

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

NO.58

MAY 1987

PRICE 12P

Strange Coincidences

PRESIDENTS LINCOLN AND KENNEDY

BOTH Presidents were concerned with the issue of civil rights with Lincoln elected in 1860 and Kennedy in 1960. The coincidences are:

- Both were assassinated on a Friday.
- In each case in the presence of their wives.
- Both were shot from behind and in the head. 2.
- Both their successors were named Johnson. 3.
- Each Johnson were southern democrats and were senators.
- Andrew Johnson (Lincoln's successor) was born in 1808 while Lyndon Johnson (Kennedy's successor) was born
- John Wilkes Booth (Lincoln's assassin) was born in 1839, while Lee Harvey Osward (Kennedy's assassin) was born 7.
- Both Booth and Oswald were killed before going to trial. 8.
- Lincoln's secretary (whose name was Kennedy) advised him not to go to the theatre while Kennedy's secretary (whose name was Lincoln) advised him not to go to Dallas.
- Booth shot Lincoln in a theatre and ran to a warehouse while Oswald shot Kennedy from a warehouse and ran to 10.
- The names of Lincoln and Kennedy each contain seven letters. 77.
- The names Andrew Johnson and Lyndon Johnson each contain 12.
- thirteen letters. The names John Wilkes Booth and Lee Harvey Oswald each 13. contain fifteen letters.

from Geoff Norman.

(Extracted from the Card Index of Knowledge - Look and Learn No. 320)

PLEASE NOTE THAT COPY FOR THE JUNE 1987 ISSUE OF 'SIGNAL' SHOULD REACH TRISANNA, STAUNTON-ON-WYE (PHONE MOCCAS 517) NOT LATER THAN MONDAY 11TH MAY 1987.

Norton Canon Ladies' Social Club

APRIL'S meeting showed us how much or how little we care for our health. Thanks to Pat and Derek Shaw and their friend Mr. Dean, we had a most enlightening and entertaining film on how 'Herbalife' came about.

About 22 members attended and I'm sure we were all a little more knowledgeable healthwise at the end of the evening.

All members who are going next month fo 'Evita' should now know their pick up points for the coach. If not, will they please ring Rita on 318306.

See you then.

STAUNTON-ON-WYE SCHOOL

A Mother and Toddler Group meets at the school every Thursday afternoon from 2 pm till 3 pm. The meetings are held in the playgroup room with full use of all toys and facilities.

Come and join us and meet other mums over a cup of coffee while the children are playing.

We send our best wishes for a speedy recovery to Mr Jim Morgan of Box Tree Cottage, Staunton-on-Wye, who has recently returned to hospital for further treatment.

The British tourist is always happy abroad so long as the natives are waiters.

Robert Morley

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J. Langmead.

Obituary

GODFREY DAVIES

Mr Godfrey Davies, one of the most prominent personalities in Eardisley and district, died very suddenly on March 31st.

He had for many years been secretary of the Eardisley and District Branch of the Royal British Legion and was a tireless worker on its behalf. Not only did he play a leading part in the running of the branch, but he regularly represented it at district, county and national British Legion functions.

Perhaps his most valuable work for the branch was his organisation of fund raising for the Eardisley and District Poppy Appeal, for which he was successful in raising many thousands of pounds over the years.

Before retirement he was well known in the area as a trader who. travelled many miles over the local countryside delivering supplies to the more remote districts. Unselfish service was, without doubt, his main aim in life and he will be sadly missed by all who knew him.

There was a very large congregation present at his funeral in Eardisley church, at which a group of his British Legion comrades formed a guard of honour.

We extend our deepest sympathy to his widow and family.

EARDISLEY AND DISTRICT POPPY APPEAL

Owing to the sudden death of Mr Godfrey Davies it is regretted that, for the time being, there will be no further bingo sessions for the above in Eardisley Village Hall.

SIGNAL'S A.G.M.

