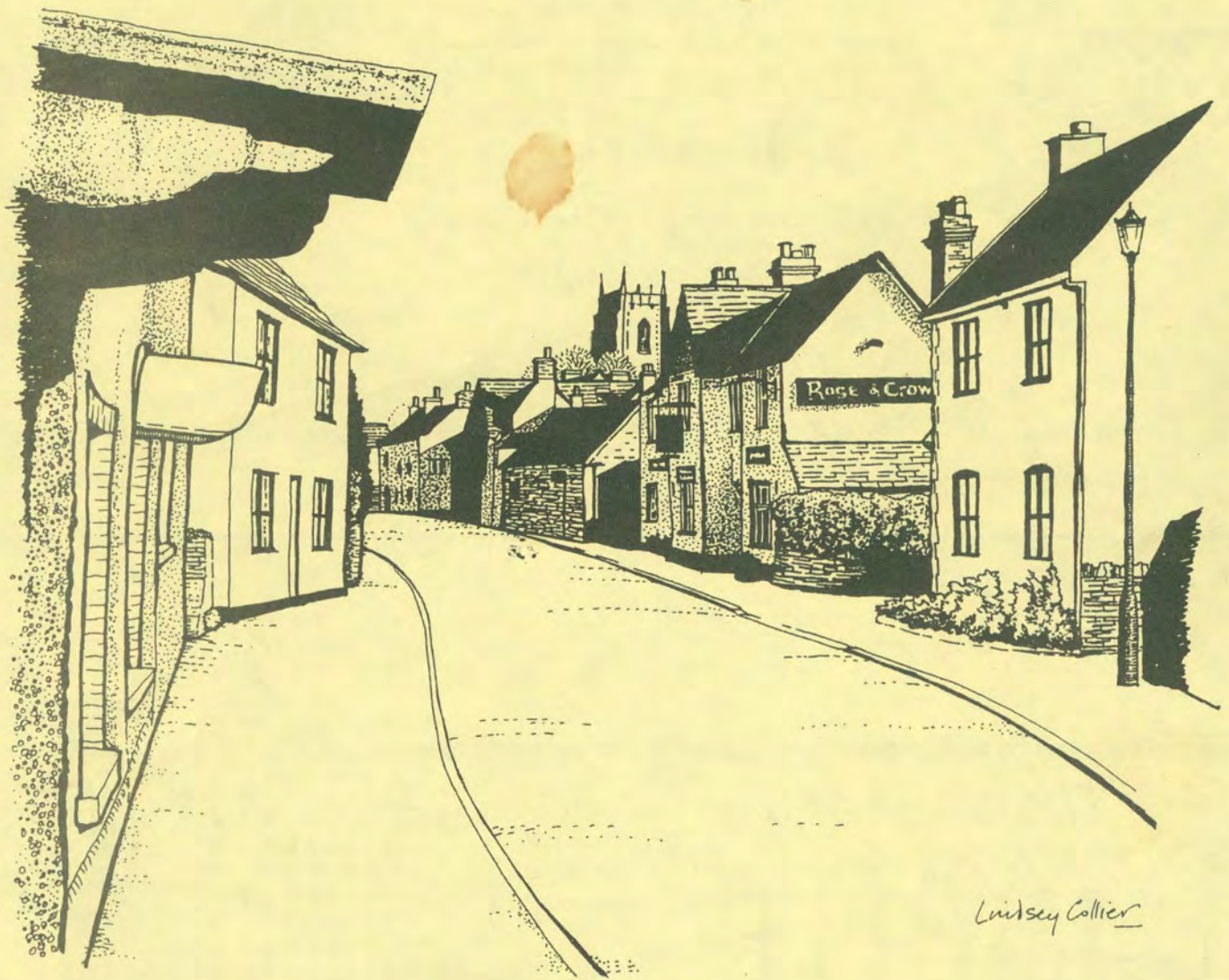
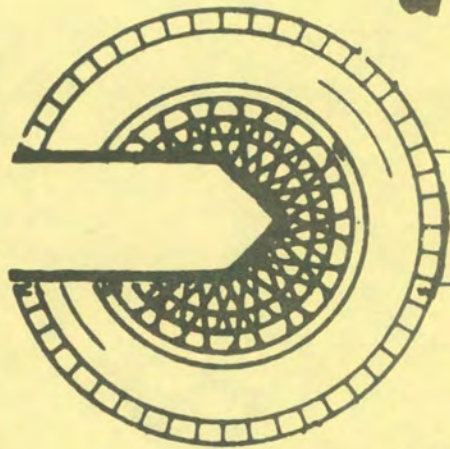


FOCAL POYNTZ

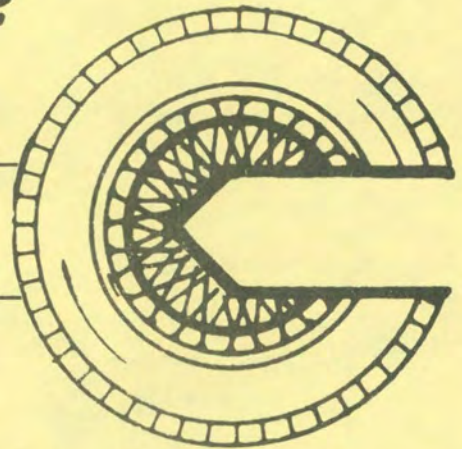


A MAGAZINE FOR IRON ACTON

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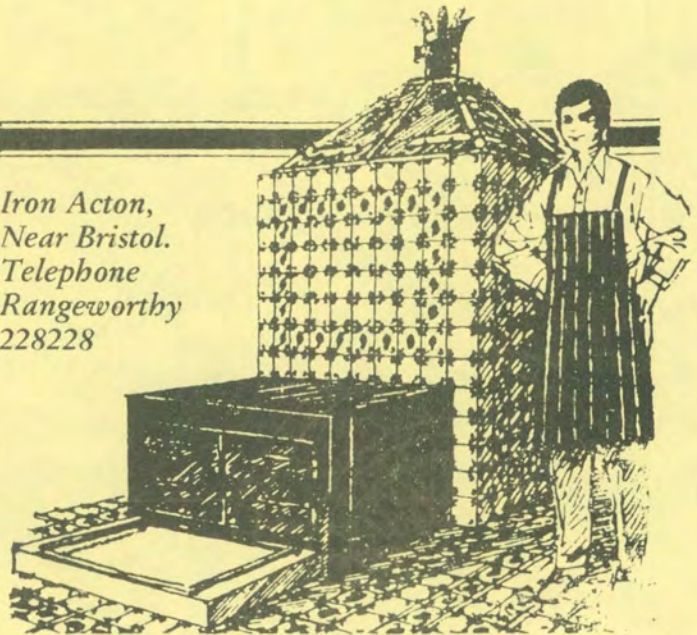
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WINTER

EDITORIAL

40

Winter is on the way now, but what a wonderful summer and lovely long autumn we have had. Gardens recovered well after the drought, and we were treated to more colour than we had seen all through the hot weeks. I don't remember so many flowers, including delphiniums and outdoor fuchsias, blooming on into November before. Something to think of in January, when days are dark.

We need a volunteer to deliver about 25 copies of Focal Poyntz in Latteridge: hopefully there is a kind soul who will take this on - it's only three times a year. It would also be helpful if there are any other kind people who could help with distributing by delivering a few copies in their own area. If so please contact one of the names below.

Thank you for all your contributions, please keep sending them in, we are always grateful for articles on almost any subject.

•We wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a prosperous and peaceful New Year.

