

# KINVER

## a closer look

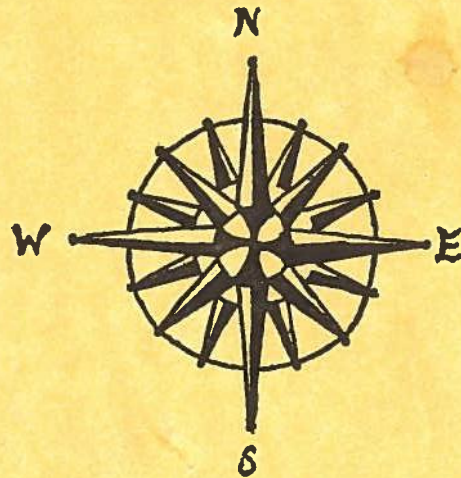
by D.M. Bills and  
E & W R Griffiths.

Shropshire

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Enville



Prestwood  
Halfcot  
Stourton

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Kinver  
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Whittington

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# KINVER

## A CLOSER LOOK

©

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D. M. BILLS  
&  
E. & W. R. GRIFFITHS

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by  
HAROLD PARSONS  
1981

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By the same authors:

KINVER ROCK HOUSES

BY TRAM TO KINVER

*This book is dedicated to Samantha and Victoria,  
both children of the village, in the hope that they  
will have the same interest and sense of roots as  
have their parents.*

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## INTRODUCTION

THIS book is intended to provide a somewhat deeper insight into the life of a village than the customary 'guide'. The thousand years of development that produces a community such as Kinver cannot be covered in such a small publication so some of the items that had a bearing on the history and the present state of the village must be sought elsewhere. The 'quiz' at the end of the book is designed to foster this aim.

It is to be hoped that visitors and residents alike will pursue this 'closer look' and take a great interest in the village life since buildings alone do not in themselves make a community. Due to the present grim economic climate, and assisted no doubt by a recent re-sewerage scheme in the High Street, many businesses are in a state of flux.

The commercial directory is as complete as possible at the time of going to press, but no doubt more changes will take place before a stable situation is reached. Nationally the future of the High Street shop is questionable—Kinver is no exception. This village and its inhabitants have adapted to change before and no doubt history will repeat itself.

A 'village', like any club or society, is what its members make it and effort must be put into the system in order to obtain something from it. Kinver is not unique. Like many other villages it needs as many people as possible to take an interest and the list of clubs and societies included here provide some indication of the wide variety of activities and pastimes catered for. New members are always welcome, whether resident or not. With care, effort, and attention Kinver will remain a pleasant place in which to work, live and play.



*Top: Kinver High Street, 1981.*

*Lower: Village 'plan' view taken from the church tower, March, 1979. Centre of picture is the Stag Meadow, which forms the wash land of the River Stour.*



## HISTORY

THE earliest piece of history still extant in the village is the significant earthwork on Kinver Edge. Though it has never been systematically examined it is thought to have its origins with iron age man. It was not built as its present size but enlarged by subsequent occupations. There is no doubt that the Romans had a significant presence in the district as there is a marching camp at Ashwood. It is unlikely that they would build two forts; though the two structures were of different types, one defensive and one occupational. The Kinver Edge camp was possibly enlarged by Wulfhere (King of Mercia 635-75). The first documentary evidence of the occupation of the village is in 736 when Ethelbert, King of the Mercians, granted to Cyneberth 10 cassates of land. Cynibre wood (Cynibre was an early form of Kinver) is mentioned as one of the boundaries of the land.

The Danes did not penetrate this far up the Rivers Severn and Stour until 893. They over-wintered at Bridgnorth and fought the battle of Tettenhall in 910. The place name Danesford gives a clue to their presence in Kinver.

The Bishop of Worcester, in a grant of 885 to Aethelwulf, quotes the Sture. This may be the river Stour or Stourton. In 925 Aethelstan granted to his theigh Edrick land at Hwittington (Whittington).

There must have been quite an extensive area under cultivation since the Domesday survey records that Chenevare (Kinver) had 17 villeins and 7 cottages and that they held, with a priest, about 10 carucates of land, a carucate being an area which an ox team could plough in a year. The villeins would be the holders of the land, presumably in the common field of about 600 acres. This area would provide adequately for their needs. Their dwellings must certainly have been on the high ground near the church, which certainly had some Saxon remains, though there is now little evidence to support this.

Two mills are also recorded in the survey presumably in the river valley 200 feet below the church and original village, which at this time must have been little more than a clearing in Kinver Forest.

The forest area did include various waste and chases and in the perambulation of 1300 it measured about 15 miles long and 12 miles wide. It is fairly safe to assume that the area was similar in 1086.

Stourton Castle was used as a hunting lodge in the forest and King John made at least three visits. Many references are traceable recording forest misdemeanours largely for taking venison, and the forest prison was at Bridgnorth. Also recorded are some royal commands for the felling of timber and the taking of stags to provision the king's larder in Westminster. Sir John Hampton, a ranger of Kinver Forest, lived at Stourton Castle. A damaged figure of a knight in armour is all that remains of his tomb in Kinver church which records his death in 1472.

The castle was the birthplace in 1500 of Cardinal Reginald Pole



*Stourton Castle seen from the towing path of the Staffs./Worcs. Canal. The weir on the right-hand side is the only remnant of the ironworks once sited nearby.*

who became Archbishop of Canterbury in 1556. He was the last Catholic to hold that office, and became a close adviser of Mary Tudor. His vestments still hang in Lambeth Palace.

During the civil war Stourton Castle was garrisoned for the king and was captured by Tinker Fox. A door with a cannonball hole still exists. Charles on his flight after the battle of Worcester crossed Kinver Heath, but it is not certain if this refers to Iwerley or Kinver Edge.

The forest was greatly reduced by 1626, much of the timber being made into charcoal for local iron workings. The clearing of the forest provided grazing and pasture land thus enabling sheep and agriculture to become the mainstay of the local economy in the eighteenth century. Remnants of the wool industry remained until about 1830, but the majority moved to Kidderminster. Power for the fulling mills was provided by water mills on the Stour. This source also powered five iron mills at Gotherley, Stourton, The Hyde, Whittington and Kinver. The works at The Hyde were erected as an engine and slitting mill by Richard Foley in 1629.

Legend recalls that Richard Foley set off with a violin to Russia to find the secret of the mechanical slitting of iron and thus avoid the tedious and slow process with a hammer and chisel. He is said to have posed as an itinerant musician to gain entry to an ironworks, discovered the secret and returned to erect a successful mill at The Hyde.

This legend, related in full in Griffiths' Guide to the Iron Trade of Great Britain 1873, makes enjoyable espionage reading, but is quite

untrue since iron slitting originated in Flanders and was introduced into this country at the end of the sixteenth century.

It is difficult to imagine that Kinver was ever an industrial area. The 'industrial revolution' occurred in Kinver between about 1820 and 1870. With the river Stour as a source of power and the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal complete in 1772, as a means of transport, conditions were almost ideal. Griffiths' Guide has a plate showing the full extent of the Hyde Mill when development had reached its peak with 20 puddling furnaces producing wrought iron and two open hearth furnaces to make steel. Whittington mill also underwent a massive expansion programme but success was relatively short-lived since both closed in the latter part of the nineteenth century.

Such closures had a drastic effect on the village. The population of 3,551 in 1861 fell to 3,149 in 1871 and 2,160 in 1891. Emigration to the colonies became common as there was little work to be found in the area. During the first half of the nineteenth century nailmaking as a cottage industry abounded in the many small nailmaking shops situated in the land behind buildings fronting the High Street. Malt houses were also numerous, presumably using local grown barley to supply the many public houses in the district. Boatmen and iron workers had a great thirst!

Part of the iron industry survived into this century. At The Hyde there was a spade works which manufactured hand tools until about 1912 and much the same was true at the Kinver Mill. This last-named had been used for many purposes—slitting iron, wire drawing, screw mill, spade and fork making, corn grinding and saw mill. This mill was the longest survivor. It remained as a water powered saw mill until 1929 and finally closed in 1978.

