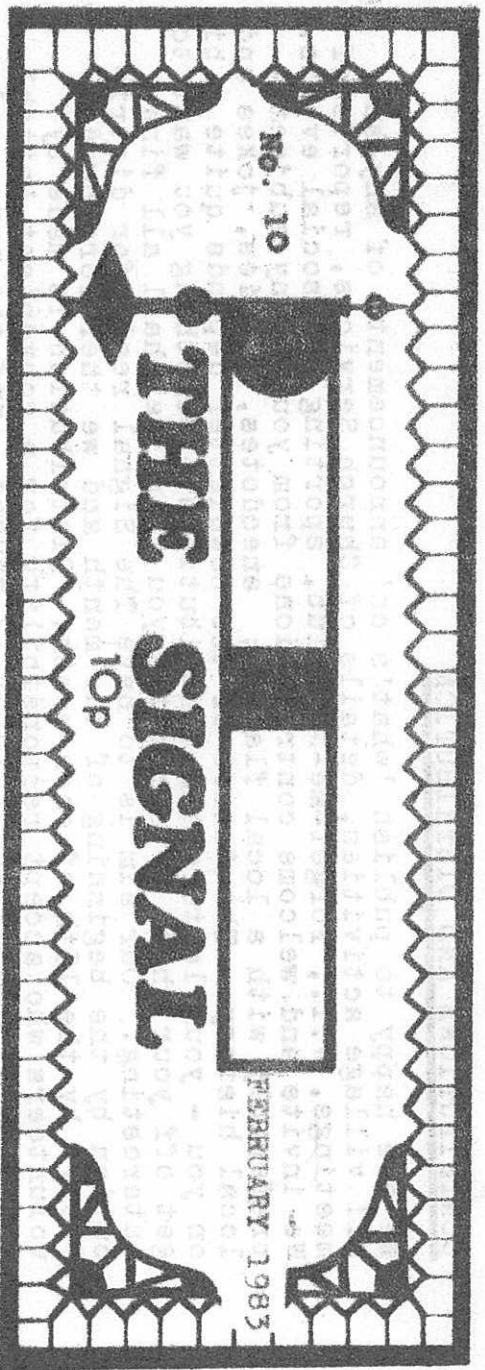




A COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER FOR
Kimmersley • Sarnesfield • Letton • Norton Canon

**TO INTRODUCE OURSELVES TO READERS IN STAUNTON-ON-WYE,
MORNINGTON AND BROBURY.**

WELCOME

This is No. 10 issue of THE SIGNAL, which first appeared in April 1982 as the newsletter written by and for people living in Norton Canon, Sarnesfield, Letton and Kimmersley.

In our first issue we suggested that, maybe in due course residents of Staunton, Moorhampton and perhaps other villages would like to become involved in the project. Having obtained the approval of the Group Parish Council, this introductory issue is being distributed free in the three parishes of the Group and we hope that it will be well received and will be the first of many. Subsequent issues - we hope to be able to continue a monthly circulation - will cost 10p to cover cost of paper and printing. You can, however, take out an annual subscription for £1.00 and if you wish to do this, will you kindly fill in the subscription form and return it with £1.00 to your distributor or to Rod Kilvert, c/o The New Inn, Staunton as soon as possible to help us to plan the next issue.

WHO'S WHO AND WHAT'S WHAT? 9965-306

Since The Signal first got off the ground following an open meeting and much discussion, a small 'editorial group' has met regularly to organise the monthly production and we hope and assume that this will be enlarged and strengthened by volunteers from Staunton and Mornington. For your interest and information, may we name the following from the 'editorial group' who are involved in the physical production of The Signal, under the advice and co-operation of the 'Group':

~~9965-438~~ Jerry Burslem of the Leominster Marches Project, Weobley, where The Signal is actually produced - duplicated and assembled; Mrs Diana Hardman, Owls End, Norton Canon, our very kind volunteer typist to whom articles, reports or letters for publication may be sent; and Mrs Sandra Children, Hurstley Wood Farm, Kimmersley for whose illustrations we are extremely grateful.

