

# THE SIGNAL

A Community Newsletter for

BROBURY - BYFORD - KINNERSLEY - LETTON - MANSELL

GAMAGE - MOORHAMPTON - MONNINGTON-ON-WYE -

NORTON CANON - SARNESFIELD - STAUNTON-ON-WYE

No 95      SEPTEMBER 1990

15p

## ***ST. FAGANS - the folk museum of Wales***

We were on our way to Abergavenny Market when it rained, so we decided to go to the Welsh Folk Museum at St. Fagans instead. This is just North of Cardiff off the M.4. We thought a Museum would be a good place on a wet day. Fortunately it cleared up by the time we got there because we spent more time out of doors than we did in.

The first thing we saw inside was a magnificent collage. It was of a village and nearly all of it was made of knitted and crocheted pieces, with different textures for roofs and walls and streets and gardens, hills, and sheep etc. The colours were lovely and realistic and the whole thing was splendid and must have measured at least 20 feet.

We were not too taken with the old agricultural exhibits but a lot of men were. We preferred the old costumes, the cooking things, the musical instruments and furniture. We found the old Bardic regalia and chairs interesting. There was a display of photographs of Welsh settlers in Patagonia. There is quite a colony there apparently who still speak Welsh although they have been there for generations.

We had lunch before going outside. There was a choice of places to have it. We chose the snack bar.'

Afterwards we bought a small Guide book and set off to see the cottages and buildings outside. These have been brought from various places in Wales and rebuilt in the many acres of the grounds. It has been so well done that they look as if they have been there always.

There was a tiny old chapel with box pews. Each family was responsible for building its own pew, so they were all slightly different. The chapel had a little gallery. I think their sermons were somewhat lengthy when this chapel was in use. It must have been very uncomfortable.

We went into an old farmhouse with a thatched roof and on the inside of the thatch we could see the thick straw mats that were put on before the thatch as there were no ceilings. It was beautiful.

There was a terrace of six little houses about two hundred years old. The first two were in their original state with windows that did not open. The next two had sash windows and the last two were modernised. There was a communal bakehouse for the first two and a pigeon loft and pig sty and outside conveniences.

The furnishings of many of the older houses were fascinating. There were box beds, a truckle bed and a narrow chair with a cupboard in the back for bacon. One old fireplace had a hole in the roof to let the smoke out.

There was a great fireplace with seats on each side where you could sit. An old butter making room had a cheese press, and a washing place had clothes of the period in a basket, and flat irons.

One little cottage we went into was divided, part of it being for cattle. It was ancient.



The lovely thing about it was that you were allowed to touch anything, and open cupboards and poke about. There was a guide in each house who could tell you anything you wanted to know.

We passed a conical shaped pig sty and a cockpit, but we did not want to see that. There were many more things to see that we had not got time for, including a blacksmith working, a bakery where they make bread and sell it and a wood turner. We had no time to see St. Fagans Castle itself and its gardens. We mean to go again and see the rest of it.

N.B. The drawings are taken from the guide booklet.

Noell Johnston

### STAUNTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

We had a very successful Annual Parents meeting on 17th July. Attendance was the best for years.

On the last day of term a lunch party was held for Marilyn Tipton and Penny Redshaw. They were given a great send off by the parents, children and governors.

Our new Headteacher, Peter Tame is 46 and has been teaching at the Hereford Waldorf School for the last five years. He trained in Brighton and has been Headteacher of primary schools in Yorkshire and Suffolk. He lives in Orcop.

Carol James, 37, joins us from Eardisley School where she has taught for the last year. She was educated in Hereford and Cardiff and lives in Eaton Bishop.

Improvements to the school building have been carried out over the summer holiday including new external paintwork and internal alterations.

We look forward to an exciting school year.

Richard Bulmer.

Contributions for the OCTOBER issue should be sent to Gareth Evans, Lanzerac, Norton Canon (0544 318505) by 21st September.

# ASPECTS OF WOODLAND HISTORY

DAVID LOVELACE

It used to be thought that medieval England was a very well wooded land. I remember being told in a history class that a squirrel could cross the country without touching the ground. The idea was reinforced by pictures of extensive Royal hunting forests and stories of Robin Hood and his merry men harrassing the undeserving rich from hide-outs in never ending oak woods.

The sequel to this romantic picture had to be the dramatic destruction of these extensive woodlands to account for today's English woodland cover of under 8%. Historians have traditionally blamed the cutting down of woods to build naval vessels, supply local fuel or to feed the voracious furnaces of the charcaol-iron industry. This idea of woodland history may sound plausible at first sight, there is however little historical evidence for it.

