

# THE Sibford Rocket

December 2017



The annual magazine of Sibford Old Scholars' Association

## INSIDE:



**Animal Magic**  
It's monkey business  
for former pupil!



**Looking Back**  
Special 175th  
anniversary  
feature



**Shaken, not stirred**  
From Sibford to  
The Savoy

## PLUS

Old Scholars remembered  
News from the annual reunion  
AGM reports

SOSA

**W**elcome to  
**The Sibford  
 Rocket**, the  
 2017 annual magazine  
 of Sibford Old Scholars'  
 Association (SOSA).

We hope that you will  
 enjoy reading about what  
 some of our former pupils  
 are up to these days and  
 share in their memories.

2017 has been a special  
 year for Sibford School  
 and we hope that you will  
 enjoy our 175th anniversary  
 feature. It's also been a great  
 year for welcoming former  
 heads back to Sibford ... as  
 you'll see from the following  
 pages both John Dunston  
 and Sue Freestone have been  
 back to the school this year.

In producing *The Rocket*  
 it never ceases to amaze me  
 what diverse career paths  
 old Sibfordians follow ... and  
 this issue is no exception  
 as we feature former pupils  
 working with creatures,  
 cocktails and colours!

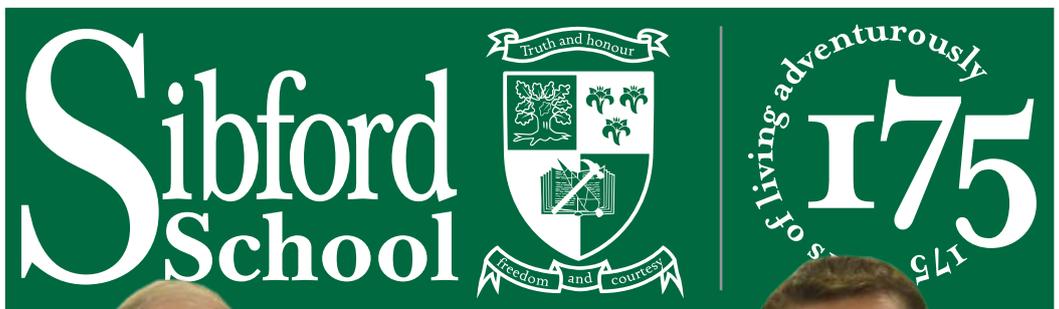
We compare and contrast  
 two very different versions  
 of the Kander and Ebb  
 musical *Cabaret*. And we  
 share in the reflections of  
 Maggie Guy who has retired  
 after 33 years at the school.

If you've got news that  
 you'd like to share with  
 other Old Scholars, don't  
 forget to get in touch ... you  
 can email me at  
[abromhall@sibfordschool.co.uk](mailto:abromhall@sibfordschool.co.uk)  
 or write to *The Sibford  
 Rocket*, Sibford School,  
 Sibford Ferris, Banbury  
 OX15 5QL.

In Friendship  
 Ali Bromhall  
 Editor

**Cover photograph: Rainbow  
 over Sibford School**

*The Sibford Rocket welcomes articles from  
 Old Scholars and other interested parties.  
 Please note, the Editor reserves the right to  
 edit articles for reason of length or legality.*



On 13 October 2017 Old Scholars and former staff joined present pupils and staff to celebrate 175 years of Sibford School. Pictured from top are: Former Head John Dunston and wife Suzie with current Head Toby Spence and wife Jill; Grace Beckerlegge and Jenny Munday (Head Girl 1979). SOSA president Harriet Langridge and Catherine Roussel (née Stewart); Eleanor Smith; Richard Hughes, Liz Belcher, Erica Strofton, Judith Beeby and Lori Spencer; David Dyer, Jean Wain, Peter Wain (Head Boy 1950) and Keith Dyer. Stuart Hedley (former woodwork teacher), Yvonne Hedley and Di Howes (former science technician).

# From Sibford ... to The Savoy

## American Bar names first senior female bartender in a century

Former Sibford pupil Philippa Guy (1998 ~ 2010) has become the first female senior bartender to be appointed to the famous American Bar in The Savoy in over 100 years.

She follows in the footsteps of the famous Ada Coleman, who was senior bartender at the American Bar in the early 20th century.

After leaving Sibford, Pippa went to Leeds Metropolitan University to study Sports Science. While still at university she took a part time job working for Arc Inspirations, which is where she learnt how to make cocktails.

After graduating and a gap year spent travelling she returned to Leeds to work as bar manager at Oporto and it was while hosting the 'Leeds Love Cocktails' event that she met Declan McGurk of

the American Bar. She relocated to London in August

2015 to join The Savoy as a server, becoming junior bartender in December 2016 and senior bartender in July 2017.

"I love my job," said Pippa. "I've worked very hard to get to where I am and I consider myself one of very few, extremely lucky, people that can genuinely say I look forward to going to work every day.

"My workspace is a beautiful Art Deco bar within The Savoy. I could never work behind a desk, I don't think I would be able to sit there for long enough! I love meeting new people and, daily, I meet people from different walks of life with completely differing reasons for visiting the American Bar. To me it's fascinating."

A spokesperson for the Savoy said: "In a city where female bartenders are the minority, impressively, Pippa has managed to break gender barriers at such a young age, through sheer determination and considerable passion."

### Favourite drink

Pippa's favourite creation is The Moonwalker. "I love making this drink," she says. "It was sent to Neil Armstrong and the astronauts of the Apollo 11 mission and was the first thing they drank on arriving home. We still have the letter from Armstrong thanking bartender Joe Gilmore who created the drink.



*Pippa is pictured in The Savoy's American Bar in her special white jacket. She explains: "In the 1930s our head bartender, Harry Craddock, introduced white jackets to the bar and since then it has become an iconic piece of our heritage. The Savoy had a custom white jacket made especially for me to wear. It's great to put the jacket on and become a part of the bar's ongoing history."*

*Top right: School photo ... Pippa in her last year at Sibford.*



# Jamie's animal

When Jamie Clubb was at Sibford (1987 – 1994) he came up with the most authentic excuse for school absence on record: 'Sorry I can't come in today .... I've been bitten by a hyena!'

And when he met current Sibford pupils in July 2017 he was delighted to learn that in the subsequent years no one has come close to beating his originality!

"Maggie Guy apparently told pupils to ask about my hyena bite when they met me," he said. "The kids thought it would be a laugh to try the excuse themselves but I pointed out it wouldn't work as I'd already done it ... and have the scars to prove it!"

As the son of Sally Chipperfield and Jim Clubb, Jamie has been around animals throughout his life ... and today is no exception.

He is Administrative Assistant at Amazing Animals ... the largest supplier of trained animals for the media industry in Europe. And while he doesn't get involved much with the day to day training of the animals ... he leaves that to his Dad who is director of the company ... with more than 100 species on site he's never far away from a furry or feathered friend!

Life in the office of Amazing Animals keeps Jamie on his toes ... "you can't begin to imagine the paperwork involved when your filming with a tiger!" he says. He is also responsible for Amazing Animals' work experience programme and is a respected authority in the field of animal training and animal welfare.

In 2006, he co-wrote an NVQ in Animal Training for the Audio-Visual industry and became an NVQ assessor (later changed to QCF assessor); and in 2016 he was part of a team invited to help develop two of the Government's new Trailblazer Standards ~ 'Animal Welfare Assistant' and 'Animal Trainer Level 4', which will be delivered shortly.

"If it hadn't been for the influence of Pam Gibson, Sibford's Business Studies teacher, I'd probably never be doing what I am now," says Jamie. "Other teachers who really

**Heythrop Zoological Gardens**, home of Amazing Animals, is a private animal collection, registered under the Dangerous Wild Animal Act 1976. The zoo is not open to the public, however, the company does hold open days three times a year and also organises private tours ... which is how Jamie met current Sibford pupils who were visiting as part of their Curriculum Enrichment Week. Credits for the zoo's inhabitants include:

## Films

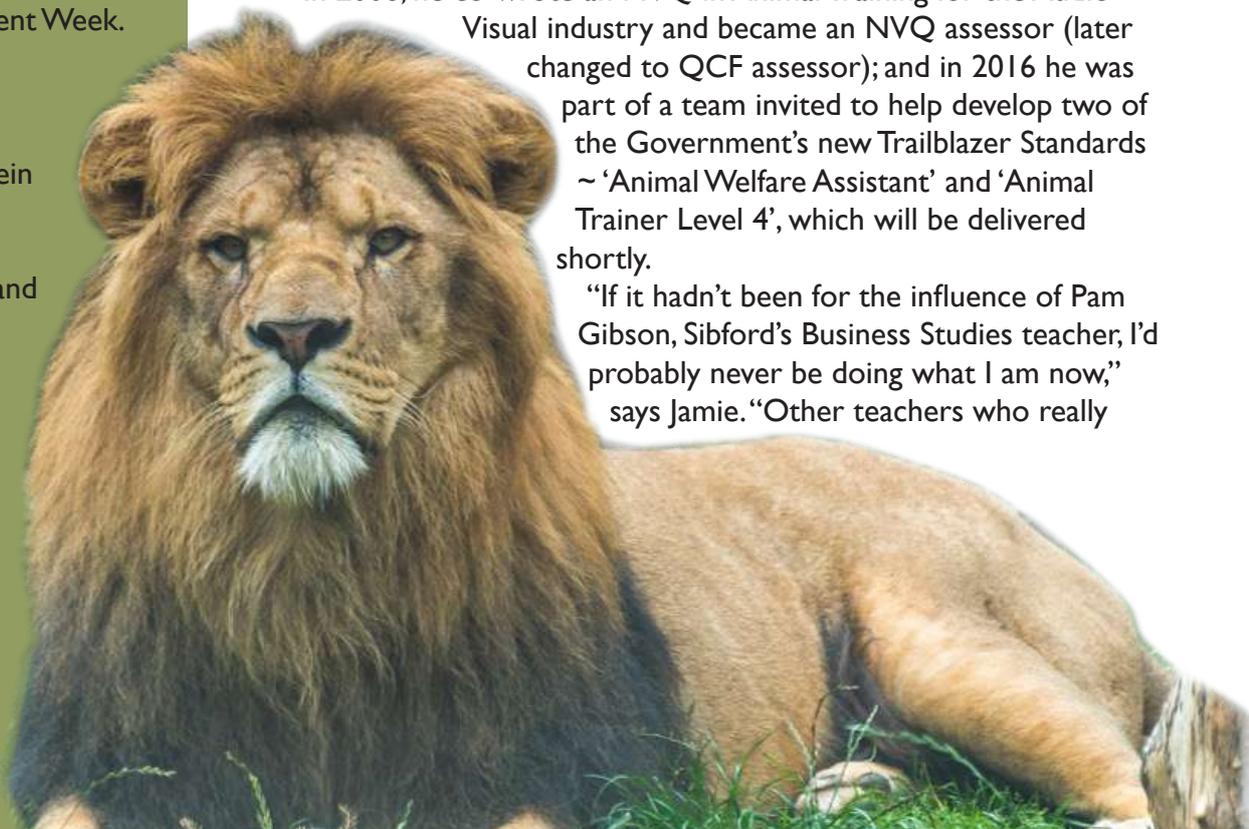
- Victor Frankenstein
- Jungle Book
- Tarzan
- Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them

## TV

- Our Zoo
- Endeavour
- Mr Selfridge
- Dr Who

## Commercials

- Johnnie Walker
- British & Irish Lions Tour
- Schweppes



# magic!



inspired me were Raymond White and Maggie Guy, who were brilliant English teachers, and Peter Agnew, who gave me a love of history that I have to this day.”