CONTRIBUTIONS AND DISTRIBUTION

We are happy to publish 'what's on' announcements of any and all village activities, details of Church Services, reports of meetings, W.I., Forget-Me-Not Club, sporting and social events. We invite and welcome contributions from you on any subject - preferably with a local flavour; anecdotes, stories, jokes and local history. The future of the newsletter depends quite a bit on you - your letters and contributions - something you want to get off your chest or something you think we shall all find interesting. Our aim is to have The Signal ready for distribution by the beginning of the month and we therefore need 'copy' by the 15th of each month. Distribution is made by volunteers who accept responsibility for a convenient 'pitch' or round - ideally about 10 or 12 houses - and the more readers who decide to take out an annual subscription, the easier will be the task of the distributors.

In order to review the response to this venture and to encourage anyone who would like to share in the production or distribution or has any ideas or suggestions - or is just interested:

YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND AN OPEN MEETING

in the

VILLAGE HALL, STAUNTON-ON-WYE

at 7.30 p.m.

ON MONDAY, 14th FEBRUARY, 1983

We hope for a good attendance and fruitful discussion.



Hedgehogs.

A Hedgehog forgot the highway toll
And ventured to take an evening stroll.
O sorrow! Like oft a Frog or Toad,
He didn't quite get across the road;
Where now he lies thin - just spines and skin -
To some an offence, to some a sin.

These creatures were here before the road,
And haven't absorbed the Highway Code.
The countryside's theirs, inherited.
Indecent it is to see them dead.
Kind motorist, need you make such speed?
More wildlife if you will pay more heed!



H O Althous
Staunton-on-Wye

'SHOES NEWS'

Book A Steak At The Shoes.

One day's notice required.

Webbley 315.

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY ONLY.

Homemade Soup

Wine

Grilled Rump Steak, Chips, Peas,
Grilled Tomatoes and Mushrooms

Wine

Homemade Apple Pie and Cream

or

Cheese and Biscuits, Coffee

£6

Bar Snacks available everyday.

Carol Singing

Our carol singing venture totalled £31. We were sorry that we couldn't get to more houses, but it was such a filthy night and some of the children were very small.

I sent £15 to Norton Canon Church and £16 to the Church of England Children's Society.

Christmas Eve

Thank you Mia and Mo very much for coming to sing here on Christmas Eve, we all thoroughly enjoyed it.

I would also like to thank Larry Compton and her choir of boys from Westington Court, who came to sing to us before Christmas. They were really great.

PRIZES STILL TO BE COLLECTED FROM THE CHRISTMAS DRAW

Bottle of Vodka	- J Langmead
Bottle of Baileys	- Peter S
Voucher for Brace	
of Pheasants	- J Symonds
10 Cigars	- T Johnstone
4 Bottles Gold	
Label	- D Evans
1 Castella Cigar	- J Downwood
	(Shobdon)

KINNERSLEY

Darts News

With only about eight matches left to play, hopes of Kinnersley Arms winning the first division of the Webbley League have faded a little; we are, in fact, about 5th in the table at present. Whatever happens between now and the end of April, we have enjoyed a success and entertained a season. Let's hope that some of the better recognised teams may talk of us as their equals.

On 2nd February we take part in the first round of the 'team knockout' competition: our first opponents are The Bells of Almeley and, with luck The Flogh A in the second round. With second division opposition in our first two matches, we hope, perhaps to go further in this competition than we did in the last two years.

Gwyn Price had a marvellous win in the singles competition against some very stiff opposition and he is now through to the last four. Gwyn Price and myself are still in the doubles competition so there is a chance that we may have something to celebrate at the end of the season.

Very soon we'll have the big problem of deciding where to have our darts party - it should take several nights of drinking and discussing to come to a decision.



Cyril Merriman
Captain

NEW INN NEWS

DARTS

After losing 9 - 3 to the Nags Head at home some confidence was restored when on the return away match the score was 6 - 6.

POOL

Amongst January results were two wins 7 - 2 and 5 - 4 against Kinnersley Arms.