The first survey of the English countryside is contained in the well known Domesday Book of 1086 into which William the conqueror ordered to be written a systematic account of the land holdings of nobles, the church and sub tenants. Although this survey was conducted mainly to allow William to assess the taxation revenue that could be levied from his conquered kingdom, recent analysis has shown that it is suprisingly accurate about land use and woodland. Another 750 years had to elapse before there was to be any other countryside survey of land use - the 1836 parish by parish Tithe surveys.

Recent analysis of Domesday woodland entries shows that the average woodland cover of England 900 years ago could not have been be more than 15% - only about 8% more than the present day English woodland cover of 7.3%. Hardly a thickly wooded countryside, but as we shall see in part two of this article, North West Herefordshire may have been an unusual exception.

The Norman kings designated large tracts of England, including much of Herefordshire as 'Royal forest', but these were not necessarily wooded at all. The word 'forest' is a Norman legal term meaning that 'forest laws' applied in these areas to protect game - deer, hare and the occasional wild boar - from the local population. This distinction between 'woodland' and 'forest' is obvious from a number of otherwise curious Herefordshire Domesday entries as for example that for Bullinghope, just south of Hereford, which includes the passage "*The woodland is in the King's forest*". Other entries such as "*One hide of this land lies in the King's wood*" (Much Cowarne), show that ordinary farmland was part of the 'kings wood' - a hide being about 120 acres of farmland.

The early extinction of the wolf and the wild boar compared with the continental Europe is further evidence for the absence of large tracts of woodlands in Medieval England. Both species were extensively hunted in both Britain and Europe - only the loss of extensive woodland habitat explains why one of the last references to living wolves in England was way back in 1281 when a certain Peter Corbett obtained royal authorization "*to take wolves by the aid of man, dog or traps, wherever they could be found in Shropshire, Staffordshire, Gloucestershire, Worcestershire and Herefordshire...*". By the 14th century wild boar were only to be found as reared game in deer parks like Moccas.

As early as the 12th century, large timbers for castles, cathedrals and windmills were becoming scarce. While Abbott Faritius was rebuilding the abbey at Abingdon between 1100 and 1135, timbers had to be brought from districts of Wales and from near Shrewsbury and it required teams of 12 oxen for each timber and a round trip of 6 or 7 weeks. In 1213 William Cantelupe had an easier job when he was licensed by King John to fell 33 large oaks



from Aconbury Woods for the fortification of Hereford castle. They were just up the road by comparison!

The reason for the lack of timber was not simply lack of woodland but also because woodlands were being managed to produce small diameter material for a variety of medieval industries and domestic fuel rather than large timbers. Most woodlands were 'coppiced', a term which means the repeated cutting of small areas of woodlands every 10 or 20 years or so. Almost all native trees and shrubs regrow after cutting and native English woodland can be cut down repeatedly without the woodland ecosystem being harmed provided the new shoots from the cut stumps and germinating tree seedlings are not damaged or nibbled.

Coppice products were required in vast quantities throughout England up until this century. In Herefordshire, for example, the leather industries needed huge amounts of tannin extracted from Oak bark from woodland managed on a 30 year coppice cycle. Later, the hop yards required hop poles from coppiced Ash in great quantities. Domestic fuel was a big consumer as were a host of farmland and craft uses. The most prestigious user of coppice was the charcoal burner.



Until the invention of the coal fired blast furnace in the 1740's all iron was made by smelting iron ore and then forging it with charcoal. Areas such as the forest of Dean and the Weald of Kent have supplied both iron ore and charcoal since Roman times. Herefordshire Domesday gives evidence of a county charcoal-iron industry by entries such as the payment of 50 lumps of iron" from Much Marcle.

Because one ton of finished iron requires about 20 acres of coppice woodland to be felled annually, historians have understandably but wrongly attributed much of the supposed decline of British woodlands to this cause. They forgot that trees grow again if allowed to - indeed a quick look at the extent of woodland in the Dean and the Weald of Kent shows that industrial use of woodland has conserved it!

In Herefordshire the same is true, well known families such as the Foleys and Scudamores made fortunes from woodlands on their estates by attracting capital to construct forges and furnaces then supplying them with their own charcoal. They would hardly kill the goose that laid the golden eggs by allowing the woodlands to die. Every effort was made to protect the new coppice regrowth from damage - and woe betide any Foley or Scadamore tenant

farmer who let his stock break into a coppice woodland! Documents of the 17th century preserved in the Hereford County Office give fascinating details of woodland management at the height of the charcoal-iron industry when both sides of the Parliamentary civil war were being supplied from the Herefordshire forges. Virtually every woodland mentioned in those documents then still exists today showing that the more woodlands were productive the more likely they were to survive.

