

THE SIGNAL

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

NO. 47

MAY 1986

PRICE 12p

Organising A Student's Day

I was talking to a young friend the other day who last year left school to go to VIth form college and university. I asked him how he was getting on and his reply rang an instant bell and re-called my own exact reaction of over 50 years ago when I went from school to college. I wonder how many others have felt the same.

He said that school life had necessarily to be a very ordered existence. You arrive at a stipulated time; your lessons and activities are carefully specified in advance and for a whole term (or even a year) you keep to that exact pattern; your "prep" is defined for you and your progress is graded by the week/month/term/year. You live in a world of guided instruction.

And yet how suddenly different is VIth form college or university. Here you are immediately met with a multitude of choice, ie-varied outdoors activities, clubs/societies to join and - far more importantly - you suddenly discover that you have to be the master of your own work time table. Is it fair or even necessary for young people to be pitched in at the deep end like this? How many later failures can be attributed to this unexpected obstacle? Is there nothing that can be done to help?

It was just this problem that faced my young friend - compounded by the greatly increased work load itself - and which had flummoxed me all those years ago. I would therefore like to propose that schools conduct special "How to organise your day" sessions after the summer exams and/or the VIth form colleges and universities do the same for all incoming students. After all, nearly every supervisory training scheme in commerce and industry finds it necessary to give instruction in this vital subject so why not schools and universities?.

Critics might well say that experience is the best teacher, but this all takes time and there is surely no reason why experience should not be accelerated by advance instruction. My friend and I can't both be wrong especially as I can prove that the need is at least 50 years old.

GARETH EVANS

PLEASE NOTE THAT COPY FOR THE JUNE ISSUE OF 'SIGNAL' SHOULD
REACH TRISANNA, STAUNTON-ON-WYE, (PHONE MOCCAS 517) NOT LATER
THAN FRIDAY, 9TH MAY, 1986.

'Signal' Events

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of 'Signal' will be held on Friday, 9th May, 1986 at Norton Canon Village Hall, commencing at 7.45 pm.

Nominations for 'Signal's' committee will be accepted from the floor of the meeting. All members of households which receive 'Signal' are entitled to attend.

We are still in need of volunteers to help in the production and circulation of 'Signal'. If you are interested in lending a hand in any capacity please contact Rod Kilvert, phone Weobley 318306.

After the Annual General Meeting there will be a

WINE AND CHEESE PARTY

in the hall. This will be a very informal get-together to which everyone will be very welcome. We should appreciate it if you would bring something in the way of food (i.e. biscuits etc.) with you. We shall provide the wine but you are welcome to bring your own if you wish. The party will begin immediately after the Annual General Meeting at approximately 8.30 pm.

If anyone has transport problems getting to the hall or would like

further information please contact Rod Kilvert, phone Weobley 318306.

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THE PLACE NAMES OF HEREFORDSHIRE

HEREFORDSHIRE, like all our counties, has an abundance of interesting place names, but it is perhaps more fortunate than most in that a book, specifically written to provide the history and meaning of many of the names, is available in the public reference library.

The information given below in regard to places mentioned on the title page of 'The Signal' may induce some readers to look up other locations in 'The Place Names of Herefordshire' by the Rev A.T.Bannister:-

KINNERSLEY

1123 - Chinardeslega

1575 - Kynnardsley

The lea (meadow) of Cyneheard (later Kennard). The burh (fortified place) on the brook.

SARNESFIELD

1086 - Sarnesfelde

1428 - Sarnesfield

Field of sorrow.

LETTON

1086 - Lectune

1431 - Nether Letton

Tun (enclosure), homestead, farm - later hamlet, village, town) on the leat (water channel).

NORTON CANON

1086 to 1341 - Nortune

North-town belonging to Dean and Chapter of Hereford.

BROBURY

1086 - Brocheberie

1341 - Brokbury

The burh (fortified place) on the brook.

STAUNTON-ON-WYE

1086 - Standune

1341 - Staundon

Stone-built tun (as above for Letton).

MONNINGTON-ON-WYE

1086 - Manitune

1391 - Monyton

Tun (as above for Letton) of Mann, Manna or Manni (person's name?).

MOORHAMPTON

1341 - Moramptone

Moor (wasteland) ham (homestead) tun (as above for Letton).

