

Focal Point



A Magazine for Iron Acton

DIARY OF FORTHCOMING EVENTS

In the Village hall

Every Monday, Thursday
Every Wednesday

Every Thursday
2nd Monday in the month
3rd Monday in the month
4th Monday in the month
Saturday 6th December
Saturday 13th December
Saturday 13th December
Friday & Saturday 23rd & 24th January

Nursery School	9.00 am
Elizabethans	2.00 pm
Junior Actonians	6.00 pm
Actonians	7.30 pm
Line Dancing	7.30 pm
Women's Institute	7.30 pm
Parish Council	7.30 pm
Whist Drive	7.30 pm
Church Sale	
North Avon Auctions	
Acton Aid Evening Function	
Musical Evenings	

The Parish Church

Sunday 21st December
Tuesday 24th December
Tuesday 24th December
Christmas Day

Carol Service	6.30 p.m.
Crib Service	6.30 p.m.
Midnight Service	11.30 p.m.
Service	9.30 a.m.

At the Rose & Crown

1st Thursday in Month

Acton Aid	8.00 p.m.
-----------	-----------

Village School

Monday 15th December
Tuesday 16th December
Thursday 18th December
Friday 19th December

Christmas Concert	Afternoon
Christmas Concert	Evening
Children's Christmas Party	
Carol Service & End of Term	

SALSOPTON 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 *SALSOPTON* should contact Mr L. Alsop (228400).

John Percy
228339

Jo Voss
228674

Lionel Alsop
228400

Jean Dickes
228609

Hazel Dron
228509

Lynne Blanchard
228566

Maureen Blake
294381

Christians

ISSUE NO 195

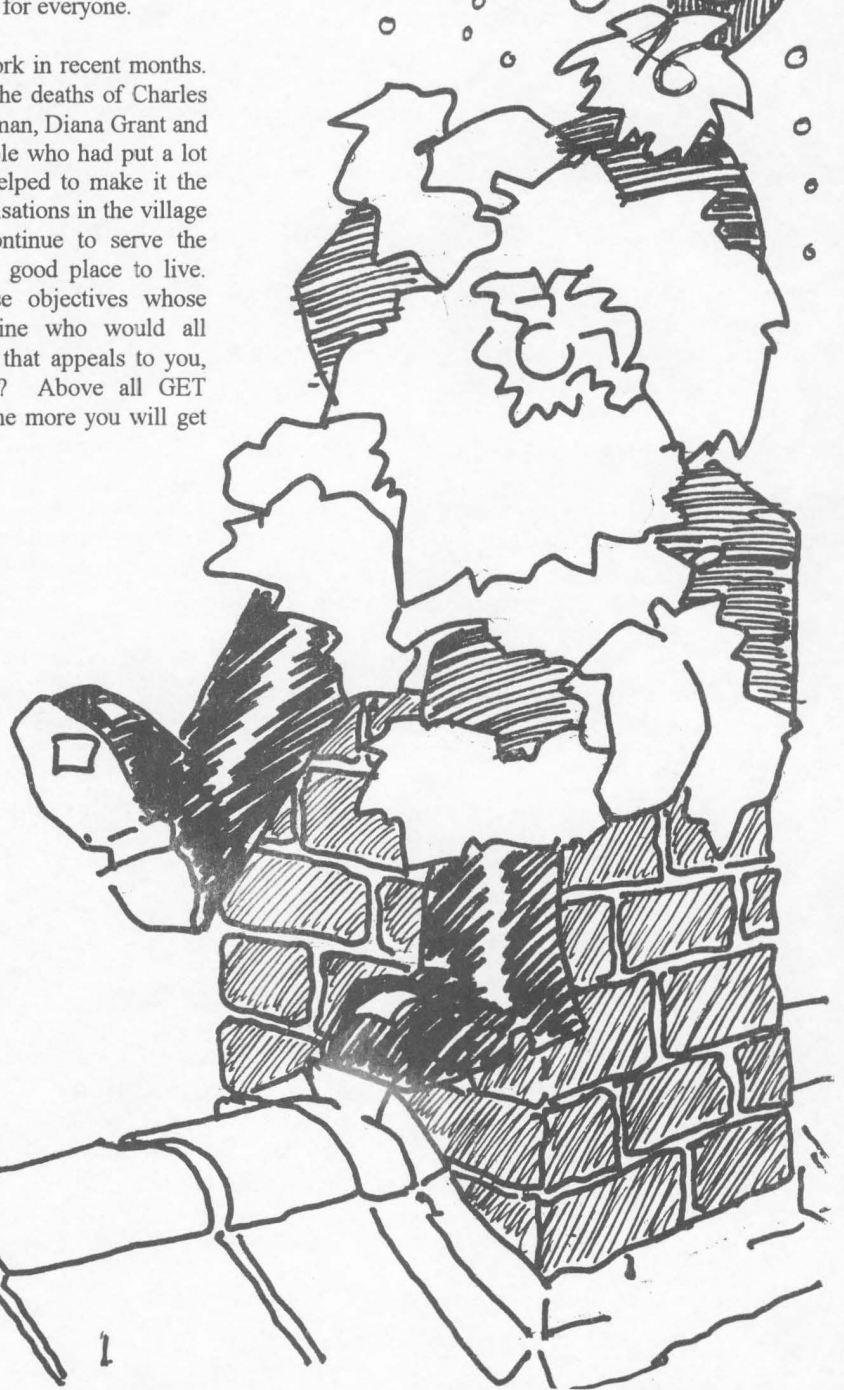
Editorial Christmas 1997

First of all, we would like to wish a Happy Christmas to all our readers. As I write, in mid November, Christmas seems a long way off, but it will soon be upon us, and we trust that it will be a time of Joy for everyone.

The Grim Reaper has been hard at work in recent months. Recorded elsewhere in this issue are the deaths of Charles Wilkins, Bette Walbank, "Bunny" Fursman, Diana Grant and Josephine Powell. These are all people who had put a lot into the life of Iron Acton and had helped to make it the unique village that it is. All the organisations in the village need your support if they are to continue to serve the community, and to make this such a good place to live. There are groups with many diverse objectives whose reports are included in this magazine who would all welcome you, and if there is nothing that appeals to you, how about founding something new? Above all GET INVOLVED. The more you put in the more you will get out.

Lionel Alsop has written elsewhere about Charles Wilkins, but as one of the founders of FOCUS which turned into *Social Regatta* we must also mention him here. When he and Godfrey Cook dreamt up the idea of Focus over a couple of whiskies one evening about 17 years ago, neither of them expected it to last so long, but it was their vision and enthusiasm that got it started and brought it to the stage of having its own momentum. Charles was involved right up to our last (summer) edition, and his advice and experience were always welcome. He also had a great source of the little amusing stories that we use as page fillers at the bottom of pages. We shall greatly miss him.

If anyone else would like to supply us with page fillers we would be very grateful.



