

## **Exercise Book No. 1**

### **Oxfordshire Education Committee**

**Name: Leslie Hooper**

**School: Sibford Gower**

**Year: 1927**

**March 14<sup>th</sup>, 1927**

#### **My Village**

The Village which I live in is called Sibford Gower. It is situated on a hill. It has got a few houses in it which are mostly made of stone. It is a larger village than the neighbouring village Sibford Ferris. The neighbouring village is also situated on a hill with a stream running at the bottom of a steep hill. Between Sibford Gower and Sibford Ferris is the little hamlet of Burdrop. There are no modern houses in Sibford Gower only the Council houses. The oldest house in this village is Sibford Manor. It is about two hundred years old. It has got a church and a chapel, the chapel being older than the church. It has also got a School, which was built in 1826. It is a very pretty little village, much prettier than the Ferris. It has got a Village Hall. It is on the main road to Banbury, and to Shipston. It is only three miles to Compton Wynyates. This Village has got four shops in it one being the Co-operative stores. The buses run through Sibford Gower every day but Tuesdays. It is a very healthy village, with a very small population.

**March 23-3-27**

#### **A story**

One day Tommy's mother sent him out for a walk and told him to pick her some blackberries but not to eat any. Tommy ran off and began to pick some. He had only picked a few when a boy came along and took him to some red berries and told him that they were lovely. Tommy tasted one and the boy ran away and left Tommy alone crying. Tommy felt very bad and ran home as fast as he could. He told his mother what he had eaten, and she called him a bad boy and told him to go to bed. She said that if he was not better in a day or two she would send for the doctor. The time of the year was Autumn and the red, and yellow berries were out. Tommy felt bad all the night, and he said that he had got the stomach ache, and his mother went for the doctor. The

doctor said that the berries must have been poisonous, and he said that it would be a long time before he would be able to get up. So he sent some medicine but Tommy did not want to take it, but his mother made him, and Tommy said that he would never eat poisonous berries again. About four times a day Tommy had to take that awful medicine and from that day he has never taken any berries again.

**March 30<sup>th</sup> 1927**

**School House  
Sibford Gower  
Banbury**

Dear Cecil,

Thank you very much for your letter I received this morning. I was surprised to read that you did not know how to spend your leisure time. Why don't you do gardening that would be a nice hobby for you to do. If you would not like that you could go and join a football club or cricket and spend all your leisure time at practising for a match. The wireless is also a nice hobby you could listen to in the winter. You could buy a crystal set for about twenty shillings. Perhaps your father would buy you a bicycle. If he would you would be able to go to different places, and to races, and football matches. If you have got a reading room you can go in every night and play games. If you are fond of reading or painting you could do one of those. High jumping is also a sport I am very fond of. That would pass the time away. If you like to come to our house for a week or two you could come and play games with us. I hope one of these will suit you, and I hope you are quite well.

Believe me

Yours truly, Leslie Hooper

**April 6<sup>th</sup>, 1927**

**The ugliest reptile I dislike**

The ugliest reptile I dislike is the snake. It is a very long reptile. There are two kinds of snakes the poisonous one, and the one that don't hurt you. If you

have got a poisonous snake in your garden, you have got to look out else it would sting you. If you had a sting from a snake it you poison you, the best plan to do would be to suck the poison out. The different kinds of snakes are the viper, and several more different kinds. They are of different colours. You can always tell the viper from the others snakes because it has got a V on his head. There are not so many snakes about as there used to be. The snake lays eggs and rears her young ones. It like to get at the bottom of a pool and riggle about. They only live in hot places.

**May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1927**

### **The happiest day of my Easter Holiday**

The happiest day of my Easter Holiday were when I went to Brimingham. I got up about half past seven on the Saturday before Easter, and I got already to go. About half past eight Mr Farver [?] came, and we went in his motor to Banbury. At Banbury I had my hair cut, and went up to the station, got into the train and went off to B'ham.

