



# THE SIGNAL

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

**No 82**

**July 1989**

**15p**

## **Litter, Vandalism, & Graffiti**

Maintaining its fight against those who despoil the attractiveness of the District, the Council continue the highly successful Operation Springclean campaign now in its third successive year. The Civic Awards of Merit and the provision of flower baskets are to continue; this year, however, the campaign is to be expanded to include a publicity campaign highlighting the costs of defacement. There will also be a competition inviting people to nominate the worst eyesore in their area and suggest practical improvements for it. Town and Parish Councils are invited to participate. New high quality litter bins are being costed and private sector involvement through sponsorship is to be investigated. Although these litter bins are expensive, they are environmentally more attractive. Examples of the types anticipated are to be found locally in Hereford and Shrewsbury.

The cost of vandalism was brought home to the Council when the Chief Housing and Technical Officer advised that because of the destruction to lavatories it was likely the budget for repairs would be insufficient and over-spending was already anticipated.

The Council has pledged itself to give full co-operation to groups such as the Crime Prevention Panel for Leominster Town and surrounding parishes. The Council has also written to the Department of the Environment with the hope that the on-the-spot fine experiment introduced in the City of Westminster against persons dropping litter might be brought into force throughout the District of Leominster.

All contributions for the AUGUST issue should be sent to Gareth Evans, Lanzerac, Norton Canon (0544 318505) by Saturday 22 July.

# NEVER GO BACK ?

Mairian Jones

'Never go Back' in the May issue of Signal had me alternately nodding in agreement and then shaking my head in that "I told you so" manner. How tempting it is to want to return to old favourite or special places, but how fatal it would be. While we resist the urge to re-visit old haunts, we can preserve our rose-tinted view of these places in their original perfection. To go back may shatter the illusions which we have albeit unwittingly preserved for months, maybe even years.

At times the temptation to go back is overwhelming, but I'm glad I still see the remote farm in the Welsh hills where I spent my childhood holidays, as it was, all those years ago; and the woods where I picked bluebells and walked with my love in the spring of my youth, as they were, and not as they probably are to-day. Now and then I feel the need to travel to Holland, to see the tulip fields and the pink-beaked black swans in the Keukenhof gardens, but a honeymoon is for me that 'once in a lifetime' time of special happiness, far too precious to risk sullyng by a return trip.

Perhaps I'm wrong and maybe to go back would serve to underline the happy memories, but that is a risk I'm not prepared to take.....yet ?

---

Then there was the happy wife of the archeologist who said that her husband found her more interesting the older she got.

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## WEOBLEY & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

### Visit to Sufton, Friday 12th.May

Thirty-eight Members and friends were given a warm welcome by Major and Mrs. Hereford at Old Sufton, and by Mr & Mrs Hereford at Sufton Court at Mordiford on a fine but windy afternoon. Old Sufton showed little from the outside of its past history, built c.1550-1620, replacing another one nearby site represented by out-buildings now. For the Herefords have been there at least from the twelfth century, and believe they are descended from a burgess of Hereford, tenant in Priors Frome at the time of Domesday. Much of Old Sufton has been pulled down and then added to, but there are remains of the core with its great hall to be seen, with old timbers and wattle displayed. The renovation and redecoration carried out by Major and Mrs Hereford was itself an attraction.

Higher up on the ridge overlooking Mordiford stands Sufton Court, built from designs by Wyatt in 1788. Here was the pleasure of seeing well proportioned rooms with many interesting features, and particularly the talented paintings of Edward Hereford, R.N. A display of records of the family and estate served to give authenticity to the story of the Mordiford dragon, who slew and was slain by one Garson or Garston, a familiar name in the courtrolls of Mordiford Manor. Another notable exhibit was Repton's Red Book, showing his plans for the layout of the grounds, which was faithfully followed. Mr Hereford pointed out replanting taking place as the trees of that landscape are now in decay. Not least of the attractions was the tea prepared by Mrs Hereford, enjoyed by all.

**HELP IS NEARER THAN YOU THINK  
BY  
DIANA POWELL**

Each time I read the requests of the Editor of Signal for items of interest, I (like many other readers I suspect) feel I must make an effort to contribute, but every time Signal is put aside my good intentions are soon forgotten. However, I have at last found a subject which has inspired me to write.

