

A COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER FOR

**Kinnersley - Sarnesfield - Letton - Norton Canon
Brobury - Monnington - Staunton.**

SIGNAL BOX

This is quite an occasion. For the past year we have owed much to the help so unstintingly given by the Leominster Marches Project but from now we shall have to stand on our own feet. Lets promise ourselves, therefore, to make future issues of The Signal both informative and, above all, readable. It's 'over to you' and please don't forget to let Diana Hardman have your contributions by the 15th of each month.

Now that the distribution of the magazine has been recently extended we want you all to feel that your own particular area is getting its fair coverage. Let this need, therefore, be an added incentive for you to write to us.

We would also like to run a short monthly article 'Yesteryear.' Do any of you have tales to add to those we have already published about quaint local customs/happenings of the not so long ago? What about ghost stories? Here's your chance.

And finally, please remember our 'Ads' column. With circulation now over 400 (and a readership correspondingly higher) 1p a word is cheap publicity.

SIGNAL A.G.M.

THE SIGNAL - ANNUAL MEETING

The first Annual General Meeting was held on Thursday, 28th April at Norton Canon Village Hall and was quite well attended. Mrs Loxston was in the chair. The Treasurer, Doug. Berry submitted the statement of income and expenditure for the year to 31st March, 1983 which was approved by the meeting.

Rod. Kilvert had prepared a suggested form of constitution which he explained to the meeting and this was formally accepted. This was followed by the election of members of the Committee, but because some of the parishes in the circulation area were under-represented, several places were left open. Anyone willing to help - especially from Staunton, Kinnersley, Letton or Monnington - will be most welcome.

Norton Canon

Mr R Kilvert (Chairman)
Mr G Evans (Hon. Secretary)
Mrs D Hardman
Mrs M Loxston

Staunton-on-Wye

Mrs J Chant
Mr T Chant
Mr M B Collingwood

Kinnersley

Mrs S Higginson
Mr D Berry (Hon. Treasurer) 9966-551

Letton

Mrs S Children

Sarnesfield

Mrs G Phillips

From this committee two groups were formed, one to handle editorial, design, make-up and production, and one to handle circulation.

The net proceeds from the cheese and wine party held after the meeting amounted to £32 which, after deducting the cost of the hire of the hall and other expenses, resulted in a profit of some £25 which is intended to go towards the purchase of a typewriter.

receipts and payments - year ending 1983

| | | <u>Receipts</u> | <u>Payments</u> |
|--|--------|-----------------|--|
| <u>Subscriptions and sales</u> | | | |
| Norton Canon | 86.40 | | |
| Kinnersley | 53.90 | | |
| Sarnesfield | 11.00 | | |
| Letton and Over Letton | 35.90 | | |
| | 187.20 | | |
| Moorhampton | 9.60 | | |
| Other sales | 5.10 | | |
| Advertising | 0.82 | | |
| Donations | 2.00 | | |
| | 204.72 | | |
| Building Society Interest | 4.90 | 209.62 | |
| <u>Subscriptions (mainly in advance)</u> | | | |
| Staunton-on-Wye | 87.40 | | |
| Brobury | 9.00 | | |
| Monnington | 8.30 | 104.70 | |
| | | £314.32 | |
| | | | Balance in hand 31st March, 1983 122.93 |
| | | | £314.32 |

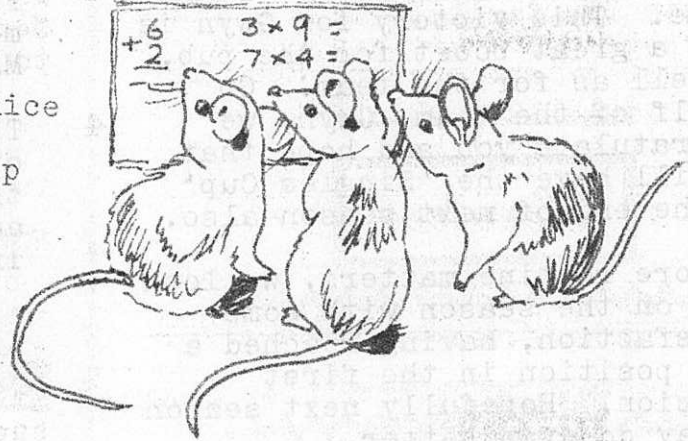
D.T. Berry, Hon. Treasurer

PETS

Our cat is nearly human
She talks to me and purrs
She lets me comb and brush her
And gently pick out burrs.

