

THE SIGNAL

A Community Newsletter for
BROBURY - BYFORD - KINNERSLEY - LETTON - MANSELL
GAMAGE - MOORHAMPTON - MONNINGTON-ON-WYE -
NORTON CANON - SARNESFIELD - STAUNTON-ON-WYE

No 90

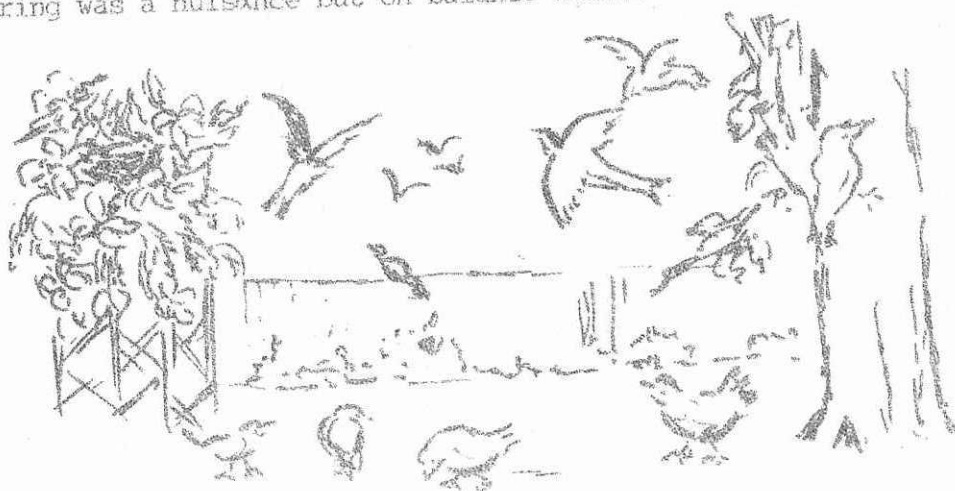
April 1990

15 p

Twitcher's Delight

I wonder how many Signal readers obtain as much pleasure watching our local wild bird population as we do here at "Greenway" in Staunton. Despite the shortage of rain last Summer and Autumn it appears to have been a very good year for our feathered friends. We don't have a hide - just our lounge and kitchen windows.

My first reflection that the 1989 season was advancing was the arrival of our House Martins on the 29th. March. I haven't kept written records but this is my earliest sighting, though I did spot one in flight at Bredwardine on April 4th some years ago. Ours normally arrive during the 2nd. half of April. They soon begin building below our front gable end and as one nest is completed another is started until a total of 5 are built. Quite a feat of engineering. In the meantime other Martins have built 2 nests on the north gable end and 2 more below our garage eaves. This small colony remained with us until mid October and some parents raised 2 or 3 broods. The accumulation of droppings, particularly in front of the garage door and their dawn twittering was a nuisance but on balance bearable.



We have a Montana Clematis by the back door and it was also in early spring that we noticed a Jenny Wren taking more than a passing interest in this climber. It's very bushy and held to the wall by plastic netting. Just above the netting, we later discovered a dome shaped nest, always built by the cockbird, but this was not to the hens liking as no eggs were laid. This proved to be the case because later in the year we observed an adult with several young fledglings, barely able to fly. The Wren really is a handsome little bird and despite its size does sing extremely loudly and deserves the Latin name of "Froglodytes" from its foraging habits. Its hard to imagine that such a pretty bird could be subjected to the "wren hunt" as in days gone by. An ancient custom, was that a Wren should be hunted down, ritually killed, the corpse carried on a bier and coins solicited for a burial!!

Spring is a frantic time for nest building and we observed several female Blackbirds collecting nest material. We also saw Blue Tits collecting nesting material but despite erecting 3 nestboxes only one pair took up residence in a box situated on the main trunk of a Silver Birch tree. The other boxes were well inspected but the free offer of a home was not taken up. Meanwhile we kept a watchful eye on the occupied box, once the eggs had hatched, the parents were kept busy feeding their offspring from dawn to dusk - 18 hours or so in mid June. Their main diet appeared to be small green caterpillars collected from local Oak trees. When the young leave the box, they make a mass exodus never to return. After 30 minutes or so only one remained in the vicinity, probably the weakling of the brood.

We never did discover the nest of our young Robins and neither did our cats. The Robins were garden visitors for quite a few weeks and reminded me of miniature thrushes in their pre-advent plumage. As fledglings they are very vulnerable until they can fly strongly, but our pet Robin originated from this hatch and to-day practically eats from our hands. Whenever gardening is in progress "Robbo" is close by. He also has the same relationship with our immediate neighbours and should be ten times his size with the additional food he receives. It was, however, on Saturday 7th October that Robbo nearly met his doom. A neighbour and I were standing on our back lawn looking towards the garden when I pointed out Robbo who was perched on a mole hill amongst my spring cabbage plants. As I pointed he flew into the hedge bottom close by and a split second later a Sparrow Hawk appeared from the orchard flying low no more than 3 feet from the ground. It suddenly veered left to clear the hedge, it was all over in a flash, but served as a timely reminder that other creatures deplete our garden bird population besides cats. Another incident that springs to mind was in late June when cutting a neighbours hedge. The hedge was ten feet high and I needed a small ladder to be able to cut the top growth and narrowly missed cutting through a Greenfinches nest containing 5 whitish, red speckled eggs. The female bird seemed however undeterred by the lack of cover and the Mc.Canns hedge remained intact around the nest area until the young had flown some weeks later.

