

THE SIGNAL

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

No. 36

MAY 1985

PRICE 12p

Upper Norton Farm

Felling Applications....

Felling applications have been made to Leominster District Council to fell 8 of 16 oaks included in a Tree Preservation Order. The applications also include for part of an area of woodland to be felled and resited. The applicants are indicating that they will replace the existing oaks with 6-foot tall saplings in existing hedgerows away from the present location.

The applications are due to be discussed at a Planning Meeting of Leominster District Council on 20th May 1985. If you have any comments they can be made to the Planning Office at Lion House, Broad Street, Leominster.

....and a Riposte

David Lovelace laments the changes taking place in the countryside around him. So, no doubt, have many others over the last several hundred years. The contemporary scene is distinctive by virtue of the rapid changes in farming technology and the fact that farming people are now greatly outnumbered by others with an interest in the countryside.

For over forty years farmers have responded to Government calls for increased food production and have certainly pulled their weight in producing the nation's wealth. In 1939 Britain was the biggest food importing country in the world. Today she is the 7th biggest food exporter.

There've been other changes too. In 1918, 90% of farmers were tenants - today 70% own their farms. We can thank previous generations of landowners for the landscape they've given us to enjoy

PLEASE NOTE THAT COPY FOR THE JUNE ISSUE OF 'SIGNAL' SHOULD REACH TRISANNA, STAUNTON-ON-WYE (PHONE MOCCAS 517) NOT LATER THAN FRIDAY, 10th MAY, 1985.

today. Most farmers accept that it is now their responsibility and there's plenty of evidence to show that they're taking on the job seriously. Sadly there will always be a few who haven't, or won't, get the message. But the chances of them receiving it are diminished, I suggest, by the tone and content of D.L.'s contribution to 'Signal'. His statements of authority and half-truths are misleading to say the least. For instance, most farms as we know them today were created by the Enclosures Acts - not as he suggests in early medieval times. Most roadside hedges cause snow to drift into the road - not prevent it. The implication that hedge removal puts bluebells, wood anemones, primroses and the like at risk is nonsense. There are millions of them growing in natural habitat within a mile of Norton Wood. But more seriously, there may be an arguable case for encouraging the retention of small farms but not for the reasons that apply in W. Germany. Social stability is the impetus there. In this country Co Sira has shown that there are other gainful occupations that can be followed in rural areas in addition to farming and forestry.

The economic solution to food production has prevailed in Britain since the repeal of The Corn Laws in the 19th century and will probably continue to do so. That policy led to deep agricultural depression between the wars - empty farms and derelict land. The countryside is and has been in constant change but if we are all to get most of what we want from it let's have less recriminations and more remedies.

Philip Wrixon,
Devereux Wootton,
Norton Canon.

I read with interest Mr. David Lovelace's article in the 'Signal' April 1985 on 'The Countryside Under Threat.'

I agree with the points made about the damage done to the soil and environment from indiscriminate removal of hedges and would like to enlarge on this subject.

In the science of horticulture a great deal of research has been done on the type i.e. natural, artificial shelter belts, and particularly on the siting of the shelter belt in order to achieve the maximum effect of slowing down the air flow thus preventing excessive transpiration of moisture from the crop, assist the pollination and allow protective sprays to be applied with minimum spray drift.

It has been discovered by specialised meteorologists that

some hedges are not sited correctly to give maximum shelter and have had to be resited.

I would suggest that all keen environmentalists whether farmer or layman, will do well to encourage all those farmers contemplating hedge removal to have the sites assessed by qualified meteorologists before carrying out the act and be advised of the consequences of any future damage to the soil, crop and environment. By this more scientific and less sentimental approach to the problem agreement between the farmer and the environmentalist can be reached.

Yours faithfully,

C. Evans

Hillstow,
Bank Crescent,
Ledbury,
Herefordshire.

In Memoriam

Douglas Berry

It is with deep regret that we announce the death, which occurred just as this issue was being prepared for publication, of 'Signal's' treasurer, Douglas Berry, after a very brief illness.

He and his wife, Rosalind, were involved in a very bad car accident some months ago, from which he appeared to have made a good recovery, so that the rapid onset of his final illness was quite unexpected.

Douglas Berry was a Yorkshireman by birth and was a bank manager in his native county before he and Rosalind retired to Herefordshire in the late 1960's. They lived for a time in Staunton-on-Wye before moving to a new house in Kinnersley, where he developed a bare plot of land into one of the most attractive gardens in the neighbourhood. Gardening was, in fact, his main hobby, and he wrote several articles on the subject for 'Signal.'

