sophie Keningale and Georgia Lock appeared as sailors, villagers and rats in Dick Whittington & his Cat at The Theatre, Chipping Norton.



Dick Whittington photographs by D...

I was thrilled when I was asked to play the part of Kai in the Cherwell Theatre Company's production of *The Snow Queen*. It was only a year since I had started going to weekly drama sessions at The Mill Theatre. The classic Hans Christian Anderson tale was especially adapted and directed for this performance by Nasser Memarzia. *The Snow Queen* was on for two weeks but this followed months of rehearsals. Some days, during the Christmas holidays, we were rehearsing all day until 9pm at night, however, by the time we performed our opening night, all the hard work seemed well worth it. Working with professional adult actors was different to working just with children, I learnt a lot from them and it gave me an insight into professional productions. The whole *Snow Queen* set was professionally lit and we used smoke screens, sound effects and puppetry. Overall, I think this experience has helped my acting and performing skills a lot and will benefit my drama GCSE. Taking part in the *Snow Queen* was great fun and I am really looking forward to performing again soon.

Thomas Morel



Eight-year-old Georgia's ability to juggle school, homework and performances so impressed staff that she was awarded a deputy head's gold star!



The first Sibford School Festival of Theatre took place in June and saw professional actors rubbing shoulders with our own talented youngsters. Headlining the event were cast members from the BBC radio soap opera, *The Archers*, with their sell-out performance of *Wicked Women* (top left). The sun shone on Holly House garden for Rain or Shine Theatre Company's outdoor production of *The Importance of Being Earnest* (bottom right). Homegrown events included the A2 Drama group, who shared their exam performance based on the life of silent movie star Harold Lloyd (top right) and a highly polished performance of *Twelfth Night* by members of the Junior School (bottom left). Plans are already underway for next year's Festival so watch this space!

Sibford School  **FESTIVAL of THEATRE**





UGANDA



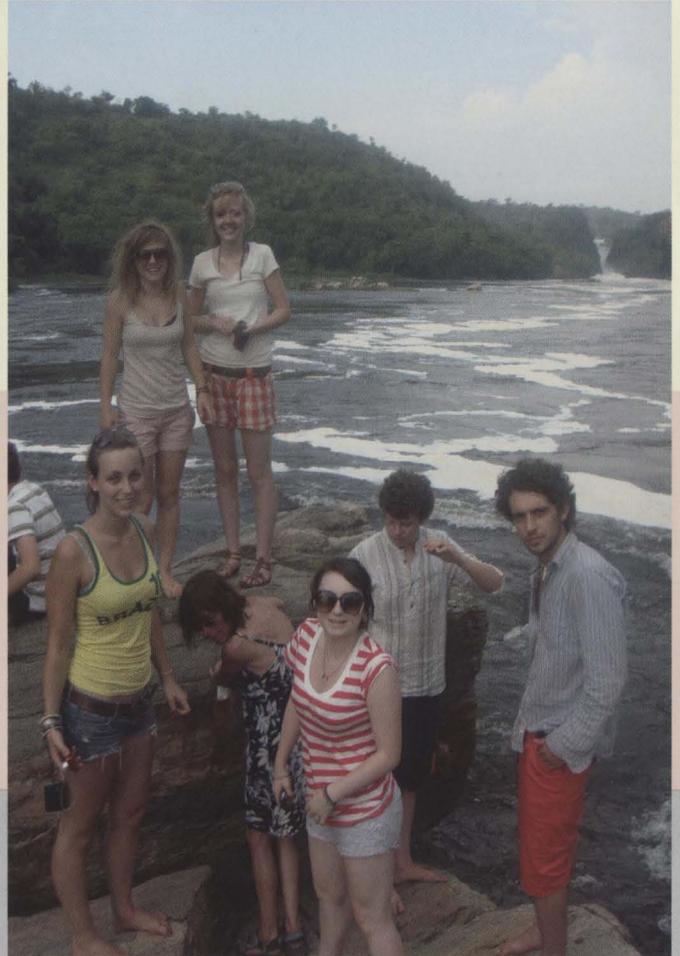
In July, nine Sibford pupils and three members of staff spent three weeks in Uganda supporting the charity 'Retrak', which works with African street children, and visiting the Mbarara Preparatory School, with which the school has special on-going links. Imogen Gartside reports on the Uganda Challenge.

It will be almost impossible to convey this amazing trip in a few lines, I've had hour long conversations with people and still haven't managed to tell them everything about our visit to Uganda. There were so many incredible experiences and memories I'll keep forever so

I'm just going to mention a few that stuck out.

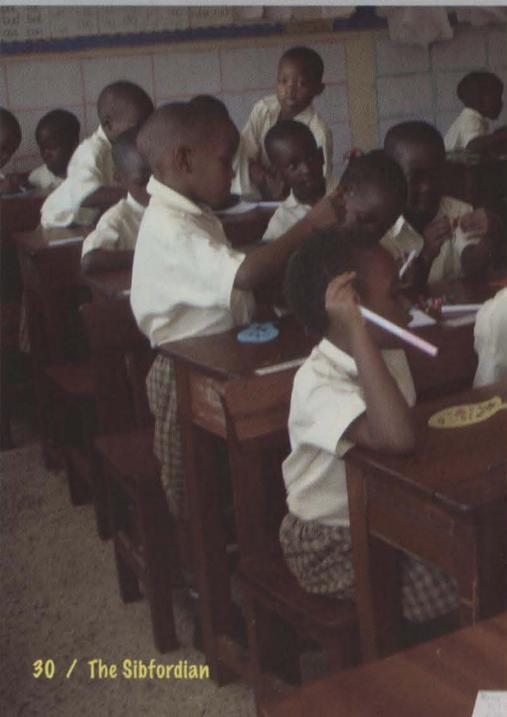
Visiting RETRAK - the refuge for street-children - was such a moving day and it was great seeing the water harvester which we had raised funds for, but I also had a surprisingly fun time playing parachute and 'duck duck goose' with the kids, who were amazingly happy and enthusiastic in a way which was really staggering considering what they had been through.

I only felt truly sad once during our time there, when we visited the medical room and listened to the nurse talking about her work with the street children. She told us how she had treated the injuries of a boy who had been attacked with a machete on the street and introduced us to a boy with malaria who was lying on a bed in a bare room



attached to a drip, and who gave us a weak smile when asked if he was getting better. I think this was the moment when many of us felt strongly that we wanted to give more money and support to this incredibly worthy cause, and the only one of its kind in Kampala, where there are thousands of children living on the streets.

It was great to know that, because of all the fundraising we had done throughout the year, we were able to give a further donation for another project, possibly the refurbishment of the medical room. It was also really uplifting when we visited the Half Way Home on our last day, the next step for street



CHALLENGE

children who want to come off the streets. The boys here were clearly happy and dedicated to learning the skills they were being taught there so that they could either go back to their home, into foster care or a job.

There are other aspects of the trip which especially stood out as well.

Riding on top of the van through the savannah on safari and watching the sun come up as we were surrounded by giraffes was definitely one ... even if the whole experience was accompanied by many rounds of 'I just can't wait to be king' and 'Hakuna Matata'!

The days spent at Sanyu Babies Home were some of the best of the two weeks and I'm pretty sure all of us found at least one baby we wanted to take home. Personally, I'm still trying to persuade my parents to adopt Faith, whose father handed her to a worker on a building site when she was a few months old.

Evenings at Red Chilli in the tiny pool and hours spent waiting for dinner will be looked back on nostalgically by all of us, and the song we wrote on one of our bus journeys 'Welcome to the Red Chilli Hideaway' will definitely be sung by us all for years to come!

