



WISPO SCENE

Christmas 1978

NUMBER 21

CHRISTMAS EVE 11.30 p.m. MIDNIGHT MASS
CHRISTMAS DAY 11.00 a.m. FAMILY HOLY COMMUNION

Received
4/12/78

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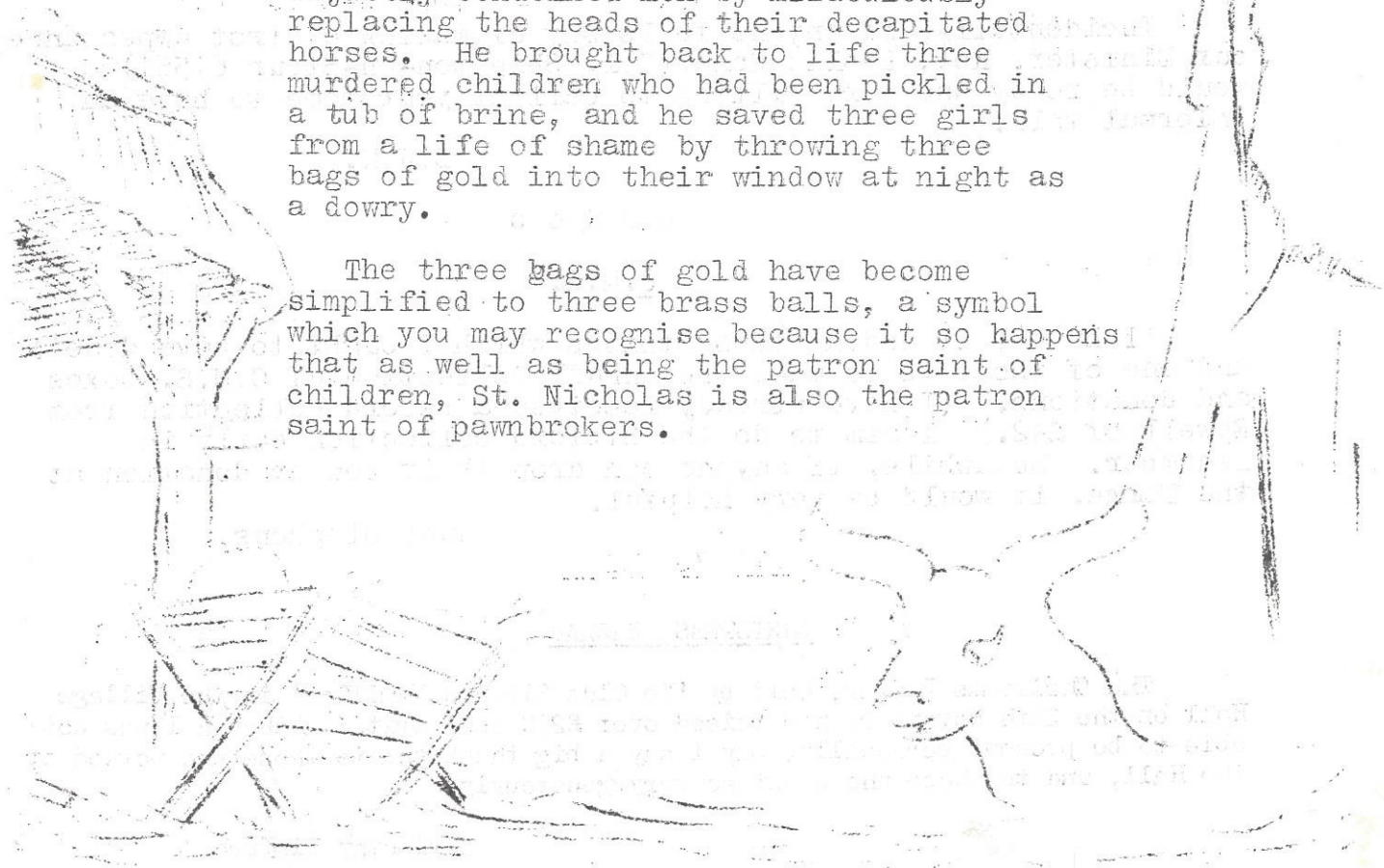
FATHER CHRISTMAS AND THE PAWNBROKER

There is a connection between Father Christmas and Pawnbrokers, although it is no indication of the source of his gifts!

