NEWBOLD CORN THIEF TREATED LENIENTLY

50 YEARS AGO – 1986

A 31-YEAR-old Newbold Verdon man left his sick bed on Tuesday to tell Market Bosworth Magistrates' why he stole nine sacks of corn from a farm where he worked part-time.

He was Frank Blower, a miner, of 78 Preston Drive, Newbold Verdon, who was fined £5 on each of two charges. Chief Inspector P.J. Colver said they arose out of a complaint by William Esam, of Halifax Farm, Newbold Verdon, that corn was being stolen from a lot on the farm premises.

He suspected Blower because he occasionally did odd jobs on the farm.

When asked about the missing corn, Blower admitted taking one or two sacks but no more. He agreed to pay for what he had taken but he did not keep his promise. Mr Esam was particularly concerned because some of the corn had been treated with insecticide and could be harmful to livestock.

It was discovered later that Blower had been selling the corn in the village at £1 a sack. The police, said Insp Colver, recovered only half a sack of corn.

Blower, apologising to the court for what had happened, said he realised he had been a fool because the monetary benefit he obtained was next to nothing. He had discussed the matter with Mr Esam and had apologised to him.

"I really feel I did wrong to this man. We have considered why I did this and Mr Esam suggested that it was because he was not paying me for all the jobs I did. He has now volunteered to pay me on an hourly basis." said Blower.

He added: "I have disgraced my family and I shall see that nothing like this ever happens again."

The chairman, Mr N. Smith, told him: "In view of the probation officer's report and in view of you having a good wife, we are going to treat the matter leniently."