When Jamie first began at Sibford his single aim was to keep his head low for five years so that he could get out as quickly as possible.

“I didn’t really want to be at school at all,” he says. “I was the only kid at Sibford who lived in a caravan rather than a house and all I wanted to do was get back to the circus every day.”

Jamie’s place at Sibford was courtesy of his Grandfather who had plans for him to join the family business.

“Grandfather was a self-made millionaire having established a sand and gravel company in Dartford, Kent,” says Jamie “He was hoping that my Dad would take over the reins in due course but instead Dad ran away to join the circus, which is where he met my Mum.

“Grandfather disinherited Dad as far as the company was concerned but paid for me to get a decent education in the hope that I would eventually take over the business.

“I didn’t do well in my GCSEs and that summer Grandad sat me down and asked me what I wanted to be and I said, ‘a knife thrower!’ It was then that he realised I was never going to join the sand and gravel business. Instead he told me not to waste my time anymore and paid for me to stay another two years at Sibford.

“Sixth Form was fantastic. The pressure was off me and I really enjoyed it. I loved English, History and Business Studies ... and got my A Levels ... although later, with help from Mr White, I re-sat my English to improve my grade.”

Jamie never got to do the knife act. After leaving school he spent four years teaching kick boxing and then set up an Extreme Wrestling business where he got to perform Gothic martial arts as part of an act called ‘Dead Souls’.

“There were no knives involved in the act,” says Jamie “But it did feature swords, spears, barbed wire, dancing and gigantic Burmese pythons!

“Ironically the act was inspired by my performance as Puck in Sibford’s production of ‘A Right Midsummer’s Dream Up’ where my character was described as ‘a kung with a bit of foo and puck thrown in’”

Today Jamie splits his time

between Amazing Animals and his self-protection and mixed martial arts business, Clubb Chimera.

His love of History and English has led to him writing a number of books including ‘The Legend of Salt and Source: The Amazing Story of Britain’s Most Famous Elephants’ and ‘Mordred’s Victory and Other Martial Mutterings’. His latest book ‘When Parents Aren’t Around’, which looks at children’s self-protection, is due out soon.



Jamie is pictured with his Dad Jim

# CABARET

## Same show ... two very different productions

Sibford School's 2017 sell-out production of the Kander and Ebb musical *Cabaret*, brought back some happy memories for Old Scholar Debbie Stripe.

Debbie, who lives in Shipston on Stour, came along to see the production in February and described it as 'fantastic'.

"I did this show myself as a pupil at Sibford some years ago," she recalled, "and it was lovely to hear from the cast of 2017 that they had been told by staff members who had seen our production that they had a lot to live up to ... and live up to it they certainly did!"

It was back in 2001 that Debbie and her fellow pupils took to the stage in *Cabaret*. A write-up in the 2002 issue of *The Sibfordian* by drama teachers Simon and Angie Talbot described the performance as 'a resounding hit' and went on to say, 'this show was very special and it will be one we shall remember for a very long time.'



*The Kit Kat Girls then: Stephanie Danton, Alizarin Kimball, Johanna Russell, Debbie Stripe, Samantha Danton and Maia Keeling. Below in the 2017 production.*



*Come to the Cabaret! Katy Harper in 2001 and Matt Rainsberry in 2017 take on the role of Emcee.*

There were, however, marked contrast between the two shows.

While the 2017 Emcee was brilliantly performed by Sixth Form student Matt Rainsberry, Debbie recalls that in 2001 the role was taken by Head Girl Katy Harper. And there was certainly a more liberal approach as to what might be acceptable for pupils to wear on stage!

Says Debbie: "I certainly remember us Kit Kat girls doing some rather raunchy dances, and, as you can see from our outfits, it was all quite saucy!"

She continues: "It was very interesting to see the 2017 Director's use of the audience as part of the production. The way we were sat at tables and the fact that part of the performance took place within and around those tables was a brilliantly immersive

experience.

"But the most marked difference for me between the two performances had to be the emphasis on the trapeze artists who formed part of the Kit Kat Club entertainment ... they were incredible!"

"Being back at Sibford reminded me where my passion for the stage came from, and I'm so pleased to see that the school still has such strong, high quality values in the performance arts area.

"Having not done any acting since leaving Sibford in 2001, last year I joined Shipston Amateur Dramatics Society and, two performances in, I am absolutely loving my rekindled desire to be on the stage. A passion that most definitely was kept alive and grown through my time at Sibford."

# Clock in memory of Mike Finch

SOSA has donated a traditional Quaker clock to the school in memory of Mike Finch who died on 10 June 2016.

Outgoing SOSA president Ashley Shirlin said: "Mike dearly loved Sibford, the school and SOSA. Prior to his death, we discussed the purchase of a clock for the school's 175th Anniversary and so we felt it was fitting that the clock be donated to the school in his name."

Manufactured in Sibford Ferris in the 1870s, the brass faced 30-hour longcase clock, was made by John Wells, who was born in 1749. John was apprenticed to clockmakers Thomas Gilkes in Charlbury in 1766 and ended up at Sibford sometime in 1770s. He married Mary French at Sibford Meeting House in 1785 and the couple had two sons, Thomas and John, who both became clockmakers. The Sibford clock was acquired by collector Tim Marshall who restored it before passing it on to SOSA. It can be defined by an unusual hammer action not found in other mechanisms of the time.

Sibford Head, Toby Spence said: "This type of clock was only made at Sibford and so it is fitting that it should return close to its point of origin some 250 years later. We are extremely grateful to SOSA for this gift in memory of Mike. It is now on display in our Visitors' Room where it is proving to be an interesting topic of conversation."

- Mike was a pupil at Sibford School from 1949 to 1954. He returned to the school in adult life to take on the role of Estates Manager and, more recently, was the school's archivist. He was also an active member of SOSA (the Sibford Old Scholar's Association) fulfilling many roles over the years including President, Reunion Secretary, General Secretary and School Committee member. He was author of the school history: 'A View from the Hill'.

See also photograph on page 17.

## Beth lends a helping hand

Former Sibford pupil Beth Whitaker (2008 ~ 2013) has set up a charity to help those living rough on the streets of London.

Says Beth: "There are currently 8,000 homeless people in London. These people have not chosen to be here, they are victims of circumstance - nobody would choose that life.

"They need the help of those who can afford to help them and for that reason, I have started Helping Hands of London."

The charity fills bags with essentials and then takes them out to distribute amongst the homeless. Items that go in the 'Helping Hands' bags include a toothbrush, sanitary pads, granola bars, water, biscuits, rain ponchos, hats, gloves and hand warmers.

"Although we are doing this as cheaply as possible, it is still a massive project that costs a fair amount," said Beth. "So far we have distributed 60 bags and we are making more all the time! If any Old Scholars want to support me then please get in touch via our Go Fund Me page: [www.gofundme.com/homelesshelpinghandsbags](http://www.gofundme.com/homelesshelpinghandsbags)."



## Apprentice baker!

Fans of The Apprentice might have experienced a bit of déjà vu when watching the 2016 series.

For bakery business owner Alana Spencer, who triumphed over fellow finalist Courtney Wood to claim Lord Sugar's £250,000 investment, is none other than the granddaughter of Sibford Old Scholar Lori Spencer née Rollett (at Sibford 1957 - 62).

And, as our pictures show, the pair share a considerable likeness.

Lori said: "It was very exciting and somewhat nerve wracking to watch Alana's progress over the 12 weeks of the series. It goes without saying that we were over the moon when she won."

Alana's professional love affair with sweet treats began at the age of 14, when her Mum bought her a book about making chocolate. She became a self-taught chocolatier at only 16 and in 2010 left school to pursue her entrepreneurial chocolate-loving dream.

"It's honestly a dream come true to be working with Lord Sugar on a business based around my passion for cake," she said. "We both believe that 'Ridiculously Rich by Alana' can become a leading player in the luxury cake market and I'm so excited to see where we can take the business with the help of my team and the ambassadors."

You can find out more about Alana's company by visiting [www.ridiculouslyrichbyalana.co.uk](http://www.ridiculouslyrichbyalana.co.uk).



I came to Sibford with my parents when I was 13 years old and started at the Friends' School, as we called it then, in the 3rd Form mid-term.

It wasn't easy being 'the new girl' and also being a day girl ... in my day, most pupils were boarders. I did, however, soon settle down and made new friends.

I left Sibford at the end of the 5th Form and went to Banbury Technical College where I studied for A levels and went on to do a PA Secretarial course.

My first job was working at a Solicitors firm in Banbury. A few years later I joined my parents' sign company and stayed there for nine years. I then took six months out and travelled to and around Australia.

When I came back to the UK I got a good job working at a sign company in Northampton where I stayed for four years and relocated to Duston near Northampton. During this time, I got married and had a son, Tom.

In 1993, we moved back to the Banbury area.

I took time out of work to be a mother

and started back to work part-time when my son Tom started playgroup. I moved back to Sibford in 2001 and am still here!

About eight or nine years ago I decided to make a change of direction in my career ... a now or never decision! I have always felt I had a flair for colour and styling and was always the friend everyone took shopping when they needed to buy that special outfit so I decided to become an Image/Style Consultant.

I started by studying at the London College of Fashion on an Image and Styling course. I had to do this at weekends and thought I would struggle as I was working in the week but I enjoyed the course so much I looked forward to going

Annie Broe (née Barth) is one of the newest members on the SOSA Committee. She shares some reflections of her school days and tells us what she is doing now.



Annie is pictured aged 15 on her horse Callan

to London each weekend and knew I had made the right decision.

I passed this course with flying colours and then went on to study colour analysis, advanced colour analysis and make up.

Colour analysis is the process of finding colours of clothing and makeup to match a person's skin complexion, eye color, and hair colour. In the right colours, you will have a 'glow' making you look younger and healthier. Conversely

***"If a woman is poorly dressed you notice the clothes. If she is impeccably dressed you notice the woman"***

**Coco Chanel**

in the 'wrong' colours we can look tired, drained and older.

Everyone can wear most colours, but what makes the difference is the undertone, depth and intensity of that colour. Every colour you can imagine is produced by mixing one or more of the three basic primary colours which are red, yellow and blue.