My dog is very clever
His shortened name is Jim
But when you say his name in full
It's longer far than him.

I had three large and active mice
They caused some botheration
They all were good at adding up
And at multiplication.



I lost my nice pet earwig
And hunted high and low
He should have murmured as he went
'Goodbye' or 'Earwigo.'



We bought a little cockerel,
And thought he was a boy
Until he laid a tiny egg -
She did it to annoy.

Our Dad brought home a tame white rat
He said its name was Paul
Our Mummy packed a weekend case -
We don't see her at all.



We've got some rabbits at our school
I love them very much
I like to feed them, but I hate
My turn to clean their hutch.



Our neighbour says he never will,
He never can, forget us -
The kids whose rabbits once got out
And tidied up his lettuce.

Our goat chewed Dad's best Sunday shirt
Until it looked like mince.
A man saw Dad at Timbuctoo -
He hasn't been seen since.

Owen

KINNERSLEY ARMS DARTS.

Last month we saw Gwyn Price take on the best of the league darts players to win the 'Singles' title. This victory for Gwyn is also a great boost for the pub, as well as for the team. On behalf of the team, Gwyn, we congratulate you and hope that we will have the 'Singles Cup' at the end of next season also.

On more routine matters, we look back on the season with some satisfaction, having reached a high position in the first division. Hopefully next season we may do even better.

I want to thank the regulars for the great support they have given the team. Also thanks to Cilla and Dave for their co-operation and especially for the good suppers and, lastly, thanks to all the team members for the good spirit throughout the season which made my job of team selection not too difficult.

Cyril Merriman
Captain

Services

SERVICES FOR JUNE AT KINNERSLEY

5th 10 am Holy Communion
12th 10 am Mattins
19th 10 am Holy Communion
26th 10 am Family Service

Births.

To Jane and Jens Bryan of Old Letton Court, Letton, Emma Jane born on Friday, 6th May, a sister for Robert and Richard.

Congratulations and best wishes to all the family.

weobley carnival.

SATURDAY, 25th JUNE, 1983.



Floats, stalls, sideshows and much more to be opened by the LADY MAYOR OF LEOMINSTER.

The start is at Bell Square moving off at 2 p.m. It will all be at the Village Hall this year and ample parking available opposite in the field.

STAUNTON-ON-WYE ST MARY'S CHURCHYARD FUND.

We have now purchased a brand new motor mower, and we are hoping for fine weather to try out its virtues.

Mac and Bobbie are doing a great job and we must really thank them for their work in keeping the yard so well as we are all aware of the difficulties they have to contend with.

Mac tells me he is organising a dance to help with expenses, so we shall be grateful for your support for the event in July.

I would like to point out that the Churchyard Fund is entirely separate from the church accounts and that all monies collected by me are wholly for this fund. 'Please help us' to do this job and maybe we could enter the competition that is held yearly??

FORGET-ME-NOT-CLUB



Fortyfour friends and members spent a very happy afternoon and evening on our Spring Outing to Ludlow & Clee Hill although the weather was stormy each time we stopped we were lucky, we had a nice meal at a Restaurant on the Clee Hill, and a further stop for refreshment at Leominster arriving home at nine o'clock. Thanks to everyone who helped with organising.

We hope to have our Summer outing to Tenby in July and we welcome visitors to join us again.

Fête.

On Saturday, 11th June, Staunton-on-Wye School is holding a Summer Fete and Sports on the school field. The sports will take place beginning 2 p.m. Then the stalls will be open after the sports.

There will be a cake stall, plant stall, white elephant, bottle stall and many others. There will be games and competitions and also refreshments and ice-cream.

We are looking forward to a good afternoon.

Anyone is welcome whether they are associated with the school or not. Come and join us. We shall be pleased to see you.

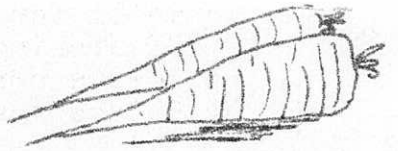
M B Tipton
Head Teacher

The next meeting of Staunton-on-Wye Ladies' Club will be held at 8 p.m. on Wednesday, 1st June in Staunton Village Hall. The main event will be a demonstration of make-up.

Mr I L Williams of Portway Cottage, Staunton-on-Wye is back home again after undergoing a hip operation. We extend to him our best wishes for a speedy recovery.