The terrifying drives through Kampala on wobbling seats and complete absence of health and safety all contributed to the experience, especially when we were allowed to walk right to the edge of the magnificent Murchison Falls.

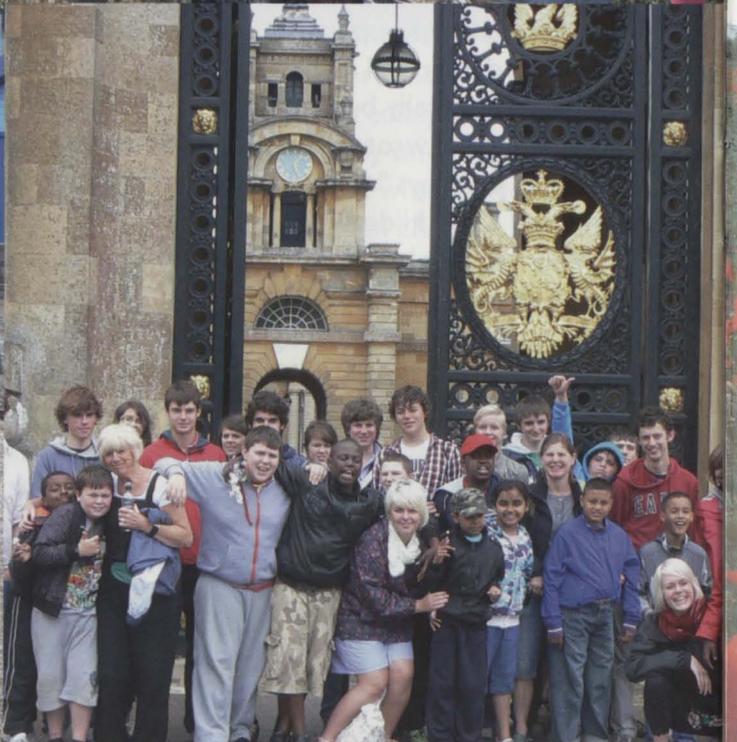
Other highlights included



Alex's meeting with her pen pal of seven years, Patrick; Ed's adverts for beer; the invention of all our awkward animals; James' strops over fried eggs; the drum troupe we formed after a visit to the Royal Drum Makers; the hippo outside our tent on safari; the endless photo shoots at the equator; and the pig and monkeys which were often found outside our doors in the morning!

All in all it was an amazing experience and I'm really grateful to Sibford for giving me this opportunity and hope I can go back to Uganda in the future!





Kids' Camp 2010

Sibford School has been linked with the Phoenix School, located in Bow in the East End of London, since 1974.

Phoenix is a specialist school which supports children with autistic spectrum disorders. For over 30 years small groups of Phoenix children have visited Sibford at the end of the summer term for a residential holiday.

This year, 15 Phoenix children with a range of learning difficulties, including some with challenging behaviours, little or very limited speech and some interesting obsessive characteristics, spent four days as residents of Fielding House.

Helen Thain, Deputy Head Girl, did a marvellous job in organising a wonderful team of Sibford students who acted as 'buddies' to the Phoenix 'kids', helping to make this year's 'Kids' Camp' another huge success.

We had a number of organised activities. A day out in the country, walking to Ley's Farm where Sue Sabin laid on a Treasure

Hunt and stream dipping. We went to Blenheim Palace for the day and played in the adventure playground and maze and walked round the gardens (we thought it safest not to go inside the stately home!).

We also went kite flying on Castle Hill, Brailes; played on the bouncy castle; swam in the school pool and enjoyed evening camp fires. We shared meals and playtime together, and tidied up endlessly.

Our student helpers were fantastic. I am grateful for their generosity in giving up some of their summer holiday time, for their hard work and good humour. It is an exhausting few days.

We leave full of admiration for the dedication of the Phoenix teachers and full time carers, but also rewarded and enriched by the experience, and with a better sense of perspective on our own place in the world.

Michael Goodwin





Big-hearted Sibford

Sibford pupils have once again been putting their hearts into supporting a wide range of charities.

More than 100 calculators were collected and sent out to assist school children in Malawi; a hunger lunch raised £500 for the Haiti Earthquake Disaster; and the traditional junior school Apple Day raised £188, which was split between Guide Dogs for the Blind and the Brook Hospital for Animals.

Other charities supported have included the Children's Liver Disease Foundation, Make a Wish Foundation, Sport Relief, the Nchima Trust and Scwid ~ Sophie's Campaign for the Children's Ward for Interesting things to Do.



Junior Yearly Meeting

Junior Yearly Meeting (JYM) is a gathering for young Quakers.

The 2010 event was held over four days in April at the Pioneer Centre, Cleobury Mortimer near Kidderminster. More than 160 Quakers from across the UK and from overseas attended JYM including Sibford pupil Matthew Penaluna, who has produced the following report for The Sibfordian.



The theme for this year's JYM was 'Living as a Quaker: Who we are and where we are going'.

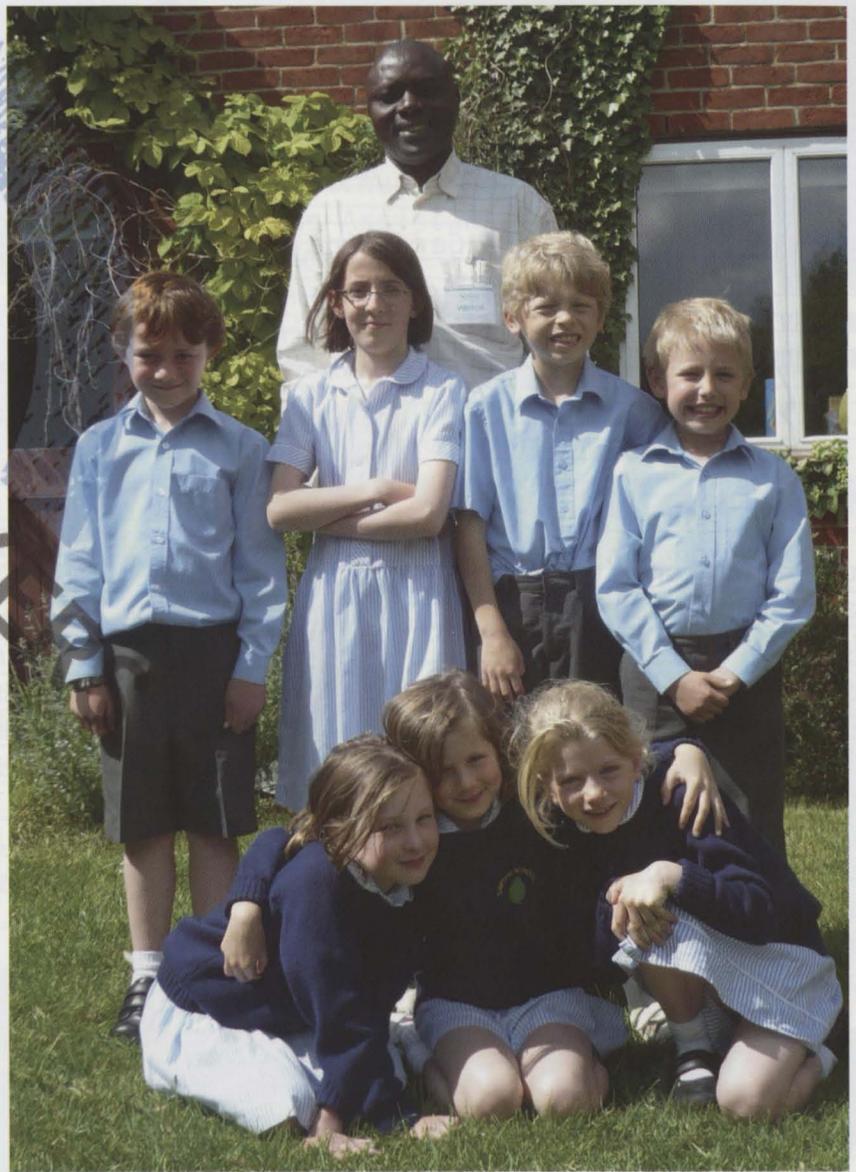
In the first session, some of the over 20's on the JYM team spoke to us about influential Quakers. We then had a chat-room session, which was titled 'Quakers and...' this gave us the chance to discuss our views on different topics.