Extracts From the Diary of Alfred Strange

transcribed by his widow, Mrs Barbara Strange

OCTOBER, NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 1934

OCTOBER

- 6th. Letter to Land Drainage officer (Shire Hall) re water course at Westerleigh - "Major Road Ahead" signs came from Gloucester - in to Rovers with B.A. and M.P. - Rovers 2 (Goodyear own goal, McNestry), Q.P.R. O. - good game - Rovers' first win of the season. Down D. Skuse's and had hair cut.
- 10th. Mr Hall (Cobbler), Jack Hall's father, fell over footpath in North Road and cut his nose open - in hospital.
- 13th. Up Sodbury with B. Aldom - Chipping Sod. 3, Patchway 3 - Billy Wellon and Reeves (C. Sodbury) came into collision - both taken to hospital - paid club money at Washbourne's - on down Institute for the first time this season - knocked out of the whist tournament with T. Curtis.
- 14th. Rode bike to church with V. Cater and F. Beake - the church is being white-washed and cleaned out - all the ladders and tackle stacked over the other side - home with Gordon Kingscote.
- 16th. Cold - came up with Muriel Gould - home with B. Aldom - called at Jack Hall's - down to the Institute - about 18 there. DUKE OF GLOUCESTER ARRIVES IN MELBOURNE ON H.M.S. "SUSSEX" TO OPEN THE VICTORIA CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS - 500,000 LINE THE STREETS.
- 19th. WORLD'S GREATEST AIR RACE STARTS FROM MILDENHALL (SUFFOLK) TO MELBOURNE - 20 AEROPLANES OF DIFFERENT NATIONS COMPETING.
- 20th. Away to football on Bedminster Down - de Veys Sports 1, Iron Acton 1 - we were lucky to get a point - they were "shooting in" in second half - had to change in council house front room.
- 21st. Walked to church - two beams have been erected above the vestry for the removal of the organ from the Lady Chapel.
- 22nd. SCOTT ARRIVES IN AUSTRALIA AFTER FLYING 2 DAYS, 4 HOURS.
- 23rd. AIR RACE RESULT:- 1 - SCOTT AND BLACK (ENGLAND) TUES, 5.34 a.m. 2 - PARMENTIER AND MOLL (DUTCH) WEDNES. 12.54 - DOUGLAS D.C. 2 (AMERICAN). 3. ROSCOE TURNER, CLYDE PANGBURN (AMERICAN) - WEDNES. 3.36 a.m.
1st, £10,000, 2nd, £1,500, 3rd, £500 - awarded by Mr. Macpherson Robertson.
- 25th. Mr. Broom, Rangeworthy, knocked off bike by motor car at Yate - taken to hospital with fractured skull. (Regular readers of these extracts will have observed, as I did whilst typing, the number and severity of vehicle accidents, out of all proportion to the amount of motor traffic - "Major Road Ahead" signs newly arrived at the County Surveyor's Office on the 6th! B.M.S.)
- 28th. Rode bike to church and sat at the back with D.G. - the organ has been dismantled but not put on pedestal above the vestry - they had a piano - in Wallbank's porch with H. White, J. Locke, E. Morgan and S. Curtis. WATER SHORTAGE AT BATH - LAYING MAIN FROM MARSHFIELD TO TORMARTON TO TAP THE WEST GLOS. MAIN - 12" PIPE.
- 29th. PARNELL'S (YATE) ARE VERY SLACK - THEY HAVE BEEN THREE YEARS TURNING OUT A BOMBER WHICH IS NOW GOING THROUGH TESTS.
- 31st. SNOW - bitter cold- the chimney sweep is coming this morning.

NOVEMBER:

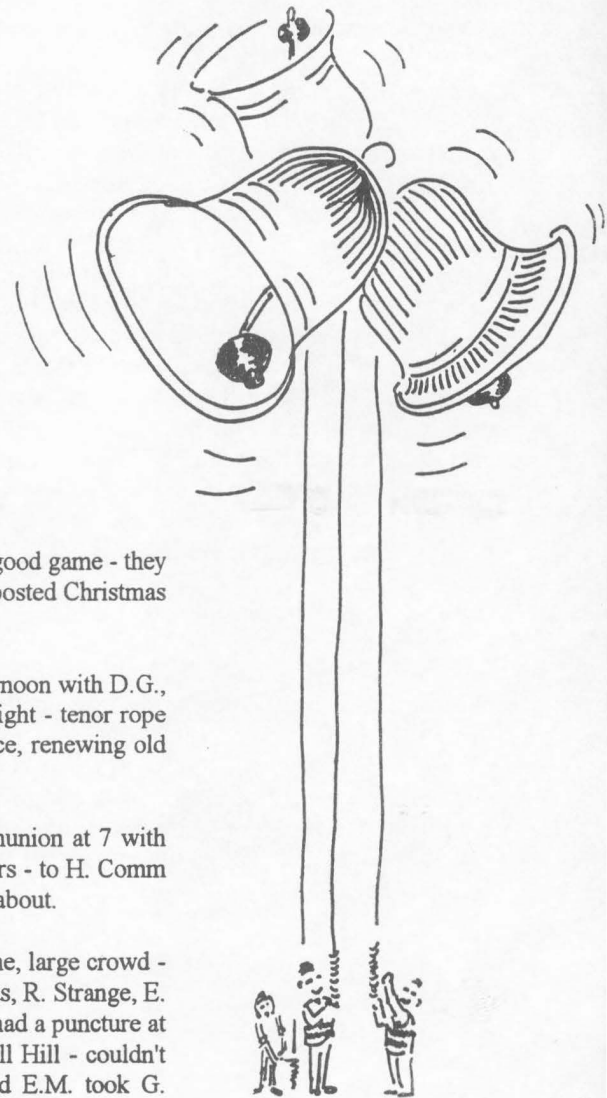
- 2nd. Public enquiry at Iron Acton school room re water supply.
- 3rd. Had hair cut down D. Skuse's - down Acton - Minor Cup, 1st round - Iron Acton 5 (S.Dyer 4, A. Sheppard), Newtown Ath. 4 - fast, thrilling game - I didn't have a very good match.
- 5th. Into Bristol with E. Morgan and F. Ralph - they were going to a fireworks display at the Zoo. I knocked an accumulator out of a chap's hand going along Mina Road.
- 7th. Called at Dando's for a pair of trouser clips - he gave me a pair free! Fetched wood and coal into the office and tidied my desk.
- 6th. Raw - Painter rang up re slight accident at Fishponds.

PRINCE OF WALES IN BRISTOL TOURING AND INSPECTING THE UNEMPLOYMENT CENTRES.

- 11th. Walked to church at 11 - sat at back with T. Keedwell - observed two minutes' silence in church - I never saw anyone to buy a poppy from, this year.
THERE SEEMS TO BE QUITE A SCARE CIRCULATING ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF NEW YEAR WAR OVER SAAR PLEBISCITE DUE TO LLOYD GEORGE'S DECLARATION IN THE "DAILY MAIL".
- 28th. Round Mrs. Hall's - back home - J. Locke and K. Huzzell having a run round outside - water running short in well - Mrs. Lewis brought two bucketfuls over.
- 29th. (Office) - letter to Mr. Williams re offensive smell in Chapel Lane. Went to organ recital at church - sat with D.G. and F.F. - Mr. Percy Daniels (All Saints, Clifton) played.
PRINCE GEORGE MARRIED TO PRINCESS OF GREECE.

DECEMBER:-

- 1st. Glos. Minor Cup, 2nd round - Iron Acton 2 (G. Wiggins, S. Dyer), B.C.E.D. Reserve 2 - crowd got rowdy - wouldn't let Danno Davis go linesman - gave them a goal when ball hit post - awarded them penalty with 5 minutes to go, but the crowd invaded the pitch and booed the ref. off - game abandoned.
VICTORIA ROOMS, BRISTOL, BURNT DOWN ON SATURDAY MORNING AFTER BIG CONSERVATIVE DANCE ON FRIDAY NIGHT. YOUNG ARMY CHAP BY THE NAME OF GOWAN, WHO WAS SERVANT AT CAPT. HEATH'S, WHERE DR. KENT USED TO LIVE, KNOCKED OFF HIS BIKE AT WINTERBOURNE AND KILLED.
- 8th. Away to football - Prewett Street Mission 0, Iron Acton 0 - rotten pitch at Knowle - stream just behind goalmouth - "Toffee" May played in goal - J. Gleed strained his back.
- 16th. Frank Dyer won ½ ton of coal in football draw and turkey in village hall draw.
- 22nd. Iron Acton 3 (G. Wiggins, R. Strange), Bishop Sutton 1 (top team) a good game - they were well beaten - lot of Winterbourne down there - down Institute - posted Christmas card and parcel to Jim Bodger, my cousin.
- 23rd. Holy Communion at 8 - only 8 there - walked down Acton in the afternoon with D.G., G.K., and Jim Kendall, Charley Kendall's little boy. Bellringing at night - tenor rope broke. Walked down the road at night with Francis and Cissie Pearce, renewing old acquaintances.
- 25th. Rain - bellringing at 6 - Mr. Holcombe a bit merry - to Holy Communion at 7 with D.G. and V.C., - cleaned my "pin stripes" and creased my navy trousers - to H. Comm at 11 - served with F.F. - home. Down Acton after tea - nobody at all about.
- 26th. To Winterbourne - Suburban League 4, District League 1 - good game, large crowd - final for Bristol League Cup - in to Rovers with V. Cater, G. Rowlands, R. Strange, E. Morgan - Rovers 1, Aldershot 0 - ground like a quagmire - V. Cater had a puncture at Eastville - G. Rowland took his bike on and crashed going down Bell Hill - couldn't get his back wheel to go round - R. Strange took V.C.'s bike and E.M. took G. Rowland's they two took the bus out to Frampton - my chain kept coming off - got home 6.30.
- 27th. Back to the office - met Jim Macney - he was trying to find Phil Cook - Mrs. Hall said she was gone into service at Fox's, Yate.
- 31st. Down to Acton about 0 - met Mr. Curtis and went home with him - saw Jack Hall and Sid Dunkerley - down to Social at the school - back up for bellringing rang the muffled peal and rang the New Year in - back to Curtis' with him, V. Cater and S. Dyer - had some wine, etc. - Harold Morton, an R.A.F. chap, D.G. and F.F. came in - home around 2 p.m.
Ringers:- Messrs. Curtis, Durbin, Holcombe, V. Cater, D. Gibbons, R. Curtis and myself - Mr. S. Tiley also in the belfry



IRON ACTON COURT

A few weeks ago we were lucky enough to be invited to join a South Bristol historical society for a conducted tour of Iron Acton Court. The tour was led by Rob Bell of Bath Archaeological Society, a knowledgeable and very enthusiastic guide.

