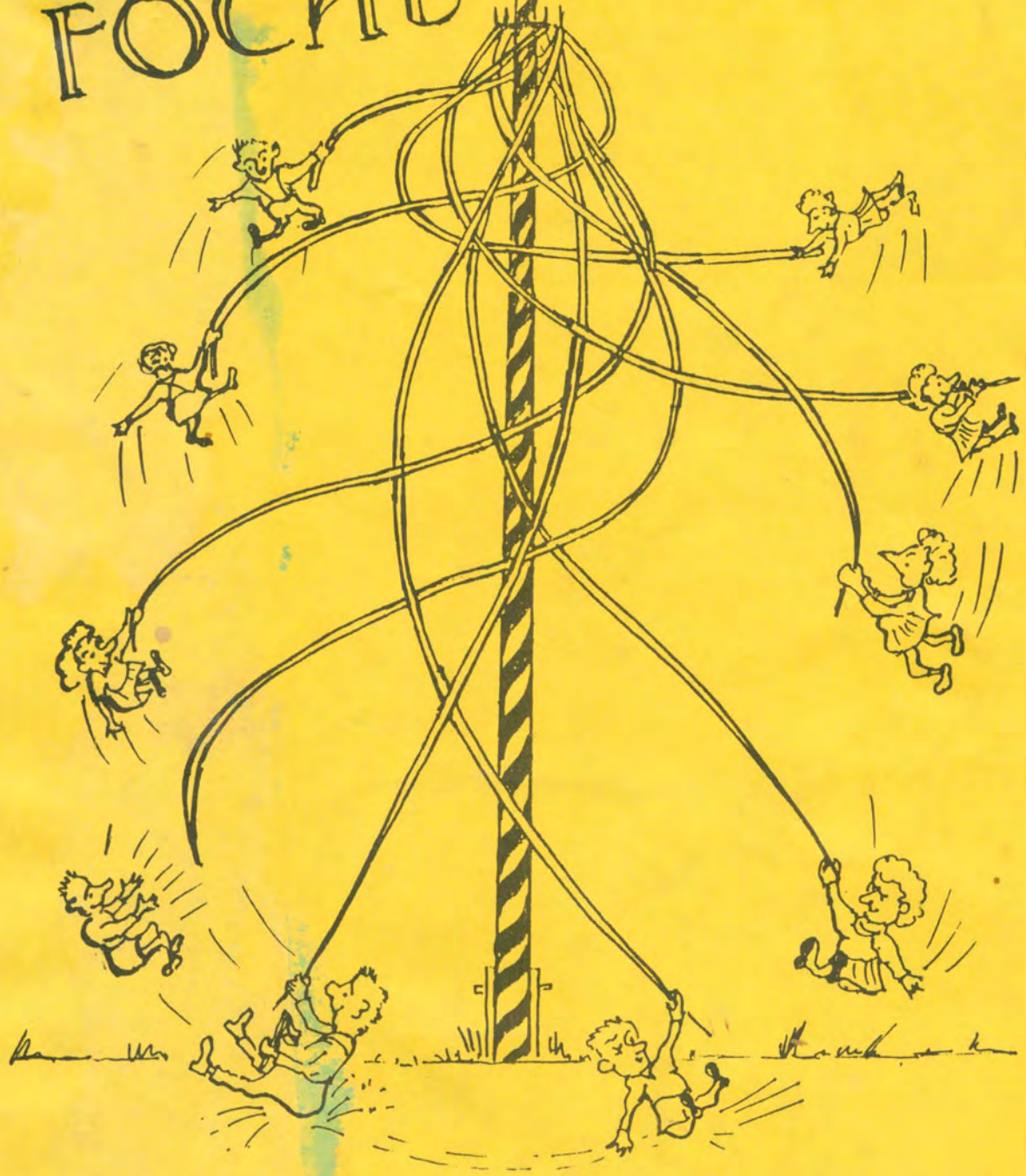


MAY DAY FOCAL POYNTZ



roger's autocare



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Vehicle Maintenance*

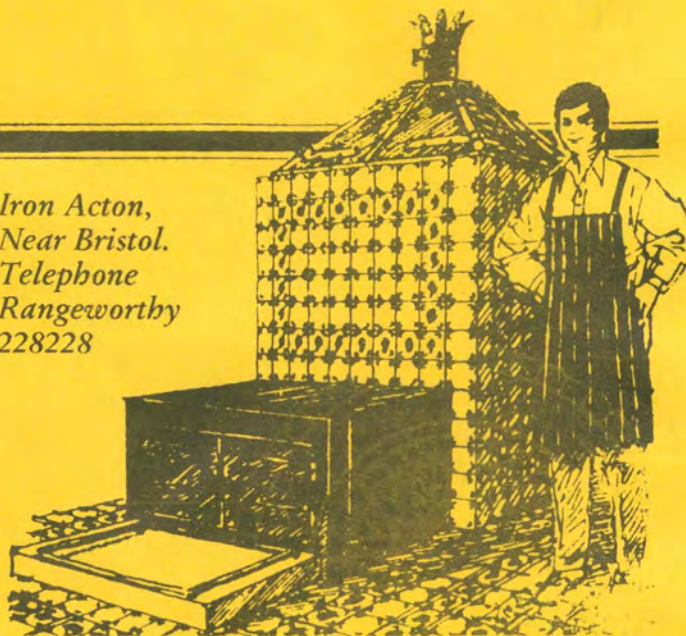
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Near Bristol.
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Rangeworthy
228228*



SPRING

41

EDITORIAL SPRING 1996

After our cold and stormy winter spring is with us, and it will only take a few days of spring sunshine to push our memories of winter into the background.

Do you recall the weekend following Christmas and the falling rain freezing instantly on paths, pavements and roads and forming an immediate ice rink? Everyone was moving very gingerly and many people had falls and injuries were numerous. Somehow or other I managed to survive that first day without the merest slip. However, the following day across the fields I slipped and fell on a small icy incline. My movements I am told was reminiscent of a slow motion film, arms and legs flaying the air before an abrupt landing on my bottom. No damage I'm pleased to say - laughter all round at my predicament and my dog thinking this was all for his benefit rushed about and proceeded to give me the Kiss of Life. I guess he loves me.

Many thanks to those of you who volunteered to help with our deliveries. If any of you wish to put pen to paper and write an article for us on any subject it would be most welcome.

So lets now look forward to our Spring and Summer and all that may bring.

