

We hope it will be of interest to those who were born, or who have come to live, in Soulbury in more recent years to learn how much more self-reliant the village was earlier in the century. We are indebted to someone who has lived in Soulbury all her life for the following recollections.

Most every-day needs could be supplied within the village. Bread was baked at what is now the Post Office by Mr. W. Andrews who was succeeded by his son, our Mr. S. Andrews, who is running Soulbury Post Office is still very much at the centre of village life today. His sister, Miss Andrew, was Postmistress for many years. Milk was sold by Mr. Winsor, who with his pony and trap with the milk churns aboard, supplied milk to the whole village and beyond. There were no standard bottles then and milk was served from shining brass measures into the housewives' own jugs. Mrs. Winsor from her little front parlour in Chapel Hill sold sweets to the children who no doubt thought she was ideally placed, so near to the school.

Meat was slaughtered and sold by Mr Charles Cater from the premises behind Laburnum Cottage. He also delivered to Stoke Hammond and Great Brickhill. But of course the most important source of supply in any village was the General Stores; in Soulbury this was run by Mrs Scott at the Old Cottage, on the corner near The Boot. In this Aladdin's cave one could buy bacon and biscuits, bootlaces and bismuth, lamp wicks, candles, butter, flour, salt, sugar, gum boots, mouse-traps, cheese and so much more besides.

There was a boot-mender who carried on his trade from a cottage near the Stone, and of course the blacksmith, Mr York, at the forge shod the many horses and ponies of the village and the surrounding farms, as well as repairing farm equipment. The forge actually owned by Mr Bedford who was a wheelwright and carpenter and became lamp-lighter in succession to Mr. Brandon. Soulbury had five oil lamps in their tall stands. They were at Brook Cottages, Church Lane, the Stone, at the foot of Blacksmith's Hill and on the Green. Mr. Brandon would fill the lamps, trim the wicks, light them at the appropriate time, then turn them out at 10.00 p.m. and collect them the next day to fill them again.

There was no bus service through the village until the 1920s (at first it was known as a 'char-a-banc') and people seldom went into Leighton Buzzard except at the time of the fat stock market. If they did need to do so they would ride with one of the two carriers who came through Soulbury - Mr. Hollis of Mursley and Mr. Pitkin of Drayton Parslow, but the usual practice was to commission one of the carriers to buy 'three yards of unbleached calico' or 'a pair of strong boots, size 9' or 'some new stay laces and a pound of best cod fillet'. Great reliance was placed on the judgement of the carriers and over the years they became very experienced shoppers, as well as helping to spread news and gossip among the villages they served.

It was all so different from today's shopping habits that it hardly seems possible that it happened well within the memory of a great many people still resident in Soulbury.

Proposed visit by Soulbury Women's Fellowship and children to the Pantomime at the Theatre Royal, Windsor: it is regretted that no tickets are available for a party visit at any Saturday matinee.

The Social Circle Committee would like to thank everyone who helped to make the Bazaar such a success. The total amount raised was £59.

The many friends of Mr. William Rowe will be glad to know that he is making steady progress in Tyndal Hospital. We wish him a speedy recovery.

We offer congratulations to Mr. William Ashburner on his forthcoming marriage at Egremont on December 13th and wish him and his bride every happiness in their new life in Cumbria.

DOMESTIC HELP WANTED (part time, to suit) Chelmscote Manor, Telephone Soulbury 237

FOR SALE.

2 Jack Russel - puppy bitches - ready now.) Telephone Soulbury 371
Drawing board - almost new. £35) (after 6 p.m.)

Fan shaped mirror, approximately 28" £2.50 Telephone Soulbury 227

Dressing table, single wardrobe, dining table. Telephone Soulbury 314
(after 5 p.m.)

Soulbury Methodist Chapel

Chapel Minister: Rev. Norman Burrows

The Manse, Stewkley. Tel: 251

- 7th Dec. 10.30 a.m. Mr. Barron.
- 14th Dec. 6.00 p.m. To be arranged.
- 21st Dec. 10.30 a.m. Rev. Evans.
- 21st Dec. 2.30 p.m. Sunday School Carol Service with tableaux.
- 28th Dec. 6.00 p.m. Rev. Burrows.

Sunday School at 2.30 p.m. every Sunday in the School room.

All Saints Church Vicar,

Rev. Paul Drake

The Vicarage, Stewkley, Tel: 287

- 10th Dec. 7.30 p.m. Institution Service. The Bishop of Buckingham.
- 19th Dec. 11.00 a.m. Sutherland School Carol Service.
- 25th Dec. 8.00 a.m.) Christmas Day (Holy Communion
11.30 a.m.) (Sung Eucharist
- 28th Dec. 11.30 a.m.) Joint Carol Service
3.00 p.m.)
- 7th, 14th and
21st Dec. 11.30 a.m. Sung Eucharist.

- 2nd Dec. 8.00 p.m. Women's Institute.
Speaker: demonstration of Christmas flower decorations.
Competition: a Christmas table decoration in any shape or form. Members and friends welcome.
- 10th Dec. 2.30 p.m. Social Circle.
- 13th Dec. 4.30 p.m. Social Circle Christmas Party.
- 15th Dec. 8.00 p.m. Parish Council Meeting.
- 17th Dec. 8.00 p.m. Women's Fellowship at the home of Miss D. Booth, 7 Chapel Hill. Mrs P. Faulkner will give a talk on Christmas. (PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE.)
- 20th Dec. 8.00 p.m. Christmas Bingo. Proceeds for the Social Circle.

ALL EVENTS TO TAKE PLACE IN THE CLUBROOM UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED.

It is hoped to deliver the January Newsletter during the Christmas week. All items for publication should be received by the 18th December.

We wish all our readers A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND A PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR.

Published by the Soulbury Women's Fellowship.