It can readily be understood how the spelling of place names altered so drastically during the early years when the written word was not widely used and even today one can occasionally detect slight change. For example in this area the name Mansel (hill on which the mallow grows) appears on old maps, gravestones, milestones, etc and is a spelling still used by the local district council and some residents; but is shown as Mansell maps and road signs.

Ron Leighton

BY THEIR CLICHÉS SHALL YE KNOW THEM

How easy and amusing it is to look back across the years and remember people by the phrases that used to trip so regularly from their lips. Words like these can evoke stronger memories than the best of photographs. Here are some of our favourites:-

- It's as broad as it's long
- It all goes to show
- You are never too old to learn
- It never rains but it pours
- There's no harm in trying
- You are only young once
- What I always say is that ----
- He's too clever by half
- If you can't beat 'em - join 'em
- It takes all sorts

Have we missed any ?

OBITUARY

We regret to announce the death, which occurred very suddenly on April 13th, of Mr Colin Jones of Bridewell, Staunton on Wye.

Mr Jones had lived in Staunton all his life and was for many years a railwayman, working at Moorhampton station on the Hereford-Hay line. After the closure of the railway he became a forester on the Garnons estate and worked there for some years before retiring due to ill-health.

Trees were, in fact, his main interest, and he had a wide knowledge of tree cultivation and care. He also operated a smallholding at his home.

We extend our deepest sympathy to his family.

WEOBLEY AND DISTRICT LOCAL
HISTORY SOCIETY

AN Historical Quiz can be a daunting challenge to the enthusiastic local historian but one bravely faced by the teams of Kington and Hereford History Societies at the latter's March meeting.

Secretly relieved that they were not called upon to respond, the audience was able to relax and enjoy the spate of questions being fired by Mrs Jean O'Donnell at their representatives on the platform. As compiler and interrogator her questions on Herefordshire and the Welsh Borders, both local and general, pointed up the many gaps in our knowledge of this subject and proved to be a chastening albeit rewarding experience.

A well deserved final lead of 3½ points gave Kington the victory and an unexpected prize of a book token for their library.

After the AGM on April 23 activities will be in the nature of external visits and 'Signal' readers will be informed of these from time to time.

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ARROWVALE WINE CLUB

We have two meetings to report. In March Frank Rainbird's "Adventures with a camera" showed us intriguing photographic byways open to everyone willing to experiment with his camera.

The vicissitudes of life as High Commissioner in one of the few surviving Outposts of Empire were the subject of a talk given at the April meeting by Mr D K Middleton of Ledge-more. Before retirement Mr Middleton was for some years British High Commissioner in Papua and New Guinea, and his experiences in what was until quite recently one of the most undeveloped parts of the Commonwealth were highly entertaining.

As number two in the hierarchy under the Governor General Mr Middleton's duties were many and varied. The political angle was the one with which he was mainly concerned, but there were many sidelines, ranging from looking after the welfare of British subjects residing in the territory to organising tours for overseas visitors. Among the latter which Mr Middleton detailed was a most diverting account of a tour by a Yorkshire amateur rugby league team who found the occasionally primitive arrangements for the tour a far cry from the fleshpots of European civilisation.

Mr Middleton concluded his talk by passing round various examples of local craftsmanship, of which by far the most interesting item was the elaborate medal awarded to him on retirement, of which only two other examples exist - one of them presented to Prince Charles when he visited the territory while at school in Australia.

Anyone interested? If so, come along to our next meeting on Thursday 1st May.

If someone tells you he is going to make 'a realistic decision', you immediately understand that he has resolved to do something bad.

Mary McCarthy

The Turbulent Lords

AN EPISODE OF

STAUNTON-ON-WYE HISTORY

by

RICHARD PANTALL



AT the time of the Norman Conquest 1066, the Parish of Staunton-on-Wye was known by the Saxon name of Stantune, which means 'A Stony Hill' - yet there are no deposits of stone and only sporadic bands of gravel with beds of sand, otherwise the soil is strong deep loam. Later variants of the name were Staundon, Standon, Standun, Stantun and Stanton upon Wye. Staunton-on-Arrow was called 'Standune.'

After the Conquest, the Parish, one of sixty five Lordships, was given to Walter de Lacy, who on his death in 1084 was succeeded by his son Roger de Lacy. Roger was banished from the country in 1101 and his properties went to his brother Hugh, but the earliest Lords were the Pichards, or Pychards of Ocle Pychard. In 1200 Sir Milo Pychard of Staunton-on-Wye, whose ancestor was a Norman Knight, was Justice Itinerant A Circuit or Travelling Higher Court Judge who took the more serious cases. Milo and Roger were common names used in the succession of this ancient family. As well as owning the land they were in their turn Lords of the Manor.