As mentioned earlier, the population fell rapidly due to the drastic decline in heavy industry. The village was something of a 'ghost town' in about 1890 and property changed hands very cheaply. This was bound to interest the Midland investors but, until some form of cheap convenient transport could be found, it would be of limited value.

Such a convenience was provided by the Kinver Light Railway, more popularly known as the Kinver Trams, which opened in 1901. This was of enormous economic importance to the village. Not only did the railway bring thousands of tourists to use the area for leisure, it also enabled people to live in Kinver and work elsewhere in the Midlands.

Though the trams have long since ceased to run such is still the pattern of life; the village a dormitory area for the conurbation and a 'lung' for the Black Country.

## POST-WAR KINVER

AT the end of the Second World War great physical changes started to take place. In the early 1950s a considerable number of council houses were built in Windsor Crescent, Edge View Walk, and Huntsmans Drive. This added almost a third to the size of the village. To correspond with the growth of council houses, private dwellings were built on an even grander scale. This kind of development continued until in 1980 an almost saturation point had been reached, thus leaving very little building land within the boundary of the village. This great explosion brought with it many problems and nearly all of the social services were inadequate for the growth in population.

Education was one of the first areas of development. Before the war the foundations to the Secondary Modern School were laid and left. After the war it was re-started, being completed in 1951. At this time, however, there were not enough children from Kinver to fill the classrooms, so children from outlying areas were brought in each day by coach.

Until this school was opened only three small state schools had been needed to serve the village: the boys' school in Castle Street, and the girls' and infants' schools at the corner of High Street and Vicarage Drive. As the population increased it became evident that these schools were no longer sufficient, either as regards space or the standard of the buildings: for example, toilets were outside and in very poor condition.

The school in Fairfield Drive was the first to be built with the intention of housing both infants and junior aged children. When it was finished the growth in population had overtaken it and only the junior children were able to move. This meant that only the schools at the bottom of Vicarage Drive were able to close. The one building was demolished, but the other was adopted by Staffordshire County Council and converted into a satisfactory branch library.

It was evident that a second school had to be built and in April, 1974, the school at Potters Cross was finished. The juniors moved yet again and the infants were transferred to Fairfield Drive. When Staffordshire County Council adopted comprehensive education the secondary modern school was extended and improved to provide excellent facilities.

The expanding village qualified for increases in other services. The well-organised part-time fire brigade had been housed in several places including a cinema that once stood on the site of the present clinic, and later behind the post office in the 'Acre'. In 1957 a new fire station was completed in Fairfield Drive, and a full-time fireman appointed and housed in the accommodation provided. Due to the financial cut-backs in public spending during 1980 a part-time service has been re-imposed.

Other areas of improvement have been the police station and a new clinic.



Religion as in all communities has played an important role in the life of the village. Although there is only a population of some 7,000 people including Stourton, it is represented by Church of England, Methodist, and Roman Catholic churches, plus many subsidiary organisations that have originated from the parent body. (See the list of organisations, page 22).

1980 was an important year in the history of Methodism, for it commemorated their 150th anniversary. During their life in Kinver they have occupied many different buildings, before making a permanent home at Potters Cross. Just after the Second World War there were two churches in existence, one in the Trinity Chapel at the junction of High Street and Stone Lane (now part of the youth centre), the other in what is now the Methodist Hall at Potters Cross. The expense of keeping two churches occupied began to take a heavy toll and suggestions were made to amalgamate the two groups. In 1960 Mr. Frank Ingram Payne of Norton died bequeathing a large sum of money, part of it to build a new church at Kinver. When the details of the will had been made known the trustees of the Trinity Chapel decided to close it down and a new trust was formed for both churches.

It was decided to spend £25,000 on the building of a new church at Potters Cross. Christ Church was converted into a Sunday School, and the corrugated chapel demolished and the new one erected in its place. The foundation stones were laid in February, 1961, by Mrs. S. Day (the oldest member of Christ Church) and Miss J. Fletcher (the oldest member of Trinity Church). It was completed and opened in January, 1962.



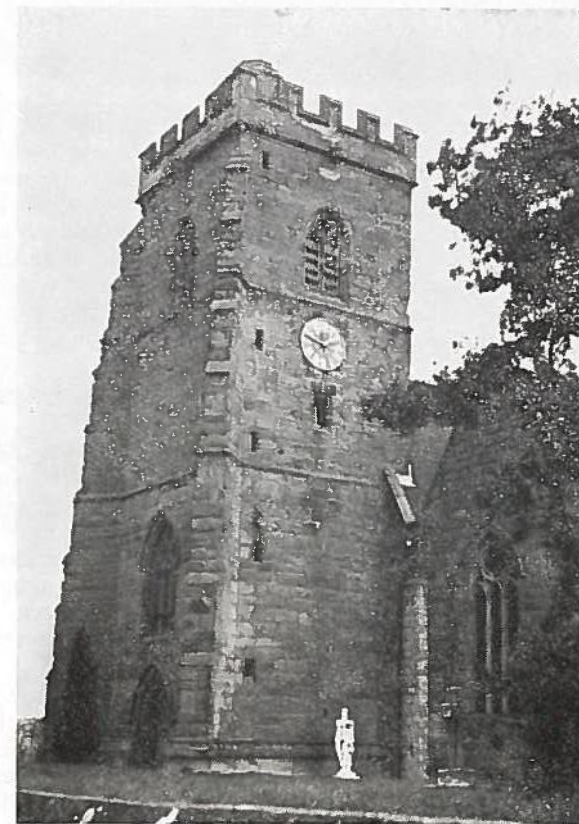
*Methodist Church, Potters Cross.*

A few years before the war the small building behind the Cross public house was adopted by the Catholic Church and used very successfully for its services. Although there is not a resident priest in Kinver the church is well-attended and looked after.

### **ST. PETER'S**

Of all the churches, St. Peter's commands the most striking position. High on the hill it overlooks the village with a protective eye. It is very difficult to establish the exact date of either the building or its original dedication to Christian worship. There is a legend that suggests that a small church was built during Saxon times, as Christianity was making in-roads into the English way of life.

The most important evidence to indicate the age of the church is the building itself. There are parts of the structure that are unmistakably of Norman origin, approximately twelfth century, but most of the church was built some two hundred years later, probably at intervals, using red sandstone. The tower is built of this stone, featuring a parapet



*The massive red sandstone tower of St. Peter's Church.*



and battlements. The two Norman buttresses were retained, giving an indication of the size of the earlier building. On the south side of the tower there are traces of a staircase that was built in the eighteenth century to give access to a gallery.

The tower now houses a set of eight bells, but only six were installed in the eighteenth century. The last two were hung in 1920. Each has a Latin inscription:

- |  |     |     |     |           |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----------|
| 1. In Christo solo spem meam repono A R 1746                 | ... | ... | ... | 29" dia.  |
| 2. Cui Deus pater ecclesia est mater A R 1746                | ... | ... | ... | 29" dia.  |
| 3. In suo templo numen adoro A R 1746                        | ... | ... | ... | 33" dia.  |
| 4. We were all cast at Gloucester by Abel Rudhall            | ... | ... | ... | ...       |
| Fac manus puras coelo attolas 1746                           | ... | ... | ... | 34" dia.  |
| 5. Joseph Lye. John Lowe Ch Wardens A R 1746                 | ... | ... | ... | ...       |
| Opem pentitentibus subvenit Deus                             | ... | ... | ... | 38" dia.  |
| 6. Wm Gofnell & Sam Brown church wardens In Rudhall Fec 1790 | ... | ... | ... | 41½" dia. |
| 7. Peace   |     |     |     |           |
| 8. Goodwill  |     |     |     |           |

#### ENGLISH TRANSLATION:

1. In Christ alone my hope I place.
2. Who has God for his father has the Church for his mother.
3. In his own temple I worship the Godhead.
4. See that thou raisest pure hands to heaven.
5. Them who seek his aid God helps.

