

A COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER FOR
Kinnersley-Sarnesfield-Letton-Norton Canon
Brobury-Monnington-Staunton.

NORTON CANON'S DANGER SPOT

The case for a speed limit

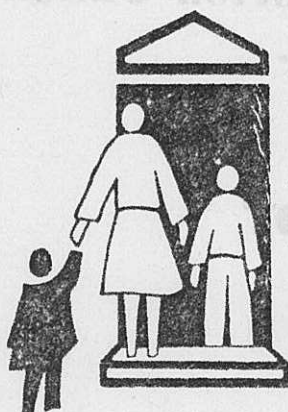
There is growing concern in Norton Canon over the lack of a speed limit through the village and many residents are of the opinion that another effort should be made to have one imposed.

Norton Canon is by no means the only village in the district to have no speed limit. There are many others in which no official limit is in force, possibly because many of them are situated on narrow winding roads which impose their own natural speed restriction.

But Norton Canon is rather a special case because a main road, the A480 from Hereford to Kington, runs through part of it, and although most of the houses in the village are situated in side roads, a few of them, together with the service station, the 'Three Horseshoes' inn, the village hall and, most important of all, the school, are situated on the main road. What is more, industrial traffic on this road is liable to increase as the proposed new Elan Valley dam scheme goes ahead.

It is, of course, the school which presents the biggest traffic hazard and which is the main cause of the residents' concern. There are at the moment some forty pupils attending the school and the time of maximum danger is when they leave in the afternoon and when the cars of parents collecting them are parked by the roadside. Although there is a school warning sign at each end of the stretch it is fairly certain that most passing motorists are scarcely aware of it and even if they are they pay it little attention. The road happens to be fairly straight at this point and the average motorist therefore tends to put his foot down. The danger both to schoolchildren and to parents' cars is obvious.

Representations were made some time ago to get a speed limit imposed, but the official reaction was that this would involve the posting of a traffic policeman and it was considered that such a step was unwarranted. But it certainly appears that the time has come for further consideration to be given to the problem as many people feel that it is only a matter of time before a serious accident occurs.



Relief Care for the Handicapped

Social Services Department
The Priory
The Old Priory
LEOMINSTER

7 July 1983

Dear Sir

We want to get in touch with as many people as possible in the area to inform them of a scheme which has been set up by the Social Services Department to provide relief care for families with handicapped children. We wonder if you would be so kind as to publish this letter in your parish/community magazine, to help with our publicity campaign.

The Relief Care Scheme was designed with its principal aim being to provide a suitable and easily available form of support for families of physically and mentally handicapped children, of all ages and degree of handicap. People - married or single, young and old - in the area volunteer to care for a handicapped child for periods ranging from an hour or two to two weeks. These people are paid a nominal fee, by Social Services, for their time. Day to day arrangements for care relief are made between the parent and the carer, once they have got to know each other. For the handicapped child, inclusion in the Relief Care Scheme, would not prevent the provision of additional relief care at a residential establishment; but the Relief Care Scheme is seen as giving a different kind of service - something local and informal, which can give the families of handicapped a much needed break from constant caring; the handicapped child the vital experience of mixing socially with another family, and the carers the satisfaction of working with a handicapped child and knowing that they are filling a most pressing need.

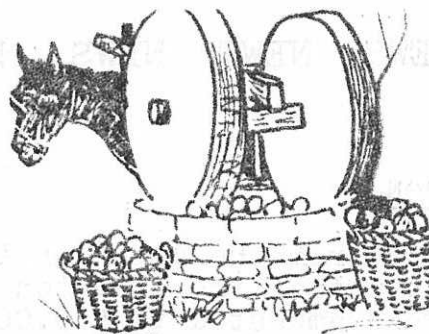
If anybody would like further information please contact:

In the Hereford Area : Claire Rouse, Hereford 276401

In the Leominster Area: Chris Sholl or Jenny Hill, Leominster 3811

'Here-We-Ford' -

A FEW MORE OBSERVATIONS



In the early years of the century nurses were trained as midwives and then given a district often consisting of several parishes and provided with a bicycle and uniform. £1 a week was the wage. Rooms or a cottage were provided but one had to cater for oneself. The uniform was dark blue with heavy coats and a separate cape plus little straw bonnet with white strings and a large bow under the chin. They attended women in childbirth, old bedridden folk and the everyday illnesses of children. When it became known how much better it was than the old way, folks accepted the new nurse. They were on call day and night and, when busy, would often have to cycle miles from one case to the next. To be admitted to Hospital or the Infirmary, one had to get a ticket from a Local Subscriber - usually the Lord of the Manor or local Rector.

