

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

NO.59

JUNE 1987

THE church in Herefordshire and the community of Weobley and district have suffered a grievous loss through the sudden death, while on holiday in Eastbourne, of the Rev. Colin Sneyd, Vicar of Weobley and Rural Dean of Kington. His death was completely unexpected and right up till the day of his departure for Eastbourne he had been carrying out his ministerial duties with his cust-

Colin Sneyd came to Weobley as vicar in 1981. He had been ordained ratomary vigour and enthusiasm. her later in life than is customary with aspirants to the ministry and had previously been a master baker by profession. After ordination he served for some years as a missionary in East Africa and when he was appointed to Weobley he became the first incumbent of a recently formed group of seven parishes, consisting of Weobley, Sarnesfield, Norton Canon, Staunton-on-Wye, Monnington-on-

The task that faced him was in many ways a formidable one. Previous to Wye, Byford and Letton. the formation of the group many of the seven constituent parishes had for some years had no permanent incumbent and had been under the care of a succession of priests-in-change or part-time retired clergy. Colin Sneyd realised that his immediate task was to weld the parishes into a homogeneous group and he set about this with an energy and enthusiasm which were characteristic of him.

He made it a principle to visit each of the seven churches at regular intervals to conduct services, even though this might mean longish car journeys to administer to what were often very small congregations. Perhaps his most effective method of uniting the various parishes was the group services he initiated at each church in succession whenever there was a fifth Sunday in the month. On normal Sundays each church was and still is able to hold regular services through the availability of an assistant priest based at Staunton initially the Rev. Alex Lord and later the Rev. Bryn Rees. Inaddition there are available a number of retired clergy living in the district and a team of lay readers, all of whom are able to officiate when required. Among these special mention should be made of Mrs Chris Rhodes of Weobley who has been of great assistance to Mr Sneyd and is herself being ordained deacon in June, and thus one of the first women clergy in the Hereford diocese.

PLEASE NOTE THAT COPY FOR THE JULY 1987 ISSUE OF 'SIGNAL' SHOULD REACH TRISANNA, STAUNTON-ON-WYE (PHONE MOCCAS 517) NOT LATER THAN MONDAY 8TH

In Weobley itself Colin Sneyd was tireless in his efforts to make the church a vital part of the life of the village. Many people have pleasant memories of the various festivals he organised in Weobley, in particular the flower festival held in the summer of 1983 when one of the most popular attractions was a climb to the top of the tower to enjoy the extensive panorama available. In fact, one of the aims of this festival was to raise funds to cover the cost of repairs to the tower after it had been damaged by lightning.

Family and children's services were another of Colin Sneyd's interests and these are also now held at regular intervals. He also believed in bringing church officials in the seven parishes together for mutual discussion and churchwarden's meetings are also a regular feature. The result of all this activity has been the successful welding of the group into a harmonious and

It was obvious that Colin Sneyd's capabilities would very quickly single him out for higher office and had he lived he would almost certainly have risen to great heights. He was appointed Rural Dean of Kington in 1986 and he was prominent in other branches of church work, being a member of the Evangelism Committee of Hereford Diocese and of the Candidates Committee of the Church Missionary Society. He was also chairman of the governors of Norton Canon

It is still almost impossible to realise that he is no longer with us and Weobley church was crowded with parishioners from all over the group who had come to pay their last tributes at the memorial service conducted by Bishop Mark Wood on May 26th. The Bishop of Hereford paid a warm tribute to him over Radio Wyvern.

To his widow and two sons and to the rest of his family we extend our deepest sympathy in their tragic loss. His memory will always be treasured among the congregation to which he ministered with such wholeheartedness and devotion.

Obituary

We regret to report the death in hospital of Mrs Marian Ellis of Stauntonon-Wye after a short illness. She had lived in Staunton for many years, and for the last few years lived with her daughter and son-in-law Mr and Mrs David Jones to whom, and their family, we send our sympathy and condolences.

CHRISTIAN AID APPEAL

The Coffee Morning at 'Greenfields' Norton Canon, in support of 'Christian Aid' was most successful.