The Victorians were responsible for the addition of the northern aisle, but a few years ago it was found to be collapsing inwards, thus endangering the structure of the whole building. Mr. J. Greaves-Smith was consulted, a set of plans submitted, and in 1975 work began to demolish and then re-build the northern aisle. In the process of demolition it was observed that under the ceiling a mediaeval beamed roof lay hidden. Consultations were made and the go-ahead was given to uncover it. It is now considered one of the most outstanding features of the church and possibly contemporary with the Norman church. The cost of restoration amounted to some £72,000.

In addition to this enormous project a new church hall was completed in 1961. It was dedicated by the Bishop of Lichfield.

As will be appreciated, a great deal of money was needed to complete the building programme. Most of it was raised by local people and activities. Flower shows and church ftes were organised, and steadily but surely the money began to accumulate. In 1967 an Arts Festival was started with the Reverend D. Watson as its director. Work was exhibited by many of the colleges of art, also local schools took a prominent part. In 1974 the title was 'Craftsmen at Work' and the 11,000 visitors were able to see these craftsmen demonstrating their skills.

Although there were several meeting places in the village, such as the Church Hall and the Methodist Church Hall, it was felt that a community centre was needed to try and supply sufficient facilities in one building to cater for most societies. A committee was formed along with an army of helpers to raise the necessary money. It is from this committee that the Kinver Carnival was born. It was to become a yearly event to which many thousands of people from all over the Black

Country were to flock on Whit Monday. It became an enormous success, and the organisation alone was to occupy most of the year. A second venture was an organised bonfire and firework display. Traction engines and fairground organs were on exhibition, along with a huge display of fireworks assembled by Mr. R. Lane of Enville.

After the centre was completed it was felt that the carnivals were no longer needed and for many years this type of entertainment was sadly lacking. In 1977, the year of the Queen's Silver Jubilee, the same sort of atmosphere was achieved, and in 1978 the first of the Summer Fayres was organised by Christian Action to keep alive the spirit invoked by the jubilee celebration. Each organisation in the village is allowed to present its own entertainment, the proceeds of which they keep. Thus each society benefits by its own efforts. Each year it gets a little larger and more and more people are attending.



*Penn and District Royal British Youth Band leading the procession in the High Street, Jubilee Day, June, 1977.*



# COMMERCIAL DIRECTORY

## ALARMS

SVENSSON LLOYD LTD. (High Street). Prop.: Mr. R. Lloyd. Alarm & Security Equipment. Office open Mon.-Sat. Shop open Tues.-Sat.

## ANTIQUE SHOPS

J. F. WOOD ANTIQUES (High Street). Prop.: Mr. J. F. Wood. Specialist in glassware. Closed Monday.

KINVER ANTIQUES (High Street). Prop.: Mr. S. F. Cunningham. Antiques, furnishings, French polishing and re-upholstery. Open Tues.-Sat.

## BANKS

BARCLAYS BANK (High Street).  
MIDLAND BANK (High Street).

## BOAT BUILDERS

DAWCRAFT CRUISERS LTD. (Stewponey Lock). Directors: G. W. & R. M. & D. J. Wilson. Boat Builders, Sales, Repairs & Chandlery. Open 7 days.

## BUILDERS

BASTERFIELD & CO. LTD. (Stone Lane). Building contractors. Normal office hours.

## BUILDING SOCIETIES

A. J. PRIOR INS. BROKERS LTD. (High Street). Prop.: Mr. A. J. Prior. Branch agents for Mid-Shires. Half-day Saturday.  
LEAMINGTON SPA (High Street). Half-day Saturday.

## BUILDING & HARDWARE

BENBOWS STORES (High Street). Prop.: Mrs. D. Marson. General hardware and shoes. Closed Monday, half-day Saturday.

## BUTCHERS

THE BUTCHERY (High Street). Prop.: Astons Stourbridge Ltd. Closed half-day Mon.-Wed.

KAYS BUTCHERS (High Street). Props.: R. G. & P. M. Kay. Closed Monday and half-day Wednesday.

NORMAN JEWESS (Potters Cross). Prop.: N. Jewess. Butchers. Also specialist in frozen foods. Closed Monday, half-day Wednesday.

## CAFES

AMIE'S CAFE (High Street). Prop.: Mrs. A. James. Gifts and confectionery. Open Sundays, half-day Monday.

PICNIC BASKET (The Compa). Props.: Joan & Reg Davies. Tea Rooms, Confectionery, Tobacco and Fancy Goods. Closed Monday. Special arrangements Bank Holidays.

## CANAL

KINVER LOCK MARINA (The Paddock). Props.: G. Hubball & R. Hubball. Seasonal opening.

MRS. HODGESON (Hyde Lock). Home cooking for boaters only.

See map.

## CHEMIST

## CHINESE TAKE-AWAY

YANG SING CHINESE TAKE-AWAY (Potters Cross). Open all week including Sundays, 6 p.m.—12 midnight.

## CHURCHES

METHODIST CHURCH (Potters Cross). Minister: D. Hill.

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH (Church Hill).

ST. PETER'S CHURCH (Church Hill).

Vicar: The Rev. Prebendary D. Watson.

ST. PETER'S CHURCH, Stourton (Bridgnorth Road).

## CLINIC

KINVER CLINIC (High Street).

## COMPUTERS

H.H. BUSINESS SYSTEMS (The Paddock). Prop.: G. Hubball. Apple micro computers.

## DECORATORS

INTERIOR DESIGN (High Street). Prop.: Mrs. D. Blackford. Specialists in Continental wall coverings. Half-day Monday. Open evenings Mon., Tues., Wed., 7—9 p.m.

PENTHOUSE INTERIORS (High Street). Props.: Yvonne & Ray Jones. Soft furnishings, Ornate plaster, Ceramics and Art. Open Tues.-Sat.

## DENTIST

DENTIST SURGERY. See map.

## DOCTORS

DOCTOR'S SURGERY. See map.

## DRAPERY

AILSA PAGE (High Street). Props.: Mr. & Mrs. H. Brindley. Ladies' fashion. Closed Monday.

GERTRUDE HARRIS (High Street). Prop.: G. Harris. Wool & Haberdashery. Playtex products. Closed Monday.

OLGA DUNN (High Street). Prop.: Olga Dunn. Children's & Ladies' fashion. Closed Monday.

SMALL & CONDLYFFE (High Street). Props.: Mrs. Mahon & Mrs. Small. Ladies' fashion. Haberdashery & Wool. Half-day Monday.

## DUPLICATING

EXCEL DUPLICATING SERVICES (Gorse Cottage, Greensforge Lane, Stourton). Prop.: R. Shepherd.

**ELECTRICAL** JOHN BILLS ELECTRICS (High Street). Prop.: Mr. J. Bills. Half-day Monday. F. R. JAMES (High Street). Prop.: F. R. James. Radio electrical, Electrical repairs, Domestic hardware. Closed Mondays.

**ESTATE AGENTS** CARISS NOEL THOMPSON — Auctioneers, Surveyors, Valuers & Estate Agents (High Street). Agents for Abbey National. Open all week.

**FANCY GOODS** MAYFARE (High Street). Prop.: J. Jones. Toys & Fancy Goods, including Bilston Enamels. Closed Monday.

**FIRE STATION** FIRE STATION (Fairfield Drive).

**FISH & CHIPS** CHIPPERY (High Street). Props.: Mr. & Mrs. Oakley. Fish and chips. Opening times seasonal.

**GARAGES** J. W. HARRIS (The Acre). Prop.: Mr. J. Harris. Garage & Auto Engineers, Servicing and Overhaul. Private Hire. Half-day Saturday. LOWES GARAGE KINVER LTD. (Stone Lane). Agents for Ford and Saab. Closed Sunday. THREE STONES KINVER LTD. (Mill Lane). Car and Motor Body Repairs. Half-days Saturday and Sunday.

