

# Focal Point



*A Magazine for Iron Actors*

## DIARY OF FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### In the Village Hall

Every Tuesday	War Hammer Club (War Games)	7.30pm
Every Wednesday	Nursery School	9.00am
Every Wednesday	Junior Actonians	6.00pm
	Actonians	7.30pm
Every Thursday	Line Dancing	7.30pm
Wednesdays (fortnightly)	Elizabethans Club	2.30pm
Second Monday in month	Women's Institute	7.30pm
Third Monday in month	Parish Council	7.30pm
15 <sup>th</sup> August, 12 <sup>th</sup> September, 10 <sup>th</sup> October, 7 <sup>th</sup> November, 5 <sup>th</sup> December	Northavon Auctions	
12 <sup>th</sup> , 13 <sup>th</sup> , 14 <sup>th</sup> November	Actonians: The Tempest	
28 <sup>th</sup> November	Church Sale	
11 <sup>th</sup> , 12 <sup>th</sup> December	Actonians Christmas Show: 'Allo, 'Allo	

### At the Rose and Crown

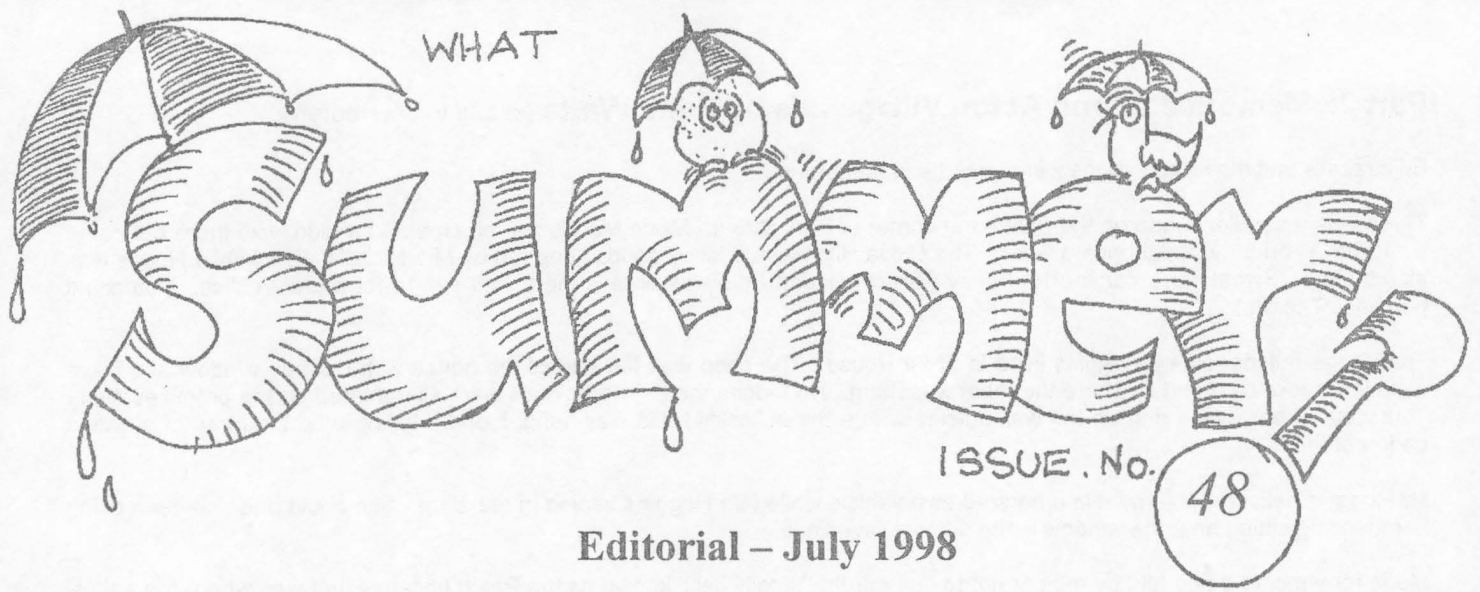
First Thursday in month	Acton Aid	8.00pm
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### In the Marshall Room

Every Friday	Parent & Toddlers' Group	10.30am – 12.00noon
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**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 Penny Percy at Primrose Cottage, High Street, Iron Acton or any other Editorial Team member. Advice will be given if required. Items ought to be submitted about four weeks before the date of issue.