He was involved with the magazine

right from its inception and looked after its finances with the efficiency and thoroughness which were characteristic of him. So wide was his knowledge of accountancy that he was called on to keep the books of a number of organisations in the district and his services were always in great demand.

His forthrightness, shrewd judgement and dry Northern humour made him an outstanding personality and it was typical of him that one of the first tasks he carried out after learning that his illness was terminal was to put 'Signal's' accounts into perfect order so they could be taken over by his successor without any problems.

We, his colleagues on 'Signal', will miss him greatly and will always remember him with gratitude, as will his many friends in the Staunton-on-Wye and Kinnersley areas

We extend our deepest sympathy to Rosalind and his family.

'PATHFINDERS' PROGRESS

'Pathfinders' - the local organisation which was inaugurated last year to promote the upkeep and signposting of footpaths in the western part of Herefordshire, has been successful in bringing about considerable progress in this direction during the past few months.

Following the appointment by the County Council of a new temporary footpath warden, bridge and ditch crossings are to be installed where needed and landowners have been requested to remove barbed wire and to erect stiles on public rights-of-way at several points. The organisation will be assisting in this work, and stiles have already been erected in the Al-

meley and Kinnersley areas.

The County Council will also be supplying waymarking posts which the organisation will place at each point where a footpath leaves a council-maintained road.

The organisation held its first annual general meeting on 16th April and among the matters discussed were plans to produce footpath guides and maps for the Almeley, Kinnersley and Letton areas, and to arrange group walks during the summer months. Those interested in joining the organisation should contact Mr. Andy Johnson, Little Logaston, Woonton, phone Eardisley 344.

OBITUARY

MRS PEGGY WILLIAMS

We regret to report the death of Mrs. Peggy Williams, of Portway Cottage, Staunton-on-Wye, after a long illness. She had been an invalid for many years and during her last months was almost totally incapacitated. It is doubtful if she would have survived as long as she did without the devoted care of her husband, Lyn.

We offer him our deepest sympathy in his tragic loss.

MRS MARGARET SHIELDS

We regret to report the death of Mrs. Margaret Shields, of Moorhampton who died very suddenly on the 13th April, 1985.

We offer our deepest sympathy to her family in their tragic loss.

We extend our sympathy to the families of two Letton residents who have recently died.

Mr. Walter Williams of Kinley Farm died towards the end of March at the age of 80. Before retirement he was a farmer at New Radnor.

Mrs. Matilda Skyrme died at the beginning of April aged 92. She resided at the Priory, Leominster, but formerly lived at Kinley.

NORTON CANON P.C.C.

invite you to

A CHEESE & WINE PARTY

at

BULMERS LAKE ON

SATURDAY 18th MAY AT 7.45 p.m.

Tickets £1.50

Church Notices

MAY

The Weobley Group of Parishes

Sarnesfield 12th Holy Communion
10.00 am 26th Holy Communion
(Whitsun)

Norton Canon 5th Holy Communion
9.00 am 12th Morning Prayer
19th Holy Communion
26th Family Service

Staunton 5th Holy Communion
11.00 am 12th Morning Prayer
19th Holy Communion

Monnington 12th Holy Communion
9.30 am

Byford 9.30 5th Holy Communion
6.30 19th Evening Prayer

Letton 11.00 12th Holy Communion
6.00 26th Evening Prayer
+ short service
of Holy Communion

2nd Monnington A.G.M. 7.30 pm

3rd Ruth Echells (Ludlow) 7.30 pm

7th Norton Canon P.C.C.

13th Church of England Children's
Society (Speaker: Mr John
Smith) Film in Willow Gallery
Weobley

16th Ascension Day Holy Communion
in Weobley Church 10 am

21st Norton Canon School Governors
7.45 pm in School

Byford P.C.C. in Church

KINLEYSLEY

5th 10 am Holy Communion
12th 10 am Rogation Sunday
Service
16th 10 am Ascension Day
Holy Communion
19th 10 am Holy Communion
26th 10 am (Whitsunday)
Family Service

STAUNTON-ON-WYE VILLAGE HALL

BINGO

THURSDAY, 16th MAY

Eyes down at 8 p.m.

In aid of Village Hall Fund.

