

No. 6.

SEPT.

'82

THE SIGNAL

10p

A COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER FOR

Kinnersley • Sarnesfield • Letton • Norton Canon

SIGNAL BOX

OUR DISAPPEARING FOOTPATHS

The effect towards the opening and maintenance of public footpaths is not of recent origin as many may believe. Over 170 years ago a report was presented to the House of Commons from which the following passage is an extract.

'At present, any person who may possess only a few acres of land and finds that the footpath in his neighbourhood either spoils the appearance of his grounds, or deprives him of the privacy he wishes, immediately proceeds barricading the said footpath, threatening "prosecution as the law directs".' (Extract 12th March, 1909 Report to Parliament.) At that time the existing law gave any two JP's the power summarily to close any footpath which THEY deemed unnecessary. There was good reason to believe at this time 'that individual magistrates up and down the country did not scruple to use this power for their own personal advantage whenever they felt inclined to exclude the public from crossing their lands.' An Act passed in 1835 curtailed this power. Footpaths were and should be public rights of way.

In the parish of Norton Canon, in 1952 a total of 38 footpaths were submitted for consideration, of which number 19 only were passed forward for acceptance. Further objections were sustained against 3 resulting in two routes being altered and one path rejected. The parish now has 16 footpaths shown on the definitive map. There is also a proposed bridle path which runs from The Sergeants through Little London past Hustley wood Farm to a junction near Lower Ailey Farm shown on the same map, which can be studied at Hereford Reference Library if you are interested.

The majority of the 38 paths were closed apparently because of 'no public use.' A small number were rejected after objections by the landowners, which of course is right and understandable in certain circumstances. In general we live together in reasonable harmony and friendliness in our 'patch' and no-one in their right senses would deliberately antagonise a farmer neighbour by tramping across the middle of a field. But the loss of so many paths in a relatively short time is disturbing.

Under the existing law Hereford and Worcester C.C. have a duty to sign post all footpaths, but Parish Councils have a right to veto the erection of any sign. The situation is such today that no signs are posted unless the County Council receives a request from the Parish Council - which is a reversal of procedure as far as I understand it!

Wootton Bassett and the arrival of visitors from all over the country, many of whom will probably be 'walkers' looking for local footpaths (other than Offa's) there is a strong argument perhaps for all footpaths in the area to be sign-posted as they are in other counties. Then perhaps fears of damage to crops and worries over trespass will be alleviated. After all, they are public footpaths.

Do you think we should ask our Parish Council to consider requesting signposts for the footpaths in our parish?

Howard Jones

CHILDREN - ARE THEY TAUGHT TO QUESTION?

During the past years I have visited some 20 Herefordshire schools - primary and secondary - to show Oxfam films and to try to stimulate discussion about issues concerning the Third World and the problems faced by the Western aid givers. The operative words in the above sentence are 'to try.' In a nutshell I have been surprised - even startled - by the difference in responses children in schools similar in size, social standing and educational reputation.

Let me say at once that I would except all the primary schools (5-11 year olds) from the remarks which follow because here I found the inhibitions of adolescence still in the future and where the physical embellishment of the children was matched by their insatiable curiosity. These sessions - if exhausting - were a joy to conduct.

The picture changes, however, in the secondary schools (12-18 year olds.) Even here I freely admit that with some of these classes - a minority - I received a lively and questioning response that was all I could wish for. My problem lay with all the others.

In spite of constant verbal encouragement and questioning (the Oxfam films were themselves deliberately contentious) I was faced with submissiveness,

found wanting in the extreme. Have any of you ever found yourself standing in front of a group answering your own questions, talking to yourself and trying to look intelligent at the same time? If so, you will know what I mean.