PLEASE bring your own chair to our Annual General Meeting which will be held on FRIDAY, 22nd MAY, 1987 at Moorhampton Lake commencing at 7.45 p.m.

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

If you are interested in helping in the production or delivery of 'Signal' please contact Rod Kilvert, tel: Weobley 318306.

DO COME

TO 'Signal's' Wine and Cheese gathering at Moorhampton Lake (by kind permission of H.P. Bulmer Ltd.) on Friday, the 22nd May. This is a very informal get-together after our AGM. Please bring a little food; we will have wine but bring your own if you wish. See the AGM notice for time and don't forget a chair!

ARROWVALE WINE CLUB

The highlight of the club's April meeting was a demonstration of cooking in wine given by Mrs Searle of the Hereford College of Agriculture. Mrs Searle came equipped with a comprehensive array of saucepans and an electric stove on which she cooked, in the space of an hour, a four-course meal which had every member drooling at the mouth in anticipation. Several members of Mrs Searle's audience have already tried the menus out for themselves.

The May meeting will be the annual members' wine assessment and keen competition for the championship is expected.

CHRISTIAN AID

A Coffee Morning will be held at Greenfields, Norton Canon on Tuesday, 12th May, 1987 at 10.30 am - 12 noon.

Bring and Buy

STAUNTON-ON-WYE FORGET-ME-NOT CLUB

The club is organising a coach trip to Bridgmorth and the Clee Hills on Tuesday May 12th. The coach will leave Staunton village hall at 10.30 am and there will be a stop for tea at Ludlow on the return journey.

The charge is £2.50 per head and there are still a few seats available. Anybody interested please contact Mrs Kinsey, phone Moccas 435.

EASTER APPEAL

The Parochial Church Council of St. Mary's Church, Staunton-on-Wye, extends grateful thanks to all parishioners who have contributed so generously to the Easter Appeal.

At the time of writing over £300 has so far been received and contributions are still coming in.

Money can't buy friends, but you can get a better class of enemy.

Spike Milligan

Canon Motors

(Brian Robbins)

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Weobley and District Local History Society

As enthusiasts well know, the writings of Francis Kilvert are liberally strewn with examples of his keen observation of natural phenomena both animate and inanimate and this aptitude was evident when Mr. R. Watts of the Kilvert Society spoke to the meeting on the subject of Kilvert and his diaries.

Before illustrating the many facets of a Victorian curate's life in the depths of rural England/Wales with readings from these day-to-day chronicles, some historical enlightenment was forthcoming re their publication in the late thirties and early forties of this century. Three volumes might seem a fairly generous helping of local history but it was tantalising to learn that sixty or so years after they were written William Plomer judged two-thirds of Kilvert's output of insufficient literary interest to warrant preservation in print and thus a large corpus of work was irretrievably lost.

Nevertheless enough entries from the diaries survived in book form to give great pleasure to thousands of readers over the last half century both for the descriptions of a country-side well-known to many and for the unaffected observations on life as lived therein.

The last meeting of the Winter programme will be on 22nd April at 7.30 p.m. at the Willoa Gallery when the Annual General Meeting will be held and to which members are urged to bend their thoughts as many important matters will be decided.

Anybody who goes to see a psychiatrist ought to have his head examined.

Samuel Goldwyn

Weobley Conservative Association

invite you to a

PROGRESSIVE SUPPER

on Friday May 15th, 1987

Tickets: - £5, including a glass of sherry and a glass of wine.

Available from......The Forge Craft Shop, Back Lane

Williams, Butcher

Miss Miller, phone 318715

CAKE AND PLANT STALL

on Saturday, 23rd May 1987 at 10 am Little Croft, Broad Street

Advance Notice: -

PIG AND APPLE PARTY

July 31st Mellington House 7.30 pm Peter Temple-Morris, M.P. will be there:

DON'T lose your vote if you are going on holiday in June or September. Forms for Postal or Proxy (if you will be abroad) votes are now available from Committee members or the Office.