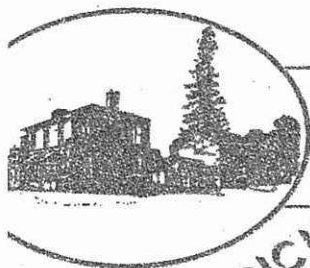
The regular and lucrative output of coppice from woodland meant that the very last thing a woodland owner wanted in his woodland was a tree shading out his coppice growth! Numerous laws were passed from the earliest times legally requiring owners to leave a certain number of timber trees (typically 12) per acre of coppice. Despite such laws, documents continually refer the dearth of timber trees.

In 1793, Parliament commissioned a report on the availability of timber for the navy and reviewed the extent of timber resources county by county. The report states that the consumption of timber in Herefordshire "is so great, the commodity being more scarce...in building, stone and brick is used where timber was formerly". Certainly this comment confirms the observation that timber framed buildings in this area ceased to be constructed much after 1750. The report complained that in Herefordshire "The growth of Oak in Hedgerows is not so much encouraged as in many counties. Trees are much stript and lopped by farmers. The principle quantity of timber for the Navy, which still remains, is in woods.

There was also little evidence of woodland being created by owners planting at this time, the report notes that for Herefordshire "No plantations of any extent have been made. Near Gentlemens' houses, varieties of trees have been planted, few of which are likely to be of service to the navy".

I see I have written over two pages, so perhaps the editor and readers can bear with me until a part two can be fitted into a subsequent issue.

For anyone interested in landscape history and countryside conservation in Herefordshire, there is a course of evening classes entitled: "The Woodlands, Trees and Hedgerows of the Herefordshire Countryside" on Wednesday evenings 7.30pm starting in Hereford on October 3rd at the teachers centre Widemarsh street.



Fully Licensed Freehouse Cottage Accommodation

## The Kinnersley Arms

Country Inn and Restaurant

Kinnersley, Herefordshire HR3 6QA. Tel: Eardisley (05446) 240

**SUNDAY LUNCH**  
3 Courses £5.00 child £3

**BAR SNACKS**  
Every Lunchtime & Evening

**RESTAURANT**  
Evenings only - Closed Monday/Tuesday

**SENIOR CITIZEN**  
**LUNCHES** £3.25/head  
served Wednesdays only

**MEETINGS - PARTIES - PRIVATE FUNCTIONS**

OUR DINING ROOM & BARN RESTAURANT ARE BOTH AVAILABLE FOR MEETINGS, PARTIES AND PRIVATE FUNCTIONS. NO HIRE CHARGES ARE MADE FOR THE USE OF EITHER. FOR FUNCTIONS - THE DINING ROOM WILL SEAT 26, THE BARN, UP TO 36. FOR BUFFETS UP TO 60 CAN BE ACCOMODATED. SEATED MEETINGS, UP TO 40 PERSONS. A SELECTION OF SET MENUS IS AVAILABLE FROM £5/head upwards, BUFFET Menus from £1.75/head.

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

**CATERING FOR THE COMMUNITY**

## THE FUTURE OF STAUNTON CHURCH

By Richard Birt, Priest-in-Charge

I know that a number of people have been concerned that when Bryn Rees retires next year, Staunton Church may close. I therefore thought that it might be helpful if I explained the present situation.

### Staunton Curacy to be discontinued

We have been told by the Diocese that when Bryn retires the curacy which he holds will be discontinued. We do not yet know what will happen to Staunton Rectory. The reason for the end of the curacy is a policy decision made at Diocesan level to phase out all posts which involve using semi-retired priests living in church houses.

For the Weobley Group of Parishes this means a severe reduction in manpower: for Staunton it means the loss of a resident priest, who has also cared with great faithfulness for the parishes of Letton, Monnington, Byford & Mansel Gamage.

This change will mean that the *ordained staff* ministering to an area of some 35 square miles will all be living in Weobley, right on the Northern edge of the area of our eight parishes. Our churchwardens have expressed their grave concern about the future to the Diocesan authorities, but in the absence of a Diocesan Bishop no major decisions about ministry can be made at present.

### Our churches can survive

It should not however be thought that these changes in themselves will bring about the closure of churches. That depends on the viability of each church, for whether or not an open church has a resident priest that church can still worship regularly together, and still has a living congregation, who themselves in unobtrusive ways carry on the Christian ministry of caring for the people around them.