As many of you will know, the building has been sold by English Heritage and the new owner intends to open the house to the public for a certain period of each year. It is hoped that the building will be ready for visitors within a year and although appearances at the moment would make this seem an over-optimistic aim, it has to be remembered that various builders during the Court's history have had the ability to astonish by the speed at which they work. The main part of the remaining building was erected in a great hurry for a "weekend" visit of Henry VIII and, we were told, the building was very much of the "jerry" variety. The "royal" suite of rooms on the first floor is very impressive; the walls were originally oak-panelled to a height approximately two-thirds up (there is a portion of the original panelling remaining) and in one room there are the well-preserved remains of a fresco on the upper third of the wall. It is believed this painting was by an Italian artist and is reckoned to be the finest work of its type ever to be found in England. The long gallery which looked out over the gardens in Tudor times is a beautifully proportioned room with two large windows and the remains of Latin quotations on two of the walls. These quotations have apparently puzzled everyone but have recently been identified by an Oxford scholar. The ceiling of the gallery has been removed during the restoration, revealing the lovely rafters and we were told the owner has decided not to have the ceiling replaced.

So many lucky coincidences have occurred during the restoration work: for instance, a sundial discovered on a bonfire was recognised by a local expert as being one of the earliest made and of enormous importance. Artefacts found during excavations have included the remains of beautiful porcelain and fine Venetian glass, presumably purchased at the time of the royal visit.

Research into the history of the house has been made more complicated by the discovery of various bits and pieces making up the present building which have evidently been rescued from earlier buildings now demolished - sort of "make do and mend" jobs. Rooms have been added, divided or enlarged over the years and signs of these alterations are evident throughout the building. There are signs of a staircase long since removed from one of the ground floor rooms. The sites of the demolished buildings are obviously of great interest to the archaeologists and only a fraction has so far been investigated.

It was a most interesting visit and I look forward to the next chapter in the history of this most surprising house. It has been for me a fascinating building since I first saw it as a child and it is so good now to see it being brought back to life.

An academic record of all the work and research will be published in due course by the Bath Archaeological Trust and it is hoped this will co-incide with the opening of the house to the public.

JD.

Poppy Appeal

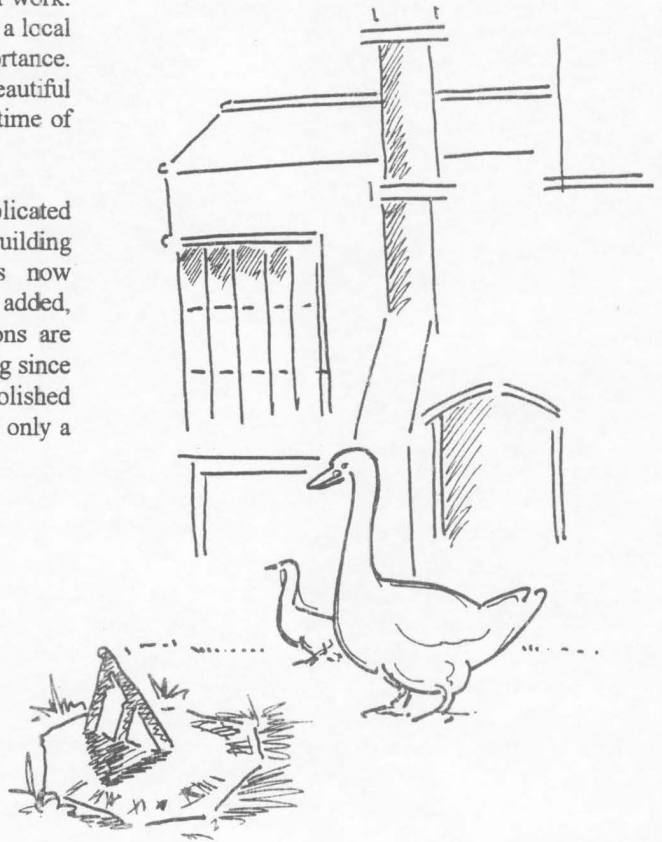
Once again Remembrance Day has come and gone and as the Poppy Appeal Organiser for the Parish of Iron Acton, I must give my thanks to all those who helped with this year's collection.

I refer to all the shops, pubs and businesses who displayed collecting trays and those who spent time doing house to house collections round the parish.

My thanks go also to Mr D King who worked hard to publicise the church remembrance service. I don't recall such a large congregation since I have been involved with the poppy appeal.

Thanks to all who donated to the cause: I am pleased to inform you that once again this year the cash raised has increased. The total was £976.57. Can we make £1,000 next year

D. White



NOT CHOKING BUT WAVING

Body language can be misinterpreted. This is the central message in a poem by Stevie Smith called "Not Waving but Drowning". People see what they expect to see. A non swimmer in deep water is ignored even when frantically signalling for help. The people on the beach just wave back to him.

I mention this because my body language threatens to become more bizarre than usual in the future. Should you see me dining out in public with my hands above my head, it does not mean:-

- a) That I have spotted a long lost relation on the other side of the room, or
- b) I am trying to get the waiter's attention, or
- c) That I am a member of a group of charismatic spiritualists

No, my hands above the head routine means simply this: I AM NOT CHOKING

One of the more infuriating symptoms of Parkinson's Disease is lazy throat muscles. This means that meal times become an obstacle race. You learn to avoid the hazards. Muesli with nuts is a No No. Raw carrots are definitely out. My favourite food - Roast beef and Yorkshire pudding - has to be treated with enormous respect and caution.

My bouts of partial obstruction make meal times rather exciting. At the first sign of trouble the dog wakes up. I thought at first that his look of concerned enquiry meant sympathy. I think, however, on reflection that he is trying to stake a claim on any possible leftovers.

All this has now changed.

Recently in the Sunday paper in the Medical Section I read this advice - "Hands Raised above the head can alleviate a fit of choking".

My friends, it is quite true - IT DOES

So please can I ask you to raise your hands above your head, stamp your feet and shout? Alleluia! Praise the Lord! there's more to food than soup and soufflé!

Penny Percy

As many of you are probably aware, the *Social Coyote* team meetings tend to be a hot bed of gossip! Great interest was aroused on Saturday at the prospect, overheard not too long ago, of one of our local well-known rugby sides (to give you some idea which one, a scoreline in the seventies was recently obtained against them) being interested in a recently vacated venue in the middle of Iron Acton High Street. We're all itching to know if there's any truth in the rumour it could certainly make sense! What with the auction and now this the High Street will certainly be the hub of the universe. We await further developments (and Lionel's already excited at the prospect of scantily clad cheer leaders and Lynne's prepared to act as chief bubble clearer in the post-match bath!!!).

Love from

Lynne

We have been asked to publish the following disclaimer

"Despite what Miss L. Blanchard said about my red onions in the parish magazine, we are just good friends!

Jim Rycroft.



HARD TO FIND - EASY TO FORGET

Niagara has the falls. It also has a high rise casino, for those who are not awed by the natural world, and a street full of winking neon lights, thundering rock music and fried onions. (They don't show you all that in the brochures do they?)

