

No 12

April  
1983

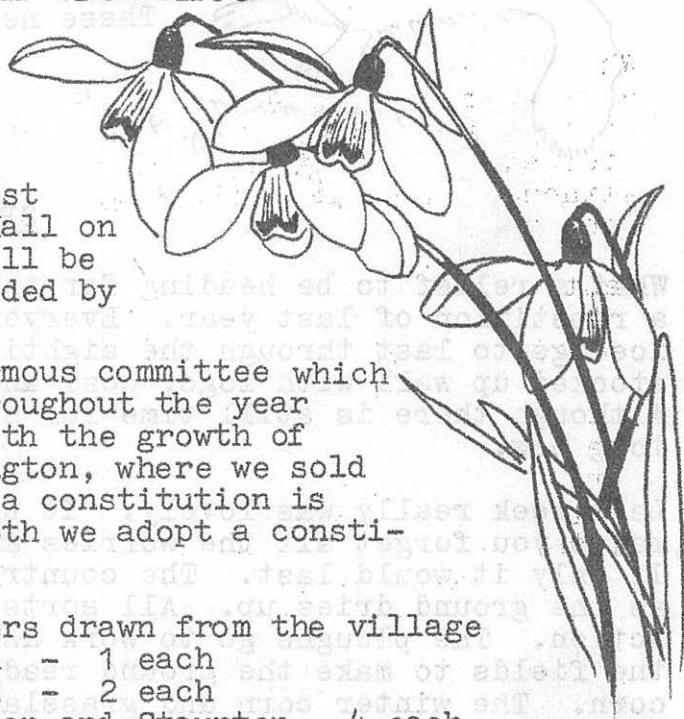
# THE SIGNAL

10p

A COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER FOR

## Kinnersley-Sarnesfield-Letton-Norton Canon Brobury-Monnington-Staunton.

### SIGNAL BOX



This is your invitation to Signal's First Birthday Celebration at Norton Canon Hall on Thursday 28 April at 7.30pm when we will be holding a Wine and Cheese Party, preceded by our AGM, which won't take long.

When Signal was founded we had an enormous committee which has no clearly defined functions. Throughout the year people have taken on functions, but with the growth of Signal to Staunton, Brobury and Monnington, where we sold 123 copies last month, we do consider a constitution is required. We are proposing that on 28th we adopt a constitution that enables Signal to:

- a) Have a Committee of up to 20 members drawn from the village areas:
- |                                       |          |
|---------------------------------------|----------|
| Brobury and Monnington                | - 1 each |
| Letton and Sarnesfield                | - 2 each |
| Kinnersley, Norton Canon and Staunton | - 4 each |

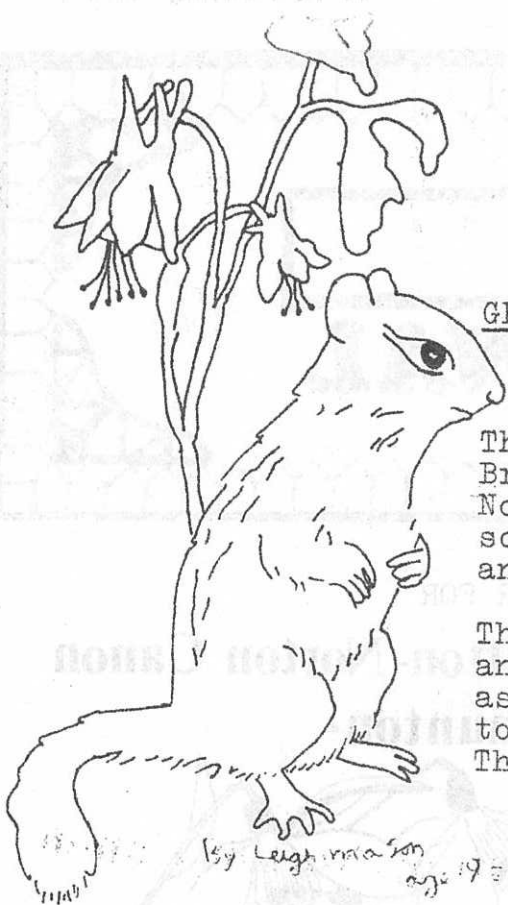
with the remaining two for people living outside the Kinnersley and Staunton Group Parish Areas.

- b) Enables the Committee to elect its own Chairman, Treasurer and fill any casual vacancies.

The full details will be available at the meeting or by prior application to the Leominster Marches Office at Weobley 8170. We hope you will come on 28 April; the proceeds of the wine and cheese will be going into Signal funds. We are asking people to contribute a little food. If you would care to help in that direction please telephone Rod Kilvert on Weobley 306.

Copy for next month's 'Signal' M U S T be received at Owl's End, Norton Canon by 15 APRIL. Diana Hardman, our typist, has worked very hard over the last year, but we cannot keep asking her to burn the midnight oil!

Next month's editorial meeting is on Monday 25 April, 7.45pm at Whitehill House, Weobley. We would be pleased to see all the committee members and any readers who would like to be more involved.



