

# Notable Events and activities in Shrawley over the past years

Clockwise from top,  
Wallace Wilcox's retirement as the village postman.



Scene from a village play starring D Pritchard and M Bendall.



The unveiling of the Millennium obelisk.

Bishop of Worcester with J Barnish, H Mills and W Foster at the Ninth Centenary celebrations.

One of the Pumpkin evenings

The Post Office before closure.

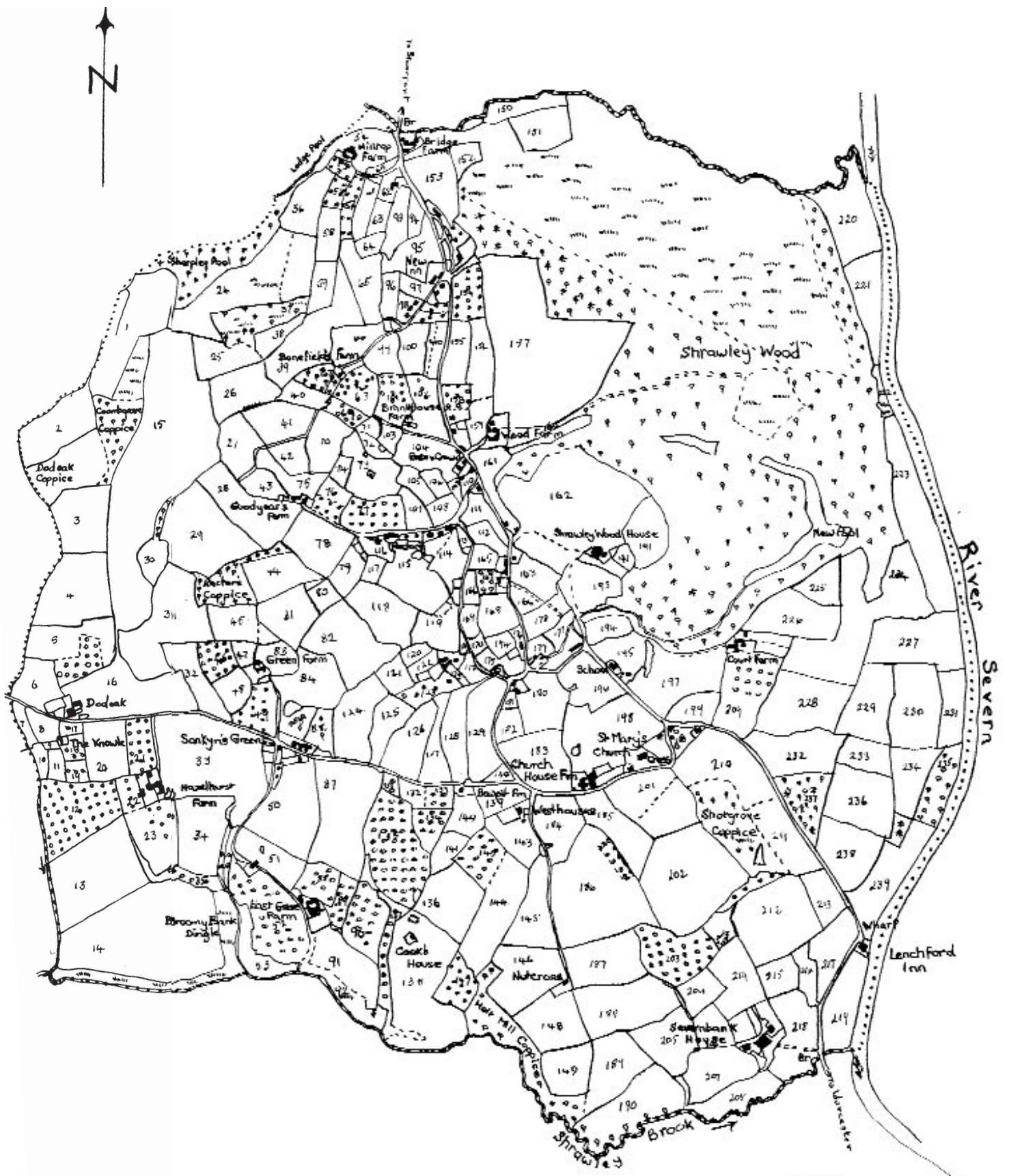
Part of the St Mary's Ninth Centenary celebrations.

Celebrating Queen Elizabeth II Silver Jubilee

Weighing one of the pumpkin entries.