John Percy
228339

Betty Cook
228202

Charles Wilkins
228254

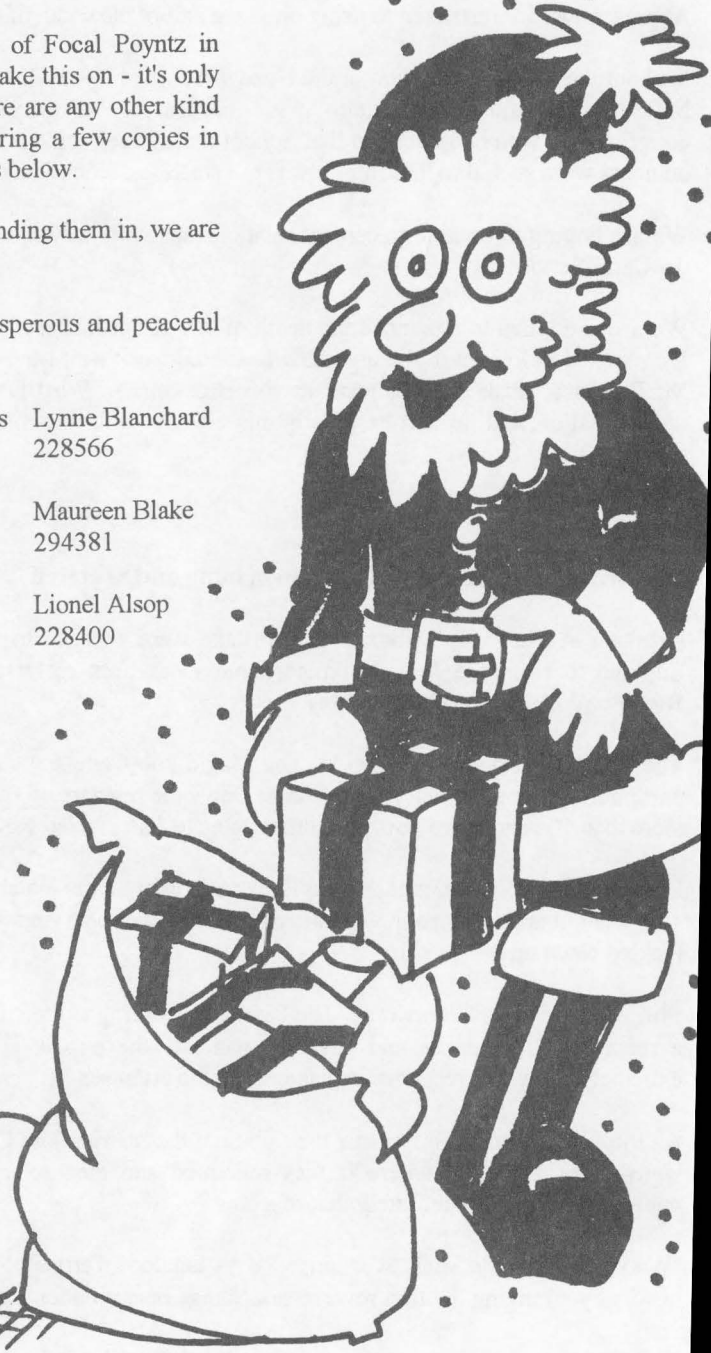
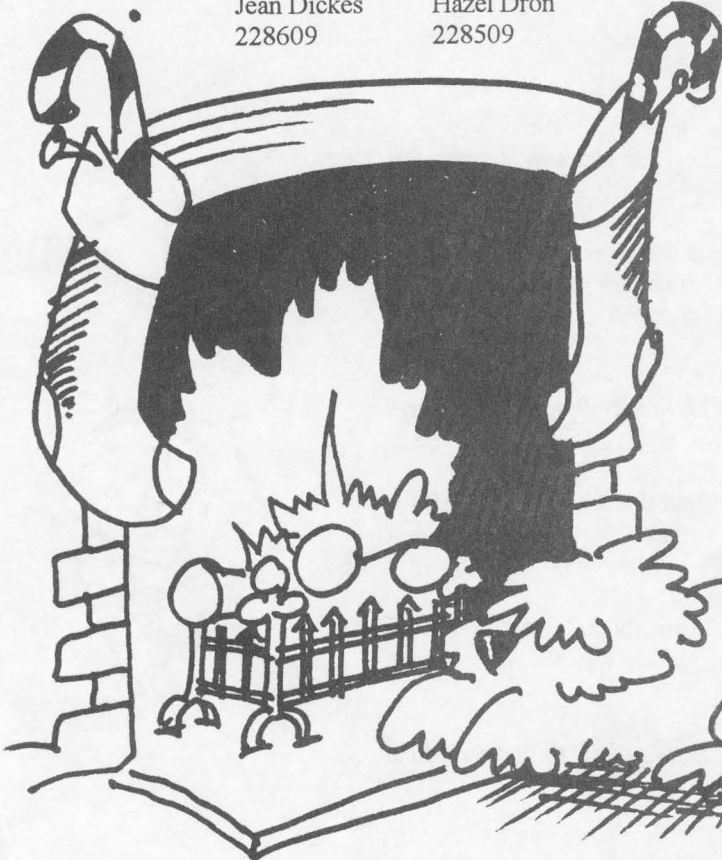
Lynne Blanchard
228566

Jean Dickes
228609

Hazel Dron
228509

Maureen Blake
294381

Lionel Alsop
228400



NORTH ROAD BAPTIST CHAPEL

We have had a period of mixed blessings since we last reported on the events concerning our Church.

Several of our Members have suffered Hospitalisation and most are now making a reasonable recovery although one, Mr Ken Blick will be going into Hospital in the new year for a second hip replacement operation and we wish him well.

We have had visits from Weston Evangel Male Voice Choir and Bristol Evangel Male Voice Choir and these services were well attended and thoroughly enjoyed.

Mr Bob Sheppard made his garden available for a Garden Party in July which was very successful both as a social event and a fund raising activity. We are grateful to him and his wife for their generosity and also to all those who helped with time as well as donations and sponsorship. We were particularly grateful to the Yate Dragoons and North Road Primary School Brass Ensemble for their parts in the event.

We were hoping to use the cash raised to replace the front doors of the Church but unfortunately almost as soon as the cash had been counted dry rot was discovered under the new floor and behind the wooden cladding on the walls which will mean that the floor will have to be replaced with a new solid floor, a damp course injected and damp treatment applied to all walls. This will necessitate replastering and redecorating the Church throughout and new doors are a luxury we cannot presently contemplate. We are still awaiting estimates of the cost of remedial work but it looks as though considerable fund raising activities will have to be undertaken.

At present we are restricted to using only one half of the width of the Church to seat the congregation.

Without the kind co-operation of the Head Teacher of North Road School we would have had to cancel the service by Bristol Evangel Male Voice Choir but she kindly made this School Hall available for us. This proved a very nostalgic occasion for many in this congregation who had attended that School during their childhood and many recalled anniversaries being held there in the past when numbers were such that the Church was too small to accommodate them.

We are hoping to be able to cement relationships with the School and that they may be able to help us conduct or take part in one of the Carol Services.

We are saddened to announce the death of one of our longest serving Members, Mr Donald Dyer who was also one of our Trustees. Don was well known in the area having started work with Mr Forrest in his bakery next door to the Church and then continued after Mr Forrest's death as a roundsman with Brookmans. What Don lacked in stature he more than made up in humour and a dogged determination and he will be greatly missed. We offer our sincere condolences to his widow, Phyllis, son Derek and all the other members of his family.

* * * * *

Signwriters go wrong as bull is drawn, hung and neutered

Drinkers at The Jolly Milkman in Mortlake were shocked to find that their pub - the only one in England to carry the Jolly Milkman name - has been rechristened The Pickled Newt, reports the **Richmond & Twickenham Times**.

The refurbished boozer, owned by The Magic Pub Company, now sports fishing-related pictures and paraphernalia on the walls and ceiling. But some regulars of The Jolly Milkman - a name in place for more than 50 years - are now petitioning to have The Pickled Newt name drowned.

Landlord Paul Sharpe, meanwhile, is worried about darts matches. "We know where the pub is," he says without apparent irony, "but the other teams will be trying to find The Jolly Milkman when it says Pickled Newt on the outside."

Still, it could have been worse, The Comet, for example, the champion bull that was sold in 1810 for a record 1,000 guineas and gave his name to the pub in Hurworth Place, Darlington, has fared extremely badly in a recent refurbishment of the premises.

As the **Northern Echo** reports, the pub sign that carries The Comet's distinctly male outline went to signwriters in Leeds where it was repainted and then rehung - as, sadly, was the bull, whose undercarriage is now definitely that of a cow.

"We've had terrible stick ever since," says landlord Terry Phoenix, who is poised to make medical history by arranging the first reverse sex change operation for a pub sign.

* * * * *



FOCAL POYNTZ GEOGRAPHICAL CHRISTMAS QUIZ

Just answer true or false to the following statements:-

1. Children in Belgium traditionally receive seasonal gifts of chocolate letters spelling out their names.
2. In Denmark the main Christmas meal starts with a serving of rice pudding.
3. France is the original home of the Christmas cracker.
4. Germany is the original home of the Christmas tree.
5. Santa Claus owes his origins to the people of Holland.
6. Christmas was banned by law in Ireland in 1652.
7. Italy is the original home of the Christmas crib.
8. In Luxembourg the traditional Christmas meal should always include black pudding.
9. Natal, the Portuguese word for nativity, was the name given to South Africa by Portugal's Vasco De Gama because he discovered it on Christmas Day.
10. In Spain children receive presents from the Three Wise Men rather than Father Christmas.

(Quiz "borrowed" by Lynne Blanchard from a 1990 magazine!)

Answers on page 14



NORTH ROAD SCHOOL.

At the end of the Summer term we marked the retirement of Mrs Lovell. Pam had been the Secretary at North Road for sixteen years and had seen many changes both in the school and in her job. Past and present staff, parents and Governors presented her with a variety of home and garden items as an expression of their thanks. We are pleased that her place has been filled by Mrs Sue Baird, Mrs Sue Gowan has also increased her time in the office.

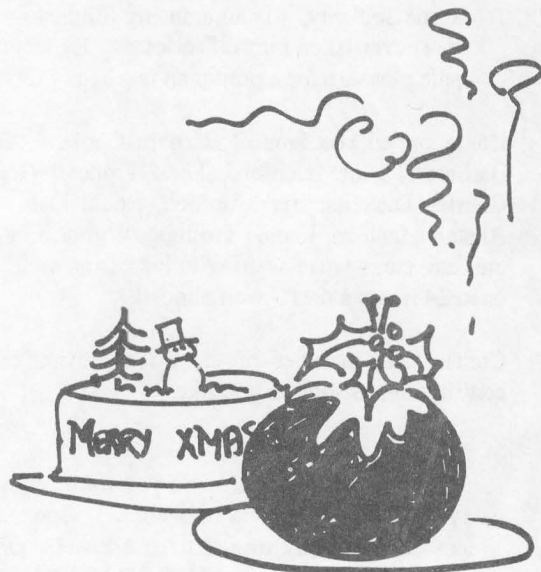
This term seems to be rushing by and already our thoughts are turning to Christmas activities. The Christmas Fair will be at the School on Friday, 1st December 1.30 p.m. - 3.15 p.m. and all are welcome. If you wish to hire a table to sell your own items please book through the school. Tel. 228398.