### GREY SQUIRREL

The Grey Squirrel does not originate in the British Isles, but was brought over here from North America. It looks very pretty as it scampers around but it can do a lot of damage and is often described as a pest.

This Squirrel is very much at home in woods and parks because it likes living in trees such as oaks and chestnuts. It bites off leafy twigs to make nests near the top of tall trees. These nests are called dreys.

### SPRING COMES SPRIGHTLY

What a relief to be heading for the middle of March without a repetition of last year. Everyone was predicting a mini ice-age to last through the eighties and I think we had all stocked up well with logs, coal and paraffin in readiness. Although there is still time for some bad weather, it is not long now.

Last week really was lovely. It blows the cobwebs away and makes you forget all the worries and feel on top of the world. If only it would last. The countryside really comes to life as the ground dries up. All sorts of operations swing into action. The ploughs go to work as soon as they can get on the fields to make the ground ready for drillings of spring corn. The winter corn and grassland have to be rolled and fertilised and manure to be spread, and if you stand and listen there are tractors busy in all directions. As soon as the grass starts to grow, the cattle will start appearing in the fields, turned out of their winter quarters.

The main crop of lambs are just beginning to come now and there will be many sleepless nights to go with it. We have just finished and can now enjoy our sleep. I always wonder why the majority of ewes decide to have their young during the wee small hours. Unlike a cow, who usually only has one calf, a sheep mostly has two lambs, so if you are walking round them at 2 a.m. and discover a ewe with one lamb then you know that in half an hours time she will be thinking of having another. Probably by that time there are other ewes who have just thought their time is up and in the end daylight has returned and you've never even got to bed.



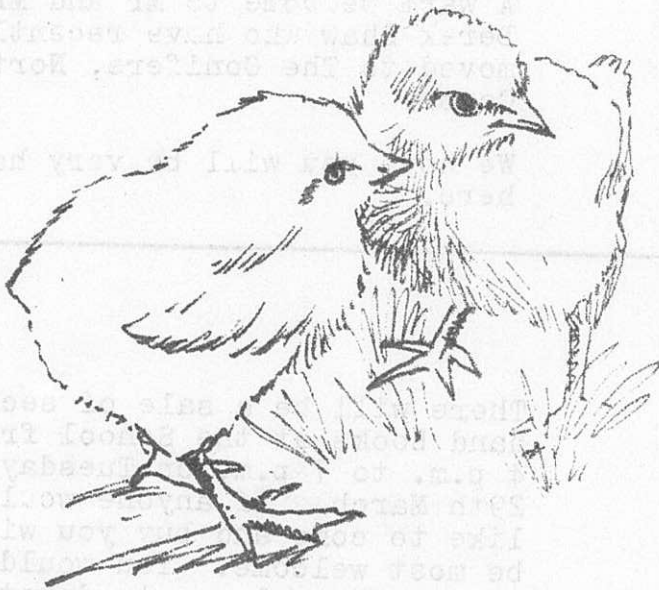


We have been very lucky this year and I am very glad we invested in the second ram. The Suffolk was not totally infertile, he did manage four lambs. The other was a great success. We built our small flock from the 'lamb bank.' I bought 30 ewe lambs at £5 apiece over three years and now they have given birth to 50 lambs. As I was walking through the ewes and noticing that within five minutes of being born a lamb was actually standing up, I thought now wonderful nature was. I then climbed over the gate and on getting down the other side, I thought how silly it was too. A couple of frogs had gone and laid their frogspawn in a puddle!! No brains to think of it drying up.

The geese are laying well now. The first one is already sitting. It takes a goose a long time to get her young. She only lays an egg every other day, so it takes about a month to get the nest full, then 30 days to sit and hatch them out. If you have an early clutch, then a second brood can be hatched in early July. The second brood must be protected from the sun on their backs or they get the 'sprawls.' Goose production can be a very hit and miss affair, cold winds in early March makes a lot of infertile eggs and if the weather gets really hot in April, then the goose can stop being broody and forget all about her eggs!

Coming off the farm, I found a really good advert for Ester Rantzens programme 'That's Life.' I bought a bottle of cough mixture for my daughter aged ten. It read 'Cough Relief for Children.' Then on the bottle and in the centre of the box in a square was marked 'WARNING. May cause drowsiness. If affected do not drive or operate machinery. Avoid alcoholic drink.' It really is children's cough mix because it goes on to say 'for Adults and children over 12 use Cough Relief for Adults!!'

Anne Cole



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I'm worried when  
I feel in all my pockets for my  
good ball pen,  
But am relieved beyond compare  
To find it there.

If it were lost,  
It's not so much a matter of a  
new one's cost  
As of failing to preserve for  
the nation  
The priceless fruits of my  
contemplation.

H O Aldous

# KINNERSLEY

We are delighted to announce:

## Births

26th February - to Judith and Keith Owen, Enys, Kinnersley, a son, Jonathan Keith, a brother for Olivia Jayne.