A pool team mini knockout was held on 20th January when the winner was Anthony Williams.

A Pools collection is now made from the New Inn. Anyone interested please contact Jim or Phil.

Best wishes to Sue and Stan Emson formerly of the Stone House in their new life at Cirencester.



Norton Canon

VILLAGE CLASSES

If you would like to join a class particularly for exercises to music (aerobics,) or if you would like to express a preference, please put your name on a list which you will find at Norton Canon Stores or Kinnersley Shop.

BOOK REVIEW

BOOKS BY TOM SHARPE

It is sometimes more useful to recommend an author than to name any specific title. For one thing it gives you more choice. However, in asking you to try Tom Sharpe I am getting onto dangerous ground because nothing is more personal than one's sense of humour. To many people Sharpe is extremely funny and I myself was convulsed over his 'Ancestral Vices.'

May I suggest, therefore, that the next time you feel down in the dumps you give T.S. a try. He'll either drive you nuts or make you laugh outright - most likely the latter.

Gareth Evans



Letters

How delightful to have a book containing your favourite poems, prose, quotations etc., serious and humorous. Whatever mood assails, whatever situation arises you can go directly to your own treasury instead of searching through your bookshelves or leafing through books in the local library in a vain attempt to find the right book or paragraph. What memories such a book must evoke; where a piece was first heard; in whose company a particular passage read.

These were my thoughts as I came home from the January meeting of the W.I.

Thank you very much Gareth and Sheila for sharing your marvellous 'Scrapbook' with us all. It was a most enjoyable evening.

Nora Wedcraft

W.I. NEWS

Next month we hope to start a monthly evening of folk dancing if we can get enough people interested. We do need someone to teach us the basic steps so if anyone could find time to help would she (or he) contact Vera Cole, tel: 99222294 any evening. Details of times etc will be posted in the Village Shop in Norton Canon (and here in 'The Signal') as soon as possible.

The February W.I. meeting will be a 'Members Evening' on 17th February at 7.30. Subscriptions (£3.55) are due then. The competition is 'My Favourite Piece of Brass.'

S. Evans

STAUNTON-ON-WYE FORGET-ME-NOT CLUB

April 1983 sees the club's thirteenth anniversary. Several of the founder members are still staunch supporters and have missed very few meetings and events over the years. Of these the names of the following come readily to mind: Mrs H Morgan (leader and formerly deputy leader,) Mrs A Watson, Mrs E Jenkins, Mrs M Jones and Mrs P Derry. Originally all members lived in Staunton but later we were able to invite friends from neighbouring parishes.

Meetings are held at 2.30 pm in the Village Hall on the second and fourth Tuesdays each month except August.

A jumble sale is held in March each year to help to defray expenses.

Two half-day trips are run in Spring and Autumn and a full day outing in Summer. Non-members are welcome to join these when seating on the coach is available.

The year is rounded off by the annual dinner in November.

Staunton Village Hall Committee will be holding a bingo session in the hall on Friday, 25th March at 7.30 pm. Proceeds in aid of hall.

Admission free. All welcome.

A Mothers and Toddlers Group meets every Thursday during term time in the school at 2 pm. No charge for admission. Nominal charge for light refreshments.

New members welcome.

For details please contact Mrs Joy Trumper, tel: Wocoss 511.

STAUNTON-ON-WYE ENDOWED PRIMARY SCHOOL.

In December a competition was held by the Police to design a poster entitled 'Policing in the Year 2000.' It was open to all schools in the County and Lydia Lewis from Staunton-on-Wye School won the first prize in her section 5-7 years.

On January 27th the prizes were presented at Hereford Police Station in the evening. The gathering was for the presentation of prizes followed by a guided tour of the police station, then refreshments.

We were very proud of Lydia, especially when we were told there were around 2,500 entries!

M B Tipton
Head Teacher

Kinnersley

Services FOR FEBRUARY

6th 10 am Holy Communion
13th 10 am Matins
20th 10 am Holy Communion
27th 10 am Family Service

The Jarvis Charity.

