

A COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER FOR
Kinnersley-Sarnesfield-Letton-Norton Canon
Brobury-Monnington-Staunton.

AUTOMATED PENSIONS -

SIGNAL BOX

THE ADVANTAGES AND DRAWBACKS

The Department of Health and Social Security will shortly be inaugurating a campaign for the Automated Credit Transfer of pensions and benefits to bank accounts. During the next few months all pensioners and all who receive benefit, including child benefit, from the DHSS will be sent a letter asking them to have their pension or benefit paid by Automated Credit Transfer directly into a bank account instead of having a book of orders for cashing over the counter of their local post office. The object of this exercise is to offer the beneficiary a wider choice and to save the Government money.

In a recent letter to 'The Hereford Times' the Secretary of the Hereford Branch of the National Federation of Sub-Postmasters pointed out that, although the new scheme has certain advantages it also has several drawbacks, particularly for pensioners and benefit receivers living in rural areas.

In the first instance, payments under the new scheme will be made under a rigid four-weekly cycle in arrears, which means that for the first four weeks the pensioner will draw no money at all, whereas under the existing scheme the pension can be drawn by presenting the pension book at one's local post office every week, or at any other interval desired. Furthermore, two orders in every book can be cashed at any other post office without notice or form filling.

Secondly, as only towns and larger villages in Herefordshire have banking facilities there is little object in dwellers in smaller villages, such as those in the area in which 'Signal' circulates, having their pensions paid into a bank account when the nearest bank may be several miles distant.

Another important point is that if the majority of pensioners decided to transfer to the new scheme a great deal of work would be taken away from post office counters and make many of then uneconomical businesses, possibly resulting in the threat of closure of some of the smaller village post offices. Once again it boils down to 'use it or lose it.'

PARISH AND DISTRICT COUNCIL ELECTIONS
5th MAY, 1983.

Parish Councils are elected for a four year period and approximately one quarter of the parishes or groups of parishes are elected each year. 1983 is the year for the election of councillors for the four parishes comprising the Kinnersley and District Group - i.e. Kinnersley, Norton Canon, Sarnesfield and Letton.

As required by law, notices of the election and invitation to nominate candidates have been exhibited in each parish since 25th March and the closing date for nominations was Saturday, 9th April. As the number of nominations received equalled the number of vacancies required to be filled in each parish, it will not be necessary to have a poll.

The names of the people nominated for each parish are:

KINNERSLEY

John F. Davies
 Henry Garratt-Adams
 John F. Lewis
 Alfred K. Taylor
 Eric Thomas

NORTON CANON

Richard H. Children
 J.L. Hughes
 Howard Jones
 Nigel J. Lewis
 Mrs V.M. Loxston

LETTON

Kenneth Davies
 Geoffrey D. Matthews

SARNESFIELD

Richard A. Marshall
 William H. Phillips

All the above have served as councillors during the current electoral period except Mr. Howard Jones of Canon Drive, Norton Canon who is a school teacher and who will take the place of Mr. William J. Griffiths who has played a prominent part in parish affairs over a long number of years, but who did not wish to be nominated.

DISTRICT COUNCIL

1983 is also the year for the election of one councillor for the Castle Ward of Leominster District Council which includes the same four parishes plus Almeley and for which Mr. J.L. Hughes has served for many years. He has been nominated again and, there being no further nominations, he will be duly elected without a poll.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

NORTON CANON VILLAGE HALL on
 Tuesday, 3rd May at 8.p.m.

Do try and come.

NOTICES

FORGET-ME-NOT-CLUB

The Spring Outing to Clee Hill will be on 10th May, 1983 leaving Staunton at 12.30.

If anyone would like to join us, will they please contact either Mrs Kinsey, Moccas 435 or Mr Morgan, Moccas 534.



JUMBLE SALE - 26th MARCH

We are pleased to announce that we made £96.00 for our club. The draws were:

- 1st - Mr Price
- 2nd - Mr Morgan
- 3rd - Mr Price

We would like to thank everyone who gave to us and those who helped on the day, also any other help that was given to us.

