

Received  
2/3/79

# SIBFORD SCENE

MARCH 1979

NUMBER 23

This is Sibford Scene's second anniversary edition. We are very grateful to all who regularly send in news and features, but it would be splendid if Scene's third year could cast the net wider still. Why not share your idea or enthusiasm or memory with your neighbours? The village pays for the magazine after all, so it ought to reflect everybody's views.

Last month's articles on the great snows reminded Mrs E. Rignell of other horrors - gales and landslides. She writes:

We walked over the hedges and fields from Pound Lane. I have a picture of the bus after the snow had been dug away.

Also we had a terrific gale one weekend. I can't remember what year. It took part of the thatched roof off the Court House and also the cottage where Mr Woodhouse lives. Farther down Bonds End Lane, where I lived, it blew a boarded up window all across the bedroom and part of another and lifted the gable end off the roof. That night we slept downstairs by the fire.

I expect there are other people who can remember the landslide at Tyne Hill (1916) which blocked the main road for a long time. Traffic was diverted through Sibford to Brailes and Shipston.

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## SUMMER'S COMING - OFFICIAL

A reminder that British Summertime begins on Sunday 18th March. At 2.00 a.m. clocks should be put forward one hour.

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## WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

This year the service has been prepared by the women at a Pan-African leadership course in Mindolo, and the theme is spiritual growth. Women of all denominations and nationalities join together on the first Friday in March in prayer and meditation.

In Sibford there will be a service in the Methodist Church at 10.30 on Friday March 2nd, followed by coffee and biscuits. Why not come and join in?

## RIDGE AND FURROW

The receding snow provides a good opportunity to observe the ridge and furrow pattern of a number of the fields in this area, for the snow remains longer in the furrow than on the ridge.

I had assumed, from history lessons at school, that this washboard effect on the fields was evidence of ancient strip cultivation before enclosure. The open fields of the Anglo-Saxons were commonly divided into many long, narrow strips which were parcelled out to individuals to cultivate. The up-and-down ploughing of the strips with a certain type of plough threw the soil towards the centre producing a high ridge and this effect, incredibly, can still be seen in many areas today.

Two things puzzle me. In many fields the ridged strips appear too narrow and in too haphazard a pattern to have been conveniently cultivated. Further, in aerial photographs many of the strip patterns terminate at the present boundaries of the fields, suggesting that the effect appeared after enclosure.

A possible answer is that there are two distinct types of ridge and furrow, one a residue of the ancient strip cultivation, and the other of more recent agricultural methods. This conclusion is supported by Professor W. G. Hoskins in 'The Making of the English Landscape', but he suggests no cause of the more recent ridge and furrow. One popular explanation is that it is the result of drainage requirements. But, near Sibford, fields which are steeply sloping show the effect; they wouldn't need superficial drainage so that answer doesn't seem very likely. One local farmer I consulted believed that fields were deliberately ploughed that way to increase the surface area, and thus, the yield. However, I suspect that this would involve a considerable amount of extra work for a rather marginal result.

So I am still puzzled. Does anyone know the answer?

Richard Austing.

### SAVE THE CHILDREN WEEK

Save The Children Week is the last week of April. Unless there are any offers we will not be holding a Coffee Morning this year, but hope to enlarge the door-to-door collection.

If there are any willing bodies who could help with the collection during that week, please contact Sue Lambert; Swalcliffe 544.

## THEATRE IN SIBFORD

The Ridgeway Players will be here again in March. Many will remember their very professional and enjoyable production of 'Relatively Speaking' last year. On Thursday March 15th at 8.00 they will present 'The Secretary Bird' by William Douglas-Home.

Tickets, price 75p, available from Miss Bennett, Sibford Gower, and Mrs Wollerton, Penn House, Sibford Ferris.

Special arrangements for scholars and Friendship Club members.

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## A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

SIBFORD FETE WILL BE HELD ON

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 8th

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## RED CROSS FIRST AID COURSE

A course will be held in Sibford on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 24th April to 7th June.

Full details next month.

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## HOOK NORTON EVENING CENTRE

On Friday March 23rd the Centre will be holding an Open Evening.

Exhibitions of Painting,  
Pewterwork and Upholstery

Slides of Hook Norton Old and New

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## C.M.S.

Coffee Morning  
Wednesday 21st March  
at Barn Close, Burdrop  
10.30 a.m.

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## W.I.

The monthly meeting on Tuesday 13th March will feature a speaker from the Lace-makers Guild of Kidlington.  
2.00 Village Hall.

## Jumble Sale

Saturday 24th March at 2.30 in the Village Hall.

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## THE LEO CLUB

The March meeting will be an auction of goods made by the members.

Tuesday 27th at 8.00 p.m.  
Temple Lodge, Sibford Gower.

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## ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

Mrs Woodhouse will be holding a Coffee Morning with Bring and Buy from 10.30 on Wednesday 4th April.

The Cottage, Bonds End Lane.

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## VALENTINES IN MARCH

The Horticultural Society are very sorry that the snow caused their St Valentines Dance to be cancelled, but are glad to announce that they have been able to re-arrange it for Friday 23rd March. Times and details as before.

They have a very limited number of tickets left so there's still time to arrange a little romance.

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## MARCH - A MONTH OF FESTIVALS

Daffodils

That come before the swallow dares, and take  
The winds of March with beauty.

How we look forward to such days after the last few weeks when it has seemed that Heaven was shut up and God and His Saints slept as the writer said of the winter of civil war and bitter weather in 1142. But we can take heart, the March calendar is full of Saints and notable dates that herald the return of life and light as we go to the Spring equinox.

