

SIBFORD SCENE

FEBRUARY 1979

NUMBER 22

MRS DOOLAN'S CLOSE ENCOUNTER

(As related to Joey Woodall)

Mrs Doolan got out of bed on January 3rd at 6.15 a.m. She looked out of the window to see if it was snowing and, to her amazement, hovering in the sky just over the trees beyond Cotswold Close, was 'This big orange thing, as big as the moon'. She ran downstairs and it moved very slowly across the sky, up the valley on a level with the treetops. She opened the window a couple of inches to be sure she wasn't seeing things and it speeded up and moved silently away in the direction of Wigginton.

Another lady who wishes to remain anonymous, not wanting to be thought 'a loon', got up to feed her baby at 6.15 a.m. on Saturday 6th January and saw in a similar position a motionless but extremely bright 'thing'. On January 9th, again at 6.15, she saw the same very white, bright object, too big to be a star, and surrounded by haze. She called her husband who agreed it was something very odd.

All these sightings have been in Sibford Ferris, so turn your eyes skyward at 6.15 a.m. and let us know what you see.

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OTHER EARLY MORNING CALLERS

So many references to 6.15 are enough to make most of us shudder and huddle further under the blankets. If we are awake at all we might listen in amazement to the clink of the milk bottles that arrive regularly whatever the weather throws up. In fact, there has not been a day when the milk and papers have failed to appear. Thank you Mr Hall and Mr Stevens!

And turn to page three for the story of the milk lady in the snows of 1947, the Brailles bus stuck for a month and strange objects in Grange Lane.

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WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

An advance notice as the day falls very early next month. There will be a service at 10.30 a.m. on Friday, 2nd March. Look out for further details.

W.I.

Tuesday, February 13th
Village Hall 2.00 p.m.

Mr F. Courtney-Thompson
of the British Wild Life Fund
will talk on Conservation.

The Upholstery Classes continue
on Wednesdays in the Village
Hall (except February 14th).

HOOK NORTON EVENING CENTRE

Two new four-week courses:
Beginning Monday 26th February
at 7.30

OUR COUNTRYSIDE

with Mr Mont Hiron, preparing
for a summer course outdoors.

Beginning Wednesday 28th Feb.
at 2.15

ARRANGING SPRING FLOWERS

with Mrs Ruth Horbock of
Leicester Flower Guild.

Enquiries to Mr Alan Sibson
Hook Norton 737737

FRIENDSHIP CLUB

FEBRUARY MEETINGS

Tuesday 6th - Sgt Lofthouse of
Banbury Police will present a
film and talk on 'Crime
Protection in House and Street'.

Saturday 17th - Jumble Sale
2.30 Village Hall.
Admission 5p (includes tea and
biscuit). Children free (drinks
on sale).

Tuesday 20th - A visit from the
American Ladies Choir
Village Hall.

The Club's January meeting
had to be cancelled because of
the weather, but Miss Bennett
and Mrs Flinn braved the black
ice to make sure that the
welfare foods were delivered to
all the members.

Old Christmas Cards - Broken dolls

These are just two of the
materials that can be used by
Mrs Harris of Chipping Norton
for her various crafts, all
sold in aid of charity.
Contributions can be channelled
to her through the Friendship Club.

MEALS ON WHEELS - GENTLEMEN TO THE RESCUE

Ice and snow would cause havoc in the delivery of these meals
on which many elderly people depend, were it not for the help of
David Dyer with his Range Rover, and Norman Coxon, who helps with
delivery. They turn out whenever conditions are too bad for the
ordinary cars of the usual team and their invaluable help is much
appreciated.

In normal times, the meals are collected from the Friends'
School and taken around the Sibfords by Mrs Flinn's team of
W.R.V.S. helpers. Another batch is taken, still hot, to
Swalcliffe where Mrs Robinson organises delivery in that village
and Tadmarton.

WHERE ARE THE SNOWS OF YESTERYEAR ?

The winter of 1946-47 brought the worst snow storms that many local people could remember.

It started about mid-day with sleet and a N.E. wind and continued for two days without a break.

The villages were completely cut off from all areas. The Brailes bus, taking Alcan workers home, was buried on the Turnpike (Shipston-Banbury Road) but no-one was left in to suffer.

The telephone wires could not be seen beneath the snow. Local men walked over the hedges and fields to Epwell for their bread to the usual baker, Mr Griffin.

Sheep suffered mostly, not through lack of food but by the effect of the snow which caused their fleeces to ice up.

From door to door throughout the spell went the milk lady with her milk buckets, truck and pony and trap.

The snow was still lying under the hedges in April.

(Anon - unless you remember who the milk lady was.)

So you think that weatherwise, if not in many other directions, New Year 1979 is being tough. But, to date, this spell of Arctic is but a shower compared with 1963.

Starting on Boxing Day 1962, the Easterly blast, right from the Russian Steppes, carried a seemingly endless snow blanket until early March. Its only virtue was in the fact that soon all our windward draught holes were staunch. Drifts of seven feet were commonplace in Ferris main street, and, but for the lucky fact that Stewarts' diggers made their daily foray to distant points, we would certainly have been marooned. Grange Lane was impassable to cars for some twelve weeks.... and herein lies the only commendation for the 'prairieing' (to the country lover) of farmland, in that wherever snow lay many feet deep to the leeward of hedges, then a few feet further over was a parallel strip of bare ground. i.e. hedges caused drifts.