As I ponder this problem about today's teenage children the words of that old well known school song come to mind:

40 years on when afar and asunder
Parted are those who are singing
today

When we look back and regretfully
wonder

What we were like in our work and
our play

What were we like? Is it just the convenient forgetfulness of age or merely false pride that persuades me that teenagers of my vintage had more questioning minds? Or am I not making sufficient allowance for the grimness of the present economic climate? How challenging would our thinking have been if we too had had the strong suspicion that no matter how hard we tried, the prospects of an interesting job were becoming increasingly dim? Is perhaps the competitiveness of modern life now so much more constructing on school syllabi that there is simply not enough time to encourage the enquiring mind? As a consequence, is today's teacher forced too much into one way communication and not enough into encouraging a response from the pupil? Frankly, I don't know the answers to these questions but would be most grateful to hear from those with thoughts to offer.

Let me finish with one short vignette. The film was over, the lights were up and absolutely no comment at all was forthcoming from anyone in the class. The teacher (who had been sitting quietly at the back) suddenly took pity on my embarrassment and whispered in my ear to ask them to write down their thoughts on paper. This I did and immediately all heads were bowed and later I achieved my aim by getting them to read out their written replies.

And finally there is the story of the teacher who, as he walked into the classroom, called out 'Good morning everyone - but there's no need to write that down!'

Gareth Evans

'HERE WE FORD' IN THE LATE

NINETEENTH AND EARLY TWENTIETH

CENTURIES

(Mrs Hedley Baynham)

LIFE IN GENERAL

A very beautiful sight is that of the River Wye flowing through the lush pastures of Herefordshire, with the renowned white faced Hereford cattle grazing in the fields on the adjacent banks. Here one thinks of peace and tranquillity but life has not always been so serene in the early twentieth century. Conditions have greatly altered.

THE MAN'S WORLD

The district was then chiefly agricultural, the farm worker toiled from 6.00 am - 6.00 pm winter and summer for a wage of 10/- weekly, paid fortnightly. Christmas Day and Good Friday were the only paid holidays, overtime was non-existent but the farmer usually gave a bonus when Harvest was completed. Grass and corn were cut with a scythe and men would start work at 4.00 am on corn and grass when it was cool. The early dew would make the task easier. The Scythe had to be sharpened many times on a 'Stone' and there was a great art in doing this properly.

One farmer at Madley bought a mowing machine, but the men threatened to burn it because they were afraid it would put them out of work. The corn, when cut, was stacked or 'stooked' as it was called. The sheaves were placed against each other, and left for the 'parson' to preach over them three times, which meant three weeks.



The land was fed with farmyard manure which held the moisture, so crops did not suffer so badly from the drought. The artificials of today tend to dry the ground. Muck spreading took place in the winter when other tasks could not be performed owing to frost and snow. The grain would be thrashed with a machine which travelled from farm to farm, a very dusty job, so different today with the Combined Harvester and the hay trussed on the fields, all baled ready for use.

Recreation was rare. Some of the Parishes had a 'Reading Room' or a Hall where the Men's Club would meet once a week in the winter where certain games would be played such as Rifle Shooting took place. A League would be formed and they would visit other Clubs in the district. Some Churches had a fine peal of bells and ringing was also a great hobby. Teams would visit other belfries throughout the Diocese and the peals may go on for three hours 'Grand Sires' and 'Bob Major and Minor' being rung. There was a strict code of conduct to be observed by the 'Bellringers Guild.' No swearing in the Belfry and no intoxicants were allowed. The Church door was always locked during these sessions. The Hall would be used for Dances, the local fiddler would usually provide the music or someone would play the piano. The old dances such as the Lancers Quadrilles 'or set dances with about 4 or 5 figures' were usually on the programme.

(to be continued..)

An Englishman is a self made man who worships his Maker.

A Scotsman is a man who keeps the Sabbath and everything else he can lay his bloody hands on.

A Welshman prays on his knees on Sunday and on his neighbours for the rest of the week.

An Irishman never knows what he wants and won't be happy 'till he gets it.

NEWS FROM THE CHURCHES

KINNERSLEY CHURCH

September

5th 10 am Holy Communion
12th 10 am Mattins
19th 10 am Holy Communion
26th 10 am Family Service

October

3rd 6.30 pm Harvest Festival
Preacher The Rev.
P. Tidmarsh.