Several week-ends ago, (yes, it has still taken me some time to write) my son had a puncture in one tyre of his bicycle on Saturday afternoon. Normally, this would not be too much of a problem, but we were visiting relations on Sunday, and taking his bicycle was, to him, of the utmost importance, but could we find the repair kit anywhere? I also needed a small bulb for a torch but where could I find such items on a Saturday afternoon? A well known D.I.Y. store in Hereford, which remains open until 8pm was, I decided, my only choice. So off I went, only to return some time later, empty handed much to my son's dismay.

The following day being Sunday, while collecting the paper, I thought I might as well enquire of Mr Doody, and lo and behold, what did I return with, but a bicycle repair kit and a torch bulb, and all found within walking distance.

No doubt, the majority of you do not need to be reminded of the virtues of our local shop in Staunton-On-Wye, but just in case there are some of you who, like me, do not think of being able to purchase the more obscure items, well, don't go all the way to Hereford to ask Texas Tom, just ask 'Bob'.



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From Suzanne Penny (of Leominster Marches Project)  
without whose help and encouragement Signal would  
never have got off the ground.)

letter

Many, many thanks for your thoughtfulness. I appreciate  
very much the gift token and have bought a beautiful plant  
to remind me of the many happy times (and frustrating times,  
when that duplicator kept going wrong !!) spent with you.

Although my contact with all of you was initially made through  
my work, very pleasing friendships developed and I have fond  
memories of the kindnesses extended to me, particularly as a  
stranger and that funny animal - a community worker !

Thank you again and please keep in touch - I look forward to  
my 'Signal' each month.

Best wishes

---

The Bible contains much that is relevant to-day - like  
Noah taking 40 years to park.

---

#### A SCHOOL REPORT

Most of the time Malcolm only looks as if he is half asleep.  
He has a way of putting us all at ease and making us realise that  
life is not too bad after all. If the world was made up of more  
Malcolm Howcrofts there would be no wars because people wouldn't  
be able to remember what they were supposed to be warring about.  
He has indeed this term been kept busy trying to meet the standards  
he has set himself.....

.....

If there is any meaning in life at all - if life isn't the pract-  
ical joke of a spiteful imp or the blunder of a blind and fumbling-  
fool - then there must be something beyond it. If one is, however,  
inclined to think that life after all may be a bad joke or a stupid  
blunder then one is faced with the difficulty of accounting for  
the blossom, the fields, the honeysuckle, the sunsets, the dams,  
the nights, the Parthenon, Shakespeare, St. Francis, Beethoven,  
Velasquez, Shelley - the very existence of such radiant creatures  
as your lost sons Julian and Billy.

(Letter by Maurice Baring to Ettie Grenfell - November 1916)

### **greenway gardens**

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continuing the series of.....

## Staunton-on-Wye and its Neighbourhood of Yore

by **Richard Pantall**

1817.

### February 12th

An Inquest has been held at Staunton-on-Wye on the body of William Thomas, aged four years, whose skull was fractured by a kick from a horse, which it appeared the deceased had been teasing with a stick. He survived the injury two days.  
Verdict: Accidental Death.

### August 31st

**GAME:** Whereas the Game on the Manors of Staunton-on-Wye, and Over-Letton, has of late been much destroyed - Notice is Hereby Given, that all persons detected in trespassing on the above Manors will be dealt with according to Law.

### November 5th

To be Sold by Auction, by Thomas Cooke, on the twentieth day of November 1817, upon the premises at The Hall, in the parish of Staunton-on-Wye, the property of Mr. James Powles, without Reserve. All the entire and well-bred stock of five milking cows, five two-year old heifers, five yearling cattle, seven sheep, one sow and pigs, three store pigs, six good wagon horses and their gearing complete, wagons, etc. About forty acres of growing wheat, two wheat ricks, two barley ricks, together with Household Goods and Furniture.

1819

February 25th

Prime Naval Oak Timber, to be sold by Auction, by James, at the Red Lion Inn, Hereford, on Friday the twenty-seventh day of February 1818, at Five o'clock in the afternoon. Thirty very fine maiden Oak Timber Trees, all fit for Naval purposes, standing and growing in a Grove in the parish of Staunton-on-Wye, at a short distance from the Turnpike Road, and within a mile and a half of the River Wye at Monnington. To view apply to Mrs. Griffiths of the Church House.