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THE FRIENDS OF NORTON CANON SCHOOL

The Annual General Meeting will be held at the Village Hall, Norton Canon at 8 p.m. on Thursday, 12th May.

PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL SCHOOL.

STAUNTON-ON-WYE LADIES' CLUB

The next meeting of the Staunton-on-Wye Ladies' Club will be held in the Village Hall at 8 p.m. on Wednesday, 4th May. There will be a talk on South Africa.

We welcome to NORTON CANON Mr and Mrs Keith Williams who have come to live at 'Woodpecker Cottage' (formerly Burford Cottage.)

They were married at Staunton-on-Wye on the 2nd April, 1983.

We wish them every happiness in the future.



Small Ads.

Small group of lawnmowers and muck spreaders seeking further employment. If you have a small paddock, orchard or plot of ground in Monnington area which could benefit from the attention of my sheep, then please contact MOLLY HALE, MOCCAS 571.

Beekeeper needing an out apiary is seeking a secluded spot or field corner for 2 or 3 hives within reasonable range of Monnington. RICHARD HALE, MOCCAS 571.



WEOBLEY & DISTRICT AGRICULTURE SOCIETY

Are holding a Fashion Show to be given by 'NEXT' of High Town, Hereford at The Hopelands, Weobley on Wednesday, 4th May at 7.30 p.m.

Admission £1 including coffee and biscuits.

Please ring WEOBLEY 242 if you require tickets.

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If you have an hour to spare
Don't spend it with someone
who hasn't.

May Birthdays.

BIRTHDAYS

KINNERSLEY

A Very Happy Birthday to MARTIN LEWIS who is 18 years old on 5th May.

Happy Birthday also to:

Peter Jarrett	9th May
Ben Corbett	20th "
Jodi Battison	24th "

NORTON CANON

A Very Happy Birthday to JOHNATHAN DYER who is also 18 years old on the 29th May.

Happy Birthday also to:

Christopher Dyer	7th May
Carolyn Watson	17th "
Neil Griffiths	22nd "
Craig Lane	25th "
Rebecca Goodwin	27th "
Rhiannon Jones	31st "
(Hinton Cottage)	

LETTON

Nicholas King	19th May
(Over Letton)	

MOORHAMPTON

Beverley Price	15th May
Caroline Price	23rd "
(Upperton)	
Jane Powell	30th "

NEW INN NEWS

Phyllis and Jim would like to thank all who donated to the beautiful gift of flowers and fruit which were presented to them on Saturday, 12th March following their party on Friday. Also to thank all who came to make such an enjoyable evening.

The Regulars would like to thank Phyllis and Jim for the splendid party and hope that it won't take another mortgage to pay for it!



RICH BUTTER BISCUITS

1 lb. flour
 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. margarine or butter
 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. sugar
2 eggs
pinch of salt
1 teaspoon baking powder
 $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of milk
4 oz. sultanas

Sift the flour, salt and baking powder into a bowl, rub in the butter. Stir in the sugar and fruit and mix to a smooth dough with beaten eggs and milk. Roll out and cut with shaped pastry cutters. Bake in a hot oven. When cool store in an airtight container.



BIRTHS

KINNERSLEY

We are pleased to announce: Janet and Paul Hales, Sunny Cottage, a daughter, Claire Michele on 17th March, 1983.

Plus ca change

I am bereft
Of my old friend EFT.
But ain't he cute,
My new friend NEWT?

Owen



51 Buckfield Road,
Leominster.

OBITUARY

Three of Staunton-on-Wye's older residents recently died within a few days of each other. They all lived in the Jarvis Charity Almshouses.

Mr Samuel Pugh, a former resident of Kinnersley, died on 22nd February at the age of 84. A few days earlier Mr Jack Clark, who had lived in the almshouses for several years, also died, and on 14th March, Mr William Prosser, a First World War veteran, who was for some years Staunton's village postman, died at the age of 83.