So after we had eaten burgers in the Hard Rock café, "Is that really real, your cute accent?" (service is so friendly this side of the Atlantic) gasped at the horseshoe falls, smiled at the rainbows in the spray, Charlie said:

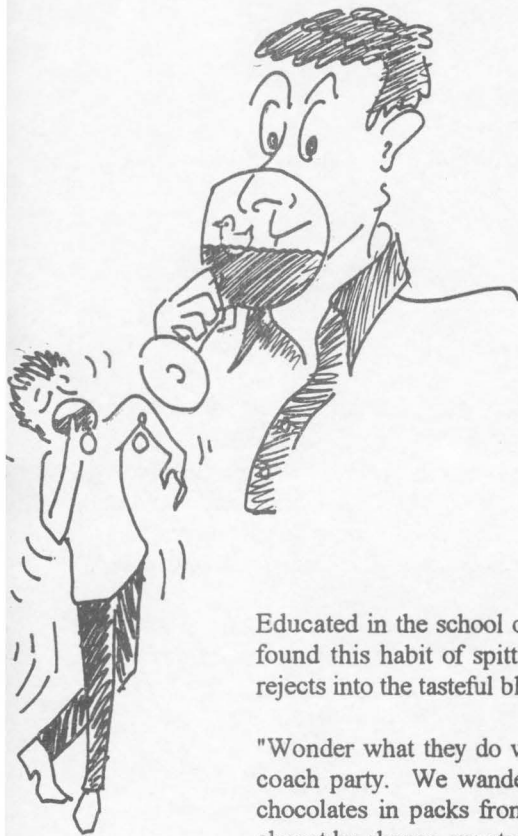
"I think we should get out of here rapidly." With a sharp rib nudge to make sure I got the joke. So in a mile or so, our bike wheels plunged into the sudden shock of a sunlit oak forest and a riverside cycle path (some things the Canadians do so well.) It should have meant an early arrival at a modest bed and breakfast on Lake Ontario. However, the signboard intervened.

NIAGARA ON THE LAKE WELCOMES YOU TO ITS VINEYARDS. EASY TO FIND - HARD TO FORGET. TURN LEFT AT LINE 3. We discovered how lines differ from lanes. They are very long and very straight and the wind is always against you. Also they must have run out of sign posts after that first one.

Did you ever visit those vineyards in the South West of France - before the wine buyers of the supermarkets rationalised a piece of viticultural history? Perhaps you know the kind - three quarters of an acre on a hillside where you trip over rusty ploughshares, get bitten by a rabid mongrel, served by a vested man of sixty, a stranger to razors, but clever with string as a means of keeping his trousers over his vast belly, so often with a surprisingly pretty wife, as my husband used to muse wistfully. But the glasses were always sparkling and neatly arranged on a bale of hay, and when you sipped, the proprietor assessed, gimlet eyed, the quality of your judgement and she would offer crisp chunks of baguette or a bowl of freshly picked apricots, and an hour later, not having understood a word because of the mystifying regional accent, you reeled away, replete and giggling, with a case of claret to take home and put down for a couple of years, that never even reached the channel port.

Well forget that. Seven kilometres and four wrong turnings later, we skidded, sweaty and gagging for refreshment, into a driveway of white pebbles, washed automatically three times a day. Beyond it there was a party on the lawn, bottles under a marquee and two girls in Indian smocks playing Vivaldi rather anxiously. Most of the drinkers appeared to be on cans of Coke. A keen young Canadian man in white shirt and mobile phone deftly barred our way, courteously ignoring the chain oil on my jeans, ushering us towards the Education Room - explanatory cassette five dollars extra. I hung back.

"Whatever for? We know all about that don't we? You just squash these grapes and leave the juice for a bit."



So we swerved to the right and hit a hub of the wine business, the tasting room, a huge and glassy barn that smelt of new pine timber and the Body Shop. The wine pourers were girls in Gap and Gucci with plenty of eyeliner. We settled for a generous helping of something to do with Merlot. My wine tasting palate met with a fatal accident years ago, so for me wine is just something you have with a meal, like HP sauce. But Charlie swilled and sniffed.

"How's the bouquet?"

"Mmm...." he rolled a mouthful round, contemplating. "I'm getting something like yes that's it - Toilet Duck."

We swiftly moved to the Cabernet Sauvignon.

"Hot water bottle water with a squeeze of Jiff. Nice and cold." He said encouragingly, gazing intently into my face.

"It's turned your lips blue. Unless you're having a heart attack."

Educated in the school of hard knocks, I have never been one for wasting either food or drink, and have always found this habit of spitting out decent alcohol a little pretentious. It felt quite sophisticated to be hurling my rejects into the tasteful blue ceramic jug on the counter.

"Wonder what they do with that, when it's full?" He had to shout above the babble of a newly arrived oriental coach party. We wandered down racks of pot pourri and tee shirts entwined with maple leaves and grapes, chocolates in packs from Belgium, bottles of olive oil that looked like submerged botanical gardens. At last, almost by chance, we stumbled on a rack of wine.

"Ah, Trius! I've heard that's good!" He ran back to the sample counter. "We don't serve that one, sir." She slammed shut her little secret cupboard under the counter a shade too quickly, evidently saving every last drop for the wine buyer of Waitrose.

"Oh well, what about the Icewine then?"

"Three dollars an ounce, sir." So we shared one. I discovered that Icewine is basically the grapes that you forgot to pick in autumn and the frost has got to. It was sweet like Chinese lychees. It worked out at about £25 for thirty centilitres. But the bottle was a nice shape. You could make a lamp later.

"Canada's latest theme park - the World of Wine. Hard to find - Easy to forget." Charlie pronounced in the car park. His bike chain had come off.

That evening, having reached pretty Niagara on the Lake, a white clapboard village circa 1812, with woodland gardens to die for, in an Italian café owned by a Hong Kong lady billionaire, we sampled a couple of pints of Canadian draft beer, which is as good as the best English bitter. Some things the Canadians do so well.

Jo.V

Charles R. Wilkins

I first met Charles in July 1953 when I left school with a desire to become a carpenter and joiner. It was during my interview with his construction company, Wilkins & Coventry Ltd. that I met him, and a week or so later I started my apprenticeship. I received five years of excellent training in every aspect of my chosen craft.

Charles knew all of us apprentices by our Christian names and took a keen and full interest in our progress, placing us with respected and skilful craftsmen who were to train us thoroughly.

On completion of my apprenticeship I had to complete my National Service after which I returned to the company again. Eventually however, I left and started upon a long and enjoyable career, training others.

I didn't meet Charles again until many years later when my wife and I came to live in Iron Acton. I recall one wet horrible Saturday afternoon and a fund raising event being held in the Parish Meadows where I saw Charles working on the tombola stand. He remembered my face but not my name, but that was soon corrected. Little did I know in 1953 that he and I would live only a very short distance from one another. We would often reminisce about the "Old Firm", the construction projects I had worked on and others I hadn't.

It was through Charles, who with Godfrey Cook founded this magazine that I became associated with the editorial team.

So it was with great sadness that I and the rest of the team learnt of his death. We will miss his humour, wit, wise counsel and his efforts to make this magazine a success.

We have much to be grateful to Charles for. Our sympathy and our best wishes go to Dorothy his wife and Elizabeth and Keith his children.

But I'm sure his name will be with us for a very long while yet and we will be often reminded of him as only this week I passed a new site being commenced and the main contractors board being erected - Wilkins & Coventry Ltd.

Lionel Alsop

The Friends of Iron Acton School

"And the rain, rain, rain, came down, down, down" - but we were not deterred. The summer fayre was still a great success, and I must say an enormous thank you to all of you in the village who supported the school despite the weather. Special thanks to Parkers Garden Centre, The White Hart and Holly Hill Farm Shop for donating raffle prizes, and Mike Laurie for printing the programmes.

With the summer holidays over it was back to thinking up new ideas for fund raising and social events. We began by having a get together for the parents of the new children, so they could see what a nice group of people we are! and perhaps also to encourage them to come along to the 'Friends' meeting. Without the input of new ideas we all get a bit rusty.

A 60's, 70's & 80's Pop Quiz is being organised for November, along with the usual Christmas concerts. The annual school family disco will be held in February, by which time we will be thinking about the Easter Holidays - and then it will be back to - yes, you've guessed it THE SUMMER FAYRE.

Mrs I. Wilson-Tancock (Chairman of The Friends of Iron Acton School).

Memories of Iron Acton Village Life by Edith Watts as told to Jill Redfern.

Edie was born Edith Stiff in 1909, the youngest of three. She had two older brothers Jack and Fred.

Her home was the cottage opposite the 'Crown' (now known as the Rose & Crown) and her father repaired shoes and ran a newsagents.

When she was fourteen the family moved into what is now 'Close Cottage', the newsagency being run from an adjoining building.

Edie, on foot, would deliver papers on her way to school, while her father did his deliveries to Rangeworthy, and the Frampton Road, by bike.

There were no 'opening hours' - they were 'open' as long as the job took.

Edie's first vivid memory is of the World War 1 soldiers resting in the car park of the 'Lamb'. The children were assembled on the grass in front of the school and then they sang to the soldiers.

"Soldiers and Sailors and territorials too,
Are fighting for their country with hearts both brave and true,
We long to see them home again
We long for war to cease
But men must fight and men must fall
'Ere the bells ring out for peace.

After the war the village celebrated with a procession of children through the High Street. Unfortunately it was a wet day and Edie remembers that the dye ran on their cotton Union Jacks!