About 60 well-wishers drank their coffee, bought raffle tickets and cakes and plants. A total sum of £166 was raised. Many thanks to Geoff and Ruby Table 17 807 Table 27 807 Table Norman who lent their house and lovely garden for this

A JUNE ROSE

I picked a rose one lovely June, Deep in its heart I gazed; And then my memory flooded back To youth and younger days.

Within the garden that he loved I saw my father stand; I saw him gazing at the rose That trembled in his hand.

A saw him startle at my steps As down the path I raced; He placed the rose within my hand And smiled into my face.

Then suddenly a childish cry And dreams were past and done: I kissed the rose within my hand And gave it to my son.

F.A. Evans

FIRST BATTALION THE HEREFORDSHIRE REGIMENT IN NORTH-WEST EUROPE

by Michael Jennings

Part 1: The Road to Falaise

IN the two parts of this short account of 1st Herefords in North-West Europe in 1944 and 1945, I am indebted to the authors of 'Taurus Pursuant: A History of 11th Armoured Division' and of 'Historical Records of The Herefordshire Light Infantry and its predecessors'. However, it is possible that readers may prefer a more impressionistic account than is possible in war diaries, and here I have had the good fortune to consult certain ex-combattants of the battalion. They have helped me to gain the feel of old battles, so many of which took place at the crossings of rivers or canals, battles which made possible the swiftest advance of its kind in the history of war. At all events, this article is offered as a belated tribute to a fine unit:

The battalion was embodied with a strong nucleus of territorials in the earlydays of the war but did not form part of the B.E.F. either in France or in Belgium or at Dunkirk. It had a less exciting role in guarding South Wales and a further disappointment lay in store. In April 1940 the battalion was posted to Northern Ireland to guard against a

German invasion. It stayed there for two years.

Then, in May 1942, the Red W of the 53rd (Welsh) Division was shed in favour of the Black Bull on a yellow background, the sign of the newly-formed 11th Armoured Division. The 159th Brigade, including 1st Herefords, were to be the lorry-borne infantry. A period of hard but elated training began on the heathland of Suffolk on the Battle Areas, with live ammunition. Shortly, they received orders to mobilise for North Africa, were inspected by the King and waited for the movement order. It was cancelled at the last minute. At the Casablanca Conference changes had been made. The division reverted glumly to a more mundane existence.

From June 1943 to the spring of 1944, they trained on the Wolds. Thanks to the patriotic though agonised farmers, carriers and lorries were soon to speed across the undulating fields of ripe corn, occasionally coming to grief in one of the many hidden quarries. As lovely autumn gave place to winter, there came a period of nationwide exercises on icy roads and then with the spring, Combined Operations at Inverary, advice from South American desperadoes on street fighting, and the waterproofing of vehicles and amphibious practice assaults.

On June 6th 1944 came D-Day but still the division was held in abeyance until at last, on the 13th, they left for Normandy in two parties, the vehicles from the Thames and the rest from Newhaven, landing between Arromanches and the mouth of the Orne at Ouistreham. A time of acclimatisation followed, or whatever it is that precedes the moment of truth.

The battles for Caen deserve to rank in scope (and horror) with thos of Gallipoli, Stalingrad and Cassino. Three times in the space of two months, between late June and late August 1944, Second Army was to try to encircle Caen. Three separate battles, each of differing duration and locality, involved the 11th Armoured Division to the very hilt and with them the 1st Herefords.

There was much about the Norman countryside to appeal to a man from Herefordshire. To the south-west of Caen an open, rolling countryside is punctuated with groups of woods and with orchards beneath whose trees, in ordinary times, cattle not unlike the Herefords, brown and black and white, graze happily enough. Two rivers approach Caen from the south-west, rising from the slopes of Mt.Pincon, the Odon to the west and the Orne further east. These rivers unite at the southern end of Caen and proceed northwards, through the city and on towards the Channel. As part of Operation 'Epsom' 1st Herefords were to cross both rivers and cut off the city in an encircling movement on its western side. In the event, only the Odon succumbed. For seven days a bridgehead was held by 1st Herefords and 4th KSLI. They were severely threatened by elements of four Panzer divisions who attacked not only from the front at Hill 112 but from the flank and even from the north side of the river. Somehow, despite searing mortar and artillery fire, they held on. At the end of ten days, they were relieved. but the position had to be abandoned.