Dear Signal,
Your title page has at the top
A signal which is shown at 'STOP'.
But surely 'STOP' is rather slow,
So why not alter it to 'GO'?

I.D. Campbell.

The signal 'STOP' is really better
'STOP' and study your news letter
If 'GO' was featured, you'd agree,
It would spoil the symmetry.
S-Children.

Letters.

Dear Signal,

The Bower,
Norton Canon.

May I please convey through your pages, my thanks and appreciation for the many gifts of flowers, fruit, cards, etc. from relatives and friends, received during my recent stay in the County Hospital.

Yours sincerely,

Mary Price.

Conifers,
Norton Canon.

Dear Signal,

We would like to thank Signal for the kind words of welcome in the last edition. Also to make use of your pages to thank the community of Norton Canon for all the help and the friendly way we have been received since moving into Conifers.

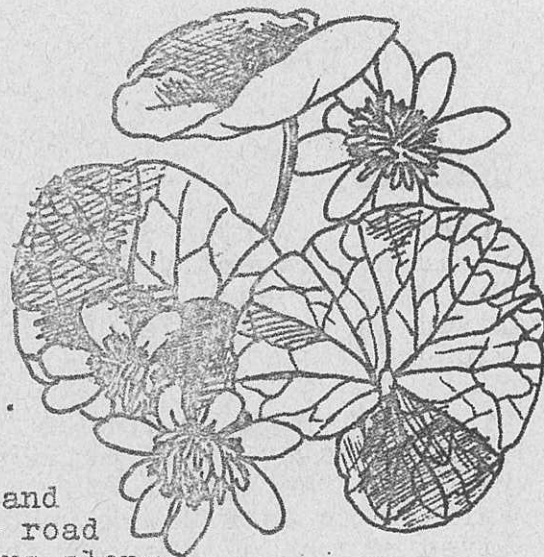
Pat & Derek Shaw

Twelve months ago Leslie and Peggy Jones, Broadfield, Kinnersley, lost their daughter after a long illness with cancer. A fund was set up in lieu of flowers, and even since, people's generosity has been overwhelming. They decided that the Jennifer Jones Cancer Fund should go towards furnishing a room at St. Michael's Hospice. So in order to help swell the fund the Charity Shop has been taken for Friday, 20th May. If there is anyone who feels they would like to help by either contributing things for sale or assisting in the shop on the day, please contact Peggy on Eardisley 242 or Ruby on Weobley 229.

The Parochial Church Council of Norton Canon wish to thank the organisers and helpers of their Country and Western held at the Village Hall on 12th March, 1983 for their generous and welcome donation of £37 to Norton Canon Church funds, and are pleased to know it was such a happy and successful evening.

Spring is here.

You really know spring is here when the celandines with their shiny yellow petals appear in starry drifts along the road verges and hedgebottoms. This is the lesser celandine, quite different from the greater celandine which is a member of the poppy family and is well seen in later months along the road up Calver Hill. Violets, still numerous along many verges, come in many different species, the commonest being dog violet, always blue or mauve with smaller more pointed leaves than sweet violet, which is usually white in this area and has broader more rounded leaves. It is our only scented violet but a good nose is required!



Wild flowers, particularly primroses and cowslips, so characteristic of the English Countryside are declining seriously nationwide. We in this area are fortunate in having many mixed, smaller family farms and their hedgerows still retain the diversity of wildlife so necessary for a healthy countryside.

Flowering plants, of course, have not evolved for the delight of us humans! They are part of a complicated ecosystem supporting a wide variety of insects particularly butterflies and moths. These in turn support many of our bird species. Any wild flower exists to be pollinated by insects to produce seed. A cowslip, for example will produce about 200 seeds if left alone to propagate itself. Even around here wild flowers and the diversity of wildlife in general is slowly decreasing for many reasons particularly chemical sprays and hedgerow removal, so if you see a cowslip be thankful, enjoy it, and leave it for others to enjoy!

Dave Lovelace,
Norton Canon.



W.I. NEWS - country dancing.