## Marriage

Saturday, 5th March at Kinner-sley Church, Russell John Davies, son of Mr and Mrs J F Davies, The Gate Farm, Kinner-sley to Sally Parker, daughter of Mr and Mrs Terry Parker, Swan Cottage, Letton. Reception at Hopelands, Weobley.

We very much regret to report the following deaths.

8th February, Mrs Elizabeth M. Davies, aged 78 of The Gate Farm, Kinnersley, interred at Kinnersley, 12th February.

22nd February, Samuel Pugh, aged 84, late of Kinnersley; interred at Kinnersley, 26th February.

They had both been wellknown in the district and were highly respected.

# NORTON CANON

At a Meeting of the Village Hall Committee on 15th March, 1983 the question arose of a proposed extension to the Village Hall.

It was decided to discuss the matter at a Parish Meeting to be held in the Hall during April. (Exact date to be arranged.)

We hope there will be a good attendance.

Notices giving exact date will be on Village Notice Board, Church Door and Post Office.

M. Loxston

We are very pleased to know Mrs Mary Price is home from hospital. We wish her a speedy recovery.

~~~~~  
A warm welcome to Mr and Mrs Derek Shaw who have recently moved to The Conifers, Norton Canon.

We hope you will be very happy here.

# STAUNTON-ON-WYE ENDOWED PRIMARY SCHOOL

On 11th March the children heard a talk and saw a film about Dr. Barnado's Homes. Mrs Broad, the Area Organiser, told the children how the Homes were started and showed a film on the work the Barnado Homes do today, caring for mentally and physically handicapped children. She was given a cheque for £15 which was part of the collection at the Christmas Concert.

There will be a sale of second hand books at the School from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Tuesday, 29th March. If anyone would like to come and buy you will be most welcome. You would be equally welcome to donate books for sale if you wish.

M.B. Tipton  
Head Teacher

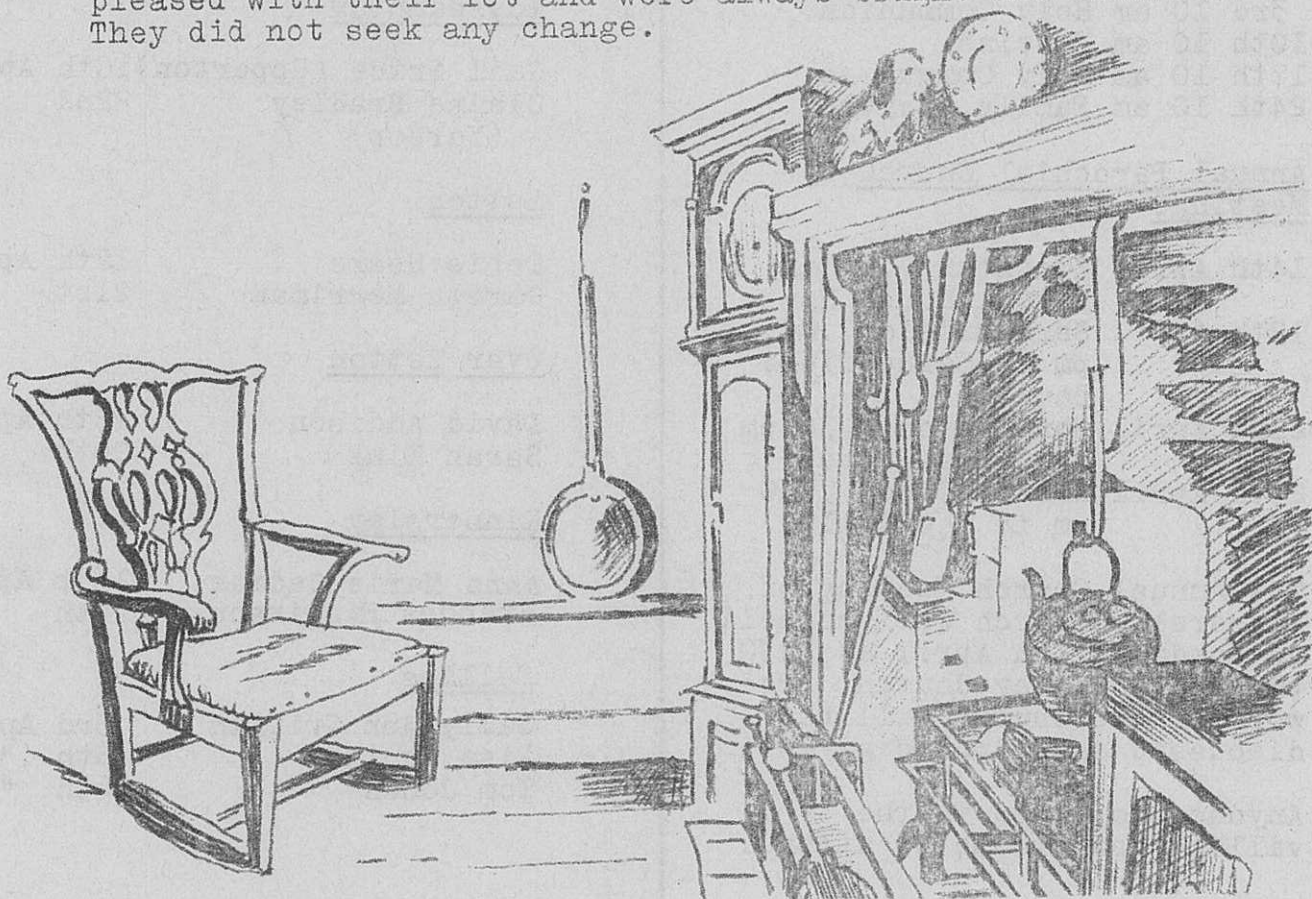


## 'Here-We-Ford'

The cottages, though old, were very warm and cosy. The Grandfather clock would be ticking away in the corner while on the mantelpiece would stand a pair of china dogs - now both very valuable. A huge wood fire would be burning in the grate and in those days wood could be bought sold in 'cords' which consisted of so many feet and a certain height. Oak and ash burned best with elm as second choice. There was an old man with a donkey and cart who used to travel round selling peat in blocks calling out 'house fuel.' It would be so many blocks for 1/- and women would buy it to keep the fire down when the flames got too high. The iron kettle would always be found sitting on the hobs of the black open grate and saucepans were then made of iron.

A fish man would travel round with a basket on his head and there was usually a little Village Shop where groceries and an assortment of goods could be had - often at the same house as the Post Office. Women worked hard, often had large families, and had no modern conveniences such as washing machines, fridges or vacuum cleaners. It was down on your knees to scrub if you wanted to keep the floors clean and the flag stones white.

