

A Community Newsletter for:

KINNERSLEY-SARNESFIELD-LETTON- NORTON CANON BROBURY-MONNINGTON-STAUNTON

SIGNAL BOX

The 'Signal' is doing well. Much of our success is due to the efforts of all of you who take the trouble to send us contributions. Without your help we would fold tomorrow so it is with some trepidation that we ask for one more favour. Could you please try to limit what you write to between 200-300 words? If you could help us in this way we will be able to publish more articles and so make our topic coverage all the greater.

One final point. Please let us know about anyone having a special anniversary. It could be to celebrate age or achievement or whatever. Let's spread the good news for surely there is already enough of the bad!

The editorial address is Owls End. Norton Canon and copy must be received by the 15th of each month.

Our grateful thanks go to Mr and Mrs Richard Pantall of Upper House, Staunton-on-Wye for their very kind gift of a typewriter for use in the production of 'The Signal.' This is to replace the borrowed machine on which Mrs Diana Hardman has so conscientiously prepared all the copy for duplication. Again, many thanks.

Our thanks too go to Mrs Fat Shaw of Norton Canon who has kindly helped with the layout of 'The Signal' since she and her husband came to live here in February.

WAS IT LIKE THIS WITH YOU

In my parent's house the mere act of opening a kitchen curboard was to risk being buried alive under an avalanche of empty jar jars with screw top list stored against some now forgotten emergency. The kitchen drawers were always jammed with neatly folded paper bags, ironed out pieces of brown wrapping paper and laboriously unravelled pieces of string. To out a piece of string was considered morally wrong. In fact 'making do and mending' was a concept the English parted with only with the utmost reluctance - and in our house not at all.

Years before the idea of recycling had hit the nation's consciousness my grandmother had already perfected the idea of never throwing anything away. Thus new dresses ultimately became skirts and later cushions. If they had any fight left in them after that they were cut up for slip mats i.e. lengths of materials strategically placed where they had the best possible chance of tripping you up in the dark. Their final destination would undoubtedly be as comforters in the dog's basket.

Comfort in any form was sternly resisted and heat anywhere except the kitchen was simply money wasted. I still haven't quite come to terms with the idea of having a heated bedroom. This was particularly frowned upon at home as to leading to moral degeneracy of a most insiduous kind. 'Besides' my grandmether would tell me darkly 'too much heat makes a breeding ground for blackheads.' To this there was no answer but to leave home as quickly as possible.

(Taken from an article by Frances Donnelly in a recent 'Listener.')



In my religion I always obey the chief commandment - to do unto others what they (if given half a chance) would do unto you.

(Peter Sellers)

Some people sing so badly that even those who are stone deaf have been known to turn away rather than lip read.

Prom a car sticker seen in Hereford - 'We are foolish all the year round, so what's with April?'

NOT THE AGE OF THE TRAIN

(Continued)

The whole of this route, from London to Hereford, eventually became part of the mighty Great Western which had a virtual monopoly of the West Midlands, although an interloper in the form of the Midland soon appeared on the scene. The All-Red line secured a foothold in Herefordshire by taking ever the Hereford, Ross and Gloucester Hailway, built in 1825 to the 7-foot broad gauge favoured by the Great Western. This line had its own Hereford station (the site is now a car park just off the A438 at the western end of the city) and a few years laten the Midland made a further bold incursion into Great Western territory by extending the line to Hay via Crederhill, Moorhampton (the station which served the area covered by 'Signal') Kinnersley, Eardisley, Whitney and Clifford. At Hay the line linked up with various Central Wales railways and it is possible that the Midland envisaged the rouse becoming an additional through line to the Welsh coast, but in fact it never progressed from being just another rural branch.

Eardisley, today a typical quiet Herefordshire village, was up till only a few years ago a railway junction, for the Midland station linked with a Great Western branch line running to Titley with intervening stations at Almeley and Lyonshall. One wonders why this line was ever built as even in its heyday it could never have been a paying proposition and it was, in fact, one of the first lines to be closed when the Beaching Axe began to fall after World War II.