About twelve W.I. members and friends met at the Village Hall on 29th March, all eager to be taught the rudiments of country dancing, or to revive memories of the days when we did it at school - in my case long, long years ago.

Mrs Olive Morgan from Almeley arrived full of energy and enthusiasm, carrying her tape recorder, tapes and a book of instructions which looked to me about as intelligible as a book of knitting patterns.

But we were soon at it! In circles or lines we attempted the Durham Reel, the Circassian Circle and a couple of other dances, first stepping them out, then dancing to the music. It was fun and no one minded when one or two of us had to retire from some rounds out of sheer exhaustion. Of course, we had no men partners but anyone wearing trousers found themselves with a skirted female partner. Needless to say, as there weren't enough trousers to go round, there were occasions when we females, having 'spun' in the wrong direction, couldn't identify our male partners!

The evening was just a preliminary practice to see if we really wanted a course to begin in the autumn. We do indeed and further details will be announced later in the Signal.

The May meeting will be as usual on 19th May at 7.30 when there will be a discussion of the A.G.M. resolutions and a Bring and Buy Stall. The competition is a Self Portrait.



Sheila Evans

STAUNTON-ON-WYE AND DISTRICT ANNUAL DINNER SOCIETY BALANCE SHEET FOR 1983

Income

Dance	..	£ 95.00
Dinner Tickets	..	£510.00
Draw	..	£ 37.50

£642.50

Expenditure

Hire of hall for dance,	..	£ 20.00
dinner and dance	..	£390.00
Cost of dinners	..	£150.00
Cost of entertainment	..	£ 3.00
Hire of tables and chairs	..	£ 0.50
Ticket book for draw	..	

£563.50

Balance paid into Bank .. £ 79.00

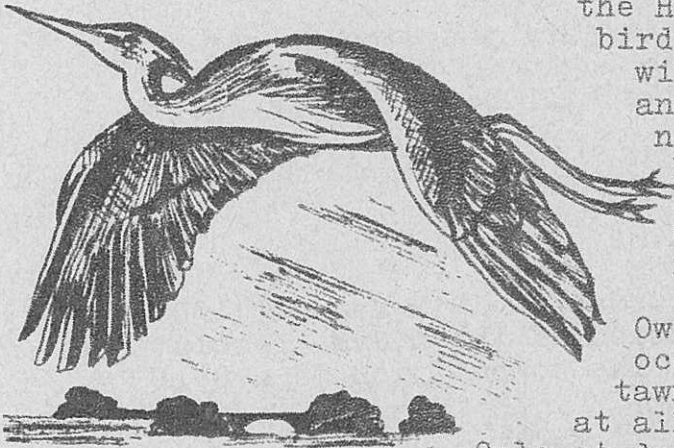
Next year's dinner will be held on Friday, 2nd March, 1984. We hope you all had an enjoyable evening.

Ornithologists Review.

Late spring is the peak time of year for local ornithologists. By April winter migrants such as Fieldfares and Regwings will all have departed, and the influx of summer migrants is at its peak. Because we still have a mixed agricultural system in the area with a fairly large amount of hedgerow and woodland, the majority of all breeding migrant species can be seen locally. Last year for example I recorded 68 species on our land and a further 7 within a mile radius. This is by no means all species that are recorded in the British Isles, but fairly typical of an area such as ours.

Highlights of last year included breeding pairs of Redstarts and Green Woodpeckers, and a Merlin seen hunting along the hedges at Letton. One of the most spectacular sights locally are the Buzzards. These follow the Wye down from the Welsh hills to about Norton Wood on warm days, soaring and gliding in the thermals, sailing languorously with the occasional flap of broad wings. The first indication of their presence is usually a plaintive mewing 'peeioo,' and there they'll be slowly quartering the ground in wide circles in search of small rodents and beetles. The only other local bird that they may be confused with are the Herons when flying low. But once you see the angled wings, trailing legs, and neck drawn up to the chest,

the Heron is unmistakable. Other birds that may be seen locally flying with legs trailing are the Moorhen and the Corn Bunting. But they are not likely to be confused with Herons!



