

HISTORY CORNER

ON Friday 27th January 1978, it began to snow and continued throughout the weekend. When the residents of Carr-Bridge and visitors to the village awoke on the Sunday morning, they found they were cut off from the outside world. The amount of snow that had fallen on the Saturday was astronomical as can be seen by the pictures - kindly supplied by Mr Bill Leach.

There was a power cut for several days; general household duties became almost impossible. Preparing meals became a major operation with many people having to cook on their open fires or on small gas stoves. For over a week there were no deliveries to the village and everyday household goods ran out.

Communication with the "outside world" was limited. Due to the high number of 'phone calls, the batteries in the local telephone exchange lost their power very quickly and as a result of the electricity power cut, the batteries could not be recharged.

Many vehicles were completely covered by the snow and finding them was quite a feat. Some were marked with poles so that people knew where there was a car hidden in the snow.

A lady who resided in "Dunroamin" Station Road went into labour and had to be airlifted by helicopter to Raigmore Hospital in Inverness. The helicopter landed in the field in front of Fairwinds - now Mannfield Place.

People who had gone to Inverness for the day found themselves stranded at Slochd. Some made their way back to Inverness to find somewhere to stay. Some did not get home for several days.

The snow ploughs could not get through due to the sheer volume of snow. Mr David Ritchie provided the then County Council with a digger and a driver and the digger cleared paths for the plough to get through.

The digger in the photograph belonged to Tulloch Plant Hire which was at the time being used in the construction of the new A9.

The snow from the roads in the village was thrown over the bridge into the river below. But the river was frozen so that by the time clearing was finished the snow reached the height of the parapets of the bridge.

So, what are the chances of us ever getting snow like that again? Probably very slim. Recent Winters have been nothing like they used to be. Twenty-nine years ago when this storm hit Carr-Bridge, we knew what Winter was about. Since then, Winters have been steadily getting shorter and milder. Perhaps this is due to the Global Warming that we are so aware of today.

SNOW STORM OF JANUARY 1978