**GENERAL FOOD STORES** ALLENS STORES (Meddins Lane). Props.: R. F. & L. G. Allen. General grocery and greengrocery. Closed Sundays. COUNTRY STORES (Potters Cross). Prop.: H. Craddock. General grocery and greengrocery. Deliveries. Open all week. DARWEN STORES (High Street). Props.: B. Lloyd & W. Gosling. General grocery and greengrocery. Drapery. Open all week. Also Sundays in Summer season. F. & N. ROWLANDS (Potters Cross). General grocery. Open all week. FINE FARE (High Street). Manager: Mr. S. C. Williams. Supermarket. Half-day Wednesday. FREEZER SHOP (High Street). Props.: Mr. R. M. & Mrs. D. M. Nicklin. Grocery, greengrocery, frozen foods, wet fish and flowers. Closed Mondays. THE GENERAL STORES (Huntsmans Drive). Prop.: Mrs. A. Kirkham. General grocery. Half-day Wednesday.

KINGS FAYRE BAKERY (High Street). Props.: Mr. & Mrs. D. Watson. Home-baked bread. Selection of cheeses. Wines & Spirits. Half-day Monday.

KINVER EDGE STORES (Meddins Lane). Prop.: N. H. Ison. General stores. Closed Monday and Thursday, special arrangements B.H.

OLIVE'S MINI MARKET (High Street). Prop.: O. Hollanby. Grocery, greengrocery and cone wool for machines. Closed Mondays.

PET SHOP (High Street). Props.: A. Holland & V. C. Selvey. General grocery and greengrocery. Pet foods. Agents for dry cleaning. Closed Monday.

STOURTON STORES (Bridgnorth Road, Stourton). Props.: B. A. & M. A. Aldridge. General Stores. Open seven days.

YATES CENTRAL FOOD STORES (High Street). Props.: D. & E. Williams. General grocery and greengrocery. Half-day Monday.

**GLASS PRODUCTS** KINVER CRYSTAL GLASS CO. (Fairfield Drive). Hand-made full lead crystal. Show-room open to public. Half-day Saturday.

**HAIRDRESSERS** CAPRICORN 1 HAIR DESIGN (High Street). Prop.: J. Ash. Ladies' and Gents' modern hair design. S.C. reduced prices Monday and Tuesday. Open all week. COIFFURE & PARFUMERIE (High Street). Props.: F. A. Bills & Son Ltd. Reduced prices for O.A.P.s Monday and Tuesday. Half-day Monday and Saturday. Cosmetics and Perfumes. PAULINE'S HAIRSTYLISTS (Huntsmans Drive). Prop.: Mrs. P. Evans. Ladies' hairdresser. Closed Monday.

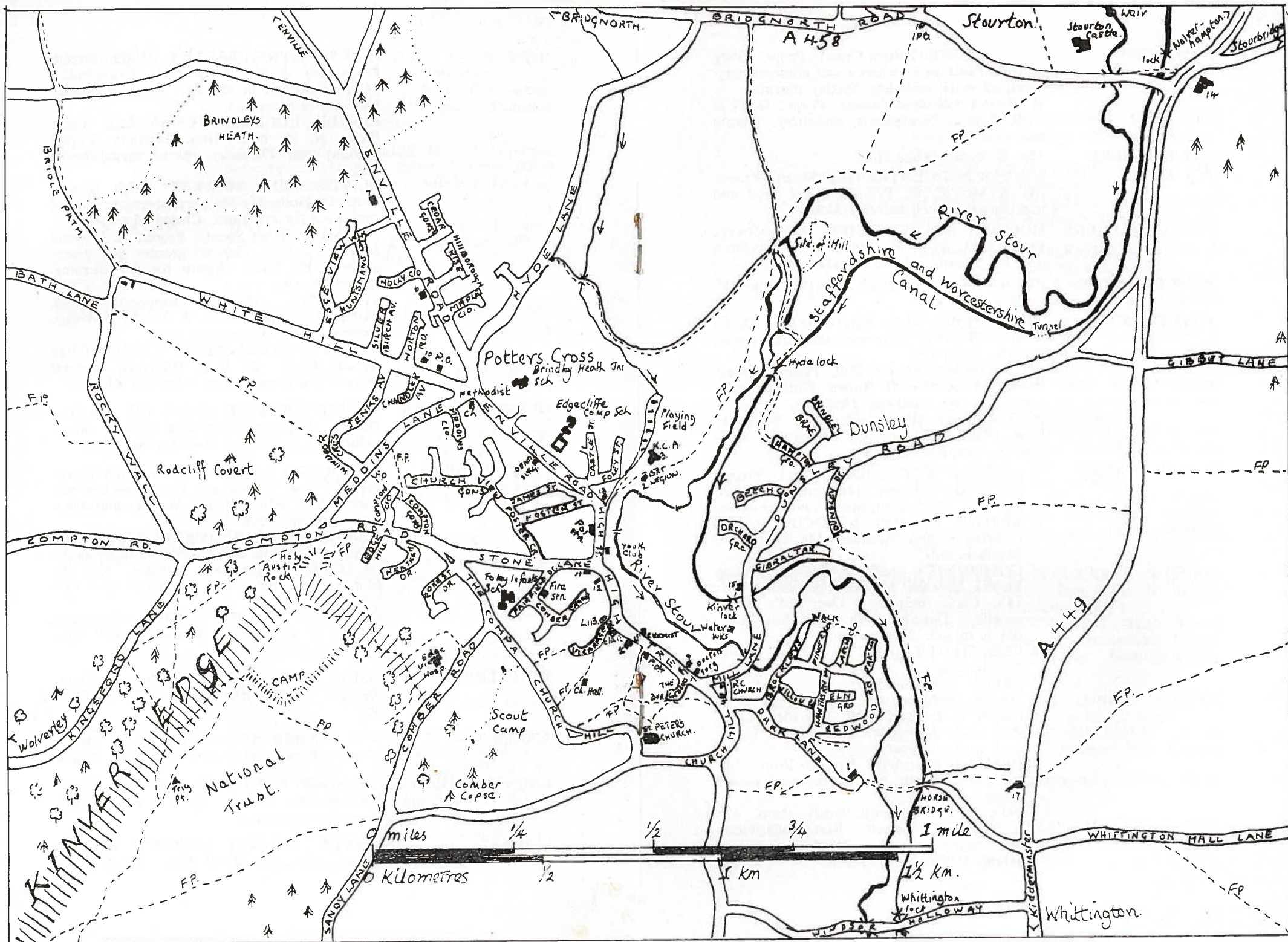
**JEWELLERS** SIMON HENN (High Street). Prop.: S. Henn. Specialist in silver and jewellery. Closed Monday.

**JOINER** N. B. HOMER (Church Hill). Prop.: Mr. N. Homer. Joiner. Mon.-Fri., 8.30 a.m.—5 p.m.

**LAUNDRETTE** LAUNDERCENTRE (High Street). Props.: Mr. and Mrs. Oakley. Open 8 a.m.—9 p.m. Seven days a week.

**LIBRARY** KINVER BRANCH LIBRARY (Vicarage Drive). Librarian: Mr. G. Riley, A.L.A.





## NEWSAGENTS

NEWSAGENTS (Potters Cross). Props.: Doug & June Faulkner. Tobacco and confectionery. Open all week including Sunday morning.  
R. JENNINGS (High Street). Props.: G. E. & E. R. Talbot. Newspapers, stationery, tobacco and toys.

## PARISH CLERK

Mrs. O. Bunn (White Hill).

## PET SHOP

KINVER PET CENTRE (High Street). Props.: Mr. & Mrs. F. W. Pye. Pets, pet food and accessories. Closed half-day Monday.

## PHOTOGRAPHERS

HOLBIEN HOUSE STUDIO (High Street). Props.: J. J. & G. M. Coutier. Photographers and Tea Rooms. Closed Monday.

