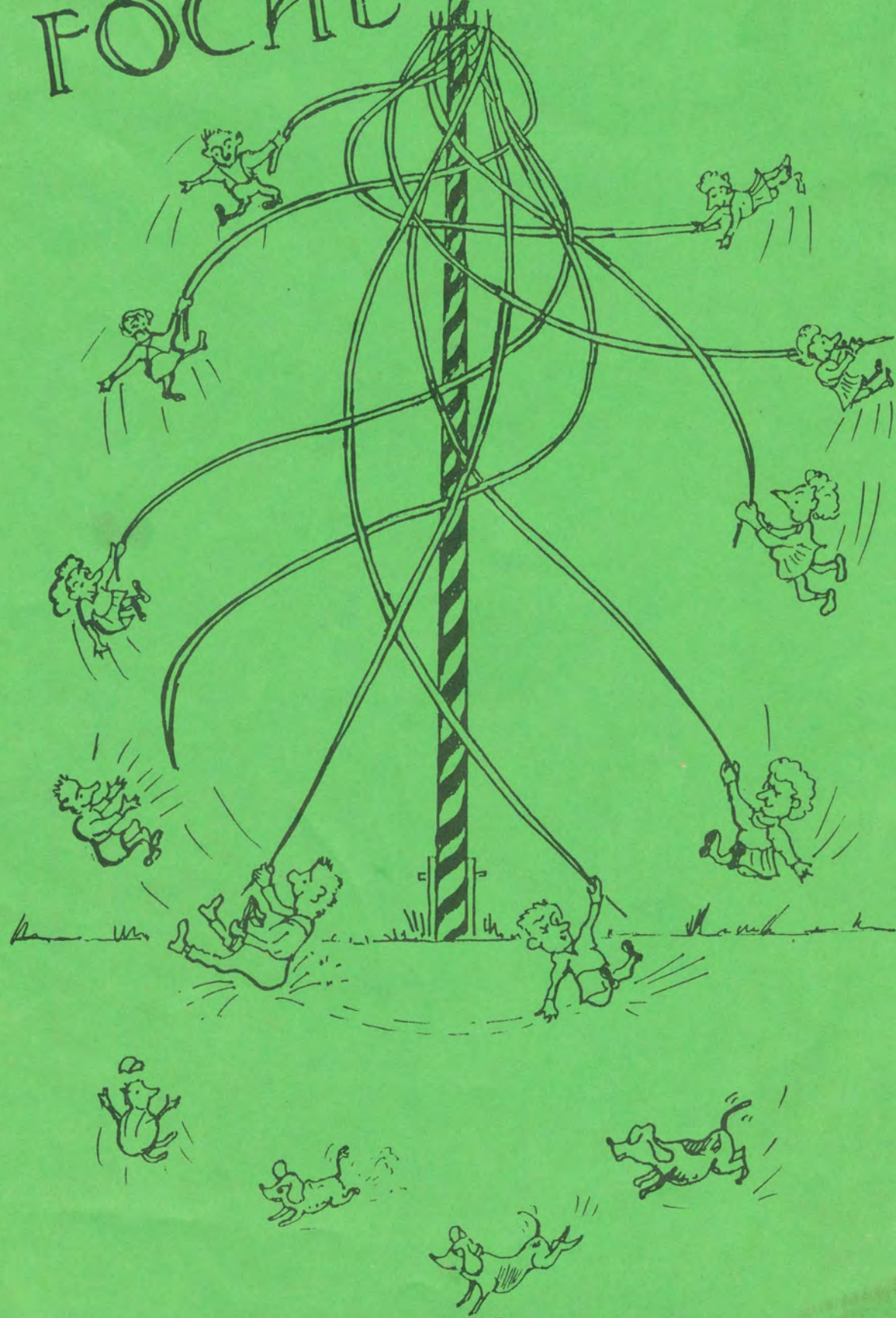


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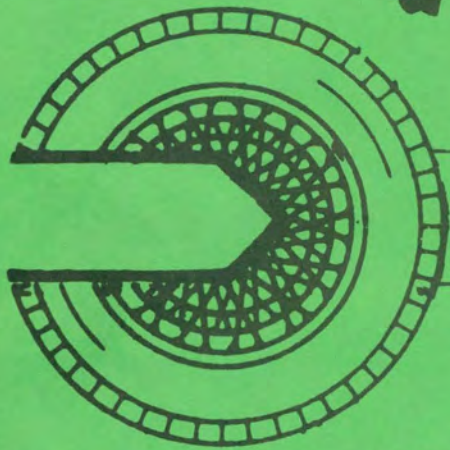
38

# FOCAL POYNTZ

MAY DAY



# *roger's autocare*



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Rangeworthy  
228228*



# Spring

No

## Editorial

In 1990 we held our first May Day event, partly to celebrate the new maypole and partly to raise funds for this magazine. Thanks to support from all organisations in the village and from all our parishioners, this event has grown every year since so that Focal Poyntz funds are in a reasonably healthy state and we feel we can carry on for the time being without asking for further funds.

However, don't think the May Day fête is to be abandoned, we hope it will be bigger and better this year. (Fuller report inside). The beneficiary will be the Village Hall Project 2000 fund and we hope you will support them as well as you have us for the last few years.

We have been extremely lucky with the weather every year and after the horribly wet winter we hope the sun will shine for us again - can there be any more rain left up there?

