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SIBFORD SCENE

JANUARY 1980

NUMBER 32

New Year is traditionally the time for resolutions -all the more important this time as we enter a new decade, and, from all the portents, a new world. We wondered how well-known Sibfordians might be girding themselves for the future.

Most seem to have resolved to make no resolutions, but some let us share their thoughts. The shortest belongs to Dame Anne Stephens, "To enjoy life", while Miss Bennet's is clearly born of bitter experience, "Not to drop or lose my glasses in odd places such as rubbish heaps, courtyards or graveyards".

Mrs Mabel Payne's goes back to her old school motto, "I am, I can, I ought, I will", to which she characteristically adds, "try to help others".

Mr John Sabin suggests a resolution for the whole village, "to make more effort for the tidy village competition", while Mrs Dyer would like to wish all residents and visitors a happy and prosperus New Year. Barbro will do her best to provide Post Office services during 1980.

Mr Frank Rollett was moved to consider the whole idea of resolutions in verse.

RESOLUTION (HOPE)

To form resolutions, near one's allotted span,
For the year ahead indeed's somewhat gargantuan.
One wonders, to be positive? or negative?
For time has wreaked its toll
Of New Year wishes born of hope
When few we've made achieved their goal.

But the coming year...let's not forget
Bodes twice the usual cabaret.
First, as if we need the extra day
Brings Leap to hold the Ides at bay,
Emancipated maids can have their fling
At bashful youths bereft of sting.

Bodes twice the usual cabaret, I said
Life's dance begins a new decade.
Sibford Scene, and unseen, 'tis our fervent hope
Being passed, the Seventies within their scope
Formed new friendships so strong that Fate is
Eliminated from creating nineteen haties.

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* * * * * AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR READERS * * * * *
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CHURCH NOTES

COFFEE FOR CAMBODIA

The Coffee Morning held in the Rectory, together with various donations, has to date raised just over £122. This is a splendid effort, from relatively few people. There will have been envelopes distributed to most homes over the Christmas period, and Church collections will also be given to this worthy cause.

By the next issue of Scene, I should be in a position to tell you a final figure. I do hope you will all have done something positive about this appeal, the need for which is nothing less than a disgrace to the human race.

CHRISTIAN UNITY

This concept has been much discussed for nearly thirty years now. Each year between 18th and 25th January, a special week is observed throughout the world: during this week Christians everywhere are urged to pray for the unity of the church, according to the will of God,

In Sibford, we have evolved the custom of having a united service in the Parish Church to which we invite all Christians. Various denominations take part in the service and there is a chance for further fellowship in the Village Hall afterwards. The service this year is on Sunday 20th January at 3.30 p.m., and the preacher will be the Rector.

Timothy Wimbush

FROM THE GOWER PARISH COUNCIL

DANGEROUS TREES

All Parish Councils have been asked to co-operate with the Oxfordshire County Council in advising the County Surveyor of any remaining dead or dying roadside trees which provide a potential danger to the travelling public. Consequently we appeal to all villagers to inform their parish councillors of the location of any such trees known to them.

NATIONAL FOOTPATH WEEK 1980

The Ramblers Association is planning a National Footpath Week, commencing 14th June 1980. The objects are: "to promote and publicise the pleasure to be gained from walking in the countryside and to create a greater awareness of the need to protect our path heritage." In connection with this scheme the Parish Council propose to make available, on request, duplicated lists of footpath walks within the parish. However, a small fee will be necessary to cover duplicating costs.

W.I.

The monthly meeting on Tuesday January 8th, at 2 p.m. in the Village Hall will feature Mrs Joy Spiers speaking on 'The Work of a Vet'. Visitors will be most welcome.

An enjoyable visit was paid to Messrs Bernsteins Textile Factory at Northampton on November 27th.

SENIOR RESIDENTS PARTY

The W.I. wish to thank the following organisations for their support, without which this year's Senior Residents Party could not have been held:-

British Legion
Mr & Mrs Coleman -
Wykham Arms
Cricket Club
Football Club
Friends School
Gower Parish Council
Horticultural Society
LEO
Methodist Chapel
Parochial Church Council
Playgroup
Town Estates Charity
Village Hall Committee

FRIENDSHIP CLUB

Our Christmas tea was a real success as usual. This time Kenneth Greaves and his wife were the hosts and gave away the 'token' to all our valuable band of volunteer drivers and helpers.

JANUARY PROGRAMME

1st - No meeting
15th - Annual Meeting 2-4 p.m.
at the Friends School

CLUB MEETINGS ARE AUTOMATICALLY
CANCELLED IN THE EVENT OF
SNOW.

TO ALL THE SPAPER COLLECTORS

Many thanks for all the tied-up bundles delivered in Sibford Gower, Sibford Ferris Shutford, Swalcliffe and Tadmarton. By mutual agreement this year, the money raised is going to the Blue Peter Cambodian Refugees Fund and a cheque for £15 has now been sent.

M.B. Flinn.

CAROL SINGING IN THE FERRIS

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the 40 carol singers and musicians who braved the elements on Saturday 15th December to sing carols in the Ferris.

I would also like to thank all those who gave so generously of their hospitality and their donations so that £26 could be raised for the Cheshire Homes in Adderbury.

D.L. Foulds

.....AND THE BROWNIES

And I should like to thank the Brownies for their lovely singing on Thursday. Two complete carols on the doorstep, beautiful lanterns and happy smiles all round. ed.

HOOK NORTON EVENING CENTRE

Remember that the Golf Course (!) begins on January 9th.