### Difficulties at Staunton

The difficulty at Staunton is that the church has had a very small congregation, and has had difficulties supporting itself financially, for nearly a decade. It has in fact been subsidized both by the Diocese and by all the other parishes in the Kington and Weobley Deanery. This subsidy relates to the quota or share which the Diocese (The Deanery from 1984) has been collecting from each parish as a contribution towards the costs of providing priests for the parishes. The Church Commissioners also provide money for this; indeed nearly all the Commissioners' funds are by law held in trust for maintaining the ordained ministry. But because of steep rises in costs the Commissioners are now unable to provide more than 40% of the total cost (the Church of England costs about £1 million pounds a day.)

Staunton's shortfall is as follows :

1982	£220	unpaid to the Diocese
1983	£278	paid by the Deanery treasurer in April 1984
1984	£458	met from Deanery emergency funds
1985	£340	met from Deanery emergency funds
1986-8	Share	paid in full
1989	£700	met from Deanery emergency funds

You will see that the situation was improving, but we suffered a setback in 1989. This was the last straw for the Deanery who are clearly not going to subsidize us in future, and are asking the Parishes in the Weobley group to help in paying back the shortfall in our 1989 share. I do not blame the



Deanery. We are ruining their emergency fund ! This fund is intended for churches who suffer urgent problems such as the need for unexpected and costly repairs.

#### **We are working to improve the situation**

As many of you know we are making strenuous efforts to raise more money, and you will be glad to hear that the Summertime Concert at Weobley in July raised £225 for our church. We have also decided that we are no longer in a position to bear the considerable cost of insuring the church.

We hope that the Concert at Staunton Village Hall on September 15th will be well supported. (see elsewhere in this issue) But money raising events are not a permanent solution.

We must address the basic question of whether there is a real wish in Staunton for the church to survive *and to grow*.

#### **We need to know what you think**

I can therefore make no promises that Staunton Church will not close. It is really up to you to tell us whether you wish it to remain open, and have the will to support us. Please tell Bryn Rees, or the churchwardens Phyllis McCann and Fiona Bing, what you think. Alternatively I would be more than glad to come and talk to you about it personally - just phone me on 0544 318415.

If there is no response, then ours may well be the generation which, after nearly a thousand years, lets it slip away.

#### **THE PASSING OF A TRUE COUNTRYMAN**

On Thursday August 16th St. John the Baptist Church, Letton, was full to capacity for the funeral of CLAUDE ABRAHAM, aged 78 years. Claude spent most of his life in Letton, He started, in 1926, as a garden boy at 14 at Letton Court, became an estate worker and left to work for the County Council Highway Department prior to retiring at the onset of ill-health. He was a skilled agricultural craftsman who took great pride in his work as well as in his expertise in salmon fishing. As gillie for the Letton Court syndicate he was responsible for catching more than a ton of salmon during his lifetime. He used to enjoy beating in the local shoots. Claude was a popular individual with friends in all walks of life which he collected with the same skill that he showed his fishing. He was a raconteur whose stories always shone with his humour. Claude was first and last a true countryman who loved all forms of wild life. He was a keen woodland conservationist who was responsible for much of the planting that took place in Letton. He had the rare quality of being able to enthuse others and of never being bored. His knowledge of the locality was encyclopaedic, especially when coupled with the fact that he had lived through the momentous agricultural and social changes since the first world war. During the second he was an active member of the Home Guard and was in great demand for dawn to sunset harvesting. In his later years he moved from the Gardeners Cottage, Letton Court, to The Old Post Office where he received a constant stream of visitors and took great delight in showing them his large and immaculate vegetable garden. No visitor left empty handed. Claude was often seen leaning on his garden gate accompanied by his dog. His passing leaves a considerable gap in the life of Letton and his friends. In spite of being house-bound alone for many years he was always up-to-date with the local news and remained cheerful to the end. On the day before he died he laid his shallots out to dry.

We are not what we think we are but, what we think, we are.

Buddhist aphorism

# Your 'Rights of Way'

I have been asked by a number of people to write an article on footpaths. These people fall into two categories, First the Landowners who have "Rights of Way" passing over their property who would like to know how the system of Definitive Footpaths and Bridleways all came about, the second are local people who would like to walk or ride on these highways but are unsure where they are.

