

No 13

SEPT
AUG 83

THE SIGNAL

10p

A COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER FOR

**Kinnersley - Sarnesfield - Letton - Norton Canon
Brobury - Monnington - Staunton.**

YAZOR SCHOOL

When the Reverend George Horatio Davenport decided to erect a school for the children of his Foxley Estate in 1868 it was unlikely he envisaged the building would ever become a mini factory. The school was short-lived for directories of Herefordshire record that by 1890 'the Schoolroom was a most commodious room with teachers residence adjoining but not used for many years.' Since then the School Building appears to have served as polling station, and timber store but not utilized extensively.

In November 1982 Leominster District Council refused a planning application by Foxley Estate for industrial use. Originally it appears Leominster District Council were prepared to approve subject to a number of conditions. Full details of those conditions are not known but it is a reasonable assumption that the District Council would have sought to protect the nearby occupiers from having an obnoxious neighbour. Since the District Council, if not the County, has been pushing for small industrial units in rural areas in redundant buildings, the possibility of providing some much needed employment in such a rural location justified the approval by the District Council provided there were proper restrictions. However on the orders of the County Council the application was refused on the grounds of inadequate Highway arrangements.

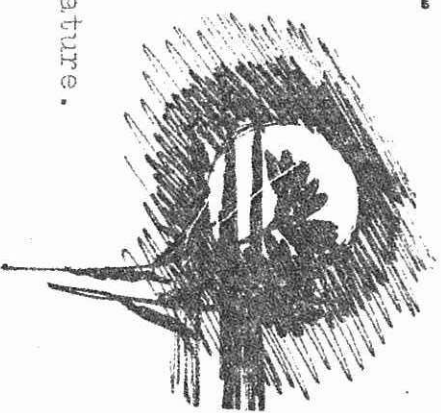
An appeal was lodged by the present incumbent of Foxley Estate who is well known for his association with organisations funded by the government to provide employment in rural areas and until recently was a District Councillor. Obviously a person who knows how and when to take on the County Council!

On 12th May, 1983 the Department of Environment granted the application subject to only two conditions. The first was to limit the period of operation to Monday to Saturday from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. with no use during Sundays and Public Holidays. The second restricted use to Class 3 light industrial use. However it appears the restricted use can cover a multitude of occupations and it is relatively easy for a building to be utilized in part by trades which may not totally fall within the defined use.

It is to be hoped that the actual use of the building will be one that provides employment and is of minimum inconvenience to the neighbourhood, and also that Foxley Estate will, if they retain ownership see that those objectives are achieved. However if the Foxley Estate decide to sell the building the new owners may not be prepared to give the same consideration to the neighbourhood. Whilst the terms of the appeal comment may not be infringed the original conditions set out by the District Council may have provided a more harmonious position.

Quite what enterprise will be carried on from the building remains the subject to speculation, in dealing with the planning applications mention was made of furniture manufacturing and repairs, the latest rumour is that a frozen food firm wants to produce chipped potatoes in the building. With a predicted shortage of potatoes this year, maybe that enterprise will be more shortlived than the school!

LUNAR GARDENING



For those who like to co-operate with nature.

1st quarter

Plant foods producing edible leaves, e.g. lettuce, cabbage etc. Start two days before the new moon and continue for seven more.

2nd quarter

Plant varieties which produce fruits or enclosed seeds, e.g. peas, beans, tomatoes.

3rd quarter

Plants which develop underground, e.g. root crops. Start two days before full moon.

4th quarter

This is the least fruitful time in the cycle. Use it for digging, weeding, pest control, clearing etc., hedge trimming. Good time for pruning.

MOON TABLES 1983

	<u>New</u>	<u>Full</u>
August	8th	23rd
September	7th	22nd
October	6th	21st
November	4th	20th
December	4th	20th

Sarnesfield Church

Very many thanks to parishoners and friends who generously donated towards the cost of restoring the John Abel Tombstone. This is situated close to the entrance porch at Sarnesfield Church. The work was carried out by a local craftsman and sufficient money was raised to cover the cost plus a small surplus which has been donated to the Church expenses fund.

