

THE SIGNAL

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

No.96 October 1990

15p

VIGNETTES ~

If You Want to Get Ahead, Get a Hat !

His first appearance and enrolment in the prison workshop gave no hint of what was to come. "Aussie" as he was immediately known was so extrovert that it was painful.

The accent was so stridently Australian that his workmates thought he was putting it on. He was given the job of workshop cleaner which gave him the opportunity to move about the workshop. "Aussie" blossomed, offering advice to all and sundry about all and sundry. His general cheerfulness grated with the other inmates. He could be heard all over the workshop.

At the time Scobey Breaseley the Australian flat race jockey was winning many races and "Aussie" adopted a saying "Take it easy Breaseley" delivered to any unfortunate who lost his temper, made a mess of his work, cut himself etc,etc. This delivered with such jollity and frequency that there were dark mutterings and eventually physical threats. Aussie quietened down a little.

Looking for some other opportunity to desport himself to his fellow inmates, and to annoy the prison officers, he discovered in the list of clothing available at the Bath House reference to a prison issue beret. On his next bath-day he duly requested, with his change of clothes, one beret.

The Bath House Officers reaction and advice are not repeatable to Signal readers, the gist of it being ...off ! Aussie now in his element, with a nice little distraction to help his sentence along applied in all innocence to the Governor for a prison issue beret - "for the winter" he said. The Governor enquired of the attendant staff "is there such a garment on the clothing list"? "Well yes sir, but the last recorded issue was 1926 and we can't find any in the stores". The Governor asked Aussie if he could see his way clear to completing his sentence without a beret, after all it would be the only one worn amongst 1,500 inmates. Of course this was food and drink to Aussie. "No sir, the beret is listed so I want one" - "just for the winter sir". All this became a great source of amusement especially when "Aussie" on his next visit to the Bath House had a prison issue beret thrown through the hatch.

He wore the beret with no concession to style, pulled square on with the top pulled up to give a dome effect, strutting the exercise yard with 400 other inmates and he positively glowed. The inmates aware of the "one up to us" situation gave Aussie due recognition, Inmates 1. Officers 0. Clearly the situation could not end there.

Whenever Aussie left the workshop his beret was searched, the officer snatching it from his head and meticulously searching, turning it inside out and throwing it back at him. All this watched by the other inmates in complete silence. The routine was followed each time Aussie left the workshop, though everyone knew that he had nothing in the beret. Inmates 1. Officers 1.



Christmas Eve, cold, dark, workshops subdued, inmates awaiting call to evening meal. Staff anxious to be off for the holiday. The first men file out, including Aussie. He is searched and the beret snatched off. It must have taken him some days to tear up newspaper into such small pieces. His beret was full. Out flew a great white shower fluttering over prisoners and startled officer. With arms outstretched Aussie started a rendition of "I'm dreaming of a White Christmas", not quite completing the second line before being ejected through the door, followed by the said beret.

All enjoyed the incident (some on reflection) Inmates 2 - Officers 1.

John Absalom

(Editors note: In our lives all of us must have come into contact with people who have left a strong impression - humorous or serious, So that "Vignettes" may have a life of its own we would be most grateful if you also would write to Signal and tell us about them.)

Margaret Amy Chant of Standale, Staunton On Wye died suddenly on 7th September, 1990. She was 59 years old and had lived in the village since her marriage to Reg in 1959. During this time Margaret worked at the Portway Inn, the Swan at Letton and latterly the village shop and Post Office.

The funeral service at St. Marys Church, Staunton On Wye took place on Wednesday 12th September. There were about 200 people present, from all walks of life; a marvellous testament to the affection in which she was held. Donations were for the Chest Clinic at the Hereford County Hospital. Over £600 was collected.

Margaret was a well loved mother and grandmother, who always gave any visitor to her home a warm welcome. She will be deeply missed by her family and our local community.

Reg Chant and Family would like to thank all relatives and friends for their support and generous donations. Also the local doctors for their care over the years.

STAUNTON-ON-WYE CHURCH CLOSURE THREAT

Contributor: Richard Pantall

The article by the Rev. Richard Birt, Weobley Priest-in-Charge, in September's "Signal," (with its one-sided version which appeared in the Hereford Times 6th Sept.), giving his observations as to the future of our Church's curacy, and in particular to its survival, deserves a spirited reply, not only from me, but from all the Parish. His bone of contention is lack of support from churchgoers, and the shortfall of the quota, currently £1,246 for 1990, deemed to be the parish contribution towards the cost of providing priests in general.