It all started way back in the mists of time when there were no motor vehicles and most people walked. Naturally they walked the shortest way which was across the fields. Over the years, provided the landowner made no objections to this use it became a Right of Way by Dedication. Later, as some landowners tried to stop the use of such a path or bridleway by blocking them much friction was caused between landowner and user. Some blocking resulted in Civil Court actions and it was held by the Courts that a Right of Way could only be proved if persons could show that they had used the path unobstructed for 20 years or more. This state of affairs was unsatisfactory both for the landowner and for the prospective user. Some cases of obstruction were still bad enough to result in Court actions. But in most cases the friction between property owners and users continued.



In 1949 the Government passed the "Access to the Countryside Act" which required County Councils to prepare maps of their area defining these Rights of Way. When these maps were being prepared individuals or organisations had the right to object if they considered that a way had been incorrectly included or excluded from the map. The final form of the map is called "The Definitive Map".

It has taken 40 years for this map to be produced because of objections and changes in legislation. Finally on the 1st April, 1989 the Hereford and Worcester County Council produced their Definitive Map as required under The Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981. This map can be inspected at the Library in Hereford, The County Hall, The Highway Dept. Bath St. Hereford or by giving me a call on Moccas 404 and I would be happy to show you the map and discuss any matters relating to Rights of Way.

The inclusion of a footpath on the Definitive Map can be taken as proof that there was a Right of Way when the map was prepared, but, before my telephone gets red hot by landowners wanting to tell me the map is incorrect I admit mistakes have been made in some places which will take some time to sort out.

Recently all Parish Councils were circulated by letter asking them to appoint a "Parish Footpath Officer". The reason:- There are 5,000 miles of footpaths in the County and over 2,000 complaints of obstructions with only six wardens to deal with them. Also, it is only someone with local knowledge who can find out who owns which piece of land. Who owns land is still a secret in this country.

As I have always been a very active walker, having wandered in many parts of the world I thought it was perhaps time I put a bit back into the community where I live and therefore volunteered my services to the Parish



Council, acting as liaison officer between them and the County Council on Rights of Way and investigating any complaints received by them. However, let me please take this opportunity to state that I have so far met only courtesy and helpfulness by landowners whenever I have spoken to them and they have found I am sure that it is useful to have someone local they can telephone about any problem they may have. It is a nice "Two Way" relationship in this Parish.

I have tried to make this article as brief as possible. It is of course a very involved subject and I would be only too happy to talk to anyone who would like any further information.

John Corke

Over the next year or so John Corke hopes to give brief details of various footpaths in the Staunton Parish- the first of these will appear in the October issue.

*Dont forget! - next footpath working party  
SATURDAY 8TH SEPTEMBER - ring Moccas 404*

---

WROXLEY & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY  
Visit to Clodock & Longtown, 21 July 1990

Twenty members and friends gathered at Longtown Outdoor Education Centre on a hot sunny afternoon to explore the area under the expert guidance of Mr John van Laun, warden of the Centre. It introduced us to an area of Welsh countryside, won for the English by the Mercians, consolidated by the Normans, full of the history of the Marches.

Commencing at the parish church of Clodock, we were on a site where a church had stood within years of the murder of Clydog, King of Brecknock in 492, and consequently revered as a martyr. The church included Norman features, with an interior filled with box pews, and imposing three-decker pulpit, and a chancel with a simple communion table surrounded on three sides with Laudian rails, all of the 17th century, and betokening a strongly puritan ethos. The graveyard outside was full of standing stones with carvings and inscriptions of a high quality witnessing to a flourishing group of local masons.

Downstream from the church, walking alongside a now dry leat, we viewed the cornmill with its dilapidated undershot wheel, and where the mill machinery inside remains intact (measured drawings are to be seen at the Education Centre).

A few hundred yards north and we climbed the first motte and bailey built by the de Lacys at Pont Hendre (the bridge by the winder dwelling). This was doubtless the site of Clodock village, now just a farm. In 1146 the castle was burnt down by invading Welsh, and on return the de Lacys rebuilt the castle on a new site to the north, now Longtown. Around the castle they established their borough of Ewyas Lacy, and we walked its bounds, starting at the market place in front of Longtown chapel (now a residence), across to a sunk track beside a bank, which was the town's defence. This was visible on the west and south and east sides where it linked on the N.E. to the ancient roman camp forming the eastern defences of the castle. Of the castle there survive only substantial remains of the south wall of the inner bailey, with entrance, and the keep, where some unusual carved stones with a circular motif are built into the window embrasures.

We sampled some of the extensive information relating to the area gathered at the Centre, which occupies the 'Court House' and 'Gaol Cottage', and ended a glorious afternoon with a sumptuous tea provided by Longtown W.I.