The origin of Father Christmas seems to be with St. Nicholas, a bishop in Asia Minor in the fourth century, but of whom very little else is known. Presents were given on his feast day (6th December) and the name Santa Claus is merely the American corruption of the Sinte Klaas of the Dutch colonists of the New World.

There are numerous stories about him. He is said to have aided the escape of three unjustly condemned men by miraculously replacing the heads of their decapitated horses. He brought back to life three murdered children who had been pickled in a tub of brine, and he saved three girls from a life of shame by throwing three bags of gold into their window at night as a dowry.

The three bags of gold have become simplified to three brass balls, a symbol which you may recognise because it so happens that as well as being the patron saint of children, St. Nicholas is also the patron saint of pawnbrokers.



UNITED BENEFICE EUCHARIST

This will be at 10.00 am. on New Year's Eve. The first part of the service will be a sort of Carol Service, and will also include the Toy Service of earlier years. The toys will be donated to the Red Cross Toy Library in Banbury.

We hope for a good response, not least because we shall all have enjoyed our own Christmas so greatly and this simple offering will help those handicapped children to enjoy themselves a little more too.

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SIBFORD METHODIST CHURCH

The Sale of Work held on 4th November was a resounding success and the Church's grateful thanks are offered to all the individuals, Methodists and non-Methodists alike, who worked so hard to stage it, and particularly to the large numbers of people of all ages and denominations who spent so freely.

The amount raised, after all expenses, exceeds £160 - a magnificent effort.

Now so many people have realised there is an active Methodist Church in Sibford Gower, it would appear to be the right opportunity to remind everybody that there is a service every Sunday morning at 11.00 a.m. to which everyone is welcome.

On Sunday December 24th (Christmas Eve) the Chairman of the Oxford and Leicester District of the Methodist Church, Rev. Dennis Williams, will take the service. Do come and enjoy a real Christmastime service.

Incidentally, if anyone feels shy of making a first appearance, our Minister, Rev. Leslie Hann, (Tel. Shipston-on-Stour 61561) would be ready and very willing to call at your home to have an informal talk.

D.J.K.

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C.M.S.

'I have left undone those things which I ought to have done!' and one of those is to make the annual collection of C.M.S. boxes and donations. (I have already received a record collection from Epwell of £42.) I aim to do the Sibford collection early in December. Meanwhile, if anyone can drop their box or donation at the Forge, it would be very helpful.

Anne Stephens.

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

The Christmas Bazaar, held by 'Ye Olde Sibford Families' in the Village Hall on the 25th November, has raised over £270 as I write: although I was not able to be present personally, may I say a big thank you to those who worked at the Hall, and to those who spent so very generously.

Timothy Wimbush.

THE QUIZ

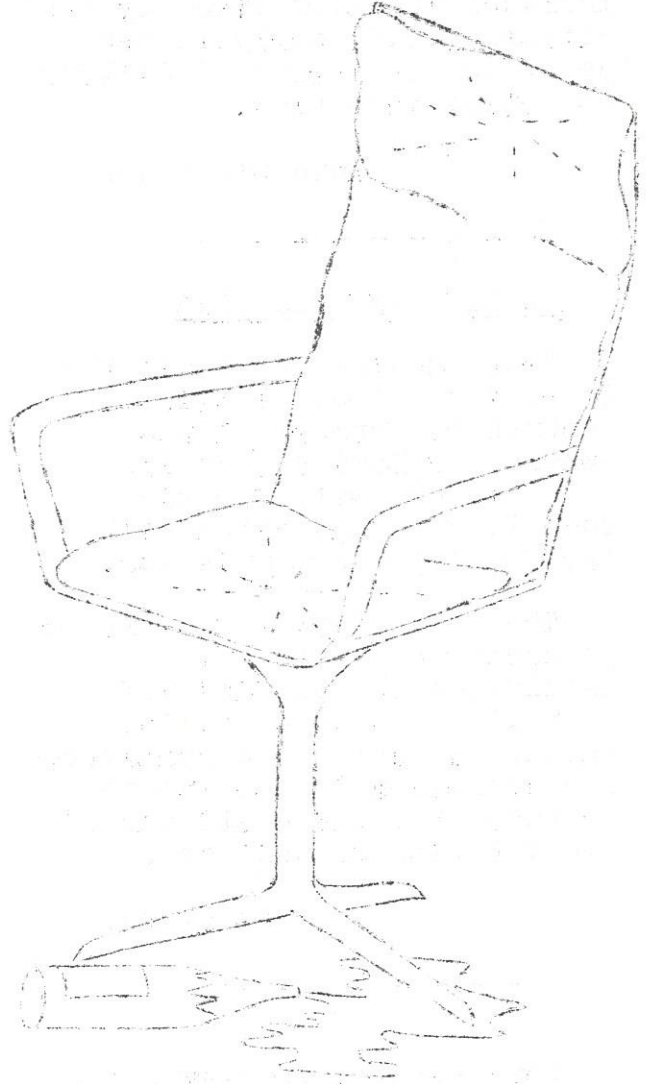
To the music of Mastermind and with standing room only, the 21st Anniversary Village Hall Quiz began.

