



THE SIGNAL

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

NO. 50

AUGUST 1986

PRICE 12p

WEOBLEY AND DISTRICT ANNUAL PLOUGHING MATCH,
THRONE FARM, WEOBLEY, WEDNESDAY, 17th SEPTEMBER, 1986.

'Signal' Participation

WE are pleased to announce that, in order to give our support to the ploughing match, 'Signal' is sponsoring a special children's essay competition. The subject of the essay will be 'My Best Day'.

Prizes for the top entries will be £3 for first, £2 for second and £1 for third, and participants will be divided into the following two age groups:-

- (1) Seven years and under on the day of the show
- (2) Eleven years and under on the day of the show

We plan to include the best entries in future issues of 'Signal'.

Please send all entries, which should include date of birth, to Gareth Evans, Lanzerac, Norton Canon (phone: Weobley 318505) not later than Monday September 15th. Head teachers of primary schools in the area have been circularised giving full details.

FURTHER PLOUGHING MATCH DETAILS

In addition to the ploughing classes and sheep dog trials there will also be a domestic section. Under the last-named everyone is invited to participate and the 70 different classes are broken down as follows:-

Cookery	- 15 classes
Wine	- 5 classes
Produce and Preserves	- 10 classes
Horticulture	- 14 classes
Handicrafts	- 14 classes
Floral decoration	- 12 classes

There will be prizes for children as well as for adults (Together with a charity cake stall in aid of the Arthritis and Rheumatism Council for Research) and the Show schedule can be obtained from the Match Secretary, Mrs J. Davies, Marg House, Weobley, phone 318432.

PLEASE NOTE THAT COPY FOR THE SEPTEMBER ISSUE OF 'SIGNAL' SHOULD REACH TRISANNA, STAUNTON-ON-WYE (PHONE MOCCAS 517) NOT LATER THAN MONDAY, 11TH AUGUST, 1986.

NORTON CANON LADIES' SOCIAL CLUB

HE Salutation Inn at Weobley was the ideal choice for our July evening outing. About 25 ladies gathered in the bar - wonderfully cool on that sultry day - for pre-dinner drinks. The decibel rate rose gradually in proportion to the alcoholic intake! (That's not strictly true because many of us were imbibing fresh orange juice and other innocuous beverages.)

All the most urgent news and gossip having been exchanged, we moved into the dining room to choose our own cold buffet. Pride of place went to the beautifully cooked Wye salmon, but there were plenty of cold roast meats for those who preferred them. I've never seen such a selection of salads as the Salutation provided in abundance. Delicious puddings and coffee followed, including, of course, strawberries and cream.

Finally each of us had a piece of the iced cake that had been given to us in May by Sgt. Fred Green at the Credenhill RAF Station.

Many thanks as usual to those who organised this successful dinner.

The August meeting will be as usual at 8 p.m. on Monday the 11th. This will be a picnic at Rod and Rita Kilvert's house, The Brewery in Upper Norton. Bring your own food and drink, garden chairs and umbrellas if necessary!

Any enquiries to go to Mavis Stevenson (318274.)

ROYAL WEDDING

Staunton-on-Wye residents celebrated the royal wedding on July 23rd in appropriate style when a large number of them turned up for a barbecue organised by Mr and Mrs Roberts of the New Inn. A somewhat chilly evening failed to damp the conviviality.

Sheila Evans

ARROWVALE WINE CLUB

We had a splendid barbecue at Bulmer's Orchard, Norton Canon. The situation is both beautiful and restful and all our grateful thanks go once again to Mr. Worle and his famous company. They have always been most generous hosts.

Our other thanks to also to Derek Shaw and Brian Stevenson our noble volunteer cooks - complete with chef hats. And neither were they a bit religious because none of their product was either a burnt offering nor a bloody sacrifice!! Nor would the evening have been half so successful without the exhausting organisation and planning of Mavis and Pat who bought and prepared all the food. A great evening for all.

The path of social advancement is, and must be, strewn with broken friendships.

H.G.Wells

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STAUNTON-ON-WYE PLAYGROUP

IN September, Staunton-on-Wye Playgroup celebrate their first anniversary.