Visit to Excavation of the Rowe Ditch, Pembridge - 13 September 1990

Anyone interested in this visit should contact Mr B C Redwood.  
Tel: Eardisley 489

There will be a public lecture on the Rowe Ditch and the Offa's Dyke Project by Dr. David Hill at Pembridge Village Hall at 7.30pm that evening.

## Church Notices

### CHURCH SERVICES DURING SEPTEMBER

#### Byford

2nd	9.30am	Holy Communion
16th	11.00am	Morning Prayer & Baptism
23rd	10.00am	Family Service
30th	10.30am	Joint Communion for the Weobley Group

#### October

7th	6.30pm	Harvest Festival
-----	--------	------------------

#### Kinnersley

2nd	10.00am	Holy Communion
8th	10.00am	Holy Communion (Feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary)
9th	10.00am	Mattins
16th	10.00am	Holy Communion
23rd	10.00am	Family Service
29th	10.00am	Holy Communion (Feast of St. Michael and all Angels)
30th	10.30am	Quarterly Group Service in the Eardisley Group

#### October

7th	6.30pm	Harvest Thanksgiving preacher the Rev. Brian Woollaston
-----	--------	---

#### Letton

9th	11.00am	Family Service & Baptism
23rd	6.00pm	Harvest Festival

#### Monnington

9th	9.30am	Holy Communion
-----	--------	----------------

#### October

14th	6.30pm	Harvest Festival
------	--------	------------------

#### Norton Canon

2nd	9.00am	Holy Communion
9th	9.00am	Morning Prayer
16th	9.00am	Holy Communion
23rd	9.00am	Family Service

#### October

12th	7.30pm	Harvest Festival
------	--------	------------------

#### Sarnesfield

9th	10.00am	Holy Communion
23rd	10.00am	Morning Prayer

#### October

5th	7.30pm	Harvest Festival
-----	--------	------------------

#### Staunton-On-Wye

2nd	11.00am	Holy Communion
9th	11.00am	Morning Prayer
16th		<b>NO SERVICE</b>
23rd	11.00am	Harvest Festival

#### October

7th	11.00am	Holy Communion
-----	---------	----------------

## WHAT'S ON....

### Staunton Concert

Come and listen to Hereford City Band at Staunton On Wye Village Hall on Saturday 15th September at 7.30pm. Tickets are available at £3 for adults, £1.50 for OAP's and students, and children under 12 are admitted free. The concert is in aid of St. Mary's Church Staunton. There will be light refreshments.

Tickets may be obtained from Phyllis McCann (The Steppes), from the village shop or from the Rev. Bryn Rees.

### WEOBLEY & DISTRICT AGRICULTURAL IMPROVEMENT SOCIETY ANNUAL PLOUGHING MATCH

TO BE HELD AT  
BIDNEY FARM, DILWYN  
ON

29th September 1990

By kind permission of  
Messrs R W & A R Hall

### LADIES DOMESTIC SECTION

Entries to be sent to:-

Mrs J Lewis  
The Cross  
Norton Canon  
Hereford

Tel: Weobley 318 554

### LETTON CHURCH HARVEST FESTIVAL

A Service will be held at Letton Church at 6.00 p.m. on Sunday 23rd September 1990 Followed by Harvest Supper at "Old Letton Court" by kind permission of Mr. & Mrs. J. Todd.

Tickets £2. Children ½ price.  
(Glass of wine included).

### LETTON CHURCH FLOWER FUND.

A Coffee Morning will be held in aid of the above fund on Thursday, 4th October 1990 at "The East House" by kind permission of Mr. & Mrs A.B. COWAP.

From 10.30 A.M. Bring & Buy Sale

YOU CAN NOW PAY YOUR POLL TAX  
AT NORTON CANON POST OFFICE.

and Staunton-on-Wye.

Mrs Mildred Evans of Staunton On Wye has been ill and we would all like to wish her a speedy recovery.

Workshop tools for the serious handyman.

I suppose that, of all the tools in my workshop, the one I use the most and the one I would miss the most is the bandsaw. This is mainly used for wood with an 8 teeth-per-inch blade and will cut material up to 3 or 4 inches thick. However, one can fit a finer blade and use it to cut metal from 1/16 to 1/2 inch thick, saving a great deal of manual effort - which, as I get older, I do my best to avoid! While my bandsaw is an elderly throw-out from a professional workshop and is large and floor-standing, one can buy now at quite reasonable prices very neat and powerful bench-top machines. If you buy one, you will wonder how you ever managed without it.