One bird I would like to encourage more often to our garden is the Woodpecker. The Greater Spotted prefers older trees, their 'tap tap' can often be heard. They will however eat peanuts and for the first time last winter we enjoyed watching this beautiful bird pecking away on our peanut container for some considerable time. Other birds waiting to feed appear very wary. As for the lesser spotted, I well remember an hour spent in June 1988 watching an adult bird feeding two young. The young remaining static whilst the hen bird foraged along the branches of our old cider apple trees. It was a sighting I would very much like to repeat and who knows what 1990 summer will bring.

It's spring again now, when trees without leaves make bird watching that much easier. Already the Song Thrushes are singing well. We saw many of their close relations the Fieldfare throughout the winter polishing off windfall apples. Other occasional winter visitors to our bird table are Siskin and Brambling, with Tits, Greenfinches and House Sparrows our most frequent visitors. Our geese are also laying and soon the House Martins should return - will they be earlier this year?

STAUNTON-ON-WYE AND ITS NEIGHBOURHOOD OF YORE

Continuing our Series of Articles by RICHARD PANTALL

2nd March 1861

Presentation to Dr. Peter Broome Giles:

A very handsome tea-tray in silver and a candleabrum was presented to Dr. Giles at his residence, by Mr. Richard James, of Monnington Court, and Mr. John Vaughan, of Church House Farm, on behalf of a Committee which undertook by subscription, to provide this very elegant and costly tribute, to mark the esteem and respect in which he has been held by his patients, parishioners and a large circle of friends for the past 19 years.

The tray is massive, being upwards of 127 ounces in weight, with boldly chased and pierced shell and flower border, and richly engraved centre, with a medallion bearing an appropriate inscription. The candleabrum, which is of elegant design, is nearly three feet high, on a bold tripod stand, with richly chased pillars, from which spring six scroll branches for lights. They were supplied by Mr. B.T. Burton, Silversmith, of Walworth, London, and does the highest credit to his establishment. During the week it was on display in the Hereford shop of Messrs. Carless. (Your's next, Brian!)

10th February 1862

Poaching: William Grainger and Thomas Grainger were brought up in custody and charged with night poaching in the parish of Staunton-on-Wye. The case was clearly proved. Being very old offenders, the prisoners were sentenced to three months' hard labour.

1st March 1862

Amateur Concert: This brought a great treat to a large and respectable audience, who crowded into the Boy's Schoolroom in the pretty village. The admirable concert of vocal and instrumental music, given by a party belonging mostly to the gentry of the district, was to raise a fund for the purpose of purchasing an organ for the Parish Church. There was a balance of £20 after expenses.

March 21st 1863

Celebrating the Royal Marriage of the Prince of Wales and Princess Alexandra

The inhabitants of Staunton-on-Wye and Monnington-on-Wye were at an early hour aroused by the joyous peal of the Church bells. During the afternoon at the new Schools the Rev. H.W. Phillott gave a party for the children, and the old men and women in the Almshouses, numbering about 150, a treat which highly delighted them.

The farmers of the two parishes, in their hospitable manner, regaled their labourers and wives with a dinner of roast beef and plum pudding.

In the evening a dance took place in Staunton new Schools, with a bountiful supply of tea and plum cake, free to all the inhabitants of the parishes of which some 400 people did partake.

24th June 1865

Cricket Match at Staunton-on-Wye: Home team v. Eardisley, in a return match. After a very pleasant game Eardisley won by 2 runs - Eardisley, 1st innings 63 runs, 2nd innings 56 runs, total: 119. Staunton, 1st innings 26 runs, 2nd innings 91 runs, total: 117. Afterwards the two teams and supporters celebrated across the road in the Portway Inn.

West Herefordshire Greyhound Coursing Meeting:

Will take place, by permission of Sir Velters Cornewall, Bart., over his Bredwardine and Monnington Estate, on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, November 23rd, 24th and 25th 1865. The BREDWARDINE ST. LEDGER, for Puppies of 1864, 58 entries. The WESTON CUP, for 32 entries of all ages. Winner £55. Runner up £20. Third and Fourth £7 each. The WYE STAKES, for 16 Puppies. Winner £30. Runner up £12. Third and Fourth £3 each. The Draw will take place at the Green Dragon Hotel, Hereford, at 5 o'clock punctually on the 22nd November. Judge: Mr. Warwick. Slipper: Mr. Raper.

The Swan Inn, Letton

Messrs. Russell & Son have been instructed by Mr. Thomas Nicholas, who is leaving, to Sell by Auction on Saturday the 7th March 1866, the whole of his Agricultural Implements, Cider, Casks, Household Furniture and Effects, upon the premises. Sale at One o'clock and no reserve.

14th July 1866

A Sad Accident Last week befell Miss Vaughan of Cross Farm, Norton Canon. She was returning from her brother's residence at Brobury Court, and when in the vicinity of the Portway Inn she was unfortunately thrown out of her gig. Her injuries, treated by Mr. Giles, were of an alarming character, the base of her skull being fractured.

September 1867

The Abolition of Turnpike Gates: All gates belonging to the Weobley Turnpike Trust have now been abolished. This is only the "beginning of the end" of these "relics of a barbarous age" in the district, which 'ere long, will be totally free of all such obstructions and nuisances.

Sunday 28th March 1868

The New Primitive Methodist Chapel was opened in Staunton-on-Wye, when sermons were preached in the morning, in the afternoon and in the evening. They were all listened to with deep attention by crowded congregations. On the following day, at 4.30 p.m. a public tea meeting was held in the Chapel when about three hundred people partook of an excellent tea. It is hoped the newly-erected Chapel will supply a long-felt want, enabling many old people to attend who have been unable to walk the considerable distance to the Church. It is hoped the cause will be well supported.