Some people may not be aware of the important work which John Abel carried out both in this area and further afield. However evidence shows that he was designated as the Kings Carpenter for services rendered during the seige of Hereford, by the Scots, under the command of the Earl of Leven in 1645.

On the arrival of King Charles the first in the City after the raising of the Seige, Sir Barnabas Scudamore commented on his ingenuity in inventing mills for grinding corn and gunpowder and said, 'God sent us men of all professions, very useful and necessary for us in this distress and amongst others an excellent carpenter, the only man in the country to make mills etc.'

The authentic records of Abels work are few, but he did erect the Market Houses at Brecon, Knighton, (probably an error for Kington) and Leominster. The roofs and screen at Abbey Dore, The Unicorn Inn, Weobley and the Old House at Hereford. Other examples of his work can be found scattered over the countryside.

Abel lived to the ripe old age of 97 and it is understood that after he was about 90 years of age he engraved a stone for himself on which is depicted his own self kneeling and his two wives, together with the emblems of his profession, Rule, Compass and Square and the following inscription:

This craggy stone a covering is for an Architects bed
That lofty buildings raised high yet now lyes on his

head

His line and rule so death concludes are locked up in
store

Build they who list or they who wist for he can build
no more

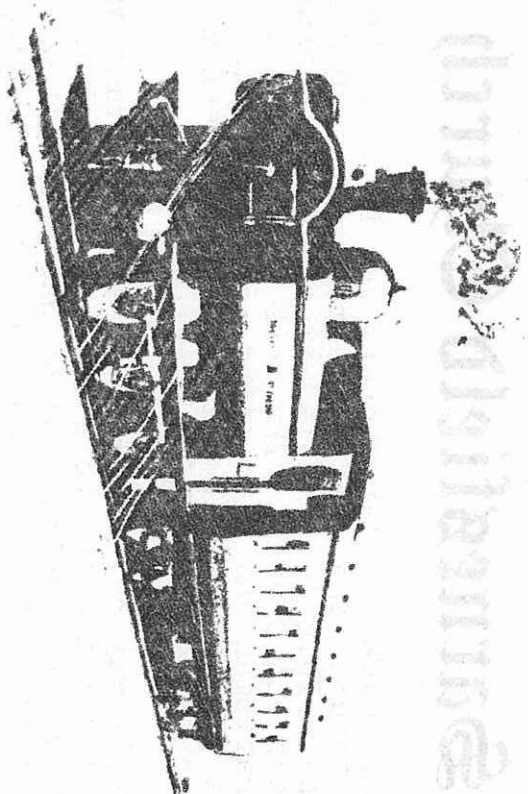
His house of clay could hold no longer
May Heavens joy frame him a stronger.

John Abel

Vive ut vivas in vitam acternam

It seems likely that this stone in Sarnesfield Churchyard was originally level with the ground, but according to the Filley collection, there is an account dated 1858. 'For recutting the tomb and for lime and stone,' probably for constructing the low base wall of the present table tomb. Many thanks to Mr Basil Butcher for the information provided.

G & R Norman



NOT THE AGE OF THE TRAIN

Herefordshire's Lost Railways

'How pleasant it can be, along in a first-class railway carriage, on the first day of a holiday that is to be fairly long, to dawdle through a bit of English country that is unfamiliar, stopping at every station. You have a map open on your knee, and you pick out the villages that lie to right and left by their church towers. You marvel at the complete stillness that attends your stoppage at the stations, broken only by a footstep crunching the gravel.....'

This is how that great writer of supernatural stories, M.R. James, begins one of the most atmospheric of his 'Ghost Stories of an Antiquary,' - 'A View from a Hill.'

The sort of railway line he had in mind when he wrote the story was, up till fairly recently, a familiar feature of the English scene - the rural branch line which wandered haphazardly through the countryside, linking remote villages and small market towns with very infrequent trains, mostly of the 'push and pull' variety. These trains always seemed to be as somnolent as the regions they served, ambling along casually at speeds seldom much more than about forty miles an hour, yet always arriving at their destination more or less on time. To those of us old enough to have travelled on them they will always remain, in retrospect, one of the most enjoyable and satisfying methods of travel.