## POLICE STATION

POLICE STATION (High Street). Sergeant M. Belcher.

## POST OFFICES

POST OFFICE (High Street). Props.: D. G. & M. J. Hendley. Stationery and fancy goods. Half-day Saturday.  
POST OFFICE (White Hill, Potters Cross). Props.: Mr. & Mrs. G. Brown. Confectionery, stationery, toys. Half-day Thursday.  
POST OFFICE (Bridgnorth Road, Stourton). Prop.: Mrs. B. Hooper. General Stores. Half-day Thursday and Saturday.

## PUBLIC HOUSES

- 1 ANCHOR HOTEL (Dark Lane). Props.: Mr. & Mrs. Olivieri. 14th century residential hotel. Restaurant open to non-residents.
- 2 BRITISH LEGION & SOCIAL CLUB (Playing Fields). Steward: Mr. L. Barker. Members only.
- 3 COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION (Playing Fields). Steward: Mrs. B. Raybould. Under 14's Disco monthly. Over 14's Disco monthly. Dances. Club Night, last Saturday in month. Members only.
- 4 CONSTITUTIONAL CLUB (High Street). Members only.
- 5 CROSS (Church Hill). Prop.: Mr. C. Vincent. Cold bar snacks.
- 6 CROWN & ANCHOR (Enville Road). Prop.: Mr. B. Wright. Cold snacks. Children's garden at rear.
- 7 ELM TREE (Enville Road). Prop.: Mr. W. Burns. Cold bar snacks and basket meals.
- 8 FOX INN (Bridgnorth Road). Prop.: Mr. S. Caron. Bar snacks. Restaurant Tues.-Sat. Sunday lunches. Special functions arranged. Children's garden.

9 GEORGE & DRAGON (High Street). Prop.: Mr. C. Humphries. Traditional beers. Bar meals and cold snacks. Children's garden.

10 NEW ROSE & CROWN (White Hill). Prop.: Mr. P. Sankey. Functions room—bookings only.

11 OLDE PLOUGH (Stone Lane). Prop.: Mr. A. Creed. Traditional ales.

12 PLOUGH & HARROW (High Street). Prop.: Mr. H. Whitfield. Cold snacks. Bar meals.

13 ROYAL EXCHANGE (High Street). Prop.: Mr. T. Brunt. Cold bar snacks.

14 STEWPONEY & FOLEY ARMS (Stourton). Prop.: Mr. D. P. Havard. Steak bar. Bar snacks and parties by arrangement.

15 VINE (Dunsley). Props.: Mr. & Mrs. M. E. Wakeman. Bar meals. Cold snacks, morning coffee. Garden for children.

16 WHITE HARTE (High Street). Props.: Mr. & Mrs. D. Lea. Cold snacks. Bar meals. Children's garden at rear.

17 WHITTINGTON INN (A449). Prop.: Mr. P. Grew. Restaurant Tues.-Sat. lunch-time and evening. Wine bar/bistro open all week lunch-time and evening.

18 TUDOR WINES (Potters Cross). Props.: Mr. & Mrs. Cooper. Off-licence. Tobacco, sweets, beers, wines and spirits. Open all week.

## RESTAURANTS

BERKELEYS RESTAURANTS (KINVER) LTD. (High Street). Prop.: Mr. N. Scragg. Open Mon.-Sat. (evenings only).  
KINFAYRE RESTAURANT (High Street). Prop.: Mr. H. Williams. Restaurant & Bar. Bistro Bar open to public. Bowling alley—bookings only.

## SCHOOLS

BRINDLEY HEATH JUNIOR SCHOOL (Enville Road). Head: Mr. M. C. Aston.  
EDGECLIFF COMPREHENSIVE (Enville Road). Head: Mr. R. Ashman, B.A. Evening Classes. Sports Hall.  
FOLEY INFANTS (Fairfield Drive). Head: Mrs. C. E. Slater.

## TIMBER MERCHANTS

KINVER SAW MILLS (Mill Lane). Prop.: Mr. W. K. Wrigley. English and foreign timber merchants. Open all week.



## CLUBS AND SOCIETIES

Badminton Club  
 Bowling Club  
 British Legion, Kinver and Enville  
 Brownies  
 Children's Book Group  
 Christian Action  
 Church of England Children's Society  
 Civic Society  
 Community Association  
 Conservative Association  
 Conservative Ladies' Tea Club  
 Crib League  
 Cricket Club  
 Cubs Group  
 Darts League  
 Domino League  
 Edgecliff Association  
 Edgecliff Eagles  
 Edge View League of Friends  
 Film Society  
 Football Club  
 Freeliners Angling Club  
 Good Companions Club, Stourton  
 Guides  
 Guides' Building Appeal Committee  
 Handicapped Active Movement, Kinver  
 Handicapped Active Movement, Hinksford Park  
 Historical Society  
 Horticultural Society  
 Kinfayre Singers  
 Kinver Homing Society  
 Ladies' Keep Fit Class  
 Light Operatic Society  
 Machine Knitting Circle  
 Marsh Playing Fields Association  
 Methodist Church Ladies' Guild and Women's Fellowship  
 Methodist Wives' Group  
 Minibus for the Elderly and Handicapped of Kinver Parish

Mothers' and Toddlers' Group  
 Mothers' Union, Kinver Parish Church  
 National Trust Committee.  
 Old People's Welfare  
 Parish Council  
 Peter Pan Playgroup  
 Peter's People  
 Potters Cross Nursery Class  
 Pre-School Playgroups  
 Prestwood Hospital League of Friends  
 Prestwood League of Friends  
 Raynet (Kinver Group of Staffs)  
 Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes  
 Scout Group (Rover Scouts, Venture Scouts, B.P. Guild Scouts)  
 Senior Citizens' Club  
 Social Club (at British Legion)  
 Squash Club (Members only)  
 St. John Ambulance Brigade Quadrilateral Division  
 Stourbridge Pre-War Car Club  
 Stourton Residents' Association  
 Stourton Village Hall  
 Stourton W.I.  
 Stourton Youth Club  
 Traders' Association  
 Trust for the Elderly (Kinver)  
 Voluntary Bureau  
 Kinver and West Midlands Model Engineers  
 Women's Institute  
 Wine Circle  
 Kinver Youth Management Committee

*Note: Contacts to these organisations can be provided by library staff.*

*The commercial directory and list of clubs and societies are included in good faith free of charge. No responsibility can be accepted for inadvertent errors or omissions.*

## THE FUTURE

**H**OW can one predict the future of a village? Traditionally, the carnival was the village 'get-together', but of recent years no single event has matched the Queen's Silver Jubilee celebrations in engendering a community spirit. This spirit is now re-created annually at the Country Fayre held in June or July, but much more has been gained also.

Many organisations have representatives on Parish Council sub-committees to provide suggestions (and labour) on worthwhile village projects. Daneford Gardens, Jubilee Gardens, and Stag Corner were some of the first 'eyesores' to be tackled and the visual improvement is a great credit to the organisations and individuals involved.

The Sterrymere, once a mill pool, but more recently an overgrown tip, is undergoing long-term improvement. When finished the open expanse of clear water, adjacent to the modern 'village green'—the playing field—will provide a pleasant retreat away from the busy High Street.

Much more has to be done to provide an agreeable environment and ample facilities. Such features become more important with increased leisure time. An intensive footpath clearing and marking programme has been instituted to encourage people to walk into the village's pleasant surroundings. A bowling green will soon be completed and this increases the facilities offered.

As previously stated, most of the heavy industry left the village about one hundred years ago. As transport has become easier and more adaptable the village has tended towards a dormitory area. The physical situation of the village on the west side of the Midland conurbation is ideal for living and leisure, Kinver Edge is likely to remain an attraction for years to come. The Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal also has a large bearing on the village due to its use for holidays and leisure. This has an effect on the village economy. The planned growth of the village for the next ten years is minimal, so a major change in population and distribution is most unlikely. Heavy industry is unlikely to return to the village, but the small scale unit may have a future, but siting such units is likely to be a problem due to the shortage of development land.