April 6th

At the Assizes, the Nisi Prius, the following cause was decided between the inhabitants of the Parishes of Staunton and Monnington-on-Wye, respecting the repairing of about 320 yards of the Turnpike Road leading from this City to Hay, and lying between the two Parishes; the point contended on the part of the Inhabitants of Staunton, was that the centre of the road was the boundary of the Parishes, and that each Parish was equally liable to the repair; on the other part it was insisted that the fence on the Monnington side was the boundary, and therefore that the Inhabitants of Monnington were not liable to any portion of the repair. The Verdict decided that the Inhabitants of each Parish, are equally liable.

1821.

January 20th

Bredwardine Bridge Tolls.

Any horse or other beast drawing any carriage	...	0.3d.
Any horse or other beast not drawing any carriage	...	0.1d.
For every score of cattle	...	0.10d.
For every score of calves, swine, sheep and lambs	...	0.5d.
For every foot passenger	...	0.0½d.

These tolls will be taken only once in the same day.

1825.

November 9th

Public Concession: Whereas I, John Powell, late wagoner to Mr. William Bigglestone of Monnington upon Wye, have Misconducted myself in the service of my said Master, shamefully ill-treating his horse, and illegally left my Service, for which he has very properly enforced the Law against me; but on my expressing my contrition for the said offences, promising never to offend so again, and making this public acknowledgement, he has kindly consented to forego further legal proceedings, and pardon me, for which lenity I hereby express my grateful thanks, and agree to Pay all Expenses.

Signed: John Powell, his X Mark. Witness: James Vaughan.  
November 5th 1825.

1826.

January 30th

On the 22nd inst. was married by licence at Staunton-on-Wye, Samuel Jones batchelor aged 19, to Jane Alcott, widow aged 86!

February 13th

On Monday night the Dairy belonging to Mr. Snead, of Bridge Sollars, was broken into and about 400lbs. of bacon, a breast of veal, and other articles were carried off. It is supposed the thieves conveyed the bacon in a boat down the Wye, as the Ferryboat at the Bridge was stolen the same night.

---

At a party a bored young man complained that he simply couldn't bear fools. "How strange" replied Dorothy Parker "because apparently your mother could".

---

### SIGNS OF OLD AGE

WHEN:--

- the gleam in your eyes is the reflection of your bifocals.
- you feel like the morning after but you hav'nt been anywhere.
- you get winded - playing chess
- your knees buckle but your belt won't
- your back goes out more than you do
- you have too much room in the house but not enough in the medicine cabinet
- you are 45 round the waist and 106 round the golf course

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We regret we have been unable to print Old Adam's gardening column for some issues - due to pressure of work he has handed in his trowel - many thanks to him for his valiant effort. Our new gardening correspondent 'Countryman' begins his column this month and, hopefully, will appear in each issue.....

BEFORE THE STRIMMER - MEMORIES OF DAYS PAST  
BY Countryman

Many years ago, Mr West, the garden foreman in my first job, told me that I would need to "do a bit of studying" to succeed in horticulture. Nothing strange in that, you may say. You have to study in any career. True, but perhaps only now do I realize just how much there is to learn.

To be fair, I have had to master some different skills to those practised by Mr West. There is nowadays a vast selection of mechanised garden aids which did not exist in Mr West's day, not in any quantity anyway. Things like strimmers, petrol hedgetrimmers, electric lawn scarifiers and - going on to hand tools - the advent of stainless steel trowels and spades have made gardening far more manageable these days.

Just imagine how difficult it was only about thirty-five years ago, when you moved into a different house at this time of year and the grass was about three feet high. Out came the hedging shears (and perhaps you possessed a pair of those single-handed shears which I haven't seen for years). After chopping at the grass you ended up not with a bowling green but perhaps a finish resembling that of a trainee hairdresser's first attempt ! Remember ? Never mind, out with the side-wheel mower (always blunt of course) and after a couple of runs over the grass you maybe had something resembling a lawn. Naturally you also had blisters on your hands, but these wounds always seemed to heal in time for the second cut, two or three weeks later.

In this short time between mowings, the rest of the garden was busy too. The weeds that had flowered earlier in the summer had, by July, started to scatter their seeds round about. This meant, of course, that while your blistered hands were recovering, the weeds, with the help of a midsummer storm or two, were proliferating mightily. Don't forget, there were no paraquat weedkillers nor Tumbleweed to lay them low - just an old, probably rusty and most certainly blunt hoe to chop them down with. Perhaps you had a sickle but that was most likely blunt too !

In the 1950's, nobody seemed to use gloves for gardening. I suppose they were too expensive for such mundane work. Nevertheless, after the toil of mowing and weeding, by the time September came around you had managed to get your plot tidy - the only trouble was, you had also run out of good warm weather to grow things in.