George Jarvis was born late in the 17th century at Little Bodcot, still standing on the side of Merbach Hill, Bredwardine. He became an orphan and wandered around begging in the three parishes of Bredwardine, Letton and Staunton (known in those days as Stanton) on-Wye.

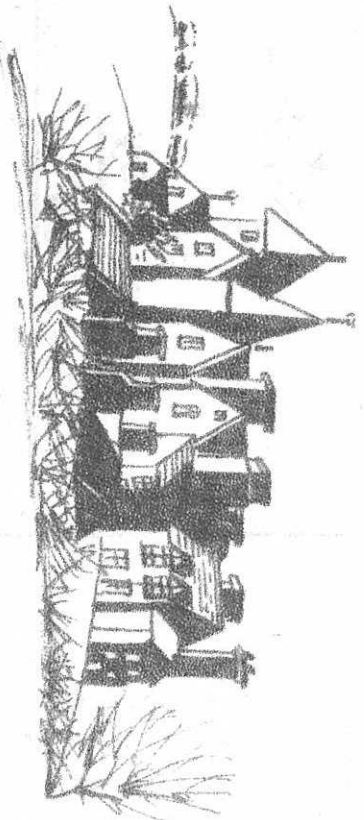
Someone realised that he had brains and apprenticed him to a London Merchant and in due course he became a very rich man.

His ambition was to get into 'Society' and when his only child married a Lord, he was full of joy but, alas, his son-in-law was a snob and refused to invite him to his parties. This was, no doubt, a great disappointment to Jarvis and when, in due course, he made his will, he left a small annuity to his daughter, but the remainder of his huge fortune he left for the benefit of the three parishes where he had received kindness in early life - Bredwardine, Letton and Staunton.

The annual income from the bequest was to be used to provide clothing, food, fuel and physic for the poor inhabitants of the parishes in the proportions of 13 parts for Bredwardine, 11 parts for Staunton and 6 parts for Letton. Eventually schools and almshouses were built and a doctor appointed to look after the people with a special commission to care for women in childbirth. One wonders if the last was because his wife died when their own child was born. The 'Mr Giles' who is mentioned in Kilvert's Diary was the Jarvis doctor at the time and, of course, Mr Kilvert himself was a Trustee of the Charity.

It is said that the people of Bredwardine wanted to keep the population low so that their 'slice of the cake' would be as large as possible, while others wanted to get in. The story is that strangers were met by men with guns when they tried to cross the Bredwardine Bridge, so they used to creep in the woods. If they could remain undiscovered for a year and a day, they acquired 'squatter's rights' and could stay and qualify for benefits from the Charity.

R A Norman



Birthdays

NORTON CANON

A very Happy Birthday to AVRIL GRIFFITHS who is 18 years old on the 16th February.

Happy Birthday also to:

Peter Knight	3rd Feb
David Gittins	18th "
Caroline Worle	22nd "

LETON

Rowan Hoar	5th Feb
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KINNEBSLEY

Susan Jarrett	6th Feb
Peter Griffin	14th "
(Salles)	

MOORHAMPTON

John Bradley	27th Feb
(Yarsop)	

NOTICES

CONGRATULATIONS

JUNE AND PETER HOWARD of Staunton-on-Wye on the birth of a daughter, AMY.

TO HELEN AND BOBBY MORGAN of Mansell Gamage on the birth of LAURA MARIE on 2nd January.

And also to Laura Marie's Aunt and Uncle, CHRISTINE AND ANDREW MORGAN on the birth of GWYNETHRA MAY on 24th December.

Congratulations to proud parents JERRY AND RONA BURSLEM on the birth of their daughter AMY, and hearty good wishes for their future health, wealth and happiness from all on the Signal.

Anyone requiring the services of a window cleaner should contact MR McMANUS on Hereford 275559.

LEESON Eddie died on the 20th December 1982 at Yew Tree Farm, Letton. He will be sadly missed by family and friends.

Elsie would like to thank friends and neighbours for their messages of sympathy and donations to Letton Church Fund.

In the country you are not supposed to be sentimental about animals. But most people who pass by Upper Norton will remember the greeting you had from Moss and Lucy.

