

A COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER FOR

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

### **SIGNAL BOX**

This is your newsletter for you to use to publish news, comment, letters, articles, recipes, poems, adverts and to tell the rest of the world what's going to happen! This and future editions will be delivered or available in all the villages shown above.

As a result of Signals meeting in Staunton on 14th February we now have two new members on the Signal Committee. Lin Stokes of 1, Louvain, Staunton and Maurice Collingwood of 'Trisanna' The Warren, Staunton. Lin is the volunteer organiser of Staunton Resources Centre where this edition and future numbers of 'The Signal' will be printed. Maurice is a former editor of the house magazine of an Oil Company in Africa.

'Signals' next meeting is at Whitehill House, Weobley on Monday, 21st March at 7.45 p.m. Committee members please note! Readers are welcome to come.

Items for inclusion in 'Signal' can either be delivered to the Editorial Address, Owls End, Norton Canon or to:

Sarah Higginson, Upper Ailey, Kinnersley  
Gareth Evans, Lanzerac, Norton Wood  
Maurice Collingwood, 'Trisanna' The Warren, Staunton  
Gwen Phillips, The Batch, Sarnesfield.

Please to contact them if you would like to contribute an article, publicize an event, or indeed have anything of interest. They will be delighted to hear from you. If you feel you do not want to write yourself, why not ring one of them - they can help to put it together, ready for typing.

Preferably with people attached, capable of walking for helping to deliver Signal. If your feet are prepared to volunteer for modest movement, no previous experience necessary, contact your nearest delivery organiser.

Mrs Chant, Orchard Cottage, Staunton, (Moccas 241)

Doug Berry, Greenfields, Kinnersley (Eardisley 551)

Rod Kilvert, Brewery House, Norton Canon (Weobley 306)

If you have difficulty in obtaining Signal, please contact one of the above.

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# Letters.

Upper House,  
Staunton-on-Wye,  
Herefordshire.

Dear 'Signal'

In the February edition of The Signal, the first for circulation in Staunton-on-Wye, Mrs. R.A. Norman contributed a very interesting account of The Jarvis Charity, which created a good deal of local interest. Without in any way upstaging Mrs. Norman, may I add a few more notes on George Jarvis for further interest.

It has long been thought that as a young man he collected from the Parishes of Bredwardine, where he was born in 1701, Staunton-on-Wye and Letton to raise funds to go to America where his fortune was supposedly made. George Jarvis acquired his wealth as a leather-dresser in Snow Hill in London, and on retiring from business resided at Weston Green in Thames Ditton, at which place he died in January 1793, a widower with an only child Mary, who had married in 1759, Sir William Twysden, Bart. of Roydon Hall, Kent. She was widowed in 1767 with three sons and one daughter, Countess of Eglington.

In January 1790 George Jarvis executed his Will by which he gave his daughter an annuity of £200. An Annuity of £100 was made to his grandchildren, and the rest of his huge fortune £30,000 was left to Trustees to be invested in government securities, the dividends of which were to be distributed in the manner given by Mrs. Norman. Such was his determination to disinherit his only child and grandchildren for a supposed act of rudeness or disrespect by one of the Twysden family that although remonstrated with by friends on the cruelty inflicted on his family, he was unrelenting in his hatred.

The distribution of such a large amount of income among a limited number of rural people was not only unprecedented in the Kingdom, but the fruits of his unnatural bequest brought idleness and discontent through its enticement of undesirables to the Parish, who wished to participate in the gifts without working.



In 1802 the Trustees reported their inability to spend all the income in accordance with Jarvis' directions and although he had stipulated in his Will no part of the money was to be spent on the erection of any public or other building, by a Chancery decree in 1852 the funds were ordered to be apportioned to:

1. Payment of a Medical Officer to attend the poor and supply medicines.
2. Provide residences for the Medical Officer and Secretary of the Trustees in Staunton Parish.
3. Give permanent relief to the aged and infirm.
4. Provide for schooling and clothing of children.
5. Contribute to clothing and coal clubs.
6. Provide and maintain two almshouses for six men and six women.


In Staunton Parish Church is a marble tablet on the South Wall, dedicated to the memory of George Jarvis, and erected by the poor of the Parish, grateful to their munificent benefactor.