I propose, therefore, to give reasons to enlighten the Rev. Birt, and fellow parishioners, why I consider this quota is an iniquitous imposition on the Parish, to the detriment of the maintenance and upkeep of the fabric of the Church, which is already very evident.

By an Act of Parliament in 1784, called the "Staunton-on-Wye Inclosure Award," twenty-five landowners got together with the then Rector, the Rev. Wm. Davis, to make an exchange with him of a considerable acreage of land in the Parish, "in lieu" of the payment of their tithes; this was to include all tithe payments in the Parish and in Upper Letton. Three Inclosure Commissioners were appointed to adjudicate in the matter, to determine that the land offered be "as equal in value to the true value of the tithes due and payable to the Rector." Their Award was of 348½ acres of land to form a block on Staunton Common. In addition to this, the Rector was already possessed of his own Glebe Land of 31 acres at the Rectory (now Oakchurch House), with a further 7 acres under the Scar Wood and 2 acres at World's End.

It followed that the income from all the Glebe Lands endowed the Rector of Staunton-on-Wye with a very comfortable "Living," quite apart from the use of his home farm, and he was much envied by parsons in neighbouring parishes. There was also a sufficiency of income in 1930 to provide an annual pension to the retiring incumbent, the Rev. Barlow. While this munificence was the Rector's personal income, it allowed all contributions, and other funds raised, to go towards the upkeep of the Church. However, between 1784 and 1850 some changes and exchanges were made to the Commons land, since by the later date it was down to just under 300 acres, and has remained so since.

The structure of the status of our Parish Rector began to crumble in 1936, when the Rectory with 11 acres of land was sold by the Church Commissioners, the Rector having to reside at Letton Rectory, taking over the additional responsibilities of Letton and Willersley parishes.

In 1964, to increase his workload, a United Union of Benefices was formed of the parishes of Staunton-on-Wye, Letton, Byford, Mansell Gamage and Monnington when it was considered necessary to build the present Parsonage House for the residence and occupation of the Incumbent.

Lt.Col. C.S. Madden made available the land from his Oakchurch Farm, the price of £900 being paid to him from the Benefices Parsonage Fund. When building took place in 1967 the Rector, the Rev. G.J.T. Jones-Evans, was obliged to deposit with the Church Commissioners a "Mortgage of all the Glebe Lands, Rents, Salaries, Fees, Stipends....belonging to the Parish of Staunton-on-Wye" to cover the sum of £2,175 they had paid towards the cost of the building.

The Rev. Jones-Evans and his family were the first to occupy the new house. He was also the last Rector of Staunton-on-Wye to receive as his Stipend the rents from the Staunton Common Glebe Land. When he died in 1974, the Church

Commissioners, having sequestered the income, through possession of the Mortgage, decided not to appoint another full-time Parson, but instead to licence a part-time Priest-in-Charge of the United Benefice for a limited period.

When in 1784 the landowners gave all this land in perpetuity for the income of the Rector of the Parish, it would have been beyond their comprehension that the tithes - they were excusing themselves from paying, would in fact be nationally abolished in 1936. By way of compensation the Government paid the Church Commissioners a massive injection of millions of pounds of tax-payer's money. In addition, in this Parish, they were also in possession of the title of this considerable acreage of Staunton Commons.

I now touch upon the present-day value of the income generated from that land, to indicate the extent to which Staunton-on-Wye continues, year by year, to contribute to the coffers of the Church Commissioners, instead of some of it being used for the salary of the Parish Priest. In 1965 and 1980, they sold a total of 58 acres to neighbouring farmers for very close on £25,000, which at a modest tax-free investment will realize £4,000 interest per year. In addition, local farmers rent the rest of the land for which they pay well over £8,000 a year, and there has also been an income of £200 for the Shooting Rights. So altogether we find the Church is getting an annual income of at least £12,000 from the Parish, yet they also want it to contribute £1,246 in quota for the same purpose. I say they should refund to our Parochial Church Council the whole of the quota contributions extorted since 1982, so that urgent repairs and decorations can be made to the Church fabric.

Mr. Birt poses the question "whether there is a real wish in Staunton for the Church to survive and to grow." It is clear it is being strangled by greed, but it will survive, the spiritual need of the Parish remains in the Church itself, which fortunately over the past 800 years has stood well in the affection of its inhabitants, while its parsons have come and gone. This fact will not have been lost on him when he assisted at the funeral service of Mrs. Margaret Chant on 12th September.