Before the Old Age Pensions were granted, widows and the very old would get Parish relief which consisted of 2/6d a week - if one was lucky. In 1924 a widow with two small children and having rent of 5/-d weekly would only be granted 18/-d. For those who lived far out of the town, the relieving officer would come in his horse and trap each week and the old folk would have to walk to a certain spot to meet him and get their money. They might even have to wait hours in freezing and wet weather whilst he was supping up in the local pub! You had to attend personally - otherwise the relieving officer would be very angry.

Hereford was noted for its cider and old cider mills were to be found on many a farm and small holding. These mills consisted of a huge stone trough, with a stone which was pulled round by a horse to crush the fruit. The pulp was then put into 'hairs' made of coarse sacking and pressed under a gadget which extracted all the juice. Then this was put into casks and left to ferment. The finished product was very potent, especially in the open air when one's legs would often refuse to function! Some fruit made better wine than others, notably 'Kingstone Black' and Hereford Beefing.'

Another feature was the black and white houses of the district - often thatched. Weobley is a famous example and so also is the area around Ledbury. The old black beams are still to be seen inside some rooms for the construction is just lath and plaster. It used to be an expensive time when a thatch needed repairing and today one would be hard pressed even to find a thatcher. The art was usually passed on from father to son, as in the case of the family of Herring who lived at Hampton Bishop. The edge of the eaves would be ornamental, the straw would be wetted and drawn and then fastened down with pegs and twine.

*Births*STAUNTON

Proceeds from the dance on the 9th July in aid of the Staunton Churchyard Fund amounted to £65.00
Grateful thanks to Mac and Evelyn Morgan for the hard work they put in on such a hot night.

Phil McCann



Best wishes to Peter and Helen Pantall of Kilkington Manor who were married at Staunton. Also to Janet and Robin Jones who were married at Staunton and are now going to live in Hereford.

Staunton

Best wishes for speedy recoveries to Mrs Annette Jones and Mr Harry Morgan who have been in hospital for operations and are now progressing well. Best wishes also to Mr Harding Preen in the hope that he will soon be feeling better and joining once more in his usual busy occupations.

I should like, on behalf of my wife and myself, to thank all those friends who kindly transported my wife to and from hospital, also for the many good wishes and 'get well' cards received.

Harry Morgan
Green Ridge
Staunton-on-Wye

Congratulations to Mr and Mrs Patrick Wrixon on the birth of their daughter.



And to Mr and Mrs Roger Price, of Upperton on the birth of a son.



We would sincerely like to thank everyone for the warm and generous welcome extended to our little daughter.

We only hope she'll be as well received when she makes herself known at 2.00 a.m!

Patrick & Fay Wrixon

HAVING PROBLEMS WITH YOUR CAR?

Bad starting?

High petrol consumption?

Poor performance?

Not charging?

You require a

CRYPTON TUNE

Tel. REG PILLING

ELECTRO-TUNE

MOBILE CAR CLINIC

MOCCAS 415

I COME TO YOU!

OVER LETTON

Help wanted in the Garden.
Moccas 515.
(Evenings or weekends.)

Our sympathy goes out to Clive Morgan and family in their recent bereavement.

The editorial address for 'The Signal' is Owls End, Norton Canon. Please send your copy to arrive not later than the 15th of each month.

BARBECUE

SARNESFIELD

A Barbeque in aid of St. Mary's Church, Sarnesfield will be held at 'Woodmanton Farm' by kind permission of Mr & Mrs R.S. Bright on Saturday, the 6th August from 6.30 p.m. onwards.