Everyone was so neighbourly. In any time of trouble or illness everyone rallied around to give what help they could. The Doctor was more like a friend and often accepted payment for his services by instalments. The 2nd February was the usual date for farm workers to change employers and on that day their goods and chattels would be put on a farm wagon with the wife and children sitting on top. Even with all this work and the poor living conditions, women were well pleased with their lot and were always bright and cheerful. They did not seek any change.



# Services for April

## Norton Canon

3rd 9 am Holy Communion  
10th 9 am Morning Prayer  
17th 9 am Holy Communion  
24th 9 am Family Service

## Sarnesfield

3rd 10 am Holy Communion  
10th 10 am Holy Communion  
24th 10 am Morning Prayer

## Staunton-on-Wye

3rd 11 am Holy Communion  
10th 11 am Morning Prayer  
17th 11 am Holy Communion

## Monnington

3rd 9 am Holy Communion

## Letton

3rd 10 am Holy Communion  
24th 11 am Morning Prayer

## Kinnersley

3rd 10 am Holy Communion  
10th 10 am Mattins  
17th 10 am Holy Communion  
24th 10 am Family Service

## Annual Parochial Church Meetings

14th April Staunton 7.30 pm  
at Oakchurch House  
19th April Sarnesfield 7.30  
pm at Sarnesfield  
Court  
21st April Monnington 7.30 pm  
at Chase House  
26th April Norton Canon 7.30  
pm in the Hall

The Annual Church Meeting of Kinnersley Church will be held on Monday, 11th April at 7.30 pm in Kinnersley Church. The work of the Church will be discussed and reports given.

Anyone who lives in the village is welcome to attend.

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## BELATED HAPPY BIRTHDAY WISHES TO:

### Staunton-on-Wye

Catherine Jones 23rd March

A Very Happy Birthday to Debbie Jones who was 18 on 30th March.

### Norton Canon

Julie Lewis 18th March

### Moorhampton (Upperton)

Camilla Whitney 13th March

:::::::::

## APRIL BIRTHDAYS

### Norton Canon

Claire Sweet 1st April  
Paul Colcombe 2nd "

### Sarnesfield

Allan Williams 3rd April

### Moorhampton

Gail Price (Upperton) 10th April  
Claire Bradley 22nd "  
(Yarsop)

### Letton

Tobie Hoare 12th April  
Gareth Merriman 21st "

### Over Letton

David Addison 16th April  
Sarah King 20th "

### Kinnersley

Anna Marie Cadman 16th April  
Frances Higginson 24th "

### Sallies

Sally Ann Griffin 3rd April  
Lisa Parish 5th "  
Tom Jones 24th "



## Place Names.

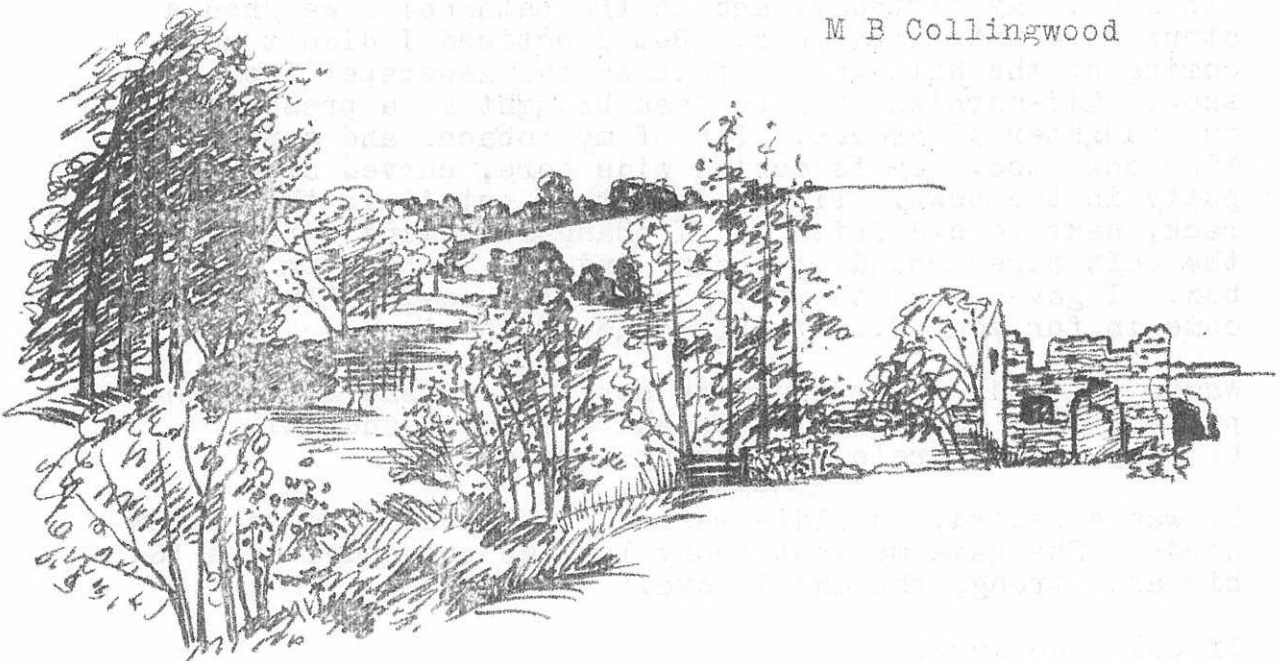
Besides '-ton' two of the most common place-name elements are '-ing' ('the people of' or 'the dwellers at') and '-ley,' from the Old English 'leah,' meaning grove or wood. Sometimes two of the three terminations appear in the same place-name, as in Withington ('tun among willows') and Monnington-on-Wye ('the tun of Manna's people.')