John Percy  
228395

Betty Cook  
228202

Charles Wilkins  
228254

Jean Dickes  
228609

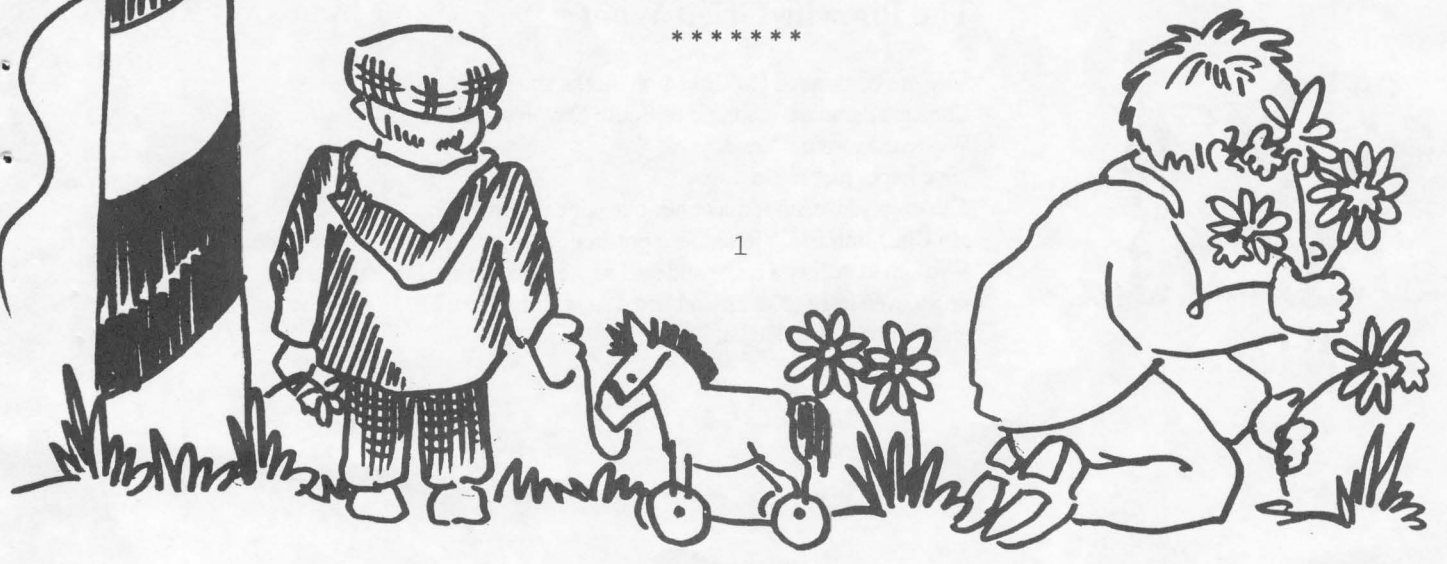
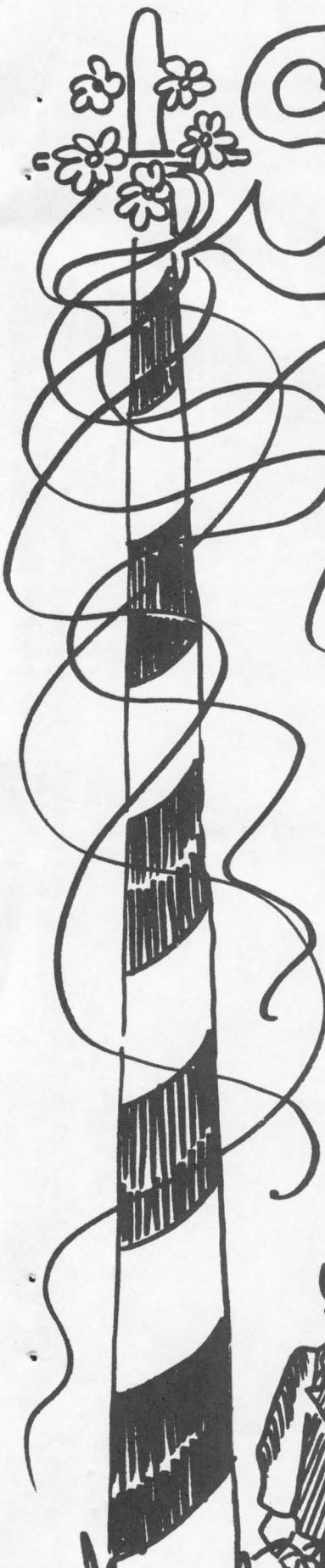
Hazel Dron  
228509

Lionel Alsop  
228400

Lynne Blanchard  
228566

Maureen Blake  
294381

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## PARISH COUNCIL

We hope you have all been enjoying the daffodils along the roadsides. There are still some bare patches but we plan to plant some each year.

More planting has also been carried out in the Parish Meadows - Trees along the north side and hedges of native shrubs on other borders. If you have never been in the Meadows do take a walk through when the weather improves, it is really very pretty there.

Northavon will soon be putting up warning notices, now that they have bylaws about fouling of footpaths by dogs. We shall also have some dog bins in the Parish Meadows. One subject that often comes up at council meetings is "Should dogs be banned from the Meadows?" but it would be a pity to have to do that because some people just won't clean up after their animals.

Accidents have been far too frequent at the Wotton junction and the Highway Authority will be monitoring traffic with a view to improving the crossroads. They have also been asked to make some drainage improvements to prevent the water ponding along North Road, which is such a nuisance to everyone living there.

The Public Enquiry about the footpath between Park Street and the Village Green will be held in the Village Hall starting on TUESDAY, APRIL 4th at 10 p.m. This is open to everyone and we hope all those interested will take the opportunity to make their feelings known.

National Spring Clean week this year is from 1st to 10th of April. If you can help, please contact the Clerk.

The Neighbourhood Watch meeting has had to be postponed until after the local elections, as we have to arrange a date when a member of the Police can attend.

The elections will be on MAY 4th and if you would like to stand, the Clerk will have some application forms which will explain the procedure. The forms must be returned to Northavon Council Offices not later than noon on APRIL 4th.

At last we have managed to get a footpath map of the whole parish and copies will be available, either in the Post Offices or from Sue Gawler, Shale Cottage, Wotton Road. Both schools have a copy, and there will be one outside the Village Hall as soon as we can get Planning Permission.

The Parish Meeting will be on April 20th at 8 p.m. This is open to all parishioners. Why not come?

Chairman	Bob Sheppard, 200 North Road
Vice Chairman	Sue Gawler, Shale Cottage, Wotton Road
Councillors	E. Blanchard, B. Cook, R. Curtis, F. Davis, D. Hancock, C. Heal, D. White.
Clerk	N. Carter, 9, Chilwood Close.

\*\*\*\*\*

### The Pig who Cried Woof

"We are convinced Ho Chi Minh thinks she is a dog," Christine Paradine, manager of South Devon's Ipplepen animal-rescue centre, tells the Western Morning News. "She barks just like a dog. The dogs just cannot make her out. She mimics them whenever she can." Ho Chi Minh is a Vietnamese pot-bellied pig who will soon be even more confused. "We aim to get her a collar and lead so we can take her for walkies and, who knows, she might even learn to sit up and beg," says Christine. The pig can count herself lucky: at least no one's tried to eat her yet.



## Elizabethan Club

The Club held a successful Dinner at the Village Hall with excellent entertainment and everyone enjoyed a good dinner cooked by Sue Gawler and helpers. Members were given tickets for the Actonians performance of Dazzle. A brilliant production but not quite a Senior Citizen's choice.

We visited Leyhill for their slightly more traditional pantomime and all our members thoroughly enjoyed the production.

We also visited Bath Theatre Royal and everyone enjoyed their visit. Some of our members expressed the opinion that some of these "professionals" are overpaid!