There are still a few vacancies for -
Soft Furnishing on Monday
afternoon
Bridge on Tuesday afternoon
Group Guitar on Tuesday evening.
Details from Mr Alan Sibson
Hook Norton 737737

SIBFORD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

A very enjoyable evening was spent at our last meeting of the year on Wednesday December 12th. The speaker, Mrs Horlock talked briefly on exhibiting points for flower arrangements at a Show, followed by showing us two Christmas dinner table arrangements of her choice.

The members' entries in both classes were beautifully arranged and the winners were:

Christmas Dinner Table Arrangement

1st Mrs Hutchinson
2nd J. Sabin

Christmas Candlestick Arrangement

1st Mrs Hutchinson
2nd Mrs Law

Mrs Horlock judged both classes. May I thank the Committee members for providing the refreshments.

We look forward to the 1980 programme and we shall be pleased to welcome any new members.

Happy New Year

John Sabin

JANUARY MEETING 'Making the most of your greenhouse' Mr Dring.

SCENE'S DELIVERERS

As we start another year (and decade!) may we thank Scene's faithful deliverers who brave the elements, dogs, mantrap letter boxes, non-existent letter boxes, leaden gates, slippery slopes, primrose paths and all other hazards to bring your monthly news.

So thank you to Mr Daggaley, Mrs Diane Baker, Mrs Bridget Barlow, Mrs Enid Gilder, Mr George Hall, The Johnson Family, Mrs Sue Lambert, Mr and Mrs Law, Mrs Molly Mulley, The Radcliffe Family, Mrs Anne Spicer and Mrs Jean White.

BANK HOLIDAY MIND BENDER

Our crossword compiler, Ena Lamb, has dreamed up these anagrams. The solutions are all place names in the Sibfords. Answers next month.

Tell 'em limp
Doth pen
Land one up
Chart dice
Etch loony
Pound barrels

Mean son clings
Cold cows stole
Relabel cosy
Oh no. Don't rock A.R.
Helmet
Thin Yell

Send noble Dan
She cold. He press
Bleak and ices
Wig had home
The broad fish

AUTHORS IN THEIR SEASONS

Every year at this time Dickens is remembered. He is inseparable from Christmas as is the Christmas pudding, and often more digestible. We are served with Scrooge and Tiny Tim on radio, if not on television; if we're lucky, we may get a portion of Pickwick, this is jollier stuff. There are splendid word pictures of the robust companions bowling down to Dingley Dell for the holiday, "the wheels skim over the hard and frosty ground, the horses bursting into a canter...as if the load behind them: coach, passengers, codfish, oyster barrels and all were but a feather at their heels". A few pages on we read of the great, festive party followed by the Boxing Day sport on the frozen lake. But Dickens is not always a winter man. The friends journey down to Kent again in the summer to play in the historic cricket match against All Muggleton. "The wickets were pitched and so were a couple of marquées for the rest and refreshment of the participants". Stout fellows these Pickwickians.

True English writers are conscious of the changing seasons and variable weather that have shaped the character and way of life of our race. H.E. Bates has been likened to an Impressionist painter; here he describes the changing seasons in a dingy little shoe-making town: "Spring came to Evensford about the end of April with shabby flowerings of brown wallflowers on allotment grounds, with dusty daffodils behind the iron railings of street front gardens", but a little later we read that in the grounds of the great house... "by May the spinneys were thick with bluebells. The air all day long was soaked heavy and sweet and almost too rich with the scent of them and the juiciness of rising grass".

Many writres rhapsodise over midsummer but surely no-one better than R.D. Blackmore in 'Lorna Doone' when he tells of 'Girt Jan Ridd' pausing, sickle in hand, to gaze across the Devon landscape quivering in the sunshine, hoping to see his beloved Lorna.

These are but a few samples of the buried treasure to be found between the covers of English books, hardback or paper. Our County Libraries are well stocked and librarians most helpful - and of course, the long evenings of the winter months are the greatest opportunity for reading and enjoying books.

Geoffrey Law

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CHRISTMAS CROSSWORD SOLUTION

ACROSS

- 1. Subnormal
- 5. Ring
- 7. Wing
- 8. Train
- 10. Asp
- 11. Ashen
- 13. Help
- 14. Rave
- 15. Styleless

DOWN

- 1. Stretches
- 2. Bunt
- 3. Main
- 4. Lightness
- 6. Grasp
- 7. Wiper
- 9. Ash
- 11. Ally
- 12. Nape

Did you do well?

CALENDAR FOR JANUARY

CHURCH SERVICES

FRIENDS Meeting for Worship Sunday 11 a.m.
METHODISTS Morning Service Sunday 11 a.m.
HOLY TRINITY 6th The Epiphany Holy Communion 8.30
13th Holy Communion 10.30 a.m.
20th United Service 3.30 p.m.
27th Holy Communion 10.30 a.m.

SUNDAY SCHOOL (age 3 upwards) 11.30
every Sunday in Church

Tuesday 8th W.I. 'The Work of a Vet'.
Wednesday 9th HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY Mr Dring speaking on
'Making the Most of your Greenhouse'.
Tuesday 15th FRIENDSHIP CLUB A.G.M. Friends School 2 p.m.
Sunday 20th United Service in the WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN
UNITY 3.30 in church followed by refreshments.
Friday 25th Conversion of St Paul. Holy Communion 7.30 p.m.

IT PAYS TO ADVERTISE

SIBFORD SCENE is delivered to every house in the two villages, so why not use its pages to advertise your wants and wares?

Services offered, articles for sale, articles wanted to buy or borrow, good homes for pets, lost and found - your message goes to every home in the area where most people are likely to reply.

Private small ads cost only a penny a word. For anything more complicated, please phone 358 to discuss your requirements.

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