Still, autumn had its benefits - shrubs and herbaceous plants could be planted to become established for next year's flowers; except of course, that shrubs were not as readily available, certainly not in great variety, and herbaceous borders had reached their peak of popularity before the last war, and

afterwards were in the doldrums. Annual bedding, too, had dropped off and really gardeners were looking for something new. And that something, as we shall see next month, surfaced in the 1950's in the shape of the hybrid tea rose.



# WHAT'S ON....

## NORTON CANON CHURCH CHEESE AND WINE EVENING

at

BULMERS LAKE

on

FRIDAY 7th JULY 1989

### WEOBLEY GROUP OF PARISHES CHURCH SERVICES FOR JULY

#### SARNESFIELD

9th. 10am Holy Communion  
23rd. 10am Morning Prayer

#### NORTON CANON

2nd. 9am Holy Communion  
9th. 9am Morning Prayer  
16th. 9am Holy Communion  
23rd. 9am Family Service

#### STAUNTON-ON-WYE

2nd. 11am Holy Communion  
9th. 11am Morning Prayer  
16th. 11am Holy Communion  
30th. 10.30am Holy Communion

#### BYFORD

2nd. 9.30am Holy Communion  
16th. 6.30pm Evensong  
23rd. 10am Family Service

#### MONNINGTON-ON-WYE

9th. 9.30am Holy Communion

#### LETTON

9th. 11am Family Service  
23rd. 6pm Evensong or  
Holy Communion

July 30th at 10.30am Holy Communion  
at Staunton for all parishes.  
Fifth Sunday.

#### KINNERSLEY - JULY

2nd. at 10.00am Holy Communion  
3rd. at 10.00am Holy Communion  
(St Thomas the Apostle)  
9th. at 10.00am Mattins  
16th. at 10.00am Holy Communion  
(Patronal Festival)  
Preacher the Rev. Eric Andrews  
30th. at 10.30am Quarterly Group Service  
at Almeley Church

#### AUGUST

6th. at 10.00am Holy Communion

### WEOBLEY AND DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY JULY SUMMER VISIT - SATURDAY 8th JULY

Hellens Castle, Much Marcle

(Details from:- Mr D T R Dighton  
Weobley 318116)

Bottle Stall, Cake Stall, Raffle,  
in aid of Church Funds

Tickets: £1.50 (includes one glass  
of wine)

Time - 7.30pm

A concert given by the Vale of Arrow  
Choir will be held at Lower Inshull  
Farm, Dilwyn, on Sunday July 16th at  
7pm. All welcome ... £2.  
Proceeds in aid of Dilwyn Church.  
To be held in a Marquee after the  
wedding of their daughter Julie  
with Mr Elwyn Hanson.

\*\*\*\*\*  
\* EARDISLEY & DISTRICT R.B.L. \*  
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*'I didn't win it. He sold it to me.'*

Man is the only animal who  
walks on two legs, mates all the  
year round and kills when  
he is'n't hungry

Anon

## WHEN NOT ONLY HELL FREEZES IN RUSSIA

(from a Guardian article)

Then it came time to take a pee. I trudged through the snow for a discreet distance and began the long process of unbuttoning several layers of garments. Finally, all was ready. And then I watched in disbelief as a thin but sturdy stalagmite of quick frozen urine began to ascend towards me.

At moments like this your entire life tends to flash before you - or at least those bits where knowledgeable people told you about frost bite, what it did to the affected part and whether the damage is irreversible. At this point memory failed me and panic ensued.

I began to flounder slowly backwards away from this growing pillar of ice. It followed me with obvious menace. I retreated just as Siberia's rival to the Leaning Tower of Pisa collapsed on to the snow and lay there in the shape of a large question mark.

Understandably shaken by this experience I hurried back to the camp fire where my friends had become so hysterical with laughter that one of them fell over and knocked down our last bottle of whisky which was probably just as well.

---

Calvin Coolidge was notorious for his taciturnity and one evening at dinner, after the usual interminable silence, his hostess turned to him and said:- "Mr. President, I have a bet with friends that tonight I'll be able to get you to say three words" "You lost" came the reply.

Do not confide in  
relations because  
blood always tells.

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## HOW TO BE "IN" IN THE '80s

by

Peter Kellner of "The Independent"

Enjoying life is fine but cordless telephones are finer. To-day's trend setters wear Boxer shorts, watch "Neighbours" and read the "Independent".