Regretably they have both passed on recently, Moss reached a splendid 17 years.

LOST

The Leominster Mobile Library driver went off on Wednesday, 19th January leaving her metal step in the road outside 'Lanzereac'. She returned 15 minutes later but it had been removed. If anyone took it home for safety or thought it was out for garbage that day, would they please contact the library, Leominster 2384, and it will be collected.

WATER MAINS

Mansell Tacy is getting 700 yards of new water main from the Old Post Office to the Old School.

The work is expected to take five weeks from 21st January but as WWA said on that day 'subject to industrial dispute.'

Signal are trying to find out what other local areas may be having new mains in the near future. If your water is often unsatisfactory please let Signal know.
Tel: Neobley 8170.

IN FEBRUARY

JOBS TO DO

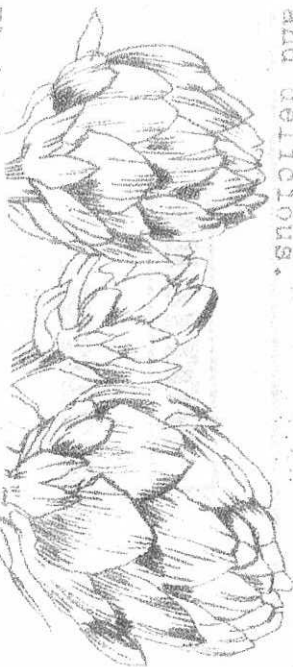
It would be a mistake not to mention the unusually mild weather we have had in January. It provided an excellent opportunity to get on with the autumn digging. Long delayed by the wet autumn. If you can find the time to watch the weather like a hawk and shoot into the garden at a minutes notice, then you are probably well ahead. If you cannot, then don't despair. The drying, cold winds and the low rainfall have left the ground in good condition. Do get on as quickly as you can with cleaning up and digging in muck.

Soil left to its own devices will develop its own fertility but generally only in the to 3 to 4 inches. This is little or no use to the gardener who wants a good return for his labour. He must push the fertility downwards aiming at a layer (properly called a horizon in the trade) some 2 ft. thick. In this layer he must create soil which contains air, humus and millions of useful bacteria. The method is muck and double digging. Where roots like carrots or parsnips are to be grown no manure is needed but double digging is, so don't skimp the job!

By taking off the weed layer, barrowing it sideways to the end of the plot and stacking it carefully the way is clear to do the same with the top soil. A trench about 1 ft deep, 1 ft wide and about 6 ft long is enough. Dig sideways across the plot, skin weeds into the trench dig them into the subsoil at the bottom of the trench and then cover them with the muck. Cover the muck with the top soil from the next cleared strip and you're off weeds and top soil stacked for final trench filling.

The gooseberry cuttings taken in September 1981 did well last year. The buds will be rubbed off the first fifteen inches to provide a nine inch clean leg when planted. Spread the roots well and firm the soil with a stick. Prune off weak shoots leaving about three strong ones and take a third of these. Buy in some sulphate of potash ready for a feed in mid to late February or March if the weather is cold. Some fruit may appear this season but aim at root growth and an open framework of branches for easy picking in future.

Globe artichokes grown from seed last year are strong. Offsets can be planted in clean, well manured ground, three feet apart. Choose the site carefully. They will grow tall and can remain in site for three years. The heads are unusual and delicious.



Rhubarb grown from seed (Victoria) made good growth in their black polythene bags. Planted out three feet apart further selection of the strongest crowns can take place later in the year. (No fruit in 1983!)

Early leeks and onions from seed can be sown indoors in trays. Try pot leaks. They are like one pound jam jars. Seed is expensive but you can share with a friend. Select your best remaining onion from last years harvest and be ready to plant it out as a set for next years seed. Poor ground is best for this job.

Keep cleaning up especially the cabbage patch and starve the slugs. Get ready for spring sowing. Buy seeds early to avoid disappointment. Try something unusual too.