May in the Garden

THE old adage says 'March winds and April showers brings forth May flowers: and in spite of the cold and very wet Spring the gardens are now showing some delightful colour but there is still plenty of work to be done if you are to get the best out

Brantoff driff

Herbaceous border plants will be growing rapidly. Take the of your garden. opportunity to tidy the border, thin the shoots if necessary. Stake border plants before they get too large, use individual canes for tall plants such as delphiniums. Most plants can be staked effectively with twiggy brushwood (pea sticks) the tops and the plants will grow through them hiding the twigs. Mulch the border when the ground is moist, concentrate around plants vulnerable to dry soil. Apply a general fertiliser such

Fill gaps in the border with dahlias, annual or bedding plants when all dangers of frost are past. Lift and discard Spring bedding plants, Bellis, bulbs and polyanthus can be saved for another year by laying them in a shallow trench and covering the roots with soil. Dig the ground thoroughly working in manure or compost, tread down, rake level and apply a general fertiliser.

Clip back early flowering rock plants such as arabis and aubretia in early May, later in the month cuttings can be taken from the young growths that will be produced. Weeds in the rock garden should be kept under control by handing weeding if nece-

Sow biennials such as canterbury bells, myositis (forget-me-

nots,) polyanthus and sweet williams.

growth

Sow perennials such as delphiniums and lupins.

Prune early flowering shrubs (if not already done.) Lilacs should be pruned immediately after flowering. Disbud roses if individual blooms of high quality are required. Remove secondary It is always worth mulching to conserve moisture and keep buds. down weeds.

Bulbs in overcrowded clumps, such as crocus, irises, narcissi

and tulips can be lifted and divided towards the end of May.

Plant chrysanthemums. Container grown shrubs can be planted but make sure the root ball is thoroughly moist and water until growing strongly.

Ponds can be restocked or a new one made. 100 ylon ma After flowering thin out clematis montana, take out some of

the old wood.

Spray roses with a combined fungicide and insecticide, feed

Most important, when the lovely sunny days are here get out a chair and sit and enjoy watching the plants grow.

One Green Finger

Contributors! -Oh, Contributors!

SINCE we have only had one response to our request for comment regarding the quality and relevance of 'Signal' material and that one complimentary - may we assume that you all now believe us to be on the right track? Should you, however, in the future ever wish to change your minds we do hope that you will write and let us have your ideas. The Editors

Church Notices

SERVICES DURING MAY Sarnesfield

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

Norton Canon

3rd 9 am Holy Communion 10 th 9 am Morning Prayer 17th 9 am Holy Communion and Baptisms 9 am Family Service with special preacher 24 th Capt. Green from Church Army

Staunton-on-Wye

3rd 11 am Holy Communion 10th 11 am Morning Prayer 17th 11 am Holy Communion

Byford

3rd 9.30 am Holy Communion 17th 6.30 pm Evening Prayer 24th 10 am Family Service 31 st 10.30 am Holy Communion (Group Service)

Monnington-on-Wye

10th 9.30 am Holy Communion

Letton

10th 11 am Family Service 24th 6 pm Evening Prayer David Lowe

<u>Kinnersley</u>

3rd 10 am Holy Communion 10th 10 am Mattins 17th 10 am Holy Communion 24th 10 am Rogation Sunday Service 28th 10 am Holy Communion (Ascension Day)

31st 6.30 pm Combined Service for the 14 parishes in this area with the Daybreak Singers.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

If there are people in Kinnersley who would like

to have a Sunday School at the Church, please would they get in touch with the churchwardens - Mr. John Davies and Mr. Ray Phillips.

Please make a note in your diaries and come to four evangelistic events which will be taking place at Lyonshall, Titley, Almeley and Kinnersley this year.

Thursday, 28th May at 7.30 pm there will be an Ascension Day service at Almeley church. The preacher will be the Rev Peter Wood and the subject 'Is there a God?' will be followed by discussion groups, and a children's corner.