Another strange little line, surely a perfect example of a 'status symbol' concept, was the Golden Valley Railway. This was the brain-child of a group of local landowners who were determined that the Golden Valley should have a rail link with the Great Western main line at Pontrilas between Abergavenny and Hereford. Unfortunately their enthusiasm was not matched by the capital available and it was a tough struggle to get the line built. One landowner would only agree to subsidise construction on condition that he was given his own private ailway station. He got it, too - it was cituated at Westbrook, between Dorstone and Clifford.

Like many similar projects, the Golden Valley Railway staggered on uncertainly for a few years before being taken over, somewhat reluctantly, by the Great Western, and it seems certain that this only happened because the Great Western feared that the Midland, or some other company, would take it over if they didn't.

Another picturesque little line. Iso ultimately part of the Great Western, ran from Leominster westwards to New Radnor via Kingsland. Pembridge, Titley, Kington, Stanner and Dolyhir. It followed the valley of the River Arrow as far as Kington and then out through some spectacular hill sountry for its last few tiled to New Rainor. This was a perfect example of the kini of line envisaged by N.R. James in 'A View from a Hill,' and I myself will always have fond memories of it for it was by this route that on holilay in 1938. I first entered the area which, over thirty years later, was to be my home.

An obvious step was to link Leominster with Wordester and thus provide a through route from Wordester to New Raimor by-passing Hereford. This was the last to be built of Herefordshire's branch lines and it was in many ways the most picturesque of the lot. Leaving the Wordester-Malvern-Hereford line at Bransford is followed the Teme valley as far as Sucklay, from which, after skirting the Suckley Hills with a fine view of the Malvern Hills to tas south, it climbed up to Bromyard and Leominster. There were intermediate stations at Leigh Court, Knightwick, Suckley, Sromyard, Bredenbury, Pencots, Docklay and Steen's Bridge.

Once again, this line was another which was never much of a profit-maker and as it was one of the first to be closed its working career was comparatively brief.

Finally, there was the Titley-Presteigne line, a wayward little route operated by push-and-pull trains. Joining the Leoninster-New Radner line at Titley it helped to make Titley a double junction. for the line from Eardisley also came in at Titley.

One of the most interesting aspects of these little lines, at any rate to the steam locomotive buff, was the remarkable variety of vintage engines which provided the motive power in their final years. It was on these lines that many of the Great Western's most famous classes worked out their last days. 'Saints,' 'Halls,' Bulldogs,' 'Dukedogs,' 'Dean Goods' and the utiquitous 0-5-0 'Pannier tanks - they could all be seen at some time or other, hauling their short trains across a countryside that has changed remarkably little during the whole railway era.

They have all gone now, of course, and apart from the occasional derelict station, siding, bridge abutment and cutting one would scarcely imagine they had ever been there. What many of the older generation will always lock on as one of the most civilised and enjoyable methods of travel has joined the limbo of far-off forgotten things and we mourn its passing.

But, of course, there are two lines in the county which are still in operation and one can still enjoy, albeit somewhat uncertainly, the nostalgic delights of rail travel. True, the countes are usually so dirty that one can scarcely see out of the windows, the services are so unreliable that it is quite often problematical whether one will ever in fact reach one's destination without some kind of treakdown, and the whole system generally is visibly disintegrating, yet something of the old romance still remains. Enjoy it while you can, for it's certain we stan't have it very much longer.

M.B. Sollingwood

FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE - 1938 VINTAGE

In October 1938 I packed my bags, shook the dust of the Midlamis off my feet and sallied forth to start a four year training at one of the lesser known voluntary hospitals in London.

In those days 'probationers' were thrown in at the deep end. Faving arrived at 4 p.m. as requested I was shown how to wear the uniform and sent straight onto the main surgical ward where a lengthy operating list was still in progress. My main difficulty then and for a few days afterwards was in coming to terms with the fact that when anyone called 'Nurse' they could have meant ME. These days 'students' enter preliminary training school for lectures before going onto the wards. A great improvement for both patient and nurse.

Our day began with breakfast at 6.30 a.m. and onto the wards at 7 until 9 p.m. with four hours off in between. The night staff worked 9 p.m. to 9 a.m. Lectures were attended in off-duty periods but we had a day off each week and these were usually free from any such obligations unless work demanded otherwise.