The brass group is beginning to practise Carols under the expert eyes of Mr White and Mr Thomas. Lungs are being expanded to cope with the singing of Carols for Bristol Cathedral, St. Mary's, Yate and the Iron Acton O.A.P's. For the first time we are holding a Christingle Service instead of performing a Christmas Concert. This will be held at 6.30 p.m. on Monday, 18th December at St. Mary's and we trust this will be well attended.

We will be collecting old Christmas Cards for recycling with the Forestry Commission early in January. We will be happy to receive any which you may like to bring into school.

I do hope that you have an enjoyable festive season and all good wishes for 1996.

Glenys Anderson.



WELCOME TO "BOOKLOOK"

For those of you who can occasionally find the time to read a book, we would like to hear from you when you have read one which has given you pleasure, an up-lift or food for thought - in any event, a book which you would recommend to other readers.

We want at least the title and author plus up to fifty words on why the book has appealed to you. We will publish this in the next available edition of Focal Poyntz.

The book (visual or audio) doesn't have to be new or "classy" or expensive - it can be anything, just the sort of experience you find pleasure in passing on to others.



To start this off, we have "canvassed" a few avid readers to select a book they have recently read. This is what they have come up with:

A BAG OF BOILED SWEETS by Julian Critchley publ Faber and Faber 1994

This is an autobiography of a liberal-minded MP. Despite some self-pity, it is an amusing life-history of a man who has never taken himself seriously. He claims that the only safe pleasure for a politician is a bag of boiled sweets.

Come on all you fans of Barbara Cartland, Terry Pratchett, Barbara Taylor Bradford, Dick Francis, Georgette Heyer, Charles Dickens, Iris Murdoch, Roald Dahl, Ruth Rendell, Alistair Maclean, Joanna Trollope, Wilbur Smith, Jane Austen etc, etc, etc, - we're waiting to hear from you. "The lines are open 24 hours a day" - well almost!

Contact any member of the Focal Poyntz team with your contribution as soon as you like.

"Fifty words about a book you have enjoyed." What an impossible task for a bookaholic! Books are my friends to be constantly turned to and loved. One of the most enduring favourites is "THE SOJOURNER" by Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings (author of "The Yearling".) I've nearly

used the suggested fifty words already, so I will just say "The Sojourner" is the story of the life of a truly "good" man - a farmer in middle-America at the turn of the century. Sounds unpromising in these terms, but really a delightful tale.

HOW TO CONNECT WITH YOUR TROUSERS

A genuine cock-and-bull story arrives from the home of such tales, namely Stony Stratford in Buckinghamshire.

As the Citizen and Herald papers report, when burglars cut phone lines in the High Street recently in an attempt to knock out alarms, they caused a big headache for British Telecom engineers who had to stick the wires back together again.

Despite their efforts, Paul Wareing, owner of the Bull Hotel, became suspicious when he received a phone call from a man who claimed to have left his trousers in an upstairs bedroom.

"I went through every room on the first floor and couldn't find any trousers," said Mr Wareing, who odder still, could find no record of the guest even having stayed at the Bull.

Down the road at the Cock Hotel, meanwhile, staff were perplexed by a phone call from food suppliers about orders the hotel had not made.

The Cock and Bull people then put two and two together and came up with a cock-up by BT, who had crossed their wires. "We had to tell people they'd rung the right number but got the wrong hotel, and suggested they ring the wrong number to get the right one," explained Judy Whurr, the Cock manager, with tremendous patience. "It was a bit complicated." Interestingly, Brew notes the story that in the 17th century in Stony Stratford the Birmingham coach would change horses at the Cock while the London coach would change at the Bull.

"Cock-and-bull" stories were thus those exchanged by the joshing passengers.



ACTON AID

Acton Aid, the organisation for the men of Iron Acton, has a busy time coming up. First of all, we shall be helping to sell tickets and promote the Project 2000/Actonians fun evening "Ciderella Romps around PantoLand". This runs from 6th to 9th December, in the Village Hall. For tickets, please contact David Hatherall. The following week, there is the Acton Aid Christmas Party (16th December) again in the Village Hall. This traditional event is always the start of the Christmas festivities for many of us, and is always a popular occasion. Tickets may be obtained from any member of Acton Aid.

After Christmas, we shall be holding a party for all pensioners on the 21st January. All the pensioners on our list will be contacted and invited - if you are eligible but do not hear from us, it is because you are not on the list so please let us know so that we can invite you.

This event is usually arranged by our Services Chairman, but unfortunately the person elected to this job at our A.G.M. last February, Richard May, has had to leave the village because of job changes, so David McCoy has taken over. He can be contacted on 228874.

1st February sees our next A.G.M. and all are welcome to come - you won't be pressurised into taking on any duties unless you want to do them, so please join us at the Rose and Crown at 8 pm.

Our only other event in planning is our Annual Dinner Dance, which usually takes place in February or March. At the moment, we are looking for ideas and suggestions, either for venues, or for the whole format for the evening. If you have been somewhere really good or different recently which you can recommend or if you would like to try something completely different, we would like to hear from you. Contact Robert Taylor on 326592.

Recent events have included a very enjoyable barbecue, which raised £350.00. You will also be pleased to know that the Garden Party at Algars Mill in June raised almost £2,000. Most of the profits from these events will be going to Project 2000.

We have recently made donations of £150 to each of the parish schools (through their Friends) We decided to do this this year instead of holding a children's Christmas Party, which seems to have lost its popularity in recent years.

* * * * *

A WALK ALONG THE BROOK

How peaceful it is to wander along the banks of the brook, perhaps, it makes me feel a bit homesick for the place of my birth in the levels of Somerset where all the fields are fenced with ditches or rhines as they are called there. However, there is something a bit special about the Ladden. This is the end of a very dry summer and the water level is the lowest I have seen it in the 28 years I have lived here. It does seem though that in many ways it has increased the beauty of it; I notice that there is an abundance of the yellow water lilies their broad leaves almost covering the brook in places.

I stopped on the hunting bridge to look to see if there were any fish to be seen, but apart from an odd Minnow there were none, and yet I wonder, as a few minutes before I was startled as a heron rose in the air almost under my feet. I see them every year; usually there are three. I would think that it is a parent and two young ones. I hardly think that it would be Minnows that filled their crops so they must find something. There is a profusion of wild flowers that thrive on the banks, Red Campion, Ragged Robin and the occasional clump of Teasels to remind us of by gone days when they were grown in the fields for the cloth factories, who used them to raise knaps on the cloth.



The Black Thorn growing on the far bank produces great crops of sloes. Unfortunately they grow where you can't reach them unless you are prepared to swim. As I wandered on a family of Mallards rose and circled around before disappearing in the distance. There is one thing that is missing in the feathered world, the Sky Larks - they seem to have disappeared from around here for some reason; it is a great pity as it was always a joy to hear them and see them fluttering up and down hundreds of feet up.

As I continued my walk I thought how different the farming is now the fields seem to have larger herds of cattle, and great flocks of sheep: each side of the brook a field of maize waving in the wind. Earlier in the Spring, one would have seen several fields of the golden yellow of the oil seed rape and in the brook clumps of King Cups to match.

Soon I expect the brook will be full with the water rushing madly down to join the Frome and away out toward the sea.

Many flowers, the Convolvulus trailing on the barbed wire, Pigs Parsley, wild Scabious, Meadow Sweet and many others. As I reached the wood I could see in the highest Black Poplar tree, a nest. Was it Hawk or maybe a Buzzard? These magnificent birds seem to be on the increase. It is quite common to see them gliding through the air with scarcely any wing movement. When they feed on the carcass you could easily mistake the noise they make for a pair of contented cats. They mew.

ACTONIANS

Hello everyone, this is my first attempt at writing for your magazine and I hope that I will do you justice.

The next production that the group is involved in is a joint event with Project 2000 and other groups in the village, a Christmas evening of entertainment, "Ciderella Romps Around Pantoland." This will be in our usual format of a three course meal interspersed with sections of fun and songs for your pleasure. As this is a joint venture there will be no problems in getting tickets, they will be abundant, so do come and help us towards the millennium.



In January (the 14th) we are holding another Quiz Evening, by popular request. The questions will be less specialised than last time, I promise. Our former quizzes have been well received so we have high hopes of this one.

We are always on the lookout for new talent, both on and off stage, so why not come along and bring us yours? We have a full programme booked for next year, a new play by one of our members, "Survivors" by Jim Sinkinson, in the spring, and also "My Fair Lady." More about these later.