On 4th September, 1985 the playgroup moved into it's new premises, the Old Kitchen, Staunton-on-Wye School.

The room was renovated and transformed after much hard work by the supervisor, her assistant and many of the parents of Playgroup children.

During the past year the playgroup has been held three mornings a week. Starting in September it will be increased to four mornings a week, due to demand. The Playgroup is registered to take twenty children per session and at present attendance varies from fifteen to nineteen children.

Every morning each child is greeted and welcomed into the friendly atmosphere by the supervisor, Mrs. Jane Bryan, and her assistant, Mrs. Joy Trumper.

The Playgroup offers a wide range of table-top and floor toys, sand and water play, paints, a well stocked book corner, a home corner which is incorporated into a childrens hospital and shop, and a wide range of musical instruments as well as a climbing frame, slide and trampoline. On some occasions the children enjoy the delights of simple cookery. There are display boards which show the children's work in connection with the 'Theme of the Week,' i.e. seasons. This helps to create the happy and bright environment the children enjoy.

During this first year there have been many additional activities. On 11th December the children performed their Nativity Play, watched by their parents and pupils of the Primary School.

On 14th December was the Christmas Party, with a visit from Santa, when every child received a present.

On 14th April there was a painting competition, judged by Lady Cotterell. Prize winners were Gwynira Morgan, Emma Bryan and Julie Lewis, who each received a book.

On 13th June the Pre-school Playgroup Associations Silver Jubilee was celebrated by a picnic on the school playing field. In the morning the children made cakes, sandwiches and fruit salad and their parents were invited to sample the fare at the picnic.

On 30th June there was a trip to the Safari Park when fortyeight mums and children had a thoroughly enjoyable day. There has also been some successful fund raising events including a Coffee Evening and a Spring Fayre.

In all, it has been a very successful first year. Congratulations to all concerned and best wishes for a continued success.

The Playgroup welcomes any new members. If you are interested please call in and see us.

In Memoriam

We regret to announce the deaths of the following residents of Staunton-on-Wye and Monnington-on-Wye and extend our sympathy and condolences to their families:

REGINALD PILLING

Reg Pilling, who died after a very brief illness, was one of Staunton-on-Wye's best known residents through the car servicing and repair work he carried out, and it is safe to say that the vast majority of local motorists took their cars to him for servicing, confident that the work would be carried out swiftly and efficiently.

At his funeral at St. Mary's, Staunton-on-Wye, on July 11th, a personal tribute to his memory was paid by Lt. Col. E. R. F. Gilbert.

'I had the privilege of knowing him', said Col. Gilbert, 'because of his love of fishing, nature and country pursuits. We all of us knew him as a wonderfully kind and gentle man. His family have lost a loving and considerate father. He shared all his many interests with his wife and family, and always put their interests before his own. Most of us have only known him since he came to live in Staunton-on-Wye twelve years ago from Bury in Lancashire. He did however have a very full and responsible life in the motor industry in Lancashire, first of all with his family firm and later working for Lex Garages who brought him to Herefordshire.

'It is typical of his humility that few of us knew that he was a famous scramble motor cycle rider. He rode for Lancashire and for North v. South and won the Lancashire Grand National Scramble Race. He eventually rode for Britain against both France and Belgium.

'Scrambling is a young man's sport which eventually he had to give up. When he came down here he was able to fall back on his childhood love of nature, sport and the countryside. He probably loved and appreciated the beauty of his adopted Herefordshire more than most of us because he was so observant and loved his country sports and pursuits. He will be greatly missed by us all but, of course, mostly by his loving wife and family. No one, how-

ever, can take away his achievements and the wonderful happy family life that he lived. He was an example to us all.'

Mrs Pauline Pilling would like to extend her thanks to the many kind friends who sent letters and tributes and to all who attended the funeral.

JAMES PRICE

Jim Price, who died towards the end of May, was one of Staunton-on-Wye's best-known residents and had lived in the village for many years.

He worked for the Jarvis Charity and in the 1950s was churchwarden and vergier at St. Mary's church. One of his favourite activities was bell-ringing, and he was a member, and for some years leader, of the local branch of the bell-ringers' guild.

