

rural reality

BUILDING A BETTER RURAL FUTURE

Did you know?

■ **WILLIAM** Hugh Patterson's book, '*A Glossary of Words in use in the Counties of Antrim and Down*', published for the English Dialect Society in 1880, continues to offer a fascinating insight into the interpretation of words and phrases, some of which have ceased to have significance and many which are still in use today, albeit in limited form. This week, focusing on words beginning with the letter 'L'.

"Limpy coley, sb. a boy's game.

Line, [1] sb. dressed flax. [2] sb. a road. The new roads are so called.

Linen lease, sb. a lease granted under the provisions of the 'Linen Act'. It was for lives, renewable, and provided for the keeping of a certain number of looms on the farm.

Lines, [1] When a dispensary doctor is engaged making calls in his district he is said to be out on lines, ie, when he has received a line or order.

[2] sb. a discharge given to a worker or servant.

Line yarn, sb. yarn made from flax that has been dressed and sorted, so that the fibres are long and run in one direction.

Ling, sb. Heather, 'Erica cinerea', is especially called ling.

Linge, v. to beat; to chastise; to lunge.

Linging, sb. a beating.

Lingo [pl. Lingoos], sb. a long, thin weight of wire used in Jacquard looms.

Lint, sb. flax.

Lint-hole, sb. a pit or dam for steeping flax.

Lint-white, sb. a linnet.

Lint-white, adj. very white.

Lippen, v. to trust; to depend on."

Useful contacts

□ Rural Development Council
028 8676 6980

□ Rural Community Network
028 8676 6670

□ Rural Support Line
0845 606 7607

□ DARD Grants and Subsidies Division **028 7131 9900**

□ Post Office Customer Helpline **08457 223344**

□ Health Action Zone
028 8772 9017

□ Farming Families Bureau
028 7930 1003



■ **AL FRESCO:** At Tory Bush Cottages, dining Al Fresco, with spectacular mountain scenery and hill pastureland clearly visible beyond individual cottage garden hedgerows, is a delight awaiting potential guests. FW-1V.

■ **PAINTING:** Jim Morgan, Maintenance Manager of Tory Bush Cottages, adds a layer of paint to one of the eight cottages on Tullyree Road, to refresh the image of the comfortable holiday and weekend retreats they undoubtedly are. FW-1E.



Farm holiday cottages offer stunning

David Maginn, on his hill farm at Moneyscald on the Tullyree Road, Newcastle, developed cottage holidays almost 20 years ago and since then his business has not only grown in popularity but continued to advance in the realms of bio diversity and wildlife appreciation. **Ian Harvey** paid a visit to Tory Bush Cottages, over 500 feet up in the foothills of the Mourne Mountains, one of the most spectacular settings for a holiday break to be found anywhere in these islands.



■ **CONFERENCE ROOM:** A spacious conference room with all mod cons and a comfortable informal relaxing area is just part of the reception complex, which also includes the 'eco loft' accommodation upstairs with natural sheep's wool insulation. FW-1R.

■ **RECEPTION:** Right, the reception area at Tory Bush Cottages enables guests to book in at a central location within the cottage complex and allows the owner, David Maginn, to make personal contact with visitors and holidaymakers. FW-1C.



THE deep throaty raucous call of a raven drifted clearly across the Shimna River in the glen far below us. An almost eerie early morning mist had just dissolved to reveal a mountain panorama that was so breath-taking it was virtually impossible to tear one's eyes away.

Early morning sun left dark shadows on the west side of Tullymore Forest Park and rising out of the landscape like giant sentinels the majestic Mourne Mountains captured rays of soft yellow sunlight, outlining their rocky faces in stark relief.

It was just a moment in time, one of those moments that may not be repeated in exactly the same way because mountain scenery changes dramatically in colour and climatic state so quickly.

I was standing beside my host, David Maginn, owner of Tory Bush Cottages and over 60 acres of land which surrounded us, tucked in, just below Moneyscald Wood.

We were in the front garden of one of David's eight, vernacular-styled holiday cottages, looking south across the broad glen.

The Trassey River which feeds into the Shimna rises high up in Hare's Gap some 1,250 feet up in the Mournes, directly opposite where we stood. I broke the spell by remarking on the distinctive sound of the raven I wasn't sure that David had noticed, who responded with cheerful matter-of-fact enthusiasm.

"We have lots of ravens here, solitary big black birds, but we also have buzzards which you'll often see wheeling and gliding, high up in the warm updrafts of air.

"When it comes to birdlife we've a large variety to offer the enthusiast, in fact I've received official permission from DARD to feed red kites on my land in a controlled way on high bird tables, which I'm hoping will be one of our future wildlife attractions here at Tory Bush Cottages."

The cottages David was referring to, which had been built in 1995 as a group of eight holiday homes, accommodating on average five persons, were cleverly designed to look more like a small hamlet or 'clachan', than a purpose-built holiday complex.

David had elaborated on that image by adding thoughtful touches like red-

painted traditional iron gates hung on conical, capped stone pillars, separate enclosed front gardens with lawns, a variety of hedges, shrubs and features like barbeque tables.

Each group of cottages has a different look, some single storey, others two storey with a single storey attachment. Even colour schemes differ, as one would expect to see in a clachan and subtle variations in design like a one-off stone built porch addition.

Every ounce of studied planning had apparently gone into the creation of a beautiful restful place in this stunning mountainous countryside, which one could easily imagine had been there for generations.

As I soaked up the atmosphere and beauty of the setting, David remarked: "If you look to our left Ian, you'll see I've added stabling accommodation for cottage guests who wish to bring their horse or pony along with them as an extension to their holiday break.

"There is pastureland below the stables for turnout, so equestrian owners should have no worries about outdoor exercise and a natural grass diet.

"I'm also in the process of planning a wildlife nature walk round the margins of some of my farmland, which will include the red kite feature, land which incidentally my brother John and I currently farm.

"It may be that we can adapt the walk to include an off-road riding track to ease the pressure hacking on roads which are often busy with tourists and local and commercial traffic.

"Equestrian holidays are becoming increasingly popular, so it's important to offer what the customer wants and keep up with ever-changing trends.

"Although I'm firmly rooted in an agricultural upbringing, I have always had an interest in wildlife, the environment, local history, geology and archaeology.

"What better place to develop all my interests," he added with a smile.

David, it seems, had thought of just about everything to facilitate the diversity of holiday-makers to capture and hold their attention.

His brother Patrick keeps honey bees in two hives in a pretty garden, well below the gardens of a row of single storey cottages.

As we strolled back toward the reception and conference centre in the

"I prefer to think of this business as selling an experience rather than just a pretty place to sleep."