# Old Field Names of Shrawley

*By kind permission of C Moore*

01 Sling Orchard/Firtree Piece/Coom Grove Piece  
 02 Beardings Hopyard  
 03 The 12 Acres  
 04 Forelay Field/Quar Leasow  
 05 Young Orchard  
 06 Law Pit Leasow  
 07 The Piece  
 08 “ “  
 09 “ “  
 10 Banky Piece  
 11 The Little Piece  
 12 Hempridge  
 13 Fishpool Close  
 14 The Leys/Hinsons  
 15 Lower & Upper Sharpeless/Lamber Grove/2  
 acres Little Farley  
 16 Cow Pasture/Yearley Hopyard  
 17 The Croft  
 18 The Orchard  
 19 “ “  
 20 Hither Meadow  
 21 Knoll  
 22 Meadow below the House  
 23 Well Orchard  
 24 Sharpley Piece/Lower & Upper Oak Piece  
 25 Far Sharpless  
 26 Hither Sharpley  
 27 Little Depall - Part of Great Perry Field  
 28 Great Depall, 6 acres, Part of Great Perry Field.  
 29 Ox Leasow  
 30 Deppal Meadow  
 31 Grave Field/Ashmores Orchard/Ashmore  
 32 Great Meadow  
 33 The Hiron/Wainhouse Orchard/Yearly Orchard/  
 The Leys  
 34 Old Well Orchard  
 35 Plantation  
 36 Farfield  
 37 Sheepwalk  
 38 Ridges  
 39 Upper Jennings Field/Great Stone Field  
 40 Gay Meadow  
 41 Big Cow Leasow  
 42 3 Acres - part of Rick Leasow  
 43 Part of Rick Leasow  
 44 Coppice Orchard  
 45 Five Acres  
 46 Garden Piece (part)  
 47 Pig Pasture  
 48 Garden Piece (part)  
 49 Green Orchard  
 50 Part of Cow Pasture/Rick Leasow/Yates Piece  
 51 Part of Cow Pasture/Mowing Meadow  
 52 Coppice Orchard/Mill Field  
 53 Potato Ground/Osier Bed & Coppice  
 54 Rowlands Bank/Cover Bank  
 55 The Orchard  
 56 Tyning  
 57 Sling behind the Barn  
 58 Part of 4 Acres  
 59 Part of 4 Acres Red Field  
 60 Slad Hole  
 61 Upper and Lower Slad  
 62 Furlong Meadow  
 63 Upper Furlong  
 64 Sladhole Orchard  
 65 Lower Jennings Field  
 66 Five Acres  
 67 The Hop Yard/Pig Piece  
 68 Barn Close  
 69 The Orchard  
 70 Ox Leasow  
 71 Over Orchard  
 72 Orchard  
 73 The Banks  
 74 Big Piece  
 75 Barn Orchard  
 76 Little Southall  
 77 Great Southall  
 78 Little Perry Field  
 79 Three Acres  
 80 Long Meadow  
 81 Seven Acres  
 82 Five Acres/Hop Yard  
 83 Two Acres  
 84 Smiths Field  
 85 Blacksmiths Field  
 86 Orchard  
 87 The Park/Four Acres  
 88 Rickyard Paddock Orchard/The Paddock  
 89 The Close  
 90 Pitchcroft  
 91 Garden  
 92 Ham Orchard  
 93 Dungeon and Little Dungeon Orchards  
 94 Further Field  
 095 Further Field  
 096 Stonehill Meadow  
 097 Meadow adjoining Bowling Alley/Part of Long  
 Pasture  
 098 Part of Long Pasture  
 099 Furlongs  
 100 Stone Hill  
 101 The Acre/The Old Orchard/Part of The Yard  
 102 The Hill/Honey Close/Part of The Yard  
 103 Field by Barn/Over Orchard  
 104 Wares Field  
 105 North Bank  
 106 Barn Meadow  
 107 Upper Meadow  
 108 The Orchard  
 109 White House Bank  
 110 “ “ “  
 111 Pasture Field  
 112 “ “  
 113 Part of the Hop Yard  
 114 Part Of The Hop Yard/Lower Fishpond Meadow  
 115 Upper Fishpond Meadow/Garden Meadow/Part  
 of Garden Upper Meadow  
 116 Part of Garden Upper Meadow  
 117 Sanders  
 118 Perry Field  
 119 Hooper Croft  
 120 Clarkes Meadow  
 121 Pit Close/Old Orchard  
