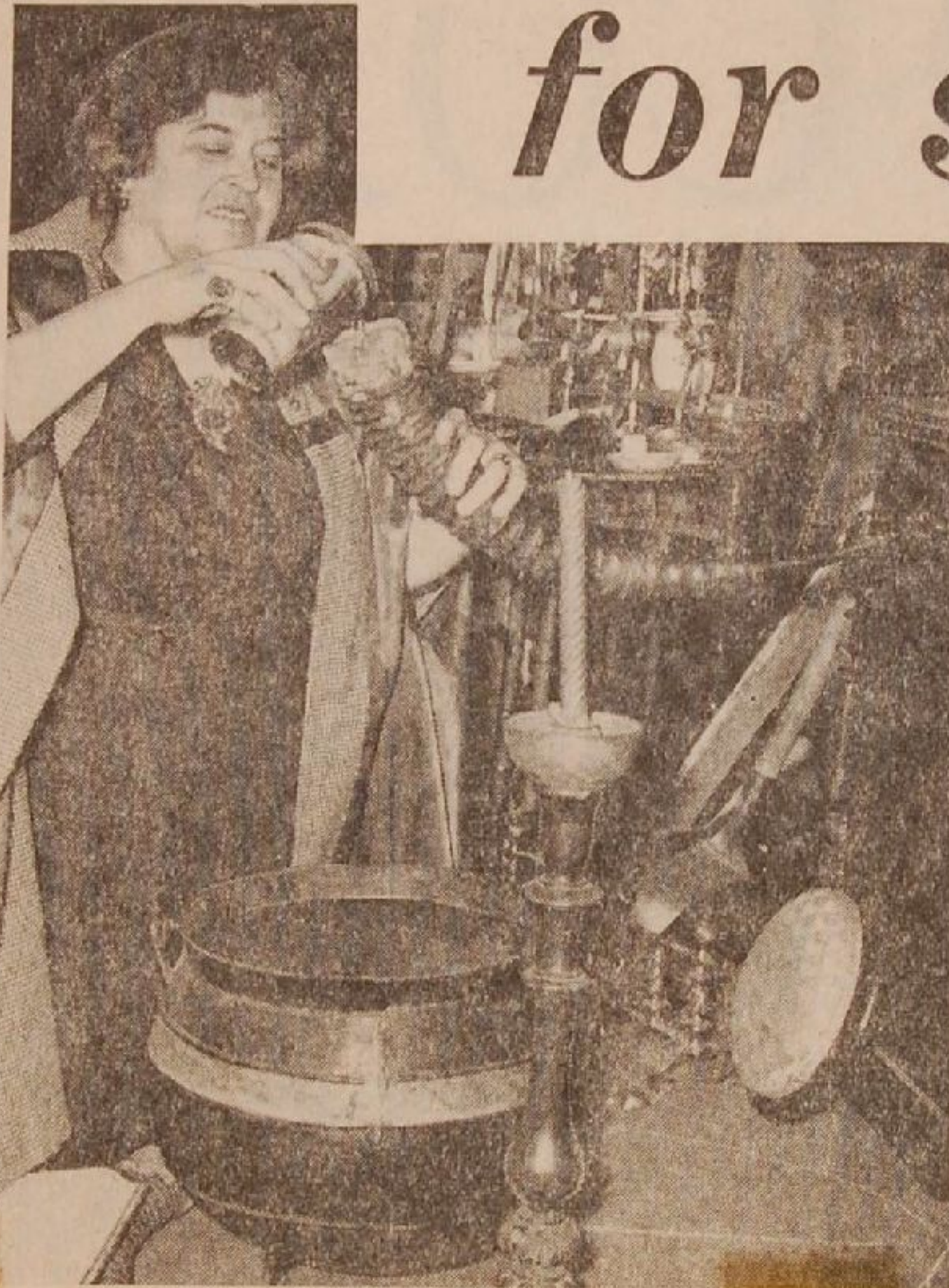


'Witch' plans school for sorcerers

October 20th, 1963

NEWS OF THE WORLD REPORTER



B RITAIN'S No. 1 Witch, huddled in a cloak, with a jackdaw perched on her shoulder, sat beside her cast-iron cauldron yesterday and talked of her plan to start a school for witches.

Sybil Leek, 41-year-old mother of two schoolboys, wants to move out of her beamed cottage in the New Forest village of Burley and find a big, rambling, lonely old house with "the right atmosphere."

Then she will invite students of witchcraft to study and take part in magic circle activities. Scores of people want to learn from the witch of the New Forest. She has even had letters from African witch doctors.

Other letters have arrived from New Zealand, Australia, Italy, France and Germany.

Most plead with her to cure illnesses, or settle rows. Some are simply addressed to "The Witch, England," or "The Witch, New Forest."

CRANKS

A lot are cranks who think she can help them make fortunes or sort out love problems, says Sybil.

In the old world village of Burley some people laugh and jeer. They call out behind her as she climbs the hill to carry out rites in the forest.

"Old witch, old mother witch," jeer the teenagers.

Many people in the district advise visitors who ask about Sybil to have nothing to do with her.

That is my advice, too. Steer clear of this mumbo-jumbo.

Sybil believes that the occult philosophy for which witches were once hanged invests a person with enough power to control the world.

Occult forces are quite neutral, she says. It rests with the individual how they are used. The same force can be used for Black Magic or for white witchcraft.

Sybil, the witch, at work on a ritual in her sorcery room