John Percy
228339

Betty Cook
228202

Charles Wilkins
228254

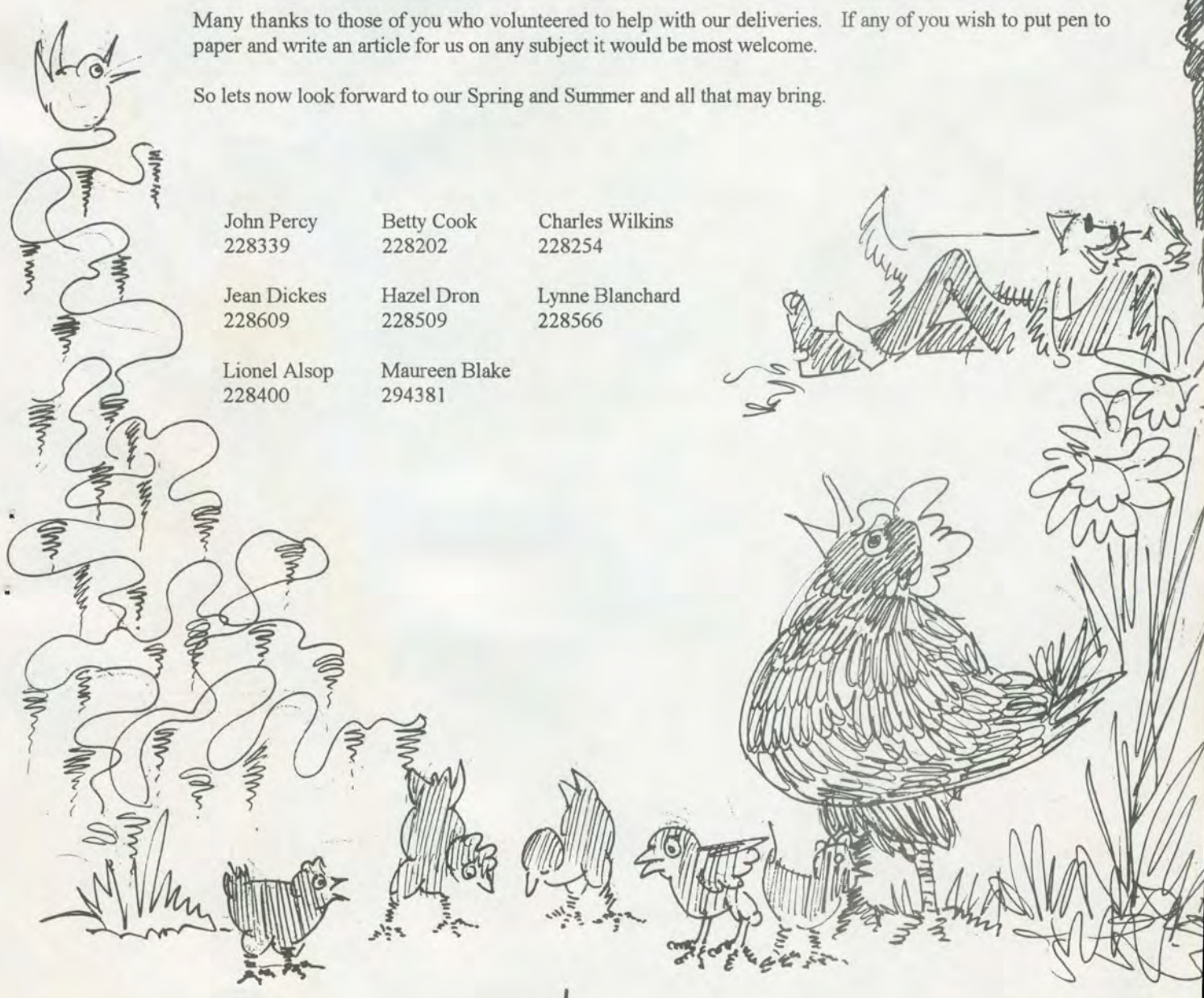
Jean Dickes
228609

Hazel Dron
228509

Lynne Blanchard
228566

Lionel Alsop
228400

Maureen Blake
294381



BETTY COOK

As we go to press it is with great sorrow that we have to report the death of Betty Cook.

Betty did an enormous amount for the village of Iron Acton over many years, and was one of the guiding lights and main contributors to Focus and Focal Poyntz from the very beginning.

**A full appreciation of Betty will appear in the next edition of Focal Poyntz.
In the meantime we send our sincerest condolences to Godfrey and their family.**

THE ELIZABETHAN CLUB

In November Mrs Karen Rowe of the Benefits Agency (new name for D.H.S.S.) interested members with aspects of her work and gave members a contact 'phone number if they had any problems.

Mrs Riddle gave us a demonstration of Xmas Flower arrangements at the end of November. This is one of our favourite meetings.

On December 6th we held our annual Xmas Dinner at Calne Social Club, enjoyed by members and friends.

We visited Leyhill (yes they did let us out) for their pantomime on December 11th, always a good amateur show.

Bath pantomime was our destination on January 25th. Black ice on the top of Lansdown was not so good but our driver brought us home by a different route and everyone enjoyed the show.

We're being entertained by a choir on February 28th.

Two outings for the Spring have been booked. In April we visit Newton Abbot and Trago Mills returning via Burnham and in May to Worcester via the Cotswolds.

My usual plea to all - if you are a pensioner please join us. You can 'phone me on 228566 for details.

Elsie Blanchard - Secretary

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

On the 9th December 1995 the Police formally confirmed the acceptance of our scheme and as a result we were able to purchase the street signs - thanks to the Parish Council for their generosity in paying for this first batch of signs.

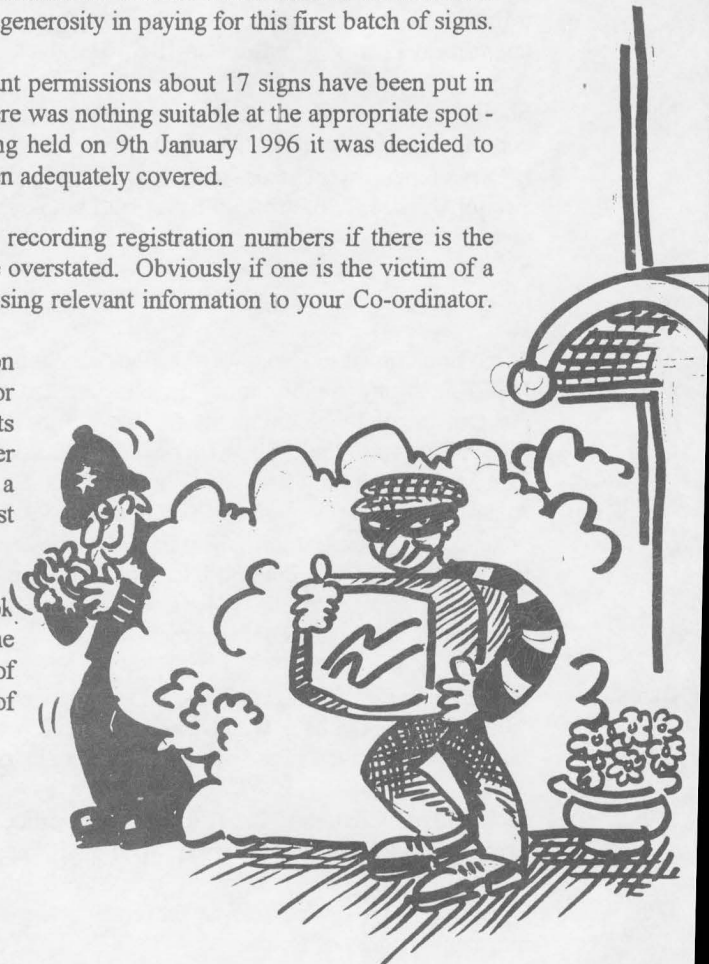
Where suitable sites were available and having obtained the relevant permissions about 17 signs have been put in place. Of the initial batch of 20 signs, 3 needed posts erected as there was nothing suitable at the appropriate spot - this has yet to be done. Also following the Co-ordinators' meeting held on 9th January 1996 it was decided to purchase another 6 signs as several people felt their area had not been adequately covered.

Once again the importance of being watchful, making notes and recording registration numbers if there is the slightest suggestion that something is out of the ordinary cannot be overstated. Obviously if one is the victim of a crime get straight on to the Police but please follow this up by passing relevant information to your Co-ordinator.

I can assure you that being watchful does work. The prompt action of one of our members has helped to catch the person responsible for the recent break-in in the High Street. A description of the car, its registration number and a description of the occupant along with other evidence has led to Police making an arrest and hopefully a conviction, as, confronted with the overwhelming evidence against him, the guy has confessed.

It is worth noting that the Police Constable involved in this case took the trouble to call on me for an exchange of information. The message is to continue to be actively involved in the spirit of Neighbourhood Watch so that we can help to catch a few more of these undesirable characters.

Peter Wedgwood - Area Co-Ordinator.



ALFRED STRANGE'S DIARY



Readers will know that Alfred Strange died last year in his home at Northampton. His ashes were brought back here, to the Parish he knew and was so fond of, and were interred in the churchyard.

This is the final episode that we have of the diary.

Year 1934.