Advertisers wishing to take space in **FOCAL POYNTZ** should contact Barrie Wright (228247)



**Editorial – July 1998**

This issue reports the sad loss of some familiar faces in Iron Acton - Roy Curtis, Elizabeth Birch - and we send our sympathy to their families.

The Parish Church announces the end of the interregnum caused by the death of Rev'd Anthony Waker. Those present at the induction of the Rev'd Sue Rushton noticed the relaxed, warm atmosphere and Bishop Barry seemed pleased to hand over parish responsibility to such a capable pair of hands. We wish our new incumbent many happy years in this Parish.

June is bursting out all over as I write these words, so I can offer our readers – at no extra cost – my special tip for blooming roses

✿ **1 teaspoon of Epsom Salts per bush in the Spring and Autumn.**

This isn't a joke, it was told to me by an expert and it works! Happy Gardening!

Focal Poyntz would like to record our gratitude to the Parish Council for two generous donations which will ensure our future for a while longer. We would also like to thank Lionel Alsop who is taking a well-deserved rest from his labours on this Committee. We shall miss him.

Please contact any of the committee members listed below if you need any information about Focal Poyntz.

PP

Jo Voss ☎ 228674	Lynne Blanchard ☎ 228566	Penny Percy ☎ 228339	Hazel Dron ☎ 228509
Jean Dickes ☎ 228609	Rona & Barrie Wright ☎ 228247	Maureen Blake ☎ 294381	Gill Thompson ☎ 228954



## Part 2: Memories of Iron Acton Village Life by Edith Watts as told to Jill Redfern.

Edie recalls that the village shops were varied and numerous....

There was a saddlery shop on the right hand corner of Park Street. Marie Maddocks remembers he didn't live there but came over from Thornbury about once a week. The Clove Hitch was a fancy goods shop run by Mrs Nichols. The White House was also a shop. Sweatman's came on a Friday with cakes and Edie was always there with her 1d for a cream slice. You could purchase 7 for 6d!

The village butcher Percy Huggins lived in Trent House. The shop was the part of the house with the bay window and there were iron racks all round it, where the meat was hung. No fridges then! The animals were slaughtered on the premises every Thursday. There was a ring on the wall outside where the bullock's head was hung, blood dripping onto the heap of sawdust underneath.

Mr Huggins delivered the meat in a horse-drawn vehicle while Mrs Huggins served in the shop. She could often be seen doing her mending sitting near the window in the summer evenings.

Marie remembers being told by mother not to go near the 'smelly field' known as the Patch because that was where the animal remains were dumped. Today there is a footpath that goes around the 'Patch' to the allotments.

Esther and Minnie Maidstone had the 'Boot Store' now Primrose Cottage, where they sold new shoes.