Milo Pychard succeeded his father Sir Roger in 1291, and obtained not only the right of Free Warren (the right to keep and hunt game, especially hares and rabbits) in Staunton-on-Wye, but in 1294 he procured the grant of a market on Mondays and a fair during five consecutive days at the anniversary of Sta. George the Martyr. As owner of the land in the Parish he was summoned in 1297 to give military service for the King against King Robert the Bruce in Scotland. In 1302 he was chosen M.P. for Herefordshire.

Patent Rolls (173-4). 25th June, 1309. Commission of oyer and terminer to Henry Spigurnal and William de Colneye, on complaint by Miles Pychard that Walter de Baskerville assailed him at Over Letton, co. Hereford, and that Peter le Taillur, constable of the castle of Richard de Baskerville of Ardesleye, Walter Cote, Richard fiz le Vikere of Ardesleye, and Phillip son of Juliana, with others issuing from that castle, approached

his manor of Staundon, broke the doors and locks of his house, killed Richard de Shorham whom they found there, and afterwards returned to the castle.

Note: A Commission of oyer and terminer was issued to certain judges of the High Court and other persons as their authority to inquire, hear and determine all treasons, felonies and misdemeanours committed within the County in which they were sent. They must first 'inquire' before they can 'hear and determine.'

There is no available record of the nature of the assault on Sir Milo Pychard, Lord of the Manor of Staunton-on-Wye, by Sir Walter Baskerville, brother of Sir Richard Baskerville of Eardisley Castle, or of the Commission's findings.

In 1316 Sir Milo was certified in the Parliamentary Return to be Lord of the Township of Standun. He died in 1319, in which year his son Roger was elected M.P. for the county and, as Sir Roger, he was re-elected again in 1324. He had two sons, one of whom Thomas, became Lord of Standun in 1339, and as Sheriff in 1348-50 he was one of three collectors in Herefordshire of aid for making the Black Prince a Knight.

In 1352 on the death of Thomas Pychard, the Lordship of the Manor of Staunton-on-Wye was settled on his daughter Joanna, who had married Edmund Brugge of Over Letton in 1317. They had one son John, who succeeded to the property in 1386, and whose issue was an only daughter Elizabeth.

The families were less war-like ninety years later in 1405, when the great-great-granddaughter of Sir Milo Pychard, Elizabeth Brugge of Over Letton, married the great-great-grandson of Sir Richard Baskerville, Sir John Baskerville of Eardisley Castle, conveying to him the Lordships of the Manors of Staunton-on-Wye, Staunton Blisse, Kilkington and Over Letton, with all the relevant houses, buildings and land, whose estate they were to remain part of until 1615.

Their son Sir John Baskerville (No. 2) married Elizabeth, daughter of Lord Audley of Monnington Manor. In 1448 on complaint by her to Archbishop Stafford of her husband's misconduct, the Bishop of Hereford was directed to institute proceedings against Sir John Baskerville and one Joanne Brayne 'both of whom, being married persons, were living together in adultery.'

Sir John's son James Baskerville was made a Knight Banneret on the field in reward for his valour after the great battle of Stoke, near Newark, 1487, when the Lancastrians under the Earl of Richmond (later King Henry VII) defeated the Yorkists under King Richard, who was killed on the Field.

Men will always be mad and those who think they can cure them are the maddest of all.

Voltaire

Blessed is he who expects nothing, for he shall never be disappointed.

Alexander Pope

There is one advantage of being poor - a doctor will cure you faster.

Kim Hubbard

We may see the small value God has for riches by the people he gives them to.

Alexander Pope

ST. MARY'S, STAUNTON-ON-WYE
CHURCHYARD FUND

I would like to thank Mrs Sandford (Sandy) for the beautiful simnel cake which she so generously gave to be raffled. The amount raised was £34. Thanks also to Gill and Bob Doody, who so kindly arranged the sale of tickets etc. for the draw. The cake was won by Gill who gave it back to be auctioned. This brought in a further £12, making the total sum raised £46.

The box placed in the shop for donations brought in £15.80. I am most grateful to all those who helped in so many different ways.

Phyllis McCann

STAUNTON-ON-WYE FORGET-ME-NOT CLUB

The club's spring outing to Bourton-on-the-Water will take place on Tuesday May 13th. Anyone who would like to join us please contact Mrs Kinsey, phone Moccas 435.