- June 1st. Hatherell's man called in with 6 spades and 12 scythes. Evening - went up to top of tower with Mr Tily. Mr Rymer also came up. Cleaned out the belfry and over to the Codrington Arms.. football meeting. Only 7 there! We decided to carry on next season. 8/- in debt. We collected 4/- between us! Home with Mr. B. Aldom.
- 2nd. Rang Yate Station re goods from Miscell. Disposals Co. Syndicate. Later L.M.S. rang to say parcel there for us. Afternoon - over to Coalpit Heath to watch cricket. Wotton all out for 82 runs. Home with Geo. Rowlands. Evening. H. White gave me a lift on his bike. ordered a cricket shirt from Mr. Whale. Called on F. Fortune, D. Gibbons and Mr Holcombe re bellringing at tomorrow's service. Over to Haines shop in North rd. no-one about. Bob Sage of the Council Houses, Nibley, killed at Stoke Gifford this mornong on his motor cycle. He was married with two children.
- 3rd.Sun. Served at H. Comm. with F. Fortune. Afternoon. in Wallbanks porch with chaps. waited for sunday school to come out. Across the fields with P.C. K.E. and her young sister. Bellringing for evening service. I went up to the bell chamber with D. Gibbons, V. Cater and R. Curtis to watch the bells being rung. After church we went to Yate Station to see Miss Smith off the train. I left D. G. talking to Mrs. Elson. 60 000 watched Jack Peterson beat Len Harvey for the Brit. Heaveyweight champ. Harvey retired in 12th round.
- 4th. A.E. Cotterell called for pair of knee boots. I fetched pair from Mr. Smith (Workhouse Master) which he had borrowed. Mr. V. gone to Stoke Gifford with Mr. Horne (C. Council Road Surveyor) re accident on Saturday. (Bob Sage).
- 6th. Auditors from Shire Hall at office. Griffen Smith (North Rd.) called for draining rods for Pritchard at Yate Common. Mr. Stuart (auditor) had the Derby winner at 10 to 1. The Derby.1st. Windsor Lad. owner - Maharaja of Raipipla. trainer - M. Marsh. jockey - C. Smirke. 2nd. Easton - G.Richard. 3rd. Colombo - W. Johnstone. Colombo red hot favourite at 11 to 8. Windsor Lad 15-2.
- 7th. Shellard and Lomas (drivers) gone to Gloucester for a week's training on new lorries. British Quarries Co. rang up re completion of order for 200 tons of Quartzite. W. Ralph called re damage to his eyes whilst tar-spraying. Capt. H and Luton (foreman) went across to discuss with Mr. Wilson (Clerk to Council) re taking over of roads at Stoke Gifford from Bristol Corp. Mr. P. drew up list of staff employees for superannuation scheme. Capt. H. gone to Bristol for inquest on Bob Sage. Evening. to choir practise with F. Fortune. He went over to Coalpit Heath afterwards. Later-took Fred's autograph book back - stopped on Ponting's corner to chat with S. Evans, L. Gleed and Rhoda Fortune.
- 9th.Sat. Afternoon.. down to Rangeworthy.. they all out for 61 runs. (R. White 18, C. Woodall 13) Pucklechurch won. Over to Nth. Rd. to pay in club money. R. Elson invited me to go to Tortworth with him on the back of his motor bike. I didn't go! Out in road with J. Pinnell, M. and T. Pinnell. I had Joyce's hat on. Plenty of traffic going past from Conservative Fete at Tortworth Park. Sir Walter Elliot, Minister for Agriculture spoke. Test Match at Nottingham. atted. Friday-17000 Saturday 30000
- | | |
|-----------|--|
| Australia | 1st. Inn. 374 (Chipperfield 99. McCabe 65. Ponsford 53. Farnes 5 for 102 runs) |
| | 2nd Inn. 273 runs. (McCabe 88 runs Brown 73 Farnes 5 for 77 runs) |
| England | 1st Inn 268 (Henren 79 runs Sutcliffe 62 Geary 53 Grimmett 5 for 81 runs O' Reilly 4 for 75) |
| | 2nd Inn. 141. (C. F. Walters 46 runs. Grimmett 3 for 39 O' Reilly 7 for 54) |
- Match finished 10 mins before time!
- 10th.Sun. Bellringing. Only 5 ringers. Messrs Holcombe and Wiggins. V. Cater, F. Fortune and myself. We made 'a bit of a row'. Afternoon. walked back with M. and T. Pinnel. it was very hot. we sat down on a shady bank for a while. After evening service I went on top of the church tower with D. Gibbons, A. Webb and E. Clark (Rangeworthy).
- 11th. Jack Lloyd (Chaingate Lane) came to the office for 2 sythe handles. Letter to H. M. Stationary Office for Min. of Transport Book on Traffic Signs. Typed out list of roadmen for re-funding their wages.
- 12th. Evening. .sat on wall outside the cottage and read the 'Daily Herald'. M. Pinnell came across to give me some magazines- 'Story of Nations'.

- 14th. Letter to Super. of Police, Staple Hill re accident on the Stoke Gifford Hambrook Rd. A lady inspector called at office with Mr. Kendall (Deputy Clerk) re insur. cards for T. and A. Luton for the year 1931. Letter to W. G. Amos re opening up of road at Dyrham. Typed out copy of Schedule- Min. of Transport Report of Departmental Committee on traffic signs. Letters to roadmen for personal information for superannuation scheme. Evening. went out haymaking with F. Fortune. He 'bunked off' leaving his father in a bit of a temper. Cricket. Great Commotion about Larwood (test bowler) He refuses to play against the Australians in the Test Matches.
- 17th.Sun. Very hot. It had been a heat wave all the week. Morning Service. Served at H. Communion with the F. F. He felt faint with the heat. I took him to the Vestry and later he sat in the congregation. We had just enough ringers for evening service. .terrific heat. A lay preacher gave sermon about missionary work.
- 18th. W. Ralph called in for his compensation money - accident with tarsprayer. £1.-10d. Evening. into Gregg's College evening class. Home at 10 o'clock.. gave T. Pinnel rides on back of my bike. Paulo's Circus at the rear of the Crown this week.
- 21st. Capt. H. and Mr. V went off to see Horder to tell him to go to Latteridge re complaint received re condition of road which has been rolled. We (North Rd. Sports) are not elected to the Bristol and Dist. League for this season, according to the 'Evening World'. Steve Donaghue won the Queen Alexandria Stakes on 'Brown Jack' for the 6th. year in succession.
- 22nd. We heard that 2 new lorries were arriving on Tuesday.
- 23rd.Sat Mr. Vivash (assist. surveyor) married today.
To the Rangeworthy 'Rec' with G. Kingscott. I acted as scorer at the cricket match. .so had a free tea! Ozleworth Park 47 runs. Rangeworthy 32 runs. (C. Woodall 13) Evening. round to Nth Rd. I met Percy Lomas and had a chat with him about the new council lorries.
Test Match at Lords. England 440 runs (Ames 120 Leyland 109)
 Australia 284 runs (Brown 105 Verity 7 for 61 runs)
 Australia 2nd. Inn. 118 runs. Verity 8 for 43 runs.
The first time Australia had been beaten at Lords since 1896. Verity equalled record set by Rhodes of taking 15 wickets in a Test Match.
- 24th.Sun. Mr. Will Hickling (my Uncle from Queensland, Australia) called with his sister, Elsie. He had married my eldest sister, Ina Smith at Winterbourne in 1902. After evening service I walked up Yate Road with R. Elson. he told me that he had finished working at Parnells and was starting at the Central Electrical Works (Yate) tomorrow. Met Miss Rich in Dyers Lane. she told me she had lost the 2 kittens which K. E. had given her.
- 25th. Aeroplane crash at Yate. It happened near the Slab Works. I went over there with Jack Hall. 2 planes from the Filton Flying School collided in the air. One burnt out and 3 killed. One chap landed by parachute in a quarry.
- 29th. Evening. round Dyers Lane and I called at J. Hall's shop where I met K. E. and her brother Keith. Their father was haymaking out in the field. He stopped me to tell me that A. M. had been using some of the money belonging to the football club!
- 30th.Sat. P. Lomas called at the office. the self-starter on one of the new lorries was not working.
Golf. Henry Cotton equalled the record of Gene Sarazen (283) in Open Golf Championship.

