

THE SIGNAL

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

No. 42

NOVEMBER 1985

PRICE 12p

EDITORIAL

SIGNAL is now coming towards the end of yet another year and we need to take stock. We would very much like you to tell us how we are getting on. Do you think we are on the right lines? Are there areas in which we could do better? Which of the articles do you like? Which do you loathe? Are there any new themes or subjects which you think we should cover? When you read the Signal are you bored? If so, what bores you? Editorials like this?

Some would argue that it is only natural that contributors should form but a small part of the total readership but this doesn't stop us from wanting to hear something from all the rest of you out there. Do please therefore let us have some comments on the questions listed above - or, better still, points of your own we haven't even posed.

Finally, it is perhaps fitting that, at the suggestion of one of you, we have started in this issue a new series which we hope will prosper and encourage you to write to us. See 'In search of an answer.'

What's in a Book?

A REPLY BY MAIRION JONES

I would like to take the role of Devil's Advocate in order to reply to the article 'What's in a Book' in September's Signal.

There is more to life than the ability to read fluently. It is possible that people who are unable to read miss the genius of Shakespeare, the joy of a well-written novel, and lots more, but some of the most interesting and stimulating people I have known, have never been able to come to terms with the printed word, but

PLEASE NOTE THAT COPY FOR THE DECEMBER 1985/ JANUARY 1986 ISSUE OF 'SIGNAL' - THE CHRISTMAS ISSUE - SHOULD REACH TRISANNA, STAUNTON-ON-WYE, (PHONE NOCCAS 517) NOT LATER THAN FRIDAY, 15TH NOVEMBER, 1985.

they have other skills of communication and the ability to relate easily to others.

The ancient Chinese said 'I do and I understand' and there is a great deal to be said in favour of first hand experience. No amount of reading can possibly compare with, for example, the first hand experience of a beautiful sunset, the sound of a baby's first cry or the smell of a field of newly-mown hay.

Mr. Hewitt in his article claims that 'language is the medium we use to think with.' There are those who would dispute this, since they claim to think in a series of images.

I would question that 'the ability to read and understand languages is crucial to everyone.' Surely, for almost all of us, the ability to say what we mean, clearly and without ambiguity, to have control and command of the spoken word is of paramount importance? I believe it is through interaction with our fellow men that we grow and develop as human beings and this is a reciprocal process.

In one paragraph Mr. Hewitt claims (with two cited examples) that the micro chip is replacing much of the human workforce. He quickly follows this with the demand from Industry for skilled and educated workers who are 'flexible adaptable and able to solve problems in collaboration with others.'

Skills of many kinds are best developed through practice, not by reading about them. To be flexible and adaptable suggests an ability to react and to adjust our stances and views, according to changing situations, and would appear to need direct action rather than the ability to read about it. I believe that to solve problems in collaboration with others may require the ability to read, but also the ability to talk, discuss, plan, argue, convince and co-operate.

'The key to success lies in the ability to feel at home with the written word' claims Mr. Hewitt. Would that this statement were true! How many of our young unemployed are more than just 'at home

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with' the written word? How many academically outstanding youngsters are able to read, but unable to communicate, or to succeed, through no fault of their's, in terms of earning their own livings?

Mr. Hewitt suggests that schools should 'modify their approach to reading' and he speaks of government-backed reports about the changes which can be made. For many years, teachers have read reports and changed their teaching strategies, often jumping from one fashionable 'band waggon' to another. So-called 'infallible' methods for the teaching of reading have come and gone - Look and Say, Colour Coding, Breakthrough to Literacy; I.T.A. and many more, ad mauseum. I believe a musical instrument is only as good as the person who plays it, and maybe any scheme for the teaching of reading is similarly only as good as the teacher who is teaching and the child who is learning. No one has yet discovered one perfect foolproof method for making it possible for all children to read fluently and with understanding. I doubt that any such system does, or ever will exist.

Despite the many millions of words which have been written on the subject, many millions of people do learn to read efficiently, some in spite of, and not because of, the system.

Access to print from an early age, encouragement from others and a sense of excitement and achievement, all have a part to play in the learning process, without doubt.