8th June 1868

A Disastrous Fire at Upper Norton Farm: At 4.30 a.m. fire broke out in the outbuildings on the farm occupied by Mr. Edward Pantall. A man and a boy were attending to some horses and as at that early hour it was dark they needed the light of a lantern, which was put on a nail on the roof beam. The sudden motion of placing the lantern in this position caused a flash flame of the lamp to take place, when some whisps of hay or straw from the floor above caught fire. The alarm was instantly given, when neighbours and friends rushed to the farm to render assistance. The farmhouse, six wheat ricks and a hay rick were preserved by the efforts made, but 14 loads of wheat and a clover rick were destroyed.

14th October 1868

The Death of Sir Velters Cornwall, Bart., took place at Moccas Court after a long illness. He was in his 44th year, and was the fourth baronet, having at the age of 11 years succeeded his father, the late Sir George Cornwall, in 1835. Unmarried, he is succeeded in his title and estates by his only surviving brother, the Rev. now Sir George Cornwall, M.A. The deceased Baronet was in politics a staunch and consistent Liberal. In private life he was a high spirited man of good abilities. He was a most kind landlord, and had the sincere respect of his tenants and dependants. He was much beloved by all who knew him, being in every respect an English country gentleman. He was a great lover of field sports, and for many years, with Mr. J.S. Arkwright, maintained the Herefordshire Hounds. The Cornwall family has an illustrious ancestry, tracing its descent from Richard, Earl of Cornwall and King of the Romans. It has produced many men who have won distinction in the Church, the Navy and in Parliament.

24th October 1871

Drunkenness: Thomas White, a mason's labourer, was charged at Weobley Petty Sessional Court with being drunk at Staunton-on-Wye. P.C. Butler said that in the evening White wanted more beer at the New Inn, but as he was drunk the landlord refused to draw him any. The Chairman asked "Where did you get the drink?" Defendant, "I don't know." The Chairman, "But you must have been sober at some time during the day?" Defendant, "Well, it was very early in the morning if I was!" (laughter)

COUNTRYMAN

Last week I heard a Woodpecker drilling in a large tree - strange, its always the same tree every year; does she make a new nest or simply enlarge the old one? Anyway, I thought, now's the time to break open the seed packets with a vengeance. Of course, those of us with even an unheated greenhouse will have sown a few varieties already - antirrhinums and begonias are notoriously slow starters and need sowing early. Most half-hardy annuals like French and African Marigolds, Ageratums, Lobelia and Petunias can be sown now though.

Seeds of Annual dahlias can go in now and will reward you with dozens of blooms later on - not as large as the tuberous varieties of course - but far cheaper. The plants keep on producing blooms, only the first frost of the autumn calls a halt to their display.

Anyone contemplating the planting out of bare-root (not potted) subjects like roses, fruit bushes and shrubs had better beware now! True, you may well succeed but the vagaries of our climate can bring you unstuck too. I would suggest that you water all freshly planted areas as a matter of course, then stand by with a watering can if a dry spell comes along. Don't be afraid to prune newly planted subjects like roses hard - they won't mind and will develop line shoots from the remaining buds.

Now is the time to spread that bag of fertiliser that you've had in the shed for years. With all the wet weather we've been experiencing, it'll do a power of good. Remember not to spread chemicals too thickly though

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(Brian Robbins)

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about 1 oz. to the square yard is enough. Lawn fertiliser should go on now and will give you a marvellous green reward; do make sure that you mow the lawn before applying it, then leave it for a couple of weeks to be absorbed by the grass. Talking of fertiliser - don't put it down round the wallflowers, which prefer a hungry soil. If you intend to replace the wallflowers with summer bedding in June, that's the time to put your fertiliser down.

April is an excellent month to sow lawns or indeed to patch up existing ones. As I look out of the window I can see an area which has been trampled and which needs re-seeding. I shall dig this over, rake it down and then sow at 2 oz. to the square yard. I prefer to use fine grass seed which is a bit more expensive than rye grass mixture, but looks much better. However, if I had little ones running around the garden, I would go for the tougher rye grass.

Vegetable gardeners will be going mad this month, sowing all manner of vegetables; ~~Squashes~~ and marrows can be sown in pots under glass, to be transferred outside when frost no longer threatens.

Yes, there's so much to do at this time of year - only when you can spare the time to go outside, why does it always rain?

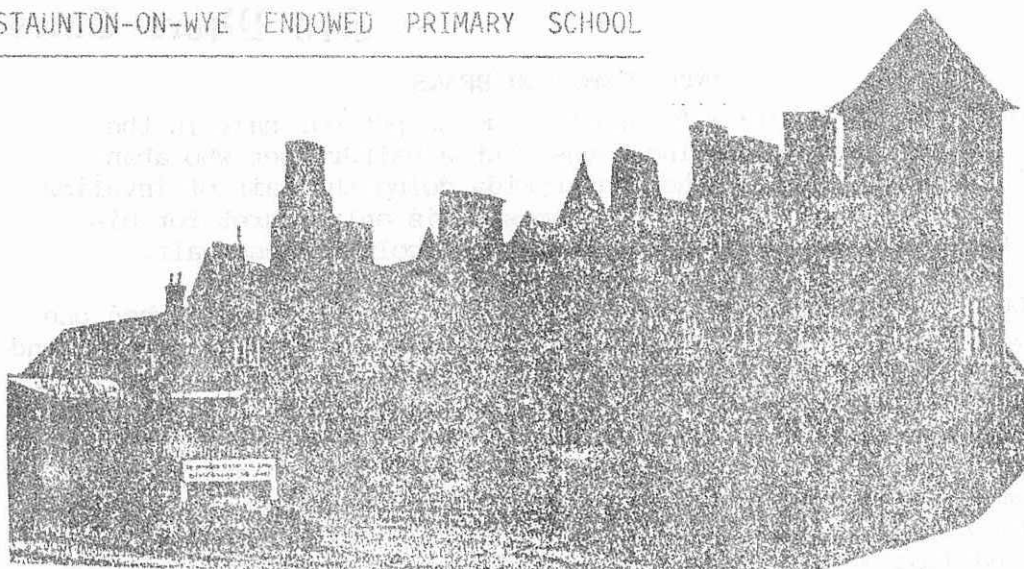
His was the sort of life that made the Recording Angel think seriously about taking up shorthand.