PARSNIP WINE

4 lb. parsnips
1 gallon water
3 lb. demerara sugar
1 oz root ginger
A few cloves or grated rind of orange (optional)
 $\frac{1}{4}$ campden tablet
1 level teaspoon yeast compound



Scrub parsnips clean and dice, boil in water for about 20 mins, strain liquid into a plastic bucket and stir in sugar. Add root ginger or cloves, grated rind of orange if liked, cool liquid to tepid. Sprinkle over the yeast compound, cover mixture and keep bucket in a warm place for a week or so. Strain off liquid into a clean gallon jar, fit a fermentation lock and fill lower link with water and $\frac{1}{4}$ campden tablet, leave until fermentation ceases. Syphon liquid into another jar and leave in a cool place.

After 6 months the wine should be perfectly clear, syphon into bottles without disturbing the sediment. Leave for another 9 months before drinking this wine, it will take 15 months in all.

Letters.

Dear Signal,

Each meeting of W.I. we have a little competition between members. These are three of the poems from one such competition. Hope you find them suitable for print.

J. Langmead

I push and I pummel and can't get it right
When I lay my head on the pillow at night

So why, when I wake the day to start
Are my head and my pillow reluctant to part

Joyce Langmead

THE CUCKOO



The Cuckoo comes in April,
Sings his song in May,
Doubles his tune in the middle of June,
And then he flies away.

This year he came in April,
On the 20th he nearly drowned,
With no webbed feet or brclly,
He just wished he'd not been round.

With feathers all bedraggled,
And tail a dripping mess,
All he'd wanted was sunshine,
To call and show off his dress.

To give us all a 'cuckoo'
He'd flown a thousand miles,
How could it rain and pour like that
And dampen all his smiles.

We'll forgive all his bad habits,
Of nicking others' nests,
It's a springtime sound the 'cuckoo'
He's a really welcome guest.

Gwen Absolom

THREE GRANDCHILDREN ARRIVE FOR THE HOLIDAYS.

Cathy is tall and Cathy is fair,
With rosy cheeks and tangled hair,
A sense of fun, a joke on her lips
As she cycles and jumps or hops and skips.

She's taller than Arthur although he's older
But he is louder and stronger and very much bolder
Except when the telly has films that scare
When to watch from the doorway is all he'll dare!

The youngest is Imogen, her birthday's in May,
She loves to romp in long grass or in hay.
Pretty and pert and sweet as a pie
Three stone inweight and four foot high.

We love them all three, though my hair's growing white
They may be untidy but their heart's are alright
So when they arrive minus toothbrush and comb
Our hearts will rejoice for they're come home.

Sheila Evans

My Gran.

In 1928 my Grannie went to Staunton-on-Wye School for four weeks to be trained as a supplementary teacher. She taught the infants. There were three classes from 3-7. They did not have many 3 year olds and when they did they were put to rest for one hour in the afternoon and played with toys all day. At that time Mr Markham was Headmaster and he also played the organ in the Church. Mrs Markham taught the juniors and Mr Markham taught the Seniors. Miss Medcroft was head of the infants. Most of the children took sandwiches but some went home for dinner. The teachers had cooked meals cooked by Mr Markham's maid. The children had their meals in what now we call the cloisters. The teachers had a room to eat there meals. The children went when 3 and left when they were 14. My Gran had to stay at the school for the rest of her training. She slept there as well.

Julieanne Phillips
(Kinnersley)

KINNERSLEY PLAYGROUND

Perhaps some of you have heard by now that we are hoping to start a small playground at Kinnersley Church Hall? At the moment we are trying to get permission and we are planning the site. We also have to get some money together in order to buy materials such as wood, rope and cement. Then we hope to start building!

We are hoping that a lot of 'Signal' youngsters will be able to come and play here, and riggt now we would be very pleased to hear from any of you with ideas about what equipment you would like to have.

So - please send drawings and plans of the playground you would like to see and next month we will print your plans.

Send to this address: Sara Higginson, Upper Ailey, Kinnersley, Hereford.

WORK COMPETITION.

See how many words you can make using the letters in 'PLAYGROUND'. Words must be of 2 or more letters.

If you can find 40 or more words (without help from a grownup) send your list of words to Diana Hardman, Owls End, Norton Canon, Hereford. The best list will be published next month.