There was free time which was extremely valuable, as this enabled you to be able to get to know the people there a bit more. The free time also gave me the opportunity to catch-up with old friends, and even make some new ones!

There were some fun events including a Disco, Quiz Night, and the Base Group Challenge. We also had the chance to use some of the Pioneer Centre's wonderful resources. I went for Rock Climbing and the Big Bounce, both were extremely enjoyable.

We had a session 'Expressions of Quakerism', which looked at how we can put our faith into action. We then watched the film 'Milk', the story of Harvey Milk. Harvey was the first openly gay man to be elected in America.

Just like all the other Quaker events, there were Base Groups, which enabled us to make friends within our small groups, and provide a nice quiet home where we could relax from what was an overwhelming event.



Rwandan inspector visits Sibford

Sibford played host to a special guest in May when we were visited by Antoine Samvura.

Antoine is an inspector of Quaker schools in Rwanda and was in the UK to explore ways of creating links between Quaker schools in England and their African counterparts.

The Quaker Friends Meeting in Rwanda was founded in 1987 and currently has around 3,000 members. It supports 10 schools throughout the country ~ six primary/nursery schools and four secondary schools.

Asked how Sibford compared to schools in Rwanda, Antoine told us there was 'no comparison'. "In Africa there are about 60 students in each class, whereas here the classes are so small," he said. "Also, I can't believe how many computers there are. In Rwanda even the teacher doesn't have a computer, but here they are everywhere."

Antoine is pictured with junior pupils: (back) Henry Jackson-Wells, Grace King, Michael Rae, Joseph Raybould (front) Elizabeth Hudson, Sophie Wyatt and Naomi Rae.

Peter Birtles:

Mini Bus Driver & Cleaner

Place of birth: Congleton, Cheshire

Significant others: Married to Kathleen for 44 years and have two daughters and seven grandchildren.

Interests/hobbies: F1 Racing & Gardening

Favourite Food: Sunday Roast

Favourite Drink: Tea

Interesting Fact: Hope to retire by the seaside.



Introducing the new faces who have joined the staff in the past academic year.

Robert Burton:

Maintenance Assistant

Place of birth: Birmingham

Significant others: Girlfriend and two sons

Interests/hobbies: Most sports (especially golf and football) and socialising

Favourite Food: Curry

Favourite Drink: Lager

Interesting Fact: I had a hole in one when I was just 16 years old.



Juan Casasbuenas: Science Teacher

Place of birth: Bogota, Colombia

Significant others: One older brother

Interests/hobbies: Travelling, playing football, finding out about new music, concerts

Favourite Food: Pepperoni pizza

Favourite Drink: A good wine

Interesting Fact: The UK is the fifth country I've lived in and that's probably why I have an accent that's very difficult to place!



Elsbeth Gregory:

Admissions Officer

Place of birth: Warwickshire

Significant others: Two beautiful daughters, aged 6 and 8, of whom I am immensely proud.

Interests/hobbies: Tennis, running, cycling, socialising ~ not in that order!

Favourite Food: Salad, Jacket Spuds, BBQs



**Gill Hughes:
Classroom assistant
in Senior School**

Place of birth: London

Significant others: One husband (wonderful but untidy!), two children (ditto!), one chocolate Labrador (just wonderful), three cats and one extremely lazy hamster

Interests/hobbies: Tennis, skiing, golf, textiles

Favourite Food: Profiteroles

Favourite Drink: Pimms, White Wine
Interesting Fact: I studied in Portsmouth, Madrid and Mexico City. Moved back to this area from London six years ago looking for a better work/life balance.

Favourite Drink: Champagne
Interesting Fact: I am currently learning Spanish and golf - neither particularly successfully - in the hope that we can permanently decamp to Spain for an abundance of R & R!

Giray Ketenci: Lifeguard

Place of birth: London

Significant others: Nicole

Fletcher

Interests/hobbies: Football,
Rugby, Keeping Fit

Favourite Food: Steak and Chips

Favourite Drink: Orange Juice

Interesting Fact: I've run the
London Marathon twice.



Nicki Kitchen:

Accounts Assistant

Place of birth: Kent

Significant others: One husband,
two children and two guinea pigs

Interests/hobbies: Swimming/diving, walking
and photography

Favourite Food: Cakes and Asian Food

Favourite Drink: Pimms

Interesting Fact: I completed the Tour de
Trigs for several years and have also
backpacked part way round the world.



Michael Law: Cleaner

Place of birth: London

Significant others: Wife Valerie
two daughters and seven
grandchildren.

Interests/hobbies: Football
and golf

Favourite Food: Steak

Favourite Drink: Lager

Interesting Fact: As a young man I played
football for Chelsea Youth and at
Senior Level for Dulwich Hamlet.

Ali Phillips: PE Teacher

Place of birth: Leamington Spa

Interests/hobbies: Walking/
hiking, hockey and
travelling to new places

Favourite Food: Steak and Chips

Favourite Drink: Cold glass of Rosé

Interesting Fact: I worked in the fitness
industry for 7 years prior to becoming
a teacher. I celebrated completing my
PGCE by trekking the Inca Trail and
travelling around Peru.



Linda Phillips: Maths Teacher

Place of birth: Norfolk

Interests/hobbies: Sports
(especially hockey and
karate), Scouts, doing
puzzles and competitions

Favourite Food: Dairy Milk
Chocolate

Favourite Drink: Sprite

Interesting Fact: I taught in New Zealand
and Japan before coming to
Oxfordshire.



Tim Rowley: DT Technician

Place of birth: Barnsley South Yorkshire

Significant others: Partner Sharon

Interests/hobbies: Most sports (except
American Football)

Favourite Food: Roast Beef & Yorkshire Pud

Favourite Drink: Guinness (especially
when drunk at Cheltenham)

Interesting Fact: I helped build the
Egypt set for the Michael
Jackson Dangerous tour.



Sophie Pringle:

Textiles teacher

Place of birth: London

Significant others: Scottish
husband, 14-year-old
daughter, Flora, and a sweet
dog called Ruby

Interests/hobbies: Gardening and visiting
exhibitions

Favourite Food: Roast Chicken

Favourite Drink: Cold White Wine

Interesting Fact: Met Muhammad Ali in a lift.



HOUSE

SPORTS

DAYS



The sun shone on both the junior and senior school sports days ... even if the Sibford wind did cut a bit of a chill!

Victors in the senior school event were Fry House with Rowntree taking a convincing win for the juniors.

Parents, friends and even pooches turned out to cheer the competitors on.

Meanwhile, PSFA ensured that there were plenty of refreshments on hand to keep the spectators happy.





Sibford successes



Sibford pupil Jack Munday clinched victory in the under 15s section at this year's Shire Trophy.

Organised by the ISGA (Independent School's Golf Association), the competition saw 40 schools and over 90 competitors from around the country taking part.

Sibford entered a team of three players ~ Jack Munday, William Preece and James Morel, all with handicaps ranging between 10 and 7.