So live that you would not be afraid of selling the family parrot to the town gossip.

"YOU ARE QUOTING SHAKESPEARE"
(Bernard Levin's "Enthusiasms")

Why do we smile at the old lady who saw "Hamlet" for the first time and came out complaining that it was full of quotations? Shakespeare's unique ability was to convey a thought, original or familiar, profound or casual in words that have rooted themselves in the innermost consciousness of millions because his thoughts correspond to what is already, unexpressed, to be found there. If this were not so his words, however magnificent, could not have struck roots so deep and tenacious; he found the soil fertile and through his genius it has borne fruit.

If you cannot understand my argument and declare "It's Greek to me" you are quoting Shakespeare; if you claim to be more sinned against than sinning, you are quoting Shakespeare; if you recall your salad days you are quoting Shakespeare; if you act more in sorrow than in anger, if your wish is father to the thought, if your property has vanished into thin air, you are quoting Shakespeare; if you have ever refused to budge an inch or suffered from green eyed jealousy, if you have ever played fast and loose if you have been tongue tied, a tower of strength, hoodwinked or in a pickle, if you have knitted your brows, made a virtue of necessity, insisted on fair play, slept not one wink, stood on ceremony, danced attendance on your lord and master, laughed yourself into stitches, had short shrift, cold comfort or too much of a good thing, if you have seen better days or lived in a fool's paradise - why, be that as it may, the more fool you for it is a forgone conclusion that you are (as good luck would have it) quoting Shakespeare; if you think it is early days and clear out bag and baggage, if you think it is high time and that that is the long and short of it, if you think that the game is up and that truth will out even if it involves your own flesh and blood, if you lie low till the crack of doom because you suspect foul play, if you have your teeth set on edge (at one fell swoop) without rhyme or reason then - to give the devil his due - if the truth were known (for surely you have a tongue in your head) you are quoting Shakespeare; even if you bid me good riddance and send me packing, if you wish I were as dead as a door nail, if you think I am an eye sore, a laughing stock, the devil incarnate, a stony hearted villain bloody minded or a blinking idiot then - by jove, O Lord! Tut! Tut! for goodness sake! what the dickens! But me no buts - it is all one to me because you are still quoting Shakespeare.



WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT YOUR VILLAGE SCHOOL?

From the outside it looks old, mature, perhaps showing signs of its age. Inside it is brightly decorated with pleasant colours giving a feeling of light, spacious classrooms. We have as much if not more equipment than many other schools: a computer in each classroom, two cookers for cookery lessons; recorders, guitars, keyboards and percussion instruments; televisions and videos, apparatus for physical education. We have many books for reference work and reading for pleasure. The County Library van comes each term when the children choose eight or nine books (mainly reference) for themselves. We have all the books necessary for the main subjects in the National Curriculum with the children working at their own level. Most fourth year children leave this school working on a mathematics book for the first year in secondary school. Our records show that the children leaving Staunton to go to Weobley Comprehensive School have either gone immediately into the 'A' stream or have been moved up into it after a short time. Our county screening tests show our results are above average. There are 11 tests in each group of tests, and there are two groups. (We have never had a 'below average' result in any test.

We have a school uniform which ninety per cent of the children wear although it is not compulsory. We go swimming ten times each term. We have theatre groups in school to act plays in which the children participate. We have at least one school trip every year for all the children, with others specifically for Juniors or Infants.

We have a good relationship with all parents. Often groups of parents organise out-of-school activities which raise funds for the school. We have a new set of Governors many of whom are parents and so the lines of communication are many.

The school is always open in class time and visitors are welcome. A telephone call to the headteacher first would be appreciated. A lively living school makes a lively living village so GET TO KNOW YOUR VILLAGE SCHOOL.

The Governors
Staunton-on-Wye Endowed Primary School

Old Wives Tales

MATRESSES FOR BEANS

It was not actually an Old Wife who told us to put our hair in the bottom of a trench when planting beans, but a hairdresser who abandoned his salon to go round the countryside doing the hair of invalids and elderly pensioners in their own homes. His only regret for his salon is that nowadays, working alone, he can collect less hair.

Country buses are excellent places for meeting Old Wives, and when one of us passed this tip on to her neighbour on one she said that her grandmother used to tease out old horsehair mattresses for this purpose, and also to use the results of grooming her dog and cats, as well as herself and her children. Noxious little creatures in the soil, she said, would become entangled in it, and the horsehair was strong and sharp enough to prick them to death. Anyone who as a child with bare legs has sat on a horsehair sofa can well believe this; but scientists have also now discovered that hair is full of valuable mineral and chemical properties, supplying trace elements not otherwise easily available.

NETTLES WITHIN REASON

Nettles can hardly be allowed to rampage all over the garden, but in fact they stimulate the growth of all plants in their neighbourhood while actually growing, as well as being the best thing in the world to hasten the decomposing of a compost heap while providing it with rich ingredients. In the kitchen garden it is advised to grow controlled clumps of them, particularly between currant bushes, which will thereby fruit better and be more resistant to disease; and nothing is better when taking in a new area for any soft fruit than to use an old nettle-bed that has enriched its own soil for many years with its own compost. It is a great relief to the overworked gardener, when someone spots a nettle that in fact is not meant to be there, to be able to say, in mummerset dialect, 'Ee, now, dinna thee move thon, thon be excreting nitrogen, silica, iron, protein, phosphatesm formic acid and other mineral salts, thon be.'