 122 Young Orchard  
 123 Lower Piece - Part of Kiln House Field  
 124 Middle Field  
 125 Upper and Lower Green Ground  
 126 Gilberts Field  
 127 Washing Pool Close/Lower Meadow  
 128 Part of Kiln House Field  
 129 Upper and Middle Piece  
 130 Turners Orchard  
 131 Little Meadow  
 132 Old Hop Yard  
 133 Barn Close  
 134 Old Orchard  
 135 Upper and Lower Tillage  
 136 Block Pip and Brand Field  
 137 Plantation  
 138 Cookes Bank/Broad Meadow/Pitchcroft  
 139 Old Hop Yard  
 140 Cow Leasow  
 141 Birch Close  
 142 Young Orchard  
 143 Waste House Orchard  
 144 Eight Acres  
 145 Little Long Croft  
 146 Heathy Field  
 147 The Hill  
 148 Sheepcote Leasow  
 149 Old Orchard  
 150 Hop Yard  
 151 Upper House Leasow  
 152 Upper Million  
 153 Lower Million  
 154 Upper Barfords  
 155 Lower Barfords  
 156 Upper and Lower Orchard  
 157 Piece above the Garden/Rye Grass Piece/Middle  
 Field  
 158 Tibbets Close/ Hop Yard/Reclaimed Wood  
 159 The Hop Yard/Little Orchard  
 160 The Lays  
 161 Wood Close  
 162 Parkland/New Enclosure  
 163 Nicholls Meadow  
 164 Stocking Orchard  
 165 Pipe Orchard  
 166 Pulse Close  
 167 Upper Orchard  
 168 Nicholls Hill  
 169 Baxters Green  
 170 “ “  
 171 Part of Pool Piece  
 172 “ “ “ “  
 173 Part of Hoopers Croft  
 174 Baxters Orchard  
 175 Pound Meadow  
 176 Grey Hayes  
 177 First and Second Orchard  
 178 Stocking Piece  
 179 “ “  
 180 Day Hill  
 181 Carthouse Orchard  
 182 Lower Arable  
 183 Upper Arable/Hunt Field  
 184 Pear Tree Walk  
 185 Cow Pasture  
 186 Seven Acres/Sixteen Ridges/Old Leys  
 187 Gig Field  
 188 Nutcross  
 189 Crabtree Piece  
 190 Long Length  
 191 No Gains  
 192 Saw Pit  
 193 Wood House Park  
 194 The Folly  
 195 Barn Piece/Part of Seven Acres  
 196 Cow Pasture  
 197 The Batch/Part of Seven Acres  
 198 Barland Tree Orchard/Church Hill/Church  
 Orchard  
 199 Nut Orchard/Thrapps Piece  
 200 Baylis's Orchard  
 201 Church Curradine  
 202 Lower and Middle Curradine/Curradine  
 Close  
 203 Yew Tree Piece  
 204 Upper Fearnay Field  
 205 Showells Pasture  
 206 Lower Fearnay Field  
 207 Mill Field  
 208 Mill Meadow  
 209 Three Acres/Nine Acres  
 210 Church Field  
 211 Ham Hill  
 212 Far and Middle Green Leasow/Fish Pool  
 Meadow  
 213 Washing Pool Meadow  
 214 Wainhouse Orchard  
 215 Near Green Leasow  
 216 Shot Grove Sally Bed  
 217 Rush Meadow  
 218 Meadow above the Road  
 219 Lenchford Meadow/Little Meadow  
 220 Upper Ridding  
 221 Lower Ridding  
 222 Little Grass Field  
 223 Brickle Holes  
 224 Wood Close/Barley Green Orchard/Ten  
 Acres  
 225 Barley Green  
 226 Buckfield/Four Acres  
 227 The Court/The Moor/Rowl Meadow  
 228 Eight Acres/Six Acres  
 229 Part of Cross's Meadow/Part of Splash Hill  
 230 Part of Cross's Meadow/Part of Splash Hill  
 231 Cross's Meadow  
 232 Park Hill  
 233 Bank Ark  
 234 Moore's Leasow  
 235 Brick Kilns  
 236 Brew House Field/Barn Meadow  
 237 Ham Hill  
 238 Two Gates  
 239 Meadow above Public House/Severn  
 Meadow  
 240 The Sling