The championship day was one of the hottest of the year and, unexpectedly, the course issued a 'snake warning' allowing all players a free drop if their ball was to land near such a reptile!

The Sibford team achieved a top 10 placing with Jack, pictured above on the 18th hole, taking the Under 15s title with a net score of 72.

Point of interest ... the Shire golf course in north London is known as 'The Masters' course and was designed by legendary Spanish golfer Seve Ballesteros in 2007.



During the summer holidays, Eleanor Carr-Smith, a member of the Sibford School Equestrian Team, competed in the Royal International Horseshow Championships at Hickstead.

Eleanor, who took part in the 143cms working hunter pony class on her novice pony, Noble Gold Digger, did exceptionally well to qualify for this highly regarded horseshow.

And, although she wasn't placed, Eleanor found it a fantastic experience and is setting her sights on next year's event.

Heidi Brooke Little and Natasha Woodley flew the Sibford flag at the North Oxon Schools Athletics Trials held at Horspath Road in Oxford in May.

Heidi ran the 100m and 200m and Natasha competed in the shot putt, with both going through to represent North Oxfordshire at the County Athletics Championships at Tilsley Park, Abingdon in June.

Heidi enjoyed further success on the Abingdon track by winning the 100m with a time of 12.8 seconds, unfortunately missing out on qualifications for the Nationals by 0.1 of a second.



SOSA

Keeping in touch with former scholars

Long way round

Charley comes back to school after 26 years

Actor and adventurer, Charley Boorman, returned to Sibford at the end of 2009 to reminisce about his teenage years.

The best selling author, who has dyslexia, was a pupil at Sibford from 1980 until 1983.

"I was diagnosed with dyslexia on a trip to the States but when I returned home to Ireland people didn't really have a clue about what it was," he said. "I had to spend a lot of my time trying to explain to teachers what dyslexia meant but they didn't believe me and thought I was mucking about.

"I came to Sibford because of its reputation for helping with dyslexia and immediately felt comfortable here. Dyslexia isn't something that goes away. You will always have it. But Sibford gave me the confidence to go out and do things."

Charley also recalled some of the pranks he got up to during his school years - including climbing the drainpipe to get into the girls' boarding house!

Michael Goodwin said: "We were delighted to welcome Charley back to school. A favourite piece of advice we use here comes from Quaker Advices & Queries,



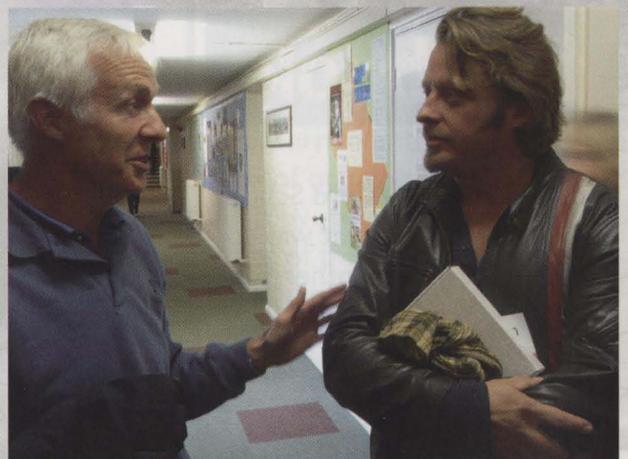
Charley with Michael Goodwin and, inset, his old school photo

and says: 'Live adventurously ... let your life speak.' Charley has certainly taken this message to heart. His adventurous living is well documented and he is also letting his life speak, especially in the work he does for UNICEF and for the charity Dyslexia Action.

"He was a real inspiration to our pupils and we hope he will be able to come back and visit us again in the not too distant future."



Charley with Sibford pupils Bernadette Wagerfield, Michael Bell, Ana England, Daniel Millett and Imogen Creed and, below, catching up on old times with former geography teacher Brian Holliday.



SOSA

Keeping in touch

For further information about
Sibford Old Scholars
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visit the website:
www.sibfordoldscholars.com

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Paul Frampton
President
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For membership enquiries or to
become a member contact:
Edd Frost
Membership Secretary
edd@eddfrost.com

To submit information for
inclusion in the
website, newsletter or
Sibfordian magazine,
email:
enquiries@sibfordoldscholars.com
or contact
Ali Bromhall
Community Development
Officer
Sibford School
01295 781216
abromhall@sibfordschool.co.uk

facebook

Become a fan of Sibford School
on Facebook ... a great way to
keep in touch with other old
scholars.

The Hill opened its doors for the first time on 20th
The following article has been extracted from Mike

By the mid nineteen twenties
Sibford was ready for the next
great step forward in its history.

The School had, under
the Harrod's pioneering and
inspirational guidance, evolved
into what in modern parlance
would be described as a
Comprehensive School, but it
had followed a relatively non-
academic curriculum, and was
in danger of falling behind in
not equipping its students with
some essential and certifiable
academic skills which would be
necessary for their careers in
an economy which had become
more competitive since the First
World War.

James Harrod didn't believe
that a child needed to pass
examinations to succeed in life.
There were certainly some
strong feelings either way which
were debated at an old scholars'
gathering in 1928 when the
case in favour for examinations
was put by Harry Randall CBE,
(an Oddie old boy) with James
Harrod opposing the motion.

After strenuous arguments
on both sides, the motion was
carried in favour of examinations,
but without compulsion, and

Happy

these thoughts were passed on
to the School Committee.

The other problem was that
the School had really outgrown
the Manor and needed new
purpose built facilities.

The extensions in the early
days of the School around 1848
had added valuable space, but
many of them, including the wing
that contained the dining room
and girls' dormitories, which
extended from the back of the
Manor in a northerly direction,
were built on unstable ground,
and were literally slowly sliding
down the side of the valley. It
was not a good place to build a
new school.

In 1928, a successful appeal
was launched, including the
remarkable making of a cine film
of school life at Sibford – 'The
Sibford Story' – the first filmed
documentary of its kind ever to
be produced in this country.

At that time, 16mm movies had
only recently been introduced to
the UK. There was no sound on
cine films at that time, just sub-
titles, but the film survives!