SARNESFIELD CHURCH

September

12th 10 am Holy Communion
26th 10 am Morning Prayer

NORTON CANON CHURCH

September

5th 9 am Holy Communion
12th 9 am Morning Prayer
19th 11 am Family Service and
Baptism

(Note change of time)

26th 9 am Holy Communion

LETTON CHURCH

September

26th 6 pm Harvest Festival

The Weobley Group of Parishes will be remembered in prayers at 5.30 pm in the Cathedral on Wednesday, 1st September. Please make a special effort to come along - all are welcome.

Letton P.C.C. Monday, 6th September at 7.30 pm in The Swan.

Sarnesfield P.C.C. Tuesday, 14th September at 7.30 pm at Sarnesfield Court.

Deanery Synod Tuesday, 21st September at 7.30 pm at Kingdon.

Mothers' Union Tuesday, 28th September at 7.30 pm at Weobley Vicarage. There will be a talk given by The Samaritans.

WHAT'S ON

WEOBLEY DISTRICT AGRICULTURAL IMPROVEMENT SOCIETY

This society was formed 75 years ago.

There is a Men's Committee and Ladies Committee, who organise many functions during the year. The main event being the ploughing match, which this year is to be held at 'Lady Arbour Farm', Eardisley by kind permission of Mr F. Stevens, on Saturday, 25th September.

As well as classes for ploughing, there are competitions for samples of grain, specimen roots, bundles of hay and Sheep Classes.

In the Domestic Section there are classes for Cookery, Preserves, Handicraft, Floral Art, Horticulture and lots of childrens classes.

In an adjoining field there are the Sheep Dog Trials taking part all day.

Schedules for all of the competitions can be obtained from:

Mr. P. Brazier or Mrs A. Powell
Pixie-Coombe Court Farm
Ledgmoor Tillington

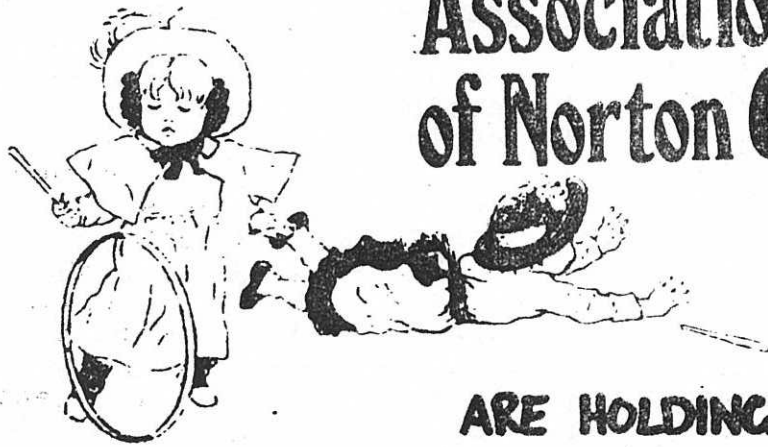
Please pay us a visit; whether as a competitor or as a spectator.



Bank Holiday Monday

Morris Dancers at the Kinnersley Arms 1 p.m. lunch time.

Association of Friends of Norton Canon School



ARE HOLDING A Garden Fête

on SATURDAY
18th September 1982
at the School
from 3 pm. - 6 pm.

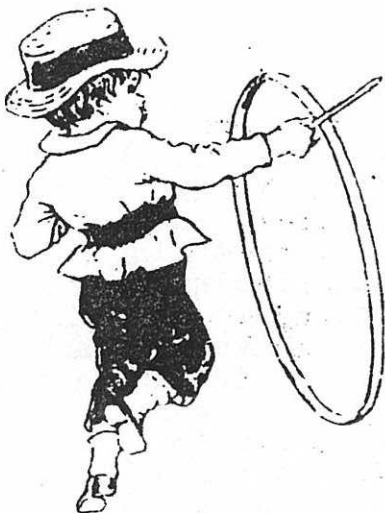
CHILDRENS FANCY DRESS
COMPETITION PRIZES
Stalls to include

CHILDRENS MOTORBIKE RIDES
CAKES TOYS BOTTLES
WHITE ELEPHANT
BOOKS & COMICS.

any contributions greatly
appreciated and may be
deposited with any of the
following

MRS. D. HARDMAN. MRS. S. STOKES. MRS. J. KNIGHT
(Norton Canon). MR. J. ABSALOM (Norton Wood)
MR. J. SMITH (Yarsop) MR. C. EDWARDS (Mansel Lacy)
MOORHAMPTON STORES. NORTON CANON STORES.

PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR SCHOOL



The Garden

We apologise for not including the two contributions for 'Gardening in August'. This was due to printing difficulties. Although they are a little late, we felt they were so interesting, we'd like to include them.

I think it was Lord Byron who wrote of the English winter as ending in July to recommence in August. Well perhaps our weather has changed a little since his day and we who enjoy our gardening have to be optimistic. So, with an Indian summer firmly in mind, let us first have a look at the vegetable plot.

There is still some seed sowing to be done and we can make use of the vacant strips where we have grown the early potatoes, broad beans, peas, cabbage and cauliflower. Probably the most important seeds to be sown are the spring cabbage and good varieties are Flowers of Spring, Harbinger and April - the two latter especially for those with small plots. Continue to sow lettuce but choose varieties such as the round Avon-defiance which is mildew resistant or the Cos type Lobjoits Green and Winter Density. These are good crops to follow peas and beans.

At the end of the month, try a sowing of the Japanese onion, they should be ready for harvesting the following June. Also sow White Lisbon spring onions and there is still time to sow winter radish; varieties Black Spanish and China Rose grow to $\frac{1}{2}$ lb or 1 lb each and are very mild. A row of Greenmarket spinach will complete our sowings in the vegetable garden

Flower Garden

Time spent in the flower garden should be a little less arduous; herbaceous plants and roses should be tidied up by dead heading and during dry weather seeds can be collected from both annual and perennial plants; this will save us pounds when the seed merchants' catalogues pop through the letter box.



I often think that we are being taken for a ride with the high prices charged for flower seeds; granted many are F1 hybrids which have to be hand pollinated but such uniform varieties are really only required by those who do more formal bedding-out.

The trend nowadays seems to be more towards the cottage garden style or the 'wild' garden, which I find easier on the eye and also on the back as weeding is not so essential. Collected seeds should be put into clearly labelled envelopes when clean and dry. Most perennial seed can be sown straight away in open ground or seed boxes and many will produce flowering plants by next year.

CUTTINGS

Now is the time for taking half rip wood cuttings from shrubs; Rosemary and Lavender for example can be easily rooted by taking 3" heel cuttings and placing them round the edge of small pots of 50/50 peat/sand. If you have any Gazania or Dimorphotheca (African Daisy) take cuttings now to ensure plants for next year. Try a few 5" long cuttings of Clematis and place in the cold frame - you may be lucky.



THE GREENHOUSE

Round in the greenhouse, the tomatoes should be producing well; take a few bottom leaves off the plants to help the air circulation and take the tops out of the plants if you have not already done so - unless you want green tomatoes for chutney. If you are unlucky enough to have white fly in the greenhouse then paint some 12" square pieces of hardboard bright yellow and apply a thin film of oil over the surface. The white fly are attracted by the colour and then stick to the oil film. It really works.

Well - winter has not yet recommenced so I can still wish you all -

Good growing,

L. Greenleaf (Letter)

Now that the combines can be heard about, the time has come to harvest the onions and shallots, also carrots, which if left in the ground will split and be eaten by slugs. Onions are ready for lifting when they are easily pulled up and they should be stored in a cold, dry place; carrots in dry earth or peat.