'Enjoying' Retirement

by

PHYLLIS HAIGH



THE inverted commas in the title are added because I wrote an article on retirement for 'Magpie' in September last year and the editor entitled it 'Reluctant Retirement.'

I suppose the tone of the article led the editor to believe that I was not expecting to enjoy this new phase of my life and to be truthful that is just how I did feel. Bleak and unhappy, I imagined myself through the housework by 10 a.m. and the day stretching before me with very little to do. Living too far away to casually stroll round and have a chat with my old associates and having to be a little more careful financially in respect of holidays and outings and all things like that. In short, nothing to look forward to. Added to that I was suddenly old.

I think retirement ideally should take place at about the age of 50. You would then be able to think of yourself at last free to do anything you wished, providing the income would stand it. At an advanced age retirement just means that you are too old to work.

Well all this was last year and it did not happen that way at all.

To begin with we admitted to each other that, beautiful as it was, the garden was too big to manage properly. Fond as we were of the house we had put so much work into it and we now realised that we did not want four bedrooms and all the toil that goes with them.

Most important, (and I think this applies more to me than my husband,) is to be part of a community. So the big question was answered and the home was put on the market. I need hardly tell most of you about the trials and trauma of selling a house, packing up and getting rid of a lot of possessions gathered together over the years. Twentyone in fact in the last home and quite a few from previous places of residence.

Hardly knowing exactly how it happened here we are. Right in the middle of the village, warm and comfortable and surrounded by friends and feeling that we still matter and are needed. It is all rather wonderful.

We have lived in this area for thirtysix years and Weobley has

been at the centre of our lives for most of our activities, but do you know, we walk about the village anew and discover things for the first time, old scenes from a different angle with time to stand and stare.

The feeling of having lost something when I first wake in the morning has long since turned to that nice lazy feeling of 'now what shall we do today.' The pace of life generally has slowed down so that everything we do can be savoured and not rushed through with one eye on the clock.

Yes, it may be a good idea to prepare for retirement in some way but just having some hobby is not the real answer, because it is the attitude of mind that matters and, unless you can overcome that feeling of being too old and no longer of consequence, whatever you do you will be lost and miserable.

I don't advocate moving house as an answer if it means uprooting and leaving all your friends as some people do. In our case we came closer in to the community and our friends.

When I turn out in the dark of evening to attend some function I feel a childish delight in the street lighting and the lighted windows,

I have come to the conclusion that living out in the wilds is fine when you are working, and after a busy day there is nothing more soothing than getting home to the quietness of a home in the country. When your working days are over, to be surrounded by the warmth and care of friends and neighbours is more important.

Am I enjoying my retirement? Yes I am, but I must add a footnote. I am enjoying retirement largely because of the way things have worked out. I said earlier that I hardly knew how it happened, but I do. All along I feel that we have been 'guided' to this situation. If for any special purpose or just for our own contentment I have yet to discover, but in the meantime I'm grateful.

B. Lane

CHIMNEY SWEEP

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- Reduced rates for O.A.P's.

Please ring Hereford 274555 evenings only.

WEDDING

One of the largest congregations seen at Staunton-on-Wye church for many months attended the wedding on 23rd March of Thomas Davies son of Mr. and Mrs. T. Davies of New House, Nortons Wood, and Julie Smith, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. D. Smith of Weavers Orchard, Staunton-on-Wye.

The Rev. B. Rees officiated, the best man was Mr. Robert Tong, the bridesmaids were Annette Andrews, Joann and Katie Tong, Penny Hicks and Emma Price and the bride's cousin Gavin Hicks was pageboy.

'Signal' sends Mr. & Mrs. Davies best wishes for their future.

BIRTHDAYS

A VERY HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:

Norton Canon

Christopher Dyer	7th May
Carolyn Watson	17th "
Craig Lane	25th "
Rebecca Goodwin	27th "
Rhianon Jones (Hinton)	29th "

Moorhampton

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

Kinnersley

Isabel Davies	12th May
Peter Jarrett	9th "
Ben Corbett (Sallies)	20th "
Jodi Bettison	24th "

Letton

Emma Bryan	6th May
Nicholas King (Over Letton)	19th "

Staunton-on-Wye

A VERY HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO
YVETTE JELFS ON 6th MAY WHO
WILL BE 18 YEARS OLD

Katie Bradford	6th May
Donna Harris	22nd "

Afrowvale Wine Club

Last Thursday we had a most interesting talk given by Mr. J. Tonkin, a retired headmaster, on the subject of 'Local History.' He described the intriguing means by which each one of us can set about finding out about our neighbourhood's past. Gave us all quite an incentive.