This 'Potted History' of George Jarvis and his Charity would not seem to be quite complete without some information on how the income of the Trust is at present distributed. Would any one of the Trustees care to oblige?

Yours sincerely,

R.W. Pantall

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## Staunton-on-Wye Landmark.

Staunton-on-Wye's most conspicuous landmark, the building which houses the village primary school, is currently in the news, due to speculation over its future.

Seen from the Hereford road the rambling building, with its tall chimneys, gables, turrets and clock tower, looks at first sight to be a Tudor 'stately home,' and it is only when one comes right up to it that one realises that the 'Tudor' brickwork is, in fact, mid-Victorian. The building was actually erected in the last century as a training college from Jarvis Trust funds (see the article on the Jarvis Charity in the February issue of 'The Signal.')

Staunton-on-Wye Primary School occupies only one corner of the building, which has been affectionately known to generations of school children as 'Colditz' or 'Dracula's Castle.' Up till last autumn the greater part of the building was used as a youth hostel, but the hostel has since closed down and, apart from the portion used by the school, the building has been standing empty for some months.

There is much speculation in the village as to its future, for as it is at present constituted, its possibilities seem limited. At the time of writing, there are rumours that the Jarvis Charity have one or two ideas in mind but as far as is known no definite plans have yet been made. Whatever the outcome, it appears certain that extensive modifications to the interior of the building will have to be carried out before it can once again be put to practical use.



#### WHAT'S WRONG WITH 'THE SIGNAL?'

It's been almost a year now since we started, so now is surely a good time to ask you all how you think we have been setting on. What changes would you like to see? Tell us our strengths as well as our weaknesses - it is good for morale - but, whatever you do, do please write (or 'phone in) your thoughts and ideas.

Here are some comments I have managed to cull so far:

1. Why is the printing so faint? Sometimes I can hardly read it at all. ★
2. Could we please have some more articles on local history?
3. Only items of specific local interest should be included.
4. Can't we have more humour?
5. I would like to see more poetry.
6. Why are local events, e.g. church services not more comprehensively covered?
7. Food and wine recipes are always popular. Can't we have more?
8. I'd like to see more children's contributions to their own page, etc. etc. etc.

Any other ideas? You are our doctor - we depend on you to get better.

Gareth Evans

★ Do hope you can  
see a big improvement  
this month!

Talbot Ward,  
General Hospital,  
Hereford.

Dear 'Signal'

May I please convey through your pages my appreciation and thanks for the get well cards and beautiful flower arrangement which I received from The Friends of Norton Canon School.

Yours sincerely

Jan Roberts  
(Moorhampton Stores)

## Notices-

### NEW INN NEWS.

We hear that Bert Lewis of Brobury is making a steady recovery after a hip operation. Soon be having Blod waltzing!

The giants were tumbled on 21st when Plough A who were, until then, top of the Division 2 Darts League, succumbed to the spell cast by Dennis Price and his team and lost 9-3.

The British Legion branch in Staunton is closing down but hoping to join in with Eardisley for future activities.

Stan Emson's 'motor' apparently blew up early in the month thus preventing him returning for a weekend of intellectual conversation.

Congratulations to Richard Kinsey youngest son of Cyril, on reaching drinking age of 22nd February,

## BIRTHDAYS, BIRTHDAYS, BIRTHDAYS

'The Times' will announce your birthday at enormous expense. 'Signal' does it for nought! At least we will up to the eighteenth birthday of anyone in our circulation area.

May Loxston of Bronte, Norton Canon, telephone Weobley 227, maintains 'Signals' list of birthdays. We hope to organise Staunton, Brobury and Monnington so that we have all the dates. In the meantime, please give May or any of 'Signals' Committee Members the details for April and May.

## March Birthdays.

### NORTON CANON

A Very Happy Birthday to Lorraine Kilvert who is 18 years old on the 8th March.