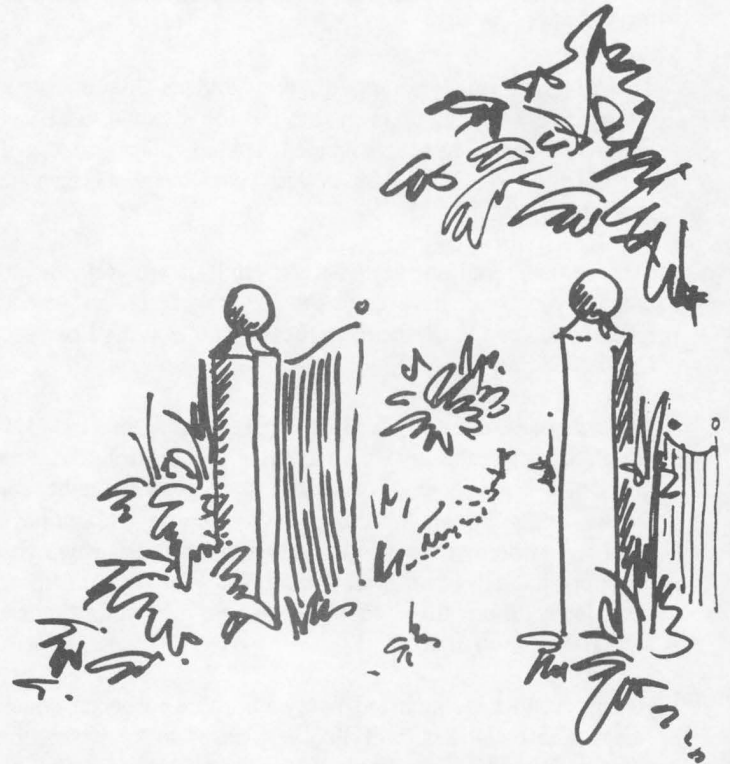
Thank you to all of you who support our productions, do carry on doing so and bring your friends. We are always pleased to see you - without you we have no existence.

Ann Chenery - Publicity Manager

TALL GATE STORY

Around 1930 the late Christopher Blanchard, the village blacksmith, was suffering from the advent of the tractor. Fewer horses meant fewer horse-shoes and less repair work on the old horse-drawn implements. He was therefore very pleased when Charles Harrison, then living at Algars Manor, commissioned him to make a pair of wrought iron gates for the drive, a smaller wicket gate and a number of lamp fittings for the house. Blanchard himself told me of this when he was a patient at Frenchay Hospital about 1972.

I had always admired the gates as the work of a village craftsman and decided that it would be wrong to paint them with shiny black paint. The sixty year old dark rust suited them. The gates stayed open and we only shut them when a horse, a sheep or bullock got loose.



Imagine my surprise when at noon on Tuesday, 17th October 1995 we found that all three had gone! Happily, our neighbour Philip Goodfield, happened to be passing and saw two men loading the gates into a white transit van. He noted the registration number and drove up to the house to ask if we had arranged for the gates to be taken away.

Consternation! Within a few minutes the police were informed; and then things began to happen as fast as in THE BILL. The phone kept on ringing. The van had been spotted speeding south towards Bath. Then a nice young police woman appeared to take a statement. While working on this and finding old photos of the gates, the phone rang again. A scrap merchant near Bath had become suspicious and rang Crime Stoppers. So some Bath police officers were soon at the scrap yard and asking some awkward questions about the gates. A quarter of an hour later as I was signing two pages of statement, the phone went again. The description of the gates had fitted. So our two friends were now under arrest.

Later that evening the police woman rang again. She had interviewed the two men and had taped their statements. One of them stated: "Yes, I picked them up but I thought they were doing no good where they were." The other man simply stated

that he had joined his mate to pick up some old gates.

Tuesday, 17th October was a day to remember, a day when a good neighbour did me a good turn and when the police acted swiftly and effectively. Good neighbours and the police acting together can do a great deal to deter the "help yourself" brigade.

So why don't we all support Peter Wedgwood and his Neighbourhood Watch Committee. If we all act together we can beat them.

J. M. Naish.

* * * * *

FRIENDS OF IRON ACTON SCHOOL

Going back to the middle of June we held a most enjoyable Rounders Evening and BBQ on the school field and made a small profit for our funds. At the beginning of July we made a magnificent £800 + at our Summer Fayre. Thank you to all who supported us in this event be it from the buying of raffle tickets, attending on the day or by the giving of goods to be sold, we are most grateful to you.

We are holding an 'As New Sale' on 4th November but by the time you read this it will be all over. Let's hope it was successful as this is a new event for the Friends.

You may be interested to know what we will be doing with some of the money raised. We will be supporting the transport for the Field Studies Trip to the Isle of Wight in June, we are looking to upgrade the computers in all three classrooms and to help with the refurbishment of the school house.

A couple of dates for your diary:

3.2.1996 Family Disco Iron Acton Village Hall
For more information phone
228374

6.7.1996 Summer Fayre Iron Acton School Field

We take this opportunity of wishing you all a very happy Christmas and New Year.

* * * * *

BRYAN'S BIT (A BLAST FROM THE PAST)

By the time you read this two years will have elapsed since we moved from your bosoms, you lucky people, to Bramley in Hampshire. Why I say lucky people is that most of you may not realise how fortunate you are to have become inhabitants of Iron Acton (You do not move in to Iron Acton, you become residents where your real life can begin).

To bring you recent residents up to speed as the parlance is, my present Wife and I "lived" in Iron Acton for twenty two years and I do mean lived. Some of you Bods reading this probably have no idea of how fortunate you are to live in Iron Acton (before you jump to my throat, Lynne, I did write

"some"). Iron Acton is very special, so many of our friends associates and general hangers on from different areas of the country and globe found Iron Acton to be a very special place.

Life is a constant comparison Good and Bad, Warm and Cold: compared to Iron Acton, Bramley in Hampshire has as much atmosphere as on the Moon and as much life as in a Tramps vest. One and a half miles a way we do have a railway station, if ever I have the need to travel to Reading or Basingstoke - the later known internationally as Boring Stoke. So by comparison Iron Acton is a Las Vegas of lights, life and activities: W.I, Acton Aid, Actonians, Elizabethans, probably even a toddler group and any others you can add to the list. What a fabulous village Iron Acton is to raise monies in, and have a great time doing it in for such diverse ventures as, a scanner for Frenchay Hospital, or a teaching facility for micro surgery, (remember that one Paul Townsend my friend?)



The appeal for Ethiopia meant a Surgeon Paul, and a very tasty nurse (Hazel) together with a tub of suds and a very blunt scalpel cutting off my beard. O.K. it raised a load of dosh but we so much enjoyed doing it together with all that the youngsters did as well, like Chris and Katy.

I did start this heading with "A Blast from the past"; all is not in the past Iron Acton seems to be ever onwards such as Mel and Hazel's fund raiser for the Ghurkas in October which brought us back to the village, by invitation. I now admit that it was me that started the rumour that a Nepalese delicacy was dog so that it would reduce the queue in front of me waiting to get to the buffet - it didn't work!

Do not get me wrong, moving from Iron Acton is rather like taking a sabbatical it is an opportunity to catch ones breath and reflect on times, times such as Wednesday night (Youth Club night) when it would be known I would be in the Lamb Inn getting over the traumas of the activities and it became a water hole with my very best friends ... I guess that in a special place such as Iron Acton the more you put in the more you get out, I prefer it my way, I reckon I put so little in yet managed to get so much out, you lucky people.

BRYAN.

IRON ACTON PRIMARY SCHOOL.

This year the school opened for the start of the new Autumn term with a new member of staff. We would like to welcome Mrs Julia Kemp to the teaching staff. Previously, Mrs Kemp taught at Pucklechurch Primary School. Mrs Kemp will be taking over the teaching of the upper junior class from Mrs Baxter who has returned to her northern roots and, I hasten to add, settled into her new teaching position very quickly.

The new term has also seen a small growth, for the third year running, in pupil numbers. The school has now sixty-five children on roll.

During the long hot summer the landscaping that was completed around the new classroom during the previous half term holiday had poor conditions in which to flourish and consequently has had to be attended to again this term. It is now beginning to grow as the autumn weather replaces the uncharacteristic Mediterranean summer. The school is indebted to Mr Rubery who kindly completed the patio area between the playground wall and the new classroom so that it may be used by the children for outside class activities. Many thanks.

During this academic year many of the children will be studying the local environment and will be venturing into the village to study the architecture, village facilities and the history of Iron Acton. If you feel that you have anything to offer which would enrich the learning experiences of the children please feel free to contact the school, whether it be in the form of personal experience, photographs, sites of interest or documentation; it all helps.



The planned events for the following two half terms revolve mainly around Christmas. The children from the upper junior class will be representing the school in the Avon Christmas Carol Service to be held in Clifton Cathedral sometime during the first full week in December.

The Christmas Concert this year will be held on Tuesday 12th December for the matinée performance and in the evening on Wednesday 13th December. Also on this day the children will perform the songs from the concert along with some carols in the Village Hall for the Elizabethans.

The school's Christmas Party this year is to be held on 18th December. School closes for the Christmas holidays on 20th December and opens for the new Spring Term on 3rd January 1996.

Sometime in February the West Midland Children's Theatre Company will present to the school their version of "That Rogue Harlequin"

Happy New Year.

THE ELIZABETHAN CLUB.

We continued our outings programme with a visit to Saundersfoot in August and to the Elan Valley in September. Sorry to say no cascading waterfalls as we hoped in the Elan Valley but our coach driver gave us a brilliant tour of the whole valley. It was enjoyed by all of our members except one who had to have a drink of brandy because she didn't like the precipitous journey - at least that was her excuse. The next day another member remarked "One of the best outings I have had - No - Shops." Yes it was a male.