It is an interesting exercise to try and work out for oneself what a place-name means. For instance, what is the meaning of Kilpeck, a village noted for its Norman church, one of the finest of its type in Britain? Even the omniscient Ekwall confesses himself beaten here. He claims that it is a Welsh name, the first element deriving from 'cil,' ('corner' or 'retreat,') the second element being 'obscure.'

Finally, we may discuss some of the place-names not already mentioned in the area in which this magazine circulates. For instance, Almeley is merely 'elm wood,' although there are not many elms in this village nowadays, and what few there are have fallen victim to the ubiquitous Dutch elm disease. Kinnersley is 'Cyneheard's wood or meadow,' Letton is 'the tun where leeks are grown,' Bredwardine is 'the place on a steep bank,' Sarnesfield is 'open country by the road' - from the Welsh 'sarn,' meaning 'road,' and Woonton is 'Wynna's tun.'

Last of all, we might mention the 'lost' village of Brobury, formerly situated on the steep cliff on the north bank of the Wye near Staunton-on-Wye known as the Scar. This is just one of the many hundreds of villages in Britain which have failed to survive, for a variety of reasons, over the years. Brobury must have died comparatively recently, as the foundations of many of its houses are still visible, lost in tangled woodland and undergrowth, on the slopes of the Scar. The name means 'burg (fortified place) on the stream,' the stream being, of course, the River Wye.

M B Collingwood



## Giving up Smoking.

1st June. The pangs are awful. A week since Jenny said 'Baccy or eat, take your choice, Tom.' She'd been counting the money in her purse for the third time and couldn't make it more. I had to say I'd eat. I added that I'm very fond of salad, which ought to be cheap, with a scrap of cheese. She told me the price of lettuce, tomatoes, spring onions and cucumber. And mentioned that I'd been known to eat a half-pound of cheese at a sitting.

2nd June. Sucking an empty pipe does not help. Tried smoking dried tea-leaves as I did 60 years back, behind the old barn. Then I was sick. This time I just wished I could be.

3rd June. The postman brought an ounce of Smellie's Herbal Smoking Mixture. Got turned out of the house, with Jenny yelling 'Smelly's right! Herbal indeed! I know what it reminds me of, and you'd get it for free off the road outside the farm!' Well, the advertisement sounded all right.

4th June. What a price sweets are. Suppose I should not be too proud to ask for 2 oz. of licorice allsorts at the village shop. But I'd rather suffer. Looked through old baccy tins in the workshop. Not a shred. Dog won't come near me.

5th June. Old Bill Williams comes up to me grinning, puffing at his great cherry-wood pipe. Offers me his tin box and a fill. If there's one thing worse than no tobacco, it's Bill's Full Strength Rum Flavoured Mature Navy Twist - alias old rope. I said 'No, Bill, I've given up' in what I hoped was a firm voice.