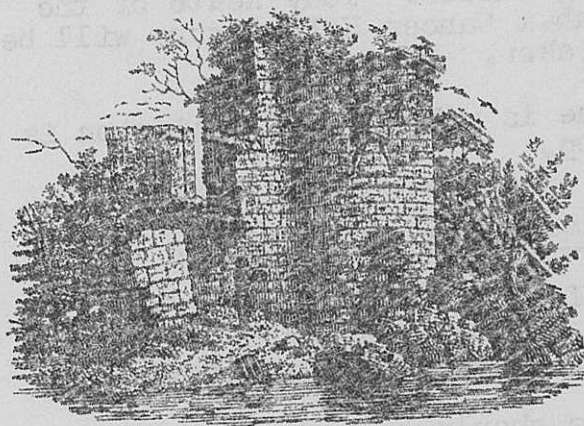
From this you will gather that our interests are quite catholic - we are not completely besotted with all things vinery! - so, if you would like to join us, do ring our secretary Milly Jones on Weobley 700. She'll give you all the details.

ETHIOPIA BLANKET & JUMPER APPEAL

Many thanks to all those who have already sent me blankets and jumpers for the children of Ethiopia. We have only collected about three dozen so far, so we've still a long way to go to meet the target of 350! I hope this means that there are many busy knitters in our villages who have not yet finished knitting all their spare wool into jumpers! Don't forget - keep knitting and please sort out those surplus blankets.

Rita Kilvert
Brewery House,
Norton Canon.
(Weobley 306)

(Items can be left with Mrs. Jean Chant, The Orchards, Staunton-on-Wye.)



STAUNTON-ON-WYE

The next meeting of the Staunton-on-Wye Group Parish Council will be held in the Village Hall on Thursday, 9th May at 7.30 p.m. It will be preceded at 7 p.m. by the Annual General Meeting to which the public are cordially invited.

NORTON CANON LADIES' CLUB

The April meeting on Monday, 15th had not taken place at the time of going to press but I can report that, with the sort of weather we have endured over the last four weeks, 'Indoor Plants' must have been a very suitable title!

On 13th May at 8 p.m. in the Village Hall we are back to our usual date: i.e. the second Monday in the month. Sally Williams will give a talk and demonstration entitled 'Spring Flower Arrangements.' Refreshments and Raffle as usual. All ladies are most welcome.

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- Prompt and efficient service at all times - Competitive rates.

Hours of business: Monday to Saturday 8 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Sunday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Help yourselves to Health

CHILDREN WITH EMOTIONAL DIFFICULTIES

Ian Stokes, Speaker, is setting up a Residential Centre, where 'difficult children' will be working towards responsibility for themselves.

Therapy includes growing their own vegetables, Counselling, Colour Therapy, Allergy Therapy, etc.

TUESDAY, 4th JUNE, at 7.30 p.m.
in EARDISLEY VILLAGE HALL.

Everyone welcome. Admission 30p.

Wendy Harris, Homoeopath, who works at the Centre for Natural Health, Bridge Street, Hereford, gave a talk to the group 'Help Yourself to Health' in the village hall on Tuesday, 2nd April. She explained how Homoeopathy works and gave some useful hints for first aid remedies. She is a very interesting speaker.

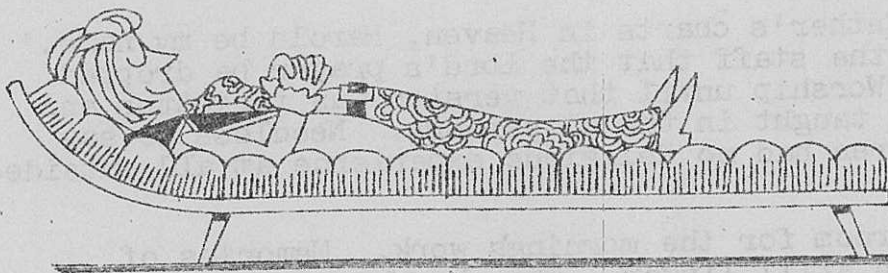
The next meeting on 7th May at 7.30 p.m. will be a talk on New Ways of Treating Cancer. Tony Neate of the Cheltenham Cancer Help Centre will be the speaker.

