



A Community Newsletter for:

KINNERSLEY-SARNESFIELD-LETON-NORTON CANON - BROBURY
STAUNTON-ON-WYE-MONNINGTON-ON-WYE-MORHAMPTON

POLICING IN PARTNERSHIP

THE latest issue of 'Village Voice,' a newsletter published quarterly by the Hereford and Worcester Rural Community Council, contains an article by Mr. R.W. Cozens, OPM, Chief Constable West Mercia Constabulary, on the need for a very close working partnership between the community and the police if crime, and the fear it generates, is to be kept under control.

In this article Mr. Cozens stresses that one of the fundamental principles of policing in this country has traditionally been that it should be based in, and be part of, the community. He admits that during the past twenty years the police have moved away from this concept, largely because of a shortage of manpower and the growing demands upon the Service from such problems as increasing crime, football hooliganism, pop festivals, political demonstrations, industrial disputes and public disorder. Today the demands on the Service are just as heavy and the number of officers is still less than required, but the general aim is to get the policemen and women back on the beat. To do this several changes in police methods have been inaugurated, all designed to giving the greatest priority to policing more closely within the community.

The most important changes are the return of the pedal cycle to replace 'panda' cars; the opening of more local stations, giving back to the smaller towns their own inspector and increasing the number of local beat officers. In addition a strengthened civilian support service has been provided to relieve police officers of many tasks, in particular the time-consuming paperwork which has kept them away from their beats. There is evidence that these changes are having their

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impact on crime levels, but this can only be seen as a step in the right direction.

The greatest need is for the police to work in partnership with the community and this is being carried out through closer liaison with local authorities and parish and town councils, in a combined approach towards the prevention and reduction of crime.

The most positive form of partnership between police and public, Mr. Cozens points out, is through the Special Constable, and the aim here is to increase the level of voluntary support by getting at least one 'Special' in every parish. Any parish which has not yet got its own 'Special' should give the matter serious thought, as there is no better link between the community and the police than through the Special Constabulary.

Basically, the police are looking for men and women from all walks of life who are prepared to give a little of their time for the benefit of the community. Volunteers need to be aged between 18½ and 50, physically fit and not less than 5 feet 6 inches in height for men and 5 feet 4 inches for women. Comprehensive training will be given and volunteers can be confident that, as 'Specials' they will obtain a great deal of satisfaction from their duties.

OBITUARY

It is with regret that we announce the death of Mr. John Close of Orchard Cottage, Hurstley who, at the age of 72, passed away on Sunday, 15th January, 1984.

Mrs. G.E. Derry, wife of Mr. Frank Derry of Shamolee Staunton-on-Wye died on the 29th January, 1984 aged 85

years. She had been in hospital for several weeks.

Mrs. Derry had lived at Staunton, formerly at Bliss House, for many years and was highly respected and much loved. Beside her husband, she leaves two sons, Jack and Michael, and four grandchildren. We extend sympathy to all the family.

THIS issue of 'Signal' is the last in the current subscription year and new subscriptions commence with the April issue.

Although we appear largely to have overcome the problems of inferior reproduction which were unfortunately prevalent in one or two previous issues we are still aiming at further improvement. Our main objective at the moment is the purchase of an electric typewriter which will give far clearer and neater typescript than in earlier issues.

In order to meet the cost of this, as well as other production costs which, like everything else these days, have increased during the past year, we have decided to make a slight increase in the subscription rate. The new annual subscription will, therefore, be £1.20 instead of £1 as at present. Individual copies will cost 12p instead of 10p.