The M.R. James story quoted above is set in Herefordshire, most appropriately, for Herefordshire, perhaps more than any other English shire, was a county of branch lines, and some of them were classic examples of a mode of transport which has now vanished for ever.

The world's first public passenger-carrying steam-powered railway, the Stockton and Darlington, was opened in 1825, and so progressive was this new method of travel that within the short space of thirty years Britain was patterned with a network of lines ranging from main trunk routes to small local lines which were financially insecure from the start and seldom, if ever, paid their way, let alone paying a dividend to their over-optimistic shareholders.

During the years of the 'Railway Mania,' in the 1840's and '50's the railway became a kind of status symbol and every rural district, however remote, felt that it must possess its own railway. The result was a profusion of schemes many of which never got off the ground. In 1846, the peak year of the 'mania,' no less than 272 Acts of Parliament were passed for new railways. Many of them, fortunately, were never built, for it is quite certain that the vast majority of those which failed to materialise would never have become paying propositions. One of those which did succeed in being built was the notorious Oxford, Worcester and Wolverhampton Railway, a textbook example of a thoroughly unsound line, and the one from which most of Herefordshire's branch lines stemmed.

Herefordshire's first railway was the Shrewsbury and Hereford, opened in 1852 as an independent company but taken over jointly ten years later by the Great Western and London and North Western Railways. This, the county's first line, is also one of the only two railways still in operation in the shire, as part of the through route from Newport, Gwent, to the main line from London to the North at Crewe.

The only other surviving line in Herefordshire is the stretch from Hereford to Worcester via Ledbury, Colwall and Malvern. By linking up with the former Oxford, Worcester and Wolverhampton Railway, which itself runs on to London via Didcot and Reading it is today Herefordshire's only through rail link with the metropolis.

The Oxford, Worcester and Wolverhampton railway, opened in 1853-4, was shaky right from the start. Even while it was being built the original contractor went broke and had to be replaced, leading to a spirited fight between two rival gangs of navvies which has become famous as the Battle of Mickleton Tunnel and which was so lively that the military had to be called out to restore order. When the railway was finally opened it was operated on a shoestring with a fleet of broken-down locomotives and superannuated rolling stock and its service was so notoriously bad that its long-suffering passengers christened it 'The Old Worse and Worse.' Passengers travelling over this same route today will concede that the nickname is more than ever appropriate, for it is quite obviously being run down and is high on the list of potential closures, in spite of periodic denials by British Rail.

The line reached Worcester in 1854 and was shortly afterwards extended to Hereford. The extension was an expensive proposition, involving tunnelling through the Malvern Hills at Colwall and Ledbury and the construction of a long viaduct over the Leaden Valley at Ledbury. There were originally intermediate stations at Henwick, Bransford Road, Malvern Link, Great Malvern, Malvern Wells, Colwall, Eastnor, Ledbury, Ashperton, Stoke Edith and Withington, but only two of the Malvern stations, plus Colwall and Ledbury are still open today.

continued next month.

Letters.

NEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS

Stretford Cottage
Staunton-on-Wye.

Dear Advertisement Manager,

Thanks to my advertisement in the July issue and the kindness of Mr. E. Cranna of the Brobury House Gallery, I have a chair of the wanted sort.

Long live 'Signal' and all who sail in her.

H.C. Aldous

NORTON CANON

Our best wishes for a speedy recovery to Mrs Rosemary Deem.

....

The Bower,
Norton Canon.

Many thanks to all relatives and friends who sent cards, flowers etc. during my stay in Elgar Ward, County Hospital in July. Best wishes to you all.

Mary Price.

FREE KITTENS



Lovely kittens free to good homes.
Tel: Bardisley 301.

FIREWOOD

Firewood blocks for sale.
Ring Mac, Moccas 204.



