



THE SIGNAL

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

NO. 37

JUNE 1985

PRICE 12p

UPPER NORTON FELLING APPLICATIONS

The Planning Committee of Leominster District Council will be considering the applications on Monday, 24th June. Residents of 19 houses in Upper Norton and Moorhampton have signed a letter to the Council expressing support for the Tree Preservation Order and requesting the Committee to refuse the felling applications. In the meantime.....

The Conservation Controversy Continues

AS one of the three farmers concerned with the purchase of Upper Norton Farm, I should like to comment on the controversy the purchase seems to have caused in certain quarters.

The problems started with the removal of some of the hedges and four oak trees on the east side of the farm. Since then a Preservation Order has been placed upon sixteen oak trees and a two-acre coppice. My brother-in-law and I who own the 100 acres on the east side in roughly equal proportions appealed against the Preservation Order on eight of the oak trees and the coppice. We offered to plant 8 young oaks and to re-site the coppice in positions which would enable us to make better use of the land. This seems to us a not unreasonable request.

The issue has now broadened into a general debate on farming practices and some of what has been written and said locally has been inaccurate and exaggerated. The situation has reached such a level that when inspecting my section of land recently with a local contractor, with a view to draining some damp areas, one near neighbour actually called the police. This act was entirely unnecessary.

PLEASE NOTE THAT COPY FOR THE JULY ISSUE OF 'SIGNAL' SHOULD REACH TRISANNA, STAUNTON-ON-WYE (PHONE MOCCAS 517) NOT LATER THAN THURSDAY, 13th JUNE, 1985.

The words 'Prairie Farmers' have been bandied around and I understand that the rumours say that had I bought all Upper Norton, it would now all be in one field. THIS IS ABSOLUTE RUBBISH. On my own home farm at Lower Newton, we have 41% grassland, 36% cereals and the remainder is divided between fruit, vegetables and root crops. Our average field size is 12 acres. THAT IS NOT PRAIRIE FARMING. To the best of my knowledge no form of wildlife has disappeared from the farm in the last 20 years. My land at Norton Canon will, because of access problems, be in larger fields but it is my intention to use a similar system of rotation to that already employed at Lower Newton.

Snow drifts have been blamed on the removal of hedges at Upper Norton. Anyone with any knowledge of such matters would know that snow needs an obstruction before it will drift. Hedges therefore cause snow drifts. They do not prevent them.

The claim that some of the local residents 'feel more wind' is difficult to prove one way or the other but the distance from local homes, and also the fact that the hedges and trees were well below them makes their claim extremely questionable.

I am not an expert on erosion, but it seems to me that given the type of soil at Norton, provided the humus content is retained by good rotational farming including grass leys, that this should not be a serious problem.

It was remiss of me not to have informed local residents of my intentions for the land, but I wonder how many villagers with large gardens inform their neighbours before they cut down a tree or a length of hedge. The scale of things is obviously different but the principle is surely the same. After realising the local concern, work did cease on the tree felling several days before the preservation order was served. This fact seems to have been conveniently forgotten by our critics.

Mr. Lovelace, in his article in the 'Signal' in April, takes issue with the 'lotting' of Upper Norton. Promotion in whatever work we do should be the right of everyone. Buying more land is one of a few ways farmers can gain promotion, but a farm the size of Upper Norton is out of the reach of the majority of working farmers. If the splitting of farms was made illegal, it could well mean that only the very large farmers would be in a position to buy such a farm. However, if Mr. Lovelace feels the system is wrong, then he should attack the system rather than individual farmers who after

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all can only live by the rules imposed upon them.

The reference to 'asset stripping' 14% of the village gives the impression that the farm may have been shipped away to another part of the county. This of course is not true and is typical of the misleading manner in which the writer has tried to make his case. The buildings, by the way, are not for sale, contrary to what he says.

I visited West Germany recently and my impression was that the best and most productive land was farmed extremely intensively. Conservation seemed to be carried out largely on the less viable land and I think that we could learn a lesson from this. Upper Norton is potentially good land and in spite of recent surpluses, there is no way we should allow our best farming areas to become vast museums where progress is halted and nothing is allowed to change. The outdated vision of the countryside that some of the more extreme conservationists have, could pose a far greater economic threat to a village like Norton Canon or indeed a county like Herefordshire than many people realise. Whether you work as a lorry driver, mechanic, salesman, accountant, solicitor or whatever, it is likely that some part of your income is derived, directly or indirectly, from the farming industry. Before money is spent it has to be earned. If agriculture is allowed to decline, then rural communities like Norton Canon will be the first to suffer.