We are holding our Xmas lunch on December 6th at a Social Club in Calne and on December 11th we are visiting Leyhill pantomime and in January some of our members are going to the Bath pantomime. Our meetings continue weekly until December 13th when we have a fortnight's break resuming our meetings on January 3rd when we continue with fortnightly meetings until April.

We thank the Actonians for our complimentary tickets for 'She Stoops to Conquer' when everyone enjoyed themselves.

I am sorry to end on a sad note but one of our members Mrs Sandy is still very ill in hospital and we remember her in our members prayer.

In October we lost a stalwart and valued member Mrs Ivy Taylor. We shall miss her for her support and entertaining monologues and poems, still marvelling at her retentive memory and her determination to keep going during her illness. God Bless you Ivy.

Elsie Blanchard - Secretary.

Excerpts from an Irish Medical Dictionary

LABOUR PAIN	Getting hurt at work
MEDICAL STAFF	Doctor's cane
MORBID	A higher offer
NITRATES	Cheaper than day rates
NODE	Was aware of

IRON ACTON W.I.

Heaven arrived for Judy Park (and the rest of us) in July when Clive Haddrell showed us his equipment. No, not another Ann Summers Party in Iron Acton (nor had The Chippendales booked the Village Hall) but an Avon Ambulance Paramedic Motorcyclist with a BMW bike and panniers containing all sorts of amazing things. Clive also undertook to try and explain to us what we should do, should the need ever arise with an accident, until the paramedics got to the incident. It was fascinating to learn how many procedures the modern paramedic can undertake and if any of us are unlucky enough to have an accident we know we'll be in safe hands.



September saw our enthusiastic speaker engage us with tales of Harrods in Edwardian times. It's always more enjoyable when the speaker so obviously enjoys her subject and wants you to be suitably enthralled. Just for a few weeks it would be lovely to go back to those genteel and elegant times.

October's talk was salt dough. I'm never too sure if it's good to have someone who's so expert at what they do because they make it look so easy, that you'll think you'll have a go and then when your little attempts turn out like a bad dream it doesn't exactly do a lot for your confidence!

After a fairly quiet Autumn it's suddenly all systems go. We've entered a team in the County Skittles Tournament (having never got any further than the first round it'll be interesting to see what happens this year). We usually get higher scores when we respect someone who's not exactly our flavour of the month is standing behind the pins!

We'll be attending the County Carol Service at St. Mary Redcliffe and we're organising a coach trip to the Carol Service at Tintern Abbey, which is preceded by a Candlelit Procession, and we'll be following this with supper in the Anchor Hotel.

This year has passed so quickly and, looking back, we've

managed to pour a quart of activities into a pint of time. 1996 is approaching too quickly (will I ever be ready for Christmas?) and I suspect, and hope, that next year will be even more successful, fulfilling and enjoyable.

Lynne Blanchard.

WE ARE THE SURVIVORS

(For those born before 1940)

We were born before television, before penicillin, polio shots, frozen foods, Xerox, plastic, contact lenses, videos and the pill. We were before radar, credit cards, split atoms, laser beams and ball point pens. Before dishwashers, tumble dryers, electric blankets and air conditioners, drip-dry clothes and before man walked on the moon. We thought fast food was what you have in Lent, a big mac was an oversize raincoat and crumpet we had for tea. We existed before house husbands, computer dating, dual careers, when a meaningful relationship meant getting on with cousins and sheltered accommodation was where you waited for a bus. We were before Day Centres, Group Homes and disposable nappies. We never heard of FM radio, tape decks, electric type-writers, artificial hearts, word processors, yoghurt and young men wearing earrings. For us time sharing meant togetherness, a chip was a fried potato, hardware meant nuts and bolts and software was not a word.

Before 1940, 'made in Japan' meant junk, making out referred to how you did in exams, stud was something that fastened a collar to a shirt and going all the way meant staying on a double decker to the bus depot ... and Gay was a pretty girls' name or just being happy.

In our day cigarette smoking was fashionable, grass was mown, coke was kept in the coal house, a joint was a piece of meat you had on Sundays, and pot was something you cooked in,. Rock music was grandmother's lullaby and Eldorado was an ice cream. Aids meant a beauty treatment or help for someone in trouble.

We who were born before 1940 must be a hardy bunch, when you think of all the ways in which the world has changed, and the adjustments we have had to make. No wonder we are so confused and there is a generation gap today ... BUT ... by the grace of God **WE HAVE SURVIVED ALLELUIA!**

More excerpts from an Irish Medical Dictionary

SEIZURE	A Roman Emperor
TABLET	A small table
TERMINAL ILLNESS	Getting sick at the airport
TUMOUR	More than one
URINE	Opposite of "You're Out"
VARICOSE	Nearby
VEIN	Conceited

FATMAN

Atomic bomb fears are still part of the news. France continues with nuclear tests in the Pacific. It is important that we do not ignore the warning signals. We must remember the lessons that history teaches us.

The following poem records one family's anguish, caused by nuclear conflict.

Fujio's Mother is cooking a meal,
The table is ready and set,
But the family will never assemble again
For the meal that nobody ate.

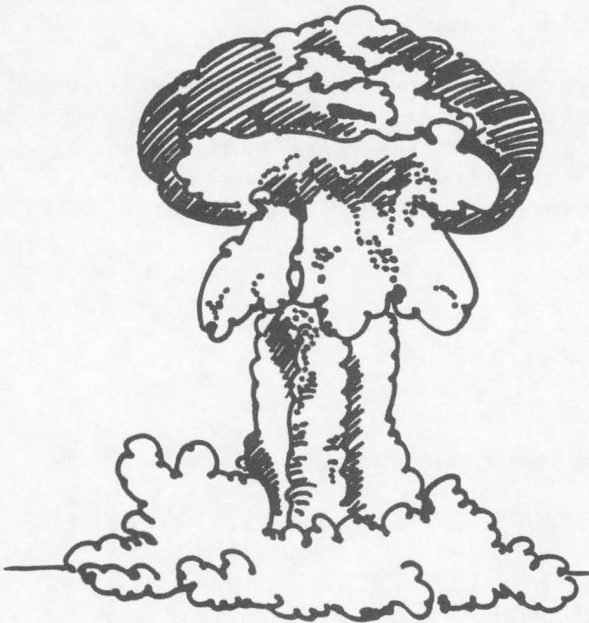
Fatman belched, from his horrible breath
Came a scorching, searing heat,
And he laughed aloud as he ran
Down the road on lumbering feet.

Fujio ran to the shelter
"You can't catch me" he said
But Mother was peeling vegetables
"My family must be well fed"

Light the fire, pile the pyre,
Let the flames burn warm and red,
Grandma tells her rosary
For the children that are dead

In the playground of terrible
Memories the games go on and on,
Fujio digs with a bamboo cane
For days that are lost and gone

He sees Mother bent over the cooker
Her face is blotchy and wet
She cries for ever and ever
For the meal that nobody ate.



Fujio Tsujimoto was five years old when the atom bomb called "Fatman" was dropped on Nagasaki. Fujio got to the shelter in time. His Mother had been at home making the lunch when the bomb fell and she was badly hurt by the explosion. She

died the next day. The survivors built a fire in the children's playground. Fujio watched his Mother's body burn on the fire with the charred remains of his Brother & Sisters.

He continued to play in the playground but memories of the terrible day would sometimes overwhelm him. He found relief by digging with a bamboo cane on the spot where his Mother was cremated. This simple act helped to conjure up his Mother's image again.

The poem is not meant to evoke morbid introspection. It is hoped that it will inspire people to work for world peace. Perhaps we should boycott French products to let Governments understand that nuclear tests are profoundly distasteful and must be halted immediately.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

The neighbourhood watch group which extends from Latteridge to Nibley Lane now has well over 200 members, served by 16 street co-ordinators whose job it is to keep members informed by newsletter or if necessary by word of mouth.

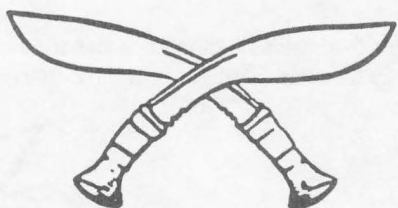
It is still early days yet and although we are now part of the Police computerised telephone link, nothing of real importance has been received so far. That does not imply a lack of local action. Window stickers have been distributed to members and these should be prominently displayed. A would-be miscreant may well be deterred if there is a possibility of being reported by a vigilant member of the community. Informing the Police does have positive results. A recent incident on The Green was reported along with a vehicle registration number and this resulted in the solving of 20 to 30 break-ins in the Avon and Somerset Police area.

Street signs cannot be displayed until a six months probationary period has elapsed. In the meantime regular meetings are being held with the street co-ordinators and I will be attending my first Police run Neighbourhood Watch meeting very shortly and hope to combine information from such meetings with extracts from the monthly Police Bulletins to provide the basis for further newsletters for group members.

Peter Wedgwood
Area Co-Ordinator.

More excerpts from an Irish Medical Dictionary

OUTPATIENT	A person who has fainted
PAP SMEAR	A fatherhood test
PELVIS	A Father to Elvis
RECOVERY ROOM	A place to do upholstery
RECTUM	Dang near killed 'em
SECRETION	Hiding something



THE GURKHA CONNECTION

A stranger passing through Iron Acton during the evening of 20 October would have been confronted by a most unusual sight. For a considerable part of the evening there appeared to be a continuous procession of figures crossing and recrossing the quiet main street of this small English village bearing trays, dishes and even heated trolleys. A green uniform seemed to be de rigueur for this frantic activity and the local participants were augmented by smartly dressed chefs who clearly hailed from a far distant clime. To add to the confusion the whole proceeding was accompanied by fully uniformed soldiers playing the bagpipes.