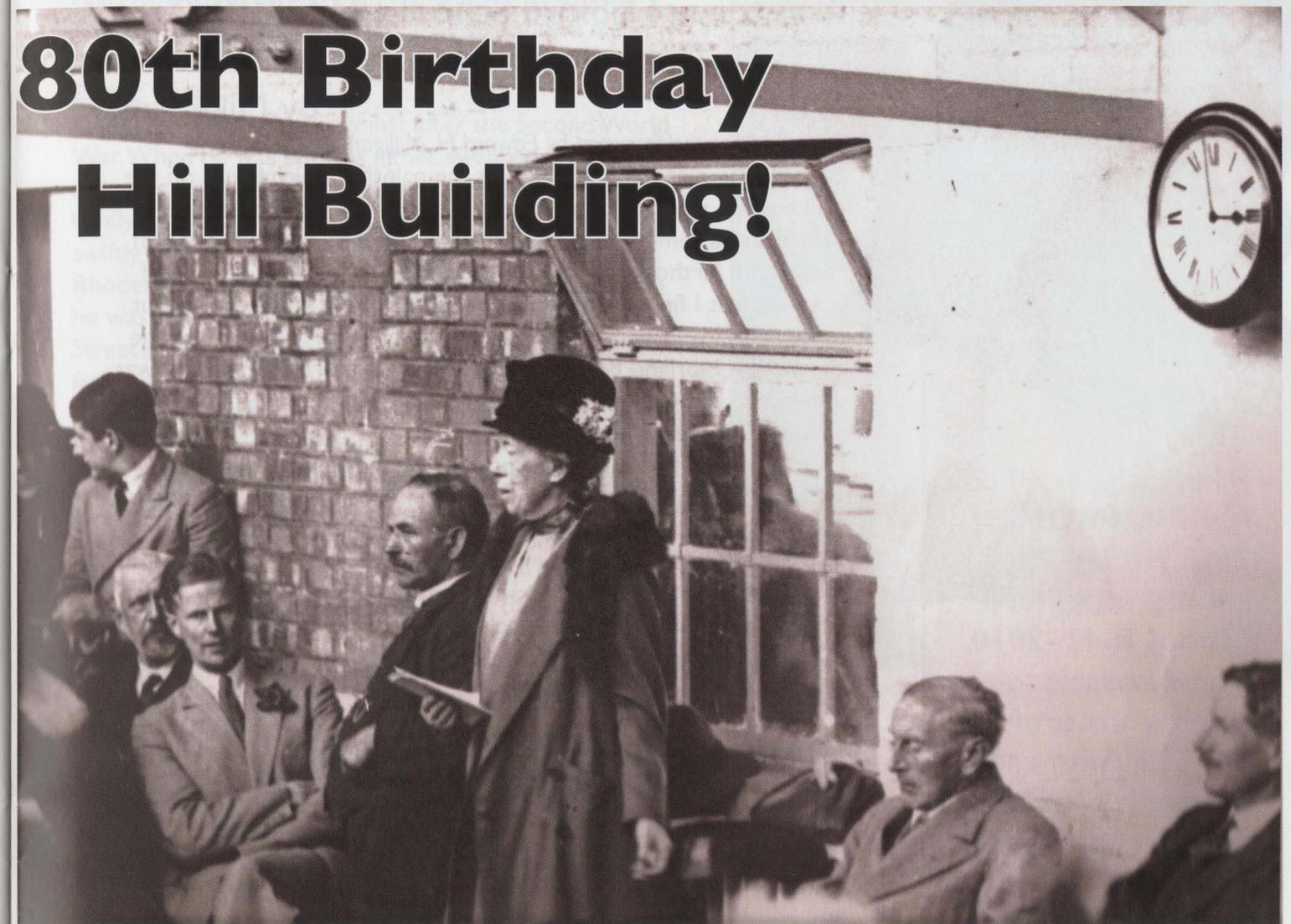
It was updated
in 1948 with
colour footage
and was later
transposed onto
videotape during
the 1988 Appeal
and found a
new audience.
A further
transposition
was achieved in
2007 when it was
copied on DVD –
and yet another



*Dame Elizabeth Cadbury and other guests on the steps
of The Hill and, above right, declaring the building 'open'*

June 1930. Since then thousands of pupils have stepped over its threshold.
Finch's new history of Sibford School, 'A View from the Hill'

80th Birthday Hill Building!



new audience was able to marvel at its innovative qualities.

But back to 1928. The film was made by Morland Braithwaite, a prominent Birmingham Friend and longstanding member of the School Committee, with the help of James Thorpe and Leslie Baily. Morland and James subsequently toured the country to publicise the film.

A professional photographer, Morland, was uniquely connected to the early days of the School. He was born in Banbury, the son of William Charles Braithwaite and Janet Morland and was the grandson of Martha Gillett, whose father was Joseph Ashby Gillett of Banbury. (It is believed that Martha helped scrub the floors at the Manor before the

arrival of the children in 1842.)

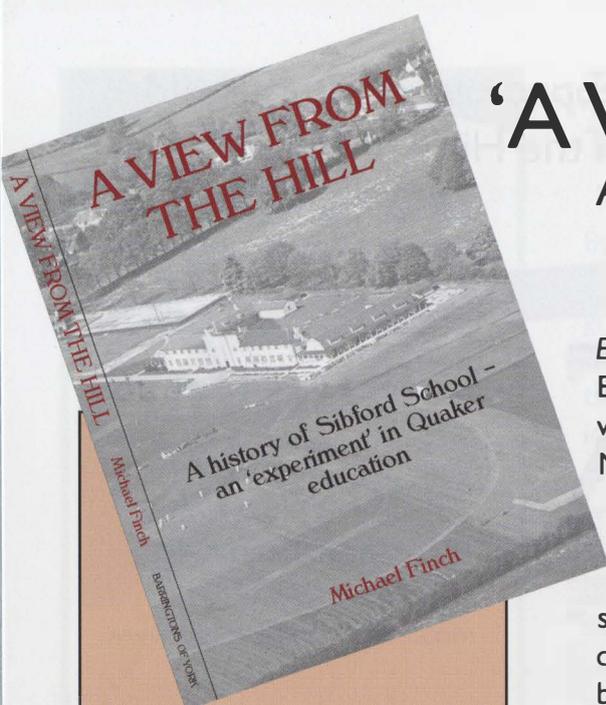
Quite clearly the School Committee of the time recognised that the Manor area was restricted. There was even discussion that Sibford might be relocated elsewhere, but fortunately that situation never arose and the new school was built on a hill named Windmill Field which was already under the ownership of Sibford School.

It was sited just above the main street and the Manor. For its time it was quite a feat of engineering as there was no electricity and no water supply. The water supply involved bringing a water pipe from Hill Bottom at Grounds Farm, where a small pumping station was built to extract water from the river

Stour. The distance was a good two miles.

The new school was opened by Dame Elizabeth Cadbury on 20th June 1930, and to thunderous applause at the opening ceremony it was declared by the School's Treasurer, Ronald L Lloyd as being 'free of debt' – it had cost £22,000.

Despite the initial lack of electricity (electricity didn't finally arrive until 1932, so at the time of opening, the Hill had to be lit by paraffin lamps) it was a 'state of the art' school for its time. Initially it was referred to as the 'New School' as opposed to the 'Old School' at the Manor, but it soon became commonly known as 'The Hill.'



'A VIEW FROM THE HILL'

A history of Sibford School 1842-2010

— an 'experiment' in Quaker education

By Mike Finch

Extracts from the foreword by Edward H. Milligan

Each morning, as I awake, I gaze at the painting which hangs on the wall beyond the foot of my bed. It is of the Archbishops' Palace at Maidstone, a reminder of my family's time there, between my fifth and tenth birthdays. It was in that building, in 1929, at the age of seven, that I first heard the word 'Sibford.' The small, elderly but enterprising Friends Meeting in Maidstone had arranged for the showing of Morland Braithwaite's film 'The Sibford Story', and I was drawn into the excitement of the new developments planned for buildings on the wind-swept Hill.

Early Friends had 'meeting schools' where the local Meeting appointed a schoolmaster, gave him weekday use of the meeting house, and left him to make a living out of running the school.

Then there was the steady growth of 'private schools', run usually by an individual Friend for personal profit.

Finally came the 'committee schools', managed by Friends in their corporate capacity; there were eleven of them. Of that 'cricket team' (four have now been bowled out) all, save Sibford, have boasted published histories.

Here, in 'A View from the Hill', the situation has been remedied, and we must all be indebted to Michael Finch for shouldering the task, no light one either, of writing it.

He has the advantage of nearly a lifetime's association with the School, in one capacity or another, and he has clearly approached the task with enthusiasm.

It is a book in which to browse. We do not, I suspect, do enough browsing — and aimless browsing, which often yields exciting discoveries, or sets the mind pondering on the 'I wonder whether...?'

I wonder whether, for example, the received tradition (from the 1840s) that Great Ayton and Sibford were established 'for children of disowned Friends' is the whole story. Could it be that they were established for the children of 'poor' Friends, for whom the relevant Monthly Meeting would have to contribute pretty heavily? Only a good deal of work with sample Admissions Books and Monthly Meeting minutes would help us forward on this matter.