In addition, he was a highly competent bellringing instructor and he taught the craft to a large number of the younger members of the community.

ARNOLD SMITH

Arnold Smith, of The Rucketts, Staunton on Wye, died at the County Hospital on July 16th after a long illness. He was a Lancashire man by birth but had lived in Staunton for some years.

His widow and family would like to thank Doctors Beach and Davies for their care during his illness and they also extend their gratitude to the many friends who attended the cremation ceremony.

IVOR BARNFIELD

On Saturday June 21st the church of St. Mary at Monnington-on-Wye, crowded with the many relations and friends of Ivor Barnfield, bore testimony to the love and esteem in which he was held.

Ivor had numerous interests and skills - his love of children and animals, his garden, fishing, darts, his pint and his dog, to name but a few. His wonderfully quiet sense of humour, and his integrity and reliability in

all the things he did and believed in, made him an outstanding person in his own quiet way.

He will be remembered by us all with gratefulness for having known him, and thankfulness that his end was so peaceful and happy, working in the churchyard he had loved and tended for so many years.

Over £300 was donated to our church in his memory.

A. P-G.

AUDREY PRICE

We are sorry to have to report the passing of Audrey Price of Staunton-on-Wye.

During the twenty-five years in which she lived in the village she

worked for the Sun Valley organisation and during her last ten years she was forced to fight a steadily losing battle against increasing ill-health.

She was always ready to help with village activities and loved a whist drive and a game of bingo. One of her last achievements was the organisation of a sale and fete for the Cancer Relief Fund. Her cheerfulness in the face of deteriorating health was an example for all of us, and she was always grateful for everything that was done for her. Her life was taken before she was able to fulfil all her aims, but she enjoyed what was granted to her in her own unassuming way.

Phyllis McCann

AUGUST IN THE GARDEN

I am going on holiday in August and hope to arrange for a neighbour to keep harvesting my courgettes, cucumbers, runner beans and anything else which ripens during my absence. If you too are taking a well-earned rest and cannot find anyone to gather your crops make sure that you remove all fruit and pods likely to be ready whilst you are absent. Before you go water and mulch peas, french and runner beans.

During the first week in August, Chinese cabbage, spring cabbage and turnips can be sown and parsley anytime during the first half of the month. You can also sow Japanese onions to harvest in June/July; spring onions for salads in April/May; lettuce to mature under cloches or cold frames; winter radishes; winter spinach.

Harvest your maincrop onions after they have been dried off. Once the foliage has toppled over, fork the bulbs out of the ground and spread them on a single layer of netting supported above the ground. If cloches are available use these to protect the bulbs from rain. Thick neck bulbs do not keep well so use these first. Crops shown in July should now be thinned, keep cauliflowers, celery and beans well watered.

Now is the time to stop outdoor tomatoes by cutting the growing point two leaves above the top truss on which the flowers are open. Spray brassicas against aphids and caterpillars or remove the latter by hand.

Now I can go on my holiday and I intend to enjoy myself in spite of the fact that all the July gardening jobs were not quite completed and in the fortnight I am away the weeds and pests will have a birthday leaving me an even longer list of gardening jobs to catch up on.

To recompense you for all your labour you should be enjoying a kaleidoscope of colour in the flower garden at this time and be living like a gourmet on all the fresh fruit and vegetables the birds have left for you to gather.

One Greenfinger

Church Notices

Services during August.

Sarnesfield

10th 10.00 am Holy Communion
31st 10.30 am Holy Communion

Norton Canon

3rd 9.00 am Holy Communion
10th 9.00 am Morning Prayer
17th 9.00 am Holy Communion
24th 9.00 am Family Service

Staunton-on-Wye

3rd 11.00 am Holy Communion
10th 11.00 am Morning Prayer
17th 11.00 am Holy Communion

Byford

3rd 9.30 am Holy Communion
17th 6.30 pm Evening Prayer
24th 10.00 am Family Service

Monnington-on-Wye

10th 9.30 am Holy Communion

Letton

10th 11.00 am Family Service
24th 6.00 pm Evening Prayer

Kimnersley

10th 10.00 am Mattins
17th 10.00 am Holy Communion
24th 10.00 am Mattins
31st 10.00 am Family Service

The Group Service on 31st August is at Sarnesfield at 10.30 a.m.