# Did you Know?

in devastation all along the brook including demolishing the Glazenbridge parapet and flooding Bridge Farm and other properties in Shrawley as these pictures show. Pictures courtesy of Worcester Evening News



On 13th June 1986 Hamish Skinner cycled 953 miles from John O' Groats to Lands End to raise funds for repairing the Church roof. He trained hard for 13 weeks and set off on his Raleigh Milk Race special and completed the trip in 13 days. He travelled through Wick, Inverness, Fort William, Peebles, Penrith, Matlock, Upton on Severn, Taunton, Bodmin to Lands End where he was met there by a few villagers who cheered him over the finishing line. His friend Jason Dignum cycled part of the way with him as did one or two villagers when he came through Worcestershire. He fell of his bicycle once, had one puncture and raised £4,500.



Chris Dring cycled 925 miles from Lands End to John O' Groats to 13 1/2 days in May 2002 raising £3297.28 in memory of Pat Mills. She set off with her husband Doug and her son driving the support vehicle. Chris trained long and hard and just before the start date fell downstairs and broke her leg which delayed the attempt for 12 months. She travelled through Totnes, Bridgewater, Chepstow, Monmouth, Kimbolton, Church Stretton, Warrington, Lancaster, Kendal, Glasgow, Fort William, Inverness to John O' Groats. On the way a wheel spoke broke and she suffered from sore muscles and bruised thumbs..

The late Denis Jones of Sankyns Green Farm was awarded the certificates below after WWII. The right hand certificate is for proficiency in the Home Guard.



I WISH TO MARK BY THIS PERSONAL MESSAGE my appreciation of the service you have rendered to your Country in 1939-

In the early days of the War you opened your door to strangers who were in need of shelter, & offered to share your home with them.

I know that to this unselfish task you have sacrificed much of your own comfort, & that it could not have been achieved without the loyal co-operation of all in your household. By your sympathy you have earned the gratitude of those to whom you have shown hospitality, & by your readiness to serve you have helped the State in a work of great value.

*Elizabeth R*

Mrs. T. H. Jones.

In the years when our Country was in mortal danger

D. JONES

who served 20th. July 1940 - 31st. Dec. 1944

gave generously of his time and powers to make himself ready for her defence by force of arms and with his life if need be.

*George R.I.*

THE HOME GUARD

A.F.W. 4026.

## Certificate of Proficiency

### HOME GUARD

On arrival at the Training Establishment, Primary Training Centre or Recruit Training Centre, the holder must produce this Certificate at once for the officer commanding, together with Certificate A if gained in the Junior Training Corps or Army Cadet Force.

**PART I.** I hereby certify that (Rank) *PTE* (Name and initials) *JONES D* of *C* Company *2nd BATTAL* Battalion *HOME GUARD*, has qualified in the Proficiency tests as laid down in the pamphlet "Qualifications for, and Conditions governing the Award of the Home Guard Proficiency Badges and Certificates" for the following subjects:-

Subject	Date	Initials
1. General knowledge (all candidates) .. .. .	<i>11.10.44</i>	<i>D</i>
2. Rifle .. .. .	<i>11.10.44</i>	<i>D</i>
3. 36 M Grenade .. .. .	<i>11.10.44</i>	<i>D</i>
*4. (a) Other weapon .. .. .	<i>11.10.44</i>	<i>D</i>
(b) Signalling .. .. .	<i>11.10.44</i>	<i>D</i>
*5. (a) Barricade; (b) Coast Artillery; (c) Heavy A.A. Bay work; (d) A.A. Battery work; (e) Bomb Disposal; (f) Watermanship; (g) M.T. .. .. .	<i>11.10.44</i>	<i>D</i>
*6. (a) Map Reading; (b) Field works; (c) First-Aid .. .. .	<i>11.10.44</i>	<i>D</i>

Date *11.10.44* 1944. Signature *D Jones*  
 Date *11.10.44* 1944. Signature *D Jones*  
 Date .. 194.. Signature ..  
 Date .. 194.. Signature ..  
 Date .. 194.. Signature ..

**PART II.** I certify that (Rank) *PTE* (Name and initials) *JONES D* of *C* Company *2nd BATTAL* Battalion *HOME GUARD*, having duly passed the Proficiency tests in the subjects detailed above in accordance with the pamphlet and is hereby authorized to wear the Proficiency Badge as laid down in Regulations for the Home Guard, Vol. 1, 1942, para 41d.

Date *10 July* 1944. Signature *D Jones*  
 Commanding Officer *D Jones*

**PART III.** If the holder joins H.M. Forces, his Company or other Command he will record below any particulars which he considers useful in assessing the man's value on arrival at the T.E., P.T.C., R.T.C., e.g. service, rank, duties on which employed, power of leadership, etc.