Another valuable workhorse is the radial-arm saw. This is a very versatile machine which will rip up long lengths of wood up to 3½ inches thick, at an angle to the vertical if necessary. It will also cross-cut at any angle to the vertical and to the length of the wood. With a tungsten-carbide tipped blade, it will get through wood at a tremendous rate and is invaluable for major jobs - like building a shed for instance. All the joints will be at exactly the right angle and it is child's play to end up with a construction of which you can be proud. Another advantage is that you can buy second-hand wood and cut it to the size you need. In this way you can get good quality, close grained timber so unlike the nasty, fast-grown stuff which is now so expensive and so awful. In addition to these capabilities, you can fit special cutters to the radial-arm head for grooving, shaping and rebating. One word of warning - before you buy, have the machine demonstrated. Some units are excessively noisy.

The serious handyman will, of course, have a multi-speed bench drill. If, however, you are thinking of buying one, and there are some very reasonably-priced ones on the market, make sure you get one that goes down to really low speeds. As low as 100 rpm is desirable for cutting large holes with a fly-cutter or ring-saw.

Another invaluable device is the angle grinder, normally supplied with metal- and stone-cutting discs. The former will sharpen your rotary mower blades as well as a hundred and one other jobs while the latter will cut tiles, paving stones, etc.

These are just a few of the items I find invaluable in my odd-jobbing around the house and the garden. It makes so much difference to the quality of the finished work and the time it takes, if you have the right tool for the job.

Harry

**greenway gardens**

**'growing with enthusiasm'**

Christopher Greenway  
1 Court Farm Cottage  
Mansell Gamage

Tel: Bridge Sollars (098122) 366

**HAVE YOUR GARDEN TIDIED - OR PLANTED UP!**

In moments of high crisis  
My judgement's very fine  
I always see two points of view  
The one that's wrong - and mine

A well-favoured tadpole named Rex  
Said that things do conspire so to vex  
My four legs have grown  
But my tail's still my own  
Am I a frog, fish or newt? or just X?



FOR DETAILS OF  
WEOBLEY FURTHER  
EDUCATION CLASSES  
TELEPHONE  
MRS ANNE BAKER  
ON  
WEOBLEY 318773  
classes Mon/Wed/Thur  
start 17 September.

## KINGTON & VILLAGE CLASSES

OUT  
NOW!

*New Autumn Programme*

have fun/learn skills  
40 courses to choose from!

**Details: Cathy Moon, tel 05446 360**

History is lived forwards but it is written in retrospect. We know the end before we consider the beginning and we can, therefore, never wholly recapture what it was like to know the beginning only.

C V Wedgewood

## CANON MOTORS

*(Brian Robbins)*

NORTON CANON — HEREFORD HR4 7BH

Telephone: Weobley 0544 318317

CAR SALES \* SERVICE \* REPAIRS \* PETROL \* DERV \* TYRES \* ACCESSORIES \* OIL

UNLEADED PETROL NOW AVAILABLE - HAVE YOUR CAR CONVERTED

MOST MODELS ONLY £3.00 + VAT      CONVERTED WHILE YOU WAIT

\* SELF-DRIVE CAR HIRE AT VERY REASONABLE RATES \*

HUGE DISCOUNTS ON ANY MAKE AND SIZE OF CAR AND LIGHT VAN TYRES

ALSO BATTERIES AND EXHAUSTS UP TO 50% OFF AND FREE FITTING

PLEASE 'PHONE FOR A QUOTE: WE THINK YOU WILL BE SURPRISED

SERVICING, MOT PREPARATION AND ALL MECHANICAL AND WELDING REPAIRS

HOURS OF BUSINESS - MONDAY TO SATURDAY 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.

(Closed Sundays and Bank Holidays)

12

# RECIPE

## Sultana Cake

12 oz self raising flour  
Little grated lemon rind  
 $\frac{1}{4}$  teasp. salt  
6 oz butter  
1 egg  
6 oz sugar  
6 oz sultanas  
milk to mix

Sieve flour and salt, rub in fat.  
Add sultanas, sugar and lemon rind.  
Mix in beaten egg and enough milk  
to make dropping consistency.  
 $1\frac{1}{4}$  hrs. at  $375^{\circ}\text{F}$ . Gas mark 4-5

This is a very easy fruit cake  
to make and usually most successful !  
You can vary the fruit and put in some  
mixed spice if you like.

## BLACKBERRIES FOR SEPTEMBER

### BLACKBERRY WATER ICE

1 lbs Blackberries  
4 ozs. Sugar  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  pt Water  
1 small egg white

Turn refrigerator to coldest  
setting. Make a syrup by boiling  
sugar and water for 4 minutes,  
allow to cool. Sieve Blackberries  
and mix with syrup. Beat egg white  
to soft peaks and fold into  
blackberry mixture. Put in dish  
freeze to mush, stir and freeze  
further  $\frac{1}{2}$  hour, stir again and  
freeze until set  $2\frac{1}{2}$  - 3 hours.