Pay for the first year was £1.10s (£1.50r) per calendar month. Uniform and books had to be said for, also any breakages. Fresumably to act as a deterrent. A broken thermometer had to be presented at the Matron's effice in order to purchase a new one. An item such as this could send the month's budget haywire if one had already bought all the necessities. A big item of expenditure was the provision of black stockings for wear with uniform. They were either lisle or wool. No silk allowed even had we been able to afford them. They seemed to go into holes whilst we watched and we begrudged the time spent darning them. Very little was left for riotous living but we were young and healthy and managed very well. On our days off we would attend late breakfast at 9 a.m. and then take a shilling (5p) all-day-go-anywhere tram ticket into the country, Hampton Court, Wimbledon Common or some other place of interest. Also there were always free tickets for ballet, opera and sporting events. At this time I was lucky enough to hear Faul Robeson, John McCormack and Richard Tauber sing, watch the Russian Ballet and attend the Royal Tournament every year.

Nursing care was very different them as patients were kept in bed much longer and had to reply more upon the nurses. Some surgical cases were kept in bed and even lying flat for two weeks and not allowed out of bed for nearly three weeks.

Later it was found that this could cause complications which demanded an even longer period of immobility. So all you good people who have been dragged protesting from your beds the day after operation - take heart! You never know what you may have been saved. Penicillin had not been discovered and the treatment of unclean wounds, ulcers etc depended more on the treatment by the staff who did the dressings than would be the case now. One of the leading drug houses was experimenting with a drug which was a fore-runner of our modern anti-biotics. Patients taking it were put onto a strict diet in which eggs, salt and onions were taboo. This was a mini disaster in itself during the years of food rationals as war time diet could use all the boosts it could get.

(To be continued)

WORD BLOCK

Hidden within the block are ten words which describe various constructions which might be in the playground. See if you can find all of them.

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LOW FLYING PLANES

We do not like low-flying planes,

We don't like them et all.

They shake the steeple off your church And drive you up the wall.

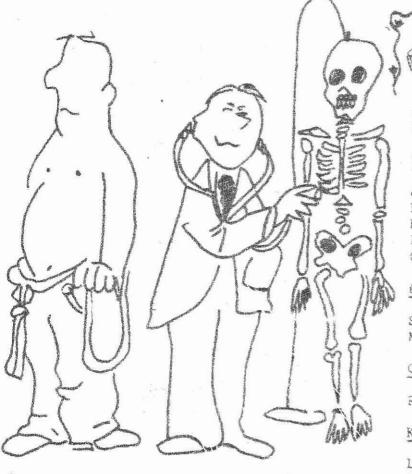


I'd like to say a thank-you to

Our local tractor drivers.

They're so polite they all deserve A fine fist-full of fivers.

Owen.



Some people are extremely shortsighted



Birthdays.



A VERY HAPPY EIGHTEENTH BIRTHDAY TO ALISON MASON OF STAUNTON-ON-WYE ON 24th OCTOBER.

Norton Canon

Julie Griffiths Bryn Evans	3rd	Oct
Karen Austin	5th	18.
Hannah Gittine	10th	8.5
Christenh 317718	llth	**
Christopher Knight	15th	614

Moorhampton

Simon White /m	
Simon Whitney (Upperton)	26th Oct.
Mark Edvards (Mansel Lac;	17th "

Over Letton

Ruth	King		18th	Ont
			a U Lia	UCLO

Kinnersley

Louise Parish Tom Corbett	(Sallies)	lst	Oct.
- am appropri		31st	11

COMING HOME

The joys of returning to Britain after months of absence start for me at no more remarking a point than the Immigration desk at Heathrew Airport which is not as odd as you might at first think. For someone innured to the blank stare of Oriental officialdor, it comes as a rare delight to be net on arrival home by an official who not only speaks your own language but also even at 6 a.m. in the morning, makes jokes in it too.

Other familiar joys - 'real' milk, ambrosia after the reconstituted muck one never quite gets used to - breakfast television, an eye-opener, capable of sustaining interest for at least three consecutive days... - newspapers that go apoplectic over the misfortunes of a soap-opera star - and summer temperatures that soar from the 60's to the 90's like a demented rollerocaster, never failing to dismay a people for whom weather should hold no surprises...

It's nice, after months spect in a rather more authoritarian environment like Singapore to be able to blow public raspberries at politicians - to drop sweet papers or the pavement without ricking the wrath of next-to-God - to see films that the censors have seen fit to leave in one coherent piece....