Birthdays.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:

Kinnersley

Nicholas Austin 15th June

Sarnesfield

Stuart Evans 5th June
Andrew Williams 15th "

Moorhampton

Andrew James 27th June
(Yarsop)

Norton Canon

Adam Loxston 16th June
Rhys Evans 20th "
Louise Deem 22nd "
Deborah Lewis 23rd "

Staunton-on-Wye

A Very Happy 18th Birthday to
GRAHAM JONES on the 5th June and
DIANE JENKINS on the 16th June.

JOKES

'What do you give a sick bird?'

Answer: 'Tweetment'

~~~~~  
What do you get if you cross a bear with a kangaroo?

Answer: A fur coat with big pockets.

~~~~~  
'And I would tell you the one about the shark-infested custard but you wouldn't swallow it.'

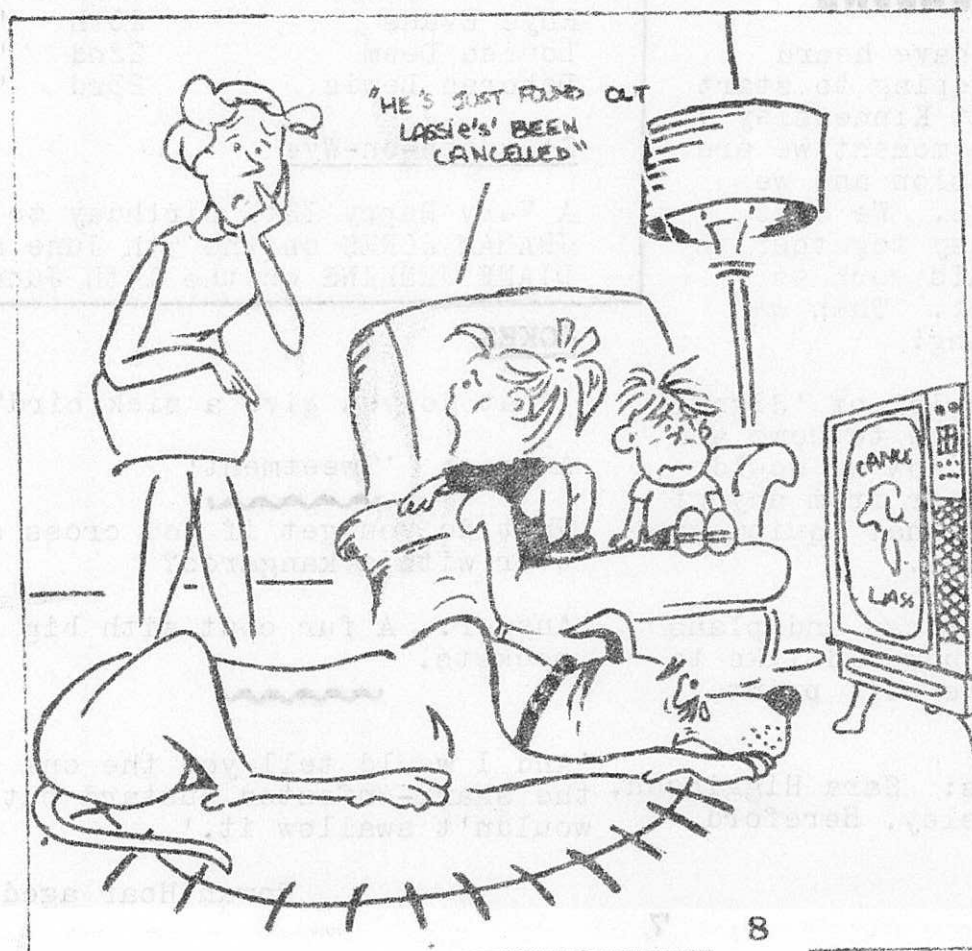
Rowan Hoar aged 10

Amongst matters discussed was the position of the Green Charity. The Charity owned a freehold premises in Gloucester, the rents from that premises had substantially benefitted the village, the net income of the Charity being divisible one part for poor and needy and the other for education.

The Chief Tenant of the premises had not fulfilled his obligations and the Charity Trustees had taken action which terminated the lease. This had left the Charity Trustees with the responsibility of collecting rent direct from the shop tenant and also possibly having to pay for substantial repairs. Currently the Charity Trustees were waiting for reports from the Agents on the repairs position and the possibility of letting the upper floor for offices.