Herefordshire is a beautiful and extremely tidy county. Part of the beauty and most of the tidiness is due to the care and attention of the farming community. Those outside farming, who derive pleasure from the countryside, should remember that farmers, in addition to being responsible for the care of the land, have to make their living from it. Perhaps a greater understanding of the problems of combining these two is needed in certain quarters, remembering how much easier it is to criticise with a full stomach than an empty one.

Mr. Lovelace obviously has the time and inclination to write endless letters and articles. Like many other farmers, I have not too much time and very little inclination. Therefore, regardless of what is written or said about Upper Norton or me in the future, I do not intend to get involved in a long drawn argument. I hope the 'opposition' will respect this, and allow the dust to settle so

HEREFORD MOTO-X-CLUB

Scramble

AT GARNONS ESTATE ON SUNDAY 23rd JUNE

We should like to thank everyone who turned up on Sunday 12th May for our first Scramble at Garnons, and we make a big apology for the lack of programmes. We ensure everybody that this will not happen again. Many thanks for supporting your local club.

- Signposted from Hereford and Weobley
- Everybody welcome
- Come and support your local riders
- Six hours of mud, sweat and gears
- Free parking, refreshments, clean toilets

First race 11 am - and plenty of programmes to go round.

Admission £1 adults, 25p children & OAP's

that we can exist together in some sort of harmony.

Richard Powell,
Lower Newton,
Weobley.

ALL of us who love our wooded countryside must always be distressed when any trees are felled. Sometimes it is inevitable through age or decay, but it must be realised that timber is a crop.

Upper Norton Farm is a rather special case. The present owners who bought the land should apparently have known of a tree preservation order and therefore have paid an appropriate price. If the order should be revoked it would seem they would gain an economic bonus, but such a bonus would only be for personal benefit, not for the community as a whole.

Even if the yield of the land concerned should be increased there is nationally an agricultural surplus almost impossible to contain in the E.E.C.

Changes from traditional to modern and more intensive cultivation do increase production for a time, but it is very questionable whether the increasing dependence on artificial fertilizers is to long-term advantage. Furthermore, our basic resources may make this type of farming uneconomic.

Not only have I seen with dismay the bare countryside of parts of Oxfordshire and the Eastern Counties but also of New Zealand. In the latter country farming appropriate to the environment is now being encouraged.

May I conclude with a turn of an American phrase -- Don't let us despoil Herefordshire for a 'cheap buck.'

H. Garratt-Adams
Kinnersley Castle

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Seen recently in a shop in York:

'No credit. -- Unless you are over eightyfive, and bring both your parents.'

BARDISLEY Y.F.C. CHARITY
COMMITTEE are holding a Pub
Treasure Hunt on the 8th June.

5.30 for 6.30 start at Burgoynes,
Bardisley.

GOOD, APPROPRIATE PRIZES.

£3 PER CAR

ALL MONEY TO CHARITY.

Church Notices

JUNE

The Weobley Group of Parishes

<u>Sarnesfield</u>	9th Holy Communion
10.00 am	23rd Morning Prayer
<u>Norton Canon</u>	2nd Holy Communion
9.00 am	9th Morning Prayer
	16th Holy Communion
	23rd Family Service
	30th Special service for the Group Holy Communion at 10.30 am
<u>Staunton</u>	2nd Holy Communion
11.00 am	9th Morning Prayer
	16th Holy Communion
<u>Byford</u>	9.30 2nd Holy Communion
	6.30 16th Evening Prayer
	10.00 23rd Family Service
<u>Monnington</u>	9.30 9th Holy Communion
<u>Letton</u>	11.00 9th Family Service
	6.00 23rd Holy Communion

Other dates for your diary

- 3rd 7.30 pm Archdeacon's Visitation
for all Churchwardens
at Eardisley
- 4th 7.30 pm Deanery Synod - Kington
- 24th 6.30 pm Diocesan Synod - Ludlow

KINNERSLEY

- 2nd 10 am Holy Communion
- 9th 10 am Mattins
- 16th 10 am Holy Communion
- 23rd 10 am Family Service
- 30th No service today. You are
invited to Holy Communion
at Whitney-on-Wye church at
10.15 am. This service is
for all the parishes within
the area of the experimental
Kington Team Ministry.
Please bring some food with
you, as there will be a
picnic after the service.

