

## **Exercise Book No. 2**

### **Oxfordshire Education Committee**

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**School:** Sibford Gower

**Year:** 1927

**November 10th, 1927**

#### **A frosty morning**

Sometimes early in the morning you can see the fields covered with frost, the roads very slippery, and all the water frozen.

It is very nice to go sliding on a frosty morning. I like a frosty morning for some reasons, but not for others. It has been frosty this last week.

It is very nice to go a long walk, on a frosty morning, but it is very cold if you stand still.

Frosty weather is very healthy, and it kills all the bad germs. If it is a sharp frost it kills all the flowers, and plants. You can go sledging and skating on a frosty morning

When it is a sharp frost the horses have to be very care-ful so that they do not slip, down.

We do not have such bad frosts in England as they have in Switzerland, and other countries.

It looks just like winter, with the icicles on the houses, and all the water frozen.

We have not had any sharp frosts this year.

**November 16<sup>th</sup>, 1927**

#### **England under King Knut**

Knut was the first Danish King, and one of the best. He ruled Danelagh and Wessex for about twenty years.

He conquered Norway and added it on to his dominion.

He was sometimes called Knut the Great.

He put Danish Earls over the Danish part and English Earls over Saxon England.

He put one over Wessex, one over Northumbria, one over Danelaw and one over East Anglia.

He made market places near churches.

The big town of Glasgow sprung up in this way. There was a market place, near to the church of St. Minians and a town soon sprang up.

The merchants had the habit of buying people, and selling them as slaves, even their own relatives, and own children. The people of Bristol had an awful custom of selling slaves. In the reign of King Knut the merchants could travel about without being interfered with, and they could take their goods to other parts where people were likely to go to.

When Knut died his two sons became King, they were bad and poor Kings, they only reigned a few years.

## **November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1927**

### **Sibford Gower**

We all have to come to Sibford Gower School. Sibford is a pretty village in the Northern part of Oxfordshire.

It is on the Cotswold Hills, and it is very close to Warwickshire.

This parish is separated from Warwick-shire by an old British trackway Ditch Edge.

It is seven hundred feet above the level of the sea, and is very healthy.

It is divided from the next village Sibford Ferris by a little river. To get there you have got to go down a steep hill and up another.

It is about three quarters of a mile to the main road, which leads from Banbury to Stratford on Avon. Buses run through the village every day. There are not many houses in this village. There is a Manor House, a church, a school, and other houses. Outside the houses there are borders of flowers which make the village look very beautiful.

The oldest building in the village is the Manor House, and the house by the cross.

There is not much traffic running through the Village.

There is a school and a church which are not very old. The school was built in 1869.

Most of the cottages are thatched.

## **November 14<sup>th</sup>, 1927**

### **How I spend my winter evenings**

We leave school at half past three, and get home before it is dark.

It gets darker every night during the winter. Some people are very dull during the winter but if you have plenty of work to do you are quite happy.

We have got very long evenings.

For the last six weeks we have been practicing our parts for a concert, and that has been taking a part of our evenings up.

When I get home I do not have my tea if it is fine but I go and have a good game at football and then go and have a good tea.

On Thursdays I go to Choir Practice, that lasts about three parts of an hour.

Some nights I have somebody in to play games with me. Some nights I sit by the fire and listen to the wireless if there is a dance on I go to it.

## **November 29<sup>th</sup>, 1927**

### **A Phoenician merchants visit to Britain**

The Phoenicians were the first people to trade with the Britains.

They came from the west of Asia, in a place called Phoenicia. These merchants were called Phoenicians, and they came here because they heard that tin was found in the Southern part of the country.

This country was not inhabited much.

They exchanged their cloth, corn, cedar, and other things for tin. Most of the tin was found in Devon and Cornwall.

The Phoenicians traded all round the Mediterranean Sea. This began in the Bronze age.

The merchants came in long boats along the Mediterranean Sea. Some writer says that Britain was a land of fog and mist, and forests.

King Solomon was supplied with cedar from these merchants to help to build his temple at Jerusalem.

Pythias wrote a book about this country, but it got lost. The Priests were called Druids.

The Phoenicians were dressed up in bright coloured clothes which they exchanged for tin.

