

# THE SIGNAL

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

**No 77      February 1989      15p**

## **Kinnersley Group Parish Council NORTON CANON PLANNING REVERSAL**

At the quarterly meeting on 12th January the Group Parish Council considered the 'Housing Needs Survey' which had been requested by a member of the Norton Canon Steering Committee at the previous meeting in October. The Clerk reported that Leominster Marches Project were prepared to assist with the survey at a cost of £25. Discussion took place on the need for the survey and whether it should relate to all the Group's Parishes or just Norton Canon.

Cllr Ray Phillips (Kinnersley) argued it was the Council's duty to investigate whether or not there was a need for affordable housing for the young. Cllr Linda Goodwin (Norton Canon) also spoke forcefully in favour of the survey. Cllr J Hughes (Norton Canon) argued against the survey and abstained from voting, with all the other members voting in favour of Leominster Marches Project assisting with the survey of all the Parishes.

It was agreed to give grants of £25 to each of the Churchyard Funds in the Group.

Several residents of Pig Street (Norton Canon) were present to hand over a petition from residents in their area against an application by the Diocese for planning permission for a new house at Pig Street. The residents expressed concern over the hazards of the narrow road (accidents having recently occurred) and the added danger to the local people (Many of them children) using the road if further traffic was generated.

The Council agreed to write to Leominster District Council to oppose the application. The two Norton Canon members delegated to comment on planning applications had already replied to the District Council with "no objection to the plan" but agreed to write another letter indicating that they now objected. One of the petitioners from Pig Street pointed out that the delegated Councillors had not sought the views of people in the area before replying to the District

All contributions for the March issue should be sent to Gareth Evans, Lanzerac, Norton Canon, by Saturday 18th February - PLEASE MARK THE OUTSIDE OF YOUR ENVELOPE 'SIGNAL'.

Council. Kinnersley Councillors pointed out that they did ask for the comments of people most affected, and a Norton Canon resident asked whether a similar procedure could be applied in Norton Canon. It was suggested that this should be discussed at the yearly Norton Canon Parish Meeting.

The next meeting is the AGM at Norton Canon Village Hall on Wednesday 19th April 1989 at 8p.m.

## 'Observer'

### NOCTURNE

O radiant moon, quiet spirit of the evening,  
put forth your spell upon the earth beneath;  
in silent woods the winds have ceased their breathing,  
the magic light comes creeping on the heath.

Pale mists, first harbingers of winters day,  
enwrap our little world within their walls;  
ethereal shades of green and cobalt grey  
transform the scene into a magic hall.

Wherein the floors are spread with leafy gold,  
inlaid with precious jewels of frosty light;  
and high above an arch of stars unfold  
their fragile beams in tremulous delight.

A hundred columns spring from out the ground  
and blossom forth into a gothic vault;  
pale shadows spread their mysteries around  
in peace and stillness, quiet as a thought.

And here within these walls we walk and ponder,  
for such an Eden that has given birth;  
for other folk, they seek for hidden wonders,  
but we have found our paradise on earth.

F. A. Evans

### DISCO

Staunton Village Hall  
Wednesday 15 February  
7pm - 9pm

5-12 years of age

Adult supervision

Admission fl

refreshments on sale

children under 5 years

must be supervised

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MOCCAS 634

THE Cambridge DIET

### WINTER VEGETABLE PIE

- |   |                                 |
|---|---------------------------------|
| $\frac{1}{2}$ cup red lentils (soaked)                            | small tin of tomatoes           |
| 1 medium potato peeled & diced                                    | 2 bay leaves & herbs (optional) |
| 1 parsnip peeled & diced  | salt - pepper - curry powder    |
| 2 carrots sliced  | olive oil - one egg             |
| 2 medium onions sliced  |                                 |
| $\frac{1}{2}$ cup tinned or frozen peas<br>(of frozen cook first) | short crust pastry              |

Heat about two tablespoons of oil in a heavy saucepan and saute potato, parsnip, carrots and onions until soft. Add lentils, tomatoes, bay leaves, herbs, pepper, salt and curry powder. Mix well, voer and cook over a low heat for about 10 minutes, stirring occasionally. Add peas. Turn into a pie dish, allow to cool. Cover with pastry, brushed over with beaten egg. Bake in pre-heated moderately hot oven (190c/375F, Gas mark 5) for about 45 minutes, until golden.