STAUNTON-ON-WYE CHURCH, EASTER APPEAL

The appeal so far has raised
just over £500. Grateful
thanks to all who contributed.
The appeal is still open in
case anybody else would like
to contribute.

BIRTHDAYS

A VERY HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:

<u>Norton Canon</u>	
Katie Barker	4th June
Adam Loxston	16th "
Rebecca Leighton	20th "
Rhys Evans	20th "
Louise Deem	22nd "
Deborah Lewis	23rd "

Kimmersley

Nicholas Austen	15th June
Simon Bryan	21st "

Sarnesfield

Stuart Evans	5th "
Andrew Williams	15th "

Moorhampton (Yarsop)

Andrew James	27th June
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Monnington-on-Wye

Lawrence Haddow	15th June
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Staunton-on-Wye

Rebecca Lewis	12th June
Tom Beach	18th "
Cathi Stokes	20th "

READER'S LETTERS

I should like to thank the many
friends and neighbours who
gave their help and support
during Doug's short terminal
illness. I particularly app-
reciated the tribute paid to
him in the May issue of
'Signal.'

Sincerely,

Rosalind Berry

KNITTING FOR OXFAM

If anyone has any spare balls
of wool (four-ply or double
knitting) I should be very
grateful. I will collect.

Joan Close
(Eardisley 504)

NATIONAL ARTHRITIS WEEK

2nd-8th JUNE 1985

The Arthritis & Rheumatism Council, of which there is a local Branch in this area, is making National Arthritis Week the 2nd to the 8th June, 1985. The theme of the Week is 'women and arthritis,' and ARC will be showing the toll that the rheumatic diseases take of women and, in a positive way, showing how research is finding the answers.

The Arthritis & Rheumatism Council is the principal source of funds for Britain's arthritis research effort. During this year, for instance, it will grant over £5 million to doctors and scientists engaged in trying to find the cause and cure of all forms of rheumatic disease.

However, this research needs to be maintained and expanded if they are to succeed.

Anyone who would like more details about the fund-raising efforts locally, or about what the Arthritis & Rheumatism Council is doing nationally, can contact the secretary of the local branch who is:::

Mrs. HAULWEN SYMONDS
KITE'S NEST
PEMBRIDGE

TEL: WEOBLEY 318111

CHELTENHAM COBALT UNIT

A grand total of £456 was raised at the bazaar held in Staunton-on-Wye village hall on 27th April in aid of the Cheltenham Cobalt Unit. Many thanks to all who supported it.

The draw prizes were won by (1st) Stephen Andrews, (2nd) Mrs. J. Jenkins, (3rd) Moira ?, (4th) Mrs. P. McCann, (5th) Mrs. Howard, (6th) Mrs. Walsh, (7th) D. Joseph, (8th) Mrs. A. Smith.

BALANCE SHEET

Receipts

Auction Sale	165.00
Draw Tickets	98.50
Bazaar	205.90
Donations	25.50

£494.90

Less expenditure 38.90

Total £456.00

Expenditure

Auctioneer's Commission	29.40
Printing of Draw Tickets	7.00
Hire of Hall	2.50

£38.90

This money is banked at Hay-on-Wye, together with proceeds from similar events organised in Eardisley and surrounding districts. About January next year a Country and Western Evening will be held at Eardisley when the cheque will be presented to Dr. Hanna of the Cobalt Unit.

STAUNTON-ON-WYE NOTES

SUMMER PLAYScheme

Last year a 'Playday' was held in Staunton-on-Wye during the School Summer Holiday. The day was a great success.

In the morning there was a choice of activities and, after a packed lunch, games and a show by Pentabus Arts Co. Approximately fortyfive children attended and had lots of fun.

The day was organised by Lin Stokes with the help of Suzanne Penny of Leominster Marches Project and Nick Millington of Pentabus.