A study by Johannes Itten, a noted artist and colourist, discovered that most of his art students were attracted to their proper colours, as we all are 50% of the time. In theory, if we were left alone, uninfluenced by the fashion industry, shops, magazines, family and friends we would all be in our correct colours 100% of the time!

Giving a colour analysis is an enjoyable experience for both the client and myself as they get to see what colours make their hair, skin tone and eyes work in harmony to give them that 'glow'. We also discuss make up and what colours will go together and how to build outfits. I give each client a handy sized colour swatch, which has all the colours they can wear and which they can keep in their handbag. Although, having said that, colour analysis is not just for women, men can benefit too.

As well as colour analysis, I also offer a style and wardrobe weed. Most of us have a wardrobe full of clothes but we wear less than half of them. I take a fresh look at your wardrobe through experienced eyes and together we can discover what works for you, helping you to learn to dress in a way which flatters your body shape.

I also run style workshops and have been running these as an evening course at the College in Banbury. These are fun sessions, which help people to learn about their body shape and discover how, by using a few simple tricks, they can draw the eye to where they want people to look ... emphasising the good bits and hiding the not so good bits.

# Memories of Sibford School

By Maggie Guy, who retired from Sibford School in September 2017

One of my most enduring memories of Sibford was the day that my husband, Chris, and I were interviewed for our respective teaching jobs. It was a glorious day in the summer of 1984 and I recall the distinct and almost immediate feeling that we had arrived somewhere that just felt 'right'.

Many of us, who have long associations with Sibford, comment on the almost magical sense of belonging from the moment we arrive. There is something about Sibford that silently and stealthily lodges itself deep within your soul; this can be true not only for staff, but often for parents and pupils.

Two days after our interviews we were delighted to be offered jobs by the then Head, Jim Graham ~ Chris in the PE Department and me in the English and PE Departments, but also as assistant in Nansen Girls House with Elisabeth Escher. To our delight Sibford became our place of work and home.

I have many very fond memories over the past 33 years so it is almost impossible to do more than ruminate on a random selection.

During my early days, staff and students eventually got used to my 'Americanisms', some of which have never quite disappeared. I continued to ask pupils to tuck in their 'shirt tails' with admonishments about drinking 'sodas' from Greens.

Teaching remained an important priority for me; escaping from my office to teach was a welcome balance to other responsibilities. Year 7 on Monday period 9 & 10 often involved some 'brain gym' just to keep us all sane! Teaching A level literature was my passion and joy - Shakespeare in particular.

Above all I wanted every student, especially dyslexic pupils, to find their voice in writing, to experience the beauty of *'The rare achievement of getting the right word in the right place'* (Mark Twain) and the treasures to be discovered in books. To me literature is transformative; every piece of writing has the potential to help us see beyond ourselves, but also deeper within ourselves.

Of course, there were times of tragedy and bereavement, and times when I considered moving on. Meetings for Worship, especially in times of trouble, hold a poignant place in my heart; the tragic death of a well-loved pupil or global tragedies like the 9/11 terrorist attacks in the USA, made us all take a moment to listen to our still, small voice deep within. Ministry in Meeting for Worship of staff and pupils held us as one close knit group of humanity trying to make sense of it all, helping to sooth each other's troubled hearts. These are 'the ties that bind us'. I have made lifelong friends with staff and ex-pupils, and this is what, in the end, gives meaning to life.

In career terms, I was always fortunate enough to be offered challenges and promotions



Maggie is pictured with members of the Sixth Form who travelled to Uganda in 2010

throughout my 33 years at Sibford. In addition to my initial roles, I eventually became Head of English, Head of Middle School, Senior Mistress (some explaining needed for American family and friends!) and eventually Deputy Head, Head of Boarding and Designated Senior Safeguarding Lead.

As the need for strong pastoral care and resilient pupils now becomes even greater, I am so very thankful that Sibford is a school that understands excellent pastoral care as the foundation for the best learning practice in schools.

Some of the most hilarious moments for teachers come when the pupils are blithely unaware that we are having as much fun as they are ... even as Deputy Head! My

natural inclination has always been to have fun and nudge boundaries. My rationale is that it helped me anticipate what students might be up to! In Nansen Girls' House, secret midnight feasts and late night swimming in the old school pool were favourites with boarders. I remember crazy cleaning binges on the last day of term and chasing away the 'Hooky Hards' who came on their mopeds to ogle at Nansen girls.

School trips always brought at least one or two infamous moments ... like a ski trip where we nearly lost a member of staff one night in a snow drift. A memorable excursion was a tennis trip to Italy with Stella Wilson when we were surprised by a visit from Chris Guy and Mike Spring who had travelled on Chris' motor bike to Lido Di Jesolo near Venice. The pupils simply greeted them in the usual way at breakfast with 'Hello Sir', not realising they had only just arrived. On our final tennis morning Stella and I went to the courts early to play, just before the pupils were due to arrive. We heard them coming with peals of laughter and discovered that they had all swapped clothes – boys in tennis skirts with 'enhanced' sports bras was a sight!

'Living Adventurously' is my favourite passage from Quaker faith & practice and one which inspires me every day. The trip to Uganda with our Sixth Form students in 2010 was memorable in so many ways - all agreed that it had been a life changing experience volunteering at Sanyu Babies Home, RETRAK street children's charity and teaching at our partnership school, Mbarara Preparatory School. White water rafting down a grade four waterfall and flipping over was perhaps the

most terrifying experience along with hippos visiting our campsite when on safari. However, the most memorable moment came when Ed Rossiter and I had to exchange a large sum of cash leaving the bank as Ugandan millionaires clutching black bin liners full of cash.

I was also challenged to do a sky dive to raise funds for Uganda. As the plane was climbing to 13,000 feet my nerves started to really kick in; however, free falling at 120mph was simply awesome. I would happily have done it all again.



*Maggie having completed her charity Sky Dive in 2014*

Our long association with Mbarara and the Head, Winnie, has developed into a strong personal friendship. This school has grown from strength to strength and I am deeply gratified to know that many colleagues from Sibford have helped this fine school flourish. Sibford has a second home/school in Mbarara thanks to our 15-year friendship.

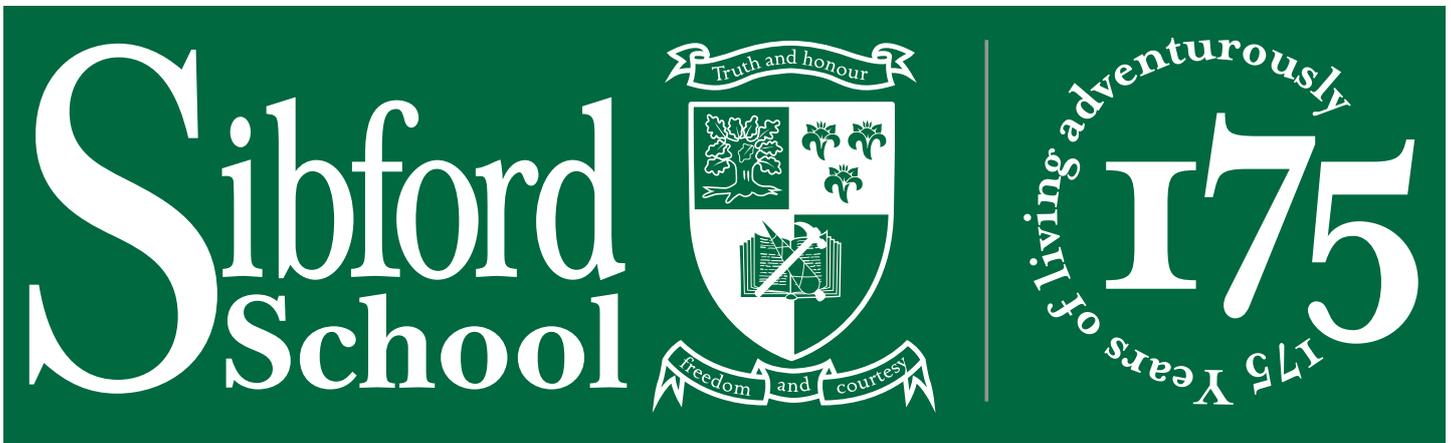
I will, perhaps, be remembered for bringing 'show and tell' objects into meeting for worship – Jenga blocks being a favourite. But seemingly random objects were frequent choices asking pupils to follow my links. For me, a meeting when I was pregnant with my first child and clearly blooming, is memorable. I spoke about the qualities of our inner child (literally and metaphorically) and the ability to love someone who you had yet to meet. You see, it is not just the students who learn, but staff also learn and grow during their time at Sibford.

Having both my girls, Jennifer and Philippa, at Sibford gave me a unique insight into their lives – apologies to their friends or boyfriends who inadvertently ended up in my office for a 'telling off'. My children would say that their worst, most mortifying memory is of me in black leathers doing a duet with Tony Skeath on the set of 'Grease'!

I will end with a quotation from 'Advices & Queries' 1.02 'Think it possible that you may be mistaken'. This advice is invaluable – I have many memories in my role as Deputy Head of changing my view of a young person having really listened and reflected on their story.

Many Sibford pupils remain in my heart as the inspiration behind my 33 years of dedication to pastoral care. I am sure there were many times when I did not get it right, but I always aimed to be available and fair. After all - behaviour is simply a type of language. Pastoral care takes time, energy and compassion as well as the knowledge that it is impossible to ever get it 100% right.

Memories define not only who we are, but who we love to be. My most precious memories of Sibford are just that, the moments of challenge and joy in the unique community that is Sibford.



# 175 years of Quaker education in Sibford

When the first pupils arrived at the doors of Sibford School in January 1842 the world was a very different place, writes Toby Spence.

Queen Victoria had only just ascended to the throne, slavery in the British Empire was finally abolished, communication had been revolutionized by the arrival of the Penny Black in 1840 (it would be another two years before the first telegram was sent), cholera epidemics still scourged the country, medical progress had not yet found successful antiseptics or anaesthetics and Louis Pasteur was some way from proving his 'germ theory'.

So, at face value, the world of 1842 was indeed a 'foreign country'.

Perhaps this is why so many people love to travel, be that back in time, via the world of history, forwards in their imaginations or physically to places near and far.

In my experience however, it does not take long to find commonalities and similarities in any foreign country. Shared humanity, love of family, laughter and sorrow, hopes and dreams, to name but a few threads.

Sibford has come a long way from its earliest days and we are proud of our modern and progressive

*One of the earliest whole school photographs on file ... taken in 1890.*

**“The past is a foreign country; they do things differently there.”**

**L.P. Hartley  
The Go Between**

approach to education.

And yet this education is underpinned by a set of Quaker values which have changed very little from those upon which the school was founded back in 1842.

Our meetings for worship, stillness, family values and deep-rooted culture are formative to the community. We believe in 'that of God [good] in everyone' and we remain guided by Quaker values of simplicity, tolerance, peace, sustainability and honesty.