He expostulates on the shortcomings of very small congregations; that is not unusual in Staunton-on-Wye, there were less than half-a-dozen attending in 1886, when there were none of the social distractions of the present day. If the Church is in real need its people will respond, but not if they think all their contributions are to be devoured in quota. To say the inability of the Parish to raise its quota means it is being subsidised by other parishes, and ruining the Deanery emergency fund, is religious humbug.

The Church of England Report "Faith in the Countryside," just published, quotes the Bishop of Norwich "I believe our present need is to find ways to put the focus firmly on the local community, the village, the parish, the congregation...We have become a top-heavy Church...A reversal needs to take place. It is the parishes that are at the sharp end of the mission."

Yes, we are at the sharp end of this threat. I hope the foregoing will be brought to the attention of the new Bishop of Hereford, and that he will have none of this preposterous and reckless talk of closure of our Church, although the Rev. Birt himself is the one who seems hell-bent to "let it slip away!"

I trust every member of the Parish, and the many Staunton-on-Wye patriots outside the area, who are deeply concerned, and some distressed, over this closure issue, will write in protest at once to the Archdeacon of Hereford, Hereford Cathedral. It is no good just talking about it and accepting the inevitable through apathy; if the Church means anything to you, then show that you care about its future and get a letter in the post now.

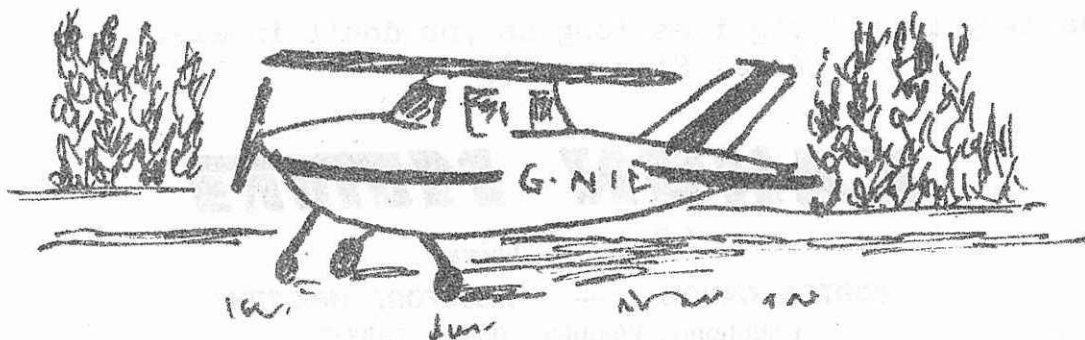
first flight

john phillips

There's invariably a special thrill associated with doing something you hope is going to be pleasant or exciting for the first time. Those of you who read or saw 'On the Black Hill' will remember first the bemusement and then the gradual enthusiasm of the two old Welsh farmers being taken for an aeroplane ride - particularly when they saw the farm they had lived in for nearly 80 years from the air.

Not quite the same auspicious circumstances for me, or the same apprehension of modern technology, but then my present of a 30 minute flight in a small plane was not a complete surprise!

I do mean small. The pilot and I had to squeeze into something appreciably smaller than the two front seats of a mini. Not being a very good sailor I wondered more than once whether I would be air-sick, but soon it was too late to worry about that as we donned our head-sets and moved off. About half-way down the runway I thought we had hit a rather large bump but then realised we had actually taken off. As the plane strained to an eventual height of about 1500 feet my overwhelming impression was that we didn't appear to be moving at all! The relationship between the noise, vibration and general effort bore no relation to the speed with which the scenery crawled by. I had to look at the instruments to see that we were doing about 150 knots.



As we levelled out, and I acclimatised, familiar landmarks appeared in a new guise - the A44 between Kington and Leominster, Weobley over to our left, over K**bl*s Yard, then suddenly we were over the Wye, just west of Letton. Banking left over 'The Swan' heading for Brobury. Circling the old homestead we then headed over Merbach. My pilot pointed to the clock - 15 minutes gone - time to head back to Shobdon.

A voice over the headset - would you like to take the controls? Of course - nothing fancy mind. Without having to worry about changing gear, or running into oncoming traffic, keeping the thing on a relatively even keel wasn't too demanding. There was even time to gaze at Eardisley below and then Kington over to the left. Having had my bit of independence my pilot took control and soon we were banking over the airfield. A squealing tyre or two later we were down, and it was all over - 30 minutes exactly.