Nettles for Rhumatics

Pick top 4 leaves of nettles enough to fill pan. Cover with water, bring to boil, simmer for 5 mins. Cool. Strain, bottle and drink a wineglass per day at least.

IN AFRICA

In Africa we've been
Six long weeks and seen
Hippos and Crocs
Crowned Cranes and Hammerkops
An orange spotted frog who hops
And frights away the Antelops
From Saiwa Swamp
Curled at Kakamega
Deadly still and green
A young Puff Adder with flicking tongue
Disturbs our dream !!!

We have been on holiday in Kenya and seen many different animals - this poem is about a few of them. The Hammerkop is a brown long-legged water bird that builds high nests five times the size they need. Saiwa Swamp is a very small nature reserve where an aquatic antelope called the Sitatunga can be seen, but we didn't see one. Kakamega is part of an equatorial rain forest.

Bridget Higginson

Contributions for the MAY issue should be sent to Gareth Evans, Lanzerac, Norton Canon (0544 318505) by 20th April please.

WHAT'S ON....

CHURCH SERVICES DURING APRIL

Byford

1st	9.30 am	Holy Communion
8th	10 am	Family Service
15th	9.30 am	Holy Communion
22nd	10 am	Family Service

May

6th	9.30 am	Holy Communion
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Letton

8th	11 am	Family Service
15th	11 am	Holy Communion
22nd	6 pm	Evening Prayer
29th	10.30 am	Group Holy Communion

Monnington

15th	9.30 am	Holy Communion
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Norton Canon

1st	9 am	Holy Communion
8th	9 am	Family Service
15th	9 am	Holy Communion
22nd	9 am	Morning Prayer

Sarnesfield

15th	10 am	Holy Communion
22nd	10 am	Morning Prayer

Staunton-On-Wye

1st	11 am	Holy Communion
8th	11 am	Morning Prayer
15th	11 am	Holy Communion

May

6th	11 am	Holy Communion
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(Easter Day is on April 15th.)

Kinnersley

1st	10 am	Holy Communion
8th	10 am	Mattins
9th	7.30 pm	Holy Week Service
13th	10 am	Good Friday Service
15th	10 am	Holy Communion
22nd	10 am	Family Service
25th	10 am	Holy Communion (St. Mark the Evangelist)
29th	No service to-day. Please come to the Quarterly Group Service at Lyonshall Church at 10.30 am.	

May

6th	10 am	Holy Communion
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STAUNTON VILLAGE HALL

Jumble Sale - bottle stall - cake stall etc - draw

SATURDAY 7TH APRIL

2.30pm

All proceeds to village hall improvements.

Come to a SPRING FAIR

at Staunton Village Hall
on Saturday 28th April at 2 p.m.

An assortment of stalls including: CAKES, WHITE ELEPHANT, PLANTS, SECONDHAND CHILDRENS' TOYS and CLOTHING, BOOKS, KNITWEAR, BOTTLES, AND MORE. A RAFFLE WILL BE HELD. Come and BROWSE OR BUY. COFFEE, TEA & BISCUITS ON SALE.

Proceeds will go in aid of Staunton-on-Wye Playgroup

EASTER PRIZE BINGO

At Hopelands Hall, Weobley, Monday
9th April at 8 pm.

DISCO BY LOCOMOTION

At Hopelands Hall, Weobley, Saturday
28 April. 8pm to midnight

Admission charge - £2.50

There will be no admission after 10.30pm
(Both these events are in aid of the South Bank Close Centre, Hereford for the mentally handicapped.)

STAUNTON VILLAGE HALL

Sunday Lunch - skittles - side shows etc

SUNDAY 13TH MAY

12.30 onwards

tickets: £3 (£1.50 for children under 12)
available from Joan & Doreen Jenkins & Evelyn Morgan.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

Kinnersley Group: AGM Thursday 26th April
Norton Cannon Village
Hall - 8pm.

Staunton Group: Parish Meeting 7pm.
Parish Council
AGM 7.30pm
Thursday 10th May
Staunton Village Hall

COMMUNITY CHARGE

Leominster District Council is to hold evening surgeries to answer questions and provide advice and assistance with regard to the 'poll tax' and benefits available, at Mill Street, Kington and Corn Square, Leominster.
Tuesday & Wednesday evenings until 10th & 11th April - 5.30pm to 7.30pm.

THE NIGHT ROSE

Oh lovely rose so calm and still
Seen in the evening light
Your fragile form against the green
Bewitches all the night

Just like a maiden young in life
With head poised into the air
Aware there is yet no flower in sight
To rival one so fair

Make much of this hour oh lovely one
For beauty goes so soon
Throw out your perfume into the night
And lift your face to the moon

God gave you beauty for all to see
And this is your moment in sight
Spread wide your petals under the tree
For you are the Queen of the Night.

Frank Evans

THE WINTER ROSE

I saw a rose one winters day
The last rose of the year
It had a beauty of its own
Both fragile, old and dear

I watched it battle with the winds
Its petals tightly sealed
Day after day it kept its life
And inner heart concealed

Then suddenly one snowy night
With pity in my heart
I brought the rose into my room
Its petals fell apart.

Frank Evans

news

Mrs Hodgeson and Mrs Langford both of Staunton are in hospital, we wish them a speedy recovery.

My sincere thanks to all those who so kindly offered their sympathy on the death of Arthur, and for all the cards, flowers and donations to Letton Church.