STAUNTON-ON-WYE FORGET-ME-NOT CLUB

The club recently enjoyed an outing to Barmouth organised by Biddy Kinsey. The weather was good and I think everyone enjoyed themselves. Our thanks to Biddy for her efforts, and we are now looking forward to the annual autumn trip, details of which will be announced later.

Phyllis McCann

SPECIAL NOTICES

Kington & Weobley Deanery
Family Funday, Saturday, 9th August 10.30 am - 5 pm
Eardisley School and Church.

E Entertainment
A Art
R Religion
D Displays
I Inspiration
S Speakers
L Literature
E Education
Y You Need Us
We Need You.

Light Refreshments Available.
Bring a Picnic Lunch.
Contributions to Cover Costs.

ALL WELCOME

BIRTHDAYS

A very happy birthday to:-

Norton Canon

Alexander Wrixon	1st Aug
Elizabeth Drew	16th "
Sysanne Leighton	16th "
Paul Ridge	23rd "

Kimnersley

Sara Probert	3rd Aug
Harriet Jones	4th "

Sarnesfield

Anne Williams	6th Aug
Laura Synock	30th "

Moorhampton

Benjamin Jay	22nd Aug
Kevin Evans	25th "

Monnington-on-Wye

James Trumper	13th Aug
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Staunton-on-Wye

Rebecca Kendall	22nd Aug
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A classic is something that everyone wants to have read and nobody wants to read.

Mark Twain

TRANSFORMATION SCENE

I have, on occasions, been tempted to write something for the 'A day in the life of' series. The temptation always disappears when I think of the mundane round of cooking, washing, ironing and dog walking. (I almost made it when the Editors put out a challenge to write an article on 'Why you don't want to write for 'Signal'.') The problem is time. I read 'Signal' from cover to cover within the first few days of its arrival. I resolve to write an article. Then life rushes on, with its continual demands for immediate attention and the non-essentials are left trailing behind. The impetus to write passes!

What then am I writing about now? Our courtyard. How strange, you think. Lots of old houses around here have courtyards. Yes, but not all like ours.

It was, presumably, laid when the house was built 125 years ago. No expense seemed to be spared on the building of the house. This then is no common or garden courtyard of ordinary brick, worn down by years of wear, or covered with moss.

The bricks are blue/grey and look, for all the world, like chocolate blocks. Each brick has six raised sections and the surface of most is as good as when first laid.

They cover the large area between the house and the stable block, with a low one-storey building on the third side. This building was re-roofed recently, and affords a downstairs cloakroom, and a brick-built shed - once the maid's sitting room.

The stables, now our wood storage and garage area, had genuine occupants until the early 1960's, so the courtyard was used by four-legged as well as two-legged beings until fairly recently. The bricks are constantly pounded by four-wheeled traffic; by bicycles as part of a racing circuit; by footballers practising; by basketballers bouncing and shooting.

One of the major spring cleaning tasks is the sweeping of the courtyard. After hectic weeks I set about it one Saturday morning recently. All our visitors had gone, and I was going to 'switch off!' My husband and youngest son soon joined the work party. With an assortment of tools we attacked the moss and weeds thriving in the grooves - a good morning's work. Vigorous sweeping gave it a much needed facelift after the long winter. A definite improvement was noted by all. Then discerning eyes saw room for further improvements. Bricks which had been badly laid over the years around drains were re-organised. Bricks badly sited around the manhole cover and in other areas were removed, the ground levelled, and then the bricks replaced. The whole area was treated to a good dose of weedkiller.

A quick sweep ended as a major task - but what a sense of satisfaction at the end of the day. Great therapy after hectic weeks - but then, little things.....

The edging bricks have long since been removed in places to provide flower beds. The butler sinks, and an old chimney pot are full of annuals. The clematis climbs, seemingly, by the minute. The camellia, once the magnificent showpiece of the courtyard, was

devastated in the severe winter several years ago, and reduced almost to ground level. It not only survived, but has borne two flowers this May, its beautiful green leaves hiding more and more of the red brick wall with each successive year.

