

# THE SIGNAL

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

NO. 34

MARCH 1985

PRICE 12p

## News from the Parishes

### KINNERSLEY

Congratulations to Dawn and Allan Probert of Oldcastle on the birth of their daughter Heather on 18th January, 1985.

We are pleased to announce to Julie and Talbot Skyrme of Hurstley a Daughter Laura on 22nd January, 1985.

### NORTON CANON

Even better news can be reported at this stage of the Poppy Day Appeal last November. The amount shown in last month's issue is but for a part of the village only; there were three other collecting boxes in the village and the grand total was £44.04 - a splendid and rewarding effort.

All our best wishes go out to those of our readers who are ill in hospital or at home.

These include Mrs. Mary Price, Mr. Dick Lewis, Mr. Des Ridge, Mr. Terry Lane and Mr. Bert Williams (recently moved to Lyonshall.)

We hope they will all soon be enjoying good health again.

We extend a warm welcome to Brian and Elaine Robbins of Canon Garage, Norton Canon who have recently taken over the business previously known as Griffiths Garage.

May their business go from strength to strength.

Thanks to the efforts of the Norton Canon Parochial Church Council and their young friends and relatives, the Buffet Dance held on the 25th January was a great success.

A generous supply of excellent food, a well-supported bar, and the music of 'Fleet Street'

### IMPORTANT NOTICE

COPY FOR THE APRIL ISSUE OF 'SIGNAL' AND ALL FUTURE ISSUES  
SHOULD REACH TRISANNA, STAUNTON-ON-WYE, (PHONE MOCCAS 517)  
NOT LATER THAN WEDNESDAY, 13th MARCH, 1985.



helped to ensure that the capacity crowd enjoyed their evening to the full.

Not only did the evening provide the opportunity for the residents of Norton Canon to have a 'night out' but it also raised the excellent sum of £210 for church funds.

### LETTON

VARIETY SALE WILL BE HELD IN EARDISLEY HALL - Saturday, 16th March at 2.30 p.m.

CAKES, GOOD JUMBLE, PRODUCE, CHILDS CLOTHES STALL, BOTILE STALL, WHITE ELEPHANT.  
DRAW, TEAS.

Admission 5p (OAP'S & CHILDREN FREE)

WHIST DRIVE IN EARDISLEY HALL ON FRIDAY 29th MARCH AT 7.30 p.m.

Good Prizes and Refreshments.  
Admission 50p.

Both above functions in aid of Letton Church Restoration Fund. All welcome.

### SARNESFIELD

The collection in Sarnesfield last autumn for the National Children's Home raised a total of £15.62½p. Your gifts are appreciated and will help in the work being done in this region. Many thanks to you all.

Joyce Bright

### STAUNTON-ON-WYE

Two Staunton-on-Wye residents, Mr. Jim Price and Mr. Bert Brown (of Jarvis Close) are back at home after being in hospital and we are pleased to learn that they are making good progress.

Mr. Harry Morgan, of Green Ridge, is also in hospital at the time of writing and we send him our best wishes for a speedy recovery.

### OBITUARY

It is with sadness that we report the death of Lilian West of Moorhampton on the 25th January.

Known to so many of us for her unbounding cheerfulness and vitality it will come as no surprise to learn that she was an active member of societies as diverse as St. Nicholas Parochial Church Council, the Kilvert Society, the Woolhope Club, the Norton Canon Women's Institute and the Arrowvale Wine Circle. Readers of the 'Signal' may also recall her intriguing account of being a 'founder member' of the now sadly defunct Norton Canon Tennis Club.

Lilian married comparatively late in life and to many she was known by her maiden name of 'Miss Martin' and was amused to tell the tale of an old friend who ended a chance meeting in Hereford with the words 'So glad to have met you Miss Martin and do remember me to Mr. West.'

Laughter and kindness are the words we shall always associate with Lilian and never has that old salutation 'So long-it's been nice to know you' been more sincerely meant.

To her husband Mervyn we extend our deepest sympathy.

We regret to report the death of Mrs. E. Munslow of Ploughfields, Preston-on-Wye.