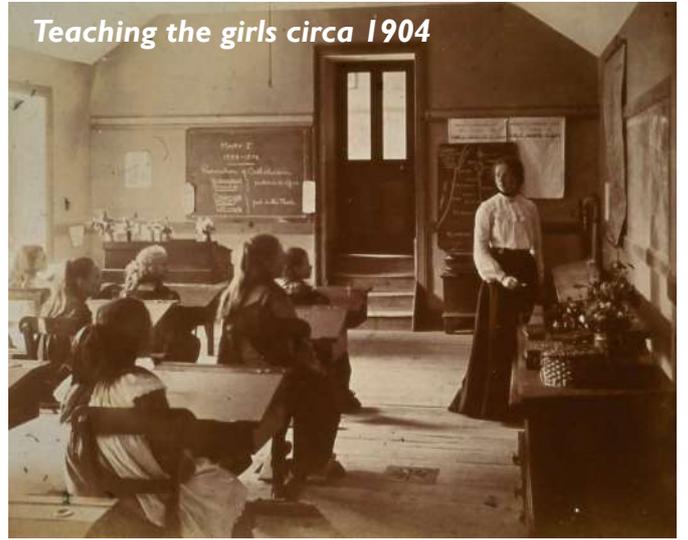
As we look forward to the future with hope, optimism and imagination we will, as it says in Advices & queries 42, continue to aspire to **'be patterns, be examples in all countries, places, islands, nations, wherever you come, that your carriage and life may preach among all sorts of people, and to them; then you will come to walk cheerfully over the world, answering that of God in every one.'**



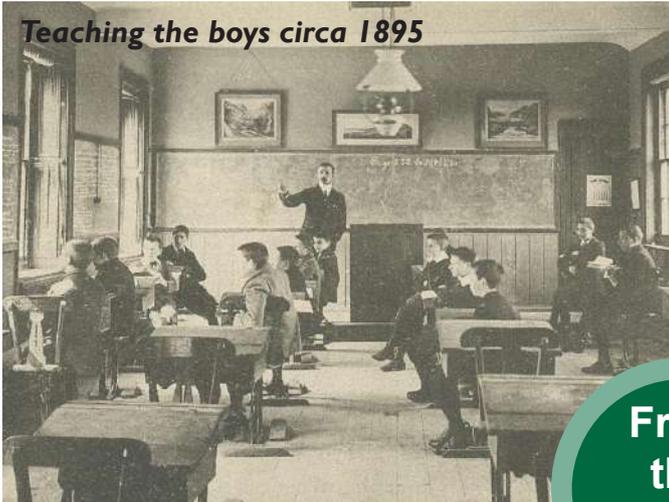
*Sibford School Cricket Team 1899*



*Teaching the girls circa 1904*



*Teaching the boys circa 1895*



*The playground in 1899*

**From  
the  
archives**



*Boys' gym display 1950*



*Girls' pillow fight 1899*



*Staff photo 1888*



*Sibford School 1885*



*Dining Room 1887*

# Keeping the bricks and mortar in good shape

Since the school first opened in 1842 there have been many changes to the physical buildings.

The original school house ... in the Old Manor ... has now been transformed into elegant apartments.

The Hill Building, which opened in 1930, was extended in 1950 by the addition of a Central Wing that included a new library and new hall/gym (now the Oliver Studio).

In 1989, the new Junior School was opened by Lord Saye and Sele.

The sale of the Manor in 2000 paved the way for the building of a new Art and Music School, which was completed in 2001. The swimming pool opened in 2003 and in 2009 cricketer Darren Gough joined us to officially open our brand-new sports changing complex.

2010 saw the opening of a new library; in 2011, 50 solar panels were installed onto the roofs of the English Classrooms, and in 2012 we undertook a significant



*The new Food & Nutrition Room*



*Home Economics in the 1930s*

transformation of the main school hall, which was originally built in 1975 ... a feat of architecture that effectively saw a roof put on the school quad!

The refurbishment introduced a retractable seating rake, theatrical

lighting rig and enhanced acoustics.

More recent works have included the refurbishment of the Design and Technology Studios, the building of new pupil toilet blocks and the refurbishment of one of the science labs.

Most recently, over the summer holidays, the Food Tech room was completely gutted and pupils returned to school in September 2017 to find a new Food & Nutrition Room open for business.



*The Craft, Design and Technology Room in 1906*



*Design & Technology in 2017*



*Music class (in the gym) circa 1892 and in the Ensemble Room 2017*



# Heads of our time

As remarkable as it might sound, Sibford has only had 12 Heads during its 175 year history. The roll-call is as follows:

- Richard Routh ~ January 1842 to December 1880
- Robert Oddie ~ December 1880 to June 1906
- James Harrod ~ July 1906 to August 1930
- Arthur Johnstone ~ September 1930 to August 1956
- Hugh Maw ~ September 1956 to April 1962
- Jonas Fielding ~ May 1962 to August 1972
- Kenneth Greaves ~ September 1972 to August 1980
- Jim Graham ~ September 1980 to December 1989
- John Dunston ~ April 1990 to August 1996
- Sue Freestone ~ January 1997 to August 2004
- Michael Goodwin ~ September 2004 to August 2016
- Toby Spence ~ September 2016 to present.



Above: Rebecca and Richard Routh.  
Below: Robert and Elizabeth Oddie.



Above: The Harrod family: Elsie, Mabel, Gulie, James and May.  
Below: Three heads and their wives pictured in 1930 ... Robert Oddie, Arthur Johnstone, Elizabeth Oddie, Mabel Harrod, Jessie Johnstone and James Harrod.



Above: The Spence family: Jill, Oscar, Isobel, Eliza and Toby.  
Left: Michael Goodwin.  
Below: Sue Freestone with husband Rupert.



Above: Hugh Maw (third from right) pictured at the official opening of Penn Boys House with Sir Hugh Foot, Lady Foot and Daphne Maw.  
Below: Jonas Fielding with Deputy Head June Ellis.



Above: Jim Graham and Kenneth Greaves.  
Below: John Dunston.





# AGM 2017

## The Head's Report

“While this is my first official Head's Report to the SOSA AGM, it is actually my second appearance at the SOSA AGM and Reunion. My family and I were delighted to attend the event last year when I was briefly 'wheeled out' by Michael Goodwin!

It has been an action packed first year here at Sibford, one which I have thoroughly enjoyed. I can say with assurance that I have received a warm welcome from all parties not least the SOSA family.

Michael leaves a tough legacy to follow after his 12 years of headship. The school is in good shape, nicely poised to look forward adventurously to the future. Interest in the school remains very high and we were delighted to welcome another 23 prospective families to our Open Morning earlier on today. It has been busy!

Before I talk more about the school and future plans it would be polite to introduce myself to you more fully. My educational journey has involved 10 years working as a teacher of History and Outdoor Education in the state sector and a further 14 years in the independent sector – including five at our sister Quaker School, Bootham in York.

In 2014 I took up my first headship at Greensteads International School; a British Curriculum, co-educational, 2-18 age range school, set within the Rift Valley of Kenya.

Leading a Quaker school is both an honour and a privilege. There are only a handful of Quaker Schools in the UK and opportunities to apply for leadership roles are few and far between. To this end, one month into my headship in Kenya, when the role of Head at Bootham was advertised it was far too early to even consider an application. However, a year later on, the job at Sibford was advertised ... and the rest, as they say, is history.

My wife Jill and our three children had become quite used to the wonderful community and warm climate in Kenya. A new house was being built for us and we were fortunate to have a fabulous lifestyle. So, as you might imagine, it wasn't an easy task that I had (not least in mid-winter) to convince my family that it was the right time to make a move to Oxfordshire.

Hard decision as it was, I had no doubt (and am pleased to report that I have been proved right!) that



*Toby Spence is pictured with wife Jill and children Oscar, Eliza and Isobel.*

there is a different type of warmth here at Sibford. It's a warmth that I have found throughout the community, a ready welcome and a desire to welcome into the community.

With new students I often talk about the 'arms of Sibford' reaching out to envelope new members of the community. It really is a very special school.

During my first term I met personally with just about every staff member employed by the school. They gave me a fascinating insight into the life, workings and pace of the school. Only the minibus drivers were upset that I hadn't been to see them first!

SOSA, however, is the one group who, so far, I haven't got to know as well as I might have liked and who I'd like to get to know better – starting this weekend!

I'd like to thank Ashley and Harriet for their warm welcome to the SOSA community and for explaining how it works – including the infamous Rockets. I am told that I will have the pleasure of performing 'Rockets' later on this evening... yes, I am just a little scared!

Apart from my interest as Head, there is a good reason why I hope to have a close relationship with SOSA as I have a family connection.

As one of his final legacies, Robert Brearley Oddie, Sibford's second Head, supported the setting up of an Old Scholars association. Most of the other



Friends' schools had an Old Scholars group but Sibford lagged behind. The 'Sibford Old Scholars' Association', more commonly known as 'SOSA', was inaugurated on the 19th June 1903. Its first President was Joseph Spence Hodgson.

It turns out that Joseph Spence Hodgson and I are related. His great grandfather – John Spence of Birstwith (1746 – 1806) is the brother of my great (x6) grandfather – Robert Spence of Hartwith (1742 – 1793). I will leave the technical expression of our relationship to your better judgement. My best guess is that Joseph would be my third cousin five times removed. Answers on a postcard are welcome!

Joseph Spence Hodgson was, by all accounts quite eccentric and very active ... the latter I would like to think is a family trait. He was involved in more than one Quaker school. There is a picture on the wall at Ackworth of Joseph Spence Hodgson. It is a sepia print showing him in tweed jacket, beard and sideburns, surrounded by Persian cats. I have read that in 1858 a number of Ackworth Old Scholars offered to pay for a new swimming bath and in the spring of the following year it was opened at a cost of about £470. Ackworth's website goes on: *'After he had spoken at the formal opening on 6 December 1898, Joseph Spence Hodgson, after a short spirited speech, dived into the water in black frock coat and tall silk hat, to the surprise and delight of the children.'*

So I have a direct link to one of the founding fathers of SOSA. I hope to develop and strengthen this link as the years progress.

On page 31 of Mike Finch's fine history of the school, *'A View from the Hill'*, he tells us what SOSA's main aims were and still are:

- (a) to foster interaction between former scholars and staff and present day pupils and staff;
- (b) to further school day friendships;
- (c) to enjoy the mutual benefits that can arise through a sustained relationship with the school and former scholars;
- (d) to encourage a spirit of loyalty amongst present scholars;
- (e) to assist the further development of the school.

Mike Finch also tells us that, in 2009, SOSA changed its constitution to become more closely connected to the school and to enable a greater embracing role in supporting the school's alumni project.