Looking back it seemed all too short, but a real thrill and sense of pleasure. Not exactly Bleriot, but one small step for me anyhow.

FIRST TIMERS

(Editor's note: We do hope that this first article will encourage other readers to describe their own experiences. They come to us all at some time or other, so do please pick up a pen and tell us about them.)

DO YOU BELIEVE IN COINCIDENCES ?

Here are a list of facts concerning the American presidents Abraham Lincoln and John Kennedy.

1. Lincoln was elected in 1860; Kennedy in 1960.
2. Both were assassinated on a Friday.
3. In each instance their wives were present.
4. Each was shot in the head.
5. Each was shot from behind.
6. Each of their successors were named Johnson.
7. Andrew Johnson (Lincoln's successor) was born in 1808; Lyndon Johnson (Kennedy's successor) was born in 1908.
8. John Wilkes Booth (Lincoln's assassin) was born in 1839, while Lee Harvey Oswald (Kennedy's assassin) was born in 1939.
9. Both Booth and Oswald were killed before going for trial.
10. 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.
11. Booth shot Lincoln in a theatre and ran to a warehouse while Oswald shot Kennedy from a warehouse and ran to a theatre.
12. The names of Lincoln and Kennedy each consist of seven letters.
13. The names of Andrew Johnson and Lyndon Johnson each contain thirteen letters.
14. The names John Wilkes Booth and Lee Harvey Oswald each contain fifteen letters.

Flattery is all right as long as you don't inhale.
(Adlai Stevenson)

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countryman

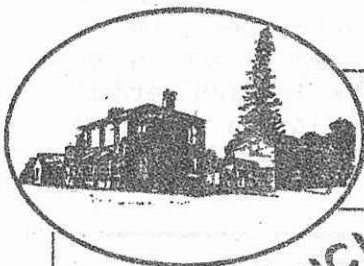
The Gateshead Garden Festival on the banks of the Rivers Team and Tyne, just across the river from Newcastle-on-Tyne, provides our gardening trip for 1990. It's a long way, but worth every mile.

Organisation at the festival is first class, with uniformed officials seemingly everywhere. There is so much going on all the time that nobody could possibly be bored with the proceedings. Of course, the weather is always a determining factor in such a large undertaking, but this year there has been no shortage of hot, sunny days, and in the North East that's a fine boast! Once inside the exhibition almost everything except food, gifts and drink is free; the only thing you're short of is time. Also, from the time you join the Worcester by-pass until you go through the festival gates, it's dual-carriageway or motorway all the way there.

I must admit that practically all the 'Festival Landmarks' modern sculptures in the main - left me completely unmoved, but thankfully not much space was wasted.

For those keen on displays of bedding plants, there is plenty to whet the appetite. On either side of the Festival walkways there are beds of Petunias, Marigolds, Busy Lizzies and Geraniums. Hanging baskets abound with an endless variety of plants. Many seed firms have provided beautiful displays of their new varieties which, blooming outside, can be judged alongside established varieties.

One of the best things on display at Gateshead is the huge variety of hard landscaping materials used. Fencing, paving, walling, stepping stones - an enormous choice is now available, much of it expensive but, on the other hand, long-lasting. Another feature used is mulches of Forest Bark; the common compost heap can provide mulching material almost as good looking but free of charge. Background for many displays is the quick-growing mixture of willows, cherry laurel and poplars, which provide a dense screen in a very short time; although not suitable for small garden areas, they are ideal for providing cover on a more open site, perhaps interplanted with trees which will take a few years to make an impact.



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JAY OR GARY, THE PROPRIETORS, WILL BE HAPPY TO DISCUSS YOUR REQUIREMENTS.

CATERING FOR THE COMMUNITY

Come along with me and I'll point out a few of the highlights of the 200 acre site. From the Scottish Highlands and Islands comes a beautiful Heather garden, with large blocks of different varieties with eight very attractive sculptures depicting various highland figures. So different, but again perfectly laid out, is the Harrogate Garden - showing British formal bedding at its finest. Harrogate has long been one of the top 'formal' towns, and their display, set off by an immaculate lawn, certainly shows why. The large conservation area, although comparatively easily laid out, is still interesting with a 30 foot cruck-frame barn erected at its centre, and various woodland skills demonstrated. The Chrysanthemum garden, although not yet in bloom, promises to be a real eye-catcher in September and October.