On Friday, 29th May an Any Questions will be held at Titley Village Hall at 7.30 pm on the subject of Freedom.

You are invited to come and hear a singing group, watch a play about 'Peace' performed by the 'Borderliners,' and join in a barbecue at Lyonshall Memorial Hall and the field alongside, on Saturday, 30th May at 7.30 pm.

at 6.30 pm the Daybreak Singers will be performing and taking the service at Kinnersley church.

BIRTHDAYS

A VERY HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:

NORTON CANON

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

Staunton-on-Wye

Lynette Ridge

We extend belated greetings to Kathy Jones, who celebrated her 18th birthday on March 23rd.

Staunton-on-Wye Notes

As from 1st April, 1987 the Clerk to the Staunton-on-Wye Group Parish Council will be Mr. J. Phillips, 'Magdalen' Brobury, Herefordshire, tel: Moccas 470.

The Annual Parish Meeting of Staunton-on-Wye Parish will be held on Thursday, the 7th May, 1987 at the Village Hall, Staunton-on-Wye at 7.00 p.m.

There will be a meeting of Staunton-on-Wye Group Parish Council on Thursday, the 7th May, 1987 at the Village Hall, Staunton-on-Wye at 7.30 p.m. Ms. Alison Rawsthorne will give a talk on the 'Leominster Marches Local Plan.

Work is commencing on this local plan which covers these parishes and she would be pleased to discuss current problems and issues.

Members of the public are welcome.

Staunton-on-Wye Primary School is setting up a small Nature Conservancy Area within the sist of a pool, with an area

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for marsh flowers and associated fauna - the pond being specifically for native pond There will be an species. area for 'creepy crawlies,' and shrubs and trees will be planted with the attraction of butterflies and birds as a major priority. It is also hoped to acquire some of the older species of trees native to Britain that are rarely seen now.

There is of course, great scope for involvement of the children in this project - both educationally and pleasurably. Perhaps too many people take for granted our heritage of natural beauty - how much more beautiful it is when seen

through a child's eyes.
The school has already been given a grant from the Nature Conservancy Council and have also received donations of nesting boxes, bird feeder and a bird table. There is still a long way to go and financial help is needed. Donations would be gratefully welcomed by Mrs. G. Jelfs, Pengrove, Stauntonschool grounds. This will con- on-Wye or Mrs. L. Coney, Windrush, Staunton-on-Wve.

WOULD YOU

CONTACT: Mrs P H Shaw

Conifers, Norton Canon

TELEPHONE: Weobley 318604 Weekdays after 5 o'clock or weekends.



They can't take this away from me

Lin Goodwin

MAYBE I'm sentimental - but I still experience pangs of sadness when I pass the Green. It is many year's ago since I went to live there with my pet hen, when I was five years old!

A place which has been one's home for so long is hard to forget and I still wish that the clock could be put back and everything was the same as it was before. I know that one should not dwell in the past and that the people who lived there are now happy in new homes, but it nevertheless, is a time gone.

I think it is awfully sad for anyone to leave a house, which they have laughed and cried in, a house which, somehow,

is part of one's very existence.

The day of the sale was like a dream to me. I remember walking up to the Green and seeing all the lines of implements etc. in the field and seeing the car park notices - I wondered how on earth I was going to face the day. Arriving there I walked through the house - empty and cold and somehow dejected and rejected.

My memories of it as a home have long since disappeared the DARK orchard, where the horse mushrooms grew in profusion underneath the trees, the old barn where the Reema houses now stand. The old building which was burnt down, proved to be a

marvellous place for hide and seek and coventry.