Long after the war, I remember standing early one summer morning on the plain to the south of Caen and looking south-westwards towards the Bourguebus Ridge where so many of the 11th Armoured Division suffered between the 17th and the 22nd of July 1944. It was a moving experience. In company with two other armoured divisions they had come down on the east side of the Crne, two or three miles from the city, and found the best part of a German army waiting for them. For the British armoured regiments it was the blackest day of the war; nearly two hundred tanks were set on fire or put out of the battle in other ways. Deprived of their armour, the infantry struggled on heroically, risking minefields, turning desperate youngNazis out of fox-holes, giving covering fire, going in with the bayonet. Meanwhile, the attach was abandoned. Operation 'Goodwood' had achieved a lot but it was not yet enough.

The third and last part of the Normandy battle took place in the bocage country well to the west of Caen. It is a province of sunken lanes, tall hedges and small, sometimes very small, fields. Armour and infantry worked together, advancing by painfully small leaps and bounds, moving along a hedge, down into a darkened lane and up the other bank, crawling, rushing and stopping and then digging, always digging, against the inevitable counter-attack. It was a time when supplies came up with the greatest difficulty. The enemy were sometimes a few yards away, no more, If ever nerves wereraw, this perhaps was the worst time of all. Slowly the battalion advanced southwards and eastwards. A day of heavy casualties would be followed by a better one, times of despair give place to sudden hope and limited progress. It is not for nothing that a disproportionate part of the article is given up to the Normandy campaign. If you speak to a member of the battalion who was there you get the unmistakable message about Normandy; and yet these torrid memories are mixed with justifiable pride, for the third week in August saw the collapse of the German Seventh Army, and the rout at Falaise.

To help to make this possible, several hundred members of the 1st Herefords had been wounded and seventy-one had already died.

(to be concluded)

If brains were dynamite he couldn't even blow his nose.

(Review of 'Blankety Blank' and Terry Wogan.)

It is strange that men should take up crime when there are so many legal ways of being dishonest.

Groucho Marx.

JUNE IN THE GARDEN

WHEN riding around the district I was pleased to see that some of my advice was being taken, you are right, it was the advice to take advantage of sunny days to sit and enjoy watching the garden grow.

Checking on my books for June it appears to be a very busy time

so I will get down to it.

Complete bedding out and keep watered in dry weather. Plant aquatic and other plants. Make sure aphids do not get established on roses. If you have to spray it may be worthwhile adding a compatible fungicide against black spot if this disease has been troublesome.

Prune early flowering broom by shortening shoots that have flowered

by half. Remove side shoots of cordon sweet peas regularly.

Continue to sow biennials not forgetting pansies to flower next year. Transplant biennials sown last month in the nursery bed.

Sow herbacious perennials such as delphiniums and lupins, many plants can be sown in June. alpine plants can be sown in June.

Tie in new shoots of rambler roses; thin annuals sown where they

are to flower.

Lift Spring bulbs once the leaves have died down (unless you wish to leave them in situ). Generally tulips are better lifted; daffodils not. Any foliage from bulbs planted in grass can be cut off, a light dressing of lawn fertiliser will help the grass to recover and partners asignake

Chrysanthemums may need stopping. Fom-pom and spray varieties are usually stopped about the middle of June to encourage bushiness.

Keep the lawn mown but not too short. In a prolonged dry spell the lawn should be thoroughly soaked. Do not water if you can only give a light sprinkling.

Mulch dahlias, sweet peas and all other plants that will benefit,

stake tall flowering plants and time in shoots as they develop.

If you have any time left, keep flower beds hoed, remove dead blooms, check plants for infestations of pests and treat if necessary. Apply weedkiller to lawn, some weeds may need a repeat dose. Spot weed where necessary but it is not advisable to do this in very hot weather. Cut back Spring flowering rock plants. Cuttings can be taken from many alpines during the next few months - arabis, aubretia, dianthus, phlox and the saxifrages. Layer border carnations choosing non-flowering shoots; divide polyanthus to increase your stock.

It is not too late to sow hardy annuals for flowering in August or September. Take shrub cuttings from young grown of deutzias, philadelphus and syringa. Prune same once they have finished flowering. Orna-

mental almonds, cherries and peaches can be pruned.