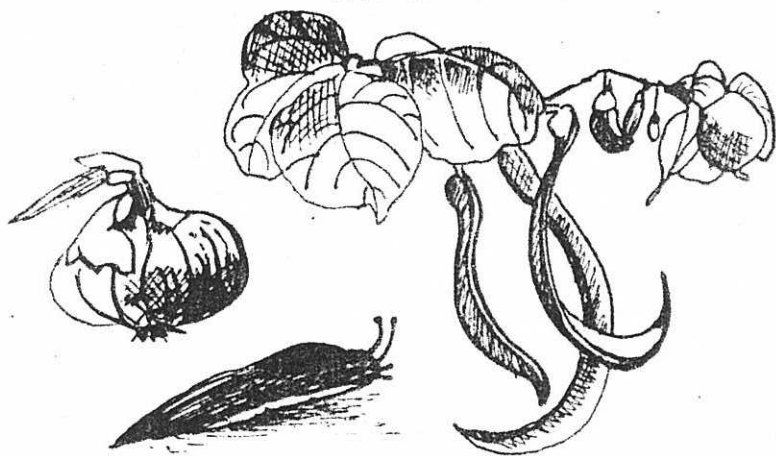
Blackcurrants, raspberries and all flowering shrubs should be pruned now, or as soon as possible after fruit has been picked.

I am told by my neighbour that broad beans must be planted on the 5th November, but last year I planted two weeks earlier hoping to get some early beans in the spring, but I only had three beans survive after the hard winter but next door there was a wonderful row, so remember Bonfire night for beans.

My tip for onions which are going bad before being pulled, which is caused by too much manure (nitrogen), is a dusting of potash along rows when growing.

After the very hard winter it seems likely that there will be a very heavy crop of apples, plums and damsons, in fact all fruits and vegetables, but gardeners being ever optimistic hope to do as well or even better next year.

Len Marshall



CHANGING FACE OF A VILLAGE

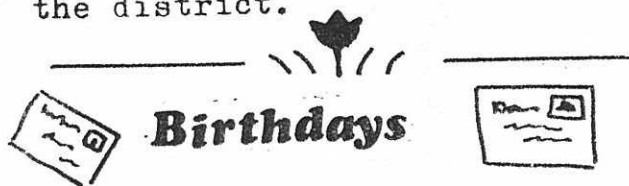
Records show that during the last 150 years population in one typical Herefordshire village has decreased rapidly.

A census taken in 1811 for the village of Norton Canon reveals a figure of 303. Ten years later, a count shows an increase in numbers to 347.

Until this time, greater numbers lived in rural areas compared with those living in the small towns. Chief source of work was in agriculture. In Norton Canon, of the 63 families living in the village, 54 were 'chiefly employed in agriculture.' Others were employed in handicraft.

But with the Industrial Revolution a great transformation took place. Simple hand tools were replaced by power-driven machines in factories steam-power succeeded horse-power, coal became the principal fuel instead of wood and, as a result many country smallholders were wiped out.

Today the total population of Norton Canon stands at 220. Only 25 are now employed on farms in the district.



Birthdays

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:



Sarnesfield

Lyndon Synock 15th September

Letton

Richard Protheroe 18th September
Abigail Gill 29th "

Moorhampton (Upperton)

Julia Price 7th September
Rodney Evans 17th "

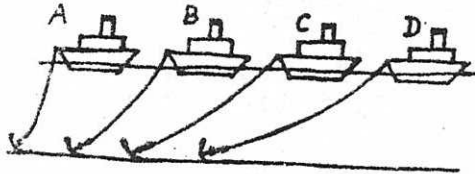
Norton Canon

Julian Lane 9th September
Shaun Sweet 11th "
Timothy Absolum 11th "
Debbie Sweet 14th "
Mark Ridge 16th "
Lance Deem 21st "
Thomas Absolum 23rd "
Cassian Hall 25th "
Lucas Plant 30th "

Children's Page

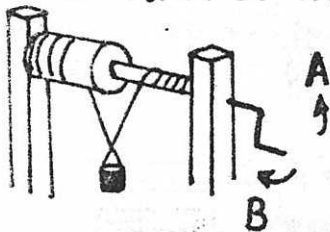


Which boat has the safest anchorage?