Mrs Peggy Biddle

A BOTTLE BANK & PAPER SKIP

are now available at the Household Waste Site (The Tip), Bridge Street, Leominster.
8am - 4pm Mon-Fri
9am - 1pm Sat & Sun

Any clean paper or cardboard - no bundling needed.

Recycling helps the local community, saves resources, saves energy and saves landfill.

Aluminium cans can be taken to Leominster swimming pool to raise funds for a learner pool or to the Scout Hut in Pinsley Road to raise funds for Barnados.

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ICH BIN BERLINER

Jill & Malcolm Ainslie

We had not planned to go to Berlin or do much travelling abroad at all this year, as there was too much to do at Darkley, getting the house and garden as we want it, and lately keeping an eye on the rising waters of Letton Lake, a local pastime this year. However, our friends we spent Christmas with were going to see "The Wall" before history changed it all, so we decided to go along with them for a long week-end. We set off for Hale in Cheshire (our starting point) and having negotiated the floods around Worcester and survived the gale swept motorways to the north we duly arrived in time to join our friends and set off for Manchester Airport.

The first impression of Berlin is one of high rise blocks of flats and offices everywhere you look, block upon block sticking up from a grey landscape bathed in the winter's evening light. Neon lights fighting for recognition against the amber street lights and competitive messages advertising the markets of West Berlin. Looking east a darker strip runs through the lights and as if not to be outdone neon tubes blaze their messages from the east but not with the same proliferation as the west.

Our hotel room window overlooked the zoo and the Budapesterstrasse towards the bombed out remains of the Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church and the Europa centre. The Kaiser Wilhelm Gedachtniskirche (Memorial Church) has been preserved as a ruin. It is a symbol of the city suffering from bombardment and post war rebirth. The war-scarred tower with the broken stump of its steeple is flanked by a new octagonal church to the east and a chapel and six sided tower to the west. Blue stained glass from Chartres has been set in the walls of moulded concrete and is illuminated from the inside. It looks awful. I feel it would have been more meaningful left on its own without the modern concrete and blue monolith beside it.

We had dinner (abendessen) at a very busy "Kneipe" or "Bistro" on the Kurfurstendamm, West Berlins most important street. To locals it is known as Ku'damm and, like the Champs Elysees in Paris, it plays a more popular

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RESTAURANT

Evenings only - Closed Monday/ Tuesday

MEETINGS - PARTIES - PRIVATE FUNCTIONS

OUR DINING ROOM & BARN RESTAURANT ARE BOTH AVAILABLE FOR MEETINGS, PARTIES AND PRIVATE FUNCTIONS. NO HIRE CHARGES ARE MADE FOR THE USE OF EITHER. FOR FUNCTIONS - THE DINING ROOM WILL SEAT 26, THE BARN, UP TO 36. FOR BUFFETS UP TO 60 CAN BE ACCOMODATED. SEATED MEETINGS, UP TO 40 PERSONS. A SELECTION OF SET MENUS IS AVAILABLE FROM £5/head upwards, BUFFET Menus from £1.75/head.

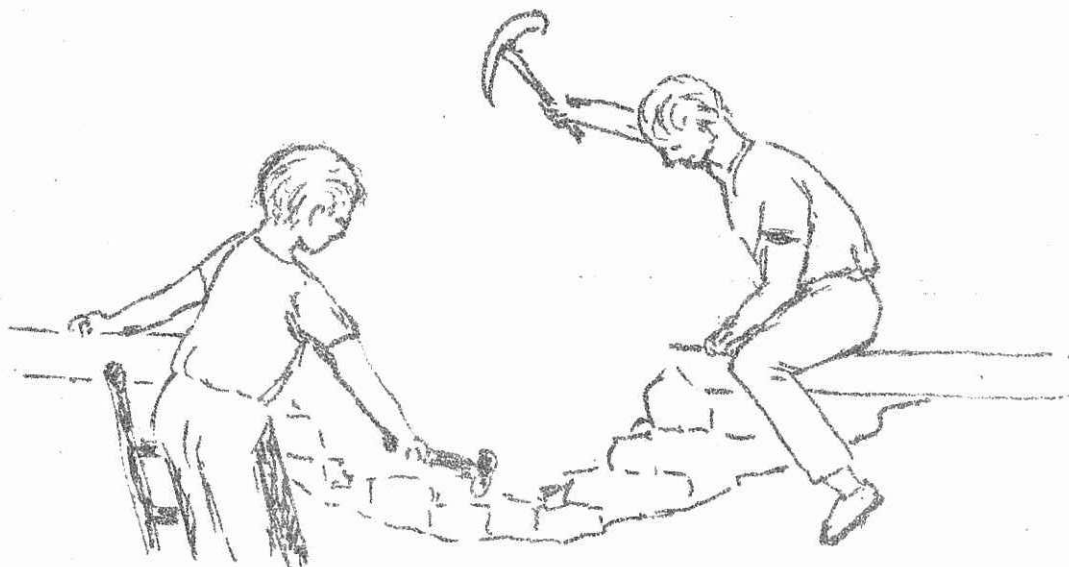
JAY OR GARY, THE PROPRIETORS, WILL BE HAPPY TO DISCUSS YOUR REQUIREMENTS.

CATERING FOR THE COMMUNITY

SENIOR CITIZEN LUNCHEONS
£3.25 /head
served wednesdays only

role as the towns promenade. Our dinner was excellent, we avoided the local delicacy of pigs knuckle, (puree of peas and sauerkraut prepared in white wine seasoned with juniper berries, caraway seeds and cloves) and had steak and chips! Actually we tried the local dishes but passed by the various sausages (they can be very strongly flavoured). The beer "Berliner Weisse" is foaming draft beer with a shot of sweet raspberry syrup or liqueur!! (No wonder we won the war) raspberry syrup in beer ugh! We stuck to Pils and Export but nothing as good as the pint in the Three Horseshoes.