Marie Maddocks recalls how the procession was brought to a halt by old Mr Fursman who had set up his tripod in the street to capture the event. Where is that photo now, I wonder? Mrs Brown, the canon's wife, then planted an Oak tree in the school lawn. It's long gone but can anyone remember when or how?

Twice a day the school bell rang out to summon the children to their studies. Edie would hear it while delivering the morning papers and it was rung again at lunch time.

Apparently ringing the bell was seen as a chore, but if it was done in a certain way it would get 'turned' and stuck fast: a popular stunt with the boys!

Edie sat under the school hall clock with Ethel Peters who lived at the level crossing on the Latteridge Road. She might be mistaken but Edie recalls that Mr. Peters had a wooden leg - that creaked!

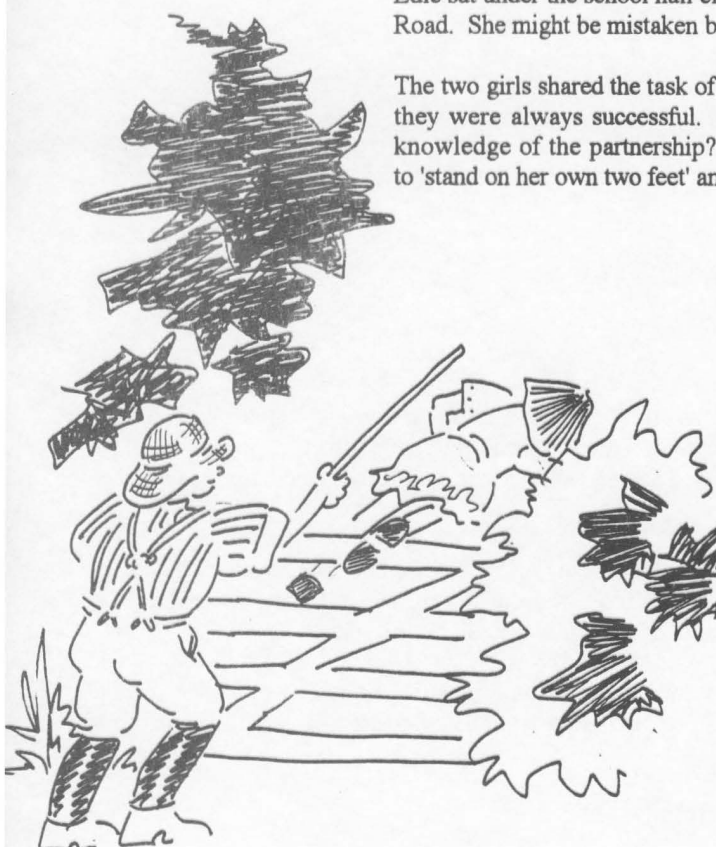
The two girls shared the task of 'sums'. Edie did the reckoning while Ethel did the tables and together they were always successful. One day Ethel was away and it was long division. Had the teacher knowledge of the partnership? Edie never found out but it was a hard lesson for her and she learnt to 'stand on her own two feet' and to take notice of her lessons.

The seasons seemed to be well defined then and Edie remembers one summer when she and Marie Padfield (Maddocks) rode their bikes to Hawkesbury Upton, one Saturday, and climbed the Somerset Monument. The view was stunning. After tea with friends on Inglestone Common they returned home before dark.

Blackberrying was popular and the 'best place' was behind the old rectory. Often picking was interrupted by the arrival of the farmer and Edie remembers always being last over the gate - probably because she had the shortest legs!

Many happy hours were spent paddling in the mill stream at Algars Manor or roaming the fields picking mushrooms.

In very cold winters the 'Coach Pool' on the Yate Road would be frozen solid. All the children loved to go sliding, except for Edie. She was petrified and always had butterflies in her stomach and stayed close to the edge. Nobody was more pleased than Edie when the thaw set in



This is an original letter from 1946 re-typed on 14th October 1997 by Joseph Hull's grandson Michael Hull, aged 73, The Croft, Bury Hill Lane, Yate, Bristol BS17 5QN. Tel: 01454 294198.

Gifford House,
Rangeworthy,
Bristol
Tel: Rangeworthy 3

I was born on December 5th 1860. I commenced work in April 1868 (7½ years of age) as a "bird scarer" at Mudgdown Farm, Iron Acton at 1/6d per week of seven days, daylight until dusk. Later I was transferred to the stables as "stable-boy" at the same wage but my hours were 6.00 a.m. till 6.00 p.m. six days a week at the same wages. After a year at 1/6d a week my wages were raised to 2/- weekly. This was my wages until I was about ten years old when I went to work for my Father at 'Teazle Growing'. He paid me no wages. He boarded me, bought me one suit of clothes a year, one day holiday and 5/- pocket money.

The summer of 1877 was a very wet one and the fields where the teazles were planted were flooded, and a few weeks before the teazles were ready for harvesting, they were all under water and went rotten, owing to the heavy rains. The teazles were unfit for market and my Father and his Partners were ruined financially, and I had to seek employment.

I offered my services to the Midland Railway Company. I was accepted and on March 1st 1878 (17½ years old). I was sent by them to Ambergate, Derbyshire, as a Porter (wages 17/0 weekly).

I stayed there until April 1883 when I was removed to Junction Road Station, London, as Assistant Station Master, at 22/- weekly. I got married April 8th 1884 and remained at Junction Road Station until October 1884, when I was appointed Station Master at Bentley Station, Staffs (between Walsall and Wolverhampton) at a salary of £57.40 per annum, (22/- weekly). In April 1885, I was appointed Station Master at Short Heath, (the next station to Bentley) and my salary increased to £62.80 per annum (= 24/- weekly).

In April 1886, I was transferred to Selly Oak, a larger and much more important station, near Birmingham, at the same salary. This really meant a decrease in my income, as at Short Heath I had a Company's house and garden at 2/6d weekly, but at Selly Oak no house or garden, and I had to pay 5/6d rent weekly and no garden but I hoped it was a step upward so accepted it. I remained at Selly Oak for 2½ years when, as I could not get any advance in salary and had a wife and two children to keep on 24/- weekly less 1/- weekly deducted for sickness and superannuation, I resigned on August 31st 1888.

On September 1st 1888, I entered the service of George James Eveson, Coal Factor & Merchant, Corporation Street, Birmingham, as a Traveller at 35/- weekly, plus out of pocket expenses. In 1904, we entered into a Seven Years Agreement by which I received £520.00 per annum, plus all expenses. When that Agreement expired in 1911, we entered into a new Agreement by which I received one third of the gross profit on my business, plus £3.00 weekly and a First Class Season ticket, and I paid my own travelling expenses, except when travelling to Collieries to negotiate purchases when Evesons paid two thirds of my expenses.

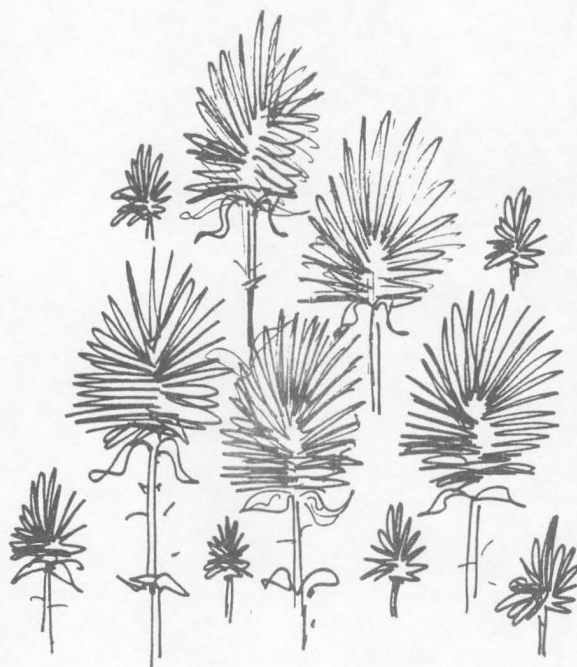
Mr. George James Eveson died in 1917 and I was elected a Director of the Evesons (Coal) Ltd., shortly afterwards.

I resigned August 31st 1938 after fifty years service : September 1st 1888 - August 31st 1938, being within three months of my 78th Birthday.

JOSEPH HULL

21.11.1946.

N.B My Father H.C. Hull born 1887, died 1959, also lived at Rangeworthy from 1921 - 1956, known as Bert Hull, he was in the R.F.C. during World War 1, transferred to the R.A.F. He was posted to Malta and returned early 1921. He was Captain of Filton Golf Club 1922-1929. He had four sons Patrick, James, John and Michael. His Wife Bridget died in +1990 aged 103 years.