A simpler task for someone would be a comparative study of fees at the different 'committee schools' at (shall we say) ten-year intervals. These exercises may well show that nineteenth-century Friends had different standards for children 'whose future would be of a humbler kind' than for others. We are all of our time and it is want of the historical imagination if we fail to enter into unquestioned assumptions of nineteenth-century Friends, judging them instead by our twenty-first century unquestioned assumptions.

These are random reflections as a result of reading Michael Finch's narrative. It is an important strength of a book like this that it should not only tell a story, but should do so in such a way — as Michael does — that readers are enabled not only to learn (and what a lot I have learned), but to reflect creatively on the result of their reading.

Mike Finch's new book
**A VIEW FROM
THE HILL ~ A
history of Sibford
School 1842 -2010**
is now available to
order at a cost of £10
plus £2.50 post and
package (UK orders
only*).

To order your copy
please send details
of your name and
address, together
with a cheque
made payable to
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Ferris, Banbury, Oxon
OX15 5QL.

* Overseas customers ...
Please email
abromhall@sibfordschool.co.uk
for information on
despatch costs.

Meet the new President

Paul Frampton takes over from Richard Hughes as SOSA president for 2010/11. This is Paul's second stint in the president's chair ...

Early years

Paul was born in Germany just after the Second World War. When he was two, his father swapped a career in the army to become a tax collector, and the Frampton family uprooted and moved to Kenya. Political troubles swiftly brought another move ... to Salisbury, Southern Rhodesia (now Harare in Zimbabwe). And, by the time he was eight, Paul was on the move again, this time to Street in Somerset where his father returned to the family egg business.

Sibford School

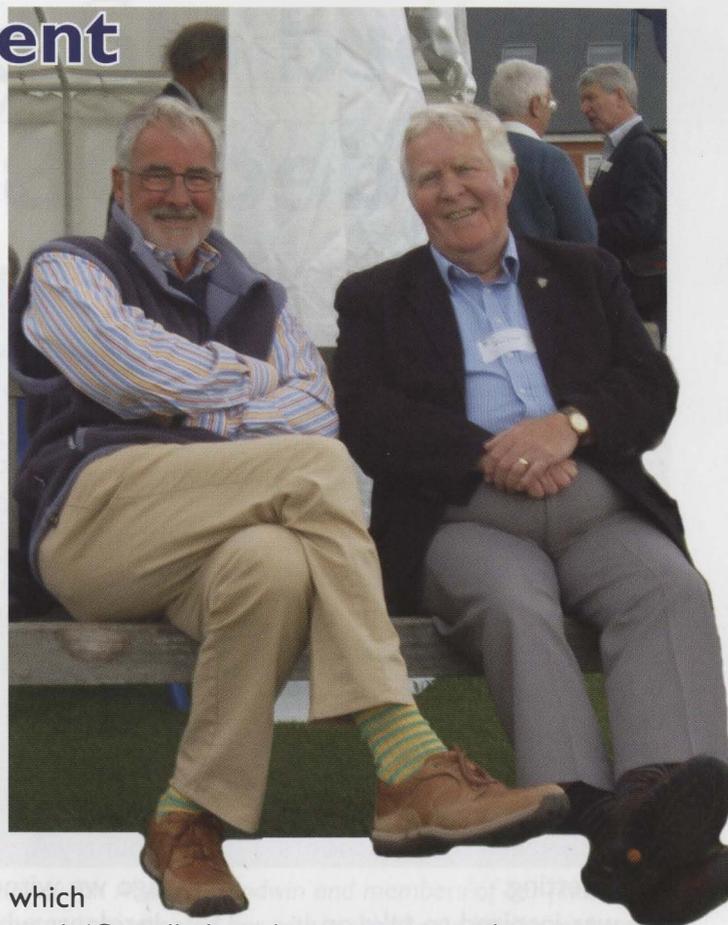
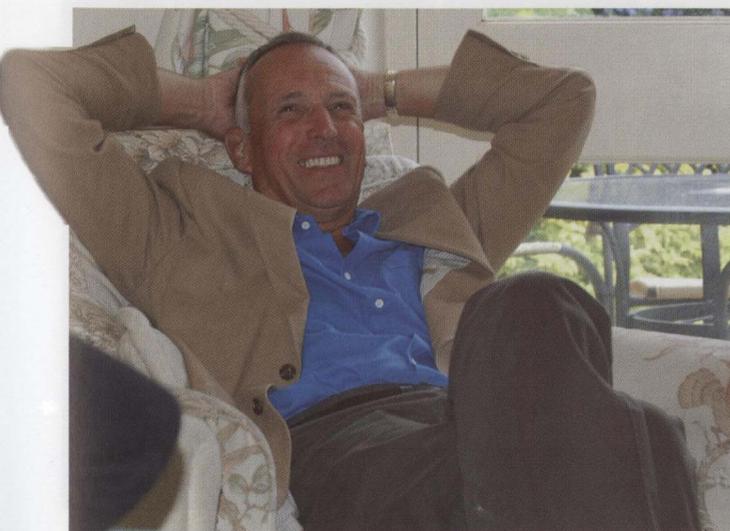
It was the Quaker connections in Street (home of the Clark's shoe family) that led, in 1958, to Paul becoming a pupil at Sibford School. "Sibford had a profound effect on me and has always been my spiritual home," he says. "Whilst not a Friend, it is the place where I have always felt challenged by example to go about things in a better way."

Commercial life

On leaving Sibford, Paul attended a London Technical College before moving back to Street and the family business. In 1967 he joined the Metropolitan Police, but two years serving on the beat in London was enough and he returned to the family firm. Nearly 40 years ago, with just one truck to his name, Paul started Framptons Transport Services. Today the company has 70 HGV vehicles and employs 170 people. "We operate throughout the UK and have a regular service to Barcelona in Spain where we have an office," says Paul. "We also run a commercial and car workshop repair business and MOT all classes of vehicles, including buses."

Family life

Paul married Ruth in 1973 and the couple have a son, Charles, and a daughter, Harriet. In addition Paul now has four grandchildren ... and a sign outside his house



which reads 'Grandkids welcome ~ parents by appointment!' He is now semi-retired and lives in Hythe Marina with his boats, one called 'Mollie' after his mother.

Outside interests.

Paul is Chairman of the Hythe Marina Residents Association, and has responsibility for every aspect of life for the 500 residents who live in a model marina village on the New Forest side of Southampton Water. He is also Captain of the Royal Southampton Clay Pigeon Shooting Society and a Trustee of the Mid Somerset Agricultural Society which is over 140 years old and the largest free entry agricultural show in Europe. He has an active role in the transport industry at all levels and, as Chairman of the Road Haulage Association International Group, helped negotiate the Working Time Directive in respect of Drivers' Hours.

SOSA

Paul has served the Association for more than 40 years. He was Chairman of Finance and Premises on the Sibford School Committee and directed the School Appeal on a voluntary basis in the late 1980s. He was General Secretary and Treasurer of SOSA for many years and, having previously been President in 1990/91, is no stranger to his new role.

Paul is pictured above with Mike Finch. Right, outgoing president Richard Hughes takes it easy.

Sibford old boy awarded OBE

Former Sibford old boy, Mark Bennett, has been awarded an OBE in the Queen's Birthday honours.

Mark received the award in recognition of his efforts in agriculture and in promoting health awareness in the work place in Papua New Guinea. "Not a bad achievement for a Sibford scholar with just four O levels!" he says.