Picking your own respherries - sitting out at night without the company of mesquitoes - driving a car without
having to make mental allowances for those who choose to
overtake on the inside - watching summer re-runs on
television that you along have not already seen - the
delights of coming home are commonplace perhaps but they're
a large part of the spice of life to an expatriot
Englishperson.

Anita Blackett

TO THE GRAFFITI ARTIST

Your immost thoughts laid bare, O Soul,
In vivid paint from aerosol,
I'm prome to ponder night and day
Invited by your terms "OK?"
But help! There's one thing puzzles me The word you write "HUFO".

Owen.

Letters.

NEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS

Open Letter to J. Oker Esq.

It's jolly good to get your letters saying how much you like 'The Signal' - especially for stopping up your broken window. We think you should try to get some glass put in before the winter weather; we cannot guarantee 'Signals' to keep out wind and wet for the whole month. We tried the September issue (did you notice - they printed it as August!) in our broken window (after we'd read it) and found that it was only good for about 7 or 8 days.

Now, about the drawings which you like so much; Mrs Sandra Children is the artist who kindly illustrates the articles and we have always realised how fortunate we are to have her contributions.

Sandra, who lives at Hurstley Wood Farm, Kinnersley is an artist of considerable ability. From decoratively painting plant pots she now has her own kiln and is pleased to accept commissions for hand-painted china to customers' individual requirements. Examples of her craft can be seen at Bob Kilvert's Gallery in Weobley. She is also a regular designer for Royal Worcester China. But, in addition to her china she paints in water colours and designs exclusive knitwear for sale in the Hereford Crafts Shop in Church Street. An Exhibition of her work - paintings and china is to be held in December at the Old Mayor's Parlour which is also in Church Street, Hereford. You should try to go to see it.

D.T.B.

* * * *

Lamaro Eccles Green.

Rosemary Deem would like to thank relations and friends for the lovely flowers, plants, cards etc. that she received during her stay in the David Garrick Ward, County Hospital, Hereford.

FREE KITTENS

Four very pretty kittens would like nice homes. One ginger, one ginger and white and two ginger, black and white.

Rhyddwr, Staunton-on-Wye

HAVING PROBLEMS WITH YOUR CAR?

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I.COMETO YOU!

Congratulations

NORTON CANON

Congratulations to Angela and Russell Drew on the birth of their daughter. Elizabeth Rose on the loth August, 1983.

Wenklen Graup of Narishes

Church Services for October

Sarnesfield 9th Holy Communion 23rd Morning Prayer

Norton Canon 2nd Holy Communion 9.00 am 9th Morning Prayer 16th Holy Communion

23rd Family Service

Staunton 11,00 am

2nd Holy Communion 9th Morning Prayer 16th Holy Communion

Monnington 6.00 pm

16th Harvest Festival Preacher: The Archdeacon of Hereford.

special time Letton

*Note the

11.00 am 23rd Holy Communion

The Churchwardens and PCC of Sarnesfield Church wish to express their thanks to all who gave donations to the church in memory of George Evans, formerly of Sarnesfield, who was buried there on September 5th. The amount given was \$35.30

Letton PCC at The Swan on October 4th at 7.30 pm

Sarnesfield Harvest Festival October 7th at 7 pm The Revd. John Clingo

Norton Canon Harvest Festival October 14th at 7.30 pm Preacher: Fr. wilfrid Chadwick

Norton Canon School Governors October 18th at 8 pm in the School

Mothers' Union meet at Weobley on October 25th at 7.30 pm at the Vicarage.

Kinnersley Church Services

October

2nd 6.30 Harvest Festival. Soloist: Mrs Supper in the Church Hall.

9th 10.0 Mattins.

16th 10.0 Holy Communion.

23rd 10.0 Family Service.

30th 6.30 Songs of Praise. Combined service for the five parishes.

FAREWELL W.I.

It is with regret that after nearly 60 years Norton Canon W.I. has decided to close owing to lack of support.

The final meeting will be held on the third Thursday in October.

Stauton-on-Wye Ladies Club

The next meeting will be Wenesday, 5th October at 8 p.m. at Staunton Village Hall. Prudence Lloyd will talk about W.V.S.C.