In conclusion, may I say that I spend much of my time trying to make it possible for children to learn to read, and I echo many of the sentiments and ideas expressed in 'What's in a Book?' - and incidentally, Noel is not only a fellow teacher, but a friend - and I never could resist a friendly argument.

LOCAL VIOLINIST IS ENTRANT IN INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION

The Staunton-on-Wye violinist George Ewart is home again after a visit to Italy where he was one of 36 entrants from all parts of the world who took part in the Premio Paganini in Genoa, one of the most prestigious competitions for violinists. He was the only British entrant.

His next public engagement will be in Gloucester on November 13th, when he will be playing the solo part in Vaughan Williams' 'The Lark Ascending' in an orchestral concert in the cathedral.

CHRISTMAS POULTRY

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318260

VOLUNTEER WANTED!

A volunteer is urgently needed to operate and take charge of the Staunton-on-Wye Community Resource Centre in the village school.

The equipment includes the duplicator and photo copier used extensively by local organisations for the production of circulars and notices. 'The Signal' is also produced on this equipment.

Previous experience is not necessary and all expenses are paid. Any volunteer would be welcome - young or old. If a volunteer does not come forward in the very near future the Resource Centre will be closed and the equipment removed and transferred elsewhere, which be a great loss to village organisations. It is quite possible that publication of 'The Signal' would be affected.

For full details please ring Lin Stokes on Moccas 437.

IN SEARCH OF AN ANSWER

A week or so ago the drama critic of the Hereford Times reported on the brilliance of the acting and production of a Chekov play at the New Hereford Theatre but, with only 49 in the audience, he said he felt ashamed of our city. I too have had something of this feeling when I have attended first-class plays at the old Nell Gwynne Theatre which, as many will recall, had to close its doors largely because of poor support.

The percentage of retired folk living within Hereford and its suburbs must be high so the old excuse of not wanting to return again in the evening to where one has been working all day won't wash. Is the poor attendance at worthwhile productions due to a dismissal of today's films and plays as being trashy and geared only to teenagers? Why don't we give better support to what is good in our local cinemas, theatres and concert halls? Surely the counter attraction of TV cannot be all that powerful. Or are we just lazy?

Puzzled Signal reader

JARVIS CHARITY, STAUNTON-ON-WYE

Almshouse to let.
Apply to the Clerk, Jarvis Trust,
Boardroom, Staunton-on-Wye.

OBITUARY

We regret to announce the death at Kingswood Hall Hospital of Mr Bert Brown of Staunton-on-Wye after a long illness.

Mr Brown was a bachelor who served in the Royal Air Force during World War II and lived at Letton for many years before moving into one of the Jarvis Almshouses in Staunton.

We extend our sympathy to his family.

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

The Eardisley and District branch of the Royal British Legion (comprising the parishes of Almeley, Eardisley, Kinnersley, Letton, Staunton-on-Wye, Winforton, Whitney and Witley) will hold its 58th Annual General Meeting on Wednesday October 31st at the New Inn, Eardisley, commencing at 8 p.m. All serving and ex-service personnel and especially all members of the past Staunton-on-Wye branch are cordially invited to attend.

The annual service of remembrance and parade will take place on Sunday November 10th, fall-in at 10.30 a.m., at Headquarters, the New Inn, Eardisley.

Eardisley and District Poppy Appeal

A Poppy Day whist drive will take place in Eardisley Hall on Friday November 8th commencing at 7.45 p.m.

On Saturday November 16th there will be a bingo session in Eardisley Hall, eyes down 7.45 p.m. The usual good prizes will be played for. On Saturday December 21st the Xmas bingo will take place, together with the Xmas Draw, same time and place as above. All proceeds to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT AREA

The bulk of the former county of Herefordshire has been designated by the Development Commission (Government agency responsible for social and economic development in rural areas) as a priority area for development. In order to publicise the benefits of this designation and to hear from local people about their ideas for community projects, the Hereford and Worcester Community Council are holding five public meetings in the Leominster district during October and November. These have been arranged jointly with the Leominster District Council, the Leominster Community Association, the Leominster Marches Project and the R.C.C.

The meetings are:-

October 30 - Weobley Village Hall
November 14 - Kington Burton Hotel
November 18 - Wigmore Village Hall
November 21 - Tenbury Comm. Centre
November 26 - Leominster Comm. Centre
commencing at 7.30 p.m. in each case.