We are looking forward to our outings starting on April 26th when we shall visit Worcester via the Cotswolds and to Paignton on 24th May. If anyone would like to join us on these outings would you please ring me on Rangeworthy 228566.

We haven't any Whist Drives arranged at the moment as we find they are a lot of work and a lot of donations from members for little return. Gone are the days when you could hire a hall, buy prizes, buy refreshments, charge a reasonable entrance fee and still make a profit. We are looking for other ways of adding to our funds.

At the moment we are holding fortnightly meetings but we shall meet weekly from April 12th excluding outing dates.

If you are a pensioner you will be made welcome at our meetings.

Elsie Blanchard - Secretary.

\* \* \* \* \*

## **NORTH ROAD LADIES CLUB**

Due to the weather we didn't have our usual turnout for the January Club meeting but those of us who attended enjoyed a quiz, part of which related to pre-decimal coinage, so this had us racking our brains.

On Valentine's night we held a Skittles night at the Football Club organised by our Chairlady, Jo Powell, followed by refreshments and prize giving. We were fortunate to have the help of young Andrew Lathall sticking up the skittles and Bob Broom scoring.

Moving on to March, we shall again have Jan & Dave Fulman this time re-counting their "Greek Odyssey" adventure, and April will see Innes Blair visiting with his fine display of Bristol glass and jewellery, when he will give us a slide show explaining how this beautiful glass is made and engraved by fine diamond point. In May, Tyna Thompson who has visited before with her collection of hats will give us a talk on a very different subject; how she succeeded in having a baby after many years of infertility treatment.

We are keeping our fingers crossed that the sun will shine on us for our annual Barbecue.

At the end of June, we are looking forward to seeing the much-acclaimed production "The Day War Broke Out in Bristol" by the Fry/Cadbury Club at the Brunel Centre, Temple Meads. The Prince's Theatre which was bombed during the war has been specially recreated in Brunel's railway terminus for this show - so it's set to be quite a memorable one.

We meet at North Road School on the first Monday of the month, and are pleased to welcome new members.

Dorothy Denning (228442)

\* \* \* \* \*

*Golf fanatic: "My golf clubs were stolen this morning."*

*Second golf fanatic: "How awful - where did you lose them?"*

*First: "In the supermarket car-park."*

*Second: "Did the thieves damage your car?"*

*First: "I don't know - they took that too."*

## MAY DAY, - MAY 8th

Please take note of the later date, this is to fall in line with VE Day celebrations. We hope that you will all come in costume suitable for that time, military or civilian. There will be a prize for the best outfit so turn out all your wardrobes and attics, and nag your grandpas to find their old moth-eaten uniforms, and enter into the spirit of the day.

We shall have all the previous attractions plus some extra ones this year so all we need is YOU! Please come along and make the day a success.

And of course, we want a May Queen and two attendants.

1. The entrant must be of primary school age.
2. The entrant must live in the Parish of Iron Acton.

So come on girls, fill in the slip at the bottom of the page and return it by April 8th.

Profits this year will go to the Village Hall's Project 2000. This fund was planned to make major improvements to the Hall, and deserves all our support. We all use the Hall at some time, and we all benefit from refurbishments.

If you can help at all on May Day, or feel you would like to run a stall (50% to Project 2000) please contact Bob Sheppard, 200, North Road.

We look forward to seeing you on the Green on May 8th!



ENTRY FORM FOR MAY QUEEN COMPETITION.  
RETURN TO BETTY COOK, NEKSDORE, HIGH STREET,  
OR BOB SHEPPARD, 200 NORTH ROAD,  
BY SATURDAY, APRIL 8th.

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

TELEPHONE .....

\*\*\*\*\*

## No Sex Please, We're Driving

Now that ram-raiding is considered old hat, a daring new trend is emerging, giving rise to great consternation: that of being in possession of a motor car while naked. Outbreaks are reported from Castletown on the Isle of Man and Shroggs Park, Halifax.

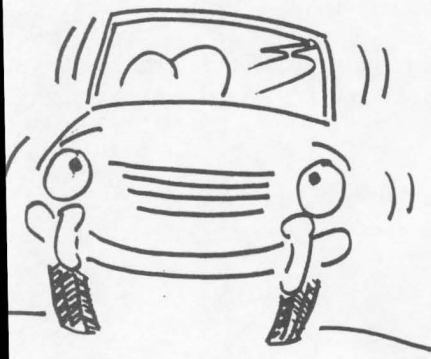
"It was disgusting. They both didn't have any clothes on and I thought the man was bald until I realised it was his backside," said the woman who complained about the Halifax incident to the Evening Courier.

Police, who received complaints two days running, found the naked couple, said to be in their forties, making whoopee at 7.30 a.m. inside a Skoda. According to witnesses, they had been doing the same thing every morning for more than a week in full view of passers-by - but no one had bothered to complain.

Over the water, the front-page headline in the Manx Independent says it all: "Naked man in 90 mph car chase". But police have still been unable to find out why the 27-year-old man was naked in his car and parked on Douglas Head (that's a place) at 6.20 in the morning.

Indeed, throughout the entire 20-minute chase, which ended in a pub carpark, the man was not only naked but drove with both the front seats of his red Metro turbo fully reclined.

It was an eventful chase: on Fairy Bridge he drove at a policeman; at Port Soderick he switched his lights off. An officer who first saw him said: "He was holding something small in his hands."



## NORTH ROAD BAPTIST CHAPEL

On Good Friday, April 14th at 7 p.m. we will again be joined by the Choir and Friends from Whiteshill Independent Chapel, Winterbourne for our Annual Service. A great time of fellowship is always enjoyed both during the Service and during the Refreshments afterwards.

Easter Sunday's Service at 6 p.m. will be conducted by Mr Hilton Obery from Clevedon.

On Sunday 7th May at 6 p.m. in common with people all over Europe, we will be commemorating the 50th Anniversary of The End of Hostilities in Europe. We will be remembering with sorrow all those of every country who lost their lives during that horrific period of history both Military and Civilian. We will rejoice with those who survived and pledge ourselves to try to ensure that nothing like it occurs again.

However, we will also remember that if we trust in human nature alone there will always be the risk that someone like Hitler may come to power again or that some event will cause a conflagration to re-ignite.

It will always be necessary to rely upon the Grace of God if we want to enjoy the Peace of God. Jesus said "My Peace I give unto you" and contrasted that with the World's Peace.

We have seen the World's Peace in operation over the past fifty years, remember Korea, Vietnam, the Gulf, Falklands et cetera. Contrast that with the Inner Peace enjoyed by those who receive God's Peace. I am reminded of a Lady suffering intense pain from Cancer yet being so serene and concerned with the needs and distress of others.