This relationship is important to me. I hope that during my headship I will have a close and supportive relationship with SOSA. SOSA is a guardian of the history and the archives – indeed, in many respects SOSA represents the 'walking archive of the school'. I very much look forward to hearing your stories and memories.

Sibford School has a long, varied and rich history. It is a privilege, challenge and honour to be the 12th Head of this fabulous community. I use the word challenge quite deliberately. Yes, there are the challenges of leading a complex and diverse community. However, I set the word more in the context of 2017. We live in changing times, times of increasing uncertainty and a sense of instability.

As Old Scholars you may well feel that you have 'seen it all before' and you are right. In the 'here and now' I hope that Sibford can lead by example with a strong voice and active role to play in the lives of the community and further afield.

For me the values of Sibford

School could not be more important at this time – equality, respect, diversity, tolerance, sustainability, peace, honesty, truth, courage – are all words which we use regularly around our community.

So what are our plans for the future? We are making improvements to Science, our Junior School and our Food and Nutrition classroom. We are at the early stages of investigating the possibility of installing a climbing wall and have longer term plans for an astro-turf. We are also in discussion with SOSA about plans to refresh the much loved Pavilion.

Whilst maintaining and nurturing our outstanding pastoral and boarding provision, we will review the curriculum for 2018 and plan to do more work with local state schools and further afield.

We will focus upon tracking and monitoring pupil progress – linking strong pastoral care to clear academic targets. We will be looking at innovative learning approaches and encouraging more pupil responsibility for learning.

We also wish to find ways of working more closely with Friends House and the wider Quaker community.

Our shared values are vital to us. We continue to see that of God in everyone and believing that each is talented, each is different and all are valued.

On our journey I am very much open to your advice, thoughts and suggestions as we look to build upon the firm foundations of the Sibford community and look forward adventurously to the next 175 years. I also look forward to getting to know you and working more closely with you over the coming months and years.

Thank you for support and friendship. ☺☺



Members and non-members attending the Annual General Meeting were warmly welcomed by President, Ashley Shirlin.

### Present:

Ashley Shirlin (President), Harriet Langridge, Richard Hughes, Margaret Shelley, Wendy Finch, Peter Robinson, Toby Spence, Ali Bromhall, Amanda Brown, Ian Weatherhead, Chris Weatherhead, Liz Beebey, Lori Spencer, Erica Strofton, Judith Beeby, Liz Belcher, Richard Wrigley, Pat Wrigley, Pat Phillips, Mark Mercer, Simon Matthews, Lesley Matthews, David Smith, Russell Steed, Janet Steed, Paul Levy, Patrick Smart, Catherine Stokes, Pippa Lacey, Annie Broe, Marion Charlwood, Guy Kingham, Navid Sadrzadeh.

### 1. Greetings and Apologies:

*Presented by Ashley Shirlin*

Apologies were received from the following: Sue Schreiber, Julie Hathaway, Hugh Gibson, Violet Malins, Jimmy Setna, Robert Inverarity, June Ellis, Alfred Holland, Hilary and John Haddleton

### 2. Obituaries:

*Presented by Ashley Shirlin*

Janet Sewell, Robin John Donald, Clare Smith (nee Southwell), David Long, Simon Austing, Joan Shields, Mick Canning, Ray Guillery, Eddie Goudge, Elizabeth Francis, E. Noel, H. Powell.

The meeting held a few moments of silence.

### 3. Minutes:

*Presented by Ashley Shirlin*

The minutes of the last SOSA Annual General Meeting held on 18th June 2016 were unanimously approved by the AGM and signed as a true record by the President.



*SOSA has purchased a clock in memory of Mike Finch. Toby Spence and Wendy Finch are pictured with the clock. See also page 7.*

### 4. President's and General Secretary's Report:

*Presented by Ashley Shirlin*

Ashley Shirlin explained to the Meeting that the election of SOSA's next School Committee Representative was being brought forward to the beginning of the Meeting so that the elected individual's name could be passed directly to Sibford General Meeting's AGM which was taking place at the same time.

Amanda Brown (*Proposed by Richard Hughes and Seconded by Harriet Langridge*) was unanimously elected as SOSA's School Committee Representative for the period 1st January 2018 – 31st December 2021.

*Ashley then continued:* This is the second and final time that I will be making a report as your President.

When I was invited to become Vice President and then President I set out to achieve various goals.

I wanted to put the Association's finances back on a sound footing, I wanted to modernise the website. I wanted to restructure the Committee and make decision making more open. I wanted to turn SOSA into a registered charity. I wanted to invest in the archives. I wanted to change the perception of SOSA being an old codgers group.

Looking back on the last three years I've had mixed success in achieving these goals.



The finances are now on an even keel, the website has been very successful, the reintroduction of Committee roles such as Reunion Secretary has, in general, worked. Whereas it was not possible to convert SOSA into a registered charity we do now have Sibford Old Scholars Charity (SOSC) to fulfil that role. We have digitised the SOSA archives and made these available online. We continue to struggle in changing the perception of SOSA but maybe subsequent younger Presidents will be able to achieve that.

It has been a privilege to have been your President and I wish all the very best to my successor – Harriet Langridge. Harriet has been an excellent Vice President and has taken much upon herself especially as she has also been Reunion Secretary. Thank you Harriet.

As General Secretary for the last three years things have, as ever, been challenging.

With regards to the Committee both Nikki Knott and Cindy Poulton have resigned during the last year. We welcomed Navid Sadrzadeh for the first time and he

has already made his presence felt.

The rest of the Committee has given invaluable support and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all on the Committee for their commitment to SOSA and the principles of Truth, Honour, Freedom and Courtesy. In particular, we should take this opportunity to thank Richard Hughes for serving as one of SOSA's School Committee Representatives for 12 years.

With regards to The Rocket, Ali Bromhall has once again produced an excellent publication and we should thank her accordingly.

With regards to membership we have 1,285 members of whom we have 363 email addresses.

For a variety of reasons SOSC has not achieved its fund raising goals. However, we continue to support current pupils who are in need of financial assistance.

I am delighted to say that SOSA has purchased the clock we spoke of at last year's AGM and we have donated it to the school. We should thank Peter Robinson who went to great lengths to find and acquire an appropriate clock.

The clock is a memorial to Mike

Finch who, as we all know, was the person who kept SOSA together for so many years. I hope that you will take the time to view the clock which is in the Visitors' Room and take a quiet moment to reflect on the passing of Mike.

### 5. Treasurer's Report:

Presented by Ashley Shirlin

At last year's AGM we elected Cindy Poulton as Treasurer but for a variety of reasons she decided to stand down a few weeks ago.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Cindy for maintaining SOSA's records during her time as Treasurer.

As last year, when Mark Bennett resigned the day before the SOSA AGM, it therefore falls to me to present the 2016/17 Accounts.

The Association's Gross Income over Expenditure was £2,249 which is an increase over the previous year's surplus of £1,530.

The balance of the Current Account was £10,338 and the balance of the Deposit account was £5,494.

Although we agreed at last year's AGM that we would transfer £1,500 from Current to Deposit



Toby and Jill Spence are pictured with Old Scholars and members of the SOSA committee.



for the period ending 31/3/15 and £2,700 in respect of the period ending 31/3/16 Cindy decided to defer both these transfers until we were sure of how much the clock would cost. In the event, this was less than anticipated and so I would hope that we would be able to make this transfer in the near future.

One item that you can see from the Accounts is the purchase of a salver for £500. This item was discussed at a SOSA Committee Meeting in March 2016 as a possible leaving present for Michael Goodwin. The Committee decided however that expenditure of this magnitude on this particular item was not appropriate. Unfortunately, Mark Bennett went ahead with the purchase and wrote two cheques to one of his own companies for £250 each on the same day for the salver.

*There followed a general discussion during which it was suggested that the Constitution be changed to say that no-one could sign a cheque to themselves. It was also suggested that the salver should ultimately be sold but that it be held for the time being in the hope that the price of silver will rise.*

*Simon Matthews proposed (seconded by Ashley Shirlin) that the Treasurer monitors the price of silver over the next year to see if the salver appreciates in value. This was unanimously agreed.*

*Richard Wrigley proposed (seconded by Ian Weatherhead) that Mark Bennett be removed from SOSA's Membership under Clause 3.f. of the Constitution. This was unanimously agreed (with one abstention).*

As defined by the Constitution the Accounts have been

examined and signed by an independent individual. My thanks to Peter Robinson for undertaking this.

Ashley Shirlin proposed (seconded by Ian Weatherhead) that the 2016/17 account be approved. This was unanimously agreed.

Ashley then went on to say that the Committee have received a request from Sibford Meeting House for a donation towards some much needed maintenance of the Meeting House. They are hoping to raise £3,000.

Ashley Shirlin proposed (seconded by Erica Strofton) that SOSA donates £1,000 to this project. This was unanimously agreed.

### 6. Head's Report:

Presented by Toby Spence  
See page 15.

### 7. School Committee Report:

Presented by Richard Hughes

Management accounts to 31st March 2017.

School roll is 412 pupils.

Junior School numbers grew during the first two terms to reach 94.

Senior School day pupil numbers are down on budget resulting in a projected deficit of £132,119 (represents nine pupils).

After bursaries and discounts total income shows a negative variance of £84,877, forecast to be £72,437.

Capital expenditure to date is £224,195. The Development



*Maggie is pictured with former Head, Sue Freestone, at a tea party held to mark her retirement. To read some of Maggie's memories of Sibford see page 9.*

group agreed to go ahead with the refurbishment of the class rooms, Food Technology, and three Science Laboratories. The building of the Climbing Walls and upgrade of the Pavilion will not start until 2018.

At the date of this report the cash balance stood at £1,491,329 compared to £1,664,954 the previous year.

Salaries are over budget (£125,686), the reasons are: long term sick, increase to Pensions, increase to National Insurance and pay increases.

Maggie Guy retires at the end of this term after 33 years service to the school.

Spotlight presentations were received from the Art



department, PHSE and the English department.

Educational visits were reviewed during the year by John Charlesworth and Sarah Lane.

The following policies were reviewed: Assessment, Sickness Absence, Stress and Employee Wellbeing, Admissions, Missing Child, Student Computer Acceptable Use, Medical Capability, Family Friendly and Data Protection.

At each committee meeting the Head presented a report. In March the school held a Symposium to inform the school's staff of new strategic plan.

The meeting was informed that the Friends at Saffron Walden will be closing at the end of the summer term; this will leave six Quaker schools.

### 8. Proposed Amendments to the Constitution

Ashley Shirlin Proposed (Seconded by Harriet Langridge) that Clause 8b to have an additional sentence:

"No signatory may sign a cheque

to themselves or any person or organisation associated with themselves."

This was unanimously adopted.

### 9. Elections

All the following individuals were elected unopposed:

#### General Secretary

(1/8/17-31/7/20)

Ashley Shirlin

Proposed by Margaret Shelley.

Seconded by Harriet Langridge.