ST. PETER'S HOSPICE

The House to House Collection for St. Peter's Hospice will be from Monday July 8th to Friday July 12th. The Staff of St. Peter's do a wonderful job caring for cancer patients both at the hospice and in their own homes, so I know you will give a kind welcome to our collectors. However since Janet Thorne and Sarah Hilton have left the Parish we need volunteer collectors to replace them - one for the Green and one for Nibley area.

If you can help please contact Joyce Waker at the Rectory, or phone 228412.

*Life is like a mirror -
If you frown at it, it frowns back;
If you smile, it returns the greeting.*

IRON ACTON W.I.

Okay, I admit it, as the newly (and, I may add, perfectly formed) Committee gathered around large, welcoming glasses of port at our inaugural meeting of the new year to apportion duties (somewhat similar to the post battle sharing of spoils) a deathly hush descended as the President said "Who's going to write for Focal Poyntz then?" So, sorry one and all, but you've got me again!

In December we had our A.G.M. Pauline Hill was "persuaded" to stay as President "for just one more year." This is the third year she's said this!! Judy Park (the one who wanted to see the Paramedic's equipment) is Treasurer and I'm back as Secretary.

In January Sue Thorn spoke about her work with the Western Alcohol and Drugs Education Society (W.A.D.E.S.) not at all dry, stuffy or sermonizing but very informative; certainly thought provoking and a lot of the myths surrounding this topic were blasted into oblivion.

A bitterly cold February evening saw a depleted membership gazing wistfully at the video of Rose and Dave White's holiday in Zimbabwe where the people wore short sleeved clothes ... and it was warm ... and there wasn't a thick woolly jumper in sight.



Our March meeting will see a Mr Angel (and he'll need to be) explaining how to take a good photo (David Bailey eat your heart out) and then we'll be able to blitz the photography section at the Horticultural Show (believe this and you'll believe anything!) On to April and we'll be taught all about Winston Churchill, May is our month for discussing the resolutions for the National Conference (this year it's in Cardiff) and in June we learn about the Avon Badger Group and will hopefully be visiting a site to see some badgers in their natural surroundings. Having only ever seen these creatures splodged across the road it will be wonderful to see them rounded and not flattened and able to walk!

We thoroughly enjoyed our outing to the Tintern Abbey Carol Service. The sight of the torch-lit procession winding its way down to the abbey, like hundreds of bobbing glow-worms, really was breathtaking. The Carol Service was delightful and with the torch flames lighting up the pale stone of the walls this intensified the indigo of the star-strewn sky above the roofless ruins - the abbey really was a stunning setting and we finished off the evening with a warming meal, complete with crackers, at the Anchor Hotel.

We've completely shattered our County Skittles Cup record - we reached the second round. We applied for, but didn't get, some places on the Second Severn Crossing Walk - which I thought was fine as it appeased my conscience in that I tried while not having to exert myself!

Finally, we've got a relaxing evening planned in late March when we visit Harvey's in Bristol to see the newly refurbished museum, browse in their gift and wine shops and last, but not least, sample some old sherries ... all the gory exploits will be brutally revealed in the next Focal Poyntz ... but don't tell 'em or they'll all behave themselves and I won't have an article!

Lynne Blanchard.

SUCCESS

*You can use most any measure
When you're speaking of success
You can measure it in fancy home
Expensive car or dress
But the measure of your real success
Is the one you cannot spend
It's the way your kids describe you
When they're talking to a friend.*



PARISH COUNCIL

Improvements to the footway under North Road railway bridge have been carried out. We are endeavouring to obtain improvements to the footway in North Road, especially at the northern end.

It is intended, in the near future, to construct a footway alongside Yate Road from Wistaria Lodge to Dyers Lane. Bristol Water is being pressed to find a permanent solution to recent water bursts on Wotton Road at Mudgedown.

Parish Meadows

Programme of work for 1996 to include the following:-

- Fencing in the children's play area to keep out dogs.
- Some new play equipment.
- Renovations to present play structures.
- Renew the picnic tables.
- Two new seats in the play area.

It has been mooted that consideration be given to the possibility of banning dogs from the playing fields because of the irresponsibility of some dog owners not "clearing up" after their dogs.

N. Carter.



TEN YEARS AGO:

Extracts from "FOCUS" in 1985.

Editorial.

Little did we think, when we started our first issue in the Spring of 1983 that we would be able to continue until this, our tenth edition. But thanks to your encouragement and good wishes we have managed to survive, and, we hope, to carry on into the future.

And so we have! and so we shall!

Mr Bill Allen

Regulars at the Rose & Crown, and most residents of the Village Hall will be sorry at the news that Bill has retired as Licensee of the "Pub." Bill, and his family before him, have managed the Rose & Crown for the last fifty years, and he will be greatly missed.

The Actonians

The year was an extremely good one for the Actonians. The one-act play 'The Rape of Bunny Stunz' was entered for the HTV Festival and won an award and presentation on TV. "Those tuned in to HTV were able to see Ann Aplin, Pat Stimson and Peter Wylie do their bit 'live' before the studio audience.

The Junior Actonians performed a Medieval Miracle Play 'Noah's Flood.' The play was entered for the Avon One-Act Festival and on February 27th. Penny Percy with all her helpers transported 30 children plus ark and all the rest to Hanham Folk Centre. The strange and unknown stage did not daunt our young players and 'Noah's Flood' was a great success, and won them the Denning Cup for promise and encouragement.

As I begin this day help me to learn

- ... to listen like a teddy bear with ears open and mouth closed tight,*
- ... to forgive like a teddy bear with heart open, not caring who is right;*
- ... to love like a teddy bear with arms open and imperfect eyesight.*



IRON ACTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

The school is now looking forward to the time when the staff, parents and children will be able to use the school house. Internal alteration has been completed and at the time of writing we await the electrician to attend to the power supplies for each of the rooms. Following this the heating engineers will install new oil fired central heating which will be independent of the main school heating system and therefore hopefully not subject to its temperamental nature.

With the help of parents and volunteers to decorate the new rooms the school will be able to boast of a pupil resource centre, a group teaching room, a kitchen equipped specifically for us by the children, a new staff room, teacher resource room and further cloak facilities. We are on schedule to finish this redevelopment project on or before the beginning of the new Autumn Term. Many thanks must go to Chris Heal, one of our School Governors, for his vision, enthusiasm and organisation of the school house project.

During this coming Summer Term, the children in year 5 & 6 are looking forward to the field studies trip to the Isle of Wight. It has been two years since Iron Acton School was last there. We intend to visit the same museums and attractions that proved so successful last time and in addition visiting HMS Warrior whilst in Portsmouth.

With the hard work and support given to the school by the Friends of Iron Acton School, we have purchased a computer with CD Rom. This will become part of the pupil resource centre and it is our intention for as much use as possible to be made of it by all the children in the school. Therefore I wish to thank all the members of the 'Friends of Iron Acton School' past and present, on behalf of the school community for their support for the activities they provide to raise the money for the children in the school.