Mark joined Sibford in 1969 and, having previously attended a suburban prep school, was instantly taken by the school's rural setting.

"I was inspired to take an interest in everything from pigs to bees by the then rural science teacher, Gordon Wright," said Mark. "I spent many an afternoon helping to muck out the school pig, a large, Wessex Saddleback called Henrietta, who I became very fond of.

"When I left Sibford in 1975 I trained to become an estate manager and in my mid twenties became the Earl of Kimberley's Estate Manager for the Falmouth and Norfolk Estates.

"At 30, with four small children, I purchased my own farm in East Sussex. Remembering my days at Sibford, I tried to locate a Wessex Saddleback and to my shock discovered the breed had died out. So I spent the next 10 years rearing and protecting rare breed pigs, sheep, cows and even apple trees! This would never have happened had it not been for the inspiration given to me at Sibford."

For the last nine years Mark has been Estates Director for W.R. Carpenters Ltd, a company

involved in a number of agricultural activities including tea, coffee and cocoa plantations; prawn farming; coconut oil production; beef cattle and balsa wood. And it is for his work here that he has been awarded the OBE.

Explains Mark: "We employ about 7,000 people in Papua Guinea making us one of the largest employers in the country. Around eight years ago we witnessed two separate incidents where staff suffering from HIV had been beaten up, and in one case, nearly killed, by their fellow workers.

"As a result, I started a Workers' Health Charter which gives employees the right to continue working with HIV and other illnesses. Under the Charter, anyone who refuses to work with, intimidates or threatens an employee who has health issues, will be dismissed.

"The Charter was a real break

through for working relations in Papua New Guinea and two years ago it was adopted by the Government for their workers.

"I am now looking to promote diabetes awareness within the workforce as both I, and the company, believe that this poses a greater risk in the long term than HIV. I am also working on a social housing project."

Mark is pictured above at Government House in Suva Fiji with the Prime Minister of Fiji, Commodore Losala Voreque Bainimarama. Below, Mark receiving the Freedom of London in 2004 at the Guildhall.



Sew long, farewell

Head of Textiles, Lesley Norton, retired in December after more than 27 years at the school.

Lesley joined Sibford back in January 1982 as a needlework teacher and assistant housemistress for Penn Girls boarding house.

In 1991 she became senior housemistress and in 1998 was appointed Head of Textiles and Joint Head of Boarding.

Michael Goodwin, said: "Lesley has had an amazing impact on the school over many years and will be very much missed. We wish her all the best in her retirement."



Lesley is pictured with Michael Goodwin and members of her final sixth form tutor group who presented her with a shield as a lasting memento of the school. From left to right (back) Lucas Colley, Tom Da'Silva, George Tucker and George Neighbour (front) Michael Goodwin, Tom Roger, Alex Jardine, Lesley Norton, Emma Hearle and Pippa Guy



Former pupils from across the globe shared their memories of Lesley via the Sibford School fan page on Facebook.



Keith Chau I've just found an old pic of myself and Mrs Norton back in yr 98. It keeps reminding me of the kindness and care she gave in textile lesson. I do miss her but it's hard for me to see her again becoz of the distance in between us. Pls express my gratitude to her for me. She was the best teacher in Sibford of all time~!



Tamsin Amy Louise Young I remember Mrs Norton! Really inspiring funny lovely caring teacher! I'd like to thank Lesley for all her support in and out of the classroom and for giving me my love for textiles which I still hold today. Love Tamsin Xx



Lucy Haworth Mrs Norton ... what can I say, You were my House mistress in Penn Girls/Gillett, my textiles teacher and a fierce coach when it came to inter-house hockey! Cannot believe you are retiring. I remember you and Wendy Holden often and marvel at how you kept us girls in line! Lucy (Winslade). xxx



Elliott Jennings Mrs. Norton I would really like to thank you for seeing my potential when I could not see it myself. You were and continue to be a great person.



Wendy Jane Gold I remember my time in Gillett as if it was only yesterday. You were a wonderful, kind and fair House Mistress and I'm sure Sibford will not be the same without you. Thank you for everything and best wishes for the futurexxx



Clive Ford Best Wishes for the Future! I can remember my first day back in 1987 in Gillett House. You showed me my room and showed me around the house it was enjoyable time at Sibford for me. Many thanks for your words of wisdom. Clive



Claire Upton Mrs Norton you had a special way of getting us lazy girls out of bed. "Wakey, wakey ladies- let's be having you!" screamed at the top of your voice! You were such a fun teacher. I took textiles at GCSE even though I couldn't actually sew and had to hide in the cupboard when it was my turn to use the super-duper sewing machine!

Dilip Sarkar at Sibford 1974 ~ 1977



“History with its flickering lamp stumbles along the trail of the past, trying to reconstruct its scenes, to revive its echoes, and kindle with pale gleams the passion of former days.”

These inspirational words, spoken by Winston Churchill on November 12, 1940, perfectly describe how Dilip Sarkar feels about his life-long love of history.

Since leaving Sibford, in addition to forging a successful career – initially in the Civil Service and later in the police – Dilip has also pursued his passion for history with remarkable results.

He has published numerous books on aviation history, the latest being *The Few* which features first hand accounts from more than 100 Battle of Britain survivors. And, earlier this year, his first book on maritime history, *Heart of Oak: The Human Tragedy of HMS Royal Oak* was published.

Dilip says: “I study war not to glorify it but because I am fundamentally opposed to it and principally motivated by the stories of casualties. As a historian my view is very much that if you do not study the past then previous mistakes

are destined to be repeated – although in the case of war, judging by the present day’s sad state of affairs, mankind will never learn.”

In 2003 Dilip was made an MBE for services to aviation history. Shortly afterwards, he was elected to the Fellowship of the Royal Historical Society, in recognition of his ‘unique contribution to the scholarship’.

He retired early from the police and, in 2008, began a full-time History degree at the University Worcester which he completed in just two years, gaining a First. He is now embarking on his PhD at the University of Birmingham’s new Centre for Air Power Studies.

For many years Dilip has been a popular speaker on his researches, giving presentations at such significant venues as Oxford University and The Imperial War Museum.

Pictured top left: Dilip and wife Karen with Simple Mind’s Jim Kerr. Right: with Battle of Britain Spitfire pilot, Ken Wilkinson.

Dilip Sarkar’s name lives on at Sibford thanks to the ‘Dilip Sarkar



Cup for History’, which he donated to the School and which is presented annually to a Year 9 history student demonstrating ‘consistent effort and achievement’. This year the cup was awarded to Amy Loveridge.

He is a qualified scuba diver and has completed more than 300 dives at home and abroad, many involving the investigation of shipwrecks, the most notable being the scuttled German High Seas Fleet at Orkney’s Scapa Flow.

The Wars of the Roses is another passion of Dilip’s. He is a member of the Richard III and Battle of Tewkesbury Societies and, together with his son James, is a member of Sunne yn Splendorre, a re-enactment group that performs at the annual Tewkesbury Medieval Festival.

Dilip is also a fanatical angler and a huge fan of Scottish rock band Simple Minds. In December 2009, he and his wife Karen were lucky enough to meet Simple Minds front man Jim Kerr at an NEC after show party – a moment that Dilip describes as ‘awesome’

Mike Gilmour *at Sibford 1953 ~ 1960*

I left Sibford School in 1960 with virtually no academic achievements, a few O levels at best ... you could hardly describe me as one of the school high flyers!

But, times change and now, at the age of 67 I'm close to getting my Private Pilot's Licence!

And, although I didn't necessarily think it at the time, Sibford certainly gave me the independence and determination to shine later, for which I'm indebted for.