Clearly the Charity income had been reduced, some reduction in moneys available for distribution was inevitable this year. Until the cost of repairs and the future of the premises had been resolved, there was the possibility of substantially reduced distributions over the next few years.

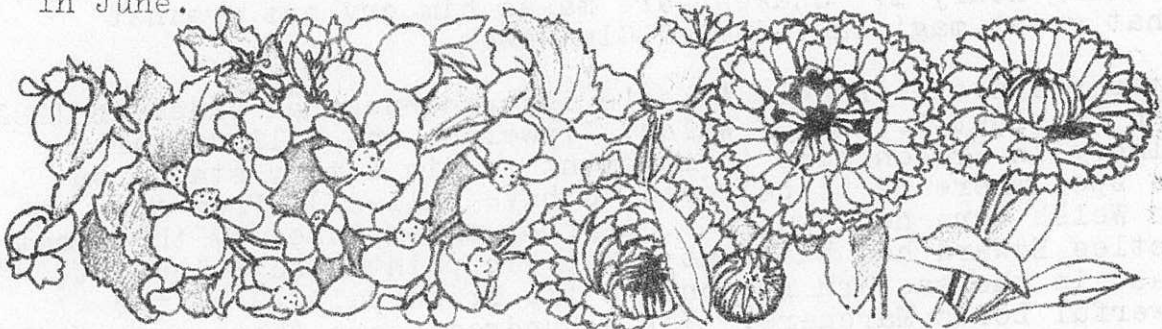
A suggestion had been to enlarge the Village Hall by extending at one end. Alternatives were put forward of building on one side an extension to have bar facilities, or rearranging the kitchen and entrance area. Most people present appeared in favour of further thought being given to some enlargement of the hall. It was agreed that the Hall Committee should consider the matter and people were asked to put forward, preferably in writing, their own proposals for extension. Submissions should be made to Mr E. Allsopp, The School, Norton Canon.



THE GARDEN IN JUNE

As I write these notes - in mid-May, my wallflowers have only recently reached the peak of their scented glory and I shall be faced, once again, with the problem - shall I remove them whilst still flowering, to make space for the bedding plants? - I think I'll leave them as long as possible.

Before replanting, loosely fork over the soil, incorporate well rotted compost, if available, or scatter bone-meal or a general fertiliser. Remember that delicate plants such as begonias, fuchsias and petunias could be harmed by late frosts which occasionally strike in June.



Usually I'm rather conservative in my choice of plants, - marigolds, godetias, tagetes, alyssum and lobelia (the String of Pearls is very attractive,) with lavatera and cosmos at the back, near the fence; but this year, I'm looking forward to some of the newer geraniums, dianthus and carnations and, of course, my old favourite, rudbeckia (marmalade.)

In the kitchen garden, there is always something to do. June is the time to plant out brussel sprouts, broccoli, winter cabbage, savoy and kale. It's not too late for runner beans and for further sowings of french beans - the climbing french beans are quick growing and prolific and a pleasant change from runners. Sow a few courgettes and successional sowings of carrots, lettuce, radish and mustard and cress should not be forgotten.

The fruit also needs attention - keep an eye on the gooseberries for mildew (spray systemic fungicide) and for sawfly caterpillars (spray malathion or derris after flowering.) Erect new or check existing netting around your currants (especially red) to keep away the sweetly singing but devilishly thieving blackbirds. If crops are heavy, thin gooseberries, plums, apples and pears. Pull out unwanted stray shoots of raspberries causing overcrowding between the rows and loosely tie in shoots selected for next years fruiting.

Keep the hoe in use against the weeds and the spray handy for use where and when required.

Enjoy your gardening.

D.T.B.

THE LAST DAYS OF OWAIN GLYNDWR A HEREFORDSHIRE ENIGMA

He is better known by his Anglicised name of Owen Glendower. For a few momentous years at the beginning of the fifteenth century he set the whole of Wales aflame when he led the last desperate attempt of the Welsh to throw off the yoke of thralldom to England which they had endured for over a hundred years after their independence had been finally extinguished by the English King Edward I. The rising caused great panic in England and it took all the efforts of Henry IV, who had supplanted his predecessor Richard II and was still far from secure on his throne, to crush it. Only after some five years of savage fighting, which brought crippling destruction in its train, was the conflagration finally extinguished.

Henry had a very healthy respect for his adversary - in fact, in 'King Henry IV' Shakespeare makes him cry out against 'that great magician, damned Glendower.'