On Sunday 9th July at 6.30 p.m. we will receive another visit from Weston Gospel Male Voice Choir. Refreshments will follow this service.

We should be pleased to see any reader at any of the Services highlighted above or at any of our Sunday Services which are held at 6 p.m. usually.

We send our Best Wishes to all those Friends past and present who through age or illness have had problems recently and Pray that those who have been sick will soon enjoy a recovery and those who are now too infirm to leave their homes will have God's presence with them.

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### WARNING

When I am an old woman I shall wear purple  
With a red hat which doesn't go, and doesn't suit me.  
And I shall spend my pension on brandy and summer gloves  
And satin sandals, and say we've no money for butter.  
I shall sit down on the pavement when I'm tired  
And gobble up samples in shops and press alarm bells  
And run my stick along the public railings  
And make up for the sobriety of my youth.  
I shall go out in my slippers in the rain  
And pick the flowers in other people's gardens  
And learn to spit.

You can wear terrible shirts and grow more fat  
And eat three pounds of sausages at a go  
Or only bread and pickle for a week  
And hoard pens and pencils and beer mats and things in boxes.

But now we must have clothes that keep us dry  
And pay our rent and not swear in the street  
And set a good example for the children.  
We must have friends to dinner and read the papers.

But maybe I ought to practise a little now?  
So people who know me are not too shocked and surprised  
When suddenly I am old, and start to wear purple.

*Jenny Joseph.*



## ACTONIANS - SPRING NEWS

THE LAST PRODUCTION 'DAZZLE' - a star-trek spoof, musical space-tacular! was quite an enterprise! It involved a huge cast including many members of the Junior Actonians who were brilliant 'aliens' and 'greasers'. There were the hard working back-stage front- of- house crew, lots of special effects, marvellous scenery, dazzling costumes, lots of music and singing, and last but not least, a well run bar! Presented on four evenings plus a Saturday matinée performance, the production was very well attended at the end of last November. It was lots of fun to do, and above all it seemed that everyone who came along enjoyed it. The Rose-bowl adjudicator gave an extremely favourable adjudication. Congratulations, and thanks to the producer, Mike Wills, and to all who helped in many ways.

### One-Act Play Festivals.

The Actonians are again entering the Avon & Malmesbury One-Act Play Festivals held at two venues during March.

Liz Aplin is producing an extract from, 'A Taste of Honey' by Shelagh Delaney. It has only a cast of three - Lin Bowden, Emma O'Connel and Mike Schofield, and therefore is very demanding, involving a lot of hard work for them.

The Junior Actonians are presenting, 'Ticket to Hitsville' involving the whole group. Chosen by the Juniors, the play relates the well known story of the 'Pied Piper of Hamlyn', but in a very different way! This year two of the older members of the group, Victoria Strachan and Penny Warner, are producing the play. Many thanks to Ann Aplin who is over seeing the rehearsals and production.

A Supper Evening is being in the Village Hall on March 8th when the two One-Act plays will be presented. We are looking forward to seeing the play entries, and wish them all the very best in the Festivals.

### Spring Production Mystery! Suspense! ..... & Murder!

May 25th, 26th, 27th 1995.  
'SLAUGHTERHOUSE' by Norman Robbins.

Anne Chenery has long wanted to produce a "who-dun-it," and after reading many scripts, she now dreams of planning the 'perfect murder' without any trouble. She has also decided to present 'Slaughterhouse' (not quite so bad as it sounds!)

Set in a great country mansion, surrounded by guard dogs, swirling fog and a moat full of piranha fish, the owner, an ageing horror star, is confident his weekend visitors are caught like 'rats in a trap'. After two murders, the finger of suspicion points at each of the guests until the final truth is revealed with fatal consequences.

Who is the murderer? Please come and find out .... will you be right?

Socially, a Skittles Evening has been arranged during February and March, and the Actonians hope to arrange other social and fund-raising events during the course of the year. Funds are always needed to finance productions, renew and improve equipment etc, as well as contribute to the Village Hall Project 2000. Fund.



**Village Day - May 8th** - the Actonians will be participating by providing a 'Refreshment Tent', Treasure Hunt and 'Fish for the Lemonade Bottle' stall. Hope its a fine day as last year.

**Friday & Saturday 30th June & 1st July** - 'Evenings of Entertainment' - when the Village Hall Committee and the Actonians, combine to present 'Hollywood Movies'. Food and Fun! Please see posters nearer the time for details.

Finally, thank you for your combined support by coming along to see the plays. As always, the Actonians welcome new members (the usual meeting night is Wednesday in the Village Hall 8 p.m. ) Please come along or contact for more details: -

Chairman - Pat Stimson - 313307  
Secretary - Bob Allen - 0272 761976  
Treasurer - Gerry Millward - 228704

Gaynor Clark.



## NORTHAVON DISTRICT COUNCIL

### HAZARD DOLLS HOUSE



Every year over 4,000 people are killed in domestic accidents, and over 3 million are injured. Young children are particularly at risk from burns, scalds, falls and poisoning.

Northavon district Council co-ordinates accident prevention work in the area and is committed to working towards the Government's targets to reduce home accidents.

A series of resources are available on free loan to interested groups and organisations.

The newest resource is a **HAZARD DOLLS HOUSE** which has been created to draw attention to the potential risks that exist in our homes.

The **Hazard House** can be used in conjunction with a **Safety Story Book** that introduces 'Vizzy' an alien from outer space. The book allows children to be actively involved in keeping 'Vizzy' safe from the daily hazards in the home.

The **Hazard House** is an excellent resource for children to learn from and can be used in conjunction with other accompanying resources.

If you are a playgroup leader or have an interest in child safety and would like more information please contact Fiona O'Driscoll, Health Promotion, Environmental Services Department, Northavon District Council, The Council Offices, Castle Street, Thornbury, Bristol BS12 1 HF, telephone 0145 416262 extension 4134.

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### IRON ACTON WI

We rounded off (or should that be finished off?) 1994 in our usual inimitable way with Sherry (several) and mince pies (several). It was a lovely, gentle oasis in the frenetic run up to Christmas. Our meetings are usually so full that it was lovely to sit in our equivalent of the witch's coven and catch up on all the news.

The New Year saw new faces amongst our gathering and although our President (Pauline Hill) and Treasurer (Jean Kethro) remain the same for 1995, our Secretary has changed. I've managed to escape from my manacle; and the Secretary's duties will be shared between Jane Fox and Kath Atkinson

Back in January our speaker described a variety of Swiss cheeses, allowed us to rummage furiously through a variety of her recipe sheets and then taste, not only the cheeses, but a rather delicious creamy, cheese and white wine fondue that she'd made. I dread to think how many New Year good intentions about cutting calories went flying out the window that evening!