A total of £128 was raised from the very successful jumble sale held on April 12th. Our grateful thanks go to all those who gave it their support.

LOCAL TOWNSHIPS PLEASE COPY?

RECENTLY I stayed with an ex-army friend of mine - now aged 83. On the following morning I asked what he would be doing during the day. He said "street cleaning" which took me aback, to put it mildly.

The explanation was that his town, Leatherhead, has a society which has, with the co-operation of the Council, organised a scheme whereby a number of volunteers collect rubbish from a street of their choice and place it in a plastic bag supplied by the council. 25p is paid by the Council for each full bag. The bags are collected and the money divided equally between two local charities. This our friend does twice a year.

The most disappointing response to volunteers for this scheme has been from sixth form schoolchildren.

Rose Whalley

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION, EARDISLEY BRANCH

The April monthly meeting was well attended. Silence was observed for the death of C.A. Hunt of Hereford, late of Newton Cottage and The Sallies, Kinnersley. Arthur Hunt had been a member since 1944, and during his membership had held the offices of Branch Chairman, Chairman of the Service Committee, Branch and County Hospital Visitor, County and Executive Committee, also Assistant Poppy Organiser for the County. He received the County Certificate of Appreciation in 1961, Life Membership in 1970 and the Legion Gold Badge in 1972. His services to the Legion will be greatly missed.

On the business side, it was agreed to give help to Crosfield House R.B.L. Residential Home, Rhayader. The Secretary and Poppy Organiser agreed to run a bingo session, which realised £131.09. This sum was handed over to the Branch to make a combined effort, and it was agreed to buy two television sets.

The official opening of Crosfield House will be made by H.R.H. Princess Margaret on June 5th.

Somebody's boring me. . . I think it's me.

Dylan Thomas

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BIRTHDAYS

A very happy birthday to:-

Norton Canon

Christopher Dyer	7th May
Caroline Watson	17th "
Craig Lane	25th "
Rebecca Goodwin	27th "
Rhiannon Jones	29th "

Moorhampton

Jane Powell	30th "
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Kinnersley

Peter Jarrett	9th "
Ben Corbett (Sallies)	20th "

Letton

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

Staunton-on-Wye

Katie Bradford	6th "
Donna Harris	22nd "
Victoria Powell	24th "

Congratulations to Mr and Mrs Martin Powell of Fair Winds, Norton Canon, on the birth of a daughter on April 1st.

NORTON CANON LADIES' SOCIAL CLUB

In spite of the enforced absence of some of the Norton Wood members, the April meeting was a great success, with about twenty ladies present to watch Brian Stevenson's slides of Africa.

The May meeting on May 12th should be very entertaining. We are to meet outside the main gates of the R.A.F. Credenhill camp at 7.40. Once inside, one of the chefs will demonstrate cake decoration. Afterwards we hope to go to the Priory at Stretton Sugwas for a drink of coffee.

Anyone likely to have transport problems should contact Mavis Stevenson at Moorhampton Store (phone 318274).

Church Notices

MAY

Sarnesfield

10.00am	11th	Holy Communion
	25th	Morning Prayer

Norton Canon

9.00am	4th	Holy Communion
	11th	Morning Prayer
	18th	Holy Communion
	25th	Family Service

Staunton

11.00am	4th	Holy Communion
	11th	Morning Prayer
	18th	Holy Communion

Byford

9.30am	4th	Holy Communion
6.30pm	18th	Evening Prayer
10.00am	25th	Family Service

Monnington

9.30am	11th	Holy Communion
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Letton

11.00am	11th	Family Service
6.00pm	25th	Holy Communion

Kinnersley

10.00am	4th	Holy Communion
		(Rogation Sunday)
	8th	Holy Communion
		(Ascension Day)
	11th	Morning Prayer
	18th	Holy Communion
		(Whit Sunday)
	25th	Family Service
	June 1st	Holy Communion

OTHER EVENTS

May 3rd Faith on Fire Activity and Study Day for all ages on the CMS Project on Singapore. 10.15-3.45 at the Willow Gallery, Weobley.

May 6th Wardens' Council for the Weobley Group of Parishes. 7.30pm Willow Gallery, Weobley. Speaker: Canon Paul Iles.

May 12th 7.45pm Norton Canon School Governors.