North Road Ladies Club

October meeting.

Members of the club paid their respects, holding a minute silence for Josephine Powell, Chairlady of the club, who passed away very suddenly. Members will miss her very much; her contribution to the club was great, always there to help others. A very sad loss; our sincere wishes go to David and family.



The meeting then continued with a talk from Mr Bressington from the RNLI. All members enjoyed it, also kindly giving their support to the RNLI souvenirs that were on sale. Coffee and biscuits ended the evening off nicely.

November meeting.

November meeting is our Birthday party which is being held at the Rose & Crown, Rangeworthy.

Sorry, forgot about September meeting earlier.

A talk from Mr Browning of Malmesbury about Nepal 1990 really did prove very interesting. The slides he showed were fantastic, covering a wide selection of different things he had always dreamed of really did come true. A man of great character and wit. A pity so many members missed this one!

New members are always welcome, come and have a good night out with a friendly atmosphere. If interested or if you would like to know a little more about the club please don't hesitate to ring me.

Lyn Dyer (Secretary) - Tel: 228548

P.S. Meetings are first Monday in month, at North Road School, Yate.

North Road County Primary School

For once we have been able to begin the school year without any new faces on the staff! Twelve year 6 pupils moved on to pastures new and fifteen new Reception children began their formal education with Mrs Williams. Many of this year's intake already had older brothers and sisters at the school and so felt confident in finding their way around the building! They are now in full time and have begun to settle well.

This term is a busy one! The Harvest Service was held on Thursday, 23rd October and the Christmas Fair will be at 2.00 p.m. on Friday, 12th December. A 70's/80's Disco will be held at Iron Acton Village Hall on Saturday, 15th November. Four parents are running the Cycling Proficiency Test for Year 6 and we have bought a package of training on solving personal problems for the oldest children. Mrs Bishop has secured a £1,000 grant to develop orienteering skills - so you may see them out running.

The Friends of the School have just bought two further CD Roms so that we now have access to them in all classrooms - a wonderful achievement. The children's computer skills are far superior to mine! We feel sad reporting that after almost twenty years the Bonfire Night Display will not take place this year. The Safety Regulations are, quite rightly, becoming even more stringent, and along with the unsavoury incident which happened last year have made us decide to call it a day - at least for this year!

If there is anyone around North Road who feels they have an hour or so to spare each week we would welcome any help with games, reading, cooking, sewing etc. Please call in if you are interested.

Glenys Anderson.



IRON ACTON WI

This report is a little different! Instead of telling you what we've been doing in the last few months we'd like to say what we've got planned for 1998 in the hope that we can entice a few more ladies to join us each month.

Important things first: we meet once a month in the Village Hall, usually on the second Monday, from 7.30 p.m. to 9.45 p.m. If you read the national press you'll think you've got to be at least a hundred and four before you can join WRONG!!!! Mentally, we are decidedly young at heart and physically there are more of us under retirement age than above it - first myth destroyed.

Each WI is part of a three tiered "cake", we belong to our village WI, then to a county federation (ours is Avon) and finally to the National Federation. Each tier arranges different events which means access to a very wide range of subjects - last year Avon encouraged us to try everything from gliding to quiz nights, to découpage and eastern cookery sessions, through to environmental and political topics. The WI also has its own residential college in Oxford (Denman College) which is open year-round and provides a welter of topics that can be studied from just one day, or over a weekend, to a full week - and those of us who have been there have had a brilliant time. It's open to every WI member and, on occasions, to their families and friends.

So, what happens at a meeting? We start with news from the national and county federations - anyone can take up any of the invitations we receive and we also plan or own visits and events. At each meeting we listen to one specialist speaker (everyone can make suggestions and then we discuss which ones we'd like to hear the most) and the following are just some of our 1998 "hit list".

AROMATHERAPY

We've found a lady who can supply all aromatherapy oils and will tell us exactly what each will do and give us an opportunity to buy any we like.

WOMEN AND THEIR TAX AFFAIRS:

A lady from one of the Bristol finance offices is going to come and tell us where we've all been going wrong (and hopefully in a few cases where we've got it right!).

CRACKER MAKING:

Our effort at being crafty! We're going to attempt to make sumptuous Christmas crackers and we've found a lady who will explain how to make a variety of these and will also provide kits so we can try on our own without anyone else watching!

RSPB:

An evening to learn how to look after our garden visitors and how to best care for them in the cold winter months so that we do more good than harm.

USEFUL, EDIBLE & INTERESTING PLANTS:

We've found a gentleman who likes nothing better than to make forays into the natural undergrowth around our area and will then tell us what he's found, where he found it and what we can cook or do with each one!



So that will give you an idea of how diverse our speakers are (and there are more in the pipeline) and we've also got visits confirmed for a "behind the scenes" visit to Tesco (Thornbury) in March and to the Chelsea gold medal fuchsia growers Lockyer's at Coalpit Heath.

Each meeting held in the Village Hall finishes with coffee and home made cakes (as the Parish Council will confirm!!!) and then at least some of us make our way to the Rose and Crown!

If you'd like any further details please call me, or talk to any of our ladies, and we'll do all we can to persuade you to join us!

Lynne Blanchard - Secretary.

ACTONIANS

Our next production is coming up very soon; on 27th, 28th and 29th November you can see "The End of the Honeymoon" by Sam Bate.

Howard Shepton returns from the USA with his new wife to find his country house in chaos. The butler and gardener are intent on murder and Howard's two old flames, Ann and Violet form an unlikely welcoming party. This racy comedy is full of surprises, so get your tickets soon. Call Christine Rogers on 01454 773166. Tickets are £4 or £3.50 concessions.

Looking ahead to 23rd and 24th January 1998, the first production in the New Year will be a Music Hall evening. This will be a joint fundraiser with Project 2000. There's still time to call Bob Allen on 0117 9761976 if you'd like to be involved. Singers, musicians and novelty acts of all kinds are welcome; Bob is planning a fun evening with a wide variety of entertainment.

Finally, some of you reading this may be new to the area, or have just returned from a mission to outer space or wildest Borneo and perhaps you've thinking 'Just who are the Actonians, anyway'.

Here's a little about your local drama group:

The Actonians were formed over twenty years ago and have regularly staged productions in the Village Hall. There is a thriving junior section as well as a strong senior section with a broad range of interests. Some of us are keen on musicals, some prefer comedy and others enjoy the more serious plays: so, our two or three major productions each year tend to vary in style.

One or two of us wouldn't dare set foot on stage in front of a paying audience but really love the preparation backstage, set building etc. Costume and lighting are just two of our strong points and we have recently invested in some state-of-the-art lighting equipment, the envy of other local groups.

Past successes include 'My Fair Lady' which ran for an exhausting seven nights and the 'world premier' of 'Green Forms' by local author James Skinson.

Both junior and senior Actonians enter a one-act play for the Rose Bowl Amateur Drama Awards each year and we're proud to say that 'Green Forms' reached the final in May '97.

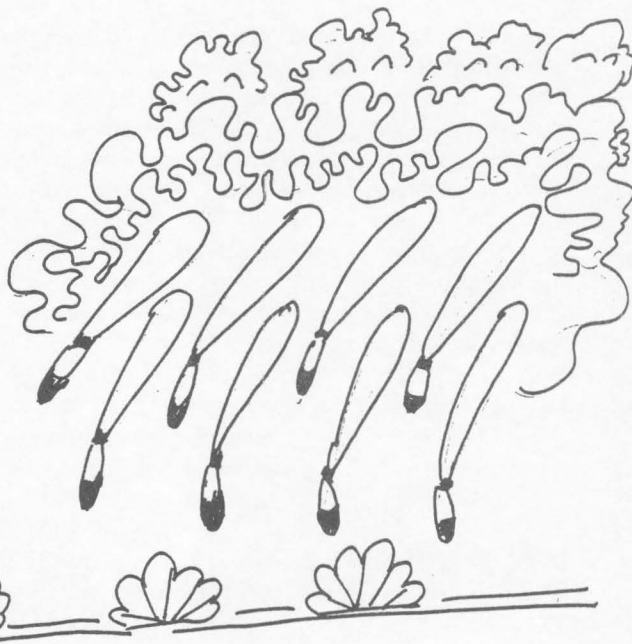
The 1998 season will begin with Music Hall and end with Shakespeare in the Autumn when we'll be staging 'The Tempest'.