This is very good as it is, but if preferred, a little meat or bacon could be added.

# A Silly Old Moorhen

As we are so low lying there are a great number of moorhens and coots living on the ponds and lakes around Letton. Moorhens are smaller and lighter in colour than coots with a dab of red on their beaks.

My cat, Puff, used to go to the lake on the other side of the main road and bring home young moorhens in the spring. It was surprising how he got himself and a bird of that size through the cat door, though they are largely legs and feet when they are young. Most that he brought in were alive and I managed to rescue them and take them back to their lake and launch them on the water with little or no ill effects.



In recent years one silly old moorhen has made her nest on the broken branch of a willow tree in my duckpond. All would be well if it were a proper duck pond but it is a dip in a meadow that dries up in summer. She lays her eggs when she is surrounded by water but as the water subsides she becomes vulnerable, and the little moorhens have to scurry into the briars to get away from the cat instead of paddling along behind their mother. Some of them have been killed by Puff, unfortunately, but the silly old moorhen will not learn and comes back again every year.

She had a second brood last spring. One day I found Puff gazing intently into the garden pond. I had heard a 'plop' but could not see anything. The water was a bit low so I started filling it up and a very small moorhen came out of hiding, jumped out of the pond and scurried into the long grass.

I rushed and picked up Puff and that was one more moorhen saved.

Noell Johnston

Home Visiting Service

**Mrs. S. M. Bennett**

M.S.S.Ch., M.B.Ch.A.

**CHIROPODIST**

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Hereford HR4 0JX

Tel. 0432-268099

I don't have to look up my family tree because I know I'm the sap.  
(Will Rogers)

An ignorant person is someone who doesn't know what you have just found out.

## FAREWELL THUMPER

You've gone away  
You have no care  
You leave us lonely  
Standing there

We knew you would  
not stay for long  
How can we laugh  
now that you've gone

Your muddy paws  
no more we'll see  
Of hairs on clothes  
complain will we

You gave us love  
We had to part  
A dog called Thumper  
took our heart.

Rita Kilvert

Bill and Judy Pritchard would like to thank everyone who kindly gave prizes, refreshments or their help during the evening to help make the Whist Drive at Norton Canon on 25th November 1988 a success, raising £81.71 for the Church.

Also thanks to all who came to support us.

We extend a warm welcome to Mr & Mrs Farr and Joseph who have come to live in Norton Canon.

## CHURCH SERVICES AT KINNERSLEY in FEBRUARY

5th 10.00am Holy Communion  
8th (Ash Wednesday) 10.00am Holy Communion  
12th 10.00am Mattins  
19th 10.00am Holy Communion  
23rd (Thursday) 7.30pm Lent Service  
26th 10.00am Family Service  
5th March 10.00am MOTHERING SUNDAY SERVICE

An autobiography usually reveals nothing bad about its writer except his memory.

(Franklin Jones)



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## The Kinnersley Arms

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**SUNDAY LUNCH**  
3 Courses £4.75 child £3

**BAR SNACKS**  
Every Lunchtime & Evening

### 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 ACCOMMODATED. 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 LUNCHES**  
£3.00/head  
served Wednesdays only



## ***On the Love of Photography***

by 'Shutter Snapper'

I shall always look back with real gratitude to my friend of the late '40's who really started me in my love of the still picture. It was then that I really got 'hooked' on photography and the 'disease' has been with me ever since.

When I began I can still remember how I always wanted to set everything up. My parent's 'snaps' always showed people sitting in formal positions - often in order of seniority - and always staring straight into the camera lens. Why, therefore, should such a true blue tradition not be given proper respect and thus be preserved and infinitum? I soon discovered why this practice was not necessarily an inalien truth.

