



A COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER FOR

**Kimmersley - 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 them 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.W. 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.