### SCOTS CREAM CROWDIE. Serves 4.

1 pt Double Cream  
2 ozs. Coarse Oatmeal  
1 tbs. Rum  
4 ozs. Blackberries.

Put oatmeal in thick bottomed  
pan and shake over heat until  
crisp. Beat cream to thick froth  
and stir in toasted oatmeal, sugar,  
rum and fruit. Serve at once.

Scrumptious.

## Peter Penny

Life sometimes deals a cruel and  
unexpected blow. The sudden death of  
Peter Penny who attended many of "Signals"  
earlier social functions with Suzanne is  
the type of tragic news no one welcomes.

Peter was always humorous; because he came,  
others came! Suzanne's great loss is also  
in a small way ours.

### Church Picnic

Strange place to have a picnic - in a  
churchyard! But the view was beautiful  
and the weather was perfect. We brought  
our own food and coffee was served outside  
Staunton Church on the lovely Sunday morn-  
ing of July 8th after the service. Some came  
from other churches in the Weobley Group.  
Very enjoyable - hope there will be more  
occasions like this.

*Because of pressure on space we  
have been obliged to hold over some  
of our regular items this month -  
Richard Lantall's 'Days of yore' and  
Countryman's Columns - we  
apologise for this and will include  
them next month*

*It ain't what a man don't know  
that makes him a fool but what  
he does know that ain't so.*

## Compost & Manure

save the peat bogs  
ozone friendly  
ecological  
"Make your own"  
compost & manure  
£1 a bag  
can deliver  
ring Moccas 607

### PUB CONVERSATION

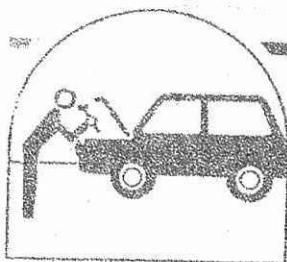
"Why do you ask me, boyo, if I am Welsh? Let me tell you - and for nothing too - that I personally always make it a rule never to ask a man his nationality. And for why? Because, boyo, you never know. You see the poor chap might be English and you don't want to humiliate him. See?

### THE LAST TRYST

The grey pines stand along the yellow sky  
Lit with the light that lingers in the West  
Beneath these sentinels the valleys lie  
Sombre and quiet awaiting the nights rest  
And we unclasped our hands to go our way  
Both knowing that our little hour was past  
I watched you turn and walk from light to grey  
Into the shadows that the trees had cast.

Then, for a moment, you turned your lovely head  
A sad sweet smile and waved from out the night  
And through the pines the sky was flushed with red  
And your slim form was halowed in its light  
The grey pines stand along the darkened sky  
And I'm alone and only wish to die.

Frank Evans



## PIT STOP

Spares and Accessories  
for Cars of All Ages

OPEN - MON. - SAT. 9.30 to 6.00 p.m. SUNDAY 10.00 a.m. to 2 p.m.

- ★ Motor Oils
  - ★ Service Kits
  - ★ Wheel Bearings
  - ★ Filters - Oil & Air
  - ★ Spark Plugs
  - ★ Comprehensive range of Brake Parts, Pads, Shoes and Pipes
  - ★ Track Rod Ends
  - ★ Fan Belts
  - ★ Wiper Blades
  - ★ Body Panels
  - ★ Refinishing Materials and Polish
  - ★ Accessories
  - ★ Styling Kits
- AND MUCH MORE!!!

**COMPARE OUR PRICES**

**THE WHARF, EARDISLEY.**



**TEL: 05446 233**



### GROWING CREATIONS

Landscaping-Garden Designs-  
Garden Maintenance-Rockerries-  
Dry Stone Walling and a  
wide knowledge of plants.

Shaun Cadman

The Stables

Dulas

Cusop, Hay-On-Wye

Telephone:- 0497 821 370

My job is to make gardening  
easier for you.

## video rental

NOW AVAILABLE FROM

POST OFFICE & STORES  
STAUNTON-ON-WYE

7 DAYS PER WEEK

(Courtesy of Clapperboard  
Video)

Tel: Moccas 311

## Robert Loxton

- \* Extensions
- \* Repairs
- \* Roofing
- \* General building
- \* Alterations
- \* Chimney repairs

Post Office, Norton Canon

Phone: (0544) 318825