6th June. The Sabbath. Seemed to have more wind for the hymns in church. Managed that long Hallelujah in one breath. No work to occupy my mind. No relief, except the extra taste of food. When I came up for a second helping of roast beef, Yorkshire, roast potatoes and trimmings, Jenny looked at me with a sideways grin and said 'Worth it?' Had a second go of apple tart, also, after undoing a button or two.

7th June. My birthday, and in the bathroom I weighed a stone more than last year. But I noticed I didn't gasp, coming up the hill when I fetched the newspaper from the shop. Mid-morning, the postman brought me a present from our daughter at Brecon. Tin of my tobacco and a pipe. Nice one, too. My favourite wide bore, curved stem, no putty in the bowl. Pity. I went to put it in the pipe-rack, next to old friends. I changed my mind, wrapped the soft paper round it again, and put it back in its box. I gave Jenny the baccy and pipe, saying 'These'll come in for your W.I. jumble sale, Jenny.'

Women are odd. Tears came in her eyes as she got up and put her arms round me. Then she swallowed and said, briskly, 'And here's my present. Open it.'

It was a record, an oldie we both like. Jenny sang a few words. She gave me that funny look as she ended with 'So big and strong, the man I love.'

If only she knew.

H.O. Aldhous  
Staunton-on-Wye



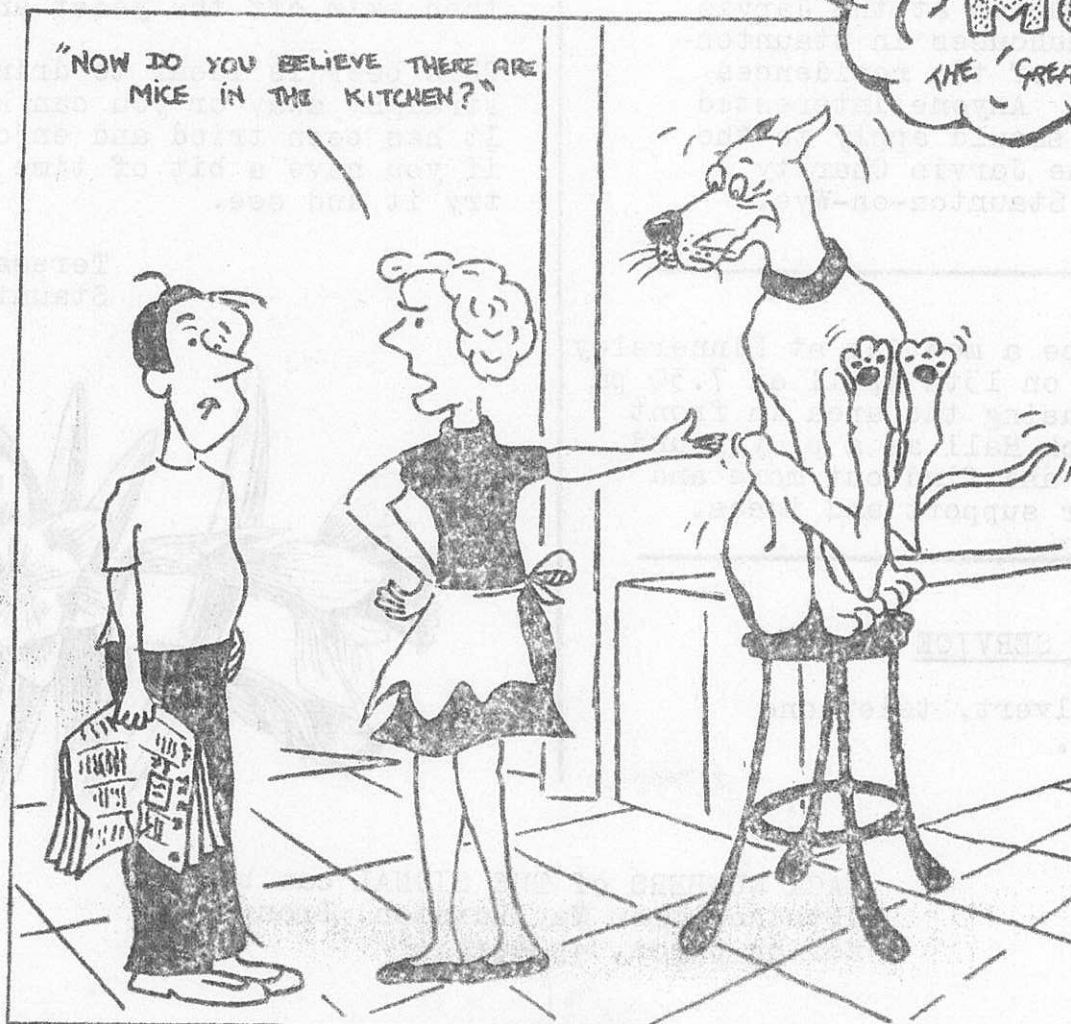
## TEMPERATURES RISE AT NORTON CANON !

Keeping fit can be fun! That was obvious from an enthusiastic demonstration of exercise to disco-music in Norton Canon Village Hall on 9th March. Tutor Mrs M Jones from Kinnersley and her class from Almeley showed their paces to some thirty ladies. The audience seemed exhausted, just watching!

There was so much interest that Mrs Jones has started regular classes on Wednesdays in Norton Canon Village Hall, from 7 - 8pm and 8 - 9pm. The fee for a ten week course is £5.50 for adults (£2.75 for pensioners and under 18's) plus 20p administration fee, payable on enrolment.

Don't worry if you have missed the first few sessions - you can still enrol - all are welcome.

Further details: Cathy Moon  
Leominster Marches Project  
Telephone Weobley 8170



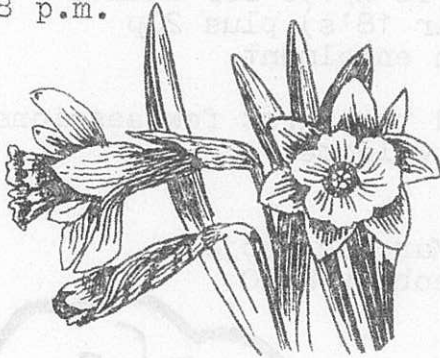
# NOTICES

## STAUNTON-ON-WYE LADIES' CLUB

The first meeting of the newly formed S.O.W. Ladies' Club will be held at 8 p.m. on Wednesday, 6th April in Staunton Village Hall. A flower arranging demonstration will be given.

The Club cordially invites new members to enrol at this meeting.

Future meetings will be held on the first Wednesday of each month at 8 p.m.



## JARVIS CHARITY ALMSHOUSES

Due to vacancies at the Jarvis Charity Almshouses in Staunton-on-Wye, two of the residences are to let. Anyone interested in renting should apply to the Clerk at the Jarvis Charity Boardroom, Staunton-on-Wye.

There will be a meeting at Kinnersley Church Hall on 13th April at 7.30 pm to discuss using the area in front of the Church Hall as a playground. Please come and find out more and give us your support and ideas.