BRING & BUY STALL, SKITTLES ETC.

EVERYONE WELCOME.

Dear Editor
 Wot i sez
 yor Signal wudnt be $\frac{1}{2}$
 as gud wivout them
 Drorins So wry not print
 oo doesem. Prominent
 Luv
 J. Oker Esq.



MY FAVOURITE POEM

by Helen Stokes

'When I was at a party'
 Said Bessy (aged four)
 'A little girl fell off her chair
 Right down on the floor

And all the other little girls
 Began to laugh but me
 I didn't laugh a single bit'
 Said Bessy seriously.

'Why not?' her mother asked her
 Full of delight to find
 That Bessy, bless her little heart
 Had been so sweetly kind.

'Why didn't you laugh Bessy?
 Or don't you like to tell?'
 'I didn't laugh,' said Bessy,
 'cause it was me that fell.'

Weobley Group of Parishes

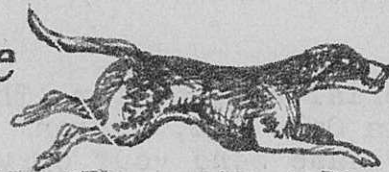
Services for August

<u>Sarnesfield</u>	14th Holy Communion
10 am	28th Morning Prayer
<u>Norton Canon</u>	7th Holy Communion
9 am	14th Morning Prayer
	21st Holy Communion
	28th Family Service
<u>Staunton</u>	7th Holy Communion
11 am	14th Morning Prayer
	21st Holy Communion
<u>Monnington</u>	14th Holy Communion
9.30 am	
<u>Letton</u>	28th Evening Prayer
6 pm	

The Weobley Group of Parishes will be remembered in the intercessions at Evensong in the Cathedral on Tuesday August 30th at 5.30 pm. Anyone may come to this short said service.

A special service of Evening Prayer is being arranged at Norton Canon for the Over 60s Club from Weobley at 3 pm on Sunday August 21st.

The Hounds of the Baskeville



West Country or Welsh Border?

When, early in 1886, Arthur Conan Doyle wrote 'A Study in Scarlet,' the novel which introduced his best known character, Sherlock Holmes, to the world he probably never in his wildest dreams imagined that the great detective would become one of the most famous characters in British fiction. It seems certain that the novel was intended to be a 'one off' work, written largely to supplement his, at the time, somewhat slender income as a medical practitioner. But the novel was so well received by the public that for the next forty years, almost up to the day of his death, Doyle continued to turn out novels and short stories featuring Holmes and his friend and colleague Dr Watson. Most of these stories appeared originally in the 'Strand Magazine,' which rapidly became a bestseller in consequence.

By the time Doyle died in 1930 Holmes and Watson were historical characters and today, over fifty years later, their popularity shows no signs of diminishing. Sherlock Holmes societies have been formed in numerous parts of the English-speaking world and Holmes and Watson are treated by these societies, and by countless readers, as if they were real personages. Biographies of Holmes have actually appeared and every aspect of his life has been scrutinised. As Conan Doyle was turning out the stories over a period of forty years it is scarcely surprising that, as time went on, he forgot in later stories what he had written in earlier ones, and students of Holmesiana have gone to ingenious lengths to think up logical explanations for some of the better-known discrepancies - why, for instance, Watson's Jezail bullet wound moved from his shoulder to his leg, why his wife in 'The Man with the Twisted Lip' called him James when his name was John, and why this same wife is mentioned in some of the later stories long after she was supposed to have died during the period Holmes was travelling in Tibet after his miraculous escape from death while struggling with Professor Moriarty above the Reichenbach Falls (perhaps Watson had married again?) Every little detail of the stories has been analysed - the origin of the stories themselves and their characters, even discussion of the location of the tales.

As regards locations, in only one of the four novels and fiftysix short stories which make up the complete saga, 'The Boscombe Valley Mystery,' is the setting of the story stated to be in Herefordshire. Although Holmes travelled extensively in Britain and on the continent while solving his cases this is the only time he is definitely known to have visited our county. But it is more than possible that another of the stories, 'The Hound of the Baskervilles,' perhaps the most famous of the cycle, had at least some of its origins in Herefordshire.

