

Captured in time, a piece of old England.

Roger Plant



01. A view of this vista may evoke virtual time travel. Wheat field with arable weeds, Hallow, Worcestershire. 14.07.2024. Roger Plant.

Readers of a certain age will recognise this image (01 & 02) as the wildness of it is of a bygone age; a piece of old Worcestershire.

Although it looks like a scene from a pre-mechanised time, there is a clue to its age in the wheat; the wheat straws are short, which mainly changed from traditional long straw in the 1960s. I do know that long straw wheat remains available as I've a friend who is an expert in a traditional craft requiring long straws, she is a third-generation corn dolly maker.

During the harvest, over our garden gate, I told the farmer how much I admired the unusual appearance of wild flowers among his ripening crop; a scene that would have been repeated over and over across the countryside in the past. He understood my appreciation and went on to explain how this had come about. Due to the very wet Spring, he couldn't get on the land, which is clay and was waterlogged, so the "weeds" grew unchecked. A delight for the onlooker but not by design, and the farmer told me it had cost him "a fortune" in lost crops.



02. A detail from the above image. Roger Plant.