The thing we did when we got to B'ham was to see what time the train started back. We went and saw the Museum, and picture gallery, and the free library. We also saw the biggest station in England.

About twelve oclock we went and had our dinner. In the afternoon my father took me to the football match, we bought a programme. Aston Villa were playing Leicester City; it was a very good and interesting game. There were about 45,000 people. Aston Villa had 2 goals and Leicester City 0. At half time no goals were scored. After the match was over we went back to B'ham by bus. At B'ham we went to Woolworths, and I bought a comb, and some ice-cream. At six oclock we had to start back from B'ham. The train was crowded. I had to stand up part of the way back. We got into Banbury about seven and caught the bus to Sibford, and it was one of my happiest days during my Easter Holiday.

**May 12/5/27**

### **A very pleasant afternoons walk**

A very pleasant afternoon's walk is at Swalcliffe Common. You can get there two ways, go round the Elm or go through the fields at Sibford Ferris.

You have got to go through five or six fields, and walk over a tree, and then you get to the lime kiln.

The lime kiln is at the top of the Common. If you go there in the spring you could get some of the flowers, such as dog-violets and cowslips.

By the lime kiln is a big shed with a lot of trucks, and lime in it. You can also see some tractors which drive the trucks.

It would be very nice to go [for] a picnic there in the summer.

**18/5/27**

### **Britons and Phoenicians**

The Phoenicians were the first people who traded with the Britons. They came from Tyre and Sidon along the Mediterranean Sea. They came to Britain for tin and copper.

The Britons made bronze out of tin and copper. Lord Leighton has painted a beautiful picture of the Britons trading with the Phoenicians.

**May 19<sup>th</sup>, 1927**

### **The merry month of May**

May is one of the happiest months in the year. In May some of the spring flowers come out, and the fields look very pretty with the buttercups and daisies.

It is the fifth month in the year.

Everyone looks forward to it because on May-day the first of May we go round with the May Garland. The birds are also building their nests and hatching their young, and you can hear the cuckoo, singing its song.

All the trees come out in bud, and the hedges are covered with May. Some of the Garden produce begins to come up, and the farmers are very busy. The swallows come back from a hotter country to build their nests.

**25/5/27**

### **Birds Nests**

In the Spring the birds begin to build their nest. Most of the birds build nests. The Cuckoo does not build a nest but lays her eggs in-another birds nests.

The small bird such as the robins build a very small and pretty nest. The Thrush and Blackbird don't build a very nice nest.

The Starling build her nest in a tree.

The Owl builds a very untidy nest.

The peafinch builds one of the best nests.

The Pigeon builds a very untidy nest. She never lay's more than two eggs at a time.

The Jackdaw is a black bird it is similar to the Crow, it builds its nest in a tree.

The Moorhen builds its nest near to some water.

The birds build their next with straw, feathers, and they go and get wool off the sheeps' back.

**June 14<sup>th</sup>, 1927**

### **The Happiest Day of my Whitsun Holiday**

The Happiest day of my Whitsun Holiday was on Monday June 6<sup>th</sup> 1927. It was Sibford Club. It don't generally come on Whit Monday. In the morning it rained, but it cleared off before ten oclock.

At a quarter past ten the band met at the Cross, and played along to the School. At half past ten the band went to the school, and had lunch. At a quarter to eleven the band went down to the Vicarage, and they tied some roses onto the banners, and went down to church

After church the band marched up to the school and played several tunes. At one oclock the people went to the dinner at the school

In the afternoon I went down to the club. There was one Cocoa-nut saloon, one sweet stall, one swingboat, and another stall. I went to see Sibford play Tysoe. Sibford beat by one inning and twenty five runs. I won several things. At night I bought some squibs, and Cecil Eden won me a cocoa nut. At night I went to the dance at the village hall. There was a lot of people. I had four bottles of Ginger Beer.

I was very tired after the dance, and I had my supper and went to bed.