#### Ordinary Committee Member

(1/8/17-31/7/20)

Edd Frost

Proposed by Ashley Shirlin, Seconded

by Margaret Shelley.

#### Reunion Secretary

(1/8/17-31/7/18)

Navid Sadrzadeh

Proposed by Harriet Langridge.

Seconded by Ashley Shirlin.

#### Ordinary Committee Member

(1/8/17-31/7/19)

Annie Broe

Proposed by Ashley Shirlin.

Seconded by Amanda Brown.

#### Treasurer

(1/8/17-31/7/18)

Richard Hughes

Proposed by Ashley Shirlin.

Seconded by Ian Weatherhead.

### 10. Any other business

- The Meeting warmly thanked Ashley Shirlin for the work he has done as President.
- Ashley Shirlin announced that Paul Levy had been invited to become the next Vice President. The Meeting unanimously approved this election.
- Harriet Langridge announced that Ashley Shirlin had been invited to become an Honorary Life member. The Meeting unanimously agreed this invitation.
- Some members do not appear to be receiving the paper copies of 'The Rocket'. Ashley Shirlin explained that paper copies were not sent out depending on what preferences members had made on the SOSA website. The Committee will review this at their next meeting.





By Catherine Stokes (née Hunt) and Pippa Lacey who both attended Sibford from 1969 to 1974

**Catherine:** "I have always felt that my time at Sibford was the best years of my life. I felt so privileged to have gone to a school in the heart of the Cotswolds. Without the help from the Quakers this would have not been possible. So I am thankful for that.

"Sibford taught me to be independent, treat everyone as equal and have respect for others. I met some wonderful people and made some friends for life. Sibford certainly set me up for my journey in life.

"I have attended numerous reunions at school and at other venues, all organised by Ashley. He's certainly been the back bone in keeping us all connected and I thank him for all his efforts. Not an easy task!"

**Pippa:** "Like Catherine I look back with great affection on my days at Sibford, and the lasting friendships that were made.

"I am dyslexic. Dyslexia was only just beginning to be acknowledged when I started at Sibford.

The school was very sympathetic to people with learning problems. Ken Greaves had a great interest in it and since then Sibford has gone from strength to strength. I was never made to feel 'could do better' but rather 'let's find a way round it.'

I try to keep true to the school motto ~ Truth, Honour Freedom and Courtesy ~ in all I do and I have just read Michael Finch's book 'A View From the Hill'.



Then and now ... Catherine (pictured top left) in the netball team and with Annie Broe (centre) and Pippa Lacey (right) at the 2017 Reunion



## Highlights of the day ...

This year's reunion was the 175th anniversary of the founding of the school.

It was also a sad one as we remembered an old friend who had sadly passed away this year. It's hard when you lose friends of your year. However the sun shone and it was a glorious weekend.

Pippa and I arrived together and met Annie Broe (née Barth) at the school. We are so proud to see how, over the years, Sibford has flourished, with new buildings and so many more opportunities.

Coffee was served on the playing field, an ideal opportunity to catch up with fellow Old Scholars ... not so many this year but those that were there really made the day.

We took a tour around the school reminiscing. Buffet lunch was served whilst we were entertained by Sedleigh. How school meals have changed!

In the afternoon we attended the annual meeting, Ashley's last one as president. He does such an amazing job. A new committee was

elected, which included Annie.

Toby Spence (the new Head) gave an address which was very entertaining, but we were saddened to learn that Friends School Saffron Walden was closing. Catherine's Mum was matron in the Sanatorium at Saffron Walden for many years.

In the evening we joined together for dinner. Ashley made a very heroic speech – 'A testing friendship', which told the story of a friend who he had given support to in his last years before he died. That's what Sibford did for us; taught us to be supportive irrespective of circumstances.

Entertainment was shuffled by Navid with his amazing card tricks. The finale was performing 'Rockets' outside. ... if any of you don't know what this is, then come to next year's reunion and find out!

An enjoyable day and we look forward to next year where our year will be celebrating 60 years of age. Where has that time gone? It all seems like only yesterday.





# A testing friendship ...

**M**y Presidential Address last year was about friendship and, as Edd Frost commented a couple of years back, it's quite difficult to write a second one (although Edd managed very well, after a glass or two on the night before he presented his second!)

I had originally thought I'd speak about 175 years of Sibford but, as there is a second event to celebrate this later this year, I put that aside. In any event, as you can see from this youthful visage, I only coincide with a small fraction of that timescale!

I toyed with the idea of anecdotes from my time as a pupil. Many, many people however would be aghast at what I might say so I've chosen instead the topic of 'A testing friendship'.

As some of you know, my two years as President has coincided with the release from prison of someone who was in the same year as me at Sibford. He had been jailed for life and had served nine years prior to his release on licence.

Following his release, he was diagnosed with Huntington's Disease.

For those of you who are not familiar with HD, there is no treatment or cure and it leads to dementia. Most people die before then, though, as pneumonia or suicide account for many deaths.

I first asked myself, when I heard of the sentence, should life mean life? Initially it appeared harsh but, having now spoken to a few of his victims, I am now of the opinion that there are certain crimes that deserve this sort of sentence and that an individual should serve the full term.

However, people far more knowledgeable than me took the



decision to release him. My stance therefore was that if an individual is released then they should have a basic level of existence and that they shouldn't be set up to fail and therefore be returned to prison,

Upon release my classmate was granted a few months accommodation in various hostels. This time would normally be spent finding work and somewhere else to live. It was clear to me that there was something physically wrong with him when I visited him in prison. His GP on release identified that there was a problem and his HD was subsequently diagnosed. This effectively ruled out any chance of ever working again.

This in turn drastically reduces the already limited places open to anyone with a criminal record to live. There are, however, landlords who do provide accommodation without the need for references. My limited experience of this type of accommodation is that they are near slums. For example, is it right that an individual must use the toilet at a local supermarket every day as the one in his flat was continually blocked for over a year? A huge question is whether

you should complain to the local authority about conditions and then potentially lose your home? Homelessness in my classmate's case would have been a breach of his licence, which would have resulted in his recall to prison.

Nothing was ever simple over the last two years but I quite quickly learned that if something could go wrong it would.

For example, there was the issue of a bank account. After seven years of inactivity, banks automatically close accounts. My classmate had been in prison for nine years. No problem I thought, open another one.

Has anyone tried to open a bank account without photo ID? Upon his arrest, his Passport was confiscated by the police. His Driving Licence was the old style, which didn't contain his photo. Reapply for a licence then. Not possible without a Birth Certificate. Get a duplicate Birth Certificate then. Not possible as he was born abroad and his parents had not registered him on their return. Go to the country of birth then. Has anyone ever dealt with the Malawi High Commission?

So, if you don't have a bank account or photo ID how do you get your benefits in cash? It's quite difficult.

What you need is someone like me who is daft enough to have the DWP pay the money into his account and who will then send you cash. Has anyone bought a Postal Order recently? Not cheap when you only get £50 a week to cover your food, light, heat etc.

One area that I did anticipate problems with was trying to claim other benefits such as ESA and PIP. I'm a reasonably bright chap with most of my faculties still in



working order but I found the entire system bewildering. I'm all in favour of preventing benefit fraud but why are there two similar medical assessments needed to obtain both these two benefits? Surely one should be sufficient?

Whereas I can't speak about the location of all the Assessment Centres, I can talk about one of the two we visited. Armed with my classmate's letter we set the Satnav and drove off. Public transport wasn't an option as the Centre was in a different town.

Having arrived where the letter said we should be, we were confronted with a PC World on a commercial estate. After milling around a bit I spotted a lady in a wheelchair heading off towards a nearby industrial estate. I thought there was a strong chance she might be going to the same place. This proved to be the case and I'm glad to say that she didn't get run over getting to her appointment as there was no pavement for her to use and she managed to avoid the various lorries that passed her by.

Over the last two years there haven't been many happy times for me and my old school friend.

We had the occasional day out when I drove the 250 miles to where he lived, and eating out was always entertaining.

Amongst other things HD sufferers lose control over their limbs.

My classmate caused chaos in restaurants with food and drink going everywhere. In general, other diners were sympathetic but often we were quietly asked not to return.

Some places however warmly welcomed us back and I am grateful to them for their

understanding as otherwise we would have been barred from all the eating establishments in the town.

Where do other Old Scholars fit into this?

My classmate was a good looking, athletic, popular boy at Sibford who played in a band at some of the reunions we had in London. Having spent a small fortune on supporting my classmate I resorted to Facebook to raise some money for

luxuries ... like a bed.

One person gave £500 and another, who is also on benefits, sent £20 so that our classmate could have a couple of decent Sunday lunches.

One or two withdrew their support when I told them the nature of the crimes but that was more than fair enough.

Many, many people have given me moral support which I've really needed during this sad saga. One donation did make me chuckle.

How were eight place mats going to help someone who was living without a table to eat off, not enough food to feed one person and only one other person who could be remotely thought of as a friend to invite to dinner? They say it's the thought that counts though!

So, where are we now? Well, just over a month ago I was called by a Coroner who informed me that my classmate had been found dead in his flat. As in life nothing is simple in his death.

The flat was initially a potential crime scene but murder has now been ruled out. The body couldn't initially be identified but that was eventually resolved. The autopsy

didn't identify the cause of death so tissue samples have been sent away and there may have to be an inquest. As the cause of death has yet to be determined there is no Death Certificate but I did manage to get an interim document that allowed for a cremation. Edd Frost has provided invaluable support during this time and when I die I want him to see me off.

As Executor of the will, I'm sure that I will have many other delights to look forward to.

As I've said, nothing is ever simple with this person, in life or in death.

To conclude, I entitled this address as 'A testing friendship'. It was Sibford that brought my classmate and me together. Although I had not seen him for over 25 years there was still a small remnant of the person I liked hugely but I continue to struggle with what he did.

What I and many others learned at this School is that all individuals deserve a basic existence whatever a person's failings.

What I've also learned over the last two years is that most Old Scholars will also help someone who is trying to help someone else ... even if they hate what that other person did.

Was I his friend or simply someone who couldn't walk away when there was no one else?

Thank you for listening to me on such a difficult topic. I'm sure that Harriet, who will make this address next year, will choose a lighter topic. Perhaps she will regale you all with anecdotes of her experiences of Sibford over her 175 years of association with Sibford!

### How were eight place mats going to help someone living without a table?

### Most Old Scholars will help someone who is trying to help someone else

# Introducing the new President



Harriet Langridge, SOSA president 2017 ~ 2018

**M**y time at school was between 1975 and 1980, and I was a boarder despite living fairly close by in Bloxham.

My father had suffered a stroke several years earlier, making life difficult for all of us, so I was despatched to Sibford.

In those days, our education was about more than the three R's - but having said that I could have done with someone teaching me how to properly iron a shirt (anyone who was after me in the laundry room will attest to my ineptitude with the iron!).