Norton Canon Church

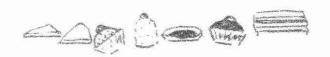
On Sunday, 20th August the Weobley Over 60's Club and friends came to join Norton Canon in an Evening Service at 3 p.m. The Vicar, the Rev. Sneyd and Mr. Anderson took the service.

There were 47 in the congregation. It was agreed the collection should be divided between The Childrens Home at Eastnor and Norton Capon Church.

Tes was served in the Church. Mrs Anderson hau provided delicious cakes and sendwiches of many kinds.

Visitors and helpers all agreed it was a very happy occasion.

Mrs. West.



THANK YOU

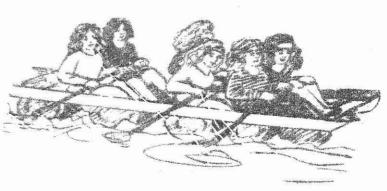
Here's Thank You to each gentleman Ino keeps his verges trim, no battled with the coarser srowth In labour long and grim, Lorna Hughes. Followed by Harvest And now presents the passer-by with something restful to the eye That charms and welcomes him.

Quen

LATIVRAFIERS

Three Staunton-on-Wue girls, Diane Jenkins, Alison Mason and Tina Gallagler, are now the proud owners of certificates for taking part in and completing the forty-mile Ladies' Sponsored Raft Race.

Saturday, 3rd September saw the start of the race from Bridge Soilars with the first overnight stop at Holme Lacy. The river was quite low and the rafts had to be carried several times before reaching their destination. The evening provided supper cooked by the back-up crews and a Country & western Dance. Next morning the river had risen two feet and four of the rafts had been washed from their moorings. They were all safely retrieved and everyone was ready to do battle again. It was a long, hard paddle with an almost galeforce wind in their faces.



At last Ross-on-Wye, a very welcome site, was reached. Diane was on the Bulmers Wood-pecker raft, Alison was with the Portway crew and Tina was on the Richmond Club.

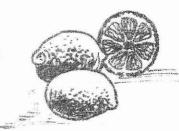
In spite of aching limbs, blistered hands and bottoms they all declared they would do it again.

The Mentally Handicapped will benefit from this marvellous effort.

Well done girls.

LEWOR AND GINGER SYRUP

druise 40% of whole ginger and put 10 a pan with a quart of water and thinly peeled rind of a lemon. Bring to the boil, and boil slowly for about thr. Strain, measure and to every pint of liquid allow Ilb of sugar and the juice of one lemon (small). Put the liquid, sugar and lemon into a pan, and boil for IO mins, skimming well, when cold, put into bottles and seal, when required put a teaspoon of the syrup into a cup and fill up with boiling water, put a thin slice of lemon on top and serve at once.



KINNERSLEY DISTRCT GROUP PARISH COUNCIL

The September meeting of the council was held at Norton Canon School on September 6th. Mrs V. M. Loxston was in the chair. After routine business had been disposed of the item 'Planning matters' contained an application for change of use of the Old Rectory, Letton from private dwelling house to a rest home for the elderly: the council could see no reason to oppose the application.

It was agreed, after some discussion, to make a further distribution of AL worth of concessionary travel tokens to people of pension age against a payment of AL from the recipients.

The next meeting was arranged for Tuesday, November 22nd to be heli at Kinnersley Church Hell, commencing at 7.30 p.m.

D. T. B.

PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

In the September 1982 issue of The Signal, Mr. Howard Jones contributed an interesting article on "Our Disappear-ing Footpaths". It is true that many public rights of say (I'll use p.r.o.w. in future) are little if ever used and some are difficult to find on the ground, but as Mr. Lovelace said in his letter in October 1982 issue, we, or future generations may well need them and enjoy using them again.

Recent legislation together with the financial pressures imposed by Government on County Councils have brought some changes in dealing with p.r.o.w. and it is perhaps as well that we try to keep the matter in mind.

Under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 County Councils had a duty to prepare statutory maps showing all p.r.o.w. and as Mr. Jones said, in 1952 parishes were invited/required to submit lists of p.r.o.w. (which may be footpaths, bridleways or byeways) which were shown on the Definitive Maps which were prepared but which were subject to objection, addition or amendment. There such objections or amendments arose, a series of Local Enquiries was envisaged, chaired by some eminent barrister appointed by the Dept. of the Environment. During the following 20/30 years Worcester managed to deal with almost all their Local Enquiries but Hereford has only uealt with a very small number of parishes.