STAUNTON FORGOT-ME-NOT CLUB

The club's summer outing to Tenby and Saundersfoot was very much enjoyed. The weather was lovely, the drive was very interesting and the views and scenery were clear and good.

The next trip will be the Autumn half-day, and the date of this will be announced later.

The next meeting of Staunton-on-Wye's Ladies' club will be held on Wednesday, 7th September in Staunton Village Hall. There will be a talk on Crafts.

The Staunton-on-Wye Play Group will recommence on Thursday, the 8th September from 9.30 a.m. until 11.30 a.m. in the school hall. All children between the ages of 3 and 5 will be welcome. Please come as we need your support. Enquiries to Mrs. Jane Bryan, Moccas 498.

The next meeting of the Staunton-on-Wye Mothers and Toddlers Group will be held at Staunton School on Thursday, 1st September from 2 p.m. till 3.30 p.m. All mothers, babies and toddlers will be welcome.



STAUNTON-ON-WYE POST OFFICE

OPEN 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
2 p.m. - 5.30 p.m.

Wednesdays 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Saturdays 9 a.m. - 12.30 p.m.

CLOSED on Sundays, Good Friday and Public Holidays.

COLLECTION TIMES

Mon to Fri 11.30 a.m. & 2.30 p.m.

Saturdays 11.30 a.m.

Good Friday 11.30 a.m.

No collections on Sundays and Public Holidays.

HAVING PROBLEMS WITH YOUR CAR?

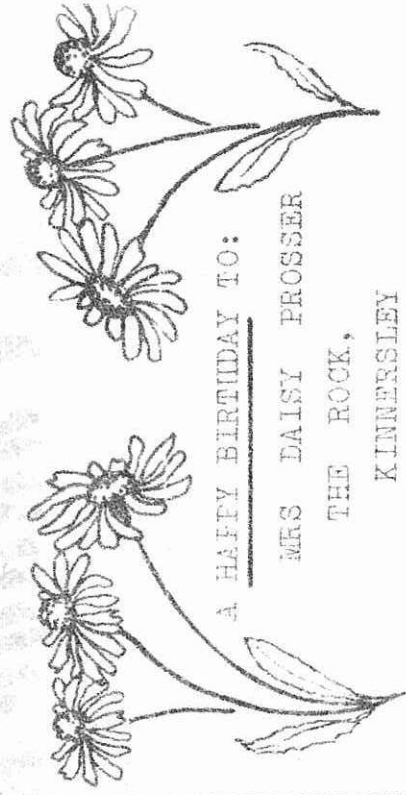
Bad starting?
High petrol consumption?
Poor performance?
Not charging?

You require a

CRYPTON TUNE

TOL. REG. PILLING
ELECTRO-TUNE
MOBILE CAR CLINIC
MOCCAS 415

! COME TO YOU!



A HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:

MRS DAISY PROSSER
THE ROCK,
KINNERSLEY

who will be 90 on the 8th
September, 1983.



Birthdays.



A VERY HAPPY BELATED 18th
BIRTHDAY to PHILLIP STOKES of
Norton Canon whose birthday
was on the 14th August.

A HAPPY 18th BIRTHDAY TO SHAUN
SWEET on the 11th SEPTEMBER.

Monthly Group of Parishes

Services for September

<u>Sarnesfield</u>	11th Holy Communion
10.00 am	25th Morning Prayer
<u>Norton Canon</u>	4th Holy Communion*
9.00 am	11th Morning Prayer
	18th Holy Communion
	25th Family Service
<u>Staunton</u>	4th Holy Communion
11.00 am	11th Morning Prayer
	18th Holy Communion
<u>Monnington</u>	11th Holy Communion
9.30 am	
<u>Letton</u>	25th Harvest Festival
6.00 pm	

*The Preacher at this service will
be Mr Michael Feaver, Diocesan
Stewardship Adviser.