If you'd like to be involved in any of our future events then we'd love to meet you. Simply call our secretary, Ann Aplin on 228243 or drop in at the Village Hall on a Wednesday evening between 8 p.m. and 10 p.m. and see for yourself!

Elizabethan Club

The Elizabethan Club's visitors enjoyed their last two summer trips to Swanage and Poole, the weather being very kind to us on both occasions. We also enjoyed Leyhill Autumn Production. Members are all looking forward to the Christmas Dinner at the Rose & Crown at Rangeworthy, then Bath Pantomime, January 14th. It is with sadness we have heard of Mrs Walbank's passing. We only meet once a fortnight in the Village Hall at 2.30 p.m. on Wednesday. We would be delighted to welcome some new members. Anyone interested can contact me on 228175.

Ivy Worsley.



POETRY PLEASE

I write this on International Poetry Day.

Anyone who has been listening to the radio or watching television this week will have noticed much more emphasis on poetry than is usual. By coincidence, during this week someone asked me if I knew a certain poem which they had been trying to trace. As it happened it was a poem I had learned by heart at school and I was able to give them the information they needed. It occurred to me that many of us probably have half remembered and well loved poems at the back of our minds. The older members of the community will have been used to committing verse to memory during their schooldays and, interestingly, Ted Hughes, the Poet Laureate, has recently published an anthology which actively encourages us to learn poetry by heart.

What about sharing favourite poems with fellow readers of *SCALES BALANCE*? We should be delighted to publish your favourite poems, if possible with details of the author and his/her dates. On the other hand, we might also be able to help you to trace poems half remembered from childhood.

As a starter, here is the poem which I remembered from my childhood.

LORD ULLIN'S DAUGHTER

A Chieftain to the highlands bound
Cries 'Boatman do not tarry!
And I'll give thee a silver pound
To row us o'er the ferry!'

'Now who be ye, would cross Lochgyle
This dark and stormy water?
'O I'm the chief of Ulva's isle
And this, Lord Ullin's daughter.

'And fast before her father's men
Three days we've fled together,
For should he find us in the glen,
Our blood would stain the heather.

'His horsemen hard behind us ride-
Should they our steps discover,
Then who will cheer my bonny bride
When they have slain her lover?'

Out spoke the hardy Highland wight,
'I'll go, my chief, I'm ready:
It is not for your silver bright,
But for your winsome lady:-

'And by my word! the bonny bird
In danger shall not tarry
So though the waves ar raging white
I'll row you o'er the ferry.'

By this the storm grew loud apace,
The water wraith was shrieking;
And in the scowl of heaven each face
Grew dark as they were speaking.

But still as wilder grew the wind
And as the night grew drearer,
Adown the glen rode armed men,
Their trampling sounded nearer.

'O haste thee, haste!' the lady cries,
'Though tempests round us gather;
I'll meet the raging of the skies,
But not an angry father.'

The boat has left a stormy land,
A stormy sea before her,
When, O! too strong for human hand
The tempest gather'd o'er her.

And still they row'd amidst the roar
Of waters fast prevailing:
Lord Ullin reach'd that fatal shore,-
His wrath was changed to wailing.

For, sore dismay'd, through storm and shade
His child he did discover:-
One lovely hand she stretch'd for aid
And one was round her lover.

'Come back! come back!' he cried in grief
'Across this stormy water.
And I'll forgive your Highland chief,
My daughter!-O my daughter!'

'Twas vain: the loud waves lash'd the shore,
Return or aid preventing:
The waters wild went o'er his child,
And he was left lamenting.

Thomas Campbell. 1777-1844.

Hazel Dron

GEORGE VINCENT FURSMAN - 1914-1997

It is with regret that we report the passing of one of the last true Actonians, probably the oldest living in the village at the time of his death. The name Fursman still stands proudly over the village store operated originally by George's father from 1911 and eventually by George and his wife Marjorie until it ceased trading 75 years later in 1986. The now empty shop windows still gaze out as a memorial to those far-off days of dusty pavements, sticky tar on the sun-blessed roads, the clip clop of delivery carts and the occasional excitement of a venturesome automobile, days of walking, gossiping both in and out of the village shop, the smell of a slaughtered porker being cooked to provide ham for the village stomachs. Only memories remain, some happy some less so. The privations brought about by two world wars, the loss of young, fit men and women.

George, 'Bunny' to his family and intimates, was born in Iron Acton in June 1914, educated at Iron Acton 'University' before progressing to the Grammar School at Chipping Sodbury. He furthered his educational needs at Skerry's College in Bristol but much of his knowledge and skill in his business was learned by watching and working with his worthy father for whom he always retained the greatest respect. Health problems prevented him from active service in 1939 despite his attempts to join the Royal Air Force. His duty then was to run the family store in Stapleton and this he did from pre-war until 1969, at which time he returned to Iron Acton to manage the business previously run by his father.

His family and the business were his life. The little time he had outside of these was spent on country pursuits like fishing and occasional potshots at unsuspecting wood pigeons or hares. He did love tinkering with matters mechanical.

Two main factors finally spelled the death knell of the store. One was the construction of the by-pass which took away 'passing trade' and the other was the formidable opposition of Super Stores. Super Markets whose buying power allowed them to sell at prices below the wholesale prices that Bunny had to pay his suppliers. Reluctant to put higher 'Convenience' prices on his produce and even more reluctant to close down the business which had formed such a major part of his life, he finally gave way to the logic expounded by family, friends and advisors and ceased trading in 1986. He never really recovered from this withdrawal from the commercial centre of the village mainly because of the loss of contact with those customers, both new and, in particular, long-standing, who had become friends.

Increasing ill-health and the stresses of age reduced his ability to be out and about. This added to his burdens yet he never lost his pawky sense of humour, quick wit and story-telling ability which had made him so many friends over the years. The head would swivel, the forefinger stab a couple of times and he'd utter that familiar phrase, "Here's an interesting thing", and so it would be.

Throughout his life and right up to his death in Frenchay Hospital on October 10th, George 'Bunny' Fursman was an honourable and modest man who would have been touched and surprised at the expressed sense of loss and outpourings of sympathy to his widow Marjorie and son Patrick, father of grandson Ben.

Jack Duff

* * * * *

Iron Acton CEVC Primary School

The school has returned refreshed following the summer recess with an increased number of children on roll with twelve new children starting in the Reception Class replacing six Year 6 children, all of whom have left for secondary school.

This term we welcome the skills of Mrs Beverley Jones to the staff to replace Mrs Karen Hillier who has embarked on her university course and we wish both of them success in their new work.

The school welcomed Mr Dennis King to the Harvest Festival Service and we were pleased that he was able to say a few words to the children. Following our service the donated produce was auctioned for our continued sponsorship of Goriparthi Rao, and his education in India, through the Save The Children charity. The total raised was in excess of £175.00. The monies were more than enough to cover our sponsorship and the surplus will be donated to the Princess of Wales Memorial Fund. Thank you to all who contributed in any way to this venture.





Mrs Hatt has now completely listed all the books in the school library and with the help of parents we are now ready for our library to be used rather like the local library for a loan service that the children can use. This has taken many hours of dedicated work by Mrs Hatt and on behalf of the children I should like to thank her for providing this new realistic opportunity for the children.

The school recently took possession of a brand new computer printer provided by the collection of Tesco Supermarket Vouchers. This has taken two years of saving through the Tesco promotion periods and at last we have something to show for our efforts.

Also we have been able to purchase one of our new lunchbox storage facilities through the kind donation of over 1,000 Sainsburys Vouchers for School Equipment.

Recently the school was contacted by Mr Brian Edgington who resides in Dartmouth concerning the memoirs of his late father who spent a large part of his childhood in Iron Acton. He was very interested to find the names of his father and his two sisters listed in the schools admission register. Mr Edgington has donated a copy of the first four chapters of his father's writings to the school which will be used to further local historical study.

Again this year the children in the Junior Class will be attending the Carol Service held at Clifton Cathedral on the 9th December 1997.

Dates for your Diary

Matinée Performance of Christmas Concert	Monday 15th December 1997
Evening Performance of Christmas Concert	Tuesday 16th December 1997
Children's Christmas Party	Thursday 18th December 1997
Carol Service/end of term	Friday 19th December 1997
Times to be announced later	

Village Church

If there are parishioners who are unable to attend church services and wish to receive communion at home or need home visits please can they contact Mr Dennis King.