The reason for this unusual activity was a fund raising event organised on behalf of the Gurkha Welfare Trust when a group of serving Gurkha soldiers was invited to the village to provide entertainment and cook delicious ethnic food for the guests.

The Gurkhas have been prominent in newspaper headlines throughout this year notably through their participation in the VE and VJ Day ceremonies, the parade of holders of the Victoria Cross and in the publicity relating to the plight of Lachhiman Gurung VC. This elderly ex-soldier, disabled and visually handicapped was obliged to travel from his mountain home to the welfare unit where he collected his monthly pension carried on the back of one of his sons. This journey covered twelve miles of steep mountain trails where the only transport possible is a pair of legs. The generosity of the British people has now provided Lachhiman with a new home close to the welfare unit.

More recently we have heard that Gurkha soldiers famous for the loyalty and bravery with which they have fought alongside British regiments since the days of the Raj, are to be drafted into several infantry battalions of the army to bolster the strength of our defence forces.

In 1994 Melville was invited to join the board of the Gurkha Welfare Trust, an organisation set up in 1969 to provide support to ex-Gurkhas whose military service had not qualified them to receive a British army pension. Many such soldiers, veterans of World War 2 and later conflicts are now aged and sick and living in subsistence conditions in their villages high in the Nepalese mountains.

Gurkha Welfare Units and pension offices are located at several strategic points where ex-soldiers can collect their pensions and seek medical and other assistance. These units are staffed by former serving Gurkhas and are financed and supported by the Trust working in co-operation with other charitable organisations who provide facilities such as assistance in improving the quality of the few crops which can be grown at high altitude and upon which the mountain people depend for their subsistence. However as in the case of Lachhiman Gurung VC, a visit to the Welfare Unit usually

means several hours of walking the rugged mountain trails or being carried on the back or in a large basket again supported on someone's back. Life is hard for the small tough men who have served us proudly and loyally and in doing so brought honour and support to their families and communities.

In September we visited Nepal and were accommodated by the British Gurkhas at their headquarters in Pokhara. From there we went on trek to visit some of the mountain outposts and villages in the surrounding countryside. In return for the hospitality and kindness shown to us by our friends in Nepal, we decided to give the Trust funds a boost by introducing the Gurkhas to Iron Acton.

As with so many things the idea seemed simple - until we got down to the logistics and realised that October 20 was much closer than we realised. But, we were committed, the village hall was booked and we set off for Nepal leaving the arrangements in the hands of our son, James.

We returned to Iron Acton at the end of September and the realisation that our little 'do' was about to turn into a major event. We were overwhelmed by the amount of interest shown not only by local people and their friends but also by many people who were prepared to come from much farther afield to support a cause and people held in great affection and respect in this country.

A rethink was obviously necessary! Even if I was not thrown into jail for breaching the hire conditions of the village hall by gross overcrowding, it was clear that we could not manage to accommodate an exhibition, sale, bar, recitals by a Scottish pipemajor and the Gurkha pipers as well as the chefs preparing the 'tipen-tapen' within the non-elastic walls of the village hall. At this point near disaster was averted by the generous offer by Paul and Mary of their kitchen conveniently situated opposite the hall. This meant that for most of the day of the event, the Gurkhas took over the Townsend's home. For them it was an entertaining first experience of an English home. Suffice to say the Gurkhas made themselves very much at home in the Old Malt House. It is a tribute to Mary's hospitality that Krishna, Harry, Richie, Omar and Gurung left Iron Acton feeling that they had made a friend for life and I understand that she has a standing invitation to Nepal!

The event, in spite of a few hiccoughs, turned out to be a most enjoyable evening for all concerned. Our family and friends rallied round as salespersons, commis chefs and general dogsbodies and, thanks to the generosity of our patrons, the sum of £2,500 was raised for the Trust.

Thank you to everyone who supported the event. I know that people are interested in Nepal and would welcome the opportunity to buy more of the goods which were on sale in the village hall. I am hoping to arrange further opportunities to obtain some of these items perhaps in time for Christmas presents. A selection of goods which can be ordered will be available from mid-November at Backfield House. Please contact me on 01454 228509 if you are interested in seeing these items which are sold in support of the Gurkha Welfare Trust.

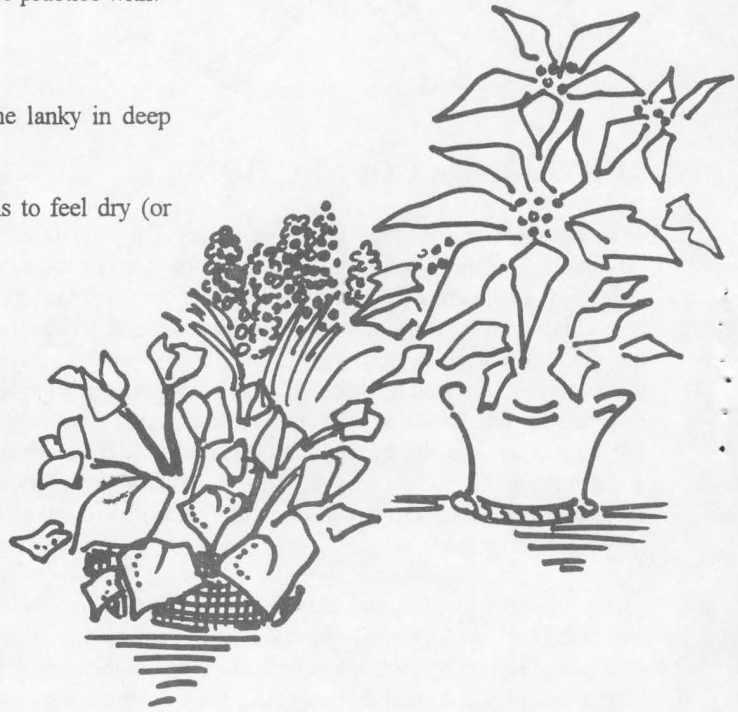
Hazel Dron.

THE ONE-POT WONDER

It's the one Christmas present I dread ... the one thing that makes my heart sink faster than a lead balloon reaches the floor ... a pot plant! This is because I am to pot plants what Prince Charles is to monogamy. So here's the Blanchard guide on how to treat 'em (with just a little bit of help from Alan Titchmarsh!) ... just don't give me any to practice with!

Poinsettia (originally from Mexico)

- Position:** Warm room in reasonably good light (will become lanky in deep shade)
- Watering:** Water well from above as soon as compost begins to feel dry (or when plant begins to wilt!).
- Hates:** Drafts or being close to radiators.
- Care/Attention:** Should last until March or April (unless looked after by Lynne). Can then be cut down, re-potted and grown on again for next year as a green foliage plant or put in a dark cupboard from 6 p.m. to 8 a.m. (I jest not) from late September to early December to encourage the formation of the red bracts).



Cyclamen (originally from the Eastern Mediterranean)

- Position:** Cool room in good light (north facing windowsill is ideal)
- Watering:** When the compost feels dry or when leaves just begin to wilt, stand the plant in a bowl of water for half an hour to give it a good drink. Don't water again until the compost feels dry.
- Hates:** Hot rooms, being close to radiators or over watering.
- Care/Attention:** Pull off faded leaves and flowers with a sharp tug (thought this was found on the Thames!). When flowering comes to an end either ditch the plant or dry it out completely, re-pot the corn the following autumn and grow on again.

African Violet

They didn't say where it came from ... any ideas?)

- Position:** Windowsill or a spot in good light in a warm room.
- Watering:** Difficult to water from above. If the pot feels light the plant's probably dry, so stand in a bowl of water for about half an hour.
- Hates:** Water being spilt on the leaves (can lead to marking and rotting) and draughts.
- Care/Attention:** Pull off faded flowers and leaves as soon as you see them. Feed fortnightly with diluted liquid tomato fertilizer (it can persuade non flowering plants to bloom) and occasionally dust the leaves with a dry paint brush.

Hyacinths (Originally from the Mediterranean)

- Position:** Bright light (preferably a windowsill) and a cool room.
- Watering:** Water when compost feels dry to the touch. Make sure the pot has drainage holes or the plant could be overwatered.
- Hates:** High temperatures, overwatering and lack of light.
- Care/Attention:** Turn the bowl regularly - this keeps the flowers upright. Support the flowers with canes and soft twine if the flowers start to topple. Discard the plant after flowering (how cruel!)

No. Plant them in the garden!

B.C.

Lynne Blanchard.

ALFRED STRANGE'S DIARY

We have two more extracts left from the diary of Alfred Strange, who died in the Spring. Here is the first of them.

Year 1934.