Ten teams of four, representing the British Legion, Horticultural Society, Friendship Club, P.T.A., Methodists, Playgroup, Cricket Club, Parish Church, W.I. and Folk Dance Club, were set to battle their wits against the wide-ranging and finely balanced questions posed by Margaret Le Mare.

You might have mistaken it for a race course to see the captains waving their arms to communicate their position in the draw to their teams. And with speedy changeovers, the wizardry of Keith Hicks' electronic scoring, and microphones that worked without any blowing or banging, the quiz moved at a gallop with never a moment to be bored.

The audience of course knew all the answers, sometimes with unanimous inaccuracy. Dr Agnew identified his own house, but the P.T.A. didn't know the school bell tower. Dame Anne got the D.F.C. and the Methodists didn't get the winner of the Grand National, ('We're Methodists' they said.) and we all hummed the Choral Symphony. And the winners- the Parish Church team of Dame Anne Stephens, Mrs Stroud, John Mulley and the Rector, hotly pursued by the W.I. and Horticultural Society.

After the presentation of the Eric Flinn Cup by Norman Coxon we enjoyed wine and cheese and a fascinating cameo in sound of the original opening celebrations. The health of the Hall was drunk in champagne provided by Dr Agnew, chairman of the committee when the Hall was built. As he said, 'However widely people travel, Sibford is the place they like to come home to.'



CORRECTION

The accounts for the Village Hall Fete printed last month should have shown donations as £2, not £12.

ABLE BODIED PERSON required by the Playgroup to help put out equipment in the Village Hall from 9.00 to 9.30 a.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays during term time. Weekly payment. Please apply Swalcliffe 529.

LEND A HAND TO SALLY ANN

Thank you Sibford for a splendid collection of £140.90 which must be an all-time record for our three villages. And very many thanks to the collectors who did all the work.

The Grand Total of the Appeal is now £85,000, which of course includes the £100 given by the Sibford P.C.C. early in the year, so the target of £114,000 is coming into view.

Anne Stephens.

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AMENITY TREE PLANTING

Grant monies are available to approved tree planting schemes by farmers, land-owners and Parish Councils from the Cherwell District Council in conjunction with the Countryside Commission.

The Gower Parish Council are producing a scheme for submission to the District Council for 1978 - 79, but anyone wishing to be considered for inclusion in any future schemes should consult one of their Parish Councillors.

Maureen Hicks.

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SIBFORD VILLAGE CHRISTMAS CARDS

Attractive Christmas cards showing the village scene at the start of this century are available from

Miss M. Le Mare
Mr N. Coxon
Mrs P. Cookson
Mrs J. Woolerton
Mr G. Rivers

5 cards for 20 pence.

MUSIC AT ILMINGTON

You have probably heard the playing of violinist Richard Springate without realising it. Now he can be both seen and heard.

Mr Springate moved to the Old Court House, in the Ferris about two years ago, looking for a change from life in the big city. What is it about the Ferris that seems to attract musicians?

Much of his professional life has been spent with the B.B.C., both as a soloist and at one time as a Principal with the B.B.C. Scottish Symphony Orchestra. Recently he has been involved with several of the Royal Shakespeare Company's productions as well as playing with the major London orchestras.

His latest venture is forming a duo with pianist Katharine Bennett who also has Stratford connections. They can be heard playing Sonatas by Corelli, Beethoven, Delius, Ives and Dvorak at a concert in St Mary's Church, Ilmington, on Saturday, 16th December at 7.30. Programmes can be bought at the door (£1, Children 50p) or from the Old Court House (Swa. 340).