A Few Classified Ads

- Dog for sale: eats anything and is fond of children*
- Get rid of aunts: Zap does the job in 24 hours*
- For Sale: three canaries of undermined sex*
- See ladies blouses. 50% off*
- Man, honest. Will take anything*
- The hotel has bowling alleys, tennis courts, comfortable beds and other athletic facilities*
- Mixing bowl set designed to please a cook with round bottom for efficient beating*
- Our bikinis are exciting. They are simply the tops*

St James the Less / Iron Acton

Christmas Church Services 1997

SUNDAY, 21 DECEMBER 1997

at 6.30 pm

CAROL SERVICE

(of well known carols and readings)

By popular request! Join us for this inaugural service
(which will last approx 1 hour)

CHRISTMAS EVE

CRIB SERVICE 6.30 pm

MIDNIGHT MASS 11.30 pm

CHRISTMAS DAY

COMMUNION SERVICE 9.30 am

**The congregation of your Village Church extends a warm
welcome to everyone who would like to share one (or all!) of our
special Christmas services**

**Further details from the December Church Magazine or from any member of the
Congregation, PCC, Churchwardens or Lay Reader**

**NOW
FREE HOUSE**

Rose & Crown

Phone
228423



IN THE HEART OF IRON ACTON VILLAGE

Traditional Ale served by Allan & Gail

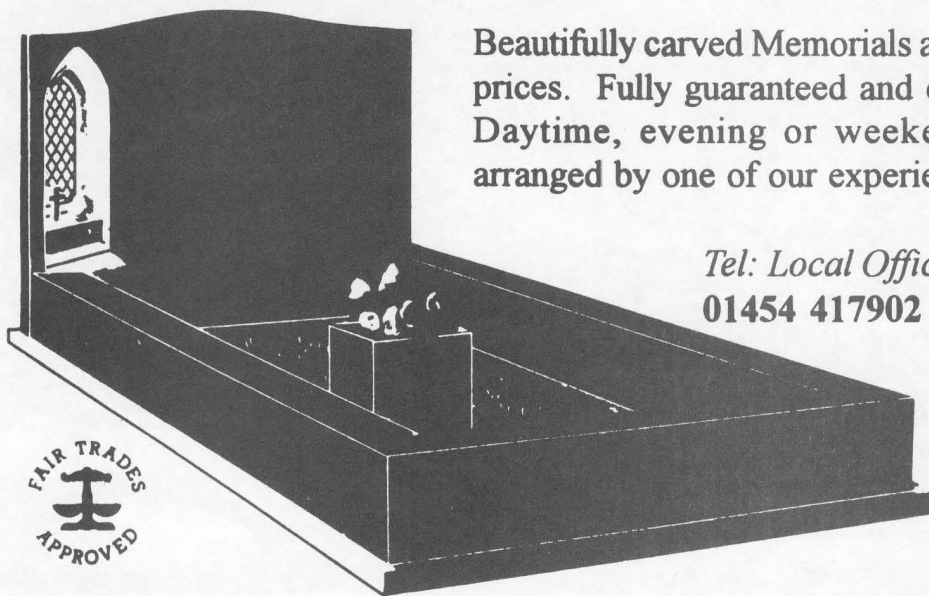
EN-SUITE ACCOMMODATION

CONFERENCE ROOM AVAILABLE

Mossfords

*A family-run business of
Monumental Sculptors since 1821*

Regional Office and Showroom:
16A CHANDOS ROAD, REDLAND,
BRISTOL BS6 6PE
Tel: 0117 946 7276 (24 Hrs)

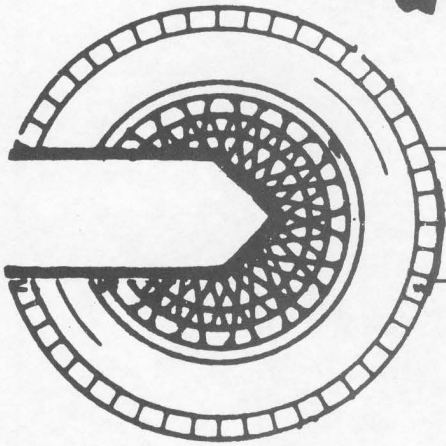


Beautifully carved Memorials at very competitive prices. Fully guaranteed and erected anywhere. Daytime, evening or weekend visits gladly arranged by one of our experienced staff.

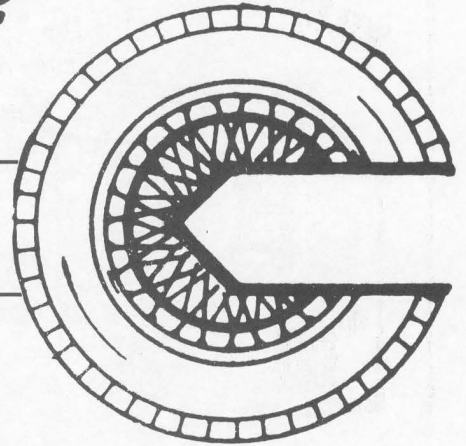
Tel: Local Office:
01454 417902 (24 Hrs)



roger's autocare



*Mobile
Vehicle Maintenance*



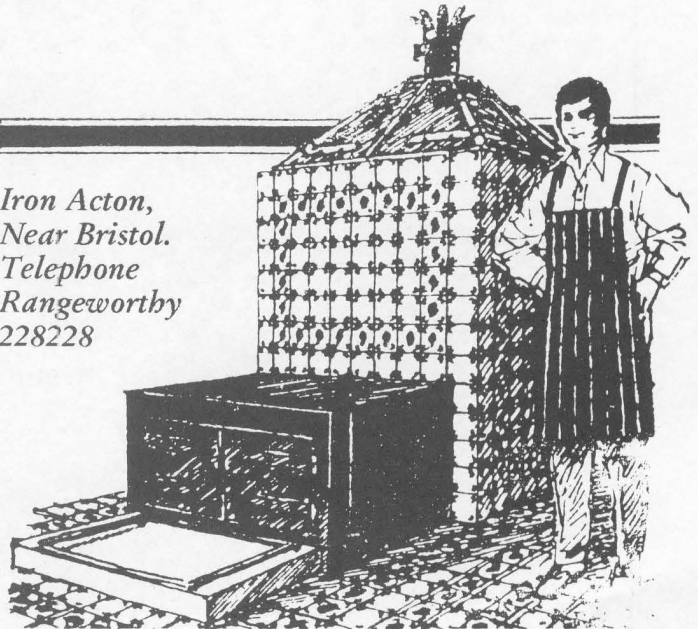
*M.O.T. PREPARATION
SERVICING & GENERAL REPAIRS
NO JOB TOO SMALL*

Roger Marsh, 127 Cherington, Yate, Avon.

TEL: (01454) 321631

*The home of the
wood burning clay oven*

*Iron Acton,
Near Bristol.
Telephone
Rangeworthy
228228*



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*

Dresses by Design

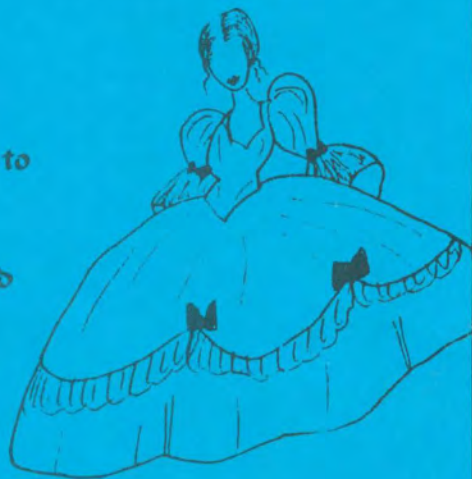
Dress Making for your Wedding Day

Individually designed bridal gowns in silks and satins. Veils and waistcoats.

Bridesmaids Dresses and pageboy outfits made to your requirements.

Also ballroom gowns, special occasion wear and alterations.

Telephone Wendy on
01454 228494



SILVEY

Established 1870

Oil with a friendly face

*" Soon there'll be snow
and the East wind will blow
it'll be cold, I know.*

*For the best in Oil
You need not toil,
With Silveys your sure to boil !*

*Do not delay
Call Silveys Today
You could even pay the Easiway "*



FOR A GREAT DEAL FROM SILVEYS CALL DAWN ON **0345 125313**

FRAMPTON DENTAL PRACTICE

288 Park Lane - Frampton Cotterell
Bristol BS17 2BL

Deidre Timoney B.Dent Sc., Jonathon McVeigh B.D.S. Kate White B.D.S.

Full range of both N.H.S.
and private treatment.

Denplan patients.
Full emergency cover.
Ground floor surgery.

ORTHODONTIST • HYGIENIST



**NEW N.H.S. PATIENTS
MOST WELCOME
Tel: (01454) 774655**