So, what have I been up to over the years? I'd always had an interest in dabbling with electronics, having made a number of crystal sets and radios during my time at Sibford.

I thought perhaps a career as a Radio Officer in the Merchant Navy would be a good idea ... and that's when I discovered I needed a good level of maths if I was going to be admitted to seagoing training college.

Oh dear so much for that plan, I should have worked harder while at Sibford! But not one to give in, I started a home tuition course and, incredibly, within six months had passed the entrance examination to St. Mary's College Southampton. It's amazing what can be done when you actually want to do it!

Soon after I arrived, the college radio training section was transferred to the newly-built East Park Terrace college, and it was from here, in 1964, that I was awarded my seagoing qualifications and the prized radar maintenance certificate.

My first employment was at the seagoing section of Redifon



Mike after his first Solo Flight, and right at Sibford School, building a model boat!

in Wandsworth joining my first ship, the Shell tanker STS Asprella.

A few years later, with many more ships under my belt, I was asked by Shell if I would join them directly ~ for a doubling in salary ~ and, naturally I accepted!

Shell trained me to a higher level of electronics and I became a Senior Radio Electronics Officer, part of my duties involved overseeing the building of supertankers in various parts of the world and commissioning a telemetry system in the North Sea.

After 18 years with Shell I decided to leave and start my own business importing hi-fi equipment. At that time I also began broadcasting on Inverness Hospital Radio which led, in turn, to a five year regular radio programme on the Moray Firth local radio station that I co-presented with my wife, Mary.



I became Chairman of the Highlands & Islands Community Broadcasting Federation, during this time I applied to Ofcom for a Community Radio Licence to serve Inverness city. This we achieved but, sadly, the recession bit and consequently I was unable to muster the necessary funding for the station to launch.

Non-plussed I went in another direction completely. I'd always harboured (no pun intended) an ambition to learn to fly light aircraft.

And so that's what I'm doing right now. At the time of writing, I've passed all seven ground exams and have recently completed a solo 120 mile navigational exercise flight. I'm hoping to achieve my Private Pilot's License by the end of the year.

My dad was in the armed forces so my parents thought it best for me to join Sibford School as a boarder rather than be uprooted every two to three years.

It seems like only yesterday, but I turned 40 this year ... how time flies!

I was in Penn House with Mike Wollerton as housemaster. His two sons also went to Sibford. Jim Graham was head teacher. I liked swimming amongst other sports and I remember the old pool being down the road by the girls' houses.

George Gibson was the head chef in the Dining Hall at the time, and I asked if I could help out at weekends and after

Andy Tillman *at Sibford 1980 ~ 1986*

school. This soon became quite a trend with other students lending a hand as well.

I left Sibford in 1986 and started at Letchworth Catering College. After leaving Letchworth in 1988 I moved around quite a bit. I got a job for Crest Hotels and later moved to London where I had a house in East Ham.

It was in the summer of 1992, after being out on the tiles all night with friends, that I met my wife, Helena. She was sitting outside a cafe and asked me if I had 10p to use the payphone ...

the best 10p I ever spent!

Helena was working in Wokingham as an au pair and we saw each other most weekends. However, in September she moved back home to her family in northern Sweden.

The great thing about being a chef is that you can find work anywhere in the world, so, in 1993, I moved to Sweden to be reunited with Helena. We moved south in 1994 to Malmö where Helena was at teacher training college. We had our first daughter, Jennifer, in 1998 and got married the following year. Our second daughter, Hanna, was born in 2000.

That was also the year that the Øresund Bridge, linking Sweden with Denmark, was opened, and I, like many others, started commuting to work in Copenhagen.

Our third daughter, Amy, was born in 2006. We now have a house just outside Malmö, and I am a head chef at Promenaden Fredriksberg in Copenhagen. Helena is still teaching.

Of course I miss England, as does my wife. Two years ago we came back to visit and I was able to come to Sibford and show Helena and the kids around the School ... so much has changed!

Since joining Facebook it's been amazing how many old friends I've found. I wish I had got into cyberspace sooner!

facebook

Did you know Sibford School has a fanpage on Facebook? Why not join and keep in touch with Andy and other old scholars.



Rendezvous in Kuala Lumpur

On February 13, 2010, two former Sibford 'old boys' met up to share a beer. Nothing unusual about that, you might think. However, when you learn that the venue was in Malaysia, things become a little more interesting! Ashley Shirlin (Sibford 1969 ~ 1974) takes up the story:

It was during the school holidays back in 1972, when I was 14, that I first went to Borneo. The purpose of my trip was to spend time with my father.

On my return back to Sibford, I shared some of stories from my holiday with one of my closest friends, Dan Re'em, a Lister boy.

Dan and I had much in common. We both had

absent fathers. The trip to Borneo was the first time I had seen mine for many years and Dan had, at that time, only ever met his father once.

We discussed, as you do at the age of 14, the possibility of a joint trip to Malaysia. Over the subsequent years we occasionally spoke about sorting something out ... but that was as far as it ever got, until this year.

On my recent birthday, I was feeling somewhat down in the dumps, so I called my sister (who, incidentally, is the Malaysian Minister of Health!) and asked if she would send me a ticket so I could go and visit.

Thankfully, she was happy to oblige my request and so, on a whim, I texted Dan, who I knew to be somewhere in SE Asia, to see if he 'fancied a coffee in Kuala Lumpur'.

Dan was actually in Hong Kong and was planning to return to the UK via Beijing and Dubai but within 30 minutes of my text he had rearranged his flights and, as I was flying into Kuala Lumpur from London, he was flying in from Beijing.

'Coffee in KL' was actually 'Beer in KL', as we met up at about 10pm on Chinese New Year's Eve. The following day we flew to Borneo where we met my step-mum, brothers and sister and their families.

We went 13,000 of the 15,000 feet up Mount Kinabalu; paddled in hot springs; swam in the South China Sea; visited the town where my father lived in 1972; went to his final resting place; went inland on a riverboat to see the proboscis monkeys; and generally had a good time.

It was great to meet up again and to share the trip we'd promised ourselves some 48 years earlier.

Remember me?

I was at Sibford about 15 years ago and remember such teachers as Brian Holliday and Stuart Hedley who made my time through school easier and more enjoyable. I left the UK in 1999 to move with family to Christchurch. I work part-time as an electrical lineman and help look after my best friend's 14-year-old son. My hobbies out here include

walking the dog through the wonderful forests and parks and down the long beaches. I also love to ride horses through the forest at least four or five times a week. I recommend New Zealand as a destination to all people who love the outdoors.

John Matthews
on the south island of New Zealand.



I started school in 1973 in first form and stayed until the end of fifth form. I was a day pupil and at that time most of the other pupils were boarders.

I vividly remember the school discos and dancing to 'Kung Foo Fighting'! I also remember straight-leg trousers coming into fashion ... and being desperate to get a pair to wear to school as the girls had just been

given permission to wear trousers. After Sibford I went to Banbury Technical College and did a secretarial course. I did secretarial work for 20 years, then became a negotiator in an estate agents before moving to my current job selling advertising for an equestrian magazine. I am married with two children, aged 15 and 11 and live in Hook Norton ... having bought the house from my former maths teacher, Alan Jarvis!

Julie Doorman
formerly Julie Manning



The Sibfordian

Student Life & Activities at Sibford School
& News of the Sibford Old Scholars' Association



2010 marks the 21st anniversary of Sibford Junior School.

Orchard Close, as it was then known, opened with a total of 29 pupils, aged between eight and 11-years old.

The official opening was performed on 7 October 1989, by Lord Saye and Sele (pictured above).

The Sibfordian

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