### NORTON WOOD

Charlotte Rafael 26th March

### OVER LETTON

Richard Bryan 18th March

### SARNESFIELD

Georgina Synock 11th March  
Sharon Phillips 26th "

*Sorry we missed you out!*

*Cathy Goodwin - 2nd Feb.*

### STAUNTON-ON-WYE MOTHERS AND TODDLERS GROUP

Where do you go to relax and make friends whilst your Toddlers work off some surplus energy on Climbing Frames and Slides or with Pushalong toys and Bikes? The answer is, if you can make your way there, Staunton-on-Wye Mother and Toddlers Group on Thursday afternoons.



On Thursdays the large sunny carpeted dining room of the County Primary School is converted into a Play Area by kind permission of the Headmistress and the Management. In the morning the Playgroup meets whilst in the afternoon, for the last 7 years, babies have been weighed and inspected by the Health Visitor, learned to walk, talk, climb, make sand-pies and just meet little friends and other adults in safe, warm, surroundings.

Occasionally we get our heads down to play with crayons and jig-saw puzzles, read books or have a sing-song. Sometimes the clamour is subdued to accommodate a speaker - such experts as a Psychiatrist, Librarian, Cosmetician, Childrens' Shoe Shop Manager etc. have enriched our afternoons.

The session lasts about 1½ hours but the companionship overflows as the group meets for birthday parties, baby-sitting and mutual support.

Evening meetings have included fund-raising efforts, e.g. a sponsored 'knit-in,' travel talk with slides and a festive dinner party at Christmas time when the Management of the Starting Gate Inn were discreetly clearing away and putting off lights whilst we chatted and lingered over coffee. That evening it was the turn of the husbands to baby-sit.

However it is the children who benefit most from the group. Because of close liaison with the Playgroup the toys and funds are shared. The children progress naturally into the morning session at 3 years and at 5 years into the school classroom. Many of the school children peeping into the dining room at playtime on Thursdays must feel the tug of familiarity, for they were there as babes in arms.

Joy Freeman

## STAUNTON-ON-WYE AIR RIFLE CLUB

On Saturday, 19th February, a sponsored disco, held at Staunton Village Hall, was a great success.

The idea came from Mrs Doreen Jenkins and had an enthusiastic response from youngsters of Staunton and surrounding villages.

The disco started at 9 p.m. on the Saturday night and finished at 9 a.m. Sunday morning. Thirty two dancers took part. The majority danced until 6 a.m. and four lasted until 9 a.m. They were Angela Pugh, Jessica Courtney, Graham Jones and John Skyrme.

Doreen Jenkins and Valerie Andrews provided refreshments, plasters and encouragement throughout the night and Martin Jenkins was the disc-jockey.

To all those who took part, the Air-Rifle Club would like to say 'thankyou very much.'

It is hoped that at least £100 will be raised as a result of the dancers outstanding efforts. When all the sponsor money has been collected, we will let you know the grand total.

Lin Stokes



## W.I. NEWS

At the February Members' Evening Mrs Mairion Jones gave a most interesting reading of prose and poetry from Dylan Thomas. We were amused by his childhood memories of Christmas at home and holiday outings, and moved by his recollections in 'Fernhill' and the famous 'Do not go gentle into that long night.'

The March meeting will be on the 17th when Mrs K. Innes will give a talk and demonstration of 'Collage.' The competition is any Collage exhibit.

Do join us at 7.30 p.m. if you feel you would like to be a member. Why not 'phone the Secretary Mrs J. Pantell (9927-533) for more details?

We have not forgotten the folk dancing evenings. More about these next month.

## Small Ads.

### DRESSMAKING SERVICE

Lorraine Kilvert telephone Weobley 306.

### COME DANCING

Ballroom and Modern Dancing Classes restart at Hopelands, Weobley on Tuesday, 8th March, 7.45 - 9.15 p.m.

Our instructor is Mr Michael Smith of Hereford Dance Studio.

ADULTS ..... 80p

CHILDREN UNDER 16 ..... 50p

### TEMPORARY FARM WORK WANTED

Pre-college agricultural student would like temporary work in the area from mid March to September. General farm experience with some tractor handling.

'PHONE Eardisley 302

## WHAT'S ON?

### FREE Demonstration of Aerobic Exercises

All those interested in the aerobic exercise classes shortly to be held weekly at Norton Canon Village Hall, are very welcome to attend a display to be given on Wednesday 9 March at 7.30pm by Mandy Jones and members of her Almeley class.