The Quaker ways were subtle in some ways and routine in others. I remember my Mum saying that she was always impressed at how the whole school would be silent at the start of meetings, plays, or concerts for those few moments.

The teachers all had an effect on how we grew up - some more than others. A few that come to mind are Jim Shields and Alan Jarvis - probably the reason that I went into engineering, and Graeme

Sagar for arranging visits to various companies in 5th form.

Our careers officer had persuaded me that I wouldn't be able to be a helicopter pilot (something to do with being a girl!) so I decided to go into engineering, and was offered a four-year apprenticeship with IMI Norgren.

As their first girl apprentice - something that I didn't actually think about at the time - it must have been quite difficult for the men who taught me. I'm still (30

**Our careers officer had persuaded me that I wouldn't be able to be a helicopter pilot**

plus years later) the only 'girl' who completed the four years there.

It's a shame that more girls were not encouraged to take up this interesting career. Having been told that 'I wasn't good enough for A levels' at school, I took my ONC and HNC ending up in Research

and Development.

A couple of years after my apprenticeship I got the wanderlust, doing a couple of overland trips, through the African continent first, and Asia and the Middle East after.

These were fascinating times, and I look at some of the places I visited, and have photographs of, knowing that after the past few years they will be quite different, if they still exist. I'm so glad that Mum encouraged me to go when we talked of it; I saw life in a very different way, some of it good, some of it not so.

After getting my travelling bug out of my system, I ended up down in Hampshire, working for the next 11 years in a few different roles from Development Engineer, to Sales Engineer to Engineering Buyer.

Industry was changing, and several redundancies later, I had had enough and set out on my own, doing lawn mowing and gardening. Another few years

## President's profile continued

at college was in order and an RHS Certificate and HNC in Horticulture joined my Engineering certificates.

1996 saw me married to Terry, who has managed to put up with my 'why don't you do it like this?' comments when doing something to his Frogeye Sprite, a legacy of my training. Going to car shows was traded for airshows - yes I'm still nuts about helicopters!

Since childhood I had been taken to steam fairs, so was very aware of the wonderful steam traction engines that were on the show circuit. Recently I somehow managed to get involved with helping to run a fabulous McLaren agricultural engine, this led me to start and run a company which sells miniature (quarter, third and half size) traction engine castings

and machining services.

It is due to this that I have gone back to my engineering roots, and have enjoyed the 'regression', including starting to use machines I last used 25 plus years ago. It goes to say that a good training in whatever your chosen career is, will stand you in the best stead.

SOSA has been a part of my life before. In the 1990's I was involved for several years ... and now I'm back!

I truly believe that keeping in touch is very much a two way thing - between School and Old Scholars, for those that wish it. I hope to see some more of my contemporaries this year especially, but in subsequent years too. To quote an elderly advert, 'It's good to talk'.

*Harriet*



Photograph taken by Nickie Logue at a 2017 'Lister Girls Lunch'.

### **Joshua Peter Brooke**

*14 June 1962 ~ October 2017*

*At Sibford 1976 ~ 1980*

We are sad to report the death of Joshua Brooke at the age of 55. Joshua's funeral took place on 27 October at Fairspear Natural Burial Ground at Leafield near Witney.

### **Edward Ernest Goudge**

*25 April 1940 ~ 18 March 2017*

*At Sibford 1951 ~ 1956*

News has reached us about the death at the age of 76 of Eddie Goudge. Eddie was a passionate campaigner for racial equality and used his love of dance to break down barriers. Our condolences go to his wife Margaret and the rest of his family. The following is an extract from an article about Eddie that appeared in the 2012 edition of the SOSA Magazine.

When former Sibford Scholar Eddie Goudge and his wife Margaret moved to South Africa in 1971 to set up a dance school, they weren't going to let a little thing like politics get in their way.

"To be honest I was a bit naïve regarding the political situation in South Africa and in particular, apartheid," said Eddie. "When we saw two different bus stops, one for white and one for blacks it was totally alien to us. So, when we opened the dance school, as far as we were concerned, everyone was welcome. It wasn't in line with the law of the land ... but we didn't care."

While in practice Eddie and Margaret initially did teach only white pupils, their crusade to break down race barriers had begun. In 1979 Eddie became the first white man invited to teach in a coloured area and, in the following year, as Chairman

# Lives Remembered



Eddie and Margaret are pictured during a visit to Sibford back in 2012.

of the local South African Dance Teachers' Association, he managed to get a permit to run a multi-racial dancing competition. "We called it 'normal' but the Association was horrified," said Eddie. "I was castigated and voted out of the chair. But I wasn't going to give up the permit and so we went ahead and ran the competition anyway which set a precedent for future events to be open to all race groups."

Eddie's 'strictly no limits' approach to life was to make a

significant impact on all those he came into contact with. Ultimately his dance studio was made up of 90% of non-white pupils and he has seen his students enjoy considerable success in the dance world.

"We taught one brother and sister (black couple) who went on to become South African Dance Champions and subsequently represented their country in the World African Dance Championships," he said. "That was something that would never have been allowed to happen when we

first moved to the country. There have been times when I

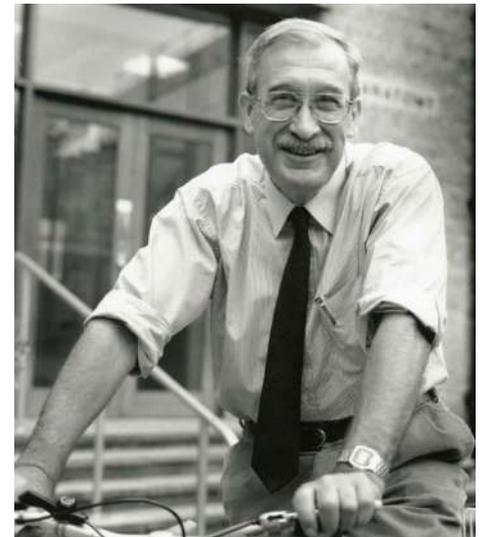
have literally been the only white face in a room full of five or six hundred people, but I was a firm believer that all races should be allowed to mix together. The only way to change attitudes is to start at grassroots level and so that's what we did. I didn't consider what I was doing as brave. To me it was just natural."

Many tributes have been made to Eddie, whose funeral took place on 30th March at Mossel Bay in South Africa. Lee-ann Rayners

said: "I have a very special place in my heart for Eddie. He was an amazing man with so much life till the end." Lesley Van Onselen said: "Still find it hard to believe he's not with us anymore. Such a loss to the dancing world." Caryn Bredenkamp said: "I learnt my very first ballroom dancing steps, a basic rhythm foxtrot, from Eddie in the inaugural year of Stellenbosch University's ballroom dancing club. His gift of partner dancing is something that has stayed with me always, and inspired me to go on from ballroom dancing to years of loving other dance forms too. Perhaps more importantly, his instruction gave me access to a worldwide family of friends who share the passion of dancing so that no matter where I have lived, I have been able to find a place and a people to belong to through dance."

## Rainer Guillery

28 August 1929 ~ 7 April 2017  
At Sibford 1950 ~ 1946



Rainer (Ray) W. Guillery died in Oxford after a short illness. He was 87.

Ray had a long, productive, and impactful career as a neuroscientist. He held professorships in England and the US, including at University

College London, the University of Wisconsin, the University of Chicago, and Oxford University; at the time of his death, he was an Emeritus Research Fellow at Oxford University.

Among his other efforts, he was a past Treasurer of the Society for Neuroscience and was Editor-in-Chief and Founding Editor of the *Journal of European Neuroscience*. Ray was also a Fellow of the Royal Society (London).

Born Rainer Walter Guillery in Greifswald, in north-eastern Germany, his father, Hermann, was a pathologist from a Rhineland Catholic family, and his mother, Eva, was a laboratory technician, from a Russian-Jewish family who had escaped after the Bolshevik revolution.

On both sides he had distinguished scientific forebears: his maternal grandfather was an apothecary, his paternal grandfather an ophthalmologist, and a great-great-uncle on his father's side was Otto Deiters, a pioneering neuroscientist who gave the first accurate description of nerve cells.

Ray's parents divorced when he was two, and he was brought up with his older sister by their mother, initially in Berlin, where he attended the Rudolf Steiner school. In 1938 the family fled, his mother escaping to London, where she took a job as a housekeeper. After a short spell in Switzerland, looked after by a family friend, Guillery joined his sister at a school in Holland, but they were on holiday in England when the Second World War broke out. Evacuated to Oxford, he was sponsored by Oxford Quakers to attend Sibford School, staying during the school holidays with Wilfrid Le Gros Clark, Dr Lee's professor of anatomy, and his wife Freda, who



*Ray is pictured with former Sibford Head, Michael Goodwin, during a visit to the school in 2011.*

was active in the Oxford Refugee Committee. By the end of the war, he said, 'I was an adolescent who was able to think of himself, proudly, as English.'

Reflecting on his time at Sibford in an interview during the summer of 2011 Ray said: "One of my favourite memories of Sibford was the woodwork lessons with Roland Herbert who was an incredible man. The skills I learnt back then have stayed with me throughout my life. When I lived in

Madison, Wisconsin, I had my own workshop and made many toys for my grandchildren, including a rocking horse. I also made a walnut desk for my eldest grandchild who lives in the UK. I had to make it so that it could be transported flat and put together on the other side of the Atlantic, which was quite a challenge."

In fact, Ray had ambitions to become a carpenter but his mother had other ideas and because at that time Sibford had

no sixth form Ray was sent to a grammar school for two years to prepare for the Higher School Certificate.

In 1948, he won a scholarship to read medicine at University College, London, but after a year, encouraged by John Z Young, he switched to anatomy, taking his BSc in 1951. He stayed on to do research, under Young's supervision, on the hypothalamus, for which he was awarded his PhD in 1954. In December that year he married Margot Pepper, a medical student at St Mary's Hospital who later became a dermatologist; they had three sons and a daughter.

Ray never forgot Sibford and in later life kept in very close contact with the school. Rocket editor Ali Bromhall said: "It was my privilege to meet Ray during his visits to Sibford. He was a generous and humble man who always had a smile on his face. The first steps on his career path were made during his time here ... he told me that he had been in Nansen House and, although he didn't realise it at the time, Nansen was a neuroanatomist ... just like Ray was to become."

### Arnold Lamb

31 March 1929 ~ 10 October 2017

Many Old Scholars will remember Arnold Lamb who died on 10 October 2017, aged 88. Arnold was husband of Ina, father to David, Joanna, Colin and Adrian and grandfather of eight grandchildren.

Arnold had strong

connections with the school ... his great, great grandfather, Joshua Lamb, was involved with the school's foundation, and his father-in-law, Roland Herbert, was head of woodwork at Sibford. His funeral was held at Sibford Quaker Meeting House on 20 October.