- May 1st. Office .. Luton (foreman) went to North Rd. to see men tar-spraying the footpath. Committee Meeting this afternoon re appointment of new assistant surveyor. Evening. helped my uncle Cecil plant seeds on rudge by Gowen's. F.Fortune came with us to Botany Brook to catch my uncle's pony.
- 2nd. On way to office Hobbs (tarspraying foreman) stopped me to say the sprayer was not working. To Sodbury and bought Valet razor at Thompson's. I caught the 1.35 bus to Bristol .. for Mr Wilson (Clerk to Council) I carried a bag for a gent in Princes St. and he gave me 6d. Called at the Planning Office and obtained planimeter from Mr Webber. Back at office at 3.50. Evening.. to Cadbury Heath for evening match ... we had 'scratch' side with 4 Yate Y.M. players ... R. White scored. We were winning until we lost R. Reed. Chaps went to a pub until about 10.10. Policeman stopped H. Washbourne's car on way home.
- 3rd. Man called from Thos. Cox & Sons with concrete tubes for Yate Common. Four men from the tar-spraying gang helped with unloading ... R. Elsom did not go to evening classes ... on my own. Only stayed for shorthand lesson. Bought new bicycle saddle at Gould's (Horsefair) and left watch at Samuels for repairs.
- Reg Hinks (Bath) hanged at Horfield Prison.
- 4th. Office ... letter to G.R. Morrison (Clerk to Marshfield Par. Council) re cleaning out of Weir pool.
- 5th.Sat. Capt. H. telephoned Bristol Corporation to give them permission to close Snuff Mills Bridge (Frenchay) tonight for trench work. Afternoon ... "friendly" match Rangeworthy 2 Shell Mex 5. I stayed until half time then called at Dick Skuse's for hair cut.
- 6th Sun. Very windy and raining. Mr Tily came up for bell ringing ... to make the six. I served at H. Communion with F. Fortune. Dennis Clark has returned home from Switzerland. It was Flowering Sunday. The Vicar of St. Jude's, Bristol preached at the evening service. Cricket (Sat.) Tytherington 107 for 7. Rangeworthy 47 all out. F. fortune played - he scored 2 runs. Mrs Prior of "The Star" Rangeworthy died this morning.
- 7th. Typed letter to roadmen informing them re Mr. Viveash's appointment as Assistant Surveyor. Evening ... over to Coalpit Heath with D. Gibbons and V. Cater to join in bell ringing practice.
- 8th. Evening ... planted potatoes in rudge by fence ... to choir practice with F. Fortune. He rang the chimes for evening service. Afterwards F. rode P.C. on his bike and I rode K.E. on mine as far as Fred's ... after a chat we went with them as far as Turner's.
- 10th. Upton (W. Ham) bye-election. Labour gain. Mr. Ben. Gardner elected. To evening classes ... R. Elson couldn't get his motor bike to start. I arrived at Greggs College at 7.15 and left at 8.
- 13th Sun. To Church with M. Pinnell ... bell ringing. We left the bells 'up'. Afternoon ... walked down to Acton with M.P. and T.P. We joined Mr Tily in the churchyard trying to find the grave of someone named Brooke who used to keep the 'Lamb Inn' 100 years ago. To Church with G.K., M.P., D.G. and F.F. Mr Holcombe refused to come up to the belfry but decided to do so later making himself look 'small.' After Church to North Rd. I was invited to have a look around Elson's garden. Cricket ... Australians break world record for 3rd wicket. 389 runs by Ponsford and McCabe.
- 15th. Letters to A.G. Andrews and E.W. Davis (Marshfield) re team labour a/c. Evening ... to Yate on back of R. Elson's motor bike. Called at Charlie Pullin's garage. Later I cleaned out the belfry and tidied up my Uncle's grave in the cemetery. It was Girls Friendly Meeting at the school. I rode up Yate Rd. with K.E. J. Lomas and Miss Wathen.
- 16th. I was called up at 6 o'clock and had to go with my Uncles Ces. and Laurie to collect my Uncle's cattle from the field by Botany Brook. They were to go to Charfield Market. Mr. V. collected Brian (steam waggon driver) and took him to Gloucester. He was due to be interviewed at the County Surveyor's office at 12 noon. Evening ... had a game of football in the road with M.P, T.P. and L. Gleed. Tom Amos brought my Uncle Ces home drunk. M. Turner called in; he had been to cricket practice.
- 17th. Shellard (lorry driver) called in with 23 brushes and 24 short hooks. The 6th. Glos Regiment are camping in Yate Aerodrome field. They are having a Church Parade on Sunday morning at Yate Church ... to be relayed outside by amplifiers. Mr.H. Washbourne stopped me on my way to the office this morning ... said he was coming up to see Capt. H. about 'ditty' (?) outside his house.

- 19th.Sat. My U. Ces. gone to Gloucester market. Hair cut at Dick Skuse's. I forgot to take the money with me! so had to go back. To Rangeworthy to watch the cricket ... Rangeworthy lost to Chipping Sodbury 11.
- 20.Sun. Whit Sunday 8 o'clock Comm. good few there. 11 o'clock service only few in choir ... all gone to Yate to see the 6th Glos. parade. In evening to Yate with R. Elson and B. Dyer. We went to the Aerodrome and then back to Elson's car. I saw Mr. Murray Dowding (C.Sodbury) At Elson's.
- 23rd. Evening ... finished weeding onions and cleared couch from patch by the currant trees. Iron Acton Girl Guides gone for tea at Horton Court today.
- 24th. My Grandmother's birthday. Cycled to office with M. Turner. He is still at the Grammar School.
- 26th.Sat. Walt. Jones stopped me in North Rd. Gave me weigh ticket for mortar for catchpits. Mr.Nicholls(Pucklechurch) called re long-handled hooks. Mr.V. hurt his wrist starting his car. Afternoon ...weeded parsnips and carrots and moulded up potatoes on ridge by Gowen's. and dug between 12 rows on middle ridge. Helped U. Cecil transplant kidney beans. Down to Dyers Lane. I met K.E.; her Father was in the field with cows ... Mr. Whale (packman) called with pair of grey flannel trousers. Nichols, the Worc. cricketer dies at Chelmsford whilst playing against Essex.
- 29th. Evening. Bellringing. Mr. Holcombe and Mr. Durbin mended the No. 2. bell rope ... broken last week. Evening ... walked across King's fields to Dyers Lane with Geo. Burridge ... we met K.E. who was taking two kittens to Miss Rich who was not at home. A spell of very fine weather.
- 30th. Helped put up roadmen's pay ... I had collected the cash from the bank. 2s.1d. too much in coppers! Evening. I met Reg Elson in his car with Kath and Miss Smith. I left my bike over a gate and went for a ride with them round Bagstone and Wickwar. Later along the fields by Dick Skuse's to look at U. Ces's cattle, and went to collect my bike!

ANSWERS TO THE QUIZ ON PAGE 3

1. TRUE: Belgium's delicious chocolate plays a leading role at Christmas, the letters being particularly popular with children named Wilhelmina or Marie - Louise but less so with Jan or Luc.
2. TRUE: Denmark's rice pudding is served first to lessen the appetite for the costly roast goose that follows!
3. TRUE: France's bon-bon, a bag of sweets wrapped so children could pull it apart between them, became the cracker in the 1860's when an English manufacturer added the explosive element.
4. TRUE: Germany's Tannenbaum or Christmas tree has 8th century origins and was known in Britain in the 1820's but first truly established here when Prince Albert imported one in 1841 for the Royal Family's celebrations at Windsor.
5. FALSE: The name Santa Claus is said to originate in America where 19th Century immigrants from Holland popularised the feast of their Saint Nikolaus on 6th December. St. Nicholas is the patron saint of Children and of Amsterdam.
6. TRUE: Cromwell's Puritan Parliament outlawed Christmas throughout the British Isles, including Ireland, as part of an overall ban on religious festivities. Christmas was "restored", along with the monarchy, in 1660.
7. TRUE: Traditionally, St. Francis of Assisi put up the first Christmas crib in a cave near Greccio, Italy on 24th December 1224.
8. TRUE: Black pudding or boudin is the centrepiece of Luxembourg's gastronomically correct supper traditionally served immediately after midnight mass on 24th December.
9. TRUE: Portugal's famous explorer did sight Natal on Christmas day 1497 (but he didn't trouble to make a landing!).
10. TRUE: It's on 6th January in Spain that people commemorate the Wise Men's gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh by exchanging presents.

In the Bristol Channel a ship carrying a cargo of red paint had collided with a ship carrying a cargo of blue paint. It is believed that both crews have been marooned.

PROJECT 2000

Project 2000, the 5 year plan to improve the appearance, size and amenities of the current Village Hall, has made significant progress since last featured in Focal Poyntz.

Detailed drawings have now been produced, together with a draft specification of works and budget costings, totalling between £90,000 and £100,000 capital cost.

The scheme has been submitted for outline planning approval and it is hoped that this will be obtained before Christmas.

Funds raised for Project 2000 during the last year from various activities amounts to approximately £5,000 with an estimated additional £1,000 to be raised from other events pre-Christmas this year.

We are also currently in the process of applying for a grant from Northavon District Council to cover Phase 1 of the project and hopefully we should hear about this in early December.

For the record the current Project 2000 Committee comprises the following members.

Chris Wiggins	Chairman
Rob Taylor	
Roger Hughes	
Mike Wills	
Tony Pullen	
Fiona Bourns	Secretary

Any queries you may have about Project 2000, or offers of help, please contact any of the above members.