## DRESSMAKING SERVICE

Lorraine Kilvert, telephone Weobley 306.

## RECIPES

Here's a nice drink which most children will enjoy which is very quick and easy to make, cheap too. So if you would like to try it, get your pan, bucket and ingredients and get started.

## GINGER BEER

### Ingredients

- 1 lb. loaf sugar (white granulated)
- 1 oz. root ginger or ground ginger
- 3 quarts of water
- 1 oz. cream of tartar
- $\frac{1}{2}$  oz. yeast
- 1 lemon (or Jif lemon juice)

### Method

Boil the sugar with 2 quarts of water and the ginger. Into a large bowl or bucket put the cream of tartar and one quart of water and onto it pour the boiling water and ginger. Add the juice of a lemon and stir in the yeast. Leave to stand until the next day, then skim off the yeast and bottle.

This beer is ideal to drink straight away or you can keep it. It has been tried and enjoyed, so if you have a bit of time to spare try it and see.

Teresa Bradford  
Staunton



BACK NUMBERS of THE SIGNAL can be obtained from May Loxston, Bronte, Norton Canon, 4p each.



## FINE WEATHER FOR DUCKS?

Now that winter is over, we at Waterloo and Hackmoor Hall, in the 'su burbs' of Letton, can heave a sigh of relief to see the receding waters of the River Wye. Living in a flood area, we have become sensitive to the changes in the weather in a way that was never called for in the cosy comfort of the Surrey Downs, or the deck-chair seafront of Brighton.

At the first sign of heavy rain, when the surrounding fields become waterlogged and gradually assume the appearance of rice-fields, time stands still; we suspend the normal run of activity waiting to find out how high the water will come - will it stop in the vegetable patch? Will it come to the front door-step? Shall we have to move the animals to our forbearing neighbours up the road, who regularly put up with a menagerie of sheep, goats, even donkeys, in their yard? Shall we have to lift the furniture upstairs, secure the firewood, move generators, hay, animal foods, get the cars to a safe place? As the flood warning nearly always reaches us at night, we wonder who we shall have to waken to help with the moving of heavy fridges, washing machines, precious stacks of seasoned hardwoods.

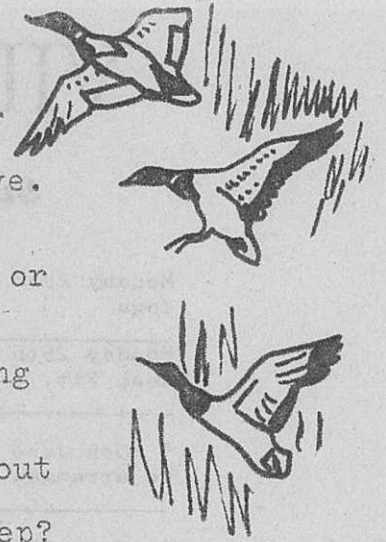
All this planning has come from the bitter experience of Boxing Day 1979, when we stood in the front room watching water trickling under front and back doors. We reached on that occasion for welly boots, home-made wine and remains of Christmas dinner, before taking residence upstairs. Even the parrot felt the disruption; he spent the duration of the flood hanging in his cage from the kitchen ceiling.

As the water peaked the next day, we looked out onto a completely changed landscape, where there were no roads, no cars, no people, just the calm and silence of a lake four miles square with the call of newly arrived water-birds.