It is most likely, therefore, that the dormitory image will remain, with much commuting to the conurbation for those not employed in the local leisure or service industries.

## TWO ANCIENT BUILDINGS



*Top: Grammar School House. The award-winning restoration in 1978 was the work of Norman Homer, with John Greaves-Smith as architect.*

*Lower: Clifford Cottage, formerly the house of the workhouse master. The workhouse occupied a bay which was demolished earlier this century.*



## WALKS

THE following short walks are designed to foster walking in the area on paths other than those on Kinver Edge which are generally over-used and eroded. None is particularly strenuous and all are suitable for a family outing, though care must be taken with children on the public road. Hopefully, the walks will encourage visitors and residents alike to explore parts of the parish other than the village centre.

The Parish of Kinver has approximately 42 miles of public footpaths, some are signposted, most are not. Some are popular and well-used, many are in need of use and attention. A number have been incorporated in circular walks published by the Kinver Civic Society and are on sale in the village.

### 1.

#### KINVER - CAUNSALL - WHITTINGTON HORSE BRIDGE

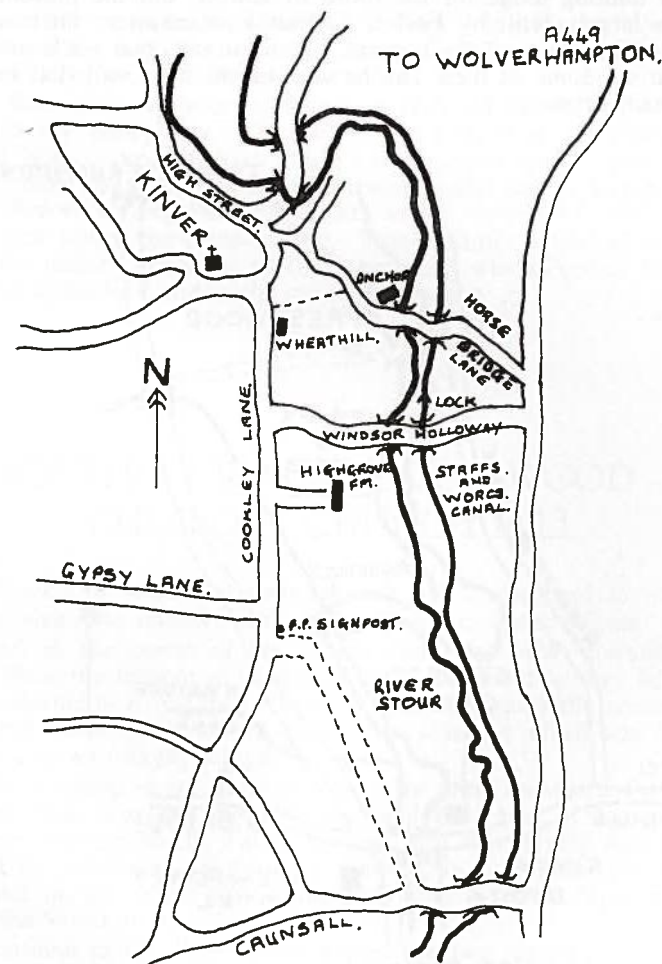
THIS walk is about three miles and it leads out of Staffordshire into neighbouring Worcestershire. It is advisable to start out from the village centre where ample parking spaces can be found.

Head along the High Street in a S.E. direction and walk into Church Hill. Clifford Cottage, formerly part of the workhouses, is on your right. Continue walking uphill between Kinver House on your left and Church Hill House on your right. Notice also Grammar School House, a fine half-timbered building, on the left next to the Cross Inn. Just beyond Church Hill House take the left-hand fork. Beware of traffic. Continue along the Cookley Lane beyond Windsor Holloway and the entrance to Highgrove Farm on the left. The next road on the right is Gypsy Lane, the county boundary. 200 yards beyond on the left-hand side is a signposted footpath to Caunsall, the path starting at a stile beside a field gate. Take this path (it is a wide cart track), follow it as it turns to the right through the middle of a field.

Continue through the next field and passed the farm on the left, to an awkward stile which leads down to the metalled road. Turn left, cross the River Stour, and take the track which leads to the left beside the canal bridge—this takes you to the towing path. Turn left and follow the towing path to the Whittington Lock, where Windsor Holloway crosses the canal. There is no towing path under the bridge here so cross the road with care. Notice the restored lock cottage on the right and the old nail mill (much restored) on the left. Continue

along the canal bank to the next canal bridge. This small bridge, which unfortunately has lost its parapet, was only designed for horse traffic—hence Horse Bridge Lane off to the right.

Leave the towing path by turning left before this bridge and walk on the metalled road towards the Anchor Hotel. Continue on the road and up the hill, and just beyond the crest a stile in the fence on the left marks a footpath across a field which leads uphill to the corner of a field boundary. Keep this fence on your right and continue along a narrow path by the garden to 'Wheathill'. Take care at the end where the path drops down on to the road—you have been here before! Turn right and downhill to the High Street.

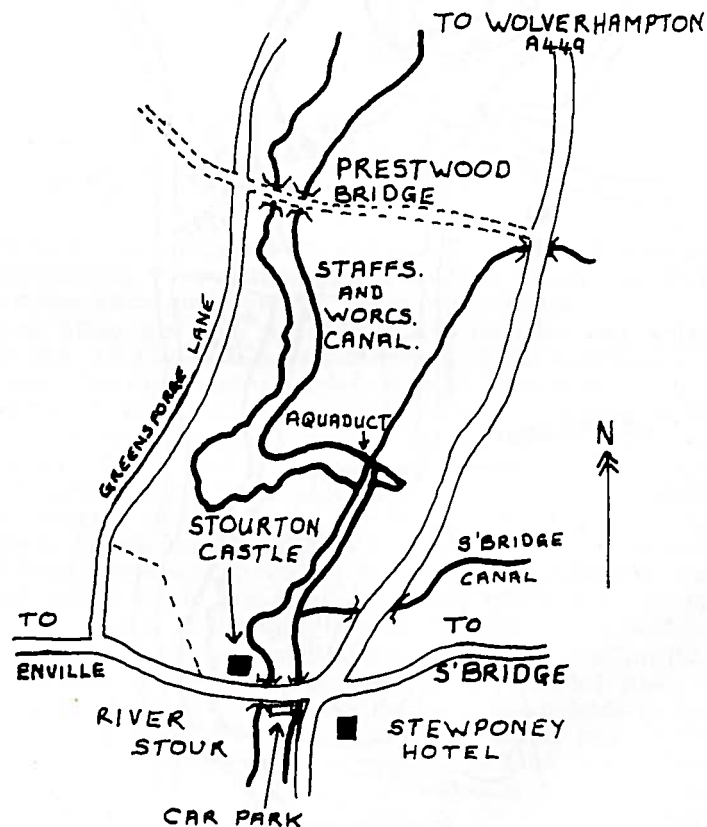


Map for Walk No. 1

2.

## STEW PONEY - STOURTON CASTLE - RIVER STOUR - STAFFS./WORCS. CANAL

THIS walk starts at a car park on the Bridgnorth Road opposite the Stewponey Hotel. From this spot walk uphill, over the River Stour, to the entrance to Stourton Castle. This ancient establishment was once a Royal hunting lodge for the forest of Kinver, but the present structure was largely built by Foster, a wealthy ironmaster. Such was the surplus of iron that all the copings for the ornamental walls are made of cast iron. Some of these can be seen on the long wall that leads up to the main entrance.