Forthcoming fund raising activities:

Halloween Bonfire Night	Iron Acton Village Hall 6.30 p.m. 31st October Bonfire, Firework Display, Kids Disco and Fancy Dress Competition. Free Hot Dog. Tickets: £3.00 Adults, £2.50 children. Available from Roger Hughes 01454 228562.
Ciderella Romps Around Pantoland	A Stupendous Compendium of all your favourite Panto Characters with food, wine etc. Iron Acton Village Hall 7.30 p.m. 6th/7th/8th/9th December 1995. Tickets: David Hatherall 01454 228725
Xmas Party	Live Band, food, booze, etc. 8.00 p.m. Saturday 16th December 1995. Tickets Roger Hughes 01454 228562

So put these dates in your diary and support Project 2000 to improve your Village Hall.

* * * * *

For those of us who meant to do our Christmas preparations early, but didn't find the time, here is Delia's recipe for Last Minute Christmas Cake.

1lb good quality mincemeat
8 oz. wholemeal flour
3 level tsps. baking powder.
5 oz. softened butter or marg.
6 oz. mixed dried fruit
2 oz. walnuts chopped
3 eggs size 1 or 2
grated zest of a small orange

Grated zest of a small lemon
9 inch cake tin greased and lined with greaseproof paper.

Put all the ingredients into a large bowl, sifting the flour and baking powder together, and mix thoroughly using an electric hand beater or a wooden spoon. Spoon evenly into the tin and level the surface. Bake in preheated oven (325F, 170C) for about 1 hour 30 minutes, or until the centre springs back when lightly touched. Cool for 30 minutes in the tin then turn out onto a wire rack. When cold this can be iced in the usual way.

DIARY OF FORTHCOMING EVENTS

In the Village hall

Every Monday, Thursday
Every Wednesday

2nd Monday in the month
3rd Monday in the month
4th Monday in the month
3rd Thursday in the month
2nd December
6th, 7th, 8th, 9th December
16th December
14th January
20th January
21st January

Nursery School	9.00 am
Elizabethans	2.00 pm
Junior Actonians	6.00 pm
Actonians	7.30 pm
Womens Institute	7.30 pm
Parish Council	7.30 pm
Whist Drive	7.30 pm
Knitting Group	1.30 pm
Northavon Auctions	
Actonians - "Ciderella Romps Around Pantoland"	
Acton Aid Christmas Party	
Actonians Quiz Evening	
Northavon Auctions	
Acton Aid Senior Citizens Party	3 pm

In the Parish Church

Christmas Services:-
17th December

24th December - Christmas Eve

25th December - Christmas Day

Advent - hymns, carols, readings	
6.30 p.m.	
Holy Communion	8 am
Sung Eucharist	9.30 am
Crib Service	6.30 p.m.
Midnight Mass	Midnight
Holy Communion	8.00 a.m.
Sung Eucharist - a family service for every member of the Family	9.30 am
Evensong (said)	4 p.m.

At North Road School.

1st December
14th December
15th December
18th December

Christmas Sale -	2.00 p.m.
Toddlers Party	Afternoon
School Disco	6 - 8 pm
Christingle Service at St Marys Church, Yate	6.30 pm

At Iron Acton School.

12th December
13th December
18th December
20th December
3rd January
February

Christmas Concert Matinée
Christmas Concert Evening
Christmas Party
School Closes
School Re-opens
West Midland Childrens Theatre Company presents
"The Rogue Harlequin"

At the Rose & Crown

1st Thursday in the month

Acton Aid - 8.00 p.m.

FOCAL POYNTZ is produced three times a year, usually at the end of March, July and November and is distributed to every house in the Parish. Contributions for publication are always welcome and can be sent to Mr John Percy, Primrose Cottage, High Street, Iron Acton. Advice will be given if required. Items ought to be submitted about four weeks before date of issue.

Advertisers wishing to take space in **FOCAL POYNTZ** should contact either Mrs B. Cook (228202) or Mr L. Alsop (228400).

POPPY DAY

The Poppy Day collection around the village raised a total of £714.60. The Royal British Legion are very grateful and thank everybody who contributed.



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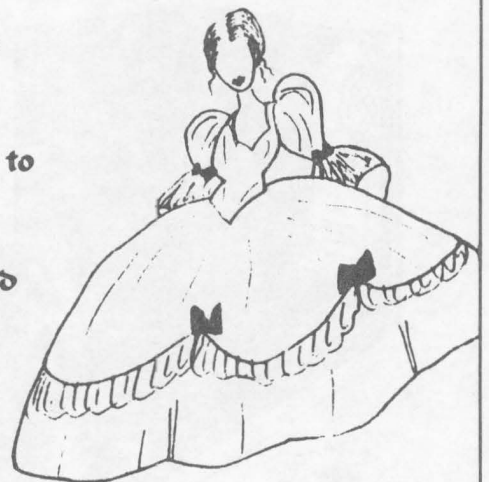
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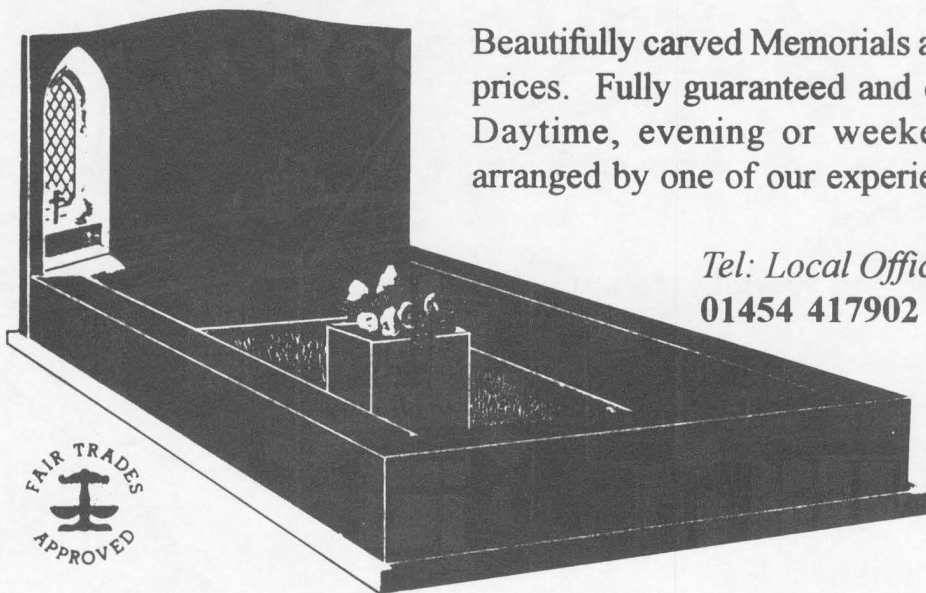
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AND
RECYCLING
SINCE 1980



**Bristol's original furniture and
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The SOFA Project celebrates its fifteenth birthday this year. SOFA accepts donations of household furniture and domestic appliances from donors throughout Avon. They are then safety checked and sold to low income households at the cheapest prices which will allow them to cover the Project's costs.

"SOFA recognises that those on low incomes need good quality furniture and appliances at prices that even second hand dealers cannot offer. By linking those that have surplus items with those in need, they offer a service to all sections of the community and protect the environment from unnecessary dumping."

If you have unwanted, immediately reusable furniture and appliances (not necessarily perfect but functional) be generous - contact the SOFA Project on 0117 941 3322. If you are on low income and need affordable furniture and appliances contact the SOFA Project on 0117 941 3322.

DONATIONS AND CUSTOMERS

- THE SOFA PROJECT

NEEDS THEM BOTH!

The
SOFA
PROJECT

48 - 54 WEST STREET
OLD MARKET
BRISTOL
0117 941 3322

CANTERBURY PAVING

Tel: 01454 228555
Mobile 0973 289384

The Codrington Arms

NORTH ROAD, ENGINE COMMON,
NEAR YATE, AVON.

Tel: (01454) 228581

Your hosts Vivienne & Chris Gale

DELICIOUS PUB MEALS
Full Menu Now Available

Monday to Saturday 12.00pm to 2.30pm

Sundays 12.00pm to 2.30pm

Range of Bar Snacks every evening

* SEPARATE TV ROOM FOR SPORTS etc.

* SMALL CLUB ROOM FOR HIRE

* POOL TABLE & PUB GAMES

OPEN Monday to Saturday 11a.m.-11p.m.
& Normal Sunday Hours

---- A REAL PUB ----
IN THE OLD TRADITION

Real Log Fire
in the Lounge Bar



Family Room with T.V.
& Toys

PLAY POOL AT THE CHEAPEST
PRICES AROUND

NOW ONLY 20p PER GAME

Every day 11a.m. to 4p.m.

ONLY 40p at other times

JOIN

MARGARET and ROY

IN A GOOD OLD FASHIONED

SING-A-LONG

Alternate Sundays

Songs you love to remember

BJW Patternmaking

MANUFACTURERS OF:-

ENGINEERS PATTERNS IN WOOD, RESIN & METAL

MODELS & MOULDS FOR G.R.P. PRODUCTION

MOULDS FOR THE PLASTICS INDUSTRY

PROTOTYPE MODELS & MOCK-UPS

SCALE MODELS FOR PLANNERS & ARCHITECTS

TECHNICAL WOODWORK OF ALL KINDS

including

TOOL CASES

DISPLAY CABINETS

JIGS & FIXTURES

SUPPLIERS OF CASTINGS IN ALL METALS

Contact **BJ WRIGHT (01454) 228247/228381**

Workshop:
Backfield Farm
Wotton Road
Iron Acton
Bristol

Eynsford Cottage
Wotton Road
Iron Acton
Bristol BS17 1UZ