Everyone is welcome and admission is only 30p.

STAUNTON-ON-WYE VILLAGE HALL

With effect from 1st July, 1985, charges for the hall will be £1.50 per hour or £15 per function.

Bookings should be made to Mrs. E. Morgan, 5 Weavers Orchard, 'phone Moccas 204.



Looking Back

by

NORAH MEDCRAFT

LYING in bed at 7.30 a.m. this sunny morning, waiting for my morning 'cuppa', I think of the way my life style has changed since my husband's retirement nearly four years ago.

By this time - 7.30 a.m.-I would have been up and about for over an hour and be preparing to leave home to catch the 7.50 a.m. 'bus from Quinton to Birmingham. Any later start and the usual twenty minute run could extend to over an hour, stopping and starting in an endless line of motor vehicles as the 'Rush Hour' traffic crawled its way into the city centre.

On leaving the 'bus a brisk 10 minute walk brought me to the school gates where several children were playing. Surrounded by a chattering group, my luggage handed over to willing porters, I would then be escorted to the staff room where my first task, of course, was to put on the kettle for a cup of coffee.

Then to my classroom to prepare for the arrival of 35 lively 5-6 year old children. I had learnt very early in my teaching career that idle hands meant mischief and if suitable exciting, interesting occupations were not provided children had an inborn talent to find their own amusement to the detriment of law and order. Little boys with nothing to do usually end up in a squirming heap on the floor like a lot of puppies. I am sure the rudiments of the Rugby tackle and scrum are either inborn or acquired at a very early age.

With the assistance of some of the children from the playground the classroom was soon ready for the onslaught. A quick word with the Headmaster for any instructions or alterations to routine; a check that all the Staff were present, and I was ready to start my school day.

The children came into school. Some going immediately to their chosen occupation in the classroom, others so full of their 'news' the words could not come quickly enough as they vied with each other for my attention. Edward's dog had puppies, treasures and trophies to be inspected, Birthday cards and presents admired. At last all had had their say; peace restored; the register called and it was time to join the other infant classes for Morning Assembly. Hearing a small 5 year old chanting, very

sincerely, 'Our Father's charts in Heaven, Harold be my name,' it was agreed by the staff that the Lord's prayer be dropped from our Morning Worship until that version was forgotten and the correct words taught in the classrooms. Needless to say many of our children had no Religious experience at all outside school.

Back to the classroom for the morning's work. Memories of different children still linger. The shy who need to be drawn; the very bright, quickwitted who soon get bored if not stretched; the slow who need lots of encouragement and of course, the extrovert who loves to 'play to the gallery.'

One in particular comes to mind - George. Always guaranteed to amuse the class, always ready to work but not particularly at the task I had set him. On one occasion he had asked to leave the room and on being away longer than usual I opened my classroom door to see a very perplexed teacher in the hall. She was taking a lesson in Country Dancing and having told her children to 'take a partner' found one child standing alone. 'I am sure I counted 38 this morning,' I heard her mutter. On closer inspection we saw that 'George' having decided that this was much more fun than the occupations offered in his classroom, had decided to join in and one very indignant 7 year old girl was trying to disentangle herself from his over-exuberant attentions.

The bell brought a welcome break for lunch and a chance to chat to my colleagues then back to the classroom for the afternoon session. A tidy-up of the morning's activities and a different set of inducements arranged, painting and craftwork of various description dominated the afternoon timetable. Once again we were ready to start. 3.15 p.m. and we were all 'sitting comfortably' for the story and then it was time for the children to go home. After a chat with some of the 'mums,' tidying the last remnants of the day's activities, collecting my own 'homework,' I too was ready for home. A 15 minute walk to the 'bus - it always took me longer in the afternoon, partly because it was uphill and also my early morning 'get up and go' had 'got up and went.'

Home at last where my dear mother was waiting with the kettle on and the evening meal in the oven. She ran the house in my absence and what a treasure she was. Then we were both ready to greet the homecoming family. Relaxing over our evening meal we chatted about the day's events and then I turned to my preparations for the next day's lessons.

My Teasmade alarm (a retirement present) has just rung and I am back in Norton Wood. Happy memories but my present 'leisurely' life is just as rewarding. I now have - or should have - time to stand and stare, time to chat to neighbours. Now I must arise and, before feeding ourselves, John and I must attend to the chickens and cats (which came with the house) the goat and the lamb which are our more recent acquisitions.