The NFU has brought a few animals together to depict the Festival Farm, and although this was admired by many youngsters, I couldn't imagine many Herefordshire people being impressed! It is important to realise though, that the majority of visitors come from urban environments and quite a few of the children will never have seen a live cow, sheep or even a chicken.

The Royal Parks have put on a beautiful display of herbaceous plants together with a small pool area surrounded by attractive fencing. A garden which attracts many city and town dwellers is the National Pot Leek Society's show of their vegetables - a real Geordie speciality. The Northern Landscapes garden is a peaceful scene, simple in concept but excellent in effect although the River Team must take some of the credit here, running as it does through the middle of the garden. Attractive footbridges at either end of the garden add greatly to the general effect, while in one of the associated pavilions a very interesting display shows stages in the manufacture of Bulldog spades and forks.

After reaching the next section of the festival on an old, perfectly restored tram (one of a number of rides available at the Festival) a stunning display of dahlias, greets the visitor. From the 2 inch blooms of pom-poms like 'Noreen' to the 11 inch diameter giant decoratives such as 'Hamori Gold' or 'Inca Dambuster' the variety of form and colour is almost endless.

The White garden is attractive and restful too, being full of white flowers and leaves and looking cool in the hot summer sun.

Crossing the River Team for the third and last time, the final area is reached, and what a wonderful climax. A large building houses the Tyneside Heritage exhibition; this alone could occupy you for an hour, showing some of the inventors and other personalities who have made the area what it is. The Belgian garden is a marvellous display of large double-flowered tuberous Begonias in a rainbow of colours. The children will love the replica of an old Tyneside Paddle tug,

Robert Loxston

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the Norwegian garden with its attractive trolls, and the working replica of the 'Locomotion' steam engine. The Japanese Tea garden leaves you flat - perhaps the thought of it is too much !

For Catherine Cookson addicts, her country garden is lovely with house-leeks on the paths being a real eyecatcher. Another children's favourite is the 'Lambton Worm' garden together with the famous monster and poem. Another link with Lambton Park is their marvellous display of clematis plants. All this floral beauty makes one very thirsty, and it is marvellous to arrive at the Newcastle Breweries riverside pub which looks like a castle for some inner refreshment. Then its back outside to see some more. Give yourself a treat go and have a look yourself. It's a long way to go but you won't be disappointed.

DID YOU KNOW

That there is no charge made at any Post Office when you pay your bills over the counter ie, **Poll Tax, Telephone, Gas or Water** so save maney - use the Local Post Office and help to keep it open.

Notice on the door of a pub in North Herefordshire:-

Never mind the dog - beware of the owner.

HELPFUL HINTS FOR HANDY HOUSEHOLDERS - 6

Mower Maintenance 1 -Cylinder types.

As the grass cutting season draws to a close, it is the time to think about giving the mower a little attention before putting it away for the winter. Even if you are one of those fanatics who continue cutting through the winter, you would be wise to give the machine a little care and attention.

Firstly, have a look at the condition of the cylinder and fixed blade. If they look rather knocked about and make a loud clonking noise as the cylinder rotates, a full regrind of the cylinder and a replacement fixed blade may be necessary. If this is the case, you have no option but to take the thing to pieces and deliver the cylinder to a professional service agent. But, if the mower has been cutting reasonably well without too much noise or effort, you can take an easier and cheaper course of action.

Start by turning the cylinder slowly by hand and noting the places where there are high spots on the blades - probably where stones have been struck. Remove these high spots by rubbing gently with a fine file until the cylinder turns freely without catching. Next take some coarse grinding paste of the type used for grinding-in the valves of an engine when decarbonising. (It's strange, modern engines don't seem to need this any more). Smear a little of the paste along each blade of the cylinder and rotate it as when cutting. Some of the more superior types of machine used to come with a special handle for this purpose - you are indeed fortunate if you have one of these. Otherwise, just push the mower along a flat surface. If it is a motor mower, disconnect the drive to the roller and rotate the cylinder with the engine. After a short run, adjust up the fixed blade slightly to maintain the sharpening action. Check the cutting performance at intervals by feeding one inch wide strips of newspaper between the blades and continue the above actions until a clean cut is obtained across the full width. Finally, wipe off the paste and apply a little oil.

Finish off by lubricating all the moving parts with oilcan or grease gun as appropriate.