The "Curse of the Speaker" struck in February when the allotted speaker decided she didn't, after all, want to grace us with her presence. So, at very short notice, Mrs Wall came and shared her slides on New Zealand. Your's truly, once she'd got over strange thoughts about how many wellies would be needed for all those sheep, was staggered by the diversity of the landscape and the beauty of the country. Our Speaker assured us that the people were most hospitable too.

Our plans for the next few months include speakers on the topics of Dogs for the Deaf, Police Helicopters, Perfect Fit (we think this is about underwear but we could all be in for a surprise), First Aid and a trip along the Kennet and Avon Canal. Scattered in between is a variety of fund raising events such as a Coffee evening, sponsored walk and barbecue.

So, if you feel like giving us a try (sorry but ladies only) we meet on the second Monday of the month at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall. Just turn up and you'll be made most welcome or, if you'd like further details, you can always ring Pauline on 228600 or me on 228566.

Lynne Blanchard.

## VILLAGE CELEBRATIONS

Our Focal Poyntz meetings are invariably great fun and I often wish they were recorded in some way, but maybe it's not such a good idea since we are a fairly disorderly lot and some of the topics discussed would be better not printed. Often we have to be called to order to discuss the business in hand. At the most recent meeting we were told there was a shortage of items for the forthcoming issue and what were we going to do about it? One suggestion was for an article on the 1945 V.E. celebrations in the village. Were there any? Who might remember them? No response. Several topics later, the V.E. suggestion was again referred to, and I started to think about various celebrations in the neighbouring village of Frampton Cotterell where I was born. Celebrations were certainly less sophisticated than they are nowadays but no less enjoyable to children brought up in wartime conditions where "treats" were few and far between.

An annual Springtime celebration was the Good Friday ramble to Iron Acton Woods by younger members of the Congregational Church. I can remember the banks on the side of the lane covered with primroses - and no one frowned when we picked bunches to take home. I don't know why this trip was regarded as a special occasion (unless it was because so many people were involved), because as children we frequently played in the woods and for many years I was convinced that the Frome was the river home of Mole and Ratty and that Chilwood was the haunt of Badger. On a very recent walk through the wood I was amused to find that Frampton Cotterell children still come to the wood to play and I wondered if they regarded the "cave" as their den and "Hideout", as my bloodthirsty brother and his friends did.

Then there was the Summer seaside trip when all the local churchgoing children were taken by coach to Weston-Super-Mare. On the return trip a stop was always made at the Star Inn at Rodyate. I seem to remember sensing a slight air of disapproval directed towards those raffish adults who actually went inside this harmless establishment, but maybe it was because the Mums were tired and just wanted to get home as soon as possible.

Most of the village celebrations seemed to be related to the Church in some way or another - the Christmas parties and the Sunday School anniversaries - but the V.E. celebrations I remember were secular. It seemed to me that the street party I attended just happened without much effort, but thinking about it now, it must have involved a great deal of effort. Where did all that food come from? How did all those tables and chairs suddenly appear in the street - the tables covered in lovely white cloths? All the girls wore red, white and blue ribbons in their hair - where did those come from? Were all these items hoarded by women as a matter of faith that the war would end, that husbands, fathers, sons, brothers, absent for far too long from their families, would return, and that there would be a need to celebrate?

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## FRIENDS OF IRON ACTON SCHOOL

Towards Christmas last year Friends held an enjoyable family quiz evening with questions set to test parents and children; for example "What was the name of the dog in the Noddy books?"

Funds were raised from the sale of refreshments at the school nativity play and pantomime and also from the sale of tea towels featuring self portraits of all the children at school and some interesting portraits by the children of the staff! There are still a couple left for sale if anyone wants a slice of history in the making.

This year has seen the popular family disco in the Village Hall held in February. **Still to come is a Skittles evening for parents and friends on Saturday 25th March, a family Rounders and Barbecue evening on Friday 23rd June** and the **Annual Fair on Saturday 8th July**.

All of these will be held at the school and are open to all - so put the dates in your diary and come along. You will not even need a ticket for the Fair!

As usual there are many projects on which to spend the money raised to benefit the children's education and in the short term we will be contributing towards a replacement photocopier and buying more books and gym mats.

May we take this opportunity of thanking all in the Village who continue to support the Friends.



"the cave"



## CROWS, CONES, PHONES AND ICONS

An Oldie's view of life in the nineties

As you get older, you wonder, at times, whether you still belong to this world. I suppose it has always been the same through the ages as young people have shocked their elders with the way they behave and dress and appear to dominate political and economical thinking; everything is geared and planned to exclude the oldies, or so it seems!

My increasing lack of understanding of the world centres on the materialistic. I find I can listen to the news and fail to understand large chunks of it. I admit that some of it is due to my own laziness for not keeping up with the times, for example the "new" geography of Africa, but a lot of what I hear is gobbledegook because I am apparently not on the same wavelength as the newscaster. Like viewing abstract art and listening to the "music" of Messian or Tippett, I think I'm being conned by some alien body into believing I am no longer part of this planet.



When driving on the motorways I marvel at the vast numbers of crows who frequent the hard shoulder. Have you noticed how they hop a couple of inches - just enough to take them out of the path of your nearside wheels - and never fly off? Birds never behaved like that when I was young, knowing their job was to acquiesce to human desires, to sing and look pretty. In preparing to take the scholarship (the 11 plus of its day), I remember a question in the mock maths section: If there are 30 crows on a washing line and you shoot and kill one - how many crows are left? The answer, of course, was none. If the same question was today, I would give the answer as 29. Until recently, I believed that crows would take over the world - but that was BC - before cones!

Cones are the advance troops of some terrible alien power. Where you see one or two today, there will be ten or more tomorrow; then you will see scores within the week. There are secret breeding grounds somewhere in the Midlands, I am told. If I was a school careers adviser I would say to any youngster "Get into cones - it'll be a job for life." The cream of cones end up with big orange lights on their heads - a sign that they were miners in a previous life. To prevent indiscriminate breeding, cones are never placed too close to each other; it is also better to take them in at night - Dave White is fully aware of this after a Village Hall auction. What other so-called inanimate objects you know of have their own communications network - the Cone Hotline? Thousands of pounds worth of communications technology have been invested in a system that tells the complainant that there are invisible but busy beings at work behind every posse of cones. Of course, the choice of the word "hotline" is clever; it suggests urgency, efficiency and great importance.