There will also be a make-up demonstration to follow.

You are invited to join in on Wednesday, so if you feel you may want to, come suitably dressed.

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### Weobley and District Agricultural Improvement Society

Qualifying Whist Drive on Saturday 12 March, Dilwyn Village Hall at 7.30pm.  
60p - including refreshments

In aid of the Freda Pearce Cancer Fund

## News from the Churches.

### Women's World Day of Prayer

Service this year is in the Roman Catholic Church, Weobley at 2 pm on Friday, 4th March.  
Speaker: Mrs Margaret Ayrton.

Letton Annual Parochia Church Meeting is in The Swan at 7.30 pm on Tuesday, 15th March.

### Staunton-on-Wye St. Mary's Churchyard Fund

We still need your support for the upkeep of the Churchyard and will be grateful for annual subscriptions to be sent to me for this current year.

Phyllis McCann



## Services for March

### Norton Canon

6th 9 am Holy Communion  
13th 9 am Morning Prayer  
20th 9 am Holy Communion  
27th 9 am Family Service

### Sarnesfield

13th 10 am Holy Communion  
27th 10 am Morning Prayer

### Staunton-on-Wye

6th 11 am Holy Communion  
13th 11 am Morning Prayer  
20th 11 am Holy Communion

### Monnington

13th 9.30 am Holy Communion

### Letton

27th 11 am Morning Prayer

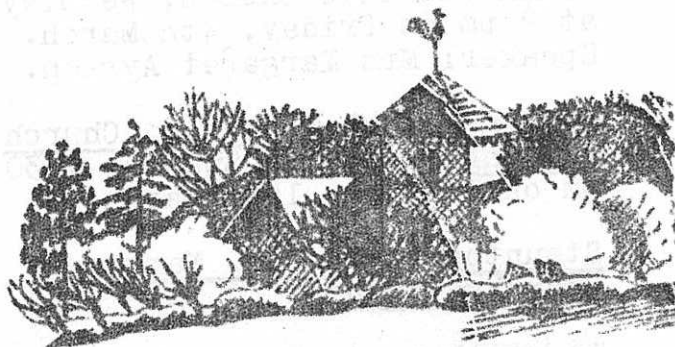
### Kinnersley

6th 10 am Holy Communion  
13th 10 am Mattins  
20th 10 am Holy Communion  
27th 10 am Family Service

### Easter Services 3rd April

Holy Communion at:

Norton Canon	9 am
Sarnesfield	10 am
Staunton	11 am
Monnington	9 am
Letton	10 am



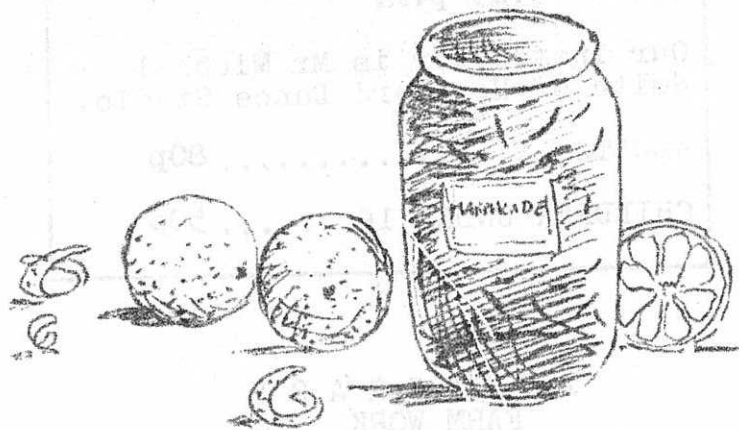
## Marmalade.

Of all the Appetisers made  
The best, I think, is Marmalade;  
For, spread upon the crisp, hot toast,  
Its joys appeal, entice the most.  
The sight, aroma, then the taste  
Dispel the least idea of haste.  
Its yellow, red and golden brown  
Erase the early morning frown.  
I automatically take  
Another slice for goodness' sake.