Mrs. Munslow was for many years a resident of Staunton-on-Wye, where she was very well-liked and respected. She took an active part in village activities and was a staunch member of the Over-Sixty Club. She still kept in touch after moving to Preston-on-Wye and visited Staunton whenever she was able.

We extend our sympathy to her husband and family.

# An Appreciation of

Mr & Mrs

## H.C. Williams

of Upper Norton Farm



We came to live in Norton Canon about eleven years ago, and through contact in the church, and in the Wine Club, and because we were near neighbours, we were soon on very friendly terms with Clarice and Bert Williams of Upper Norton Farm.

They had lived at Upper Norton for some years before our arrival on the scene. Indeed Bert's family had been at the farm since 1917, when Bert was but three years old.

Bert was working a farm with his brother at Snodhill (Dorstone) when he came under the influence of, and married, Clarice, and they finally came to take up residence at Upper Norton 20 years ago, on the 2nd February, 1965 (and it snowed.)

They proved to be a good, kind, helpful and generous family (and that list of adjectives is by no means intended to be exhaustive.)

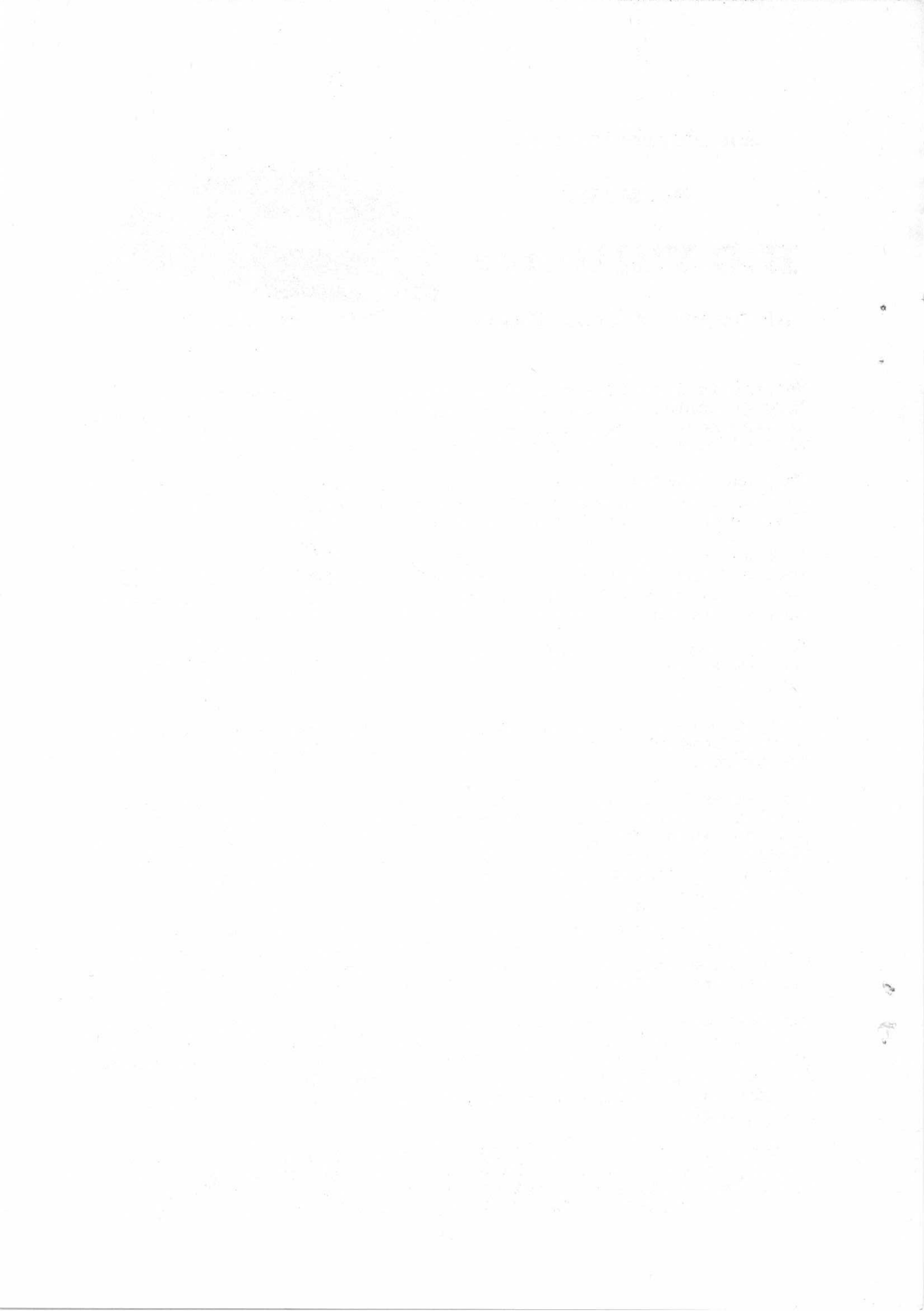
Bert, a quiet, unassuming chap, is nevertheless renowned in the farming community for his Cluna, with which he has won numerous top awards.