Of the six species of Owl that regularly breed in the British Isles, Tawny, Little and Barn Owls all breed locally. On one occasion last winter I heard seven tawny owls calling; and it's not at all unusual to hear 4 or 5 Little

Owls at dusk. The Little Owl is, as its name suggests the smallest of the British Owls, and also the most frequently seen. Although like most Owls it hunts mostly at dawn and dusk it can often be seen and heard during the day. Barn Owls are now very scarce throughout the country, the most frequent sightings being a white blur passing through car headlight beams. But if you hear one you won't forget its prolonged strangled shriek.

Another bird you may well hear locally is the Curlew. Like the Buzzard it's usually heard in flight, its melliferous and melancholy 'coorli coor-li' a truly ethereal fluting. It is the largest native wading bird, and if you have a pair breeding nearby, you may hear its breeding song, a bubbling trill given by the male when circling over its territory.



Bird song of course is a principal feature by which to identify the migrant warblers arriving throughout April and May. Willow Warblers and Chiff-Chaffs are already here (mid April,) they look almost identical but, of course, sound very different.

Other warblers nesting now and which I recorded last year include Blackcaps, Whitethroats, Sedge and Garden Warblers. Spotted Flycatchers may be seen darting from fence posts to snatch insects over the lawn, and if you're very lucky a Pied Flycatcher; which looks similar to a House Martin, but its behaviour will distinguish it immediately.

With any luck, of course, we'll be in the middle of a period of fine sunny weather. This should prompt the Larks and Pipits into song in late afternoon particularly. So if you're wandering in the garden and a Lark starts to sing, just stop for a few minutes and listen to the true heralds of summer.

I prefer the Larks as heralds rather than the Swallows and Martins, delightful as they are; because the latter are always too chattery and busy. Charming but exhausting.

The true announcer of the British summer is that most incredible of fliers, the Swift. It flies in late from Southern Africa, nests, raises young and departs as early as possible back to more sunshine. Very sensible bird the Swift.

Guy Edwards,
Kinnersley.

Kinnersley Playground



An enthusiastic group of local people met at Kinnersley Church Hall on 13th April to look at the available site.

It was generally agreed that an attractive play area could be established on the grass with seating for adults.

We hope to build simple wooden structures including swings, seesaw and a slide, and believe that such provision would be much appreciated by children and adults alike for some years to come.

A number of people have offered their time to help with design, building and maintenance of this playground and financial backing will be sought.

We would be very glad to hear from anyone interested in the project, or willing to offer help and advice.



Sara Higginson,
Upper Ailey, Kinnersley.

Sarah Saunders,
Waterloo Lane, Letton.

Rubbish.

I went to the pictures tomorrow,
I had a front seat in the back,
I fell from the pit to the gallery,
And broke a front bone in my back,
They gave me some plain cake with currants in,
I ate them then gave it them back,
Then I walked home in a taxi,
And that's the beginning of that.

P. Knight (age ten)



My brother Michael is very keen on Taxidermy.

He has cured rabbit, squirrel and lamb skins and has stuffed squirrels, moles and voles. We got the idea from a very kind man up our road, Mr. Tierney, who showed us how to do it.

If anyone finds any of the following could they please contact us. The corpses must not have too much damage though.

Badger, weasel, stoat, owl, hawk.



Our names are Peter and Michael Cole, Brick House Farm, Norton Canon. Telephone Weobley 260. Thank you.

The Rise and Fall of Claypits

You don't know where it is? Well, it nestles on the edge of Yazor Wood, below Ladylift, astride Offa's Dyke and looking down on its brash young neighbour Moorhampton.

But Claypits is not the place it once was. If you were travelling in the late eighteenth century from Hereford to Kington, Claypits would be on your route, for the present road beyond Upperton was not created until about the turn of the century. After passing the old Yazor Church, and perhaps stopping for a pint of ale at the Lion Inn, your route would bear right off the present road some quarter of a mile west of the Yarsop turn. You can still see the old route where it angles off through an orchard and follows the hedge line up the hill. At that time Claypits was a hamlet of some eight cottages and a small farm - a homestead as it was known then. Upperton Farm and the seven cottages adjacent to it were reached by a track from Yazor, which continued to Moriton (about the location of Moorhampton Farm,) Hinton and Staunton or to Mansell Gamage. Claypits and Upperton (sometimes then known as Upperhampton) were linked by the present lane.