The cats curl up beneath the pyracantha in one corner, a haven from the alsatian who delights to chase them. The cats in turn have persecuted the house martins over a number of years; sadly they no longer return to the stable eaves.

I must stop, or I shall break the rules of 400-500 words per article, but you did ask for contributions.....

June Smith

'THE PHOTOGRAPHER'S HERE!'

THE heralding of our annual visitor is greeted by sudden self grooming - smoothing wayward hair, doing up obstinate buttons, pulling up dropping socks. (The photographs never reach sock level but somehow it does help one's feeling of well-being if one's socks are correctly adjusted.)

The next order of priority is to get to be the first in the line to go to the photographer. It is a recurring problem of a child's life that there is only one 'first' in a line. When no position other than first will do, their basest animal instincts come to the fore, and Teacher has to employ tactics ranging from soothing words to direct orders to convince pupils that the photographer will not run out of film and that other positions in the line should be quite acceptable.

At last we are ready, fairly controlled and looking smarter than usual. We approach the school hall where the photographer has set up his equipment. Necks are craned, toes are stretched to get as good a view as possible.

When all is ready, the first budding model approaches the set. He is positioned by the photographer.

'Put your hands on your knees. Head up! Smile!'

Then follow some of the most amazing grimaces imaginable. Eyes screw up, mouths appear as nasty wounds.

'Show us your teeth!'

The child changes into a man-eating monster. Approximately six snaps later, the photographer feels he has done the best he can.

'Thank you. Next!'

A little girl steps up. Coy, shy, gentle, she poses, a delicate smile which would captivate anyone. Two snaps just to be able to choose the better one.

'Thank you. Very nice. Next!' and so the morning wears on.

At last, all are duly pictured for posterity. We return to our class only to know that next year we shall be doing it all again!

M.B. Tipton (Head Teacher)
Staunton-on-Wye Endowed Primary School

0568. 6411.
Community Coun.
0568 5459
10-05 am.
Mrs. Lorna Brown

READER'S LETTERS

Douglas Berry, late of Kinnersley and Staunton-on-Wye, was writing a history of the Jarvis Trust, covering events up until 1909. This work was started by Leslie Helm, who was at that time clerk to the trust, and Doug was keen to finish it. When he realised that this would not be possible he asked me to take it over, and I promised to ensure its completion and publication.

Over the past year some information has been added, but I thought that I might ask local people, through 'Signal', if anyone could tell me more. Cuttings from 'The Hereford Times' from the late 1800s show that there was a lot of local controversy. Any anecdotes and information enlarging on this would be very welcome, as would other items which might be of interest.

Many local people have said that they would like to read the pamphlet, and perhaps I can use your columns at a later date to let them know when it is ready.

I remember reading about the trust some time ago in 'Signal' - was this ever followed up? If anyone does have any information to add they could phone me on Leominster 5666 or write to the address below.

Suzanne Penny
Community Development
Worker
Leominster Marches Project
Lion Yard, Broad Street
Leominster HR6 8BT

I don't know if many 'Signal' readers went to Hereford on June 24 to hear Mgr. Bruce Kent speak on 'World Poverty and the Arms Trade' at the Shire Hall, but it was very well attended.

This time he was speaking not so much of the nuclear problem- which is always with us- but of the fact that so many of the poorer countries such as Ethiopia, Sudan, parts of Central America etc. are spending vast sums on armaments, thus contributing to the poverty and malnutrition of their people, and that we, the Europeans and Americans, are supplying these armaments.

He also stressed the fact that the military expenditure in this country is equal to that spent on

health and education put together.

Afterwards there were some interesting questions from the audience.

Joan Close

'Signal' has been brought to my attention by Mr R. Pantall, with whom I have been in touch.

I am most interested in researching into the traditional (folk or country) songs and dances of Worcestershire and Herefordshire, in particular the Morris Dance. I enclose a copy of a recent article by Mr D. Jones of Putley, taken from 'The English Folk Dance and Song Society Magazine', as an illustration of what I am interested in.

May I ask if I may use the columns of 'Signal' to enquire if any reader possesses any manuscript (diary or letters) or has any personal memory of any songs or dances from your area.