We are at present without a school crossing patrol. If you or anyone you know would be interested, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

Dates 1996

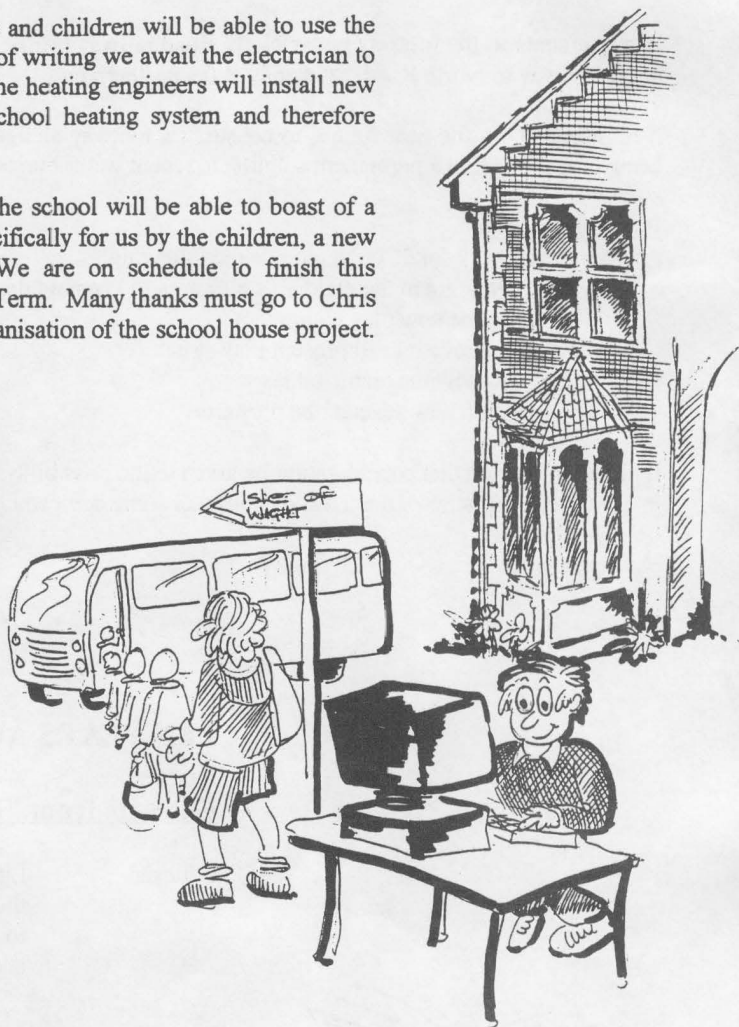
Book Week	-	22-4-96 - 26-4-96
Village Day	-	6-5-96
Isle of Wight Week	-	17-6-96 - 21-6-96
School Sports	-	24-6-96 (provisional)
Fête	-	6-7-96
Cluster Sports	-	8-7-96 (provisional)
Summer Concert	-	17-7-96 Matinée performance (provisional)
Summer Concert	-	16-7-96 Evening performance (provisional)

Term Dates

Summer Term opens	-	15-4-96
Half Term	-	3-6-96 - 7-6-96
Term Ends	-	19-7-96
Autumn Term begins	-	2-9-96

HOW TO LIVE

Worry less and work more
Ride less and walk more
Frown less and laugh more
Drink less and breathe more
Eat less and chew more
Preach less and practice more.





BOOK REVIEWS

LOVE IN THE TIME OF CHOLERA by GABRIEL GARCIA MARQUEZ

Senescent passion is the theme of this gripping tale. Octogenarian Dr. Juvenal Urbino falls to his death trying to rescue a parrot from a Mango tree. An elderly suitor approaches his widow. Maladie d'amour is shown to be just as poignant for senior citizens as it is for callow youth.



WITHOUT REMORSE by TOM CLANCY

This is a long book, 768 pages in all, but never boring and sure to maintain the interest of people who like all-action stories. This is the tale of John Kelly who was in Vietnam for the US Navy, behind the lines of the Viet-Cong forces. Back in civvy street he meets a girl who has endured horrendous suffering from drug gangs. After her grotesque murder and almost the loss of his own life he seeks revenge. Meanwhile, Washington is planning a top secret rescue mission of US Pilots from a Viet-Cong prison. Kelly is encouraged to rejoin the forces and lead this mission, and as he tries to interweave these two events in his life, he moves into a situation from which he may never return.

* * * * *

NORTH ROAD COUNTY PRIMARY SCHOOL

We have had an extremely busy couple of months since the start of 1996. Mrs Hart, the Deputy Head, was released to be acting Headteacher at Horton Primary School until Easter. This has meant that Mrs Ellery and Mrs Williams have both been working full time to cover the extra hours.

The small extension for a cloakroom area at the back of the school is already many weeks behind schedule and the building work is now unlikely to begin until the Summer Holidays. We all feel very annoyed about this unnecessary delay, especially as the project was approved by Avon's Education Committee meeting in February 1995. We have seen large sums of money being spent on other local schools and feel that nothing has been done to alleviate the cramped conditions at North Road.

We have had two valuable In Service Training Days during this term, one dealing with Information Technology and the other looking at the benefits of a system of Collaborative Reading. The dinner ladies' training session was postponed due to the weather but we hope this will go ahead later in the term.

We are hoping to develop our reference library during the coming year and hope to use money raised by the Friends of the School to purchase extra books. We are hoping that you will attend our Family Disco at Rangeworthy Village Hall on May 11th and the Summer Fair at the School on Saturday, June 22nd in order to help increase our stock of books!

We intend to give reading an even higher profile during the next year so if there are any of you who could spare an hour a week to hear children read we would welcome hearing from you. We can guarantee a cup of tea or coffee and the satisfaction of seeing individual children's reading improve with the additional support of a "listening ear".



* * * * *

*Always be like a duck - keep calm and unruffled on the surface,
And paddle like the devil underneath.*

Life is not so short but that there is always time for courtesy.

THE GOOD LIFE

Well, the summer was a scorcher wasn't it?

Now that the decidedly frosty weather has well and truly set in, I have the chance to update you on the progress of allotment plot 22.

It has been six months now since I acquired plot 22 and a lot of digging, watering and eating of produce has taken place since I last wrote to you. Despite ground like concrete and what people assure me was one of the worst years I could have chosen, I did get some quite good results - in the end!

The runner beans had to be the best for me this year - more than I thought I knew what to do with (see below) and beetroot were quite good too but what I must tell you about is my 'celebrity vegetable.' I'm not sure that my work colleagues knew what to make of the guest appearance of my first (and, well, yes ... only) CARROT!!!

I work in an insurance office you see and a 23 year old turning up for work with a carrot doesn't happen often (or so they tell me.) I must add that although only one carrot grew, only three were planted so the success rate wasn't so bad - was it? But the prize specimen - it was so straight and well formed - I took a photo of it to send to friends ... oh the joys of gardening!!!

At present three quarters of the plot have been dug but I must confess that with the cold winter mornings digging has been placed on the back burner - well - there's a lot of planning to be done! I have now also acquired and transformed a small shed which I'm led to believe was formerly a corrugated iron garage. It has now been painted green with a cream interior and has its very own horseshoe on the door (upside down to keep the luck in of course.) It's not much but I call it ... well ... 'Shed'.

Now for what to do with all those excess runner beans. Despite many sniggers (James), the following recipe for spiced pickled runner beans, courtesy of Delia, has been tried, tested and, furthermore, approved! Give it a try.

Happy New Year and even happier gardening.

SPICED PICKLED RUNNER BEANS

Makes approximately 6lbs (2.75 Kg.)

2lb runner beans weighed after trimming and slicing.
1½lb (700 g) onions chopped
1½ pints (850 mls) malt vinegar
1 heaped teaspoon mustard powder
1 rounded tablespoon turmeric
8 oz. (255 g) soft brown sugar
1lb (450 g) demerara sugar

You will also need 6 x 1lb (450) jars sterilised by washing and placing in a warm oven.

METHOD

Put all the chopped onions into a preserving pan or large casserole or saucepan with 10 fluid ounces (275 mls) of the vinegar. Bring them up to simmering point and let them simmer gently for about 20 minutes or until the onions are soft. Meanwhile cook the sliced beans in boiling salted water for five minutes, then strain them in a colander and add the onions. Now in a small basin mix the cornflour, mustard and turmeric with a little of the remaining vinegar - enough to make a smooth paste - then add this paste to the onion mixture. Pour in the rest of the vinegar and simmer everything for 10 minutes. After that, stir in both quantities of sugar until they dissolve and continue to simmer for a further 15 minutes. Pot the pickle in warm sterilised jars, seal and label when cold. Keep for at least a month before eating. Bon appetit.

A.H.