The story is dedicated to Conan Doyle's friend Fletcher Robinson because, in the author's words, 'it was your account of a west country legend which first suggested the idea of this little tale to my mind.' Fletcher Robinson was a journalist who was a collector of strange legends and country tales and it was he who told Conan Doyle the legend of a spectral hound which was said to haunt a family in the west of England, the Cabells, in consequence of the brutal murder of his wife by a seventeenth century member of the family. Doyle used this legend as the basis of his story and located it, most appropriately and effectively on Dartmoor. But it is very possible that a somewhat similar Herefordshire legend also played a part in the germination of the story.

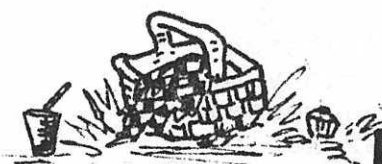
Take, for instance, the name of the family who, in the story, lie under the curse of the spectral hound. Charles Higham, in his biography of Conan Doyle published in 1976, states that the author took the name Baskerville from Robinson's man who drove the trap in which Doyle and Robinson visited Dartmoor to get the background for the story, and that Baskerville was a local family name. Be that as it may, the fact remains that the Baskervilles were originally a Herefordshire/Radnorshire family, and their name is still commemorated in the 'Baskerville Arms' hotel in Clyro, just across the road from the house in which the diarist Francis Kilvert lived when he was curate in that village. During the middle ages they owned several manors in Herefordshire, including Staunton-on-Wye, Brobury, Eardisley, Stretton Sugwas and Yazor, and by all accounts they were a turbulent and lawless clan some of whom were every bit as evil as Doyle's fictional Sir Hugo Baskerville from whom the curse of the spectral hound originated.

Then, too, the legend of a spectral hound is not confined to Devon. Herefordshire also has its spectral hound legend, the Black Dog of Hergest, associated with another sinister character, Thomas Vaughan, known as Black Vaughan, who was killed in the Wars of the Roses, and whose effigy lies in the Vaughan Chapel in Kington Church.

What gives substance to the suggestion that Conan Doyle may have had the Herefordshire Baskervilles and the Black Dog of Hergest in mind as well as the Devon legend is that, according to a book I read a year or two ago, he had friends in Herefordshire with whom he was staying at the time he was getting ideas for his story. Unfortunately I cannot recall the name of the book and extensive research has not revealed it. Perhaps some reader of 'Signal' has read the same book and could throw further light on the subject.

But whether or not Conan Doyle did visit Herefordshire at the time he was writing 'The Hound of the Baskervilles' it is not beyond the bounds of possibility that he had heard of the Herefordshire Baskervilles and the Black Dog of Hergest. In his dedication he refers to a 'West country legend,' and 'west country' could, at a pinch, refer to Herefordshire as well as Devon.

M.B. Collingwood



Kinnersley Playground

PICNIC AND GAMES!!

7th AUGUST AT 3.00 p.m.

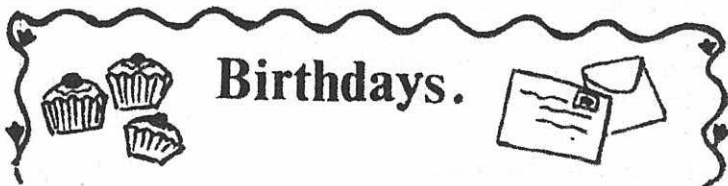
We invite you to a picnic and games afternoon at the new playground site.

Please bring your own picnic. Everyone is welcome.

The playground is at Gate Farm, Kinnersley, on the corner of the Almeley turn, on the main Leominster road.

If the weather is bad, we will cancel the picnic and hold it on 14th August instead.

Further Information: Sarah Sanders, Eardisley 352
Sara Higgison, Eardisley 471



Birthdays.