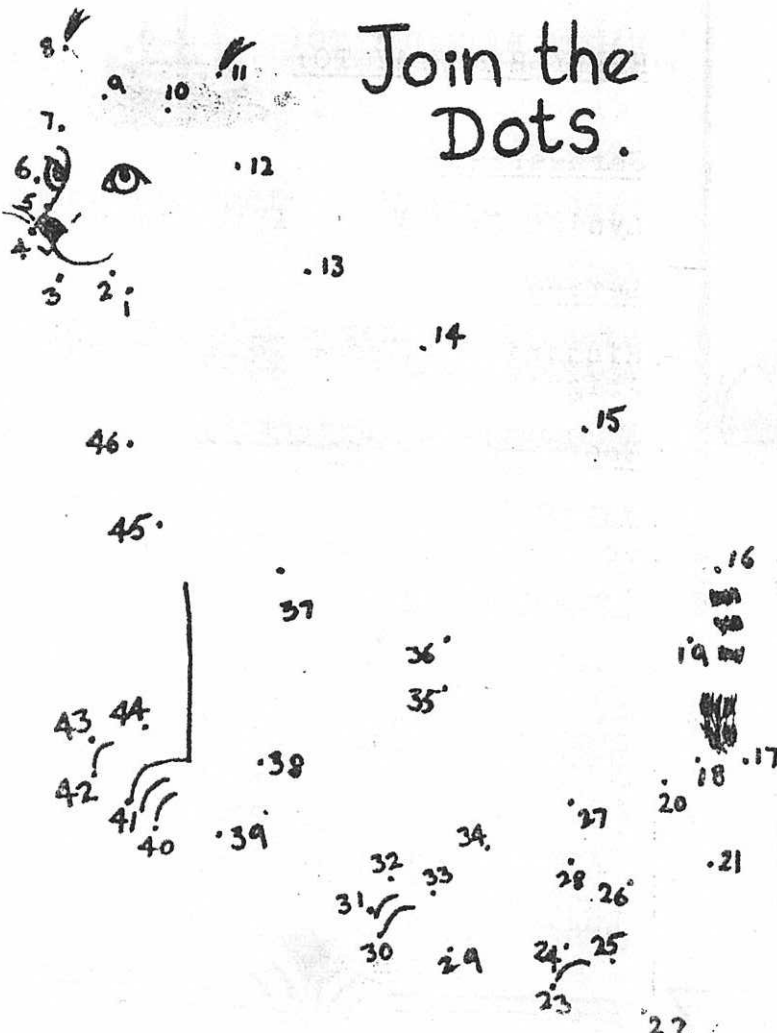
A. B. C. or D.

Which way will the handle have to turn to raise the bucket?



A. B. or Either.

Join the Dots.



THE OTTERS SHIP COMES IN

The otter was sitting outside his little house by the edge of the Pond mending nets. It was an occupation he thoroughly enjoyed, particularly on drowsy summer days for one could mend a little, and smoke a trifle, and leave off occasionally to dream of one's sea-faring days. If the otter did sigh, sometimes, for a return to those rollicking days at sea, on the whole he was fairly content. For he had undoubtedly seen many things of which the rest of the Forest people had merely dreamed, and what stories he had to tell.

The squirrel children used to wander in the direction of the otter's house towards evening, and crowd round him to 'tell us a story, just one, PLEASE!' After very little persuasion Bill Otter would oblige. Then putting down the nets the otter would begin. Such tales he had to tell - of pirate ships he had boarded and of the smugglers he had run to their holes. Tales of shipwrecks and rescues, of desert isles and mutiny at sea. And he told them of the wonderful world under the sea - of the giant fishes and the great fluted shells, of the twisted colourful sea-flowers and waving corals as strange as the forms of a dream. And then how pleasant it was to find themselves safely back in their own Forest, without even the bother of a return journey.



I have just been up the lane to fetch the milk. We have a little box by the roadside for the milkman to leave it in to save himself the trouble of driving down to the house, so each day one of us has this trip to get the milk.

On a fine day it is quite a nice little walk and I usually call to Tina our old dog to come and get some exercise.