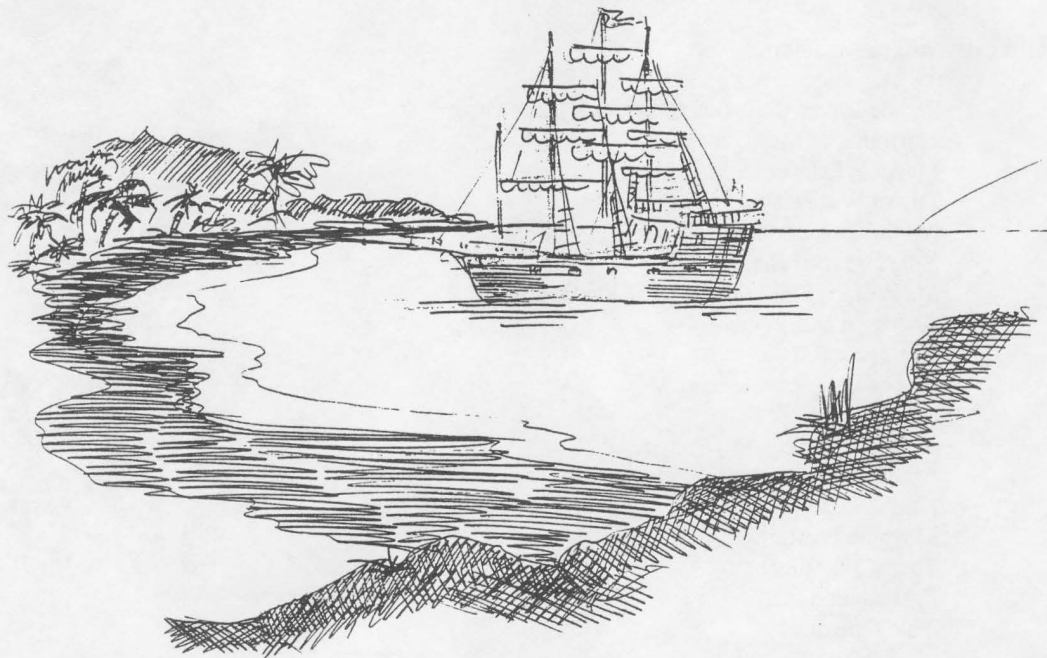
For adult education nothing beats children.

The man who is waiting for something to turn up might do to start with his shirt sleeves.



IN SEARCH OF THE PACIFIC PAST

In October of 1989 I looked down on the bay where Captain James Cook was slain in 1779, Kealakekua Bay in the "big" island of Hawaii. It was the end of a lifetime's ambition. Cook was a Yorkshireman and my mother always claimed that we were related. She was wrong, though her family and Cook's had intermarried with a third Whitby family.



Down on the black lava rocks by a narrow strip of sand it was easy to visualise Cook's boats landing his astronomical instruments and the observatory tent which were such an important necessity for his exploration of unknown lands, and there in front of me, was the tomb of one of his sailors to whom he had given Christian burial ashore. I could also imagine his 22 year-old midshipman, George Vancouver, standing on the sand because it was here that he had distinguished himself by saving the life of an officer who had been clubbed into the water by an angry crowd during the disturbances which culminated in Cook's death at the other side of the bay.

Apart from our common ancestral home why had I come this long way to see and photograph this historic site? It was certainly not easy to get to by road even though the village on the main road 1500 feet above was called Captain Cook. My interest was really in George Vancouver, an enigmatic figure, who returned to Kealekekua Bay in 1793 in H.M.S. Discovery and who persuaded the paramount chief to cede the island to King George III. This is the reason why the state flag of Hawaii has a Union Jack in one corner. Young Captain Vancouver had not only attached Hawaii to the British Crown but he had surveyed and charted a huge area stretching from Oregon to Alaska, a task which took him three years and reduced his ships and anchors to a state of dangerous disrepair. Despite this phenomenal effort of endurance he lost no man from scurvy or preventable disease. He was a health pioneer; hence one of my interests.

Vancouver died, unpopular and despised by the upper classes of England, when he was only 40 years old - despite an attempted cure at Hotwells, Bristol. I was intrigued by the cause of his death and I think I have now convinced the world of nautical historians that he died of Bright's Disease of the kidneys. Today he would have had a transplant! Much of further interest drew me deeper into reading and research and this has at last culminated in the publication of a weighty book which tells the story of George and three of the talented men who sailed with him. Whidbey, his navigator, later built the Plymouth Breakwater, and he is buried t St. James Church, Taunton. Archibald Menzies was his surgeon and botanist and many of the trees and plants he first saw and collected are now common in Britain; many of 'his' trees are at Westonbirt. The youngest of them all, Peter Puget, had Puget Sound on which Seattle stands named after him. He retired to Bath after forty years in the Navy and is buried in a tiny churchyard at Woolley, not far from where Bel Mooney led her gallant army of arboreal protesters to confront the builders of the A46 by-pass.

Copies of my book are available from me at a cost of £18 - they will cost me £12, and I will give the balance to Project 2000.

John Naish

PRELIMINARY NOTICE

The Iron Acton Horticultural and Craft show will take place this year in the Village Hall on Saturday 7th September. Watch out for further details and schedule in the next issue of 'Focal Poyntz'. Any queries contact D. White on 01454 228005.

HORTICULTURAL
and
CRAFT
SHOW
SATURDAY
7TH
SEPTEMBER

VILLAGE DAY - 6TH MAY 1996

Preparations are well under way for this major event in the Iron Acton Social Calender due to take place on Bank Holiday Monday, 6th May.

Bob Sheppard is taking a well earned rest this year and has handed the organizational reigns to David Hatherell and Roger Hughes who are deeply in the throes of planning and co-ordinating the myriad of spectacular events.

The basic programme for the day will run as follows:

11.00am	Parade leaves Chilwood Close for Village Green
11.20	Crowning of May Queen
11.30	Maypole Dancers
11.45	Tug of War Heats
12.15pm	North Road Country Dancers
12.30	Yate Dragoon Band
12.45	Mr Wilkins Shilling - Morris Clog Dancers
1.00	Abercorn Majorettes
1.15	Northgate Rapper
1.30	Tug of War Semi - Final
1.45	Maypole Dancers
2.00	Mr Wilkins Shilling
2.15	Abercorn Majorettes
2.30	Northgate Rapper
2.45	Maypole Dancers
3.00	Tug of War Final
3.15	Presentation Prizes
3.30	Yate Dragoons



As well as the above programme there are a fantastic number of other activities taking place on the Green, including:

- Steam Train
- Bouncy Castle
- Face Painting
- Fortune Telling
- Pony Rides
- Llamas
- Sideshow Attractions
- Licensed Bar
- Barbecue

and all the usual stalls run by the various village organisations.

We are also looking for sponsors to advertise in our programme and/or pay for a pitch on the Green to advertise their wares. Sponsorship by way of advertisement runs at £15, £25 and £50 for a quarter, half and full page. Please call either Roger Hughes on 01179236789 (Office) or 228562 (Home), or David Hatherell on 228725 if you wish to become a sponsor. The major proceeds from the Village Day are going to Project 2000 and the extension and refurbishment of your Village Hall, so please come and support it on the day and in any other way you can.

* * * * *

FROM THE OLD BAT IN THE BELFRY

Spring's just round the corner and we all know where a young man's fancy is meant to turn. Well, it's certainly worked (at long last!) with young Robert Taylor, who's popped the question to young Rachel Tillotson, who's said yes, even though (rumour has it) John Percy and Chris Wiggins did their best to dissuade him over a couple of pints in one of the local hostelrys.....maybe it was the gentle push of romance in the air on Valentine's Day.....or maybe there's only so much washing up a lonely guy can do without his marigolds! The old bat wishes lots and lots of happiness to them.

A little further along the road to marital bliss are two of our local ladies. In April Kate, daughter of Digby and Di Blanch, marries David, and in May, Jayne, daughter of Barrie and Rona Wright, marries Jamie. I hope that Rona and Di are having great fun choosing their outfits and that, to take their minds off the credit card bills, Digby and Barrie are frantically writing their speeches. Following the nuptials Jayne will still be living in the Parish but Kate's going to be whisked off to the depths of Yorkshire - hope she's got her inoculations up to date and a current passport! May the sun shine brightly not only on their wedding days but throughout their married lives.