This year all the resources are available for another playscheme. The Leominster Marches Project and Pentabus are eager to help again but more local people are needed to help organize it.

Lin Stokes has all the relevant details and would be pleased to help and advise anyone, from teenagers to OAP's, who would like to help arrange a Playscheme. No qualifications are necessary.

If you would like to help give the children another 'fun day' please ring Lin (Moccas 437.)

It is necessary to start arrangements as soon as possible, and unless sufficient helpers come forward it is unlikely that the playscheme can be organized.

Its as hard to get a man to stay at home after you've married him as it was to get him to go home before you married him.

Never trust a husband too far nor a batchelor too near.

Helen Rowland
American Writer

GROUP PARISH COUNCIL

The community arts project organisation Pentabus is to give a talk to the Staunton-on-Wye Group Parish Council on 4th July.

The talk is being arranged by the Leominster Marches Project and will outline ideas for youth activities in Staunton and adjacent villages.

This was one of the matters discussed at the council's meeting on 9th May. The council also discussed the state of the lay-by on the main road at Staunton and it was pointed out that the Leominster District Council will, for a small fee, remove rubbish which is too bulky for normal collection. It was also noted that Staunton village playing field is once again available for use after a long period of neglect.

At the Annual General Meeting which preceded the council meeting Mr. David King was re-elected chairman and Mr. Roy Jenkins Deputy Chairman.

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Sunday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

NORTON CANON LADIES' CLUB

SALLY WILLIAMS delighted all twentythree ladies at the May meeting with her spring flower arrangements.

Five tulips and three sprays of dark greenery first made a most effective 'Japanese' type of display. There followed a colourful mixed decoration on a small attractive pedestal, and finally a charming classical green and white arrangement, consisting of grasses, foliage and a few large marquerite daisies.

While we closely watched Sally's deft fingers, we listened to her commentary on what she was doing as she tried to assure us how easy - and inexpensive - flower arranging could be.

On the 10th June the meeting will be at the Village Hall as usual. Golden Pioneer Holidays are expected to provide an interesting film and slides to illustrate the type of holiday they provide. Even if you have arranged your holiday for this year, the talk may give you ideas for 1986. Do come. Raffle and refreshments as usual.

There's no accounting for tastes,
as the woman said when somebody
told her her son was wanted by the police.

F.P. Adams
American Humorous Writer

Absinthe makes the heart
grow fonder.

Addison Misner
American Writer

'WALKS AND MORE'

A GUIDE TO THE CENTRAL WELSH MARCHES

This 256-page guide includes:

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RECIPE

MILD BROWN ALE

Ingredients:

- 5 oz. hops
- 2 oz. yeast
- 8 galls water
- 2 lb. brown sugar (more or less to taste)

Boil the water and hops together slowly for 40 or 50 mins. Strain over sugar; add yeast when liquor is lukewarm, turn into a pan or tub to ferment for 4 days then cask or bottle for use as wanted.

CAR BOOT SALE

In the car park of the New Inn, Eardisley, all day on Saturday, 15th June, in aid of Village Hall Fund.

Everybody welcome to bring their own produce and make their own arrangements regarding the proceeds.

A charge of £4 will be made for each car, or £3 if notified before the day of the sale.

Please contact Mrs. Boyce, tel: Eardisley 595.

A day in the life of

A Parish Priest

by

THE REV.

COLIN SNEYD



Vicar of the Weobley Group of Parishes

AT the end of my first curacy in 1972 the parishioners gave to Betty and me as one of our 'leaving' presents a gadget to make tea and sound an alarm. This wonderful thing has performed excellently ever since, although there have been one or two mishaps such as when Betty accidentally put the switch down when she made the bed and it boiled dry at 7 p.m. when we were out. Apart from that the tea has brewed each morning and as long as I remember to put the teapot under the spout, all is well. So that is how the day begins - tea, a Bible reading, a few pages of the current book, which as I write happens to be 'Letters from the Desert' by Carlo Carretto. Then 'Thought for the day,' breakfast, and into the study by 8.30, by which time the postman has usually been so I know what the day demands - dealing with a load of admin., preparation for meetings, services and of course sermons

It is very difficult to describe a typical day - I usually go over to church at 9 a.m. to unlock and say prayers for 20 minutes, but on Fridays I go down to Norton Canon to take assembly and teach the top class until about 10.15. The children are responsive and ask some perceptive and sometimes disconcerting questions. Once when we read from Ezekiel about the valley of dry bones I was able to take in the bones of a human skeleton. The extras at Christmas (with carols and a party, and the summer sports) are rather special. - How I wish that children from large inner-city schools could experience the atmosphere. - The cane is not banned, but its use unthinkable. I have however almost been reduced to tears myself at Mr. Allsopp's occasional verbal condemnation of some bad attitude which has cropped up in class or playground.