The lane is firm and dry these days because previously we had loads and loads of stone put on it. When we first came to the house this lane was just a rutted track with the odd stone tossed into the biggest potholes; a practice which made me think of the horses and carts which must have gone up and down in years gone by.

As I stroll along I notice the different trees and bushes that make up the hedge, and wonder who planted them and when. They say that if you count the number of different species in a given length of hedge you can tell its age. Well, on that reckoning our hedge is about 600 years old. I don't know how true this belief is, but there are some very large stumps of trees rotting away quietly at the base of the hedge.

Just now the lane is at its best, lush and green, and studded with flowers, Elder, Dog-rose, Blackberry and Honeysuckle. Later in the year, with any luck, there will be Blackberries and Hazelnuts.

Sometimes I see the birds that nest in the hedge and I wonder if they are the same ones coming back year after year.

In the awful weather of last winter, Des had to dip a path for us all the way up to the Council road, but we were not disappointed because only on one day was our milk not delivered, and that, I think, was a real feather in our milkman's cap. We had never had to dig our way out before, and I hope we never have to do so again.

Barbara Ridge

EXTRA SPECIAL

The hand-pumped reed organ in Letton Church is a bit of a headache (and voice ache) to the congregation, and a firm of organ builders was asked to give advice on repairs and maintenance. Their comments were read out at a recent meeting of the PCC as follows: 'The reed organ was found to be in very poor condition and unplayable mainly due to the keys sticking because of mouse droppings wedging between them and also causing the stickers to jam in their registers. Some of the stops are not going 'off' properly because at some time the incorrect type of spring has been fitted. The bellows have worn at the gusset and have been roughly repaired with paper which is inadequate. A number of the reeds are not speaking due to dirt behind the tongues.

The action should be stripped out and vacuum cleaned, new springs fitted for the drawstops, the bellows properly patched, the reeds brush cleaned, actions lubricated, and all reassembled and regulated for the current sum of £340.00 plus VAT.

We understand the pitch of the organ is high, but it is not possible to do anything about this on this type of instrument'.

L E T T E R S

In the 1930's and 40's the Rev. Simey was Rector of Kinnersley and Norton Canon.

During his time in the parishes he took many photographic slides of events in both places.

He died about two years ago. Mrs Simey kept all the family ones but the others she gave to Mr Godfrey Davies to put them in the Hereford Archives.

I asked him if he would bring them to Norton Canon Village Hall to show them one evening and he agreed. Before we decide to have this show, is there any way of knowing how many people would be interested.

Lilian West

WELCOME!

The Signal extends a warm welcome to Mr and Mrs Biddle who have recently moved to Cambrai, Letton.

MISSING -- Lost, borrowed or stolen?

A manure fork - part of a Quicke loader from a tractor, only six months old, dark red in colour, disappeared from the rickyard right opposite the Gate Farm, Kinnersley, sometime prior to 8 August. The owner, Mr John F Davies, is offering a reward of £5 to anyone who can give information leading to its recovery.

KINNERSLEY CHURCH FETE

A fete in aid of Church funds held recently on the lawns at Kinnersley Castle was opened by Lady Cotterell of Garnons. The grounds and other facilities of the Castle were very kindly made available by Mr and Mrs H Garratt Adams, the Matron and Kinnersley Castle Housing Trust. Our thanks to them.

A goodly company thoroughly enjoyed a pleasant summer evening in delightful surroundings. Stalls and competitions, including 'welly wangling' were run by members of the PCC and friends and refreshments were served by the ladies. The tree shaded lawn was a suitable setting for an enjoyable display of dancing by the Hereford Morris Men. A total of £152 was raised.

CHARITY SHOP

A recent sale at the Charity Shop in Hereford raised £160 in aid of Kinnersley Church funds and thanks are given to all who gave so generously or helped in any way.

THE SIGNAL is published by the Signal Editorial Group. The Editorial address is c/o Leominster Marches Project, Whitehill House, Weobley, Herefordshire. Contributions, letters, articles etc can be sent to the editorial address or

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ALL CONTRIBUTIONS BY THE 15th OF EACH MONTH PLEASE