I remember having a conversation with Clarice on the subject of pickled walnuts. Clarice said 'We have a walnut tree, I'll let you know when the nuts are just right, and we will all have some pickled walnuts.' Unfortunately, it was not to be for soon afterwards, during a gale, the tree was blown down and there were no nuts for anyone.

I recall that on another occasion a tree was blown down and fell right across the road completely blocking it. A telephone call to the farm, and very quickly a tractor arrived and the road was soon cleared. And it wasn't even one of their trees.

Our lawnmower had to be taken into Hereford for repair and overhaul, and it proved too big (and heavy) to go in the boot of our car. Anthony collected it in his 'pickup,' and he also conveyed it back to us after the work had been completed. Anthony also brought us, by arrangement, big scoops of split logs for our winter fuel.

During a spell of particularly inclement weather I recall Clarice telling us that there was no need for us ever to be short of milk, Ivor could always let us have a couple of pints from 'Comedy of Errors.' The offer was very sincere, the reference

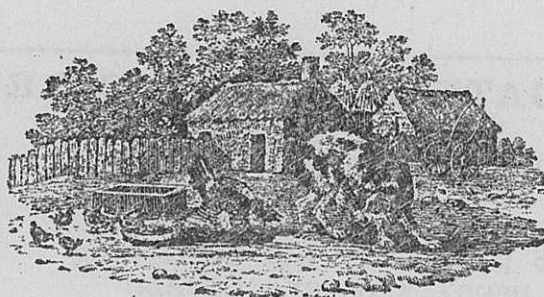




A day in the life of -----

# A Country Schoolboy

by Jonathan Absalom



ON a typical school day, I rise at around sixthirty. Once dressed I proceed downstairs to greet my Father while the rest of the house slumbers on. The dog, Topsy, pads around me, whining softly for a walk, but has to wait until the outdoor animals have been seen to. This entails feeding the goats (and milking them, if the goat has kids.) The horses have to be fed and let out into the field. After this the dog has her turn and as the sun rises behind Lady-lift we walk up the road listening to the day's first birdsong.

After breakfast, and a wash, it's off to school. To Laborious French lessons in whispered silence, to rugby matches in the driving rain, and confusing maths lessons. When finally, the school bell rings for end of school, the corridors fill with running, shouting children, anxious for a seat on the bus.

As soon as I reach home, I slump into an armchair, and contemplate my homework, while sipping a cup of hot sweet tea. After I have changed from my uniform, the animals have to be bedded down, fed again, and shut in for the night.

Next comes homework; this I finish as soon as possible, and relax by watching the telly for a half hour or so. Mum and Dad arrive home at about six and this tells me it is time for me to do some practice on my flute before dinner.

Half an hour later we are sitting down, eating hungrily. After dinner, Dad washes up while we clear the table. When all is clean and put away, we settle down in front of the roaring fire and watch telly, or talk for a while. At about nine to ninethirty I retire to bed and the snug warmth of my duvet.

'Local grannies for sale, 23p per lb'

(Notice seen outside a Hereford Greengrocer's.)