CHURCH NOTICES

Services during November

Sarnesfield

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

Norton Canon

3rd 9 am Holy Communion
10th 9 am Morning Prayer
17th 9 am Holy Communion
24th 9 am Family Service

Staunton

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

Byford

3rd 9.30am Holy Communion
17th 3.00pm Evening Prayer
24th 10 am Family Service

Monnington

10th 9.30am Holy Communion

Letton

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

Kinnersley

3rd 11am Team Area
Eucharist
at Almeley
church (no
service at
Kinnersley)
10th 10am Mattins
(Remembrance
Sunday)
17th 10am Holy Comm-
union
24th 10am Family
Service

Other dates for your diary

4th 6.30 pm Diocesan Synod
11th 7.30 pm Letton P.C.C.
(Old Letton Court)
14th 7.30 pm Staunton P.C.C.
(Rectory)
26th 7.45 pm Norton Canon P.C.C.
(Village Hall)

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GEORGE RIDOUT

---IN REMEMBRANCE

When George Ridout retired to Kington in the 60's the magnificent view from his Bradnor Hill home was probably of secondary importance to the fact that he could get from bed to 1st tee in five minutes flat. Luckily he did not spend all his time on the golf course, for he discovered the joys of winemaking and was soon lecturing to Kington Evening Classes. This led to the formation of the Arrowvale Wine Circle which held meetings at Marston before transferring to Norton Canon in the mid 70's.

The annual appearance of ill-concealed plastic buckets in Lyonshall Wood signalled that George and a disciple or two were intent on building up their stock of birch sap wine. Members were constantly urged to avoid complacent winemaking and he once arrived at a meeting with a bottle designed to confound members who thought they were getting good at detecting the ingredients of a wine - it was made from couch grass!

George and Daisy's inostentatious but keen interest in our Circle resulted in the appearance of a silver salver and cup for competition (woe betide anyone referring to the latter as the Ridout cup) and George's gentlemanly behind-the-scenes persuasion prior to an AGM ensured the smooth election of officers.

We shall miss the sparkingly witty speeches of our Life President at future Christmas Dinners. It is good to think that our Circle continues its links with the Ridout family by having their daughter Ann and son-in-law Ken in membership.

Steve Gilling

'How do you keep your hands clean when you run out of steering wheels?'

(Irate motorist to garage mechanic.)

STAUNTON-ON-WYE FORGET-ME-NOT CLUB

Once again we were favoured with a beautiful day for our outing to Ironbridge on the 1st October. We left at 10.30 a.m. and the countryside was looking very pretty with the leaves beginning to turn and the ripening fruit - the colours were quite lovely.

Ironbridge is a most interesting place and we could have done with at least three days to see everything. The antique shop alone was worth a day's visit.

After coffee we went on to Telford. The sun was very warm and we were glad merely to sit and watch people busy with their shopping and to feel glad that we didn't have to bother.

The journey home was just as enjoyable and we stopped for a drink in Leominster, arriving back in Staunton around 8.30 p.m.

On 26th November at 2.30 p.m. in Staunton Village Hall we shall be having a film show on the Wye Valley given by Mr. Williamson. Anyone who would like to come along will be welcome and there will be tea and a chat afterwards.

Phyllis McCann

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BIRTHDAYS

A VERY HAPPY 18th BIRTHDAY TO
SHARON EVANS OF UPPERTON ON
THE 16th NOVEMBER

Happy Birthday to:

Kinnersley

Bridget Higginson	11th Nov
Stuart Probert	11th "

Sarnesfield

Graham Evans	18th Nov
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Letton

William Lynch	8th Nov
Anja Gardner	29th "

Norton Canon

Sarah Powell	2nd Nov
Matthew Lane	2nd "

We regret that the October birthdays for Staunton-on-Wye and Monnington-on-Wye were accidentally omitted from last month's 'Signal'. They are included below with the November birthdays.