To hell, therefore, with set pieces and surely the art of photography lies in its ability to depict man and nature in a really personal way - the former when they are at their most natural and the latter at an angle unusual enough to catch the imagination. Neither is easy, both take years of practice and you are never satisfied. Photography is a permanent challenge and therein lies its charm.

I am certainly not qualified to give any technical disquisition on the photographic art so let me confine myself to just one technique that I came across by happy chance. In our garden there is just one place to site a bench - under a plum tree sheltered from the wind, rain and sun. It all began in 1978 when I sat out grandchildren on this bench - because there was nowhere else for them to sit - and each subsequent year I have photographed them in the same position. The position may be the same, the background may be the same but this sameness only accentuates how the children themselves have changed across the years. Try it and you may even become a 'photo nut case' too.

### **Canon Motors**

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## old adam

So far we are all rejoicing in the mild winter and though there may be difficulties ahead of us every day brings spring closer. Future years may not be so kind to us and it is worthwhile looking around at this time of year to see what is available for clothing a corner of the garden which is visible in winter from the windows of the house. You can plant in the course of the year and enjoy the results next winter.

*Prunus subhirtella* 'Autumnalis' has been smothered in pink blossom since early December and this will continue until March, but you may have to wait some years after planting before it flowers. There are evergreens such as *Mahonia beali* and 'Charity'; *Elaeagnus pungens* 'Maculata' and *Choisya ternata* 'Sundance' will light your border with gold. Cornuses will give red and yellow stems and the *Hamamelis* flowers through December and January. Winter-flowering *Viburnums* provide welcome colour and fragrance from November. Below the shrubs patches of green leaves are very desirable at this time of year. *Bergenias* and *Hellebores* are handsome and the latter will be providing delicate green flowers shortly. The bright green sword-shaped leaves of our native *Iris foetidissima* give a good contrast in shape. Marbled leaves of *Arum italicum pictum* are lovely and the *Lamiums*, especially *maculatum* 'Beacon Silver', carpet the ground beautifully. If you grow variegated *Periwinkles* (*Vinca*) and cut them down early in December they will now be shooting with brilliant green and white and some will be flowering. For a striking carpet from January to March you cannot beat the winter-flowering heathers; *Ericas* are more tolerant of lime than the summer-flowering *Callunas*. Interplant your ground cover with snow-drops and *chrysanthus* *Crocus*.

At this time of year we should make time to erect our defences against the gardener's enemies. Fruit trees and roses need spraying with tar oil winter-wash (Mortegg or its equivalent). Slugs have been unusually active in the mild weather and shoots of a number of plants such as *delphinium* need protection before they surface. There are many proprietary brands of slug pellets, but probably the most effective trap is the small "Carnation" milk can sunk into the ground to the rim and filled with beer diluted with an equal quantity of water. Clear the corpses daily with a slotted spoon. Of course if you can encourage a hedgehog to live in your garden he or she will do the job for you! Moles eat slugs too, but they are not gardeners' friends; they are best kept outside the garden fence or wall. This is an easy matter. To your two-gallon water-can filled with water add two tablespoons of Jeyes Fluid, remove the rose and pour from the spout along the edge of your border and along the fence. The mole has a sensitive nose and will not quickly return.

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An Anglo-Saxon conscience does not keep you from doing what you shouldn't do; it just keeps you from enjoying it.

(Salvador de Madariaga)

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Even in this most pleasant area there are, regrettably, dishonest people who are prepared to cheat society. The Police, therefore, warn the public about bogus officials who might try to get into households and by doing so cause all kinds of problems.

If any body purports to be an official from Leominster District Council do ask for his/her identification card. This card is headed Leominster District Council, has an expiry date, states the name and position and Department, has a photograph and is signed by the Chief Executive. Insist that the identity card is shown and if there is any doubt either telephone the District Council or the Police.