Map for Walk No. 2

Continue to the top of the hill and turn right into Greensforge Lane. Follow the lane until you reach a track crossing the lane, turn right down the track, cross the River Smestow and at the canal bridge scramble down onto the towing path, turn right and head south towards the starting point. Follow the towpath to the aqueduct which carries the canal over the Stour. This sandstone structure dates from the building of the canal in 1772. Notice the confluence of the Stour and Smestow, each river often carrying water of a different colour. Soon an expanse of water appears on the far side as the canal turns to the right. This was originally intended to be the junction of the Stourbridge Canal, but for some reason the plan was changed and the junction was made at the present position, visible shortly, as you continue on the towing path.

Near the canal junction notice the large 'finger post' erected by the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal Society, and Stourton bridge built in 1777/9 with the Stourton Canal.

A fine view of Stourton Castle is seen off to the right as you approach the Stewponey. This was once a busy canal wharf, hence the toll house, carrying vast quantities of varied goods down to the Severn. Now it can still be busy but with traffic that is largely leisure based. Before leaving the towing path at the right-hand side of Stewponey lock notice the circular weir. This example is typical of several along the canal. Walk up to the main road which crosses the canal just beyond the lock and to the car park opposite.

3.

## POTTERS CROSS - SCOUT WOOD - CHURCH - CHURCH HILL

THIS walk is somewhat more central but is designed to introduce the visitor to another part of the village at Potters Cross.

Start in the centre of the village and head N.W. towards Stone Lane. Near the bottom of Vicarage Drive the street is very wide. The library (formerly a National Girls' School) dominates the scene at this point, but tends to be marred by the site adjacent which was formerly occupied by an infants' school.

The winding street gradually narrows until Daneford Gardens is reached. This area was formerly occupied by a row of cottages. The land now belongs to the Parish Council and was largely laid out and planted by volunteers. It forms a marvellous view point for the Stag Meadows on the other side of the river and a retreat from which to watch the world go by.

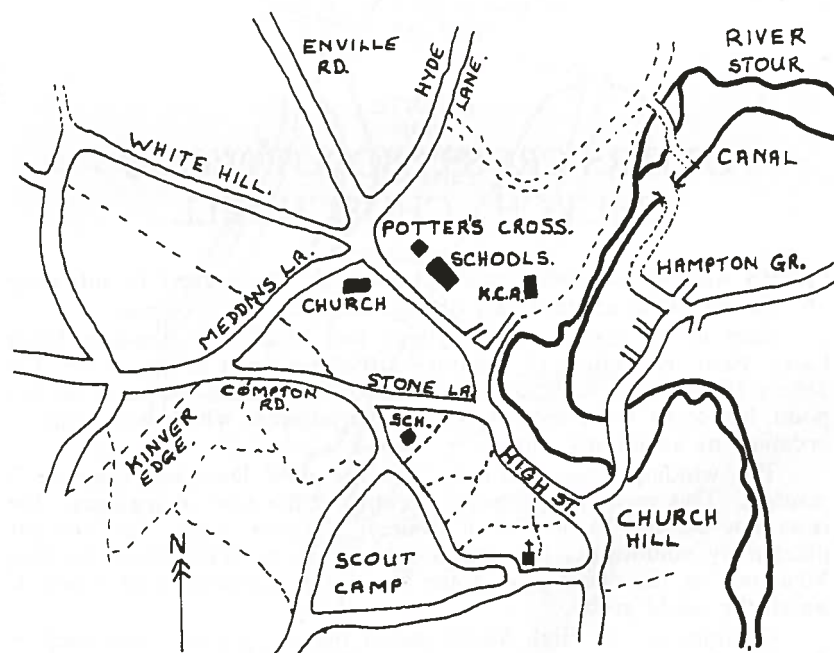
Continue in the High Street passed the two chapels now used by the Youth Service to the police station, opposite which is Jubilee Gardens, now an open space but once a scrapyard. The road off to



the right leads to the Community Centre, The British Legion and the Playing Fields. Next is yet another twist in the street that leads into Envile Road, with the National Boys' School (now privately owned) on the right-hand side. The incline ahead, known as Bowen's Bank (the Bowen family lived at No. 1 on the left-hand side), takes you to the two modern schools, and on to a major road junction known as Potters Cross (who was Potter?). Here is a modern Methodist Chapel with its predecessor adjacent.

Turn left here into Meddins Lane and continue to Compton Road at the top. Turn left at this point and continue passed Edge Hill and Heather Drive and take a small track on the right-hand side which leads passed Forest Drive and on to a raised footpath which overlooks the new infants' school. There is still a fire-mark on the wall of a house around here—there are very few 'marks' visible in the village hence this one is quite rare.

Follow the road round to the left passed the entrance to the scout wood and on up to the church on the hill. Glimpses of the village centre can be seen through the trees on the way up. Unfortunately, churches have to be kept locked nowadays, but it is worthwhile entering through the lych gate, wandering round the churchyard and looking at the church from all angles. Most churches have architecture from all ages. Kinver is no exception, having styles from Norman to the twentieth century.



Map for Walks Nos. 3 and 4

The church is usually opened at weekends in the summer, when a rota of vigilantes attend to security and thus prevent disappointment for those wishing to view the splendid interior.

The view from the lower churchyard is also worthwhile. This area, long since overgrown, is gradually being cleared and will eventually be a most pleasant spot at which to sit and stare.

Exit over the cattle grid and go down Church Hill back into the village centre.

#### 4.

### MILL LANE - RIVER AND CANAL - HYDE LOCK

AT the S.E. end of Kinver High Street the road divides into Church Hill on the South and Mill Lane on the North. Walk down Mill Lane to the bridge over the Stour. You may pause on this bridge and watch the waters flow by, but you may also wonder about the name Mill Lane. Kinver Mill stood until 1980 on the left-hand side of the River Stour, behind the modern brick flood-retaining wall. This mill was one of the water-powered mills along the Stour Valley. It was unique in that water remained the motive power until 1929, long after the others had either ceased or changed to other forms of power.

The mill pool was filled in and the course of the river altered in a recent River Authority scheme which gives the present somewhat canalised appearance, but naturalisation will take place in due course. Fortunately, the kingfishers have not been disturbed and can often be seen on this stretch of the river.

Move on next to the canal bridge round the corner, just beyond the pumping station which raises water from 750 feet underground to supply the village and a Dudley reservoir.

Turn left onto the towing path by Kinver Lock. The warehouses on your left (once complete with a weighbridge) are remnants of the goods traffic days of the canal. Continue along the side of the canal to the marina where you have to make a short diversion round a slipway and on passed the somewhat derelict Paddock cottages. Across to the left is the River Stour and the old Light Railway embankment beyond.

The next feature is the picturesque Hyde Lock and bridge, complete with the lock cottage. Glance backwards at this point for a fine view of the church. It is difficult to imagine that this area was once highly industrialised. The last works closed about 1912.

Cross the bridge and follow the track that curves round to the right through a small copse. This path—eroded at the top and leaving exposed sandstone—leads into Hampton Grove and then into Dunsley Road. Turn right at this latter junction, follow the road downhill to Mill Lane and thence back to the village centre.