Staunton-on-Wye

Joan Jenkins.....	October 7th
Martyn Price.....	October 7th
Nicholas Price...	October 7th
Bryan Powles.....	October 15th
Jason Bradford...	October 16th
Tracey Chamberlain..	October 27th
Jeremy Price.....	November 7th
Ian Jenkins.....	November 13th
Nicky Andrews....	November 18th

Monnington-on-Wye

Luke Trumper....	November 5th
Jess Courtney...	November 11th*
* 18th birthday.	

IN AID OF VILLAGE HALL FUNDS.

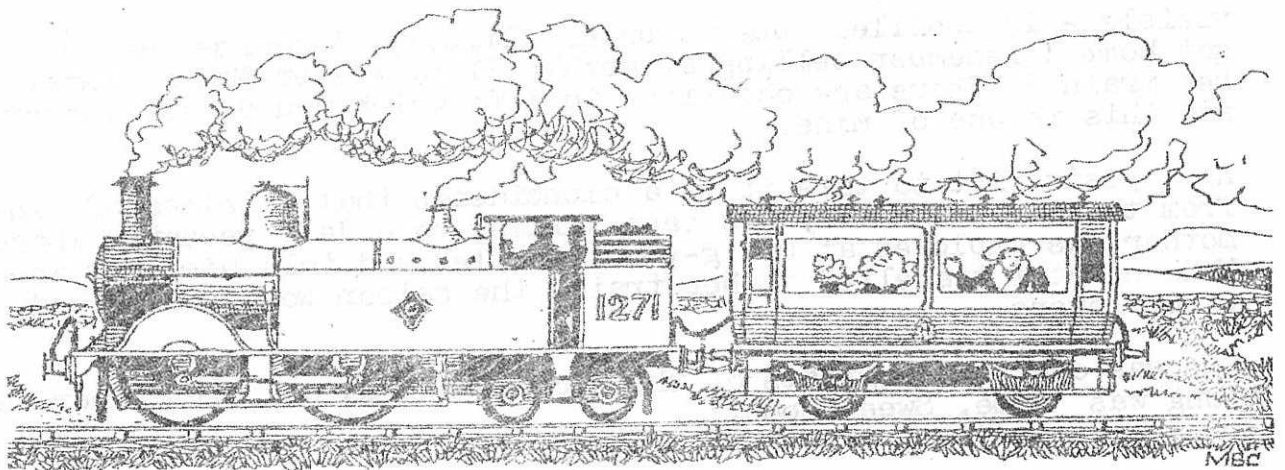
BUFFET DANCE

FRIDAY, 13th DECEMBER, 1985

THE VILLAGE HALL, NORTON CANON

MUSIC BY CALICO '8 - 1 p.m.

ADMISSION £2.50 by ticket only.



I Saw Adelina Patti

SOME EARLY CHILDHOOD MEMORIES

by

MERVYN WEST

AT the time about which I am writing, and stirring distant memories, I was quite young,—it must be around about the year 1910.

As children we had heard our parents speak of the famous singer Madame Patti who lived in Craig-y-Nos Castle, near Abercrave, in the Swansea Valley, also near the source of the River Tawe. Madame Patti was married to a Baron Cedärstrom, she was therefore a Baroness, but when spoken about she was Madame Patti. There was an aura about her in excess of any given to stars of today.

Madame Patti was a super star of Victorian opera, had a theatre built in Craig-y-Nos (translated Rock-or-Cradle- of night) in 1891, so that she could hold operatic performances for her own pleasure and her guests. On occasions these included King Edward VII. It was really a small Covent Garden.

At this time my family lived in Sennybridge, and as children we went to Davy's Endowed School in the village of Defynnog. It was a mile away so, coming home for dinner (I had not heard of lunch in those days) meant that my tiny legs walked 4 miles a day — not including time for play. There was no clock in our school room, but we always knew when it was 10 to 4 when we saw the smoke from a 'goods' train travelling along the line on the hillside across the valley, on its way to Swansea. We were 'let out' at 4 o'clock to walk home.

Normally there would not be another train until the 6 o'clock from Brecon to Swansea which left Sennybridge Station at about 6.30 p.m. Therefore when we passed by the railway line and saw the signal was 'down' we knew it would be a special, and so it was, a steam engine, and a carriage which contained the saloon of the great lady.