The King Cups, which grew at the bottom of the Chapel field and the 'island' between two ponds in that same field, where we spent endless happy hours and where Margaret Loxston drowned by Panda by sending him out on a home made raft!! The loo down the garden, the dairy where we used to bottle the milk to take around in the little green van. The endless shops, dens and houses we had in the granary, the old oak tree, the bales and the pig styes. The magic of seeing the combine circling the meadow in the dusk with the headlights full on. The joy of riding on the sledge at the back of the baler, and taking out a big whicker basket of sandwiches, cake and boiling hot tea to the Davises at harvest time. Climbing up the pig stye roof onto the high garden wall, sitting eating green apples and talking for hours on end. The orchard and the two huge walnut trees, the pear trees, Tommy the carthorse. The magical Christmases. starting off an our annual week's holiday to Borth, Easter, Grand National Day, Cup Final Day and various other insignificant days, were always an excuse for a party or a booze-up amongst the grown-ups. Everyone was welcome there.

It was always teeming with kids, ransacking the bales by making endless dens and passages, climbing all over the roofs of the buildings, smoking in the barn, borrowing hammers etc. and never returning them, picnicking by the pond.

Yes, the farm can be sold, the hedges ripped up, the ponds filled in and the orchard grubbed up - but one thing that will not character is my manager of an iduality childhood spent at the not change is my memory of an idyllic childhood spent at the Green.

Drovers' Roads

HERESAY has it that the Jarvis of the Jarvis charity was in some way connected with the drover trade mentioned in the April

This trade involved the moving of cattle from the rearing grounds in Wales, stretching from Carmarthen in the South to Aberystwyth in the north, to the growing grounds in Hereford, and then on to the fattening farms to the north and south of London. In the year 1800 as many as 200,000 head moved along these routes. Bunches of about 200 cattle were accompanied by an outrider on horseback in front, drover dealers, drovers and young boys and dogs followed alongside and behind on foot.

Movement was in stages of about 15 miles, each stage ending at an inn for sustance, outbuildings for sleep, a forge to shoe the cattle, and a penning field. The inn was sometimes called 'The Drovers Inn.' At Painscastle, where various roads converged.

there were as many as six inns.

There, the relics of the old forge can be seen across the road from the sole surviving inn. At Painscastle and at Cregynonn there are fields still called 'the halfpenny field,' so called because it was in those fields that the cattle were penned over night at a charge of a halfpenny a head. At Cregynonn the halfpenny field is reputed to be greener than any other field around organic fertility I hear you say.

The drover dealer was the master of ceremonies. He bought from the rearers, sold to the growers, then bought the bigger cattle from the growers. These he then moved Londonwards. The boys of one era became the drovers of the next but the dogs were retired early and sold to farmers to work out their declining

years in comparative ease.

I know an old man who remembers his grandfather saying 'If you want a good dog get him from a drover.' When the railways brought about the collapse of this droving trade there were youngsters who had the travel bug in their system. For years they walked the same route in the spring and in the autumn. As old men in the 1920's they still dropped in for the night in the old outbuildings at Wellersley, one of the old ports of call.

The roads were mud tracks which with the centuries of trekking became depressions in the natural terrain. Some are still visible

in the border counties and further west.

Owen Turvill

LOOKING BACK

Further reminiscences sent in by 'Signal' readers of life in Britain in former days.

LOOKING BACK - NOT SO LONG AGO

A recent Channel Four programme called 'Back to the Roots.' narrated by Phil Beabey, jogged my memory into a pastime that was lucrative and often enjoyable. The pastime was gathering herbs, wild flowers and roots for use presumably by the drugs industry of the day. Whether it continues along the same lines now is doubtful as I refer to the period 1951-1955 at Dunstable in Bedfordshire.

Pocket money was not hard to come by in those days if you used your initiative. For instance I delivered groceries on an old trade bicycle with a huge carrier in front of the handlebars and

a hoarding slung below the crossbar advertising 'World Stores' in white painted letters. Renumeration, 15 shillings per week and an occasional, very occasional, sixpenny tip for three evenings and a Saturday morning. Theother method I referred to was to collect any of the items displayed on the 'wanted list' attached to the entrance door of Flenmons and Marchant, chemist and wholesale herbalist. The shop was old fashioned and has probabably been modernised twice since then and it was situated in the High Street opposite the Town Hall.