## QUIZ

1. When was Kinver Edge given to the National Trust and by whom? (E)
2. On Kinver Edge there are three outcrops of sandstone caves, give their names. (E)
3. Where was the 'Rock House Museum'? (E)
4. What famous person was born at Stourton Castle, when, and who were his parents? (R)
5. Which monarch is known to have stayed at Stourton Castle? (E)
6. Which monarch stayed at the Whittington, and when? (E)
7. Who is the present Lord of the Manor of Kinver? (R)
8. When did the first tram run from Kinver? (E)
9. Where was the tram terminus? (E)
10. Who built the Kinver Light Railway? (E)
11. When did the Kinver Light Railway close? (E)
12. Where does 'Stag Corner' in Mill Lane get its name from? (E)
13. Where was the Giant's Well? (E)
14. When was the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal built? (E)
15. Where was the Kinver Gas Works? When was it built? (R)
16. Where was the home of the Foley Family? (E)
17. Who built the Hyde Iron Works? (E)
18. Who were the last owners of the Hyde Iron Works? (E)
19. Name the famous actress born in Kinver, and where. (E)
20. Who wrote a novel about the landlord's daughter from the Stewponey? (E)
21. What was the title of this book? (E)
22. A film was made from this book. When and by whom? (E)
23. Who played the part of the heroine? (R)
24. Where does 'Daneford Gardens' get its name? (R)
25. Over the centuries the name Kinver has appeared in many forms. List them. (E)
26. There have been 11 public houses in the High Street. Can you name them and give their locations? (R)

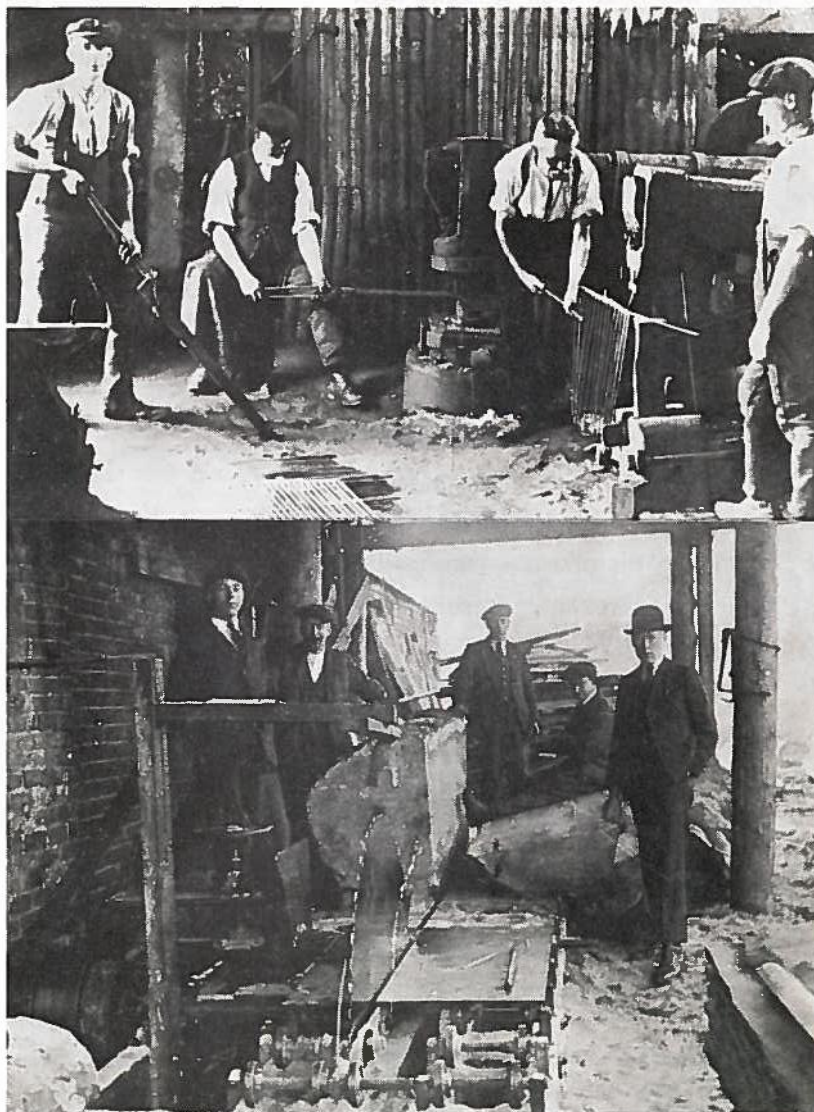
27. There were two annual fairs held in Kinver. State on what days. (R)
28. When was Edge View Hospital built? (R)
29. Why is the 'Gibbett Wood' so called? (R)
30. When was Kinver Pumping Station opened? (E)
31. Give the name of the person who presented a 'Cloth of Gold alter piece' to Kinver Church. Where was it made? (R)
32. What year did Edgecliff Senior School open? (R)
33. Where were the first Council Houses built? (R)
34. Who built the first Council Houses? (R)
35. Where was 'Nailors Row'? (R)
36. What date is on the plaque in front of the Grammar School House? (E)
37. Where was Bewdley Road? (R)
38. What is the meaning of the name Kinver? (E)
39. On what day was William Howe executed? (R)
40. Where was the first telephone exchange? (R)
41. Where was Workhouse Lane? (R)
42. Where was the jail? (R)
43. Where has the fire brigade previously been stationed? (R)
44. When and from where did Kinver obtain its first fire engine? (R)
45. How does Mill Lane get its name? (E)
46. Kinver had a 'Windmill', do you know where it was? (R)
47. Where was Wells Tearooms and White's Tea garden? (R)
48. Where was the air-raid shelter? (E)
49. Where was the Market Hall? (R)
50. When was the Market Hall demolished? (R)

This Quiz has been designed to further your interest in the village. The letters at the end of each question is only a guide as to how difficult they are. The letter (E) suggests that they are relatively easy—all answers are contained in the three booklets by the same authors. The letter (R) indicates a little research is necessary.

**N.B.: Help in answering the quiz can be obtained at Kinver Branch Library, which is also the Information Centre.**



## INDUSTRIAL KINVER



*Two aspects of former industries in the area.*

*Top: Tilt hammer forging forks at The Hyde.  
(Photo: Courtesy Mabel Timmings)*

*Lower: A youthful W. K. Wrigley in charge of a saw at Kinver Mill, about 1920.*

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Thanks are due to many people for their help in preparing this book.

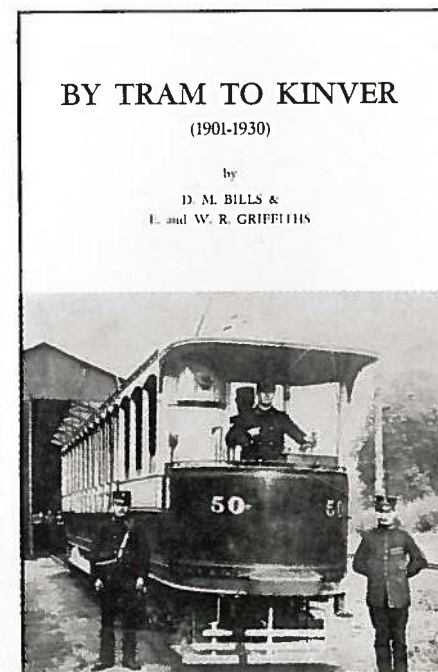
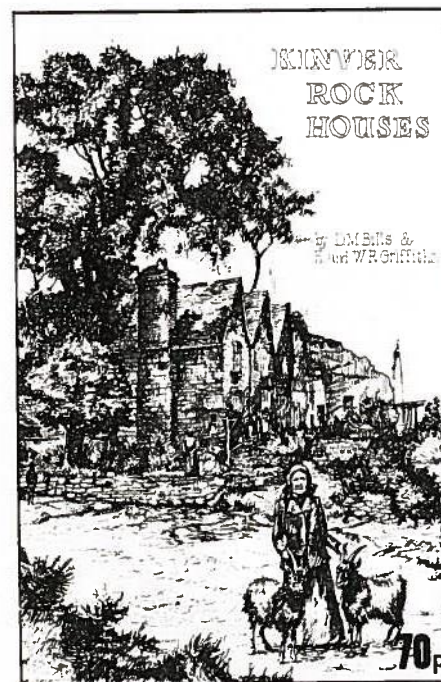
To Mr. J. G. Smith for help with the architectural details and to Mr. J. W. King for help with the historical details, the authors express their gratitude. To people who loaned the various photographs used to illustrate the book and to F. A. Bills and Miss A. Franklin for their help with processing for publication, thanks are also due.

Primarily, however, recognition must be made of the efforts of villagers both past and present who work to maintain and improve the quality of the village.

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Methodist Church, Kinver ..... By H. J. Haden  
Church Bells of the County of Stafford 1889 ..... By C. Lynam

## FURTHER READING :



## NOTES