FREE 'O' LEVEL MATHS AND  
PHYSICS TUITION - TEL:  
WEOBLEY 306.

Is anyone interested in forming a small group to practise the self-defence techniques demonstrated in the television series 'Streetwise?' It's going to be fun to watch and see how long the meek can keep the earth after they inherit it.

If so, please contact Ada Aldhous,  
Moccas 300.

Frank McK. Hubbard  
American Humorist

## A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

'Signal's' AGM will be on Thursday 18th April, 1985 at Norton Canon Village Hall commencing 7.45 p.m. We will be having our usual Wine and Cheese Evening following the formal business. The aim is to enjoy a social evening and not to make a profit and all 'Signal' readers entitled and welcome to attend.

Nominations for the Committee will be accepted from the floor of the meeting. If anyone would like more information, please contact ROD KILVERT on Weobley 306.

THE PRICE OF 'SIGNAL' - is staying the same i.e. 12p a copy or £1.20 for the year.

Please have your money ready when your distributor calls with the April edition.

### COLLATING AND STAPLING

The task of collating and stapling 'Signal' each month continues to be a problem. Rod Kilvert (tel Weobley 306) is trying to put together a rota of people who would help perhaps once every 3 months. Generally this would be during the daytime on the last FRIDAY in the month at Staunton. 'Signal's' committee have agreed to buy an electric stapler to make the task easier.

### KINNERSLEY CHURCH SERVICES

#### March

3rd 10 am Holy Communion  
10th 10 am Mattins  
17th 10 am MOTHERING SUNDAY Service  
24th 10 am Mattins  
31st 10 am PALM SUNDAY FAMILY Service

## CHURCH NOTICES

### MARCH

#### The Weobley Group of Parishes

##### Sarnesfield

10th 10 am Holy Communion  
24th 10 am Morning Prayer

##### Norton Canon

3rd 9 am Holy Communion  
10th 9 am Morning Prayer  
17th 9 am Holy Communion  
24th 9 am Family Service

##### Staunton-on-Wye

3rd 11 am Holy Communion  
10th 11 am Morning Prayer  
17th 11 am Holy Communion  
31st 10.30 am Special Palm Sunday service of Holy Communion for the whole Group with the Archdeacon of Hereford to preach.

##### Byford

3rd 9.30 am Holy Communion  
17th 6.30 pm Evening Prayer

##### Monnington-on-Wye

10th 9.30 am Holy Communion

##### Letton

10th 11 am Holy Communion  
24th 6 pm Evening Prayer

Three Lent Lectures on the theme of Suffering will be given in the Willow Gallery Weobley at 7.45 pm on March 5th (Rev. Theo Kotze)  
March 12th (Fr Michael Evans)  
and March 26th (Bishop of Hereford)

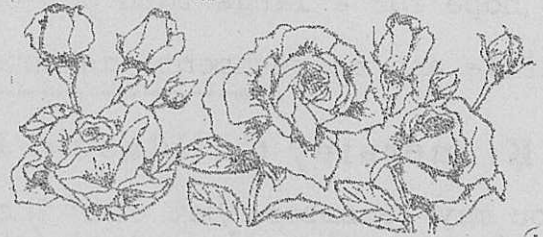
Mr. John Smith of the Church of England Children's Society will speak on Tuesday March 19th at 8 pm in the Willow Gallery, Weobley.

Annual Parochial Church Meetings: /Court  
Letton March 4th at Old Letton  
Norton Canon March 28th in the Village Hall.





## March in the Garden



Hopefully by the time you read this we will have turned the corner and Spring really will be with us. You have to be an optimist to be a gardener, and it will be time to start gardening in earnest.

### General Work

Time to take advantage of any drying winds to start preparing rough dug ground for seed beds. New lawns can be sown toward the end of the month, or lay turf if you prefer.