(from Leominster District Council News)

## BUS TOKENS

Bus tokens will be issued as usual to pensioners in Brobury, Staunton and Monnington during FEBRUARY.

Those who have had them previously will be contacted. If you are a pensioner in the parish and have not had tokens before you can pick up an application form from, the Clerk - John Phillips, Magdalen, Brobury (Moccas 470) or at the Post Office.

## PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

The Parish Council has met twice since the last report, a special meeting being necessary to deal with a proposal by Bulmers (Holdings) PLC to erect three houses between Staunton Post Office and New House Farm.

The Parish Council decided not to formally object to this proposal but to express a number of reservations for the planning committee to consider - namely the PC's concern, given the known limitations on new housing in the village and the clear need for low cost housing, at the unstructured growth presently taking place in the absence of a properly considered local plan; the need to widen the roadway at this point if new housing is allowed; the need to take great care regarding the water levels and drainage for any new housing in order to safeguard the amenities of nearby residents; the necessity of ensuring that sufficient water supplies exist; and doubts about whether such housing could be classed as infill, situated on the extremity of the village. In addition the Planning Officer was criticised - once again - for not notifying neighbouring properties of the plans and asked to explain why this was not done.

Earlier in the month - at its scheduled meeting - The PC discussed two main issues. First, after looking at the income and expenditure for the current year, decided to levy a 2½p rate from Leominster District Council for the 1989/90 financial year.

Second, the PC had a preliminary discussion on the question of local footpaths - details were given of some paths in the parish which had been blocked. After some discussion it was agreed to hold a fuller discussion in February after full details of the County Council's position, and also of the administrative and financial responsibility for taking action, had been obtained.

## Staunton

On Monday 19th December in Staunton-on-Wye a number of my friends and their children sang carols around the village to raise money towards a guide dog for the blind. The following Thursday 22nd December the same joyful revellers went to Monnington and sang carols and received light refreshments at Col. and Mrs Phillips at Chase House who had many of their friends from the village to listen. Then a quick dash to Brobury where Rosemary and John Phillips had invited about 50 of their friends to a hot punch and mince pies party, where our joyful revellers sang their hearts out and received delightful refreshments.

Unfortunately I was unable to attend the carol singing this year but would like to thank all the children, mums and grandmums who made the carol singing possible and collected the sum of £122 in all. Many many thanks to everyone who supported this fundraiser and, once again, the carol singers.

Barbara Arthur

Our beat constable PC French is no longer with us - PC Gordon Headon has taken his place and is in occupation at the Police House in Mansell Lacy. He can be contacted on 0432 276422 - extension 257.

## The Portway

STAUNTON

(now under new management)

- restaurant open Friday eve to Sunday lunchtime

- traditional 3-course Sunday Lunch £5.25

- bar snacks during the week

Moccas 267



# THE 'TERMS OF UNION'

The Reverend Charles Robinson, , Vicar of Norton Canon in 1870 fought hard to maintain a Church of England influence on Norton Canon School. Parliament had passed the Endowed Schools Act the year before and that year the Elementary Education Act, Norton Canon's existing school at Pig Street was in a "serious state" as well as being "inconvenient and unhealthy". It was incapable of being adapted to the requirements of the Education Act". A change in the school arrangements required the consent of the Endowed Schools Commission.

The proposal was put forward in 1870 for a new school to be built and the old school site to be sold to help pay the cost. It was expected the old site would bring in £100.

In November 1870 the Reverend Robinson applied to the National Society for promoting the education of the poor in the principles of the Established Church throughout England and Wales, for information about a grant towards the cost and plans of a new school.

By December 1870 the Parish had accepted the Vicar's offer of a site for the new school on the Glebe land and a formal application had been submitted to the National Society for a grant of £25 towards the estimated cost of £415. On 11th January, 1871 the National Society formally approved a grant of £20, payable when the work was finished and all private subscriptions had been received and subject to their "Terms of Union". Unfortunately, those Terms were to cause much financial hardship and worry for the Reverend Robinson. For the Terms of Union were contrary to the Conscience Clause which was part of the legal scheme eventually produced by the Endowed Schools Commission. The Conscience Clause enabled a parent to remove his child from compulsory religious education or assembly. In January 1871 the National Society were not aware of the terms of the Commissioners Scheme, this did not come to light until June 1872.