The Phoenicians felt very cold when they came here, because the land was very cold. They sometimes called exchanging bartering. The land was very fertile.

The People used to worship under groves of oak or circles of stone. The most sacred of these were the groves of oak.

They did not worship the oak tree, but the mistletoe in it and other times they worshipped in circles of stones and sometimes the sun.

## **November 30<sup>th</sup>, 1927**

### **Evergreens**

There are two kinds of trees. One is the evergreen trees who do not lose their leaves, and the other kind is the trees who lose their leaves.

They are called evergreen because they are green all the year round. While the other trees are losing their leaves the evergreens are not. The leaves on the other trees begin to change colour in Autumn and soon afterwards they begin to fall off.

There are not so many evergreen trees as other trees, and they are not so tall. Some evergreens are poisonous, and some are not. They have got oil in them so that if it rains or snows the oil will slip off.

The holly is one of the most important evergreens. It has got prickles in it so that the cattle will not eat it.

It is an evergreen that people have in their houses for Christmas.

The Ivy is also a nice evergreen. There are two kinds of Ivy, one is the climbing ivy and the other is the tree ivy, the climbing ivy has got white veins and is much the prettiest.

The Yew, laurel, box and Fur trees are also evergreens.

The mistletoe is also an evergreen which grows in the nut, apple and also other trees.

**December 6<sup>th</sup> 1927**

### **Last Friday's Tea Party**

Last Friday we had a tea party which was given by Mr and Mrs Hiles, of Home Close, Sibford Ferris. In the afternoon we were very busy in decorating the school with evergreens, and paper chains, it looked very pretty. We had to go back to school at one o'clock and go out at three, and that allowed us till half past four. Mrs Hiles brought the younger children up in her motor car. At half past four we had our tea. We had bread and butter, plain and fruit cake, buns and tea. After tea we went outside while they moved the desks. When we came in Mrs Hiles gave us a cracker each, mine had a cap in it. I had several dances with Harold Harvey, Edith Tomkins and several more children. After we had had the first, Mrs Hiles gave us all a balloon.

We played Musical Arms and ("This is my friend's seat"). We all enjoyed our tea very much, and we all had an apple. The little children played "orange and lemons". In the evening we all thanked Mr and Mrs Hiles and the helpers for making our evening very happy. Before we went home we had something to eat and we went home, at about eight o'clock.

**December 7<sup>th</sup> 1927**

### **Our Winter Birds**

In the Autumn some of our English birds fly away to hotter countries.

They fly away because they have not got any food to eat. The birds that come here are called migratory birds.

The birds which stay here are called native birds, they are the best singers.

The birds that stay here are the robin, thrush, the blackbird and several other birds.

The nightingale is a migratory bird.

Our native birds have not got such nice colours as the migratory birds. The birds which come here in the winter live round the Wash, and the Norfolk Broads. The nightingale is the only bird which can sing in the migratory birds.

Our native birds live on slugs, breadcrumbs and almost anything. Some of the prettiest of our native birds are the robin and the thrush.

**January 10<sup>th</sup>, 1928**

### **The Snowstorm**

On Christmas Day the 25<sup>th</sup> of December we had a terrible snow storm. In the morning it was raining fast but when I came out of church I was surprised to see it snowing.

I thought it would not settle, but at tea time it was quite deep. It snowed nearly all night, and it was one of the worst we have had for some years. During the night a gale or a blizzard arose and blew the snow into the roads.

No vehicles could not go out because the snow was much too deep.

In some places people was frozen, in the snow, but no accidents happened in Sibford.

It was just like an old fashioned Christmas. It was a very pretty sight to see the gale blowing the snow off the fields into the road The wind was very strong that night.

On Boxing Day men were sent to clear the snow where it had drifted.

Many of the birds were starved to death, for want of food.

For many years people will remember Christmas Day of nineteen twenty seven.

No papers, bread or any buses could get though.

**12-1-28**

### **The Happiest Day in the Christmas Holidays.**

I had a nice lot of happy days in my holidays but the happiest was Christmas Day.