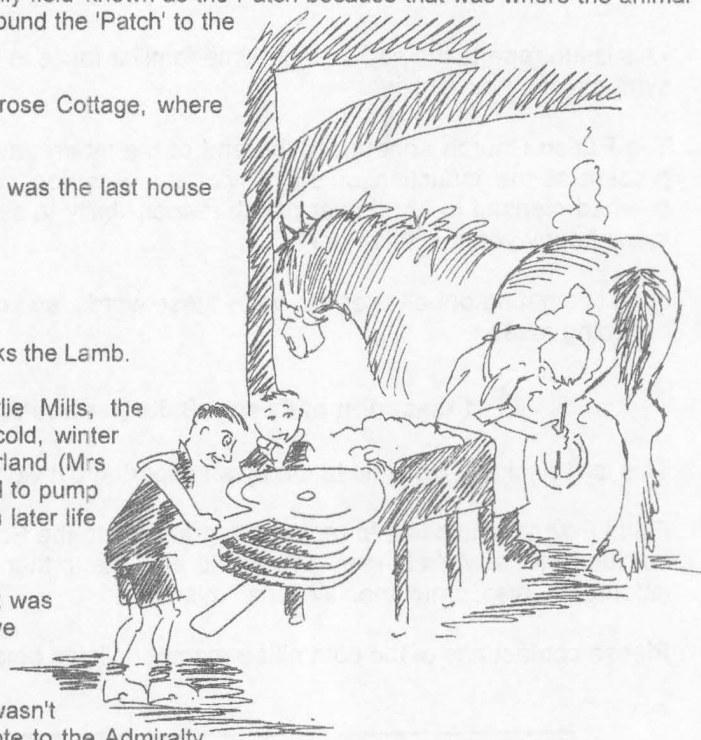
Mr Arthur Mainstone was the undertaker. His mother's house was the last house nearest the 'Crown' and it had a sign on the end wall:

### **Arthur A Mainstone Builder and Undertaker**

He later built the house that is opposite the church and overlooks the Lamb.

Over the far side of the green was the Forge and Charlie Mills, the Blacksmith. His blazing furnace was a welcoming place on cold, winter mornings and Edie remembers going there with Molly Sunderland (Mrs Hiles). If he was in a good mood the children would be allowed to pump the bellows while he hammered the horseshoes. Edie thinks in later life he went blind.

The village also had its characters. One being Sid Cullum. It was through an old school photograph that Edie was able to give information that led to his name being put on the Roll of Honour in the church. Sid had died on the 'Glorious' in June 1940. His parents had left the village and his omission wasn't noticed until the incident with the school photo! Mr White wrote to the Admiralty and Sid's name was added to the Role in 1990.



Mrs Fugil lived in the High Street and Edie recalls how her kitchen table was a gathering place for the village girls. With the warmth of the range and light from the oil lamp they would sit and chat while sewing drawstring bags for the soldiers away in the trenches. The highlight of the evening would be the tea and biscuits after the work was done.

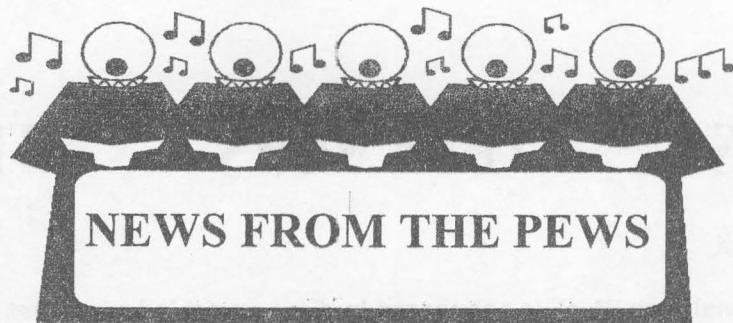
The letters were delivered by Louie Kingscote. She was a familiar figure on the green carrying her red lantern which had four glass sides, a wire handle and was lit by a candle.

One day a group of girls decided to walk to Sodbury one Saturday morning. When they reached Yate, on the way back, they thought it would be nice to catch the train back to Iron Acton. They had a long time to wait and between them they managed to find enough money for the fare except for 1/2d. Mr Stanley Morse came to their rescue and helped them by paying the 1/2d for them.

If the village children saw Farmer Smith, from Lodge Avenue, coming in his horse and trap they would open the avenue gate for him. He always rewarded them with a few pennies. Edie was always referred to by the Smith family as 'Little Edie', long after she grew up.

Edie's last memories are of the Sutherland family. They lived in the White Hart and Molly, their daughter was a good friend to Edie. The girls would play in the club room until the family gave up the pub and went to live in the street.