We were two of us together and we climbed the wire fence on the line side and when the short train passed Madame Patti was clearly

visible - in profile. Just a brief glimpse, of course, and when I got home I remember telling my mother 'I have seen Madame Patti in her train.' There are occasions in life which you do not forget, and this is one of mine.

As a postscript to this it is a coincidence that a friend of mine from the Swansea Valley has been talking to a lady recently whose mother was employed at Craig-y-Nos Castle, and told him that when Madame Patti travelled in her train, the saloon would be decked with flowers.

She was one of the greats of the Victorian Era, and her favourite song was 'Home, Sweet Home.'

ARROWVALE WINE CLUB

THANKS!

This is the time of year not only of mellow fruitfulness but also for wine competitions - an obvious connection no doubt. We held ours on the 3rd October and the outright winner of all four classes, Sweet Red, Dry Red, Sweet White, Dry White - was George Jones. It was a clear sweep.

Clutching his four bottles he then surged forward the following Monday to represent our challenge for the Gallow Cup - the trophy competed for by all the county wine clubs - and held this year in the premises of the Hereford Wine Club. He came within an ace of winning and we emerged a worthy second. For a small wine club we did well indeed.

BOOST FOR LOCAL TOURISM

The local Pathfinders group is producing a booklet of walks (all on footpaths shown on the Definitive Footpaths Map held at County Hall) in the parishes of Almeley, Kinnerley and Letton - the booklet should be available in the spring. It is hoped that copies will be stocked in Tourist Information Offices in Hereford and Leominster, as well as being sold locally. Advertising of local services (e.g. bed and breakfast, pubs, campsites, shops etc.) could be included in the booklet at very reasonable rates. If anyone is interested in taking up advertising, ring Andy Johnson on Eardisley 344, as soon as possible.

Ruth Lovelace

I should like through 'The Signal' to thank everyone in Staunton-on-Wye for the kindness and courtesy which you showed to me and my colleagues during our photographic survey on October 12th. You all helped to make our task much easier and more enjoyable, and we are very grateful.

We first began these surveys some years ago when increasing use of old photographs by searchers in our office made us realise how valuable it would be to have a photographic record of the county as it looks to-day. We have very few old photographs of Staunton at the Record Office to show us the past, but in a hundred years' time your descendants will now be able to see exactly how it all looked in 1985.

If anyone is interested in how the photographs turn out perhaps you could let me know, and I can arrange to bring them out one evening for you to see. Meanwhile, thank you again for being one of the nicest parishes we have ever surveyed.

Sgt. Hubbard
Assistant Head of Record Services,
County Archivist
Hereford.

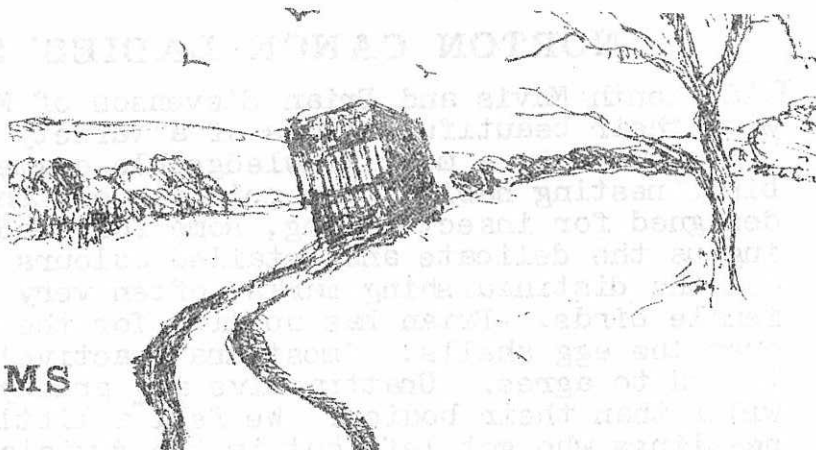
'Sure, I know exactly how he feels I've flown by Air Lingus too.'

(Remark overheard in the crowd as the Pope descended from his plane to kiss Irish soil at the start of his 1980 visit.)

Moving House

by

CLARICE WILLIAMS



At last, D-Day had arrived. After months of decision making 'Upper Norton Farm' was on the market for sale, and so began the most hectic few months of our lives.