From Claypits your route to Kington would then take you through the next hamlet of Bunn's Lane where the old route is joined by the present main road. If, on the other hand, your destination was Weobley you would have forked right at Claypits and taken a track up through Yazor Wood to join the direct route from Norton Canon, perhaps at Shoals Bank.

By about 1840 these routes had become footpaths and were presumably still well used. The 1841 tithe map for Yazor Parish (in Hereford Records Office) shows that Claypits was still a thriving hamlet despite its bypass. The documents accompanying the map supply a wealth of fascinating information - owners, occupiers, field names and areas and so on.

Now alas the paths are no longer public and there are only two dwellings remaining. One is a modern house built on the site of the homestead and utilising the stone wall of the barn; the other is a much extended half-timbered cottage. A point of interest is that some 13 years ago both old structures carried on their front doors cast oval plates with the numbers 89 and 95. These were presumably the sequential numbers of Foxley Estate cottages, for some old buildings in Mansell Lacy carried similar plates with lower numbers.

There must be more information on the history of Claypits to be found somewhere. Nothing of importance seems to have happened there nor did anyone of importance live there, so information isn't easy to find. One thing I would like to know is the location of the clay pits which presumably gave the hamlet its name.

Denis Dighton

Services

Church Services

(Whitsun)

<u>Sarnesfield</u>	May 8th	Holy Communion
10 am	22nd	Holy Communion
<u>Norton Canon</u>	1st	Holy Communion
9 am	8th	Morning Prayer
(Whitsun)	15th	Holy Communion
	22nd	Holy Communion
<u>Staunton</u>	1st	Holy Communion
11 am	8th	Morning Prayer
	15th	Holy Communion
<u>Monnington</u>	8th	Holy Communion
9.30 am		
<u>Letton</u>	22nd	Holy Communion
6 pm		

Deanery Synod May 17th at Kington

Joint P.C.C. (for Weobley Group of Parishes)
May 23rd at Norton Canon Church with the
Archdeacon of Hereford and Diocesan
Stewardship Adviser

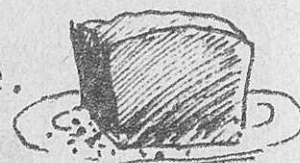
KINNERSLEY CHURCH

Services for MAY

1st 10 am Holy Communion
8th 10 am Mattins
15th 10 am Holy Communion - celebrant
and preacher, The Arch-
deacon of Hereford
22nd 10 am Mattins
29th 10 am Family Service

On Sunday, 29th May at 6.30 pm
there will be a combined service
for the five parishes at Titley
Church.

Ginger cake.



Ginger cake, O ginger cake!
Herefordshire's finest make!
Second portions we would take
Till we got a tummy-ache!

Wise girls, if you're wide awake
For your best-beloved's sake
Get the recipe and bake
Jean and Sandra's GINGER CAKE!

H O Aldhous

POTATO WINE

4 lb. potatoes
3½ lb. demerara sugar
1 gallon water
1 lemon
1 handful of hops
2 oz. yeast per gallon



Boil together the potatoes, lemon
and hops, and they break, strain
them off and pour the liquid in
which the potatoes have been
boiled, onto the demerara sugar.
When nearly cold (blood temper-
ature) add the yeast. It is best
to boil the potatoes, lemon and
hops in a bag.

Next day, place in a barrel, cork
loosely. Cork tightly when the
wine has finished working.
Bottle in 3 weeks.

Teresa Bradford
Staunton

A number of items have been held over

- thank you Julianne for your article;
it will be in next month.

Copy needs to be received in time for it to reach
Owl's End, Norton Canon by 15th May.