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SIBFORD SCENE

FEBRUARY 1980

NUMBER 33

FULL OF BEANS IN BURDROP

Rob Evans of the Bishop Blaize plans to take on the world in the first week of February. Not in the Winter Olympics, but in an attempt to beat the World Baked Bean Eating Record.

He has to better 2,380 beans, eaten separately on a cocktail stick, in 29 minutes 15 seconds. That is the equivalent of five large tins.

No-one would attempt that sort of bean feast without a very good reason, and here it is to raise money for Doctor Barnardo's and the Mary Green Kidney Appeal. Any offers of sponsorship will be gladly received.



COMING EVENTS IN THE VILLAGE HALL

There are some novel entertainments planned for the village later in the year. Naturally no-one will want to miss them, so here are the dates for your diary, well in advance.

Saturday 3rd May

Grand "Roaring Twenties" Evening
(Music, dancing and entertainment, with all the glamour and excitement of the 1920's)

Friday 6th June

Young Brains of Sibford - 1980
(Quizzes for young people - fun for all the family)

Saturday 13th September

Sibford Fete.

DID YOU KNOW ?.....that February 3rd is the feast day of the martyr, Bishop Blaize, and that, in addition to his better known attributes, he has been invoked for centuries on behalf of those who are ill. There is still in existence an observance called the Blessing of St Blaize asking God's protection against afflictions of the throat.

Doubtless, Rob Evans had this in mind when he chose this week in which to abuse his digestion!

CHURCH NOTES

CHRISTMAS FOR CAMBODIA

The response to this appeal was very encouraging indeed. I reported briefly last month on the position and can now give a final statement. I sent a cheque for £489.75 to Christian Aid, earmarked for their work in Cambodia. That was reached by collections of one kind and another in the four villages over which I have pastoral oversight. I believe that, removing the totals from the other three, the people of Sibford contributed over £325 to my appeal - if such I may call it. Quite apart from that, the school play, the Village Quiz raffle and the waste paper collections brought in a further £100 or so. Collections were also made in other places, and private individuals also gave: people from the Sibfords supported the Blue Peter Oxfam Appeal, and the Parochial Church Council gave a donation from its funds.

I think, therefore, that, as far as I can ascertain, the total from the four villages must be in excess of £1,000: a truly thrilling result; and that was obtained while many of us had other things on which to spend our money at the time of merry-making. Let us hope that our efforts will help to alleviate the miserable conditions in which so many Cambodians find themselves.

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DEATHS IN THE VILLAGE

There have been three in recent weeks, all involving members of long-established Sibford families. First, Fred Inns died just before Christmas. Known to many older residents as the plumber, he was recognised by some newer residents by his work done on the allotment in Barley Close. Second, Edith Payne from the Colony died just after Christmas. She, like Fred, had been poorly for some time. For many years she served on the Church Council, and was regularly in Church until she fell ill. Third, Horace Bishop, whose relatives run Polly Farm, died in Brailes and was buried in the churchyard. The thoughts of all Sibfordians go out to these families in their losses.

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LENT 1980

With Christmas a distant blur already, we turn our thoughts to Lent, the season when tradition expects us to give up something. I always feel that to give up something really worthwhile is valuable only if something worthwhile is done with what's left. I mean, if you give up sweets or cigarettes, the saving thereby made ought to be donated to some outside cause, rather than be used for other luxuries. Time is often considered one of the more valuable things in life these days: perhaps as a positive step we might consider giving some of it up: by making extra efforts to practise our Christian Life, either by attending worship or by trying to be more caring and loving to those who live around us.

SERVICES IN LENT

There will be Holy Communion at 7.30 p.m. on Ash Wednesday and at 7.15 p.m. on Thursdays in Lent.

Timothy Wimbush

VALENTINE

Some of our readers may be looking forward expectantly to 14th February, St Valentine's Day; for others it may bring back memories of days gone by. It's fun to receive a Valentine, and a splendid boost to the ego to receive more than one. But if you are sending a Valentine, don't forget to leave it unsigned if you don't want to bring bad luck on the recipient!

Actually, there seem to have been two St Valentines, both priests and both martyrs, but we don't really know anything about them - perhaps they were one and the same person.

The two martyrs don't appear to have had anything to do with lovers. Our traditional Valentines may be connected with the pagan festival of mid-February, Lupercalia, which was a Roman festival in honour of the wolf that suckled Romulus and Remus. Goats and dogs were sacrificed; youths washed in the blood and women were lashed by priests with whips made from the victims' skins to remove barrenness.

Less unpleasantly, it may be that the sending of Valentines arose simply from the old idea that birds begin to pair on February 14th. Only cynics maintain that it is a figment of the greetings card manufacturers' imaginations!

Long live love, I say. Have a happy St Valentine's Day.

Honour St Valentine in Style

at the HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY'S VALENTINE DANCE

Dancing to BROWNIE LAY'S BAND

9 p.m. - 1 a.m.

Refreshments

Licensed Bar

Village Hall

Friday 15th February

Tickets, £1.50, from Mrs Law, Mrs Turner, Mrs Butler, Mr Baggaley, Mr Lambert, Mr John Sabin.

ADVERTISEMENT

Would the person who is sending us anonymous letters please have the courage to face us in person and discuss the problem.

Rob Evans, Bishop Blaize.

W.I.

The February meeting will be on Tuesday 12th in the Village Hall at 2 p.m.

The speaker will be Mrs Gosling from the Banbury Museum on "The Changing Scene of Banbury".

There will also be a seasonal competition for a hand made Valentine card.