Collecting was mainly a summer occupation especially during the long school summer holidays. It wasn't just children who indulged - adults would often become involved. I remember an old tramp who used to cart sackfuls of stinging nettles to the drying shed behind the shop, using an old child's pram. He received the princely sum of nine shillings per hundredweight for his troubles. The range needed by the chemist was very varied and the following is a sample, with the offered price by weight, which is as accurate

as I can recollect:

Stinging nettles 9/- per cwt Poppy petals - 1/- per 1b Goosegrass - 10/- " " Raspberry leaves - 9d " Horseradish root - 6d per 1b Ground ivy - 3d n Dandelion root 11 5d Greater Celandine - 6d Elderflower ** 3d 11 Yarrow

Earning the most money was learnt by experience. Many hours for instance could be spent picking a pound of poppy petals. Digging dandelion roots was back breaking so not really viable but elderflower picking was a different picture. Not only was it fun climbing the trees, if each picked floret had a nice long stalk it added to the overall weight. The only real drawback was the Longer stalks on the elderflower wasn't the only pungent smell!

ploy used to make up the weight.

All gatherings, no matter how small, were taken to a drying shed behind the shop. The first floor was used as the initial collecting point and access was gained by open wooden stairs. room was very spartan - it contained a set of sack scales and weights, various piles of drying herbs and leaves and had a permanent odour of dried mint. The workman in the shed was very pleasant with a ruddy complexion and always wore a cap. He appeared to us youngsters to spend most of his time hovering around the scales waiting for customers, though I expect he had other duties.

After he'd weighed a sack or bag he wrote out a small slip listing type and weight. The slip was later exchanged for cash in the shop. Most customers were asked to empty their own sacks after weighing which saved him the walk to the requisite pile. It also meant that he didn't discover the odd stone or clod of earth carefully secreted in our sacks. Needless to say this method of making up the weight didn't last long as we heard on the grapevine that other children had been caught red-handed, so we didn't take any further risks.

No furtures were ever made from our summertime occupation but many an interesting hour was spent. Whether those were the good old days remains a matter for debate but they were definately carefree days, which I'm sure now also served to improve our knowledge of botany and natural history.

Colin Green

I REMEMBER:

The advertisements in the London underground during and just after World War II.

The Wool Manufacturers Association came out with such offerings as:

The problem in a satellite
Is where to put the cat at night.
If you would keep your pet from harm
How can you keep poor pussy warm?
The answer reads on your computer —
A woolly overcoat will suit her.
From sheep to bleep all know the rule —
There is NO substitute for wool.

There was Edwin - a young man who had such a masterly grip of essentials that he never failed to ordera case of Watney's

well ahead of any undertaking.

The piece de resistance was 'Billy Brown of London Town' a bowler-hatted, umbrella-toting little man, who was constantly exhorting the public in rhyme to do what the relevant powers that be wanted them to do at any one time. Each door on the tube carriages bore the legend:

'Now lets all pass along says Billy To crowd the entrance up is silly.'

This gave commuting wags the opportunity to add their own twopennyworth, i.e.

Very nice without a doubt, But how the hell do we get out?

A. Aldhous

SOME NATIONAL DESCRIPTIONS

The Welsh

- are a race that pray on their knees on Sunday and on their neighbours for the rest of the week.

The Scots

- keep the Sabbath and everything else they can lay their hands on.

An Englishman

- is a self made man who worships his Maker.

An Irishman

- never knows what he wants and will never be happy until he gets it.

An American

- is a man who belongs to a race which has gone from barbarism to degeneracy without an intervening stage of civilisation.

A New Zealander

- is a man who is always trying to tell you he is not an Australian.

All English shop assistants are Miltomists. A Miltonist firmly believes that 'they also serve who only stand and wait'. There are only three basic jokes, but since the mother-in-law joke is not a joke but a very serious question, there are only two.

George Mikes

George Ade.

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