The map which accompanies Mr Jones's article shows that there is a great gap in the geography of historical records in your area. Yet Mrs Leather collected folk songs at the start of the century from the Dilwyn and Weobley region, and Kilvert noted songs from the Hay area in the last century. I am sure there must still be something for us to find out.

J.A.Seymour
4 Husum Way, Kidderminster
Worcs DY10 3XY (Phone 66837)

Editor's note:-

The article mentioned by Mr Seymour summarises the history of Morris dancing in the Welsh border counties and points out that much of the original material on the subject has been lost due to disinterest shown by early collectors who considered it a degenerate form only.

We shall be glad to publish any information sent in on the lines requested by Mr Seymour.

As regards folk songs it may be worth mentioning that Vaughan Williams collected the tune of the carol 'Joseph and Mary' at Weobley, and that the Worcestershire composer Julius Harrison (1885-1963) wrote a suite for orchestra made up of Worcestershire folk songs, including the 'Shrawley Round'.

At A Stroke

THE Hay to Chepstow raft race is now a well-established fixture of the racing calendar and it was during one of the recent warm summer evenings that the idea came to me of trying a Hay to Chepstow swim. As this was obviously a project for a person of greater physique and fat cover than my own I settled for the idea of a Bredwardine to Bridge Sollars bridge swim. It's funny how your friends leave you when you suggest a bit of company, so in the end, during a weekend in mid-July, I set off to do it on my own.

I understand that the rafters enjoy sponsorship from local businesses or ale houses, but to whom could a poor doctor turn? It seemed churlish to ask Letton Old Rectory or Kinnersley Castle to support me, but a busload of residents to see me off or greet me at the finish would undoubtedly have been a bit of moral support.

It was at 1.20pm that I launched myself from the north bank of the river by Bredwardine bridge, and I soon found to my dismay that the water was cooler and deeper, greener and slower-moving than it appeared from the bridge. Perhaps it would be more impressive to swim upstream and go for Whitney bridge - but on the other hand my sponsors might after all be waiting at Bridge Sollars bridge so I settled for the honourable thing. Passing a herd of cattle standing in the water, avoiding a tangle with the beautiful but beguiling water buttercups, getting a fish-eye view of the sunburnt face of Brobury Scar, and I was fast approaching Moccas Court. It was Moccas fete day that afternoon, I remembered - I could hear the cheers and clapping following each race. Should I join in?... to be sure, I would be the only entrant to arrive by water, but in my limited attire it would not perhaps be the done thing, and anyway here were the ramparts of the old Moccas bridge and I was from the 'other side'.

Funny, I thought, (one has plenty of time to think) how the social life of the area may have been affected since the bridge fell in....the boys north of the river may be missing out on all sorts of beautiful girls on the south bank.....perhaps, after a few generations, genetic differences would creep in, a sort of break, like Australia separating off from Asia.....egg-laying mammals recorded in Moccas.....surely the cold water was affecting my brain.

Next, after a long float, came Byecross and Monnington falls. A small group of boys on the south bank spotted my globular head some distance off upstream and I could hear them decide that, whatever it was, it would be good for target practice and I watch them scampering round collecting pebbles. However, when they found that the globule could answer back in no uncertain terms they refrained from further practice. Down Monnington falls - a doddle if you lie flat - and then into the faster-flowing water on to Bridge Sollars. I must confess to feeling quite cool by this time and the loneliness of the long-distance swimmer was taking its toll. I thought of Mao-Tse-Tung and his epic swim in the Yangtse (yes, we supermen must stick together) and after another herd of disinterested cows I could hear the traffic on the main road above the bridge by Bridge Sollars. Yes, I'd done it - in 3 hours 43 minutes. The secret must be to let the current do the work, using the occasional side stroke....AND AT ALL TIMES KEEPING THE TONGUE HELD FIRMLY IN THE CHEEK.

It's amazing how far one can go like that.

Brian Beach

If we did for ourselves what we do for our country what scoundrels we should be. Man is the only beast who walks on two legs, mates all the year round and kills when he isn't hungry.