Happy Birthday to:

Sarnesfield

Anne Williams
Laura Synock

6th Aug
30th "

Norton Canon

Paul Ridge

24th Aug

Kinnersley

Sarah Probert
Harriet Jones
(Sallies)

3rd Aug
4th "

Moorhampton

Benjamin Jay
Kevin Evans

22nd Aug
25th "



SIGNALS BIRTHDAY LIST.

Signals list of birthdays is kept by May Loxston, Bronte, Post Office, Norton Canon.

Since Signal expanded its circulation there are many children whose birthdays are not on our list. Please can you send details through to May or if you find it more convenient, give the details into Mr & Mrs Doody at Staunton P.O. Please give year of birth as well as day, month, name and address.

word quiz. Answers.

COLOURS

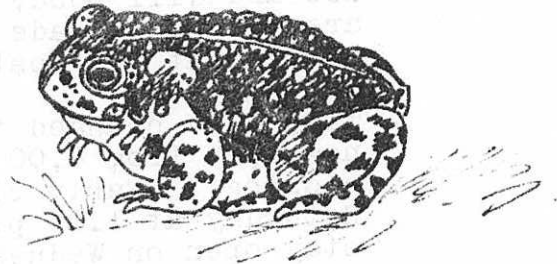
CREAM · GREEN · ORANGE · SCARLET ·
TURQUOISE · INDIGO · PURPLE · WHITE ·
MAUVE · BLUE · PINK · RED · BUFF · AMBER ·
BROWN · YELLOW · GOLD · SILVER · NAVY · GREY ·

ANIMALS · LION · TIGER · ELEPHANT ·

BUFFALO · FOX · WOLF · MONKEY · GORILLA ·
IBEX · STAG · KANGAROO · CHEETAH ·
DEER · GOAT · COW · PIG · DUCK · SWAN · SHEEP ·

PETS PAGE

Methuseleh's our garden Toad
He's very, very wise.
He seldom speaks, but says it all
With those bright ancient eyes.



In future, dear Aunt Bessie says,
I must play in the shed.
It seems she is not dead keen on
Young hedgehogs in her bed.



Dad blacked an eye and spoiled his nose -
He fell on baby's play-pen.
What made things worse, our budgie said
"And who's a pretty boy then?"

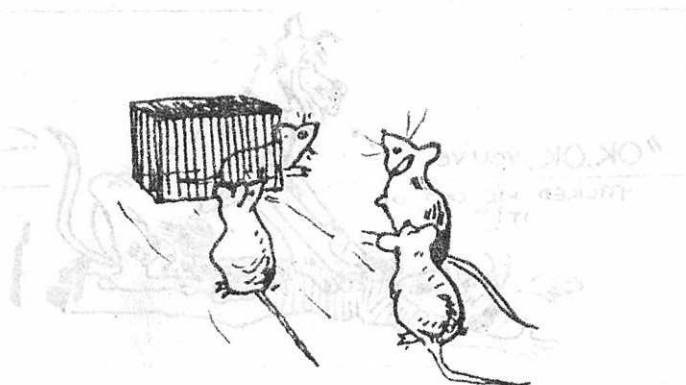
Two tramps came in our yard one day,
Said they were water dowers.
Our Jim-dog took one look at them -
Cost Dad two pairs of trousers.



We did not push Aunt in the pond,
We did not spoil her suit.
She over-balanced, pulled in by
An extra-powerful Newt.

Big Basher Brown knocked Sister down
With language far from nice.
A kindly action in return -
I'll liberate his Mice.