I got up about eight oclock in the morning and had some of my presents. I hung my stocking up and had a lot of things in it such as chocolates, a handkerchief, a chocolate pipe, a bar of rock, an orange, a box of chocolate cigarettes, and other things. I had an electric lamp off my brother, and a diary off my sister, and a chocolate machine off a friend.

I went to church in the morning, and when I came out it was snowing quite fast.

After I had come out of church I had my dinner. We had a turkey, plum pudding and other things.

After dinner I read the paper, and had a lot more presents, I had a box of chocolate off Leslie Wilson, a packet of sweets off Mrs Bliss, ten shillings off my Mother and Father, and a book off Mr Ormorod, and 6/- off my Grannie, and two shillings besides. I also had a lot of sweets and chocolates, and I had a chocolate cigarette outfit.

We had our tea about half past four, and after tea, we had quite a good time, and sang hymns and carols and had our supper and some wine. We went to bed about half [stops here].

**19-1-28**

### **A hedgerow in winter**

In Winter the hedges look very bare, unless there are any hips and haws on them. In winter the hedges lose all their leaves. If we have any frost or snow it makes the hedges look awfully pretty.

All our winter birds go and get the berries off the hedges, for their food. When the sun shines on the hedges and when the frost is about it makes a very pretty sight.

If you go a walk you might see an old birds nest, and you might see some birds singing as if it was spring. In the nest you would be likely to find some old leaves, where the bird had hatched her young, and had flown to a warmer land.

In the spring the leaves begin to shoot out, and all the beautiful flowers begin to come out. The birds come back to England, when the leaves have grown and sing their beautiful songs.

**25-1-28**

### **The Botanist**

A botanist is a man who studies botany. The best place for a Botanist to live, is in the country because he can learn more about flowers, trees, and other plants. If he lived in the towns he could not study flowers and trees, because there would not be any.

Every one who lives in the country ought to be a botanist.

The botanist gets more pleasure in flowers and trees than he gets in anything else, if he finds a new kind of flower he is more delighted than if he had found a new race of people.

If you go a walk in the spring you would be likely to see a botanist looking at different kinds of trees or flowers.

If you went to see a botanist's garden, you would see no weeds, and all the plants and flowers would be labeled.

The Botanist loses many lovely sights, but he does not mind because it gives him the greatest pleasure especially after he has found a new plant. If he does find a new flower he examines it with his magnifying glass.

## **January 31th 1928**

### **The Story of a frog**

The frog is an animal which is common to all country people, but some of the town people have never seen one, or have never heard of one.

It can either live on land or in a pool. In the winter you never see a frog about. I don't like the frog because it is such an ugly animal.

If you go to a pool in the winter you would be able to hear it sing and croak. In the winter it lays his eggs, and hatches them in spring, and they turn into little black things which are called tadpoles.

The young tadpoles go diving in and out of the water. These tadpoles grow very quickly, and when their legs have come, their tails go. These tadpoles soon turn into frogs, and they are very ugly creatures. These frogs don't do much good.

It has got very long legs with which they can jump a long way, and have also got very big eyes. If you went to see the pools in April you would find them full of young tadpoles. If the town people saw a frog they would wonder what it was. If the frogs had been in a pool you would be able to tell by the colour of the water.

**2-2-28**

### **Fox Hunting**

Fox hunting is a very common sport which is carried on in Winter. It is also a very interesting sport.



The rich people who go hunting, have to pay a lot of money, and the farmers have to let the hunters go on their ground.

The dogs live in their kennels. The chief man is the master of the hounds. To be the master you have got to have plenty of money.

If it was not for hunting the foxes would have the farmers poultry.

Some of the huntsmen are dressed in red coats, and some are dressed in black.

All the foxes would have been killed years ago if it had not been for fox hunting. Nearly every county has got a pack of hounds, the nearest ones to us are the Warwickshire, and the Heythrop hounds. The people who support the hounds look in the paper to see where they meet.

The hounds are brought to the meet by the huntsman and the whips.

It is a very pretty sight to see the dogs and the hunts-men, with their red coats, and black coats.

Some of the people come to the meet in motor cars, and they have their horses brought by grooms.

If they catch a fox, the first thing they do is to cut his head and tail off and the first lady that sees the fox killed has his tail.

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