FRIENDSHIP CLUB

Snow cancelled the Annual Meeting on January 15th, but we still hope to fit a short meeting in before our February programmes begin.

Tuesday 5th February

Mr Hall of Burdrop is hoping to show four or five short films in the Village Hall. 2-4 p.m.

Tuesday 19th February

Mr Walton of Bodicote, who delighted us last year with his "Local Birds" pictures, is hoping to come to show his equally lovely pictures of flowers.

Once again, visitors, especially prospective members (60 or over) are always welcome.

Please remember, snow cancels all meetings automatically.

M.B. Flinn.

CHRISTMAS CAROLS

We would like to thank everyone who contributed so generously to the carol singing in aid of the R.S.P.C.A on December 22nd. We raised £7.82.

Dawn Wealsby
Elaine Hutchinson
Nathalie Gordon

WHIST DRIVE

There will be another Whist Drive on Friday 8th February at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall. Tickets are 50p; a raffle is also run. Proceeds are given to the Church Repair Fund. Coffee and biscuits are provided after twelve hands have been played.

COOKING AT HOOKY

The Hook Norton Evening Centre has arranged a special series of COOKERY DEMONSTRATIONS "Forgotten Arts of the Country Kitchen" for 4 Wednesday afternoons at 2.15 commencing on February 27th. Places will be limited so bookings should be made with Mr Alan Sibson, Tel. Hook Norton 737737.

The present season will end with an Open Evening on Friday March 21st from 7.30 to 9.30 with displays of work, a slide programme on classes in action, and an exhibition of puppets to whet your appetite for next season. Everyone is welcome to the Open Evening.

Alan Sibson

LEO CLUB

This month's meeting will be on Tuesday 26th February at the Court House at 8.p.m. There will be a slide show on Rhodesia.

RIDING FOR THE DISABLED ASSOCIATION needs helpers for Thursday afternoons from 2 to 3.30 p.m. at Wykham Park Riding Establishment.

Please ring Swalcliffe 460

THE GARDEN IN FEBRUARY

The darkest days of the winter are gone and February increases the length of the daylight by another two hours by the end of the month, but "as the day lengthens, so the cold strengthens" and it will be some time yet before the ground is fit to be worked upon. Meantime, if you didn't get all the tidying up done in the autumn, now is the time to finish it.

If your greenhouse and frames have been cleaned and broken glass replaced, first sowings of vegetables and hardy annuals can be made under glass at the end of the month. It pays to get onions off to an early start and Ailsa Craig, sown in boxes for transplanting in the spring, should be ready to lift in September. Onion sets can go into the open ground if soil conditions are good. Lettuce, Fortune, Windermere and Lobjoits Green Cos, sown in boxes, will be ready to plant out in open ground by the end of March to mature late May, early June. If you didn't sow broad beans in the autumn, seed sown in boxes now will grow quickly; a dwarf variety, The Sutton, is excellent for first crops. Cabbage, May Express or Hispi, sown in frames to transplant in March should be ready to cut in June. Snowball and Dominant are good varieties of cauliflower to sow under glass.

Most of the annual flowers will germinate from the end of this month, if they have a temperature of 50-60 degrees with protection against a sharp drop in temperature on frosty nights. If you can build a plastic tent over the seed boxes on the bench you can gain an extra 4 or 5 degrees. Don't forget to check over dahlia tubers and gladioli corms in store and remove all that are decayed or diseased.

JARDIN

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JANUARY'S ANAGRAMS

Tell 'em limp - Temple Mill
Doth pen - The pond
Land one up - Pound Lane
Chart dice - Acre Ditch
Etch loony - The Colony
Pound barrels - Bardrop Lanes
Mean son clings - Mannings Close
Cold cows stole - Cotswold Close
Relabel cosy - Barley Close
Oh no, don't rook A.R. - Hook Norton Road
Helmet - The Elm
Thin Yell - Tyne Hill
Send Noble Dan - Bonds End Lane
She cold, he press - Shepherds Close
Bleak and Ices - Backside Lane
Wig had home - High Meadow
The broad fish - Sibford Heath

Our thanks to Mrs Lamb whose tortuous mind composed these and congratulations to anyone who managed to solve them all.

CALENDAR FOR FEBRUARY

CHURCH SERVICES

FRIENDS Meeting for Worship Sunday 11 a.m.
 METHODISTS Morning Service Sunday 11 a.m.
 HOLY TRINITY 3rd Holy Communion 8.30 a.m.
 10th Holy Communion 10.30 a.m.
 17th Evensong 3.30 p.m.
 24th Holy Communion 10.30 a.m.

Holy Communion at 7.15 p.m. on Thursdays in Lent
 Sunday School at 11.30 in Church each Sunday.

Tuesday 5th FRIENDSHIP CLUB Mr Hall's Films Village Hall 2 p.m.
 Friday 8th WHIST DRIVE Village Hall 7.30 p.m.

Tuesday 12th W.I. "The Changing Scene of Banbury" Village Hall
 2 p.m.
 Friday 15th Horticultural Society VALENTINE'S DANCE 9pm-1 a.m.
 Village Hall

Tuesday 19th FRIENDSHIP CLUB - Mr Walton's Flower Pictures
 Wednesday 20th ASH WEDNESDAY Holy Communion 7.30 p.m.
 Thursday 21st HOLY COMMUNION 7.15 p.m.

Tuesday 26th LEO CLUB Slides on Rhodesia at the Court House
 8 p.m.
 Wednesday 27th COOKERY COURSE BEGINS at Hook Norton 2.15 p.m.
 Thursday 28th HOLY COMMUNION 7.15 p.m.

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