The number one symbol of the moment is undoubtedly the mobile phone. No yuppie car driver would be seen without one and there will soon be railway carriages reserved for users only. Mobile phones and their devotees are appearing in public places at a phenomenal pace. The mobile phone is about to take over from the cone as the number one icon of the nineties.

This takes me neatly to icons. I always thought that an icon was an image of Christ or a Saint; but ask any youngster above the age of five and you will be told that an icon is what you get on your screen to denote a computer programme. Can it possibly mean anything else?

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### IRON ACTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

During the last few months the school and the children have begun to feel the benefit of the three classrooms the school now has. And in the months to come the area around the new classroom will be smartened up for the use of all the children in the school. We hope to make further educational opportunities available to the children and at the same time make the environment safer still by building a pathway to the school field which does not go near the drive way. Curriculum inputs on conservation and growing can also be addressed whilst at the same time improving the whole school environment.

On a similar note the Schoolmaster's House is nearly ready to be tackled. A Feasibility Study has been undertaken by Avon which is now being considered by the school governors. We hope to use the house as an extension to the school in that the down stairs areas will be of use to the children for research, group teaching and cooking activities; whilst the upper floor will be used for teacher's resources, staffroom and cloakroom. There will be a doorway built from the school hall into the school house ground floor for ease of access.

This will enable the secretary to occupy the room close to the main entrance, with the Headteacher's room taking the place of the present staffroom.

All of these changes will tidy the school environment making the school hall more appropriate for indoor physical activities such as Gymnastics, Dance, Drama and Games.

The Christmas activities at the school were a great success. The Nativity Play and the pantomime performed to the parents were extremely well attended and the children enjoyed their parts. The children from the junior class thoroughly enjoyed their participation in the Avon School's Carols Service held at the Clifton Cathedral. To complete the school's Christmas activities the Christmas party and the end of term school carol service held in the parish church proved to be popular, with many parents attending. I should like to thank parents, governors and friends of the school for all their help during 1994.

Forthcoming events: - the school will, after half term, be holding a sponsored swim. This will be in aid of the re-development of the school garden. A school service will be held for Easter in the parish church and again a service to celebrate Ascension. At present the dates have yet to be arranged for the annual Football and Netball tournaments. The school and cluster sports also have yet to be finalised. The school will be holding the Summer Fête on 8th July commencing at 2.30.



... GET SOMEONE TO BACK YOU IN THE SPONSORED SWIM...

\*\*\*\*\*

#### ACTON AID

The February meeting was our A.G.M. The out-going chairman, Chris Wiggins, reported that the main effort of the year had been the initiative to look at the possibility of a new Village Hall, which had resulted in the setting up of the PROJECT 2000 committee. Most of the funds that we raised during the year were ear-marked for this project, and this had curtailed our other charitable works. It would be important in future years to distinguish those events whose profits went to PROJECT 2000 from those whose profits went to Acton Aid funds.

The following officers were elected for the forthcoming year;

Chairman	Robert Bourns	
Vice Chairman	Robert Taylor	to be acting-chairman for the first few months
Secretary	Andy Garside	
Treasurer	Patrick Murphy	
Services	Richard May	
Project 2000 Rep	Chris Wiggins	
Village Hall Rep	Richard May	changed at the March meeting to David Hatherell

At the March meeting the following programme of events was discussed and agreed

May/June	Barn Dance	Philip King's farm
8th July	Garden Party	John Wright's garden
Early August	Barbecue	Barry Wright's garden

Acton Aid is an organisation for the men of the parish of Iron Acton. We meet on the first Thursday of each month at the Rose and Crown in the High Street to organise social and fund-raising activities, and to consider the needs of the parish. Our meetings are intended to be enjoyable, and all men are welcome.

#### Acton Aid

This local charitable organisation is keen to keep its list of Senior Citizens who reside within the Parish up to date.

If you have recently become or about to become a Senior Citizen and would like your name to be added to the list so that you can be properly invited to any forthcoming events arranged for the Senior Citizens of the Parish then please pass your name to: -

Mr Richard May - Tel: 228282

\*\*\*\*\*

*Part of Statement made by a 14 year old car thief: -  
"I only nick cars in the daytime 'cos I don't like driving in the dark."*

## Identity Crisis

I was just dozing off after lunch when I felt something tickle my wrist. At first I thought it was a fly and I tried to pull my hand away but then I heard the dulcet voice of a VOLUNTEER (female).

"Mr James Grieve?" she said.

"Nnnnn NO" I shouted.

She looked surprised and consulted my identification band again. "But that is what it says here" she said.

A passing nurse was called in for arbitration.

"You musn't take any notice of Jimbo" she said "Ever since he had the stroke, he says "No" to everything"

I winced. My name never has been Jimbo, nor has it ever been 'Pop' (the porter) or 'Old Man' (the Consultant) or even 'lover' (the lady who cleans the floors).

The volunteer lady was obeying specific instructions. "Please check the patient's wrist band for name and ward - sometimes that is the only way of knowing where to return them."

She seemed to be a brisk, cheerful lady, my volunteer. As she wheeled me along the corridor she said in a pleasant (but firm) voice, "So you are Mr James Grieve, from Orchard Ward."

"Nnnnno, No" I shouted back, but she just laughed. When I was a lad, anyone within a five mile radius called me Whistler because I never stopped. Now I can't whistle to save my life. It doesn't help having no teeth of course. Still even if I could whistle now, no-one would be able to hear me, with the television blaring away all day. At night we have to put up with the old groaner snoring his head off. He's quite a nice old boy, Mr Golden, (he had his hundredth birthday party last week) but he's so deaf, he can't hear the racquet he's making.

When the old groaner shuts up, it's Granny Smith's turn. She bangs on her locker for hours, shouting "MUTHER, MUTHER, MUTHER" The nurses say she can't help it, she has Deemencher.

I hadn't realised that I had put myself down for the afternoon service in the chapel, but that is where the volunteer lady took me. Perhaps someone had mistaken my 'No' for a 'Yes.'

We had some nice cheerful hymns, 'Onward Christian soldiers' and 'Bread of Heaven'. I was just settling down to listen to the sermon, when Granny Smith, who was in the wheelchair next to mine, suddenly leaned over and sunk her teeth into my arm (she's still got all hers).

I was completely taken by surprise, and I must have biffed her one as a reflex action. Course Granny then started in on her song and dance routine, she stood up and banged her wheelchair around bawling "MUTHER, MUTHER, MUTHER" for all she was worth. It was a show stopper, the service ground to a halt.

The volunteer ladies were most put out. I think they thought she was shouting "Murder". They started to tell me off but then someone noticed the blood on my arm and said they had better take me to Casualty. Someone else noticed that Granny and I had lost our identification tags and a wrist band was hastily put on my arm.