Animals to feed and care for, gardening, D.I.Y. and visits from old friends, children and grandchildren not to mention various meetings and our own brand of 'keep fit,' we find we are 'busy doing nothing, working the whole day through, trying to find lots of things not to do.'

REFLECTIONS ON TELEVISION

Those who watched the penultimate episode of the zoo vet series 'One by One' may have thought it a little far-fetched, with it's message from the other side of life.

In the late 50's I was working in a homeopathic hospital when a boy in his late teens was admitted with severe diabetes. I was always interested to know if patients came from a homeopathic background or whether they were just trying it as a last resort. He told me that none of his family or friends had ever heard the word. His mother was a spiritualist and at one of her meetings the medium had told her to take her son to Mr. X at the homeopathic hospital. No one knew anything about it so they consulted the medical directory and found that there was indeed a doctor with that unusual name working at the hospital. Unfortunately I never heard the outcome as I left that week.

A. Aldhous

If we all said to people's faces what we say behind each other's backs, society would be impossible.

Honoré de Balzac

HAVING PROBLEMS WITH YOUR CAR?

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MOCCAS 415

I COME TO YOU!

RECIPE

KIDNEY BEAN PICKLE

Ingredients:

1 or 1½ pts vinegar
1 lb sugar
½ cup flour
small desert mustard
small tablespoon celery seed
small tablespoon turmeric
2 or 3 lb. kidney beans

Cook beans in usual way and drain well. Boil together vinegar and sugar. Mix with little extra cold vinegar (about quarter pint,) flour, mustard, celery seed and turmeric. Remove vinegar from heat, add beans, stir in well and pot. Pepper can be added if required.

He must have had a magnificent build before his stomach went in for a career of its own.

Margaret Halsey
American Writer

EVERY DOG HAS HIS DAY

It was a sunny morning in May. The men had got the sheep up into the field for shearing.

Later Ben the Collie dog helped to get them into the shed. Once the sheep were inside the door was shut and the dog was on the outside and wasn't allowed in so as not to frighten the sheep while they were being sheared.

Everything was going well for a time then panic - the shearing machine stopped working. The men came out to see what had happened. Guess what? Ben had bitten through the electric cable. I'm sure he had a smile on his face as he walked away unharmed. He lived for several years after this.

Margaret Skyrme

Local 'Yellow Pages'

READERS will remember that in the March issue of 'Signal' we mentioned that a large variety of services are available in the villages in which the magazine circulates, and that we planned in a subsequent issue to publish a list of them as a kind of local 'Yellow Page' directory.

The following is a list, with addresses and telephone numbers, of some of the services available. We must stress that this list is not necessarily comprehensive - it covers only those operators who have applied to be included.

Building Work

Jones & Owen, Enys, Kinnersley - Eardisley 453 or Peterchurch 235.
C.V. Parker, Brooklands, Norton Canon - Weobley 8186.

Car Repairs and Servicing (including pre-MOT Test Checking)

David Chant, Standale, Staunton-on-Wye - Moccas 402.
Reg Pilling, Holcombe, Staunton-on-Wye - Moccas 415.

Car Engine Elector-Tune

Reg Pilling, Holcombe, Staunton-on-Wye - Moccas 415.

Carpentry and Joinery

B.A. Powles, Orchard Bungalow, Staunton-on-Wye - Moccas 327.

Electrical Installations

B.W. Parish, Yew Tree, Sallies, Kinnersley - Eardisley 484

General Stores and Post Office (Groceries, Provisions etc.)

Staunton-on-Wye Post Office and Stores - Moccas 311.

Hand and Machine Knitting

Mrs. I.M. Tierney, Martlets, Calver Hill, Norton Canon - Weobley 385.

Newspapers and Magazines

Staunton-on-Wye Post Office and Stores - Moccas 311.

Soft Toy Manufacture

Mrs. I.M. Tierney, Martlets, Calver Hill, Norton Canon - Weobley 385.

Wines and Spirits Off-Licence

Staunton-on-Wye, Post Office and Stores - Moccas 311.

COUNCIL ELECTIONS

THURSDAY MAY 2ND IS COUNTY COUNCIL ELECTION DAY

Councillors are elected to serve for four years. Most of the money paid in rates goes to the County Council at Worcester for Education, Highways and Social Services. Apathy is normally the winner in most elections with fewer than half of the electors voting; - could it be different this year in our villages?