**A PEEP INTO THE COUNTRY OF
'HERE WE FORD' IN THE LATE
NINETEENTH & EARLY TWENTIETH
CENTURIES.**

Mrs. Hedley Baynham.

Many of the wives worked out on the land giving a hand with the harvests, hoeing the root crops, picking fruit and hop tying and picking. Hop picking was a great time, and the money was handy to shoe and clothe the children for the winter. One picked so many bushels for a shilling and in a good season may be eight or nine. Discs were given at each measuring with the number of bushels taken and at the end there was a reckoning for the farmer to pay out. In some areas, especially the Ledbury district, pickers would be brought from South Wales and Birmingham and accommodated in the farm buildings. Some of the pickers would come to the same district for 20 years. Hops were picked into cribs with sacking spread over pales - no machines to do the work then.



Christmas was a great time. The neighbours would all give parties with, older and cakes being handed out. The furniture would be cleared out of the living room and a dance would take place with the local fiddler (or a man with a melodium or 'squeeze box' as it was then called) providing the music. In some homes there could be a gramophone with a huge horn, or perhaps an even older fidget with a black circular record. It was a great time of the year.

The Lady of the Manor usually gave blankets or similar to each house and maybe something for the children - cloaks for the girls and suits for the boys. Each parish provided a charity gift maybe coal or bed linen and one wonders now what has become of this money over the years. It was left in trust by some noted parishioner, and the money must still be held by Charity Commissioners. It must be a considerable sum as these charities have long since died out so it would be interesting to know what happened to it.

Women went into Hereford by a Carriers cart of 'brake', which ran on market days Wednesdays and Saturdays. There were seats each side, quite a juicy bit of gossip was passed on in these carts! In the early 1920's the Midland Red Bus Service started to operate - a blessing indeed for the remote villages.

Most of the cottages had a pig sty and kept a pig to fatten. It was killed by the local butcher while the wife salted the bacon and made black puddings. The sides and hams when ready were put up on 'cratches' suspended by hooks from the ceiling and what a lovely smell the home cured ham gave when cooking. There would be a branch of the Mothers' Union with meetings once a month, and a lecture would be given by somebody or other on different subjects. This was before the age of the 'Women's Institute.'

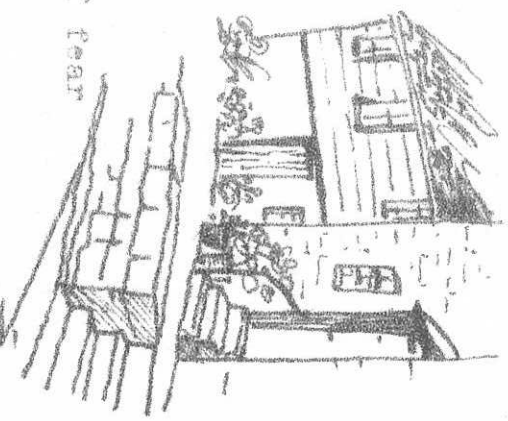


MY FRONT DOOR STEP

Lots of feet every day run up and down me in every way
I don't even grumble and here I stay.
They jump up and down in my face
Never a thought has the Human Face.

They think of me just a stone.
So here they leave me all alone.
'Ouch!' another steps on my head
I hope he does not stay too long
He weighs like lead.

But the thing I hate most
Is when winter is here
I sit here freezing my heart full of fear
The days are getting shorter
My end is near
I shall just wear away as long as I'm here.