There will be a meeting of the
Wardens' Council on Tuesday September
27th at Oakchurch, Staunton-on-Wye
at 7.30 pm

Norton Canon

Julian Lane	9th Sept.
Debbie Sweet	14th "
Mark Ridge	16th "
Lance Deer	21st "
Thomas Absclem	23rd "
Cassiar Hall,	25th "
Michael Cole	twins 26th "
Peter Cole	" 29th "
Lucas Plant	

Moorhampton (Upperton)

Julia Price	7th Sept.
Rodney Evans	17th "

Staunton-on-Wye

Lesley Bradshaw	20th Sept.
Jennifer Bradshaw	
(twins)	

A Belated Happy Birthday to
Alistair Zochowski on the
16th August.

A Change in the Weather.

Come and live in England if you want a climate with plenty of variety. You can spend a winter with temperatures so cold as to break all known records and feel more like the North Pole. Spend Spring with your boat at the ready in case you have to make a hasty exit through some window. In books we all see that in Spring birds sing to their loved ones, with clear blue skies the lambs are all skipping about and primroses, blue-bells and violets all start to show off their colours. If only it was like that in real life!! Now with dark skies and heavy rain filled clouds all the birds sheltered wherever they could. Lambs were bundled from field to field to avoid flood waters and a lot of the flowers just 'went blind' as they call it and only displayed plenty of leaves.

Having survived all that what do we have now? The ideal way to loose weight without going on a diet. Who wants roast beef and suet puddings in such heat. Salads, squash and ice-creams are more the order of the day.

For the lucky ones who are able to go away for a holiday the weather must be marvellous. No worries about having we packed enough clothes or did we remember to take the wellies and anoraks. Now all we need will go in one carrier bag!!

For the country folk some are happy with the dry conditions and others praying for a little rain to freshen the grass. Silage making is not as strenuous as hay making but oh how the ground burns up afterwards. Ideally a week of fairly dull weather after the cut and a little drop of rain to wash the fertilizer in gets the grass growing again. The sunshine was good for haymaking and the corn harvest is going at a great pace. Yields are rather poor for there was not enough rain to swell the grains and a lot of the crop spoilt in the Spring. It is the poor people heaving bales about that are really feeling the effects of too much sun. If you want to know what I mean just try it for half an hour.

One of the most damaging things associated with this type of weather is FLIES. They carry numerous diseases and worry the poor animals to death. How many people realise that blowflies, apart from being a nuisance in the house, lay their eggs on innocent animals and if the hatched maggots are not noticed quickly they will eat the poor creature to death. Calves can occasionally get flyblown if they have been scouring but the commonest animal is the sheep. Adult sheep are shewn in May and so are less likely to be affected but their lambs are in great danger especially if the grass is a little rich and makes them messy behind. The first signs are the sheep rubbing at their backs and then sitting down and getting up as if they are worried by something. At this stage the maggots are usually about half an inch long and the sight of several hundred of them all heaving into the poor creature can turn even the strongest stomach. If they are not dealt with very quickly blood poisoning sets in and the sheep dies.

Cattle are pestered by the ordinary common flies. Their heads are covered by the pests in particular the eyes, and it is a disease called New Forest Eye which can be transmitted from one cow to the other by flies. The eye produces an ulcer or white blob and gets worse and worse. It will eventually go completely red and even blind if not treated quickly. Then there is the cow's udder. Her most important asset which can be rendered absolutely useless by flies in what we know as 'August Bag.' Flies get on the teats and bacteria find their way up the teat canals and form a mastitis which is very hard to cure. It can even affect heifers which have never calved before. A £700 heifer can then be worth £500 carcass value just because of a fly.

Arable farmers worry about blight and mildew and all sorts of funguses. We livestock farmers have different worries. For us the occasional duller days keep flies away and of course we need a little rain every of often just to keep the grass growing. Unfortunately we missed out on the last drop of rain and farmers the other side of Hereford talk of aftermath up to their knees, our's is hardly noticeable and is burning off in large patches. Goodbye to the second cut of silage.

Anyone interested in Michaelmas Goose please order a week in advance. I also have ducklings ready now until Christmas.