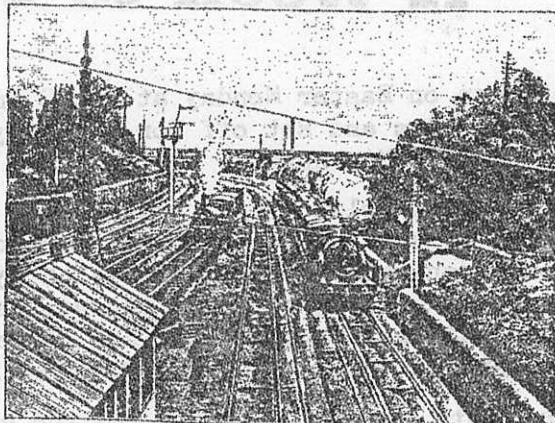
May 20th 7.30pm Penance Service at Kington Church House. Speaker: Rev. Stephen Parsons.

May 27th 7.45pm Norton Canon PCC.

A Train Tale

by

RAILWAY BUFF



THE leader in last month's 'Signal' headed 'Say Something - if it's only Good-bye' has prompted me to retail the following strange story, which was told by a member of the Weobley Train Spotters' Guild at a recent meeting.

He was one of the founder members, in his late eighties, and he related a strange occurrence that befell his father many years previously on a train journey from Hereford to Worcester.

'My father', he said, 'had had a good day at the races so he thought he'd treat himself to a first class ticket home. If he imagined that this luxury entitled him to solitary seclusion he was soon to be disillusioned because, before the journey started, he found himself with four travelling companions. All were well dressed and self-contained and, except for a perfunctory nod on entry, no words were exchanged. All sat in silence and thought their own thoughts.

'Except one. He was possibly the best dressed of them all and, after putting away his expensive-looking briefcase, sat expectantly with a leather-bound bag on his lap marked with a golden G.

As soon as the train started its run through green fields he rose from his seat and, with a smiling apology to his silent companions, pulled down the window and threw out half the contents of his bag. This task accomplished, he shut the window, returned to his seat with the half-filled bag on his lap, closed his eyes and seemed oblivious to the puzzled stares of his companions. The man sitting opposite, however, could contain his curiosity no longer and leaning across asked 'Excuse me, sir, but could you tell me what it is that you have just ejected from the window?' The man opened his eyes slowly and before closing them again said 'Oh, certainly - it's glommerlog' and returned to his somnolent posture.

'It could only have been another quarter of an hour before the strange man opened his eyes again, and, walking over to the opposite window, poured out all his remaining glommerlog. As he sat down to prepare himself for another nap one of his other companions - this time a woman - asked hesitantly 'I've heard you tell the gentleman there that what you have been throwing out of the window is called glommerlog. But what exactly is glommerlog?' It was with an almost bored air that the man replied 'Goodness, but I thought everyone knew that glommerlog is unrivalled as a humane killer of stampeding elephants.

'The stupefaction that this response evoked in his four travelling companions was profound and it was only at this late stage with the train soon to approach Worcester that my father plucked up enough courage to state 'I'm afraid, sir, that I have to inform you that in Herefordshire there are no stampeding elephants'. The strange man replied, not a bit nonplussed, 'Now, right you are, sir. Just goes to prove how damned effective this glommerlog is'.

'An odd and puzzling tale which stayed in my father's memory till the end of his days'.

A Week to Remember

It all began on Easter Monday at 11.30 am when we picked up the girls from the Three Horseshoes and set off for a family trip to the Spring Harvest at Butlin's Holiday Camp at Minehead.

Our vicar, Colin Sneyd, had been on at me for the past two years to go to the Spring Harvest so this year we agreed to go and see what it was like. I admit I only consented more or less with my tongue in my cheek and was wondering if everyone was going to enjoy the week's stay. In fact, I was quite prepared to return half-way through as I had a feeling that by that time everyone would have had enough. But it turned out to be a week to remember.

Our route was via Monmouth and the Severn Bridge on to the M5 as far as Bridgewater, from which it was 28 miles to Minehead. Almost as soon as we left Bridgewater the traffic started to pile up and before long we were in a queue with no end in sight. Our first reaction was that there must have been an accident somewhere ahead, and then someone suggested that they were all going to the Spring Harvest. This seemed quite impossible, but, believe it or not, that was exactly where they were all going. We had planned to arrive at the camp about 4 pm but due to the hold-up it was 6.30 by the time we got there.