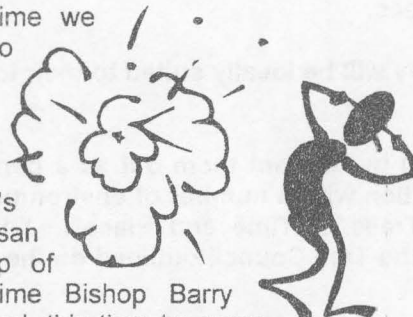
*I would very much like to thank Edie for sharing her memories of life in Iron Acton with the readers of Focal Poyntz. It was a privilege to listen to her bringing the past to life. The stories have certainly enriched my picture of the village and I hope will do so for many others.*



Before I go any further, I have to say that this is being written in my usual maverick style 'cos I've lost my straightjacket and, besides, trying to be too prim and proper just gives me a headache.

First things first. A huge THANK YOU for all the support given at Sue Rushton's licensing on 15 June. It turned out to be a lovely service and the church was full. If I try and attempt to thank everyone individually I know I shall fail and if I forget someone, quite rightly, they could be upset so I'm sure you'll understand if it's a general, but very heartfelt, thank you.

I think the next time we hear we're going to get another Bishop's visit I shall make an extremely swift suggestion that it's our other diocesan bishop, the Bishop of Swindon. Last time Bishop Barry came the Rector died, this time he came and the ceiling fell down (and an initial estimate for the work has come in at £30,000) - so maybe you'll understand my reticence towards another visit in the not too distant future!!

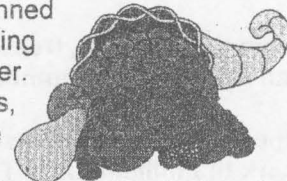


The other thing that I have to admit to is the cause of my mirth two thirds of the way through the service. Put into print, it looks quite cruel, but the Archdeacon (who I honestly have a great deal of time for and is a lovely man) came dangerously close to setting himself on fire on the reader's stall candles. At this point on the giggle front I was okay as I was more worried about him, but once the panic was over the Co-Lay Chairman, Richard, leant across and whispered in my ear "what's the penalty for torching an archdeacon then??" and this was closely followed by the Rural Dean's comment of "that nearly messed up the order of service, didn't it?" Unfortunately, for me, I was sideways on to the congregation when the giggles took hold, not helped by the imagined picture of Howard trying to put the Archdeacon's flames out with a fire extinguisher. Oh happy days!

They say the sun shines on the righteous, so it won't be any surprise to hear that the Strawberry

Teas planned for 27 June had to be cancelled due to rain. This was going to be one of our two major summer fund raisers and so efforts will have to be doubled for the Barbeque. This takes place at David and Pam McCoy's home on a Saturday in August. I haven't any further confirmed details, but the hospitality will assuredly be of the highest standard and you will be bombarded with posters and requests to purchase tickets - but just suppose we don't get round to you then you can always ask one of the PCC for tickets.

Harvest Festival is planned for the weekend containing Sunday 27 September. As with previous years, we hope to give the proceeds to charity and this year's agreed recipient is Medecins Sans Frontières. This is the charity set up to respond immediately to disasters by sending in fully trained teams with backup equipment as the first few days are crucial and the country concerned is often too traumatised or damaged to be able to respond in the way needed. Again, further information will be in the church magazine or through posters.



Finally (you'll be pleased to hear) the Christmas Fayre is booked for Saturday 28 November and will be held in the Village Hall. Raffle tickets will be available and no doubt I shall be vigorously pursuing you to persuade you to part with some hard earned cash. On a serious note, it really does look as though the ceiling repairs in the Church are going to need some serious money



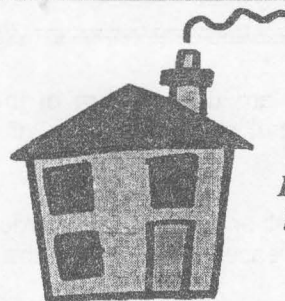
and if anyone can think of anything we could do, or is prepared to organise something on our behalf, please contact me or Howard or a member of the PCC.