As the day progressed, people kept phoning to see how we were getting on - each call meant wading through freezing waters to the phone (as with electricity, all the wires are set high,) using legs as measuring rods to check how fast the water was now going down; at last, it left our front rooms, bequeathing us a fish, rather out of its element, on the sitting room floor.

Then the lighting of fires, and cheers were carried from friends across the water as smoke once more billowed out of the chimney. And the cleaning up, buckets of water and hose pipes to swill floors which hadn't been so clean in a long time. And the spirit of Dunkirk prevailed as friends rode, on push bikes, with water up to the cross-bars, to help bury the one casualty: a drowned duck.

Maureen Hoar  
Sarah Saunders



# VILLAGE CLASSES

## Summer Programme - ALMELEY -

Monday 25th April 1983 to 11th July (Not Bank Holidays).  
Yoga Village Hall 6.45pm-7.45pm.

Monday 25th April 1983 to 6th June (Not Bank Holidays).  
Keep Fit. Village Hall 8.00pm-9.00pm.

\* 13th June 1983 to 11th July five talks or demonstrations to be arranged e.g:- Wine making, First Aid.

Tuesday 12th April 1983 to 14th June.  
Upholstery Village Hall 1.30pm-3.30pm.

Tuesday 26th April 1983 to 28th June.  
Local History Almeley School 7.30pm-9.00pm.  
(to include some out-door meetings).

Thursday 28th April 1983 to 30th June.  
Crafts (to include soft toys, needle craft, macrame, calligraphy, drawing, painting, including outdoor work). Almeley School 7.30pm-9.30pm.

\*\*\*\*\* Special Demonstrations \*\*\*\*\*  
Wednesday 20th April 1983.

Mrs.E.Hughes Flower Arranging 7.30pm Almeley School.  
(If enough interest a class will be arranged on the night).

Monday 13th June 1983.  
Mr.S.Gilling Wine making 8.00pm Village Hall.

\*Details:- Upholstery Mrs.Rees. weobley 261.  
Crafts Mrs.Hughes. Lyonshall 227.  
Local History Mr.Jenkins. Kington 230729.

\*Fees are based on 55 pence per hour. Pensioners and under eighteens can attend one course per term at half price.

Any enquiries to the Secretary. Mrs.L.Mills, 17 West View, Almeley. Tele. Mardisley 687.



'SIGNAL'

First Birthday Party

Thursday 28 April 7.30pm

NORTON CANON HALL

Don't  
forget



# STUCK FOR DUPLICATING OR TYPING EQUIPMENT?

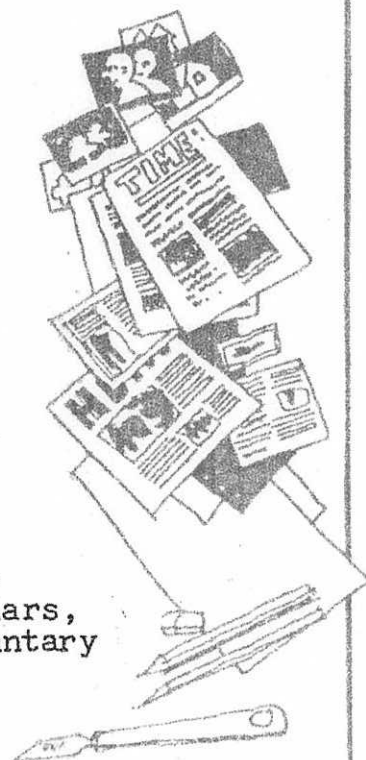


Visit  
YOUR LOCAL RESOURCE CENTRE  
AT STAUNTON-ON-WYE SCHOOL

for

- \*duplicator
- \*long-carriage typewriter
- \*paper trimmer
- \*long-arm stapler
- \*electronic stencil cutting facilities
- \*good supply of paper, stencils, etc

The 'Signal' is now printed at Staunton -  
we can show you how to do posters, circulars,  
letters and in fact most things that voluntary  
organisations and clubs need.



## CONTACT THE VOLUNTARY ORGANISER

Lin Stokes, 'Louvain', Staunton on Wye  
Tel. Moccas 437



STUCK FOR DUPLICATING  
OR TYPING EQUIPMENT?

VISIT  
YOUR LOCAL RESOURCE CENTRE  
AT STANTON-ON-WYVE SCHOOL



- \*good supply of paper, stencils, etc
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Mr Stokes, 'Louvain', Stanton on Wyke

Tel. Maccles 437