A garden seat is not essential to the well being of the garden but it does wonders for the gardener. Happy gardening. after an operation in hospital and we

One Green Finger

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STAUNTON-ON-WYE FORGET-ME-NOT CLUB

The club's coach trip to Bridgmorth on May 12th will long be remembered if only because of the ideal conditions for sightseeing provided by the weather. Although it was a rather chilly day with a blustering northerly wind it was remarkably clear, and some magnificent long-distance views were obtained, chiefly along Wenlock Edge on the outward journey and from the slopes of the Clee Hills on the return trip. Among the landmarks spotted from Titterstone Clee was May Hill between Newent and Gloucester which must have been all of forty miles distant.

Bridgmorth was reached in time for lunch and steam locomotive buffs had the opportunity of feasting their eyes on the examples standing in the Severn Valley Railway station.

There was a stop for tea in Ludlow, followed by a detour to the Clive Arms at Bromfield for 'one (in some cases more than one) for the road.'

Many thanks to Mrs Biddy Kinsey for organising such an enjoyable day.

M.B.C.

LOCAL BUS SERVICES

Starting Wednesday,
13th May an additional 'bus
service to Hereford will
operate every Wednesday,
calling at Letton (9.56 am)
and Portway (10.00 am,)
arriving in Hereford at
10.16 am. It will return
from Hereford Bus Station
at 4.00 pm, calling at
Tesco's Supermarket at
4.02 pm.

Also, the Cross Gates
Motors Llandrindod to Hereford service currently operating will now run on the
first and third Wednesday
of each month.

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GET WELL MESSAGES

Mr Tim Shaw of Hereford, who was badly injured in a car accident near the Portway Hotel while returning to Hereford after visiting his fiancee Debbie Jones of Staunton-on-Wye, is still seriously ill in hospital under intensive care.

All in Staunton send their sympathy and best wishes and their thoughts are particularly with Debbie.

Mr Jim Morgan of Box Tree Cottage, Staunton-on-Wye is back home again after an operation in hospital and we wish him a quick and complete recovery.

^{&#}x27;I married her because she saved my life.'

^{&#}x27;How did she do that?'

^{&#}x27;She told her dad not to shoot'

^{&#}x27;Retirement: Twice as much wife on half as much pay.'

ENGLISH AS SHE SHOULD BE SPOKEN

From Ernest Gower's 'Plain Words'

WHY do so many writers prefer gobbledegook to simplicity? It seems to be a morbid condition contracted in early manhood. Children show no sign of it. Here, for example, is the response of a young girl of 10 when asked to write an essay on a bird and a beast. It really is genuine. This is it.

'The bird I am going to write about is the owl. The owl

cannot see at all by day and at night it is as blind as a bat.
'I do not know much about the owl so I will go on to the beast which I am going to choose. It is the cow. The cow is a mammal. It has four sides - right, left, upper and below. At the back it has a tail on which hangs a brush. With this it sends the flies away so that they do not fall into the milk. The head is for the purpose of growing the horns and so that the mouth can be somewhere. The horns are to butt with and the mouth is to moo with. Under the cow hangs the milk. It is arranged for milking and there is never an end to the supply. How the cow does it I don't know but it makes more and more. The cow has a fine sense of smell and you can smell it far away. This is the reason for all the fresh air in the country.

The man cow is called an ox. It is not a mammal. The cow does not eat much but what it eats it eats twice so that it gets enough. When it is hungry it moos and when it says nothing it is because its inside is all full up with grass.

This young writer has had something to say and has said it as clearly as she could. In this way she has unconsciously achieved style. So why do we write when we are ten 'so that the mouth can be somewhere' and when we are thirty 'in order to ensure that the oral cavity may be appropriately positioned encironmentally.

REFERENCES

At School

What they say Needs praise and encouragement (a)

Has difficulty in forming stable relationships

Expresses himself confidently

(c) (d) A rather solitary child

Is easily upset

(g) A born leader
(h) Works better at mast.

Reliable

Does not accept authority easily Dad's doing 'time'

What they really mean Thick as two short planks I can't stand him either

I would prefer to have at my

Cheeky little swine Smells or has nits Spoilt rotten and move designed Has developed an enquiring mind Often caught playing Doctors and Nurses Runs a protection racket Pig ignorant A max of the Miles bee

Grasses on his mates may of the Hard

STAUNTON-ON-WYE LADIES' GROUP

Mr John Cork, a former London policeman who has recently come to live in Staunton-on-Wye has travelled to many parts of the world since retirement and he gave a talk on his travels at the May meeting of the Group.