WORLD TOUR AND KNEES-UP

In a relaxed atmosphere a goodly number of folks enjoyed a concert programme at Staunton Village Hall which ranged from Hawaii to Spain, with memories of The Beatles, Miss Marple and Florrie Forde. The audience was involved in a Samba with various instruments passed round and it ended with the hilarious Hootenanny.

The performance of the City of Hereford Band was flawless with conductor George Taylor also introducing the items. The concert was arranged by the Chairman of the City Band, John Corke and his wife Ruby, who live in Staunton, in aid of St. Mary's Church, Staunton. Sumptuous refreshments were served in the interval.

The net proceeds amount to £227.45. Our warm thanks to the Hereford City Band and all those who helped to make the evening so enjoyable, to the generous donors who enabled the expenses to be covered before the concert, to a number of friends who were unable to be present but gave donations and to those who attended and joined in so heartily.

Rev. Bryn Rees

CHURCH SERVICES DURING OCTOBER

Byford

7th	6.30pm	Harvest Festival
21st	11.00am	Morning Prayer
28th	10.00am	Family Service

November

4th	9.30am	Holy Communion
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Kinnersley

7th	6.30pm	Harvest Festival Preacher the Rev. Brian Woollaston
14th	10.00am	Mattins
21st	10.00am	Holy Communion
28th	10.00am	Family Service
29th	10.00am	Holy Communion (the feast of St. Simon & St. Jude, Apostles)

November

4th	10.00am	Holy Communion
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Letton

14th	11.00am	Family Service
28th	6.00pm	Evening Prayer

Monnington

14th	6.30pm	Harvest Festival
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Norton Canon

7th	9.00am	Holy Communion
12th	7.30pm	Harvest Festival
14th	9.00am	Morning Prayer
21st	9.00am	Holy Communion
28th	9.00am	Family Service

November

4th	9.00am	Holy Communion
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Sarnesfield

5th	7.00pm	Harvest Festival
14th	10.00am	Holy Communion
28th	10.00am	Morning Prayer

Staunton-On-Wye

7th	11.00am	Holy Communion
14th	11.00am	Morning Prayer
21st	11.00am	Holy Communion

November

4th	11.00am	Holy Communion
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STAUNTON PARISH COUNCIL

At a recent meeting of the Council it was agreed to grant £200 from Parish Funds towards the much needed repairs and improvements to be undertaken at Staunton Village Hall.

On the planning front the PC has supported proposals for a new access to Staunton School, extensions at Sheriffs Cottage & 2 The Rucketts, and a new house on land adjacent to White House, Staunton (subject to satisfactory road landscaping). An appeal against the District Councils decision to refuse the erection of 2 houses at Hempridge has been refused; another appeal against the DC's refusal to allow the construction of a garage at Staunton Lodge has been allowed.

greenway gardens

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~~CAKES - PLANTS - COFFEE~~
Kenneth and Kathleen Anderson will be hosting a Coffee Morning with a Cake & Plant Bring & Buy Sale for the Deanery at:-

FENMORE, WEOHLEY

On Saturday, 27th October from 10.00am to 12.00pm in aid of

ST. MARY'S CHURCH, STAINTON ON WYE

Gifts of cakes would be particularly welcome. Will those who bring plants please label them clearly with name, colour of flower, time of flowering and height.

There will be Hostas, Epimediums, Alpines & Herbaceous Plants.

Fenmore is on the East side of the B.4320 Road, leading out of the village to Kington and Leominster.

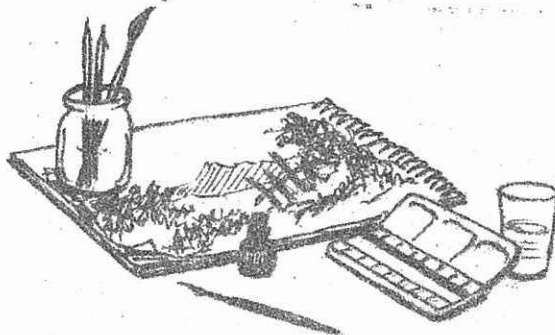
A SKETCH CLUB?

Based at Norton Canon Village Hall.

Anyone interested in a sketch club group.

Please phone - Barbara Davis, Tele-318083.

All ages welcome, from the young to the young in heart.



KINNERSLEY GROUP PARISH COUNCIL

PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY: There will be a meeting regarding Public Rights of Way on Wednesday 10 October at Norton Canon Village Hall at 8 p.m.

Representatives from H&WCC, the NFU and the Country Landowners Assn will be attending.