Anne Cole



OBITUARY

Duncan Skyrme, elder son of Mr & Mrs Vincent Skyrme of Hurstley Court, Kinnersley died recently, aged 25.

During the last four years he had suffered with leukaemia for which he had hospital treatment in Hereford and latterly at the Hammermith Hospital, London where he recently underwent a bone marrow transplant.

His courage and cheerfulness throughout his long illness was quite outstanding.

He had been keenly interested in farming, shooting and countryside life.

He was well known and well liked and is remembered with respect and affection by all who knew him.

CANCER RESEARCH COMPANY

A year has gone by since I last called on most people in Norton Canon to collect donations for the Cancer Research Campaign. Now it's time to ask you to be generous once again when I come to your door during the first week in September.

We all appreciate the good work carried out by the research units into possible cures or at least better ways of treating this awful disease. Unfortunately most of us also know of someone who is suffering or has suffered from cancer or indeed someone who has died during the year.

It is up to us to contribute as far as we can to this really worthwhile cause. This year I have a target of £25 from the village. If you are going to be away from home perhaps you could leave your contribution with a friend or even bring it to me at 'Lanzerac.' Thank you all so much.

Sheila Evans

TO BRING A SMILE

Little girl (opening the door to a weekend visitor)
Do come in and Daddy will be so pleased you are here. Only this morning at breakfast he told Mummy that you were all he needed.

MURPHY'S LAWS

The other queue always moves faster.

Never argue with a fool because others listening may not always be able to tell the difference.

Any tool dropped while repairing a car will always roll to the direct centre.

The chance of a piece of bread falling buttered side down is directly proportional to the cost of the carpet.

Celibacy is not hereditary.

A bird in hand is safer than one overhead.

VILLAGE CLASSES

Last year, classes were organised by local people in Almeley, Brilley, Whitney and Winforton with help from the Leominster Marches Project and the Kington FE Centre. Ideas for new classes in these and other villages are welcome.

ALMELEY

Classes will be held in Almeley School, for ten sessions, starting week commencing 19 September 1983, unless stated otherwise.

For further details and if you wish to reserve a place on a course, please contact Mrs L Mills, 17 West View, Almeley. Tel Eardisley 687.

MONDAY CLASSES

Flower Arranging,

Silk Flowers & Christmas Decorations

Edna Hughes

7.30 - 9.30pm

(For details telephone Lyonshall 227).

Six week course commencing 31 October.

Yoga

Jean Lupton

6.45 - 7.45pm

Village Hall

Wear loose clothes and bring a mat. Beginners welcome.

Local History

Mrs O'Donnell

7.30 - 9.00pm

The Normans in Herefordshire and beyond - how much did they change the local scene? Six week course, illustrated by slides and documents. Alternate Mondays, starting 26 September. WEA course - fee £7.00

Aerobics Village Hall 8PM Mandy Jones

Almeley (continued)

TUESDAY CLASSES

Natural History

7.30 - 9.00pm

Illustrated lectures mainly on British wildlife, emphasising the natural history of Hereford and Radnor.

Painting & Crafts

Pat Kay

(For details telephone Leominster 4409)

7.30 - 9.30pm

Course will cater for all abilities. Choose from drawing, painting, calligraphy, macrame, needlecraft, soft toys, simple jewellery etc.

Upholstery, Spinning, Weaving, Cane & Rush Seating

Sheila Rees

(For details telephone Weobley 261)

1.30 - 3.30pm

Classes will be held in Almeley Village Hall.

KINGTON CLASSES

Classes will be held at Lady Hawkins' School, 7.00 - 9.00pm, for ten sessions per term, starting week commencing 19 September 1983, unless stated otherwise.

Suggestions for new classes are always welcome.

Subjects include: Badminton, PE, Cooking, Woodwork, Typing, Dressmaking, Art, Needlecrafts, Pottery, Natural History, Metalwork or Motor Vehicle maintenance.

Details: Alan Lloyd. Tel: Kington 230441

Cathy Moon. Tel: Weobley 8170

WHY NOT TRY A NEW HOBBY?!