It was then that the Reverend Robinson wrote to the National Society asking for an extension of time for payment of the grant, explaining that delays by the Endowed Schools Commission had resulted in building work being deferred.

However, the Commissioners Draft Scheme was sent with the letter with the explanation that "it has not been possible for me to pursue the insertion of a clause in the Trust Deed connecting the school in express terms with the National Society".

The reply was devastating, there would be no grant payment if the Draft Scheme was adopted, "the Conscience Clause was objected to in any case".

The school building proceeded and encountered the usual increase in estimated cost. In August 1873 Reverend Robinson wrote to the National Society pleading for payment and explaining that:-

- (a) The Parish was poor
- (b) His own income as Vicar did not exceed £150 a year
- (c) He had already contributed £25 to the building fund
- (d) "The deficit would have to be borne in great measure by him as chief promoter of the school and the grant from the Society would lighten the burden and give him material relief and encouragement"



The Committee of the Society met in October and on 7th November 1873 the Secretary of the Society informed Reverend R. Robinson that "The Committee desire me to express to you their regret that they cannot approve it, since its provisions (the Scheme) may at anytime become fatal to the Church of England character of the school".

Time passed, a new Vicar, the Revd H. Bernard Dereham Marshall, was in 1891 faced with a new problem on the school. The School Inspectors wanted improvements by way of an additional classroom to separate the infants from the other scholars; also the Sanitary Inspector had condemned the toilets. The cost of the improvements was estimated at £100. A total of £46.6s.6d had been raised by August 1891 and it was expected that a total of £71 would be obtained locally.

On August 22nd 1891 the Revd Dereham Marshall signed "The Terms of Union" with the National Society on behalf of the Managers of the school. The National Society agreed a grant of £20, which was acknowledged by the Vicar on behalf of Norton Canon National School.

By September 1892 no work had started, estimates had exceeded expectation, but the Vicar wanted to try to use what money they had to proceed with the toilets. In July 1893 the Vicar was writing to the National Society explaining they were under threat of closure if the works did not proceed, but the cost was now £220. The Managers had been compelled (at the risk of one of them) to accept the tender. In November 1893 the grant from the National Society was increased to £35. The works were completed in January 1894 and £30 of the grant moneys obtained.

In August 1895 the Vicar was chasing the remaining £5; he had assumed responsibility for the building fund overdraft of £35. I do not know whether he ever obtained the balance. However, the Diocese now claims the ownership of both the present and old school sites; it does so under a scheme in 1953 under the Endowed Schools Acts including the same acts as the original Commissioners derived their authority which, in 1891, the Managers ignored.

It is yet to be ascertained whether this action has any effect on the claims of the Diocese.

Rod Kilvert

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## ARROWVALE WINE CIRCLE

### The Annual Dinner

Many of us thought it an excellent idea to transpose this event from before Christmas - when everyone is usually up to their eye-balls in festive preparations - to early in the New Year. And, if high hilarity, bursting ear drums and general ebullient behaviour is anything to go by, so did everyone else.

Friday night the 6th January at Burghill Village Hall was no place for the faint hearted or any with weakened ear drums. It was an hilarious evening matched by memorably first-class food.

And as for the entertainment what can one say about Stuart Brain who, with Steve Gilling at the piano, put on a real 'believe it or not' performance. He is obviously an accomplished musician who chose this occasion to demonstrate, first of all, his skill on the trumpet. He then proceeded to prove that, if you have sufficient lung power, you can also produce tunes from watering cans, garden hoses and tea pots! And I think I've missed out other vital parts of his culinary equipment. All in all, quite an evening.