### Flower Garden

Prepare soil for sowing next month any biennials or perennials. Clean off any dead leaves. Check any wallflowers, forget-me-nots etc. for winter damage and cut off any dead or broken shoots, if loosened by frost, tread in carefully. Any herbaceous plants not divided in the Autumn can be done now. Sowings can be started now of hardy annuals, clarkias, godetia, delphinium, lupins, sweet peas etc. Later in the month for the softer annuals, stocks, nemesia, sunflowers, asters etc. Plant roses, gladioli, pansies, montbretia etc. Prune roses except in severe frost. Cut back and move hollies, laurels, rhododendrons, conifers toward end of month.

### Vegetable Garden

Prepare vacant ground for seed beds. Time to sow all kinds of vegetable seeds when ground is in good tilth. Make beds and plant new asparagus now, this will be ready for the first cutting in two years time! Get the early potatoes planted, but watch out for late frost.

Well, I can't say more next month, as with some sadness due to circumstances totally out of my control, I shall have left the district by the time you're reading this.

So to all my friends, and any of you who await these hints with anticipation, (don't laugh) I wish you a very successful season and goodbye!

John Nash, alias Mr. Weed

## NORTON CANON LADIES' MONDAY CLUB

Bad luck or rather bad weather has caused the cancellation of two meetings, - January's Cheese and Wine party and February's Travel Film. Let's hope for better things in March. With fingers crossed for a gradual thaw we give notice that the March meeting will be held at the Village Hall at 8 p.m. on Monday the 11th. Mr. Jack Archer, from Ivington, has very kindly offered to give us a talk and demonstration of Obedience Training for Dogs, bringing some of his own animals with him. This should prove most interesting so we hope for a large turn out of members and friends.

Raffle and refreshments as usual.

### Kinnersley Children's Playground Plea for Support

You may remember that over the last couple of years we have been trying to get a playground (swings etc.) established in Kinnersley for children of the surrounding area. We have held a sum of £500 (donated by Leominster District Council, National Playing Fields Association and Hereford & Worcester County Council) for 18 months now but along the way various problems have cropped up. One of these is that the chosen site on the corner of the Almeley turn on the Leominster Road has been rejected by the District Planning Department and we will need to return to the original plan of using the old Kinnersley School playground. There are various other problems which may or may not be surmountable.

At this point in time Sarah and Sarah who have pursued the project this far begin to feel unwilling to soldier on alone. I think it would be a great shame if we had to abandon the project and give back the money. If you feel the same and are prepared to support the scheme could you give me a ring on Weobley 8138 (evenings and weekends.) Otherwise the money will have to be returned.

Ruth Lovelace

#### HAVING PROBLEMS WITH YOUR CAR?

- Bad starting?
- High petrol consumption?
- Poor performance?
- Not charging?

You require a

#### CRYPTON TUNE

TOL. REG. PILLING

#### ELECTRO-TUNE

MOBILE CAR CLINIC  
NOCCAS 415

I COME TO YOU!

#### E. Lane

#### CHIMNEY SWEEP

- Brush Vacuum - Clean and efficient service.
- Reduced rates for O.A.P's.

Please ring Hereford 274555  
evenings only.



## Readers' Letters

Many thanks for doing such a worthy job of producing the 'Signal' for us every month.

We do appreciate your efforts and we like to read of the local news. Yes, in answer to your question on P.1 of the February issue, we do like to read local news first and foremost, but also as one who is very interested and fascinated by railways (though dare not be described as an enthusiast,) I was very interested in M. Collingwood's article entitled 'Welsh Lines at Risk' and plan to take that scenic journey before too long. Would anyone like to join us, say before the end of March, 1985?

R. Norman

You ask whether 'The Signal' should confine its interest to local matters or should the editorial committee accept articles, such as Maurice Collingwood's in the February issue, which deal with wider interests, places and events.

Our community may be small, fairly isolated and tight-knit but there can be few of us who do not have family and friends visiting in the area and indeed few who do not venture out of this rural environment from time to time. While an article on deepsea fishing or the joys of free-fall parachuting - for which there are various specialist publications - might be out of place in 'The Signal' one reads with great pleasure articles on wide ranging subjects so long as they can be linked, not too tortuously, with our life here.

Personally, on the first decent day I'm off to Knighton to try

the Mid-Wales railway so well described by Mr. Collingwood.