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MEMORIES

I still can remember

A day in September

We drove through the valley &
into the west

The blue hills of Wales

Were edging the vales

We drove up to Staunton &
found our Hillcrest.

I still can remember

An early November

We stood in our garden and
looked at the fields

And Autumn was changing

Its colours were ranging

From yellow to russet and
painting the hills.

I still can remember

a Yuletide December

A Robin sang sweetly, the
sunrise was low

Our first Christmas morning

A Christmas day dawning

And Hereford bells ringing
over the snow.

F A Evans

CHURCH PATH OR SY 10

This footpath starts or finishes at the telephone box at the western end of the village, near the lane leading down to "Little London"

Take the Green Lane behind the nearby back to back cottages named 'Pool Cottage' and 'Rye Grass'. Within 100 yards it crosses over the public road and enters 'Weavers Orchard'. After passing the Recreation Ground it becomes a lane again and at the far end you pass through a metal kissing gate which, by its style, I would imagine has been there since before the turn of the century.

You now enter an orchard and the footpath angles slightly to the right. Towards the back of 'Field Cottage'. The footpath through the orchard is not easily discernable (soon to be way marked). Upon reaching the orchard boundary behind 'Field Cottage' the path goes straight ahead towards the large oak trees visible at the far end of the field.

Reaching the trees you will see a farm track ahead and the gradient rising a little. Follow this track, but, as you do, take time to look around. If the visibility is good you will be surprised how far you can see from here. The track soon comes out onto the public road by the side of Oakchurch Farm. Remember to close the gate if you found it closed.

Turn left and walk towards the church. You will see the footpath (signposted) leading once again along a farm track and NOT towards the church as some people have been misled into thinking. Once past the churchyard (you may have noticed the Victorian iron work of the churchyard gate and fence) you now come out onto another glorious vista. You can, on a clear day, obtain tremendous views from this point through at least $\frac{3}{4}$ of a circle.

Starting in the northwest, the mountains above Radnor can be seen nearly 20 miles away. To the north east Ladylift and Burton Hill (just under 1000ft above sea level) rise quite close at hand. Ahead of you just over half a mile away the bridleway passing by Scutmill is clearly visible leading to Mansell Gamage and above it Garnons Hill. Away to the south east, the Wye Valley, the radio dishes of Madley Telecommunications Centre and beyond Aconbury Hill south of Hereford (904ft) with its ancient camp on top (not visible), to the south the hill above Preston and Moccas the last northern outliers of the Black Mountains. To the west our own local Oakers Hill blocks the vision of distant places but its wooded top and lower pastureland is just as pleasurable to the eye.

Having rested and admired the view the way now leads through the gate at the end of the lane. (Remember the country code). Once through the gate angle slightly right over the hump making your way down the field toward the northern end of the copse just visible. Within 100 yards the stile becomes visible in the hedge just to the north of this copse. Crossing this stile a second stile is easily seen straight ahead at the far side of the field and crossing this one the last stile and signpost taking us out onto the public road opposite the entrance to Scut Mill. This completes SY10. Unfortunately this particular path cannot be used as part of a small circular walk and one has to either retrace ones steps or turn left and return to the starting place by using the road through the village.

John Corke

This walk is the first of a series which I hope to publish in the 'Signal'. If you keep them you should have eventually a complete guide to local paths and bridleways with perhaps some interesting things to see en route.

Contributions for the NOVEMBER issue should be sent to
Gareth Evans, Lanzerac, Norton Canon (0544 318505) by 23rd October.

WOBLEY & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

"The Frontier between Welsh & Saxon in Herefordshire"

by Dr. David Hill - 13 September.

Members and their friends had an interesting and highly instructive time with Dr. David Hill of Manchester University, in the afternoon exploring the Rowe Ditch on The Leen farm at Pembridge, and in the evening hearing a public lecture in which recent research on Offa's Dyke (in which he has played a leading part) was reviewed and fresh interpretations of that earthwork were given.

The Offa's Dyke Project of which Dr. Hill is Director seeks to survey in detail the length of Offa's Dyke. In recent years they have concentrated on the Rowe Ditch as a contemporary earthwork, supposedly guarding the lower reaches of the Arrow valley, and the Saxon settlement of The Leen. The stretch leading south to Pitfield Farm was inspected, where substantial remains of wall and ditch can be seen. The original was at least 10ft high and 10ft deep, and gave a clear, distant view to the west, which was its prime purpose. The way the Ditch took advantage of the lie of the land showed how carefully its line had been surveyed, for the line had significant changes in alignment.