Gareth Evans

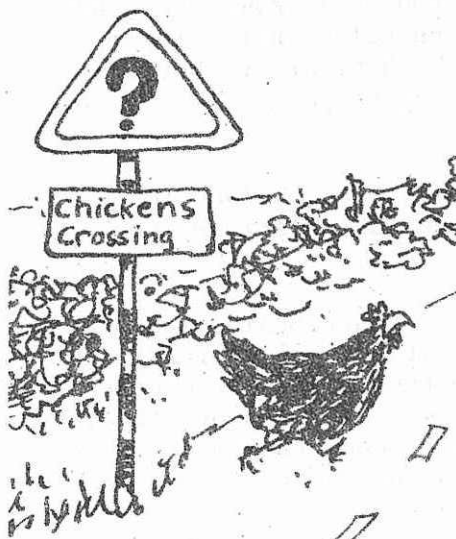
# travel and its memories.....

[RECENTLY MAY LOXSTON RECEIVED A BEAUTIFULLY WRITTEN LETTER FROM A FRIEND WHOSE PROSE AND DESCRIPTIVE POWERS MAKE IT OF INTEREST TO ALL. WE INCLUDE BELOW SOME EXCERPTS SO THAT YOUR PLEASURE CAN HOPEFULLY MATCH OUR OWN.]

"It is very difficult to pick individual places and events out of the kaliedoscope of all our experiences but some things stand out. Most memorable were five days on the Baltic coast at the summer house of our Swedish friends...their hospitality, the sheer beauty and peace of their house in the forest by the seashore, picking and eating berries and yellow mushrooms and touring the Swedish littoral left an indelible impression. Another Swedish highlight was a 24 hour voyage on a canal boat including part of the Gota canal, the Baltic sea overnight and the approach to Stockholm by Lake Malaren."

"A few impressions of cities, Los Angeles, huge, sprawling with points of interest like specks of gold in a mountain of dross; Seattle, moments of sheer delight including takeaway clam chowder on the waterfront and the grandeur of Puget Sound and the Cascade Range; Chicago, a rich city for the rich; Washington oppressively hot, humid and polluted but redolent of patriotism that Australia could well do with; Orlando, America's playground where reality merges into the fantasy that is so much a part of American life; Philadelphia, more like Sydney than San Francisco is a comfortable place for Australians to be; we briefly renewed our love affair with the Big Apple and 'Forty-second Street' dazzled us; Glasgow, the surprise packet, grand architecture, culture, urban renewal and the warmest civic hospitality; London, a dirty crowded treasure trove for colonials; Paris, French style and the magic of the Tour Eiffel floodlit at night; Munich, extravagant architecture and pride in a unique and colourful culture."

"Other images engraved on our memories include the verdant Shenandoah valley; the mingled beauty and horror of American Civil War battlefields; the peaceful charm of Jamestown with echoes of how La Prouse used to be; the awesome power of the Mt St Helens eruption still evident years after the event; the enchantment of the Western Highlands of Scotland and the Isle of Skye and of the green and gold Moselle Valley at grape harvest time; the glowing autumn tones of Bavaria; and the Roman heritage in Trier."



The office worker was a gent  
In times now gone beyond recall,  
And that is what his grey spats meant -  
His polished shoes, his bowler, cane,  
His kid or chamois gloves (by Dent);  
We'll never see his like again,  
Now throbbing crowds on crowds are pent  
And casual clothes disguise us all.

H.O. Aldous.

Life is mostly froth and bubble  
Two things stand like stone  
Kindness in another's trouble  
Courage in your own.

(Adam Lindsay Gordon).

## THE SIGNAL QUESTIONNAIRE

Of the seven responses we received the following were the main points which emerged:

1. We should try as much as possible to focus on matters of local interest.
2. Emphasis should be given to points raised in District and Local Council matters affecting the environment and local natural history.
3. Kinnersley and Letton seem to escape attention.
4. We think the more poetry faction just wins.
5. You seem to like our humour.
6. On the question of aiming more at children there was a definite split - some said 'Yes' especially during the holidays, while others said we should aim only at the 16+.
7. You do think Signal is worth the money.
8. Some think we ought to encourage individual contributions by persuading Sainsburys or Tesco's to offer money incentives.
9. 'Improve your reproduction' has been a common request.