The years have fled, and with them lots  
Of sorts of Marmalade in pots  
And jars of ev'ry shape and kind  
And made from diff'rent fruit and rind --

But one stands out above the rest  
As of its sort by far the best.  
One has to wonder whether it  
Was made with human care and wit  
Or parchment recipe unrolled  
Some fairy spell or method told;  
And cauldron, stirred with magic spoon,  
Did bubble thrice at full of moon.  
Whatever went to make it, Roz,  
Your MARMALADE just LUSCIOUS was!

H.O. Aldhous



## Stop Press

'Signal' Annual General  
Meeting - with a cheese  
and wine evening -  
details in next month's  
'Signal'



## Place Names.

We in Herefordshire are fortunate in that we live in one of the most picturesque and attractive areas of England. We not only enjoy a wide variety of scenery, most of it quite unspoiled and undeveloped, but we live, many of us, in villages which have changed very little over the ages, apart from occasional modern additions on the outskirts. It is true that, from the aesthetic point of view, most of these villages do not compare with those in, say, the Cotswolds or East Anglia, but they are nevertheless, in their own individual way, very picturesque. What is more, in many cases their names are equally picturesque, and the origin and meaning of these names well repay further study.

As Eilert Ekwall states in his comprehensive book 'The Oxford Dictionary of English Place-names' (on which I have relied for most of the material in this article,) 'Place-names form a part of the vocabulary and deserve as much attention as other words. They give valuable information of a particular kind and embody important material for the history of England.'

The origin of most of our village names stems from very ancient times. Old English, Roman, Saxon, Norman and, in the case of Herefordshire, Welsh elements are embodied in them, but these elements have undergone so many mutations over the years that they are quite often unrecognisable at first glance.

Take, for instance, the name Mansell, which occurs twice in Herefordshire in Mansell Lacy and Mansell Gamage. This derives from the Old English 'malwes-hyll,' meaning 'gravel hill' - 'Gamage' (de Gamagis) and 'Lacy' being the names of the lords who held the estates in Norman times.

The odd-sounding Moccas is a name of Welsh origin and was originally 'moch-rhos,' meaning 'moor for swine.' There are quite a few names of Welsh origin in Herefordshire, as the county remained partly Welsh till a late period, and most of these are recognisable by the familiar 'llan' meaning church, usually followed by a saint's name, as in Llancloudy ('Loudeu's church') and Llandinabe ('Junabui's church.') But there are exceptions even to this common prefix, for instance Llangrove which is merely a variation of 'long grove.'

It is never safe to assume too much when working out the meaning of English place names, for the names do not always mean what they appear to mean at first glance. Take, for instance, the ending '-ton,' one of the commonest terminations, deriving from the Old English '-tun,' meaning, originally, 'enclosure' and, later, 'village' and 'town.' This is present in 'Staunton,' a fairly common local name as in Staunton-on-Arrow and the two Stauntons over the Gloucestershire border in the Vale of Severn and the Forest of Dean. In those cases Staunton means 'tun on stony ground.' but this is not the case as regards Staunton-on-Wye, which derives from 'standun,' meaning 'stony hill,' an apt name considering the village stands on a glacier moraine, a relic of the ice age when the Wye valley was a vast glacier.