For the past six months a Gallup poll has been finding out what the British think is in and out of fashion. They have "in" and "out" measures on 250 items. Top of the list ~~came~~ microwaves with an index of plus 85. Do it yourself (plus 84) comes a close second while the public genuflect to a decade of Thatcherism by putting "starting your own business" (plus 83) third.

Also "In" are traditional Christmas dinners (81); cordless 'phones (80) and drinking wine (79). Compact discs and "giving to charities" both score 78 and blue jeans come next.

The next "In" soap is "Neighbours" (69) comfortably beating "Eastenders" (33) and "Coronation Street" (21). If you watch "Dallas" keep quiet amongst your trend setting friends.

The most "In" chain store is Marks and Spencers (58); the most "In" holiday destination is America (46) while at the wrong end of the lists come Woolworths (minus 21); India (minus 19) and the Daily Express (minus 10).

Love letters (minus 32) and leg warmers (minus 22) are "out" but not as "out" as honest politicians who, at minus 55, are almost as unfashionable as electric toothbrushes (minus 56). Other "out" items are Y-fronts (minus 37), breakfast in bed (minus 51) and "respect for authority" (minus 63).

Most "out" of all are, perhaps inevitably, flying ducks on walls (minus 85). So if you are a politician who wears Y fronts, watches "Dallas" and has flying ducks at home your best prospect is to emigrate.

---

I used to be indecisive but now I am not so sure.

### THE MAN WHO CAME TO SLEEP

At the dinner party  
The appetites were hearty  
The decor was a dream  
As indeed was the cuisine  
The candles they all glowed  
And the conversation flowed  
We all agreed the wine  
Was simply "too divine"  
So - why is it our Rod's wish  
When he's finished with his dish  
To sink down in his chair  
As if he had no care  
And in moments he is deep  
And truly fast asleep !

A Hostess

Emmanual Kant but Ghenghis Khan.

### BEECH'S DAFFODILS

Ref your friends "strangled"  
daffodils. He should put little  
plastic wing collars on each  
flower stem, this will prevent  
them from rotating all the way  
round and strangling themselves.  
Wing collars can be bought at a  
local garden centre in the Queens  
Hectare Road.

J.V.

## WEOBLEY & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

### VISIT TO FOXLEY, 7th June

On a fine evening 30 members enjoyed the privilege of a tour round the Foxley estate led by Major Davenport. Starting from Mansell Lacy we were taken to the site of Foxley House and then drove round a contour ride taking us to Lady Lift, down to Yarsop and ending at the Folly. The house had been built for the Price family 1715-17, in brick, stuccoed in the 19th century, and purchased by the Davenports, potters from Stoke, in 1855. Following the effects of requisitioning as a hospital in the last war, the house had to be demolished in 1948.

The best known owner, Uvedale Price, was a strong proponent of the Picturesque in landscape, and remains of his planting as well as magnificent views down the Foxley valley, which inspired him, were to be seen. Of an estate of 4000 acres, some 1200 acres were woodland, actively managed for profit, and much of the parkland, ravaged by wartime buildings, had been planted. Poplars planted in 1963 for matches were now expected to be used for making plywood. Growing softwoods was balanced by planting a variety of hardwoods, thus continuing past practice such as to be seen near the house in Policy Wood, which included groves of yew and others, dating from the Price years.

The Folly came as a surprise, a castellated tower rhomboid in shape, on a rise now surrounded by mature trees which blocked what would otherwise have been extensive views from the first storey room, tastefully renovated, where the party were refreshed by cider.

---

Arguing with a woman is like trying to fold the air mail edition of the Times in a high wind.

---

## ARROWVALE WINE SOCIETY

by Gareth Evans

### 1. MEMBER'S WINE ASSESSMENT (MAY)

It is on this annual occasion that we bring our wine - with no little trepidation - for assessment by erstwhile friendly colleagues. Individual names vanish behind faceless numbers on each bottle and all are impersonally judged according to presentation, clarity, bouquet and - most important of all - taste. As the wine goes down so does the decibel rate go up and more derogatory do the personal assessments become. It is no secret that the writer's own wine received the endearing compliment of "Why did you add the Kerosene?". As you can appreciate it was a memorable evening.

### 2. SUMMER PARTY AT BULMERS LAKE (JUNE)

In spite of the coldness of the weather we were delighted to welcome over 30 hardy souls who ate and caroused well into the evening. The lake really is an idyllic setting and we are most grateful to Bulmers for the privilege of being able to use it. Pity about the temperature.