Sometimes after leaving school I go on to visit in the village, but always with an eye on the clock in order to get back to Weobley for the Litany which we have been saying during the year of the miners' strike. Fortunately there are other people able and willing to take it if I am late or even forget.

Most evenings are taken up with meetings. My first free Monday evening (apart from public holidays) is 22nd July and to meet with some groups we sometimes have a working lunch with soup and sandwiches and also plan a programme and have prayer together.

Friday afternoons are often taken up with final preparation for Sunday - especially if the Saturday happens to be busy with a conference, Diocesan Synod, or a wedding. Sundays do require careful planning with two, three or four services in the morning with split-timing drives between any of the seven churches. The services are hardly ever the same so I usually have at least two sermons ready. On the second Sunday of the month I have 8 a.m. Holy Communion at Weobley, 9 a.m. Morning Prayer at Norton Canon, 10 a.m. Holy Communion at Sarnesfield and, as I write this, I am at a Family Service at Letton.

Friday evening is traditionally the night for choir practice. Choirs, like youth groups, fluctuate, and at the moment in Weobley we wonder if we can continue with so few members. How grand it is on special occasions when the choir is augmented by visiting friends, and how we wish we could always have the four parts at the practice and the service. Perhaps this is what used to occupy the Vicar when he only had Weobley to look after!



The penalty of success is to be bored by the attentions of people who formerly snubbed you.

Mary W. Little
American Writer

The most effective waterpower in the world - women's tears.

Be nice to people on your way up because you'll meet them on your way down.

Wilson Misner
American Dramatist

Many a man in love with a dimple makes the mistake of marrying the whole girl.

Stephen Leacock
Canadian Humorist

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Shopping



'PLEASE be in a good mood, Mum!'

This is the girls' plea as we set off in the car on one of our clothes buying sessions. Invariably, I am in a good mood when we set off, as I really love their company, but by the end of the day it's somewhat frayed at the edges.

I am sure that, when I was their age, I was forced into a good pair of brown lace-ups in the winter and sandals with little open designs on the front for summer. But not today - oh no! If I were to choose their shoes for them I think they would go into fits of laughter.

At my ripe old age I have to plod endlessly round the very modern and very expensive Dorothy Perkins store, being forced to 'Look at this, Mum, fab, isn't it?' or 'That's ace, man, that's ace.' The music blares out incessantly - not nice soft, relaxing music, but a beat to make you 'Go, man, go!' By the time I come out by head is reeling and I don't know whether I'm coming or going.

'This is nice, girls,' I say. 'Oh, Mum,' and with looks of absolute disdain they walk off in the opposite direction. I can't possibly win and have come to the conclusion that I'm getting too old for rampaging around the shops with the same eagerness as my two young daughters.

If I do put my foot down and say 'No,' I am ignored by the two, and the only thing that will make them speak to me or love me again is when I nonchalantly say 'Shall we go to McDonalds?'

'Oh, Mum, you're ace, man.'

'We're really very lucky to have such a lovely mother.'

It's unbelievable.

So there I sit in McDonalds on a plastic chair, admiring plastic flowers and paying £1.05 for a plastic hamburger and very expensive chips.

'Fab in here, isn't it, Mum?'

Wearily, with my legs aching and my head thumping and longing to get home to a G. and T. say -

'Super, girls, really ace!'

Linda Goodwin

MIDSUMMER FROLIC

SAT 29th JUNE

Country & Western Music by

COUNTRY COMPANY

at Norton Canon Village Hall

Tickets £3.00 Supper included ● Fancy Dress optional

8 PM - MIDNIGHT ● Bar ● Raffle



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