He commentated chiefly on America with special emphasis on a visit to the South American republic of Colombia, well off the tourist track as far as the British are concerned.

Although he had obviously gained much enjoyment from his travels he summed up by stressing that Britain in the long run is the best country to live in - particularly Herefordshire which he now looked on as his home.

The next meeting will be held on either Wednesday 10th or Thursday 11th of June and will be a garden barbecue at Bulmers' Lake, Moorhampton or, if raining, in Staunton village hall. New members will be very welcome.

ARMY REFERENCES

- 1. I would hesitate to breed from this officer.
- 2. This officer will go through life pushing on doors marked 'Pull.'
- 3. I can think of no officer I would prefer to have at my side in a tough spot. At the same time I can think of no one more likely to get me in a tough spot in the first place.

SAYINGS OF THOMAS BEECHAM

'Herbert von Karajan? A kind of musical Malcolm Sargent, isn't he?'

'Try anything once - except incest and folk dancing.'

'Beethoven's 9th symphony could have been written by Gladstone.'

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(Brian Robbins)

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Birthdays

A VERY HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:

Norton Canon

Katie Barker	4th	June
Adam Loxston	16th	
Rebecca Leighton	20th	88 11
Rhys Evans	20th	08 97
Louise Deem	22nd	19
Deborah Lewis	23rd	J 1 11

Monnington-on-Wye

Helen Cook

24th June

SPECIAL BABY CARE

The organisers of the Plant Sale on May 16th in aid of the S.C.B.U. are most grateful to all who supported the appeal. The total raised was £550 - a fantastic effort.

Does not accept authority eas

ARROWVALE WINE CIRCLE

The problem of how to judge other people's wine

EVERY year we always have two types of judgement on the wines we make. In the first case we call in the services of a nationally recognised judge whose final verdict decides whose wine is to represent the circle at the anually held Callow Cup. All societies in Herefordshire compete for this cup.

The other judgement is the one we make by ourselves on ourselves. Ten bottles (white and red) are assessed anonymously by members using a score sheet allocating 5 marks for coldur and clarity; 5 for bouquet and 15 for taste. The

total marks are added up to find the winner.

We held the latter type of assessment this month and the usual good time was had by one and all. The earlier bottle judgements are held in comparative silence but, as the wine intake increases, so does the decibel rate ! No wonder this particular meeting is always voted one of our most successful in the year.

But a puzzle remains. The winners of both types of competition have rarely ever been the same. Why and which is the truer method? Should we give precedence to the professional judge in being able to bring his or her experience and expertise to the final assessment or can it equally be claimed that personal taste will always be King and, for this reason, there never can be a final law ? I don't know the answer. Do you ?

Gareth Evans

'SHOES' NEWS

DURING the summer months we at 'The Three Horseshoes' in Norton Canon play quoits in the Hereford League. We have had a crack stalwart First Division side for quite some time, but this year we have a second Third Division team who try very hard but perhaps don't get as many pegs so as to make them a team of the same calibre.

The first team have not yet lost a game, and the second team - um, well we've won one so far but doubtless we shall get a few more under our belts!

They are so eager, you see. There are Gimps and Roger, deep in conversation about the latest ice cream sales, not paying the slightest bit of attention to the magnificent action of their team mates. My father and uncle, who come under protest anyway, stand looking quite bored until they have had one or two pints and then start showing an interest in the game and enjoying themselves. They're all good lads, though, and they do try hard really.

The first team.... that's another kettle of fish entirely. You see, they take it very seriously and practice at every opportunity that comes their way- I mean, it's bound to make a difference. The majority of the other team don't even

think about quoits until it's time to play again.

Still, thanks to you all for playing for us, and here's wishing you all the best for the season.

Motto - aim for the peg to win!