I drove along Grange Lane on the first possible day and had an interesting experience. Adjacent to Neil Marten's house, a tiny glint on the snow top near the hedge caused me to investigate. It proved to be the top of a car wing mirror. Nuf Sed!

During the period only sporadic sightings of the resident birds or starving hares, pheasant or rabbits were made. The national population of common wren was nearly obliterated; but remarkably, some ornithologists think it may now be our most common resident.

Frank Rollett.

SMALL ADS A PENNY A WORD

TYPING SERVICES - Ex-secretary/mother-to-be would like work at home. Own typewriter. Swalecliffe 752.

TEA ROOMS now open at Hook Norton. Open Saturdays and Sundays. Home made cakes etc. Pottery and bric-a-brac for sale. No. 1 High Street, Hook Norton. Phone Hook Norton 737555.

LEO AUCTION

The Leo Club's March activity is going to be an auction of goods that the members have made themselves. All sorts of articles will be welcome - so why not start making something now?

LOOKING AHEAD TO AUTUMN

Sibford is very fortunate in being served by the Hook Norton Evening Centre (which, incidentally, runs afternoon classes too). People travel there from a very wide area, but, of course, its backbone must be the neighbouring villages.

The programme for next Autumn is now being prepared and Alan Sibson, the secretary, is always glad to hear of requests or suggestions for classes or tutors. If you have any ideas, why not contact him (H.N. 737737) as soon as possible, and who knows, your wish may be granted.

A HAPPY HOME RECIPE

(Origin Unknown)

4 cups of love	2 spoons hope
2 cups loyalty	2 spoons tenderness
3 cups forgiveness	1 pint faith
1 cup friendship	work and play
1 cup kindness	4 cups laughter

Take love and loyalty, mix thoroughly with faith. Blend it with tenderness, kindness and understanding. Gently stir in forgiveness. Add friendship and hope. Season heavily with work and play. Sprinkle abundantly with laughter. Bake it with sunshine. Serve daily in generous helpings. This recipe serves any size family.

SIBFORD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

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* We are holding our VALENTINE DANCE On *
* Wednesday , 14th February. 9.00p.m. to 1.00 a.m. *
* Dancing to the Brownie Lay Band *
* Tickets £1.25 available from Mrs Law, Mrs Butler, *
* Mrs Turner, Roger Lambert and John Sabin. *
* *

To enable you to prepare for this year's Show, the Handicraft Section will be as follows.

- C.21 Knitted garment for a child
- C.22 Knitted gloves
- C.23 A peg bag
- C.24 An oven glove
- C.25 Happy snapshot. (print not to exceed 5" x 4")
- C.26 Animal or bird photograph
- C.27 Handicraft exhibit (men)
- C.28 Painting (amateur)
- C. 29 A collage.

New members will be very welcome at our monthly meetings.
Subscription 50p.

John Sabin

THE GARDEN THIS MONTH

The ground will take some time yet to recover from the punishing weather of the last few weeks, although, if you were lucky or wise enough to have dug your vegetable garden last Autumn, the frost and snow will have done a lot of good. When the drying winds have done their part, it can be broken down to make a good seed bed.

Meanwhile, finish cutting down and clearing up unwanted growth on perennials, shrubs and climbers, but it is probably best to leave rose pruning for a week or two. Dormant fruit trees, canes and bushes should be sprayed with tar oil to discourage aphid and sucking insect eggs from hatching later.

Greenhouse owners can 'spring clean' their houses and frames by fumigating, washing glass with a dilute mixture of warm water and Jeyes Fluid, rubbing down the staging and washing flower pots with any solution left over.

Jardin.

CALENDAR FOR FEBRUARY

CHURCH SERVICES

FRIENDS Meeting for Worship Sunday 11.00 a.m.
 METHODISTS Morning Service Sunday 11.00 a.m.
 HOLY TRINITY 4th Holy Communion 8.30 a.m.
 11th and 25th Holy Communion 10.30 a.m.
 18th Evensong 3.30 p.m.

Sunday School 11.30 a.m. in Church each week.

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FRIDAY 2nd CANDLEMAS Holy Communion 7.30 p.m.

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TUESDAY 6th FRIENDSHIP CLUB Crime Protection
 WEDNESDAY 7th UPHOLSTERY CLASS

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TUESDAY 13th W.I. Conservation - Mr F. Courtney-Thompson.
 WEDNESDAY 14th HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY Valentines Dance
 SATURDAY 17th FRIENDSHIP CLUB Jumble Sale 2.30 Village Hall

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TUESDAY 20th FRIENDSHIP CLUB American Ladies Choir
 WEDNESDAY 21st UPHOLSTERY CLASS

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MONDAY 26th HOOK NORTON 'Countryside' Course begins. 7.30
 TUESDAY 27th LEO CLUB
 WEDNESDAY 28th UPHOLSTERY CLASS
 HOOK NORTON 'Arranging Spring Flowers' course
 begins 2.15
 ASH WEDNESDAY Holy Communion with Hymns 8.00 p.m.

EDITOR

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PRODUCTION

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Material for the March issue by Tuesday
 February 20th please.