**June 21<sup>st</sup> 1927**

### **A hedge of Wild Roses**

Wild roses are very pretty flowers, which grow in this part of the country.

The Wild rose is a pink flower it has got five petals, sometimes it is a white flowers.

It has got a very sweet smell. Most of them grow in the fields, or on the hedge by the side of the road. It has got some thorn's on it to protect it from the cattle.

If you cultivated the wild rose it would be as good as the garden rose.

They come out in the beginning of June. It make's the country look very pretty, and if you were half a mile away you could smell them.

**23/6/27**

### **A ride in the Midland Bus**

One day I went to Stratford on Avon in the Midland Bus. It runs to Banbury, Shipston on Stour, and Stratford every day excepting Tuesday. They give people a chance who live in the villages to go into the towns. They stop anywhere to pick people up except at the bottom of a hill.

They have got a very powerful engine so that they can get up steep hills. You get in a bus the left hand side, that is the side the driver is. Most buses hold 32 passengers; there is two compartment one for the smokers, and one for the non smokers.

The Bus has got windows in it, so that when it is hot you can open them, it has also got Electric Light in it.

Children under fourteen years of age are allowed to travel half fare in the new buses. The new buses hold 38 passengers.

There is a conductor and a driver in each bus. In the summer you can go anywhere by bus on a Friday if you pay three shillings.

Children that travel half fare have got to give their seat up if there is any adult standing. I had a seat all the way when I went to Stratford on Avon, the bus was not quite full.

The drivers and conductors do not get many holidays.

The bus runs through Sibford every Sunday.

**29/6/27**

### **Visit to the home of Sir Roger**

On one occasion I went on a visit to the home of Sir Roger.

Not far from there, were an avenue with elm trees each side. They were so tall that the crows and rooks began to caw, and anyone would have thought they were in another region. He always wanted to go that walk because he thought the place had been haunted.

No-one liked to go up that road, only the Chaplain. The Butler told him not to go up that road what ever he did because the footman had been frightened to death, he said that he had seen a black horse with his head cut off. The Butler also said that one day when a maid was fetching a pail of milk she heard such a rushing between the bushes that she dropped her pail of milk. One night I was going up the lane between nine oclock and ten and I saw something like a cow without a head, and it must have been that what had frightened the footman out of his wits.

It is my very best walk.

**July 5<sup>th</sup> – 7 – 27**

### **Mr Wimble**

One day I was talking to Sir Roger outside his house, and a country fellow came up to him and gave him a huge fish. He said that Mr. Wimble had sent it, and that he said he would come and have dinner with him.

Sir Roger thought it rather funny for him to send a fish.

Mr Wimble was not a rich man at all, he lived with his brother.

He looked after his brother's game, he was also the youngest son of the baronet. He was between 40 and 50 years of age.

He hunted a pack of dogs and could catch a hare as good as any man. He had not got any work, all the people in the place liked him, and also liked the Wimbles family. Everybody seemed to welcome him to their house any time.

**July 7-7-27**

### **English Rural Scenery**

In our District the Scenery is very beautiful, but it don't come up to the Switzerland scenery.

It is better than the scenery in the towns.

If there is an old church in any place it makes the village look very old.

In some places there is an old manor house, that also makes the village look old and pretty.

Most of the English people like their own country.

The fields make the place look pretty; then the farmers are hay-making.

The hills in the distance make the scenery very beautiful, and the tall trees with their green leaves on.

The sights in the country tell us what has happened in the past.

The old thatched roofs of the cottages, and the old stones, and the old tumbled down abbeys also tell us what has happened in the past.

The rivers are also very nice with beautiful flowers growing each side of them and the beautiful banks.

The field with the cattle grazing, and the beautiful corn blowing about in the fields.

The tall trees in the woods and the beautiful flowers, help to make the country look pretty.

The hedge-rose also makes the roadside look very pretty.

If a man can not get any work in England and he goes abroad, if he can get enough money to live he would like to come back to his old country.