From my lofty perch high up in the Church Tower I'm always delighted to see any examples of recycling and I was therefore pleasantly surprised at the way the White Hart has utilized Mystic Meg's cast-off crystal balls into their new lighting system - most imaginative!



With a heavy heart I have to report that those doughty ladies of the WI have not learned their lesson when it comes to DIY/housework and husbands - the two just do not go together! This time it was the President (of all people and one who should know better) who testily suggested that her husband, in his newly early retired state, might like to make himself useful and clean one of the downstairs windows. This was duly accomplished.....the only problem was he brought the curtains and curtain track (nothing done by halves) off the wall and down around his ears. I understand that Madam President wasn't amused!

Finally, it pains me to report that not all householders are pleased to receive their copy of 'Focal Poyntz'; a magazine which, I am led to believe, is produced by a small group of people who happily give up their time to produce something that most of the Parish kindly appreciate. It saddens me that it was Lionel Alsop who was on the receiving end of a fearsome haranguing from a lady while he was out delivering. If it had been the oft untidy 'Focal Poyntz' one, from the Latteridge Road direction, who can so easily look as though she's been dragged through a hedge backwards, maybe the Old Bat could understand someone thinking a misdeed was about to take place, (Neighbourhood Watch and all that) but when it's the lovable Lionel one can only assume the woman had eaten something disagreeable and indigestion was the cause of her foul behaviour. Please, if you see Lionel out and about doing his impression of Postman Pat (letters Lionel?) treat him with some tender loving care.....and that goes for the rest of the F.P. Team too!

* * * * *

ACTONIANS

Hi Iron Acton.

Thank you for all those who came to our Quiz Night; it was very successful, and also to the evening of One Act plays.

May 23rd - 25th sees the Actonians' production of '**SURVIVORS**', a new play written by one of our members, James Sinkinson. It is a powerful emotional drama in three acts, which examines the relationships of a group, three women and three men, whose lives have been profoundly affected by a single fateful decision made by a mother. Set in modern day provincial England, the narrative is triggered by the death of the group's central figure and the play considers the impact of this event upon those who survive him.

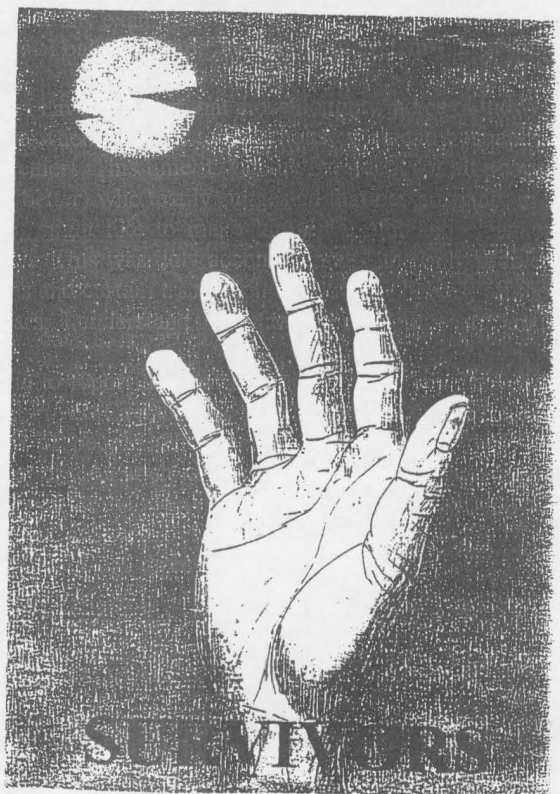
This is a poignant and sharply observed work which will be performed by a strong and experienced cast. Lesley Keetley, well known for her successful and imaginative interpretations of Shakespeare and J. B. Priestley, is directing.

The Actonians are proud to stage the world premiere of 'Survivors' in Iron Acton. It is a play of genuine quality and audiences can be assured of a moving and rewarding evening. So, be there at the beginning, come and see an original work that will surely last.

For tickets or further information, contact Mike Wills on 01179754283 or Gaynor Clark on 01454 776779, or simply complete the booking form below.

We also will be active during May Day selling sandwiches and running a game stall, and we will be preparing for our Summer Evening of Entertainment which will be a joint event with the Village Hall. This isn't until July but that will be here before you know it.

We all hope to see you at at least one of these events and don't forget that if you wish to join us in any way, back stage or on it, do come along any Wednesday night.
Anne Chenery



LAMENTATION OF A COMPUTER

A customer received his bank statement showing that his current account was overdrawn by 16 million pounds and five pence. He 'phoned the manager (or "Personal Banking" as he is now called) pointing out that even he couldn't be that much overdrawn, not even in lire! "Personal Banking" said "Must be a computer error, we'll look into it."

Have you noticed? I get the blame for everything! I'm really, really fast at mental arithmetic but my programmer never gave me any sense. Is that my fault?

Have you noticed? When I'm in word processing mode my wonderful in-built checking device has not improved my sense of spelling. I didn't know that there was anything wrong with "Dear Personal Bonking," and what was wrong with "16 mullion ponds and five ponce."

Have you noticed? I'm not geared up for proper punctuation. I can't abide commas after "Dear Madam" or "Yours faithfully" and I won't use full stops if I can get away with it. Now I'm able to be so bold I'm not really in favour of underlining. Please don't indent me! It hurts and it's so old-fashioned. It's not in my nature to get a name, address and postcode absolutely correct - no fun in it!

My programmer was telling a customer "The computer's lost your file, I'm afraid". I lost the file? Come off it! You instructed me to get rid of it. I posed the question several times "Do you really mean it?" You got stropky about it in the end and gave my face a bit of a bashing. Never mind that the customer wanted to know why there was no back-up floppy. I don't want to be backed up by something that is floppy and, in any case a floppy disc can't possibly be any good for a back, can it?

Just don't talk to me about the Internet! I'm being sent off into space without any astronautical training - I've already got into so many scrapes. This morning the boss was experimenting (have you noticed how bosses do very little work that they are paid to do when they can play around with the likes of me?) and I ended up in a dog's home somewhere in Bolivia. What was worse I couldn't get out of the place! All the boss could say was "The computer's on the blink again, I'll have to get a new one - it just can't cope".

Early retirement is the best news I've had all week.



IRON ACTON CRICKET CLUB?

The warm balmy days of summer may seem a million miles away at the moment, but they will be here again soon, and, idyllic as the summer in Iron Acton can be, I still feel that something is missing. How can we call ourselves an English Village without a cricket team? A village of this size must surely be capable of raising a team of eleven enthusiastic, highly trained, super athletes, that may turn out to be as successful as our national team! There are dozens of local teams that would be only too keen to offer us a fixture for an evening game, or even a Sunday afternoon friendly.

There are, of course, many hurdles to overcome before the IACC XI can take to the field, not least of which is somewhere to play and some kit to play with, but if there is enough initial support for the idea, we can at least find out if it's a possibility.

If you are in the slightest bit interested, either in playing or supporting, please drop me a line indicating your experience and if the response is sufficient, we can arrange a meeting to discuss the next step.

Simon Cross, Laburnum House
High Street, Iron Acton
Tel:228291



ACTON AID REPORT

We held our AGM in the Rose and Crown in February. The following officers were elected for the year

Chairman	Robert Bourns
Vice-chairman	David Hatherell
Secretary	Andy Garside
Treasurer	Patrick Murphy
Services	David McCoy
Social	Mike Sutton
Project 2000	Chris Wiggins

We have handed over to Project 2000 a cheque for £1,500, raised at various events last year. This gave them sufficient money to embark upon the first phase of the improvement of the Village Hall, and it is good to see everyone's hard work starting to bear fruit. Project 2000 will continue to be the main thrust of our fund raising activity, but we shall try not to ignore other worthy causes within the Parish of Iron Acton.

We held our Annual Dinner at The Bowl, in Lower Almondsbury in March, and I hear excellent reports of a super evening. Robert Taylor reviewed his year as Chairman, and wished Robert Bourns well for his year, after which David McCoy gave a very amusing talk (or so rumour says).