Richard Frotheroe
Letton

DRESSMAKING

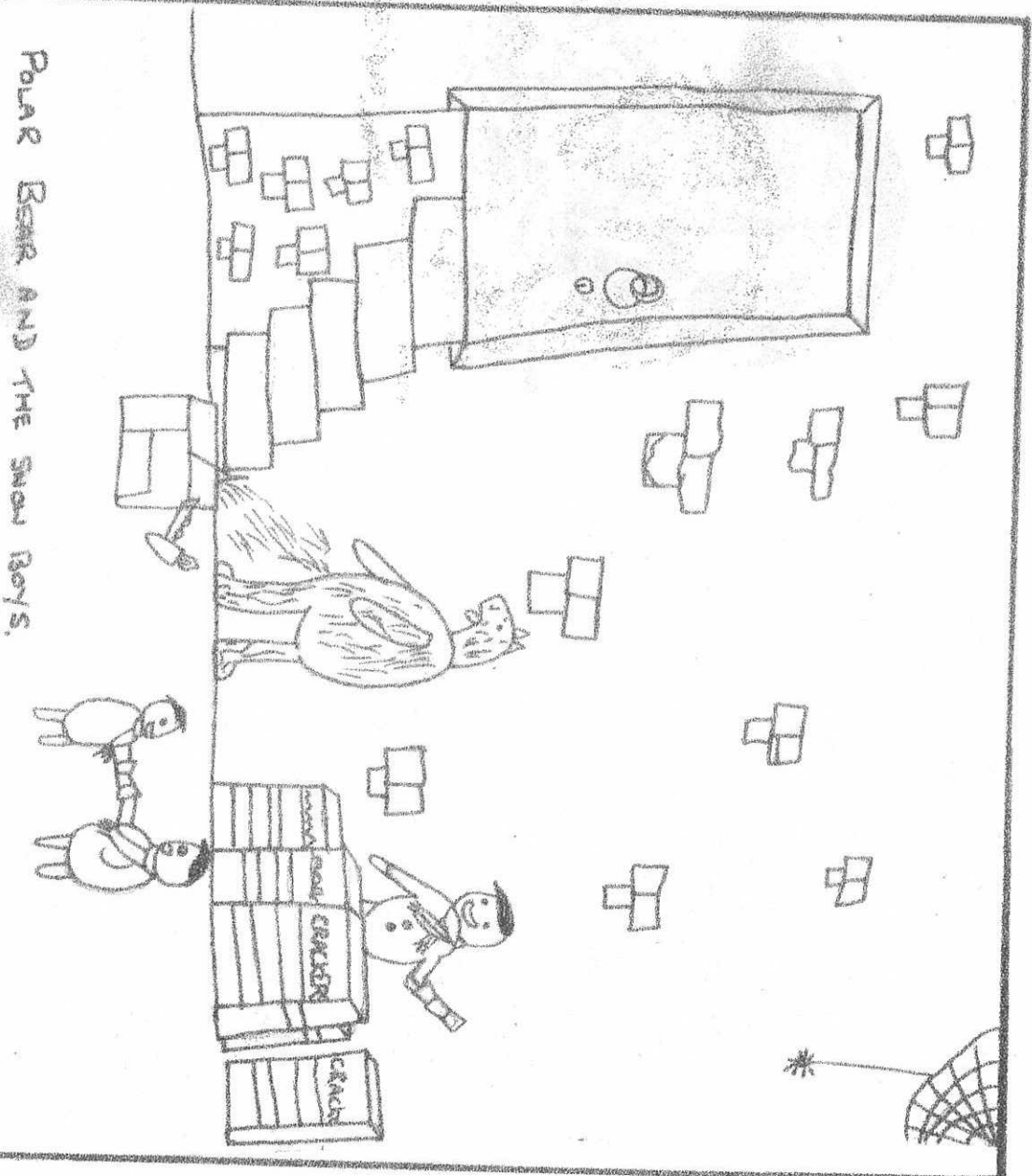
Dressmaking Service. Phone Lorraine Kilvert, Weobley 306.