There must have been a mix up somewhere, when I got back to the Ward Granny Smith had been given some knockout medicine and she was fast asleep in my bed, number 8.

Inspite of my protestations "Nnnnn No" I was put into her bed, number 16.

We had two 'bank' nurses on duty that night and no-one spotted the mistake. I saw no reason to complain. Next to my new bed was a table with a fruit bowl containing some delicious Cox's Orange Pippins. Teeth, or no teeth, I prepared to enjoy myself!



... suddenly leaned over and sunk her teeth into my arm.

P.P.

*Author's Note: All people and places in this story are entirely fictional.*

## THE END OF SIX YEARS OF WAR

The approach of VE Day Anniversary started a chain of memories. I came back from Canada in October 1994, on a New Zealand troopship, the Rikitavi. Conditions on board were somewhat primitive; the plumbing was horrific and the beds were rows and rows of two tier bunks below the water line, which we had to share with the troops. No, no, not all together, in eight hour shifts. No wonder I got scabies!

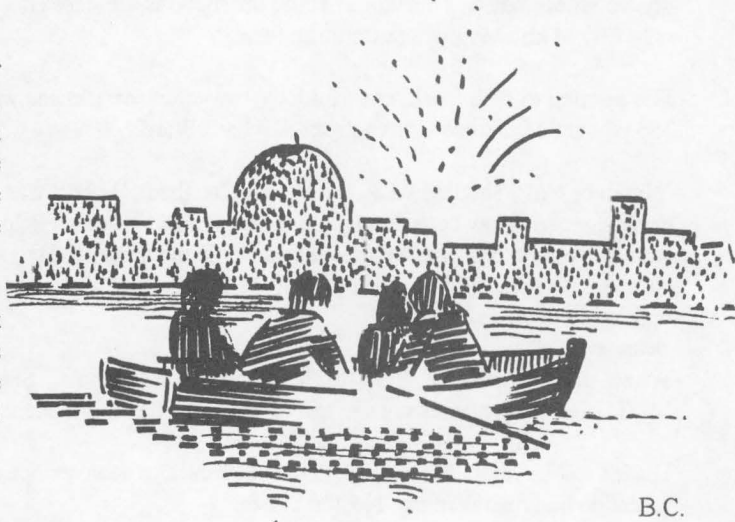
The "better half" had come back a few months earlier and was stationed at Croydon. As the second front advanced he was flying VIPs into European Cities and laying the foundation for future air routes. He often brought cases of wine and cigars for Churchill, sent by people grateful for their release from German occupation. Later as the camps were freed he helped to ferry home prisoners of war.

I stayed for a few weeks in Clevedon (till I got rid of the scabies!) and then went to Croydon to look for a flat. I spent a few days in a hotel which was full of knitting old ladies, and no-one spoke above a whisper. If you came in after 9 p.m. you got some very nasty looks, so I was very glad when I found rooms with a very nice family in Purley. Buzz bombs and rockets were still about but luckily none of them had my number on.

After settling in I was summoned to the Labour Exchange to be given work. Having no training or experience, I was told I must work in a food shop or cleaning in a hospital. I chose the shop and was sent to an open fronted shop in Purley High Street where I spent the winter months shivering and getting chilblains.

As spring approached the spirit of optimism for the end of the war grew steadily, and by early May we all knew it could not be long. On May 7th we were in London, and the streets were thronged with people. Everyone knew an announcement was imminent and the atmosphere was positively electric. We took a row boat on the Thames with another couple and even there you could feel the tension coming from the city.

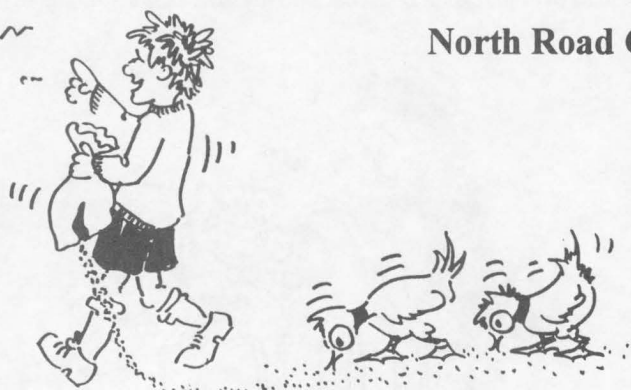
The next day the longed for announcement was made, but we didn't go into London to celebrate. We went back to Clevedon - as I was pregnant I had to go on the train instead of the back of the motorbike - where we could celebrate with our own families, and at the local with such of our friends who were on leave.



B.C.

\*\*\*\*\*

### North Road County Primary School



With March upon us, our thoughts have turned to spring. The Infant children in classes 1 and 2 have recently spent an exciting day at Slimbridge. The morning proved grey and cold but excitement was running high as the coach left North Road. Class 2 had to get straight to work - a visit to the school room helped them with their work on winter migration. Class 1 clutched their bags of seed and set off round the grounds to look at the beaks and heads of the ducks, geese and swans. Shopping was achieved, lunch eaten and Class 1 taught about beaks before we finally left for home. It was a wonderful experience, enjoyable as well as educational.

Work will soon begin on the conversion of the last part of the old outside toilets. Following on the success of the Friends of the School conversion as a kitchen area, the school is funding the creation of a Technology area. This will house all the necessary requirements for the Technology Curriculum and will be used by small groups of children for instruction and practical work.

The Friends of the School are organising a "Promises Auction" at the school on Saturday April 1st. Knowing the success of such ventures at Cromhall, Rangeworthy and Iron Acton, we also are looking forward to supporting our children's learning by raising funds for necessary teaching materials. Please come along and give your support.

\*\*\*\*\*

The starters on the dinner menu at our hotel included my favourite dish - *moules mariniere*.

They were delicious but I was intrigued by their size. "Where did you get those lovely big mussels?" I asked our waitress. "Horse riding," she replied.

**Extracts from "FOCUS" 1984**

A Quote from "The Actonians" diary: -

"I longed to be a Thespian in front of dazzling lights,  
"And play to eager audiences, night on thrilling nights,  
"to hear the crowd go wild, to hear their mass acclaim,  
"to take the bow and know that I would never be the same.  
"Such dreams will never leave me until the day I die -  
"Though often in the evenings, I sit and wonder why,  
"Why, when so clearly I have heard the trumpet's clarion call,  
"I am still acting in the plays in the Iron Acton Hall!!  
"Is it perhaps the audience that gives me such a thrill?  
"Or knowing that, quite simply, when all is said and done,  
"I really do not want acclaim - I just enjoy the fun!"