Our main Forthcoming Events are a Barn Dance in Hope Lane on 31st May, and a Caribbean Evening at Algar's Mill for Project 2000 on 6th July. We hope to see lots of you at these events, and, in the meantime, we welcome any men resident in the parish at any of our meetings, on the first Thursday of each month, at 8pm at the Rose and Crown.

* * * * *

PROJECT 2000

I am sure that you have all seen that work has now started on the first phase of the Village Hall improvements. This has happened rather more quickly than we were expecting because of a grant from Northavon District Council which we were supposed to spend before the end of March. Nevertheless, it is to see all the fund raising bearing fruit. The wall alongside the lane is being improved by insulation and rendering, and by new hardwood windows and doors. The roof over the stage is being replaced with a pitched roof.

We shall continue to fund raise for the next phase of the upgrading, and we are very grateful that all money raise this year at Village Day will come to Project 2000. Also Acton Aid are holding another major event at Algar's Mill (courtesy of John and Marilyn Wright) for Project 2000 on 6th July. We thank everyone who is helping with this and trust that you will appreciate the improvements as they happen.

* * * * *

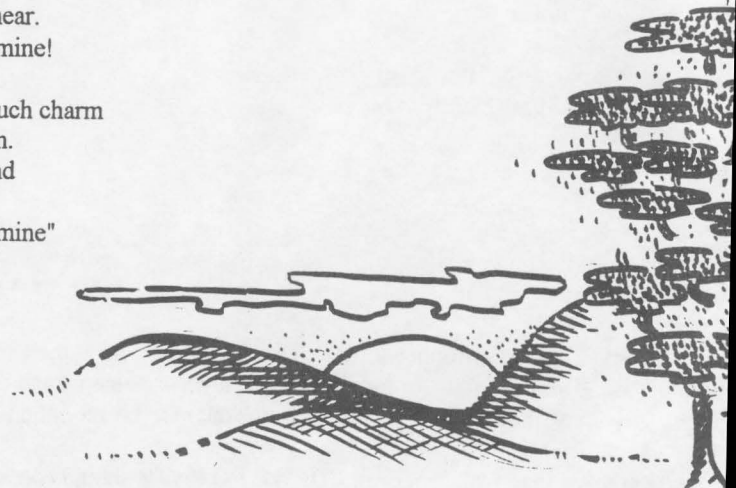
WHEN I WHINE

The other day upon a bus I saw a girl with golden hair
I envied her, she looked so gay and I wished I were so fair.
Then suddenly she rose to leave, I watched her hobble down the aisle
She had but one leg, bore a crutch and as she passed she gave a smile.
Oh God forgive me when I whine, I have two legs, the world is mine!

Still later, passing down the street, I saw a child with eyes of blue
He stood and watched the others play, it seemed he knew not what to do.
I stood a while and then I said, "why don't you join the others Dear."
He looked ahead without a word, and then I knew he could not hear.
Oh God forgive me when I whine, I have two ears, the world is mine!

Later I paused to buy some sweets, the lad who served me had such charm
I stayed to talk with him a while, if I were late there'd be no harm.
Then as I turned to leave he said, "Thank you, you have been kind
I like to talk with folk like you - you see, I'm blind.
Oh God forgive me when I whine, I have two eyes, the world is mine"

Two legs to take me where I'd go,
Two eyes to see the sunset glow,
Two ears to hear what I would know.
Oh God forgive me when I whine
I'm blessed indeed, the world is mine!



DIARY OF FORTHCOMING EVENTS

On the Green

Monday 6th May

Village Day

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
13th April
19th April
11th May
23rd-25th May
8th June

Nursery School 9.00 am
Elizabethans 2.00 pm
Junior Actonians 6.00 pm
Actonians 7.30 pm
Women's Institute 7.30 pm
Parish Council 7.30 pm
Whist Drive 7.30 pm
Knitting Group 1.30 pm
Northavon Auctions
Parish Council A.G.M.
Northavon Auctions
Actonians Production of "Survivors"
Northavon Auctions

In the Parish Church

Friday 5th April Good Friday
Sunday 7th April Easter Day

Saturday 27th April
Sunday 26th May Whitsunday

Saturday 22nd June

Church Service 9.30 am
Holy Communion 7 am & 8 am
Sung Eucharist 9.30 am
Evensong 6.30 pm
Plant Sale Rectory Garden 2.30 - 5 pm
Holy Communion 8 am
Sung Eucharist 9.30 am
Evensong 6.30 pm
Summer Fête Rectory Garden 3 pm

At North Road School.

11th May
22nd June

Family Disco at Rangeworthy Village Hall
Summer Fayre

At Iron Acton School.

15th April
22nd - 26th April
3rd - 7th June
17th - 21st June
24th June (provisional)
6th July
8th July
16th July (provisional)
17th July (provisional)
19th July
2nd September

Summer Term opens
Book Week
Half Term
Isle of Wight Week
School Sports
Fête
Cluster Sports
Summer Concert Matinée performance
Summer Concert Evening performance
Term ends
Autumn Term begins

At the Rose & Crown

1st Thursday in the month

Acton Aid - 8.00 p.m.

At Algas Manor and Algas Mill

Easter Sunday 2.30pm }
Easter Monday 2.30pm }
19th May 2-6pm }
6th July

Open gardens

Garden Party , evening

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).

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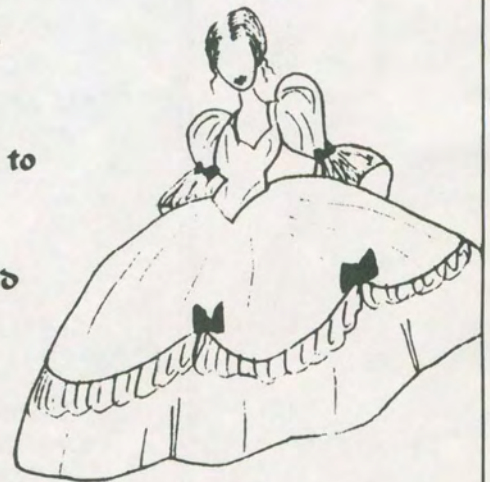
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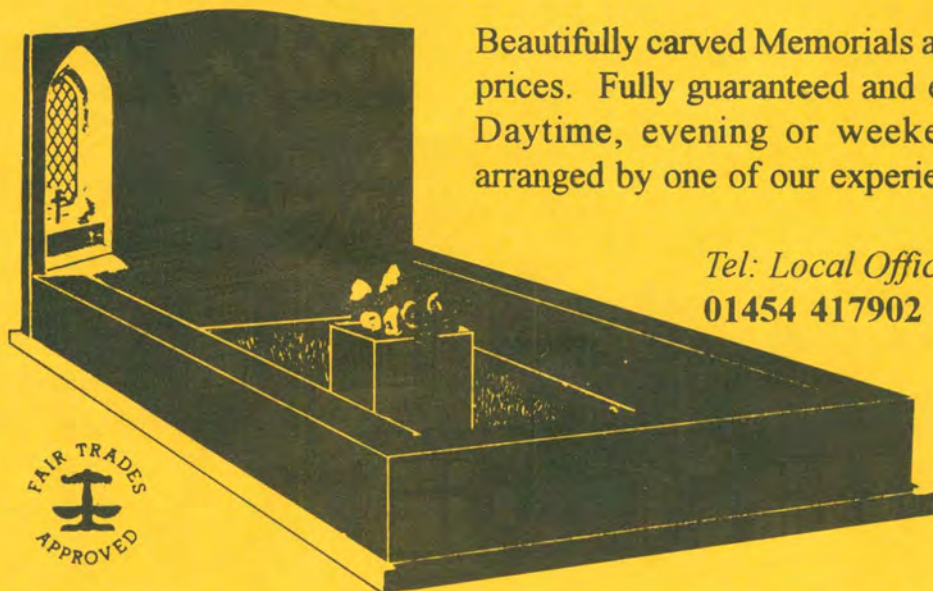
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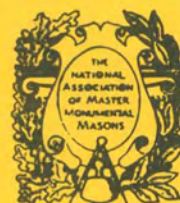
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