



Parish News

Berwick Bassett

The Great Snow Storm of 1866

The snow storm here was one of the most severe ever known. In some previous years it has drifted more in the roads, but it was over 12 inches deep in the fields. The road to Swindon was blocked till Tuesday midday, and communication with Avebury was cut off till Monday evening. No serious accident has happened in the neighbourhood. The Sergeant of Police at Beckhampton had very narrow escape. He went to Broad Hinton by road on Monday, and in returning the short way by the fields, he got into a deep drift of snow between Winterbourne and Berwick and there lay until between four and five o'clock, when, luckily, one of Mr Couzens' men and his little boy happened to come that way and pulled him out. The old man was so exhausted that they had to go on to Berwick to procure extra help to get him there. He was out in the storm Sunday evening till after 11 o'clock.

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