We were booked into a self-catering chalet and found it quite comfortable - nothing very posh, but we reckoned it would do us for the week. Everything was very well organised. There was a special programme for the 12 to 14 age group (the girls fitted very nicely into this) for which they had to report at 'Busby's' by 9.15 am, so all we had to do was to find out where and what 'Busby's' was.

For the adults there were seminars and bible readings during the morning which Betty and I attended. This may sound rather dull but, believe me, it was nothing of the kind. The speakers were excellent and as for the singing - well, I have never heard anything like it. Cardiff Arms Park would have taken second place to it, and that's saying something!

There must have been well over a thousand people at each seminar and bible reading, and it was estimated that in all there were some 9,000 people in the camp, all with the same object - worship. In the afternoons the girls would go off to the fair or swimming bath while we, after a short rest, would walk round the various exhibitions put on to show what was being done by the church for the peoples of the Third World and others in need of help. The girls found their own amusements in the evenings, and although I never managed to find out what it was all about they seemed to enjoy themselves. We adults went to Harvest Celebration every evening, and the singing here was, if possible, even better than it had been in the morning. It is quite impossible to describe the atmosphere at these get-togethers - they had to be experienced.

Thursday was a free day, apart from an evening celebration, and we spent the day at Arlington Court, bequeathed with its surrounding 3,000 acres to the National Trust by its owner, Miss Chichester. One of her hobbies was collecting sea shells and there were specimens on view from all over the world, displayed in a quite fantastic way.

At the end of the week it was quite an effort to return to the cold, hard world of reality, as we hadn't even thought of it during the whole time. We had only occasionally bothered to hear the news on radio or TV and when we bought a newspaper it was only for the crossword. What did we get out of it? It is difficult to say, but we were all very glad we went and we shall very likely go again next year.

What really flatters a man is that you think him worth flattering.

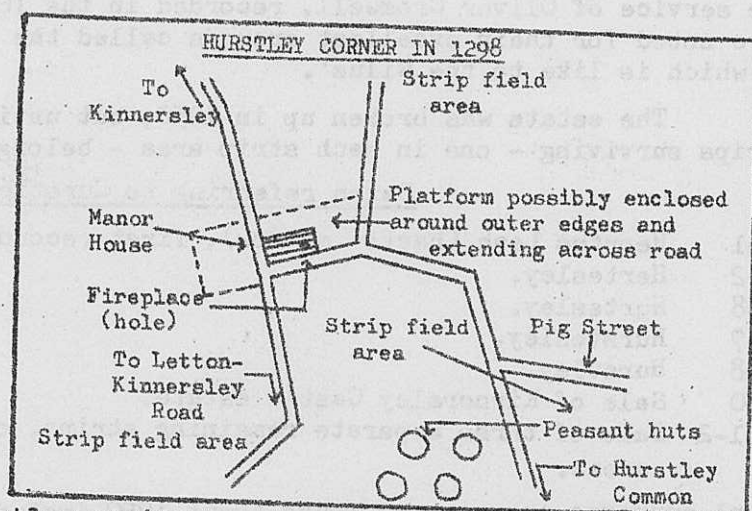
Christianity has done a great deal for love by making a sin of it.

George Bernard Shaw

Anatole France

A History of Hurstley

by
GWEN TURVILL



SOME years after we came to Hurstley spring was very late, with cattle still in, no hay and no bedding. We had to buy hay, but not bedding because Bill scraped the barn floor for the last bit of straw. It was while doing this that he came upon a circle of about thirty inches in diameter, just off the middle of what is now the hay barn. It was a saucer-like depression filled with little stones. As children we had been told that before Norman times there had been a preaching cross at our corner of Hurstley, so we took it to be the site of that cross.

One day a friend called and took us out for the day. We went to see the fortified Norman manor house at Stokesay in Shropshire, and it was there that we noticed that the site of the hearth fire was in much the same position in relation to the great hall as was the circle at Hurstley. It was about the same size, too. Back home, we looked around the barn again. Most of it was Elizabethan, but the stone foundation was in two sections, one (where the circle was) being similar in size to that in the main hall at Stokesay. There is an old stone wall portion forming the southern wall of the old stable which seems out of place in a brick and timber structure and looks as if it is part of an earlier wall. In addition, the slit windows fan out into the stable in the same manner as do the slit windows at Stokesay. It all appears to be Norman in origin.

