Farming in the Valley



Leonard Moody. 1948

Old Leonard Moody - he used to live next to the Post Office here in Middle Woodford, and he used to go off on his bike because he used to sweep chimneys as well. So he'd have his sweep brushes tied to his bicycle and he'd go round different places. On occasions he used to repair my hoop, I had an iron hoop which was all the rage and it would sometimes come apart on the weld. And I'd take it up to Mr Moody and he would repair it for me. He was a farrier as well.

I can remember ploughing with the horses. 'Cause I used to go down on Bob Edwards Senior's farm, and there was chap there I remember very well by the name of George Kite, and he had been gassed in the war. Oh, it was really pathetic to hear the man because his old chest used to rattle like the devil. There were several in the village that had been gassed. But these old boys didn't get a penny because according to the government it wasn't really a war wound and it was get on and do it. But, I've seen him do a day's ploughing with two horses and the old plough. How the man kept up - I just don't know.

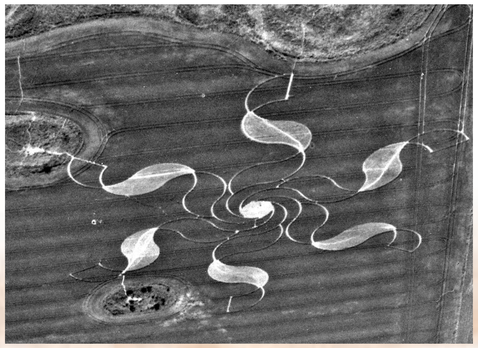
Des Dear



Vera and Betty Riggs and Arthur Riggs on Tracker



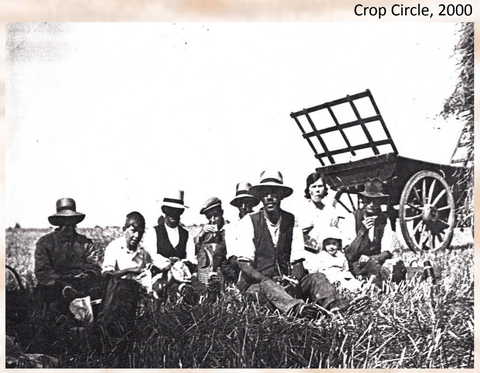
William Charles Waters. 1912



Crop Circle, 2000

In the year 2000, we had this wonderful crop circle; it was a beautiful flower and it was right in the middle of these clumps of burial mounds. It was absolutely beautiful. It happened over night. We allowed people go and look at it provided they walked up the tram lines. We had some collecting tins and we raised £800 for the Hospice. It was absolutely wonderful.

Helen Hosier



Sidney Smith, Sid Pike's nephew,?,Edgar Palmer, Joseph Grinter, Kitty & Kath Dodds and Horris Lodge



Down in Upper Woodford - they call it The Kings Stables now. They were the stables for the Suffolk Punch horses that worked on the farm - a wonderful team. There were lots of them that won prizes. They did the ploughing and there was a fabulous stud groom who looked after them, who had a very strong Suffolk ascent. I used to bike down from Roxhill early in the morning and I used to help him with the foals because they bred them you see. I used to put them out into the fields and in the water meadows. It was a dreamy time.

Ann Carr



Making hay at Great Durnford

We used to go leading on in the harvest field. That was when the sheaves of corn were stooked up in rows after they'd been cut and dried across the field. And a wagon pulled by three or four horses would pick up, right across the field and back the other way, until you had a big high load of corn on top of the wagon. Going across the side of the hill at Wilsford, just up above the school there - was a bit of a slope. And this wagon led by these horses, the whole lot fell over and collapsed. There were several horses in a heap and the wagon was on its side. The horses were kicking and carrying on and what not. We had to get them unharnessed and free of the wagon and try and sort it out. I'll always remember that as a kid. I learnt the way to do that - you sat on their head. If a horse was on its side and you sat on its head it couldn't move. That was a bit of excitement.

George Freer