In his lecture, Dr. Hill showed that there was no good reason to suppose that Offa's Dyke ran from Prestatyn in the north to Chepstow in the south. In fact a break at Treuddyn on the Clwyds could mark the north end, and a break at Rushock Hill near Kington might be the south end; and these points marked the boundary between the Kingdom of Powys and of Mercia in Offa's time. Earthworks to the south were discontinuous and different in form, though one still had to account for the stretch of the Dyke on Yazor Hill. Dr. Hill suggested that the Dyke could have been built in two summers, by calling on two men from each village throughout his kingdom to work on it. The Dyke was a defence, and a good lookout point which could be patrolled at key times.

Thus ended a highly satisfying day made all the more memorable by the tea provided by Mrs. Norman at The Leen.

The next meeting of the Society will be at the Willow Gallery on Wednesday 24th October at 7.30pm, when Major Philip Verdin will talk about "Garnstone".

MRS TIPTON'S FAREWELL TO STAUNTON SCHOOL

Now that thoughts are back with school, I would like to thank the children, parents and governors of Staunton School for the memorable day of July 24th, 1990. It was a wonderful day, but tinged with sadness that my connections with the school are now broken. Through my years at Staunton, I have met so many kind and generous people, generous not only with material support, but with moral support. There have been many parents who, over the years, have given unstintingly of their time, which is precious to all of us.

I would like to thank also Governors who have been supportive at all times and have helped in making the school successful.

Thank you to all the children I have met at Staunton school. They are all in my memory, and I look forward to hearing of their successes in the future.

Finally, a most sincere thank you for all the delightful and generous gifts I received on my retirement. I would like to thank you all individually so that you will be well aware of how I appreciate your kindness, not only for your gifts, but also of being present and sharing with me that lovely day.

I send you all my very best wishes and my hopes that Staunton School will continue to flourish and go from strength to strength.

M B Tipton

AUTUMN THOUGHTS

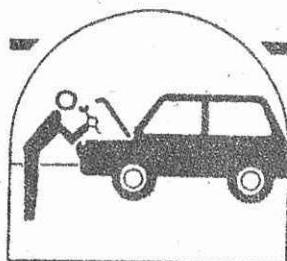
This is the time of year when one starts tidying up and moving plants in the garden. I do a lot of moving, even some throwing out - over the years, you find plants get less productive, and have less flowers, or they tend to take over ! (I have far too many irises for my small garden).

When we first came to our cottage, a kind neighbour gave us lots of herbaceous plants, and I still have some of these. In fact, quite a number of plants were given us, and have come from different parts of the country, a purple helebore from Yorkshire - a pear tree from Suffolk, contributions from my sister in law in Dorset, and presents from friends in Shropshire, Devon etc. I have a bay which started life in Shropshire, then spent six rather unhappy years in Staffordshire in a tub, and has now grown to enormous proportions here. I brought a seedling holly from a garden in Worcestershire in 1976, during a summer rather like the last one, and now for the first time it is covered with berries.

One of my mistakes was planting the rooted cutting of a wild cherry ! I remember a small boy who lived next door saying "that will never grow into a tree" will it has, with a vengeance ! I had to have it partly cut down a year or two ago. It vies with the spruce at the bottom of the garden, which seems to be trying to get to heaven.

It is pleasant when working in the garden to look at plants, and think of the people, some of whom are now dead, who gave them to you. And then there is always next year to make plans for ! In spite of the hard work I shall be sorry if I have to give up my garden.

Joan Close



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PEARS WITH BROWN SUGAR & CREAM

- 4 firm dessert pears
- 2-3 tablesp. brown sugar
- 1 oz. butter
- ½ Pt. double cream

Peel pears whole, cut in half lengthways, scoop out cores. Arrange pears in buttered baking dish, sprinkle with the sugar and dot with the butter. Cover with buttered paper, place above centre of oven and bake at 200°C/400°F/Gas mark 6 for 20 mins until tender. To serve pour cold cream over hot pears - YUMMY !!!!

ROWAN JELLY

To serve with any meat or game

- 1 Lemon
- 4 lbs. Rowan berries
- 2 lbs. apples

Wash Rowans and apples, chop whole apple roughly and put in pan with rind and juice of Lemon and water to just cover fruit. Simmer 'till soft. Strain through jelly bag. To each pint of juice add one pound of Demerara sugar and cook in normal way till set.