*We wonder who wrote this poem - can anyone remember?*

The End of an Era; -

After seventy-three years the Grocer's shop run by the Fursman family and which has served the village so well has closed. We wish George and Marjorie very long and happy years of retirement.

A Letter to the Editor: -

"The tree planted on the Green in recognition of being runner-up in the best-kept village competition in 1982 was in flower this year, but I wonder how many people saw it - it was a joy to me - I happen to live near - the next time you go to the Post Office for your pension, your children's allowance, or even a stamp, don't turn round and go back - just carry on round the Green and up Park Street, stop and look at the lovely view - have a look at the Parish Meadow, it is lovely - this is your heritage, don't let it go unnoticed or unappreciated - I must admit I didn't realise how lovely it is until I came down here to live."

"Grateful Admirer"

Congratulations!

Not so long ago Maude Howes made a really remarkable recovery from an illness due to the use of Laser Beam treatment at Frenchay Hospital. Maude was so impressed that she decided to show her appreciation by raising funds in the village so that other people might have the benefit of this treatment.

On Saturday last she handed over a cheque for £335 to the surgeon responsible at Frenchay. Well done, Maude, and all those who helped.

*and Maude is still going strong 10 years later.*

Self-congratulations!

We are pleased to say that due to the efforts of our contributors etc., "FOCUS ON IRON ACTON" won an award under the AVON VILLAGE VENTURES SCHEME, with suitable congratulations from the Judges.

A little bit of History: -

Following the sale of ACTON COURT, it is sad to say goodbye to Mrs Mary Keedwell and Philip who have lived and farmed with their forbearers for over 75 years, at the Court.

*and still no-one is living in the Court*

\*\*\*\*\*

**Naughty but nice - From the Esher News & Mail:**

"Ambrosia is the food of gods, said to bestow immortality."

## DIARY OF FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### On the Green

MONDAY 8th MAY

VILLAGE DAY

### In the Village Hall

Every Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday  
Every Wednesday

2nd Monday in the month  
3rd Monday in the month  
4th Monday in the month  
3rd Thursday in the month  
4th, 5th, 6th April  
20th April  
22nd April  
4th May  
20th May  
24th to 27th May  
17th June

Nursery School 9.00 a.m.  
Elizabethans 2.00 p.m.  
Junior Actonians 6.00 p.m.  
Actonians 7.30 p.m.  
Womens Institute 7.30 p.m.  
Parish Council 7.30 p.m.  
Whist Drive 7.30 p.m.  
Knitting Group 1.30 p.m.  
Public Enquiry reference footpath from the Green to Park Street.  
Open Parish Council Meeting  
Northavon Auctions  
Parish Council Local Elections  
Northavon Auctions  
Actonians Spring Performance  
Northavon Auctions

### In the Parish Church

Sunday 9th April - 16th  
9th April  
13th April  
14th April  
15th April  
16th April  
29th April  
4th June  
17th June

Holy Week  
Palm Sunday  
Maundy Thursday  
Good Friday  
Holy Saturday  
EASTER DAY  
Plant Sale 2.30 p.m. Rectory Garden  
WhitSunday  
Summer Fete Rectory Garden

### At Iron Acton School

8th July

Summer Fete 2.30 p.m.

### At North Road School

1st April

Promises Auction

### At North Road Baptist Chapel

14th April  
17th April  
7th May

Good Friday - Joint service with choir friends from Whiteshill Independent Chapel 7.00 p.m.  
Easter Sunday Service conducted by Mr Hilton Obery of Clevedon 6.00 p.m.  
Commemoration of 50th Anniversary of End of Hostilities in Europe 6.00 p.m.

### At the Rose and Crown, High St

1st Thursday in the month

Acton Aid 8.00 p.m.

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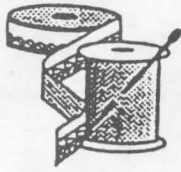
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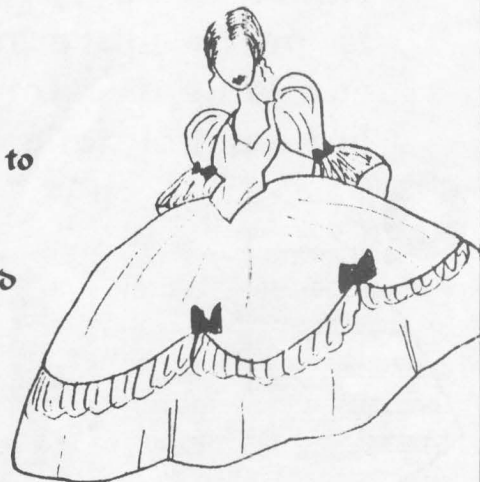
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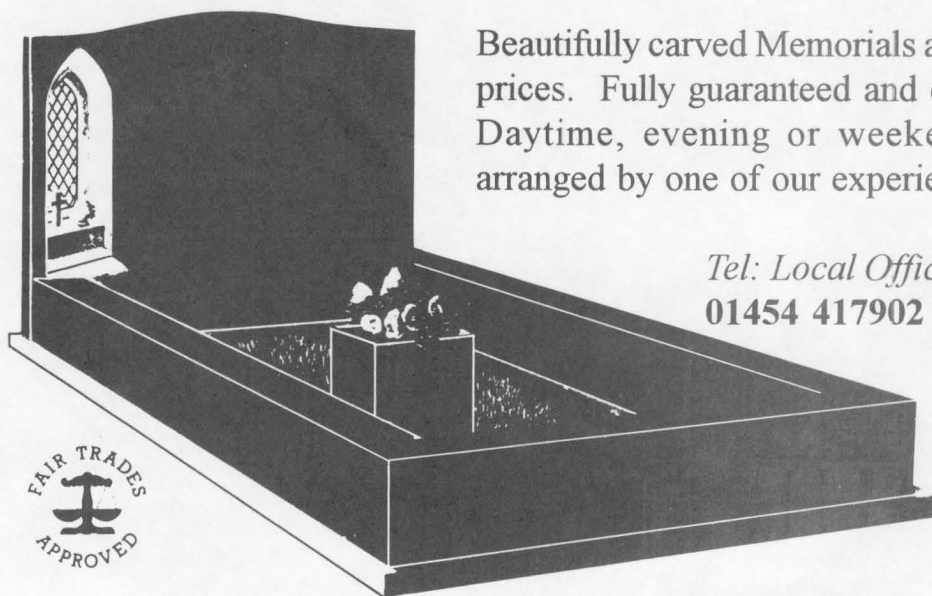
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