A.N. Other

Mr. Collingwood ('Aquatic Sports,' Feb 85) should consider himself fortunate to have such a reliable water supply. Here at Claypits it is not uncommon for our water to dry up completely for days on end. At the best of times the pressure is so low that the water can hardly stagger out of the tap and has a real struggle to climb up to the storage tank in the roof.

Our last serious spell of trouble was the weekend of 12/13 January. Early Friday morning, there was no water. Unusually, Broomy Hill were aware of the problem and said they were working on it and that all would be well in an hour or two. It just happened that we were going away for the weekend so I didn't worry unduly. Imagine our surprise when we returned on Monday 14th to find we still had no water. This time Broomy Hill were amazed for they thought they had cured the problem. It was Tuesday afternoon before we had a consistent supply again.

While this is the longest interruption of supply we have had, loss of water for periods of 1-3 days has occurred several times during the last few years and we are now well prepared with adequate supplies of non-drinking water from our well and storage tanks.

The problem for us is more serious than most other consumers in the area because of our height above sea level. Being on the 500 foot contour, we are not much below the level of the Foxley reservoir at Yarsop. We know from past experience that if anything causes the level in this reservoir to drop, we very soon lose our supply. And,

when the problem is finally diagnosed and cured, we are the last to get the supply back again.

The Foxley reservoir is supplied partly from the river at Byford, supplemented more recently from Broomy Hill via a pumping station at Huntington (near Leo's.) Happily, I am assured that things will be much improved when the new Shoals Bank reservoir is completed. This is quite a lot higher, will hold a million gallons and is to be supplied, at least in part, from the Kington area. Construction has been proceeding well and completion should be in March, with commissioning trials starting in April.

Denis Dighton  
Claypits Cottage,  
Yazor, Hereford.

If you are as annoyed as I am about low flying aircraft you will be happy to learn that there is a local volunteer organisation to protest. I and many others of my acquaintance have written letters to the military in the past but have received nothing but polite and evasive answers. There has even been a public hearing at Shire Hall in Hereford, but the public were not allowed to speak and the councillors put up no effective arguments to the military's polite but evasive 'stock' explanations. An on-going protest is obviously needed with as much public participation as possible. It will not require much on the individual's part, but that little bit is essential.

The organisation is ALFA, 'Action On Low Flying Aircraft'. Contact them c/o Pigeon House Farm, Lower Breinton, Hereford, HR4 7PG. It's not money they are primarily asking for, it's your letters of protest to your M.P. and also to Lord David Trefgarne, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Armed Forces, House of

Lords, London, SW1A 0AA. Do write now so as to tie in with a concerted action of letters being planned for 14th February. Late is better than not at all. But do get acquainted with ALFA, it is a group working for US. I think we are getting more than our share of these planes, don't you?

Eugene Okarma  
Brobury House  
Brobury

P.S. Watch the bulletin boards of your local grocery - there might be a notice up.

He is so narrow-minded that  
if he fell on a pin it  
would blind him in both eyes.

Fred Allen  
American Comedian

A cynic is a man who, when  
he smells flowers, looks  
around for a coffin.

When women kiss it always  
reminds me of prize-fighters  
shaking hands.

H.L. Mencken  
American Writer

#### WEOBLEY

#### CONSERVATIVE ASSOCIATION

### EXHIBITION

of Paintings and Works of Art

by LOCAL ARTISTS

on 27th April, 1985

at Marlbrook House, Back Lane,  
Weobley.

Further details from Miss P.G.  
Miller, 90 Bearcroft, Weobley,  
tel: 715.



# The Missing Boy

by Barbara Ridge

RONALD was missing! She now had to accept that truth. Her youngest child only 2½ years old whom she had left playing in the garden had vanished.

When a garden only the size of a pocket handkerchief there was nowhere he could be hiding. The whole street was empty and silent. Nothing stirred - not even the lace curtains on the windows opposite. Even his trike was gone; the little three wheeler on which he used to play for hours on end.