After years of struggle Wales's independence had ended in 1282 when the last Prince of Wales, Llywelyn, was killed near Cilmeri in Breconshire (a monument to his memory stands on the spot where he is believed to have fallen.) From then on the Welsh were held in an iron grip, encompassed by the great castles Edward had built at strategic points and ruled, at least in the eastern regions of the Principality, by the powerful Lords Marchers. For a hundred years there was peace of a sort, but that the fire of revolt still smouldered was dramatically demonstrated when Welsh rebels, on 16th September, 1400, met at Glyndyfrdwy in Merioneth (it was from this place that Owain took his surname) and declared Owain Glyndwr to be the rightful Prince of Wales. Within a few months the whole of the Principality was ablaze.

At first sight it seems rather odd that Owain should have placed himself at the head of the rising. He was himself a member of a Marcher family, was an associate of the poet Chaucer, had an estate which brought him in a comfortable income, had fought with the English against the Scots, and was a man of proven loyalty to the English crown. But he was descended from the Princes of Powys, the Tudors, who had been pledged to Richard II and had no love for Henry IV, were his cousins and he was above all a Welshman and not merely an English-educated gentleman.

Whatever his reason for turning against England, his rising was at first brilliantly successful. The Tudor brothers captured Conwy castle, Owain himself won a notable victory on the slopes of Plynlimon, and shortly afterwards captured Edmund Mortimer, one of the most powerful Marcher Lords. Harlech and Aberystwyth were the next castles to fall and by 1406 Owain held a territory which ran from the Severn mouth to the Mersey. His strategy was to strike hard and vanish into the hills before Henry's troops, floundering in never-ending rain in unfamiliar hostile territory, could catch him.

The French, England's traditional enemies, sent a force to support him, and with it he achieved his most notable success by marching into England as far as Worcester. But he soon withdrew as his forces were not strong enough to abandon guerilla tactics for pitched battles.

By 1407 the tide had turned. The superior resources of the English, led by Henry IV's son Prince Henry, who was proving himself a brilliant tactician, were beginning to prevail, and it was not long before Owain was in full retreat, with several key fortresses lost and many of his family captives. By 1410 he was a hunted outlaw, and although Henry V, Henry IV's successor, offered him a pardon he did not deign to reply. In fact, he was never heard from again and nobody knows to this day exactly what became of him. He appears to have vanished completely but there are grounds for believing that he may have fled into England and ended his days somewhere in Herefordshire. He certainly had relatives, the Scudamore family, in the county and he may have gone to ground on one of their estates.

The late Rev. Teilo Jones-Evans, who was for some years rector of Staunton-on-Wye until his death in 1974, was very interested in Owain's fate and made a detailed study of available evidence. He was firmly of the opinion that Owain's last resting was at Monnington-on-Wye and even claimed to have located his gravestone in the churchyard. But it is almost certain that he was exploring the wrong Monnington. The seat of the Scudamores was not at Monnington-on-Wye but at Monnington Stradell near Vowchurch in the Golden Valley and as Sir John Scudamore was married to Owain's daughter it seems very possible that if Owain was seeking a hiding place this is the spot he would have chosen.

Whatever his ultimate fate, his dramatic disappearance had the inevitable result of making him, like King Arthur, a folk-hero. He would, Welshmen said, one day rise again to continue the struggle for independence. So we are left with the romantic conclusion that in some unmarked grave in a quiet Golden Valley churchyard, or perhaps in unconsecrated ground, Wales's great hero lies awaiting the call of his countrymen to lead them once again in a bid for freedom.

M B Collingwood

• Nettle Syrup.

- Gather the tops of young nettles, wash well, and to every 1 lb. of nettles add one quart of water. Put into a pan and bring to the boil for one hour, then strain, and to every pint of juice add 1 lb. sugar, boil for 30 minutes and when cold bottle up.

This syrup we make from a very old recipe and it is said to have great health-giving powers as a blood purifier. Used with soda water it is a cooling drink.

Teresa Bradford,
Staunton-on-Wye



MIDSUMMER FROLIC

24th JUNE

Country & Western Music by

ROYSTON JONES

at Norton Canon Village Hall

Tickets £2.00

Supper included

Bar • Raffle

Fancy Dress

optional

9pm til

1am



Association of Friends of Norton Canon School

Tickets available from Owls End, Norton Canon. Tel. Weobley 8103.

WILSON J. B. 1902

WILSON J. B. 1902

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