Whilst Bert and Antony were scratching their heads in the yard, indoors I was thinking I had better get out the broom and dusters before anyone came to view. However it didn't seem long before the 'phone started ringing and folks began to arrive. I confess I was very nervous at first, but as the weeks went by it became a routine, and it then didn't bother me too much if the washing up wasn't done.

Some very interesting people came and from many parts of the country - some I fear just for a day out. Eventually Sale Day came and passed, and then the 'Bon Fires' started. We decided to clear the attics first. It was a job that took ages because Bert's family had been at Upper Norton since 1917. We had many a laugh at the old photographs and pictures (unhappily no Turners or Gainsboroughs came to light) just nice old family photographs. Problem was what shall we keep, sell, give away, store or burn. Indeed we did some of each. I hated burning things but regretfully it had to be done.

In mid December Bert developed jaundice and suddenly life seemed to hit rock-bottom. Christmas was not the happy time we had always known and I really don't know how we'd have coped had it not been for the wonderful help of our friends and neighbours. I should like to take this opportunity to say a most sincere thank you to them all.

The day before we left we were kindly invited to Sunday lunch by several of our neighbours but in the end we had a lovely meal provided by a friendly 'Meals on Wheels service' which was much appreciated and enjoyed.

Monday, 7th January arrived. We were actually moving and we all felt so sad. We had intended leaving in the morning, but it became ten at night before we actually got on our way. It had started to snow and the roads were very icy which didn't seem to help. However, we were soon at Lyonshall - the bungalow was warm and cosy and life seemed to become worthwhile again.

We are pleased to say we are now happily adjusted to our new home and life and thoroughly enjoying our retirement. Once again, we have been lucky and have good and friendly neighbours.

NORTON CANON LADIES' SOCIAL CLUB

LAST month Mavis and Brian Stevenson of Moorhampton delighted us with their beautiful slides of a variety of birds. This was accompanied by a most knowledgeable commentary describing the birds' nesting habits, and pointing out the different beaks - some designed for insect eating, some for seed eating, as well as showing us the delicate and detailed colours of wing and tail feathers and the distinguishing marks, often very small, between male and female birds. Brian has no time for the young ones as they peck open the egg shells: 'most unattractive' he commented, and we tended to agree. Unattractive and greedy with open beaks apparently wider than their bodies. We felt a little sympathy for the weaker nestlings who got left out in the division of the spoils among the more vociferous young birds and who probably weakened and died.

We were all full of admiration for the long hours he and Mavis had spent in 'hides' on the Yorkshire moors and elsewhere with all the problems of obtaining a licence to photograph before they could even set up their tent and cameras. Perhaps the photograph of the evening was the flash picture of the owl, wings spread, flying toward the camera deep inside a hollow tree trunk.

This month on 11th November at 8 p.m. there will be a short A.G.M. followed by a demonstration by a beautician from 'Le Glow' cosmetics. This will include a facial and full make up of one of our members and ladies will be able to try out samples of the range of powders, creams, etc. and, if they wish, to buy some of the products. Members are asked to be punctual as the demonstration must start on time. Raffle and refreshments as usual. Why not bring a friend?

LEGAL LOOPHOLE CLOSED

The Autumn 1985 issue of 'Village Voice', published by Hereford and Worcester Rural Community Council, states that the Wildlife and Countryside (Amendment) Bill has received Royal assent and is now law.

The new legislation closes the 'three month loophole' in the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 which allowed unscrupulous landowners to take advantage of the three month pre-notification period before an area was formally notified to develop the site and thereby render it unsuitable for designation. This will no longer be possible as notification of any potentially damaging operations will now be required from the outset of the designation procedure.

Other clauses strengthen the law protecting badgers and impose a duty on the Forestry Commission to achieve a balance between forestry and conservation needs.

HELP YOURSELF TO HEALTH - EARDISLEY

On Wednesday 3rd October, Arthur Barritt gave a talk on Gardening without Chemicals for the group 'Help Yourself to Health.'

He surprised many people by suggesting that gardening does not require as much hard work as we usually put into it. He explained how to make gardening easier, lighter work, without having 'tidy-up' bonfires or using dangerous chemicals, and he answered a variety of questions from the audience.