Frederick Arnold Lamb was born at Woolman Cottage, on Hook Norton Road in Sibford Ferris. It was a small thatched house with no mains water or electricity. His parents, Fred and Ivy, had 6 children – Barbara, Bob, Gerald, Judy, Arnold and Len. Just after the war the family moved to Grounds Farm (where Fred farmed).

Arnold went to Sibford Gower Primary School, which he enjoyed. When his younger brother, Len, got a scholarship to Banbury Grammar School, Arnold went as well, so that he could accompany his brother on the cycle ride to school. Ill health, however, led to Arnold leaving school early (he didn't much like Banbury School any way) and when he recovered, he started work on his father's farm.

Arnold married Ina Herbert on the 7th August 1954 at Sibford Meeting House. At first, they lived with Ina's mother, Eva. They then moved to Pillerton Priors where

they lived in an old army hut, which had previously been used as a cafe. They had a small holding and Arnold worked on threshing gangs and did other agricultural work.

When Arnold took over his

father's share of the farm, the family moved to Grounds Farm. Arnold's sister, Judy also worked on the farm. Later, when she retired, his son, Adrian, joined him. They bred and fattened pigs, had sheep and arable land. Always mindful of animal welfare, the pigs had plenty of room and clean straw. If one of the breeding sows was short of iron, Arnold would even take it out for a walk to allow it to root around in the earth. He won many prizes for the quality of bacon produced from his pigs.

Their four children, David, Joanna, Colin and Adrian were born in quick succession from 1958 to 1962 and Ina became a full time mother as well as farm accountant and part time farm worker.

The farm was very hard work and despite this, Arnold would often be found in his large garden producing a lot of the fruit and vegetables used by the family. Being a farmer and keen gardener weather was always important to him and he recorded rainfall from the rain gauge in the garden.

As well as his gardening, Arnold had a keen interest in nature. He wanted to create a lake to attract all types of wildlife, particularly birds. Not having a site on the farm that could be used, he bought land and built a lake, now usually known as Lamb's Pool. For many years, he wrote the 'nature notes' in the Sibford Scene. He was also a valued member of the Parish Council.

Ina and Arnold then found an acre of land in Sibford Ferris. Not only did it have an area of woodland for wildlife but also an old overgrown rockery. They bought the land and built Back Acre (a pun which Arnold enjoyed). Over time the rockery was made into the beautiful garden that can be seen today.



Arnold was also a keen sportsman. He played cricket, hockey, badminton and tennis competitively but is probably most remembered for table tennis.

Together with Roland Herbert he made Sibford Table Tennis Club's first table and they joined the Banbury and District league, soon after it started. He and Ina had much success and continued to play into their 80s. Indeed, many of the best players in the Banbury League came from Sibford, all introduced to the game by Arnold and Ina.

After his retirement, Arnold became a regular attender of the Society of Friends' Sibford meeting. He has supplied flower arrangements for the meeting, from flowers picked in his garden for several years.

### Janet Sewell née Eavis

12 April 1931 ~ 20 February 2017  
At Sibford 1943 ~ 1948



Sibford was very important to Janet and she was very involved all her life, writes Janet's sister Bridget. She was Head Girl from 1947/48 and later became President of SOSA. For many years, she was a member of the School Committee and General Meeting.

Janet was the eldest of Alan and Irene Eavis's five children and was born at Worthy Farm, Pilton, Somerset ... now more famous as the home of the Glastonbury

Festival!

At the outbreak of war the growing family moved to Pamber Heath in North Hampshire where our parents ran a small holding. They attended Reading and Basingstoke meetings often with us all cycling the eight miles or so.

At that time, school leaving age was 14 years so with no local opportunities for further education our parents made the difficult decision to send Janet to Sibford aged 12 years.

In due course, each of us followed ... Brian in 1945, Helen in 1946, Bridget in 1948 and Rachel in 1950. Quite a commitment and helped by Friends Education Committee and some local authority tuition grants.

In 1948, our parents were able to buy land and a house near Newbury and set up a market garden and later pig farm. For 16 years they trailed up and down to Sibford and prided themselves

on never missing a Parents' weekend. They often stayed at the Cannings' farmhouse in the Ferris with other parents including the Flynns and Quintons.

Janet had a shaky start as her school reports show (she never threw anything away and we found the full set of Sibford reports amongst her possessions!)

At the end of her first term the report shows she was struggling. The English teacher wrote 'she must bestir herself to improve this standard.' We imagine she was finding it difficult being the youngest rather than the eldest and was very homesick. By the

end of the next term however the Head wrote: 'We are very pleased with Janet. She works hard and is reliable, sensible and helpful. Lessons are not easy for her but she is a cheerful trier!' We think that's how she was for the rest of her life ... a cheerful trier!

Music was one of Janet's best subjects and she was praised for her advanced piano playing. We were all to benefit from our Mother's pianistic skills and Father's love of singing. Our family singing around the piano was reinforced at Sibford particularly with A.J. and Sunday morning Choral. Janet belonged to choirs all her life, ending with the Penn singers and Jordans choir.

By the end of five years at Sibford Janet had blossomed and A.J. described her as 'a loyal, conscientious and trustworthy head girl'. Those of us who knew Janet all her life can recognize those qualities.



After Sibford and a year working at a Nursery school, Janet went to Doncaster to teacher training college. Then a successful teaching career via Leicester and London.

She loved London and enjoyed showing visitors around. She was very involved in the Friends International Centre, Tavistock Square,

and made many long-lasting friends around the world. We always teased her as everywhere she travelled she had a contact and usually a bed!

She had her first headship at the University Primary School in Accra, Ghana and was there for five years just after their independence, so

exciting and challenging times. Back in London and two headships of schools (both near prisons, Holloway and Pentonville, which she always laughed about) she ended her career with the ILEA as Primary Schools Inspector and Advisor.

For several summers, Janet took groups of children from Inner London to Sibford for a camping holiday on the playing field. They were happy times and the children must have benefited from the experience.

Swimming was another of Janet's passions and during the war it was almost unheard of to have swimming lessons. That incredible little pool at the old school started so many of us off and into a life time of swimming pleasure. When she was on the School Committee, Janet set up an appeal for the proposed new pool as she felt so strongly that the new buildings should include a good facility.

In 1977, whilst serving on the School Committee, Janet met the recently widowed Joseph Sewell and they married in Friends House, Euston Road. It was witnessed by a large gathering of family and friends, many with Sibford connections. Both Janet and Joe continued on their Sibford Committees and it was a happy marriage lasting 33 years until Joe's death in 2011. They lived in Beaconsfield for most of those years and were members of Jordans Meeting. Janet embraced all of Joe's family and delighted in the grandchildren and later great grandchildren.

She served on numerous Friends Committees and Trusts, as well as being a governor at a local special school and undertaking voluntary work for Oxfam, a retirement home and the local Music Society. She was a founder member of

the Quaker tapestry and helped organise to take it to Bayeux for a few weeks one summer.

All those strong and secure early influences from family and school sustained and made Janet the cheerful, competent, capable and compassionate person she was. With her failing health, she spent her last year in a care home in Headington, Oxford, where she was looked after with great affection and respect and had more visitors than anyone else!

### **Margaret Joan Shields née Bailey**

*1 April 1922 ~ 30 May 2017*

*former Sibford teacher married to  
Jim Shields, Head of Science*

Joan Bailey was born in Sunbury-on-Thames, where her parents ran a chemist's shop. Her sister, Betty, was born three years later.

Joan had many happy memories of their childhood, especially of fishing in the river for tiddlers, family rowing trips upriver and holidays in Edenbridge on the farm run by her grandmother and uncle.

During the war, Joan finished her schooling at Twickenham High School, then trained as a teacher of domestic science at Battersea Polytechnic. She married James Shields in 1947 and when Jim got a job teaching at Leominster High School they bought their first house in Kingsland, where Christine was born.

In 1956, Jim was appointed to teach science at Sibford School, and the family packed themselves, their ginger cat and many of their possessions into their Morris Minor and installed themselves in Beech Cottage.

Joan loved Sibford, and involved herself in the local Bright Hour meetings, the fetes and the events at both Sibford School and Sibford Gower School – as well as caring



for her daughters and looking after her two nephews for long periods.

Money was tight, but Joan was an excellent manager, and would often stay up late into the night to run up clothes for the children on her Singer treadle sewing machine. She would save out of the housekeeping so that the family could take a holiday each year.

When Chris was 10, Joan returned to teaching, first as a domestic science teacher at Sibford School and then as a teacher at the primary school in Sibford Gower, where she remained until her retirement.

Jim and Joan followed the Christian faith throughout their lives. When the family was young they attended the Baptist Chapel in Hook Norton. Later, Joan and Jim became attenders at the Quaker Meeting in Sibford, and Jim was buried there in 2010.

Joan spent a long period as a carer for Jim, who developed dementia in his final years. In the last years of Joan's own life she suffered several fractures and was registered blind due to macular degeneration, but she received help and support from her much-loved friends, neighbours and carers.

## SIBFORD OLD SCHOLARS' ASSOCIATION Officers and Committee from 01/08/2017



Harriet Langridge, Paul Levy, Ashley Shirlin, Richard Hughes, Navid Sadrzadeh, Edd Frost, Annie Broe, Simon Matthews

### **PRESIDENT**

Harriet Langridge

### **VICE PRESIDENT**

Paul Levy

### **RETIRING PRESIDENT**

Ashley Shirlin

### **GENERAL SECRETARY**

Ashley Shirlin Tel: 07545 704620 Email: ashleyshirlinsosa@outlook.com

### **TREASURER**

Richard Hughes

### **REUNION SECRETARY**

Navid Sadrzadeh

### **COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Edd Frost, Annie Broe, Simon Matthews (co-opted)



### **SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES**

Margaret Shelley (January 2012 until December 2019)

Amanda Brown (January 2018 until December 2021)



Please note that if you wish to contact any of the above Committee Members please do so by addressing your enquiry through the General Secretary – Ashley Shirlin (details as above) who will forward on your emails/correspondence etc. Ashley is also the person to contact for general enquiries and to submit information for inclusion on the website.



### **SOSA MEMBERSHIP & ALUMNI CO-ORDINATOR**

Wendy Finch

Email: wfinch@sibfordschool.co.uk

### **SCHOOL MEMBERS**



Toby Spence (Head)

Tel: 01295 781200 Email: tspence@sibfordschool.co.uk



Peter Robinson (Business Manager)

Tel: 01295 781210 Email: probinson@sibfordschool.co.uk



### **ROCKET EDITOR**

Ali Bromhall (Sibford School Community Development Officer)

Tel: 01295 781216 Email: abromhall@sibfordschool.co.uk

For further information about Sibford Old Scholars' Association  
visit our website: [www.sibfordoldscholars.com](http://www.sibfordoldscholars.com)

For further information about Sibford School visit: [www.sibfordschool.co.uk](http://www.sibfordschool.co.uk)