They hope that a concert here in Sibford might also be possible before too long.

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SMALL ADS A PENNY A WORD

SELF DRIVE Maxi hire now mini rates. Dormobile motor caravan available early 1979. Phone Swalcliffe 522.

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CHILD'S GOLLIWOG found after Methodist sale. Contact Swalcliffe 401.

YOUTH CLUB NEWS

The Club has made a good start under the leadership of David Baker, helped by Barry Gilbert and Mrs Baker. The average attendance is between 30 and 40.

Amongst other activities, a sponsored walk to raise money for the Senior Citizens' party raised about £50.

Congratulations to all concerned!

We are very fortunate as a village to have such a dedicated leader, and David deserves our utmost support. Now that the club is in full swing, he finds that he really needs another assistant - what about it Sibford?

If you could spare an hour or two on Monday evenings, and get on with young people, please get in touch with us. You would be doing a really worthwhile job.

Joan Shields (Swa. 571)

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PLAYGROUP

Come to see FATHER CHRISTMAS at the PLAYGROUP CHRISTMAS BAZAAR on Saturday 9th December in the Village Hall at 2.30 p.m.

Stalls include Toys, Plants, Christmas Paper and Trimmings, White Elephant, Cakes, Bottle Stall, and Wheel of Fortune.

Admission - Adults 10p
Children and O.A.Ps 5p
Tea or orange juice included.

LEO CLUB

The December meeting is a Christmas party to be held at Temple Lodge on Tuesday 19th at 8.00 p.m. Everyone is invited.

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W.I.

STRAWBERRY JAM

On December 12th at 2.45 in the Village Hall, the W.I. are putting on a play "Strawberry Jam". Everyone is invited, particularly former W.I. members. Entrance 20p includes tea and cake.

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FRIENDSHIP CLUB

Tues. December 5th

An invitation to the Friends School to be entertained by some of their junior pupils.

Tues. December 19th

Club Christmas tea in the Village Hall, including Carol Singing.

This is a very special occasion as it is the time when thanks are given to all the voluntary helpers and drivers. And this year there will be two special guests, the Town Mayor and Mayoress of Banbury.

Please note that there will not be a meeting on Tues. 2nd January.

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HAPPY
CHRISTMAS
TO ALL OUR READERS

And thank you to everyone who has written, typed, titled, duplicated, drawn, delivered or otherwise contributed to Sibford Scene this year.

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CALENDAR FOR DECEMBER

CHURCH SERVICES

FRIENDS Meeting for Worship Sunday 11 a.m.

METHODISTS Morning Service Sunday 11 a.m.

HOLY TRINITY 1st Sunday 8.30 Holy Communion
 2nd Sunday 10.30 Holy Communion
 3rd Sunday 3.30 Evensong
 4th Sunday 8.30 Holy Communion (Christmas Eve)
 5th Sunday 10.00 United Benefice Eucharist

Sunday School every Sunday 11.30 in Church.

TUESDAY 5th FRIENDSHIP CLUB. Entertainment at Friends' School
 SATURDAY 9th PLAYGROUP BAZAAR 2.30 Village Hall

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TUESDAY 12th W.I. Play STRAWBERRY JAM. 2.45 Village Hall
 SATURDAY 16th CONCERT at St Mary's Church, Ilmington. 7.30

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MONDAY 18th WARRINER SCHOOL CAROL SERVICE 7.30 Bloxham Church
 TUESDAY 19th FRIENDSHIP CLUB CHRISTMAS TEA Village Hall
 TUESDAY 19th LEO CLUB PARTY 8.00
 THURSDAY 21st HOLY COMMUNION 7.30 p.m. S. Thomas

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SUNDAY 24th METHODIST SERVICE taken by DISTRICT CHAIRMAN 11.00
 SUNDAY 24th MIDNIGHT MASS 11.30 p.m.
 MONDAY 25th CHRISTMAS DAY Family Holy Communion 11.00

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SUNDAY 31st UNITED BENEFICE EUCHARIST 10.00 a.m.

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 EDITOR
 Jennifer Austing, 6, Barley Close. Tel. 358
 PRODUCTION
 Richard Austing, Keith Hicks, Timothy Wimbush
 (Material for the January issue by Wednesday
 20th December please - earlier if possible!)