(Cavour)

Anon

Mrs Allsopp Says Good-bye



Shaun Griffiths presents Mrs Muriel Allsopp with a basket of flowers to mark her retirement from Norton Canon School.

ON Friday July 18th Mrs Muriel Allsopp handed in her blackboard duster at Norton Canon village school. After 18 years' service, starting our children off in the education system, she had decided to take her well-earned retirement.

As a tribute to her dedication and loving care the Governors and the Association of Friends of Norton Canon Village School combined their efforts to make July 18th 1986 a memorable day.

The children at the school, ex-pupils and parents were invited to contribute to a leaving gift - the response was so good that more than one gift was possible. Mrs Marshall did a sterling job in collecting the donations without Mrs Allsopp being aware. By 2.15 pm on Friday July 18th the school hall was packed out with parents, ex-pupils and well-wishers.

The headmaster, Mr Allsopp, opened the proceedings by welcoming all those present, followed by speeches from Rev. Colin Sneyd on behalf of the Governors and by Cal Edwards on behalf of the Friends. Both speeches stressed the dedication of Mrs Allsopp in laying sound foundations for the children's education and the loving way this was carried out. Mrs Vera Cole, being both a Governor and Friend, presented Mrs Allsopp with an antique silver plate and a cheque.

In response Mrs Allsopp expressed delight and surprise with the gifts. Although she had been aware that something had been 'going on' during the previous few days she was overwhelmed by the scale of the proceedings. She was reluctant, she said, to cut the beautiful cake made and presented by Mrs Jenny Lewis, but she was persuaded to do so by the assembly, each of whom anticipated receiving a slice.

Conducted by Mr Allsopp, the school choir - i.e. all the children - sang to Mrs Allsopp for their piece of cake and then made their own presentation

by Claire Sweet and Julie Williams of a cut-glass vase, engraved 'To Mrs Allsopp from the pupils of Norton Canon School, July 1986'. After another song from the children a basket of flowers, arranged by parent Mrs Sally Williams, was presented to Mrs Allsopp by Shaun Griffiths. As Mrs Allsopp said, with a slight break in her voice, she had been determined not to be emotional, but a tear had appeared nevertheless.

Three cheers from the children, as usual, nearly lifted the roof and then the formalities were over. Tea, soft drinks and cake were served by the usual hard-working team of Di Hardman, Sue and Ann Stokes, Liz Hewitt, Jenny Lewis, Mary Gittins, Vera Cole, Cis Edwards and Gwen Absalom. John Smith took photographs for the Friends' archives and to accompany this article, Paul Surridge represented the area press and 'The Hereford Times' also sent a photographer.

In the friendly atmosphere on a warm, sunny afternoon, munching cake, drinking tea and having a chat, there was a distinct reluctance to leave, but the bell sounded signalling the arrival of the minibus. There was a sudden realisation that this was the last day of term and that Mrs Allsopp would not be teaching at school next term. More handshakes and resounding good wishes ended an afternoon that will, I'm sure, be remembered for a long time.

Later in the day John Absalom was heard to say, 'The Terrapin and Mrs Allsopp arrived at the school at about the same time. Now Mrs Allsopp has left they're taking the Terrapin away as well'.

Cal Edwards

We know of no spectacle so ridiculous as the British public in one of its periodical fits of morality.

Macaulay

I don't make jokes; I just watch the government and report the facts.

Will Rogers

Englishmen never will be slaves; they are free to do whatever the Government and public opinion allow them to do.

George Bernard Shaw

Man is the only animal who causes pain to others with no other object than wanting to do so.

Schopenhauer

RAVEN GARAGE

Jeannette and Nigel Halliday
BLAKEMERE
(Now under new ownership)

- Fully operational workshop.
- Servicing and repairs for all makes of cars and general farm equipment..
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- MOT testing by appointment (Mons. to Sats. 8 am to 8 pm, Suns. 8 am to 1 pm.)
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Fridays from 8 am to 6 pm.
Phone Moccas 224

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- Car Servicing - M.O.T. Preparation and Overhauls
- Wrought Ironwork - Gates etc.
- Full Welding Facilities- MIG, Gas, Arc, Aluminium
- Secondhand Cars and Equipment Sales
- General Plumbing

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