She must do something. Keep calm, she told herself. When was the last time she was actually aware of him outside in the garden? But she couldn't remember because she had been so busy with bread to bake and the fire so sulky. The oven just would not get hot enough. She had left him alone too long - there was no doubt about it. He must have gone off down the street which sloped steeply down to the main road.

The main road! Her mind almost screamed - the road where the trams passed every few minutes. It was only too easy for her to imagine the dreaded sight of little Ronnie shooting down the street, into the road and under the wheels of the iron juggernaut. It was no good - she must go. Hurriedly she closed the damper on the fire, pulled the fireguard across, grabbed her coat and left the house at a run.

She reached the main road and looked quickly around. But all seemed normal; people were going quietly about their business; there was no small boy in sight. What way to go? Perhaps the school? He always loved to watch the children in the playground, after all, his own elder brother and sister went there every day. Yes, that would be it.

Suiting the action to the thought she hurried on. Past the green-grocer, the tobacconist, that huge hoarding, and there was the school. It was a grim place with high spiked iron railings all round it. But there was no movement anywhere, no playtime, no games and certainly no little boy on a tricycle. No Ronald.

Panic now started to set in and, in desperation, she turned in the opposite direction. The sweet shop! That must be it. In almost a run she passed her own street again and crossed over to the shopping parade. First the pastry shop, then the sweet shop but there was no trike outside, - no Ronald. But there was a customer whom she knew just leaving the shop 'Oh Mrs. Wilks' she said 'Have you seen my Ronnie?'

'Well now isn't that strange' Mrs. Wilks replied 'I'd just got off the tram and I saw a little boy like your Ronnie right at the tram terminus. He was just sitting there, on his tricycle, with his fair hair and red jersey, his eyes fixed on those big blue flashes that break out when they change from one wire cable to another. Of course I didn't think it could be your little boy.'

Not all that way off.'

She knew that this was exactly what he would do. He was such a curious little boy, always interested in the way things worked. The terminal was where he was and she had to get to him - fast.

She ran. Past rows of shops, several houses, across a street, past a church, another street, more houses, another row of shops. The traffic was much busier now, bigger shops, more people, past a cinema - how on earth had he come so far?

Running past a big public house she could now see the tram terminus - and there he sat, on his trike, her Ronald. He was gazing entranced at the blue flashes of electricity and, as she rushed up panting, he looked round with a happy smile and pointed 'Look Mummy! What lovely sparklers!'

#### WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Share with us at Dilwyn Parish Church.

Hear Mrs. Ann Roper

Friday, 1st March, 10.45 a.m.

Coffee - 10.15 - 10.30 a.m.

Transport available.

Tel: Weobley 666.

#### HELP YOURSELF TO HEALTH

Eardisley Village Hall.

Tuesday 2nd April at 7.30 p.m.

Homoeopathy. A talk by  
Wendy Harris

EVERYONE WELCOME ADMISSION 30p

The 'Sunday Times' recently held a competition in which readers were invited to suggest slogans which more honestly represented British Rail's services. The winning entry was submitted by a reader who was apparently acutely conscious of the shortage of seating for second-class passengers (no doubt a planned campaign to encourage travellers to travel first class.) It ran - 'Travel first+ class with British Rail. We leave the rest standing.' Another entry was 'All our trains are aged for 20 years before we bottle you up in them.'

The hardback edition appeared ..  
.....in 1983 and the warmth of its reception was decidedly luke.

From a 'Sunday Times' book review.

## **Local 'Yellow Pages'**

It is possible that readers may be unaware of the many and varied services which are available in the villages in which 'Signal' circulates. In addition to such fundamentals as post offices, stores and service stations there are firms and individuals offering such services as electricians, builders, plumbers, central heating installation and maintenance, woodworking and house decoration. In fact, the area is rapidly becoming self-sufficient in this regard.

We plan in a forthcoming issue to give a complete list of every service which is available - a kind of local 'Yellow Pages' - under appropriate headings. In order that this list may be as complete as possible we invite all those who would like to be included to let us have full particulars, including name, address and telephone number. All entries should be sent to M.B. Collingwood, Trisanna, Staunton-on-Wye, phone 517, not later than 13th March.