I've had more time on my hands this year and have spent some of it at the County Library and County Records Office. From these sources I have discovered that there was a Norman manor at Hurstley of about 480 acres, bounded by brooks - the kind that was lived in and managed by the lord of the manor, one of the lesser fry and not to be compared with the more exalted lords. This barn could have been the original manor house - a simple affair of a main great hall to the east and smaller private quarters to the west. Across the road from the barn was a well, and from the barn roads went in four directions, one down the lane by Hurstley Court through to the Kinnersley-Letton road, and a second almost parallel to it down to Hurstley wood. The common grazing started from the corner of Mr Skyrme's small orchard and went on down Pig Street to Norton Wood. The road was flanked by strip fields because it was the practice on Norman times. Norton's wood was where the swineherds tended their pigs. Below Little Hurstley is a dry field where there are indications of the platforms on which the peasant people built their huts.

Nearly all of the existing houses originate from the Elizabethan period onwards, from 1560 to 1700. The two houses on the corner were timber-framed and built in T-form, with the main room and service quarters in the stem and the private quarters in the cross piece. Hurstley Court was modified and extended about 1700. There were four houses in the Hurstley Wood area - three in the lane and one across the road. Each house had its parcel of orcharding, the size reflecting the size of the holding. A cider mill is still in use at Little Hurstley and wild hops indicate that brewing went on in the various cellars.

From 'A History of Manors' (1872) it is stated that Hurstley was a distinct manor, still attached to the Kinnersley Castle estate and held anciently

under the Baskervilles by the family of Hurtesley. Silas Taylor, an officer in the service of Oliver Cromwell, recorded in the 1650s that 'the lands of Hurstley were noted for their excellent grounds called the Letton Townsends, the fertility of which is like to the Nilus'.

The estate was broken up in 1950, but until 1952 there were still three strips surviving - one in each strip area - belonging to Mr George Williams.

Dates referring to Hurstley

- 1151 Heortes Leah (harts' meadow), first recording.
- 1242 Hertesley.
- 1298 Hurtesley.
- 1547 Hurstesley.
- 1558 Hurstley.
- 1950 Sale of Kinnersley Castle estate.
- 1951-2 Sale of three separate remaining strips, one from each of stripfield areas.

Local surnames cropping up round about 1750 included Cartwright, Hargest, Jenkins, Kedward, Murrel, Pantall and Taylor. Field names denoting Saxon origin include The Stocken, The Ox Pasture, and among surviving relics are swords at Little Hurstley, spinning spools at Hurstley House Farm and a possible flint tool at Little Hurstley.

LEARNING CAN BE FUN

A visit to the Hill Residential College, Abergavenny was one of the most pleasant experiences I have had.

The Courses - mid-week & weekends - have widely varied subjects e.g.: languages, drawing cartoons, rambling, the railways of Wales, painting, singing for pleasure, the creative computer - to mention just a few. These are at all levels of knowledge and there are usually three or four courses running at the same time.

For the week-end course you arrive at the College about 6 pm on a Friday and after getting installed in your room, proceed to the bar to meet the other students. Dinner is at 7 pm after which the various courses start. Students get acquainted with each other and are almost immediately on Christian name terms. At 9.30 pm one is free to go to the bar, recreation rooms, library or walk around the lovely grounds and countryside.

Saturday morning begins with breakfast at 8.30am, 9.30-11am tuition. 11am coffee. 11.20 - 12.30 tuition. 1pm lunch. 2-4pm free to rest after all your hard work. 4pm tea. 4.30 - 6pm tuition. 7pm dinner. 8.15pm - 9.30 tuition.

Sunday morning 9am breakfast. 9.45 - 11am tuition. 11am coffee. 11.20 - 12.30 tuition. 1pm lunch. 2.15 - 3pm tuition. Then goodbye.

The meals are excellent, service friendly, rooms warm and comfortable and the cost minimal.

The tutors all stress that this is leisure learning and you are there to enjoy yourself. Meeting so many different people among the other students is an additional pleasure. It's quite funny on the first evening trying to decide mentally which course all the other people are on - and almost always you are wrong. On one occasion when I was doing Intermediate level French conversation a man came up to me and asked if I would settle a bet for him and his fellow course members - 'What course were we doing?' I told him and hoped my reply would settle the bet. He said 'No, they had all thought we were Honiton lace makers!' Next morning I came down in checked shirt, trousers and sandals to help kill the image.

If only my schooldays had been like this.

Rose Whalley