Lin Goodwin

Church Notices

SERVICES DURING JUNE

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14th	9	am	Morning Prayer	49
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28th	9	am	Morning Prayer	
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21st		am	Holy Communion	
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7th	9.30	am	Holy Communion	8th
21st			Evening Prayer	
28th	10		Family Service	9th
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Kinnersley

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radia.	5th	7.30 pm. Archdeacon's visitation
12010 14		for churchwardens at Brilley and so
	6th	2 to 4 pm. Deanery afternoon at
		Whitney Village Hall.
	8th	7.30 pm. Letton P.C.C. at Letton

8th 7.30 pm. Letton P.C.C. at Letton Old Court.

9th 10 am. Chapter Meeting (2) at Almeley.

16th 7.30 pm. Gordon Powell (from the Diocesan Office) speaks on Covenanting.

22nd 7 pm. Diocesan Synod at Ludlow.

28th 10.30 am. Odination of Mrs Chris Rhodes at Hereford Cathedral.

Thursday, July 2nd at 7.30 pm.

Farewell service for Bishop Mark Wood in Hereford Cathedral.

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Motto - aim for the peg to win!

SIGNAL AGM

We regret we had to cancel the AGM at the last moment. We have however rearranged the AGM for Friday, 19th June, 1987 at 7.30 at Bulmers Lake at Moorhampton. Nominations for the Committee can be made from the floor. If you are interested in being on the Committee but would like to know more, please contact Rod Kilvert on Weobley 318306. Do please bring your own chair.

The AGM will be followed by a Wine & Cheese Party, please bring a little food as well as a chair! Wine will be available, but if you wish to bring your own please do so.

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NORTON CANON LADIES SOCIAL CLUB

Congratulations and many thanks to Rita Kilvert and Joyce Langmead who planned the threatre outing to Birmingham in May. All the arrangements worked splendidly and everyone enjoyed 'Evita'.

This month, June 15, we meet at Bulmer's Orchards, Hampton Bishop, at 8 pm for a tour of the orchard and an informal drink afterwards at 'The Bunch of Carrts'. Please arrange your own transport.

Shelia Evans

EVENTS IN JUNE & JULY

Monday 22nd June 7.30 at the Meeting Room, Kinnersley. A Bring and Buy Stall and a Draw has been organized in Aid of 'The Special Care Baby Unit' and there will be a short talk about the Unit.

Also, advance notice of a Car Boot Sale at Kinnersley Filling Station on July 5th 11 am - 3 pm £4 per car on the day £3 in advance.

Rich widows are the only secondhand goods that sell at firstclass prices.

Benjamin Franklin

TOURISM SIGNS

LEOMINSTER District Council has agreed in principle to help towns and villages in the area to provide illustrated road signs so that visitors may find their way about. Any parish which feels it could benefit by highlighting local attractions should contact the Council. The Council is also planning a tourist trail based on timber-framed buildings, and if any parish has buildings which it considers should be featured it should also let the Council know.

LOSE WEIGHT NOW!



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CALL PAT SHAW ON WEOBLEY (0544) 318604 EVENINGS

VILLAGE HOMES FOR VILLAGE PEOPLE

ONE of the major problems facing rural areas today is the loss of younger people. Housing, or rather the lack of it, always figures high on the list of explanations. Shortages, both in the variety to buy at different prices and in terms of rented accommodation, have led to complaints that village youngsters are forced away from their communities when setting up home, and that elderly people are faced with living in accommodation larger than they want, or having to move away from lifelong friends and neighbours.

The Rural Housing Workshop has been formed with the aim of bringing people together to identify local housing issues and needs, to promote understanding of the roles of the different organisations involved and to lock at practical ways in which local people can help.

The Workshop will meet at Haywood High School, Stanberrow Road, Hereford, at 10.30 am on Saturday June 6th for a conference scheduled to end at 4.30 pm. There will be several speakers and discussions on various subjects will be organised. The conference fee is £1.50, which includes a ploughman's lunch.

Applications to attend should have been received by May 22nd, but it may still not be too late to apply to the Rural Community Council, 25 Castle Street, Hereford, phone 272307. Kington + Weobley Deanery

NEW WINE

Saturday ofternoon

June 6th 2-4pm

Whitney Village Hall & Church

Music Workshop

(bring your own instruments)

Revd Peter Wood: The New Wine & Church Growth

Dr Peter Quinton: Healing

Creche - Tea + light refreshment.

Donations to cover costs)