Date .. 194.. Signature ..

\* Delete when not applicable.

### ***Listed Buildings within Shrawley Parish***

Bridge Farm House  
The Old Rectory  
Severbank House  
Upper Fudges  
East Grove Cottage,  
East Grove Barn approximately 10 m north of Eastgrove Cottage  
Eastgrove Farmhouse,  
Eastgrove Green Farmhouse, Sankyn's Green  
Church of St Mary  
Base of churchyard cross approx 5 m south of Church of St Mary  
Bateman memorial approx 20 m south of Chancel of Church of St Mary  
Wharton memorial approx 20 m from east end of church of St Mary  
Church Cottage  
House with adjoining stable/loft approx 3 m east of Bartlam House  
Brant House  
Court Farm House  
Nos 1 & 2 Hampton Cottages.  
Hayes Farmhouse  
Nos 1, 2 & 3 old Crown Cottages  
Old Mill House  
Nos 1, 2 & 3 Primrose Cottages  
Rose and Crown Public House  
Spring Cottages (approx 10 m east of Rock cottage)  
Vine Cottage  
Wood House  
Gates and gate piers 15 m west of Wood House  
Wood Farm Cottage

### ***Tree Preservation Orders within the Shrawley Area***

Bartlam House, Shrawley (reference 12/2/26)  
Swamp Cypress (Grid ref 8004 6506)~  
Colorado White Fir (Grid ref 8008 6505)  
Sankyns Green, Little Witley (12/2/209)  
11 oak trees

### **The following TPOs, are outside Shrawley parish but may be of interest;**

Witley Court (101238}  
Area Tree preservation order



# THE HUMAN SIDE OF A GREAT STATESMAN

Our contributor has toured West Worcestershire and interviewed people who know and love Mr. Baldwin. In the second article of the series, which began yesterday, he describes a talk with Billy Weavers, who has known Mr. Baldwin for over fifty years.

## What Worcestershire Thinks of Her Foremost Son

By JESSE COLLINGS

writes with his left hand, but before starting he turns the paper sideways and writes downwards from top to bottom, instead of from left to right.

To-day Billy has a flourishing coal merchant's business, owns and farms 600 acres of land, lives in a fine house, and is not ashamed to admit that he is well-to-do.

He is specially proud of the fact that they knew him in Downing-street. Several times he and Mrs. Weavers have

"I can tell you this of Mr. Baldwin: He is a man who always put duty first. He thought more of his country than of himself.

"We shall have a job to find another man in England as good as he is."

AT one time Billy Weavers lived at Bull Hill Farm, Astley, 200 yards from Mr Baldwin's home. He watched the Baldwin children grow up.

THERE are few men in Worcestershire or Whitehall who know Mr. Baldwin better than Billy Weavers, who has a farm in the village of Ombersley; and few men in Worcestershire better known than Billy Weavers.

Billy is what you might call a "character." He is 71, but he is up every morning at five and off to Wolverhampton market, where he sells his farm produce from his own wagon.

Billy was left an orphan when he was quite a small boy. He was "boarded out."

"I never had a home," he told me. "I never went to school. I was kicked about from pillar to post. When I started to work I could not read or write and did not know how to put down a figure."

Billy taught himself all that. He started dealing in watercress. Then he got a milk business. He made his own signs for his figures in his milk book. Then he taught himself to read and write and do the necessary sums.

He does not write like you or I. He



The view of the Worcestershire countryside from Mr. Baldwin's garden at Astley Hall.

### WHY MAKE YOURSELF ILL?



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# LIXEN

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been to have tea with Mr. Baldwin at No. 10.

The detectives on duty there knew him. They used to smile and say, "Hello, Billy!" when he called. Then they would add, "He'll be out in a minute."

And sure enough Billy was not often kept waiting at No. 10. Mr. Baldwin would come out of his room. "Hallo, Billy!" he would say. "Come in and have tea."

"One day when we called there Mrs Baldwin phoned for tickets for us at a theatre," said Billy.

"The play was called 'Willie's Wedding.' We had a great joke about that. You see, my name's Billy."

One of Billy's most treasured possessions is a letter from the Prime Minister on official Downing-street paper. It was written from No. 10.

Dear Billy.— Thank you for your letter. I wish there were more men like you in the world. We'd get a move on then! — Yours sincerely, Stanley Baldwin.