Owen



STAUNTON-ON-WYE VILLAGE STORE

LONGER OPENING HOURS AT STAUNTON-ON-WYE VILLAGE STORE

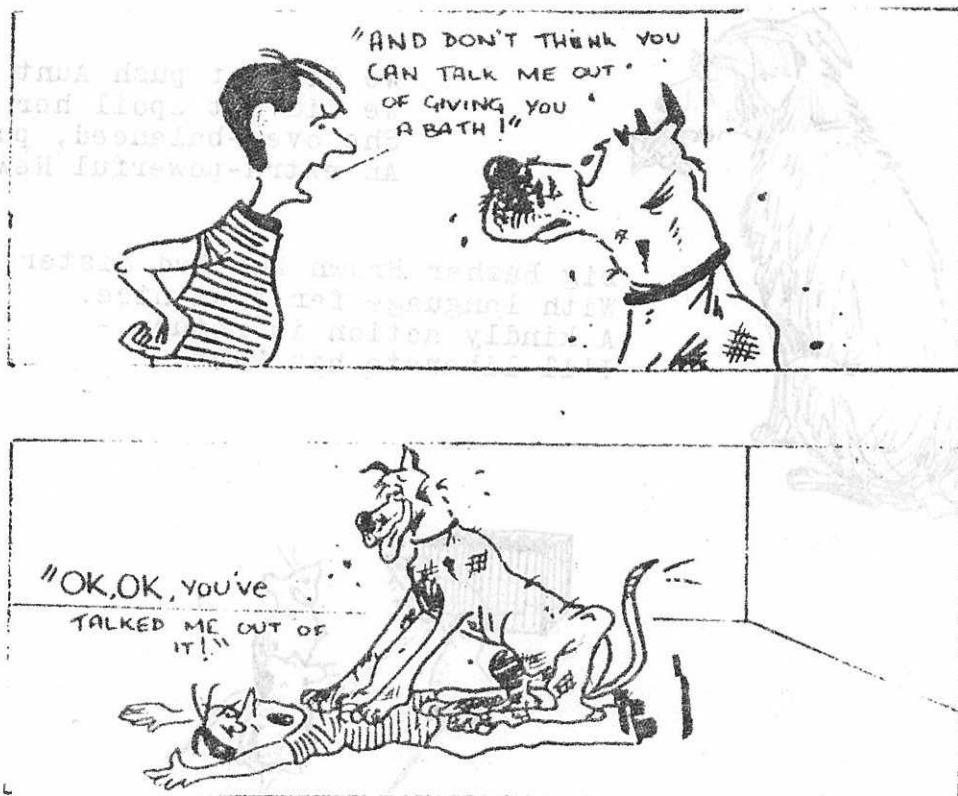
Bob and Gill Doody would like to thank everyone in the area who have made them feel so welcome since their arrival at the Post Office and Stores, Staunton-on-Wye.

They have changed the opening hours of the shop and are now open from 8.00 a.m. til 6.00 p.m. (no lunch time closing.) Early closing days are still Wednesday and Saturday at 1.15 p.m. at present, but they intend to stay open on Wednesdays in the near future. Sunday opening for Sunday papers etc. (order please) is from 9.00 a.m. til 12.30 p.m. Post Office opening and closing times remain unchanged.

Fresh bread is now available daily, together with rolls, cakes etc. and is supplied from Bakers Dozen, Credenhill, baked on the premises.

Orders are now being taken for daily newspapers and magazines and it is intended to have them available early enough for collection on the way to work. Please let Mr and Mrs Doody know your requirements.

Delivery of grocery orders are undertaken at no extra charge and telephone orders are welcome.



VILLAGE CLASSES

A small, but enthusiastic group of people discussed the possibility of village classes at Norton Canon Hall on 20th July. We'd like to know how many people in each village would be interested in particular classes. Please help by filling in the questionnaire.

1.	What classes would you attend if arranged in the village? e.g. Dressmaking, local history, woodwork.	
2.	What is your nearest hall/meeting place? Would you travel to another village for a class?	
3.	Do you prefer evening or daytime classes?	
4.	Do you have any special problems in attending? e.g. lack of transport, young children etc.	
5.	If we have a paid instructor the course fee will be 60p-£1.20 per week. Would this be acceptable to you?	
6.	We hope to enlist the support of voluntary tutors who live locally. Are you willing to teach in a voluntary capacity, on short courses?	
7.	Do you have a special interest about which you could give a talk, e.g. bird watching?	
8.	Would you be willing to help organise the classes?	
9.	Would you like to see classes/activities provided especially for young people/children? If so, please suggest activities.	
10.	Any other comments?	

YOUR NAME.....TEL NO.....

ADDRESS.....

*Please return to your village shop or post to
Diana Hardman, Owl's End by 19th August.*