One that was dealt with was Staunton-on-Nye and Brobury and possibly Monnington. I shall always remember the very knowledgeable and authoritarian way in which the late Dr. Malcomson from his wheelchair gave his evidence and marshalled his historical facts of useage of paths. One almost wondered who was conducting the Enquiry.

A few years later the D.O.E. were arranging a Local Encuiry for Kinnersley parish but, because Mr. Garratt-Adams was in New Zealand the Encuiry had to be postponed and due to further reductions in staffing etc. in the County footpaths department, it has never been held. I understand that because of the continued shortage of resources no further Local Enquiries will be held and, in effect all p.r.o.w. shown on the Definitive maps are now confirmed (subject to any Diversion or Extinguishing Orders subsequently made). The showing of a p.r.o.w. on such maps is conclusive evidence in law of its existence and the nature of the public right conferred.

The County Council is responsible for approximately 11,000 p.r.o.w. - some 5,000 miles and they have agreed to consider the preparation of an order of priorities for dealing with rights of way. They suggest 5 categories of priority compiled in consultation with District and rish councils, landowners and user groups. Very commendable, but in view of past records and present restrictions it seems unlikely that much progress can be expected in the forseeable future.

D.T.B.

RECIPES.

WHEAT WINE I

Ingredients:

g lo wheat

1 lt demerara sugar

t lb white sugar I lo chopped raising

4 pts cold water

p oz cakera yeast

: oranges

2 small potatoes (thinky peried)

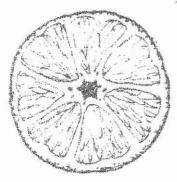
sut all ingredients into a sailon jar, using only the juice and thinly out rind of the oranges. Stir well and cover securely. Stir daily for 3 weeks, strain and bottle. Tors wire can be drunk as goon as it clears.

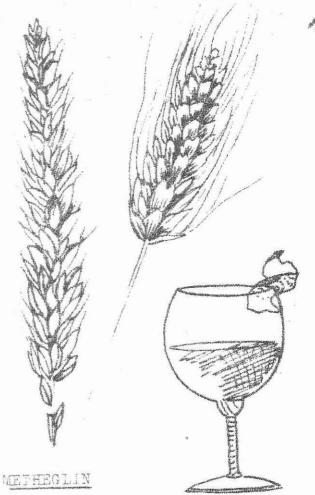
> Teresa Bradford Hemitridge Costage Staunton-Gn-Wys



Cut up " grapefruit in a pan, pour over i gallen of cold water, let it stand for 10 days them sleve over 4 lb. sagar and leave another 8 days, stirring everyday. Strain into another pan, and remove the soum as it rises. Bottle off, ready for drinking in 3 weeks. It's also good as a tonic and a prok-me-up.

> Teresa Bradford, Stelaton.





Ingredients:

5 lb. honey 1 gal water

1 lemon 1 apriz Rosemary

1 sprig Palm

t oz root ginger (if liked)

a oz bakers yeast (or preserably a mead yeast)

Simmer the nerbs and spices and thir lemon rind in the water for 20 mins. Strain and pour onto the noney. Stir well to dissolve honey. When lukewarm add the juice of lemon, and the yeast. Cover and leave to ferment for 24 hrs. Pour into fermentation jars and insert an airlock. Leave to ferment to a rinish in a warm place. REMOVE to a cooler place for 5 weeks before syphoning off into storage jans. NB You can use whatever nerbs you lancy - cloves, oranges (thinly pedied rand and juace of) chinnamon marjoram. balm, rue, nors.

GRAND AUCTON

By Linden Alcock

Saturday 26th Nov 83

AT NORTON CANON VILLAGE HALL
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(MOCCAS) 328 MANSEL LACY (B.SOLLARS) 294

Mrs V COLES Mrs J KNIGHT Mr J SMITH Mr C EDWARDS

NORTON CANON YAZOR (B.SOLLARS) 310 MANSEL LACY (B.SOLLARS) 625

Association of friends of Norton Canon Village School

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