Billy has had the letter framed. He is proud of the fact that in the midst of a busy session, Worcestershire's Prime Minister could find time to write a letter to an old friend

#### PUT DUTY FIRST

"I have known Mr. Baldwin for more than fifty years," Billy told me. "When he was first elected to Parliament I helped to carry him shoulder high through the streets of Worcester from the Shire Hall to the Star Hotel, while the people lined the road and cheered. And he was a good weight. I can tell you.

"Later on we pulled his car all the way from Arley Kings to his home at Astley Hall.

"They used to come and play around our farm," he said. "They'd romp in the hay and work in the hayfield. Mr. Baldwin often came to see me. I ticked him off once when he came.

"'Hallo, Billy, how's the farming?' he says.

"'Damn bad,' says I.

"'Bad?' says he. 'Why?'

"'Why,' says I, 'because you've tacked a wages bill on to us farmers and given us nothing to pay it with.' That was a hit at him over the Agricultural Labourers' Wages Bill.

"'You should have heard him laugh.'"

It is his homely friendliness that has endeared Mr. Baldwin to his people. Everywhere you go in West Worcestershire you hear the same story, varied only by the personal aspect.

Mr. Hubert Pratt, who has a fine farm at Astley, has memories of Mr. Baldwin going back long before the day when he first sought election to Parliament.

"He was Chairman of the Parish Council when he was quite a young man," Mr. Pratt said to me, "and he was always keen on local administration.

"When he went into Parliament I remember the late Canon Buckle, who was then Rector of Astley, saying to me one day: 'Pratt, he says, you'll see Stanley Baldwin Prime Minister of England before many years are passed. It was a wonderful prediction. Mr. Baldwin was quite young then. Few of us dreamed that he would ever become the leading statesman of the country.'"

#### £5 IN THREEPENNY-BITS

With a twinkle in his eye he told me of how Mr. Baldwin made an unusual contribution to the collection plate in church.

"I was a churchwarden," he said, "and it was Mr. Baldwin's custom to walk to church every Sunday morning. One Sunday, in the course of his sermon, Canon Buckle reproved people for putting as little as possible in silver into the collection plate, and was particularly severe on what he described as 'the blaspheming threepenny-bit.'"

"Next Sunday morning when I passed the plate along Mr. Baldwin's pew what should he do but drop a bag into it containing £5 in threepenny-bits!"



If your eyes are dull instead of sparkling, with the whites yellowish or bloodshot, take it as a warning!

Bathe your eyes daily with Optrex to wash away dust and foreign bodies, and give your eyes back their natural brilliance and efficiency. It is urgent, and it is not costly. From all chemists, 2/- (with free eye-bath). Triple size, 3/6 (without eye-bath).



Whether you wear glasses or not, you should have your eyes examined at regular intervals by a Qualified Practitioner.

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**MAPS**

Much useful information can be gleaned from a study of old maps and several of these are available for examination in the Worcester County Record Office-notably The Tythe Plan and Award of 1839, the Vernon Estate of 1731, the Court Estate of 1808 and a Road Widening Plan of 1814. All give interesting and revealing details of title, usage and ownership and when compared with the present day, demonstrate clearly the many changes which have taken place in the intervening years. A few examples must suffice. They confirm the important role

of the wharfs by the Lenchford Ferry, which were used to handle coal, timber, road metal, bricks and other heavy merchandise to and from the towns both up and down the river. It is said that great skill was required in matching the flexing of the wooden planks with the movement of the barrows as they were wheeled to load or unload the barges or trows, if one was to avoid ending up in the river! A second wharf for the private use of Witley Court lay just down-stream and was in daily use by farm tenants who were expected to haul coal daily to the Court as part of their rent.

The Court Estate in 1808 occupied some 151 acres of land to the south of the Parish with its main residence The Court near the river and now no longer existing, and its Homestall or Home Farm identified as the present Court Farm, an important link with the past. Public houses existed at The Knapp in 1839 and the present Crown Cottages in 1814-then known as "The Olde Crowne" and probably later succeeded by the present Rose & Crown. The present "New Inn Lane" was "Husbandry Road" and "Noutards Green" "Outwards

Green" doubtless both with some significance in the title. Another map recently prepared and hanging in the Parish Church identifies all the old field names in the Parish - (see pages 42-43) fascinating because in many instances they reflect their role. Pound Meadow, Rush Meadow, Washing Pool are but three examples. They also help to provide reasons for names applied to popular footpaths - The Stocking, from Nicholls Farm to the School and the Curradine from the church to Lenchford Ferry. R.O.W.