We went to bed having arranged a walk beside "The Wall" in the morning, an hour long film of the History of Berlin, a 4 hour coach trip into East Berlin and tickets for the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra in the evening. It was going to be a long day to-morrow. We woke to a fine sunny morning and had an excellent breakfast at the hotel before setting off by taxi to the Brandenburg Gate. Our driver dropped us off outside the Reichstag building which lies alongside the wall by the Brandenburg Gate.



We walked from the Reichstag to the wall surrounding the Brandenburg Gate. As we approached all you could hear was the hammers of freedom tapping their tune on reinforced concrete as West Berliners chipped bits off the wall to sell to tourists at 1DM to 5DM depending on size. We selected some pieces with the graffiti paint still on from a student who was kitted out with cold chisel and club hammer. The wall is extremely tough and takes a lot of hammering even to get a small chip of concrete from it. Holes have appeared through the western half of the wall and you can look through these across "No Mans Land" to the pristine condition of the East wall. The sight sends a chill through you, it is difficult to conceive a structure that keeps people in - rather than out.

It is 13 feet high topped by concrete tubing to prevent easy hand-holds. Behind it stretches a 160 foot wide strip of land some covered in grass (with rabbits) the rest is sand and old cobbled streets with the tram lines still embedded in them. Watch towers with searchlights dot the area, the tank traps, machine gun posts and dog patrols have gone now but the 16 foot ditch to stop vehicles breaking through and the electrified fence on the east side are still there as are the bricked up buildings and barred windows of all the buildings in the East, that overlook the West. Up to last November the East German Authorities referred to the wall as a "Modern frontier". It was a very moving experience standing there looking across 28 years of repression. The guard posts are empty now and may they ever remain so until they too are pulled down.

We moved on to the Europa centre to see "all singing all dancing" history of Berlin on Multi-Vision using 39 computer-controlled projectors on a 70 foot screen including special stage effects and Dolby Stereo Sound. It was not as good as we had hoped, the slides and film clips were "bitty"

and it "pushed" how good Berlin was as an Arts centre over the years back to 1200 and played down the Hitler years and other historical events of interest. We did not have time for lunch as we had to catch the coach for the tour of East Berlin and here we saw the first sign of rare German inefficiency. We thought they had double booked some of the seats but after a lot of verbal between the driver and the organisers we set off 30 minutes late. (We could have had some lunch). We were entering East Berlin through check-point Charlie - the crossing point on Friedrichstrasse which became famous for confrontations between Americans and Soviet tanks in the weeks following the walls construction. The four hour trip appeared to be made up of waiting for security clearance to get into the Eastern half after another half hour delay we were checked off the tour list and our passports checked. A guide joined the coach and we were off into the East. East Berlin like its residents looked grey but the buildings impressed us greatly, they had been rebuilt following the war exactly as they had been before the allies fire bombed the city and all the public buildings looked very well kept. There were one or two big Party messages but there was an air of 1920's grace about the place as though time had passed by and we were looking at East Berlin in the days of the Emperors.

Everything we saw was large and grand, wide roads, solid buildings, there were still some bomb sites to be re-built and the Linden trees that had been replanted in East and West Berlin had a long way to grow to make a big impression. We saw the French and German Cathedrals beautifully restored. St. Hedwigs Cathedral, Humboldt University the State library and the Brandenburg Gate from the East, you get a better view of the "Quadriga" the copper statue of Winged Victory and her four horse chariot adorning the six Doric column gateway.

We moved on to the Pergamon Museum a citadel like building and had an hour to view its contents of classical antiquity. Time ran out for us at the Museum and due to members of the party going out to evening shows etc the guide cut short the rest of the tour and we set off for the West, and the wait to be checked out over the border. We arrived back at the hotel just in time to change and rush to an evening of Mendelssohn played by the Berlin Philharmonic.

Sunday morning and we had to be at the airport by 11am (East Berlin time) we were up late and had a leisurely breakfast and then took a taxi to the airport. We left on time and it was interesting flying over East Germany in daylight and so close to the ground. The farming appeared to be all arable. There were no signs of cattle or sheep, very few fields were planted with spring crops just ploughed and left. All fields were neatly "blocked" on in strips and we got the impression that the fields were smaller and neater as we crossed into West Germany.

Over the canals of Holland and the oil rigs of the North sea and surprise surprise into cloud as we approached the English coastline. We arrived home Sunday evening well pleased with our trip. A very interesting and moving experience.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Meeting of all NW Co-ordinators - Thursday 26th April - Hereford Police Station - 7.30pm.

Notes: (1) There has been a theft of fuel oil from a storage tank at a house in the area. Households that have such tanks should make sure that they are secure and perhaps wherever possible in their own interests to disguise the tank. The people responsible for this type of theft must have some sort of tanker vehicle to transport their ill-gotten gains, if you see any such vehicle, which is not familiar, parked outside a house you know has such a fuel tank please note its number and inform your N.W. Co-ordinator and the Police just in case.

- (2) A number of elderly people have had bogus water or gasboard officials and children as young as 13 using various pretences to con their way into their homes and relieving them of money and jewellery, again please warn the people you think are most at risk from this menace.
- (3) The main reason for thefts from cars is that doors and boots are not properly locked. Most thieves are opportunists and won't touch anything which takes time or could be too risky. So Co-ordinators please spread the word around your area that wherever cars are parked, outside the home, in the street or in a car park, make sure that the car is secure. There are many alarm systems now on the market that can be fitted to vehicles and can certainly make life difficult for the thief.
- (4) The most vulnerable times of break-ins are between 6pm & 2am when many people tend to go out for an evening. Most favourite points of entry are, according to last years figures - Rear windows 86. Back doors 36. Patios 6. Mostly by these being insecure but some by good old fashioned breaking glass. However it is still possible to make life difficult for most would-be thieves, if not the more determined ones.