Editorial Committee

### chimney sweep

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Hereford 274555  
Please ring  
early evenings

The horse and mule live thirty years  
And nothing know of wines or beers.  
The goats and sheep at twenty die  
With ne'er a taste of scotch or rye.  
The cow drinks water by the ton  
And at eighteen's mostly done.  
The dog at sixteen cashes in  
Without the aid of rum or gin.  
The cat in milk and water soaks  
And then in twelve short years it croaks.  
The sober, modest, bone-dry hen  
Lays eggs for nogs, then dies at ten.  
The animals are strictly dry  
They sinless live and swiftly die.  
While sinful, ginful, rum-soaked men  
Survive for three score years and ten.  
AND SOME OF US, THOUGH MIGHTY FEW  
STAY PICKLED 'TILL WE'RE NINETY-TWO!

(an after dinner story of Sir John Lang,  
G.C.B., Secretary of the Admiralty 1947-61)

Dear Editor,

The writer who asked what he should have replied to the driver who asked why he did not trust his signal when he was turning to Weobley might have replied "Better safe than sorry."

There is one place where it is well to be careful. It is where the Letton road meets the Brecon to Leominster road. So many people flash their indicator to show they are turning left, but they do not mean they are going to Letton, they are really going into Kinnersley garage and shop just beyond.

Yours,

Noell Johnston



## WEOBLEY & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Turnpike Roads: by Mr Alec Turton on 23rd November 1988.

A full house greeted Mr Alec Turton who at short notice stood in for his indisposed brother, Mr W D Turton, who was to have spoken on Maps of Herefordshire. Mr Turton had spent some years studying local turnpike trusts and was therefore able to describe in detail the network which served Weobley.

Turnpike trusts were the 18th century method of financing road improvement by a form of privatisation. Improvement was certainly needed as the use of roads increased rapidly with developing industry and prosperity, and the engineers Telford and Macadam supplied the techniques. Surprisingly the turnpike from Hereford to Weobley stopped there, and it was as late as 1835 that the link was completed between the Leominster/Willersley and Norton Canon/Credenhill roads.

There were stories of riots, particularly severe at Ledbury, and the Rebecca riots in South Wales, and of barriers broken by runaway horses, and various rates of tolls, which showed a preference for broad width wheels, and concessions for local traffic, including droves of sheep and cattle.

Pictures of toll-houses, some heavily disguised by later additions, were displayed along with a gate on one of the roads out of Hereford. Maps showing roads and turnpike houses and gates existed from the late 18th century culminating in Bryant's map of the 1830's, when the Ordnance Survey series commences. All caught the interest of members and contributed to an interesting and instructive evening.

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One of the great Rothschild bankers had died. Two tramps watched the magnificent hearse passing down the street. Turning to his impoverished friend, one said enviously, "Now, that is what I call living!"

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People who live amidst fine scenery are apt to treat it with contempt, partly from familiarity and partly (I think) because they do not see the scenery as other people see it. You form a higher opinion of a man if you have only seen him at his best, than if you have also seen him at his worst and in all intermediate states. It is the same with scenery. Most strangers see this district in the height of summer, whereas the natives see it in the wintertime as well, and have both aspects of it in their mind when they are looking at it; and they sometimes show impatience when strangers praise it overmuch. A farmer here was leaning over a gate from which there is a glorious view. Seeing the view, a passer-by remarked to him how glorious it was. The farmer answered, "Durn the view. I bain't lookin' at no view. I be lookin' how they drafted rabbits 'as ated up my turnips."

Cecil Torr (A Country Zodiac)

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The English are not a very spiritual people so they invented cricket to give them idea of eternity.

(Bernard Shaw)

It is always difficult to know where the Church of England ends and the MCC begins.

(J.B. Priestley)