Children's Page

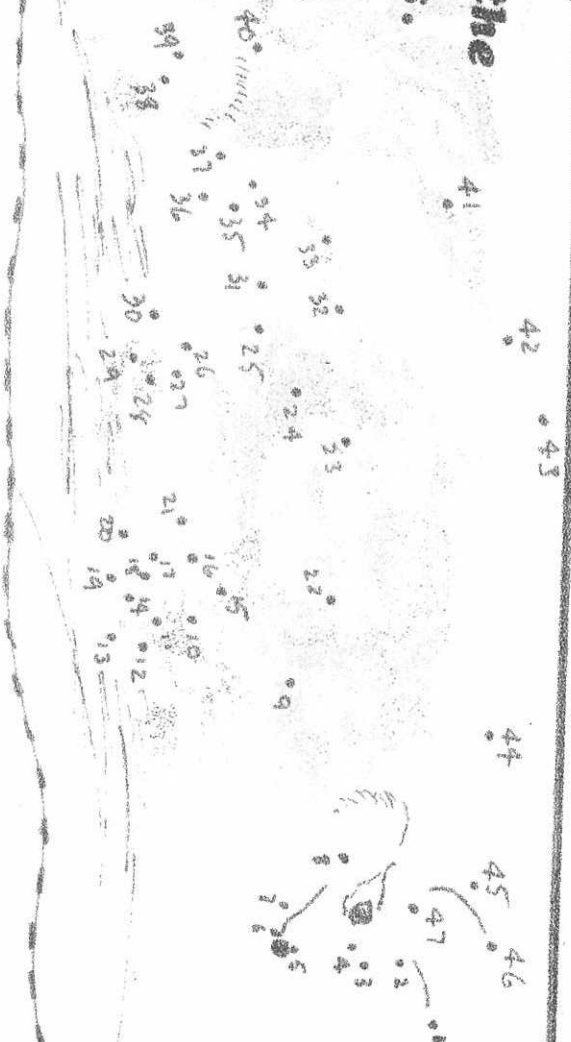


Congratulations to David and Hannah Gittins who won our Christmas Prizes. David for his drawing and Hannah for her correct answers to the quiz. Well done.



POLAR BEAR AND THE SNOW BOYS.

Join the Dots.

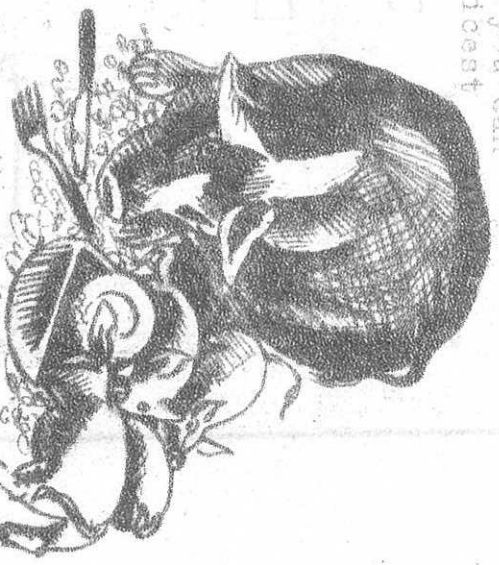


Out for a Duck.

When we first came to Norton Canon in 1947, we had three children. Five years later, number four arrived. My late husband, George, and my Brother Bob had a fish and game van which went to different villages. I expect some people may remember it. It was great to be living in the country where the children had plenty of room to play. The men thought it would be a fine idea to have some pigs. I had to feed them! We ended up with thirtyfour, counting the baby ones. At first I had to boil their food in a huge iron boiler which they used to use on the roads, or some such thing. Then we cooked kitchen waste which after included a knife, fork or plate, so you can see we brought up our fags in the nicest possible way. We scrubbed them down for market, and they drank soapy water so as to be clean inside as well as out. We had one which I called Mother. She came with eleven babies. She didn't have a very nice face and she kept breaking out and would make her way to the back door, banging her head against it for some bread, which was the only way to lure her back again.

There was an elderly Gent who lived across the road, he was deaf and he kept popping in and out of his house saying 'I had a tump of apples, but they ain't there now.' 'Oh boy!' I thought, 'I can't say sorry, he won't hear me.'

Another time, my late brother and his wife came to visit for the day. Dennis was a Gun man, so he said to George 'coming?' So down the field they went. There was a pool over the way and, of course, down came some ducks. Before George could stop him (he was laughing so much,) Bang! went Dennis, and one dead duck. At that time he was a policeman, so whenever he was spotted on point duty in Hereford by the men from our way, they would shout 'Quack, Quack.' You could say he was out for a duck. Of course, he had to hand the duck over and pay £1.50, but it was a great laugh mind.



Hilda Tipples