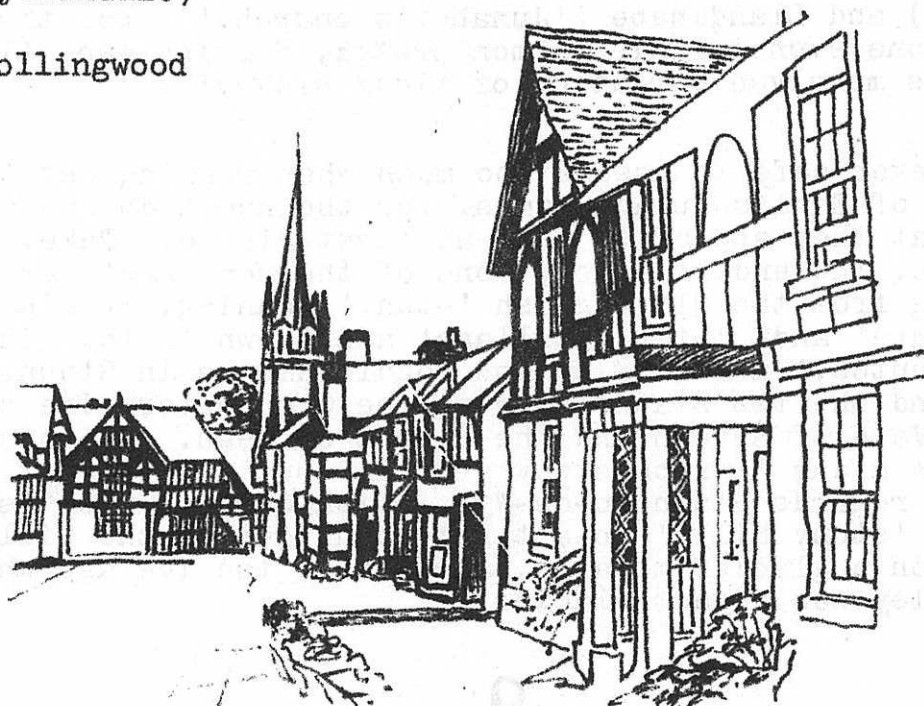
In Herefordshire the Old English language lived on for a comparatively long time, and most of the county's place names have an Old English origin, often with the name of the Norman owner added, as in Holme Lacy, Edwin Loach, Edwin Ralph, Ewyas Harold and the Mansells already mentioned. Church overlordship is revealed in such names as Norton Canon, Canon Pyon, Canon Frome and Eaton Bishop, but again a double name does not always signify ownership but can be merely descriptive, as in Stretton Sugwas which means 'bird swamp' (sugga waesse) 'in a 'ton' on a Roman road.' The syllable 'stret' (Street) usually means that the place is situated on a Roman road.

The commonest Roman element in place names is, of course, 'chester' and its variants 'caster' and 'cester,' meaning a 'walled town,' as in Kenchester, the site of the important Roman town of Magnis which stood on a Roman road which is now the modern A438. Although the A438 now runs half a mile south of Kenchester the original road, now an unclassified lane, still runs through Kenchester from the Garnons estate to Stretton Sugwas and then, signposted as Roman Road, through Holmer to join the Hereford-Worcester road north of Aylestone Hill.

Reverting to Norman names, the origin of the name 'Golden Valley' is interesting. The valley is watered by the little River Dore, the name of which derives from the Welsh 'dwr,' meaning water. The Normans took this to be 'd'or' - golden - hence the present name, which is by no means inappropriate particularly in high summer.

Herefordshire has two place-name peculiarities which are almost exclusive to the county - the termination '-wardine' and an occasional obtrusive unpronounced 'o' or 'i.' One place name, 'Leintwardine,' includes both of these features. 'Wardine' is a west Midland variant of 'worthing,' meaning, usually, 'homestead' or 'open place in a village.' The intrusive 'o' is present in Weobley ('Wibba's wood or meadow') and Leominster, which takes its name from the old English 'leon,' the former name of a district in the Arrow and Lugg valleys (also present in such names as Eardisland, Kingsland and Lyonshall.)

M B Collingwood



(Part two  
next month)



## CAN'T AFFORD YOUR OWN HOME?

An exciting new national scheme has been announced to help people who need housing, but cannot afford a full mortgage, to buy their own home. It's called 'Do-it-yourself Shared Ownership' - DIYSO for short. 'Do-it-yourself' because you do the house-hunting, and Shared Ownership' because you buy your home in stages from the housing association, which has purchased it for you.

At the outset you buy a share (25%, 50% or 75%) and rent the rest from the housing association. In general you will be expected to make your own mortgage arrangements. You can increase your share at any time and your rent will drop proportionately. You are responsible for maintaining the house.

You can apply for DIYSO if:

- \* your income does not qualify for a full mortgage on a suitable house AND
- \* you are a first time buyer AND/OR
- \* you are on a housing waiting list

Contact the Rural Midlands Housing Society Tel Dudley (0384) 231237/8 for further details and an application form. If you are accepted, you can begin to look for a suitable property which is within your means. The property must be new or modernised, structurally sound and not costing more than £30,000.

Leominster District Council is collaborating with this scheme. If you would like to discuss it in confidence - telephone Leominster 2951 (Ext 234) Mr D Fothergill.



Leominster Marches Project  
Cathy Moon