Bernard Shaw hasn't an enemy in the world and none of his friends like him either.

Oscar Wilde

A woman needs a man like a fish needs a bicycle.

The tree which moves some to tears of joy is in the Eyes of others only a Green thing that stands in the way. Some see Nature all Ridicule and Deformity.....& Some Scarce see Nature at all. But to the Eyes of the Man of Imagination, Nature is Imagination itself.

William Blake 1799

Completing an impressive ceremony, the Admiral's lovely daughter smashed a bottle of champagne over her stern as she slid gracefully down the slipways.

Provincial Magazine

OUCH; THAT'S ME

Deafness is a handicap
One can take too lightly
Understanding's increased now
I am deaf and not so sprightly

I was grieved when poor old Dick
Got a nice white walking stick
I grieve more for me than him
Now my sight is growing dim

Folk with Parkinson's disease
Sometimes shake their limbs or freeze
Always sorry when I spot it
I am sorrier now I've got it

George's osteo-arthritis
Always had my sympathy
But that feeling is much greater
Since I've had a painful knee

Maggie Mott

greenway gardens

'growing with enthusiasm'

Christopher Greenway
1 Court Farm Cottage
Mansell Gamage

Tel: Bridge Sollars (098122) 366

HAVE YOUR GARDEN TIDIED - OR PLANTED UP!

We have been sent a copy of a Code of Practice, prepared jointly by the County Council, the county branches of the National Farmers Union, and the County Landowners' Association, entitled "Farming and the Public Highway". Some of the more pertinent paragraphs are reproduced below:-

MUD ON ROADS

Code of Practice

Prior to any activity likely to bring mud onto the highway signs should be set up well in advance of the area concerned in both directions. Mud arises from vehicles, equipment and animals. Signs do not in themselves prevent liability for accidents that occur.

Those responsible for the work or moving cattle must ensure that it is carried out safely and must ensure that the highway is clean afterwards. If deposits on the road are insufficient to warrant immediate cleaning care must be taken to prevent a gradual build-up of mud.

Overloading - Trailers and muck spreaders passing along the road should not be loaded to the extent that vibration causes them to overflow.

Mud on Wheels - Excessive quantities of mud and soil must be removed from vehicle wheels before moving onto the highway. Hardened areas through gateways can help to remove mud from wheels.

Wide Vehicles - Vehicles which are too wide for the road surface should not be used. Over-running of verges causes mud to be spread onto the road, breaks up the edge of the road and damages drainage arrangements.

The law normally permits vehicles and trailers only up to 2.5 metres wide other than under special arrangements, but many lanes are not really suitable even for this width. In these situations only very occasional use should be made with adequate means of warning other traffic.

Soil and Water from adjoining fields - Landowners are responsible for mud and water running off fields onto roads and can be required to do works to prevent this happening. Attention beforehand can prevent the problem. Limits on cultivation in terms of direction and proximity to boundaries will reduce the risk.

HEDGE CUTTING

Code of Practice

Hedges and trees adjacent to the highway must not be allowed to interfere with the safe use of the highway by vehicles or pedestrians. Overhanging branches or hedges which obstruct passage or visibility should be lopped or trimmed. The Highway Authority may if necessary serve notice on landowners to undertake maintenance.

Hedge Brushings - Brushings which fall onto the footway or carriageway must be removed immediately as they can cause great difficulty and potential danger for all road users including cyclists and animals.

Damage to Drainage Systems - If during the work the drainage trenches from the roadside to the main ditch are damaged by tractor wheels they should be re-opened. These trenches are known as grips. Similarly, if grips or ditches look likely to become blocked from the brushings they should be cleared.

DON'T FORGET - This month your 'Signal' distributor will be collecting your annual subscription - £1.50 for the next eleven issues.

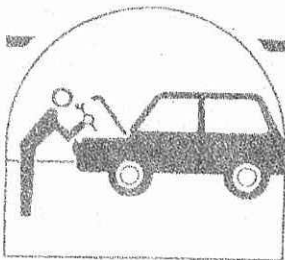
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NEW SLIMMING CLASS OPENS WITH A NEW APPROACH

Mrs Hazel Fakhri, a fully qualified consultant, opened her new class in BREDWARDINE VILLAGE HALL at 7pm on TUESDAYS and is offering slimmers SLIMMING WORLD'S unique approach. **The sin-a-day diet** is a healthy eating plan with generous amounts to eat and no special foods to buy. "In fact it is a sensible, no nonsense, easy to follow eating plan that suits the modern dieter" says Hazel.

SLIMMING WORLD are aware that the Consumer shops around for the best value for her money, and therefore place a great emphasis on giving their members the very best. When a member joins Hazel's group she will receive instructions in how best to suit her life style to the sin-a-day diet, and YES she can eat chocolate and have a glass of wine! She will also get the benefits each week of Slimming World's famous Image Therapy to help and encourage her. She will also go home with a bag full of health and beauty samples and the knowledge that for every new member she brings with her in the future she will get one week's free slimming.

We say 'she', but as Hazel points out, men are also very welcome as well. The weight loss for men on the sin-a-day diet is just as good as the ladies. Hazel's classes are open now, so for a new approach to an old problem, why not come along. Or you can ring Hazel on 09817 544. She will be more than pleased to hear from you.



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