St David leads the way on March 1st and, no doubt, he will be the inspiration of all Welshmen when Referendum day comes; meantime we can all enjoy leek pie on his birthday. St Chad is remembered next day: he was a Northumbrian, good leek growing country, so he would make a good neighbour to St David. They are both associated in rhyme with cultivation:

Sow beans or peas on David or Chad  
Be the weather good or bad.

St Gregory comes next on 12th. As Pope Gregory the Great he sent Augustine to bring the Gospel to England. Landing in Thanet with forty monks, the Light was brought to us.

The Patron Saint of Ireland, St Patrick, is remembered on March 17th, a great day for celebration there and, we are told, the signal for all good Irishmen to plant their potatoes. I doubt many Englishmen will do that this year - they will be busy advancing their clocks by one hour at midnight in the fond delusion of 'Summer Time' giving us extra daylight to the detriment of early risers and the delight of schoolchildren.

This year, the Vernal Equinox coincides with St Benedict's day on March 21st, from then we can feel that we have turned the corner and winter is falling behind us. Another coincidence occurs on the 25th, Lady Day, the Feast of the Annunciation, falls on the fourth Sunday in Lent which is Mothering Sunday, a festival surviving from the time when many country girls went out to service in large houses. This Sunday was one of their few days off, so they would walk home, gathering a posy of wild flowers on the way to give to mother who would be preparing dinner of roast veal, egg custard and simnel cake. The posy may have survived, though from a forest, but the veal? 'Where have all the calves gone? Gone to Europe every one.' Yes, gone the way of other traditional English foods, the herring and the cod.

Nevertheless, we still have good stout Englishmen - and women - Spring is nearly here and so are sunshine and flowers.

Gloria in Excelsis Deo, as the Saints said.

Geoffrey Law.

## THE GARDEN IN MARCH

We shall welcome the drying winds of March this year and hope that some sunshine comes with them to help prepare the ground, or at least enable us to work on it. A sprinkling of Growmore fertilizer could be worked in where early crops are to be sown later in the month. The same fertilizer, sprinkled around fruit trees, but not too close to the stem, will benefit the crop at setting time. Don't rush to sow seeds into cold, wet ground, but if you have cloches or frames, make first sowings of carrots, Early Nantes, lettuce Fortune and Lobjoits Green Cos. Early peas, Little Marvel or Feltham First (a dwarf variety) can be sown in the open as soon as the ground is workable. If the seed is dipped in paraffin and rolled in red lead powder you may save them from the mice. Have you bought your seed potatoes? Arran Pilot is a reliable cropper in these parts. Stand the potatoes rose end up in shallow trays in a light, frostproof shed or room and aim to get four or five short, fat, dark green buds by planting time.

The seeds of bedding plants should be sown as soon as possible now, but these need constant warmth, about 60° F; a heated propagator is the real answer, of course, but, failing that, you can, with constant attention to light and water, make do on top of a radiator in a light window.

Be kind to pots of bulbs when they finish flowering indoors. Put them back into the plunge pit where you raised them or in a shallow pit covered in peat. Keep them moist for a few weeks, then let the foliage die down and plant them out in the garden. You will be rewarded in Springs to come. Some years ago I stocked a new garden in this way and when last seen it had hundreds of blooms, all for free.

JARDIN.

## FRIENDSHIP CLUB

Mrs Flinn writes:

For us, like everybody else, January and February have been one cancellation after another! We have had only one Club meeting during these months. Once again we have been out delivering Welfare Food round both villages. Our thanks are due again to David Dyer and Norman Coxon for the help they have given our usual rota of Meals-on-Wheels ladies during this difficult weather.

Our Jumble Sale had to be cancelled at the last minute, but we have so much warm clothing we feel we must try again on Saturday afternoon, March 10th in the Village Hall.

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Tuesday 6th	Mr Stanley Ewan from Birmingham with slides and a talk on Norway. (Village Hall)
Saturday 10th	Jumble Sale 2.30 Village Hall
Tuesday 20th	Dr Bruce Parker from Chipping Norton to talk on 'The Health and Happiness of the Elderly'.
Tuesday 27th	'The Skylarks'. It was a great disappointment to have to cancel the American Ladies' Choir from R.A.F. Heyford but we are trying to arrange this extra meeting to hear them, but as yet it is unconfirmed.

CALENDAR FOR MARCH

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.

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FRIDAY 2nd WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER Methodist Church 10.30

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TUESDAY 6th FRIENDSHIP CLUB 'Norway' Village Hall  
 SATURDAY 10th FRIENDSHIP CLUB Jumble Sale - Village Hall 2.30

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TUESDAY 13th W.I. Lacemaking.  
 WEDNESDAY 14th HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY - Mr Mattocks 'Roses'.  
 THURSDAY 15th RIDGEWAY PLAYERS 'The Secretary Bird'. 8.00

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TUESDAY 20th FRIENDSHIP CLUB 'The Health and Happiness of  
 the Elderly'.  
 WEDNESDAY 21st C.M.S. Coffee Morning 10.30 Barn Close, Burdrop.  
 FRIDAY 23rd HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY Valentines Dance.  
 HOOK NORTON EVENING CENTRE Open Evening.  
 SATURDAY 24th W.I. Jumble Sale 2.30 Village Hall

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TUESDAY 27th FRIENDSHIP CLUB 'The Skylarks'.  
 LEO CLUB Auction 8.00 p.m. Temple Lodge.

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 PRODUCTION:  
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 Material for the April issue by Tuesday  
 March 20th please.  
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