HEALTHY FEET

A talk and demonstration on care of feet, by David Ashley, Chiropodist.

WEDNESDAY, 6th NOVEMBER at 7.30 p.m. in EARDISLEY VILLAGE HALL.

Admission 50p. Everyone welcome.

Sanity and Wine Making

IS THERE A CONNECTION?

by

GARETH EVANS



SOMEONE once described wine making as the triumph of faith over knowledge - and how true - but surely all worthwhile activities must have in them the element of challenge and even failure. Otherwise they become 'dead cert.' bores and my wine making has, I assure you, never been a bore.

Paying cash for bought fruit is for me definitely second best because I find real pleasure in being able to pick what I want from the verges and hedgerows - as well as being offered damsons (my favourite wine,) plums and pears, by kind friends with fruit to spare. Its fun to gather dandelions, elderflowers, elderberries, sloes and blackberries but, as far as the last named is concerned, I do wish that farmers would cut the hedges a little later in the year. Blackberry picking and neatly trimmed hedges go ill together.

My first tip. When I started this game I used to line up the filled demi johns in the kitchen and watch like a hawk for any sign of fermentation. Until the first 'pibp' sound came from the locks I went through the tortures of the damned and would even steal down at nights with a torch to see if I could catch them 'plopping' unawares. With Shiela being driven nearly barmy by these nightly perambulations I finally decided that it would be best to put the demi johns out of sight and so out of mind. And sure enough, in four days at the most, I would find them 'plopping' happily and family amity restored once more.

The first 'moment of truth' comes after a month or so when your fermenting wine has to be racked i.e. separated from its first sediment. Racking the wine from one container into another is the same process that thieves use when stealing petrol from cars. And it must regretfully be admitted that, on some occasions, the taste of the two fluids is much the same! Nevertheless, this first tasting will tell you whether the wine is good enough to be drunk by itself or whether it will need blending. Wonders can occur when an acidic or too dry wine is blended with one of the opposite attributes - and no glycol is required at all.

And finally be of good cheer. Even a wine disaster has its value. Some years ago I made ten disgusting gallons of rhubarb wine whose stink, at the first racking, had us all fleeing for cover and almost calling in Mayglothing to clear our blocked drains! I decanted the first five gallons into the garden - where even the slugs and moles took off at the rate of knots - when a friend called and persuaded me not to throw the second part away. He said that he had a farmer friend living near Kington who was insistent that rancid and undrinkable wine was a certain cure for scrofula in goats. So don't despair - both good and bad wine has its uses. A wine maker's motto must always be 'Never give up' - even though sometimes you may want to throw up.

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Thirty days hath September,
April, June and November -
and everyone else who breaks
the speed limit in this town.

(Road sign in Wichita, Kansas)

It is a sin to think evil of
others - but rarely a mistake.

Anthony Crosland

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Saturday 8 a.m. - 8 p.m.

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ATTENTION ALL CORGI LOVERS

Oscar is a handsome four-year-old Pembrokeshire corgi. I have had him for only a few months - he came from Sussex complete with bed, lead, food, etc. as his former owners could no longer keep him. I must say I find him rather a mixed blessing! When he first came, he followed me everywhere, but I could not induce him to get in the car, even though I tried giving him his supper in it. However one day, when I opened the door, he just jumped in! He doesn't settle down happily though, and I have since discovered that he was run over when he was about a year old, and quite badly injured. As a result, I think this has made him rather nervous, and difficult to handle. I am used to corgies, and he is more difficult than most! However, he is really very affectionate, and has lots of character.

It isn't easy to take over someone else's dog, but coming to the point of this article, I got him through what is known as the Corgi Rescue Service (I imagine other breeds have something similar.) There are certain regulations, and one is expected to give a donation to the society if one keeps the dog after four weeks' approval. It is really a form of adoption, and if one is unable to keep the dog for any reason, he has to be returned to the society, so both the dog and the prospective owner are safeguarded. I think it is a very good idea, and I thought other people might be interested.

Joan Clace

I can think of no one I would prefer to have with me in a tight spot. At the same time I can think of no one more likely to get me there in the first place.

(Army school (Sandhurst)
reference)