Lynne Blanchard



**A WARM WELCOME to...**  
*Marian and David Hepplethwaite*  
who have recently taken up residence  
at The White House



**A FOND FAREWELL to...**  
*Richard and Angela Clark* who will be  
leaving Close Cottage shortly



## National Tree Week



National Tree Week is sponsored by Esso and it is hoped that more than one million trees will be planted during the week of 25th November to 6th December 1998.

Esso National Tree Week was founded and organised by the Tree Council and is a nation-wide festival of trees. It launches the winter tree-planting season and encourages people to get involved with good management and care of trees and woods. There will be thousands of events around the country for anyone to take part in.

## Trees of Time and Place

The Tree Council has designated Sunday 11th October 1998 as "Seed Gathering Sunday". This is an ideal time to gather seeds from many of Britain's trees.

From these seeds, trees can be grown cheaply. They will be ideally suited to their local conditions and can be used for a number of projects.

One particular good use for these young trees will be to plant them out as a personal statement to mark the millennium. The Tree Council in conjunction with a number of environmental organisations is prompting this concept in a project called "Trees of Time and Place". I hope the following information, together with the guidance issued by the Tree Council outlined on the following page will be useful to you.

## Growing Trees from Your Seeds

**Birch, Larch, Spruce:** Collect the ripe cones or conelets, dry out for two weeks at room temperature, shake or rub them between your hands and sow.

**Yew, Cherry, Apple:** Place berries in plastic bag, allow fruit to rot (approx. 3 weeks) and then wash away flesh to leave seed. Plant.

**Lime, Wych, Elm:** Green seeds planted immediately germinate next spring. Brown seeds take 18 months to germinate.

**Hazel Oak:** Drop the seeds in water. Plant only those that sink.

**Walnut, Sweet & Horse Chestnut, Beech:** Separate seeds from the prickly outer casing. Drop into water. Plant only those that sink.

At this time we do not have an area in the parish to plant our new trees. This shortcoming is to be addressed and I will report back in a later edition of Focal Poyntz.



Barrie Wright

**FOR  
SALE**

**Piano** – Collard and Collard upright, turn of the century. Perfectly playable but Piano Tuner recommends reconditioning. Further information/discussion re: price invited. Jo Voss 228674

If you would like to buy, sell or swap an item through these columns in the next issue (November/December), please contact any of the Focal Poyntz team. A small donation to editorial funds is payable.

# Seed Gathering Sunday

## Growing trees from your seeds

Once you have gathered your seeds and treated them as necessary they should be sown. You can use one of several places depending on the number of seeds involved and the size of area available to you. They include:

- 1) Flower pots, yoghurt pots or other containers
- 2) Seed trays
- 3) Roottrainers\* – purpose-built cells which allow easy movement and observation of seedlings.
- 4) Beds – allotments, gardens and tree nurseries

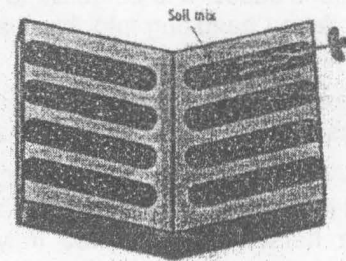
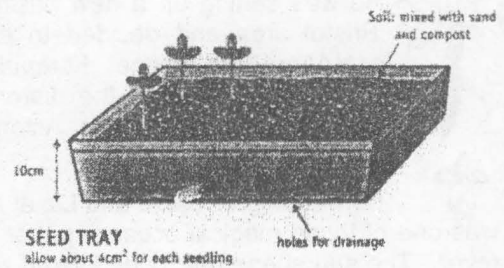
Wherever you plant your seeds, they will need:

- **free-draining soil.** In containers this can be achieved by ensuring that there are holes in the bottom; on larger sites, digging in some sand and grit will help prevent waterlogging.
- **shelter** from hot sun, cold winds, frost, birds, mice and other animals. A shady spot against a wall is ideal. A frame of fine wire mesh will help to keep out seed predators; rabbit fencing may be needed on larger plots.
- **watering regularly**, especially in summer.
- **weeding**, but avoid pulling up the young trees by mistake!

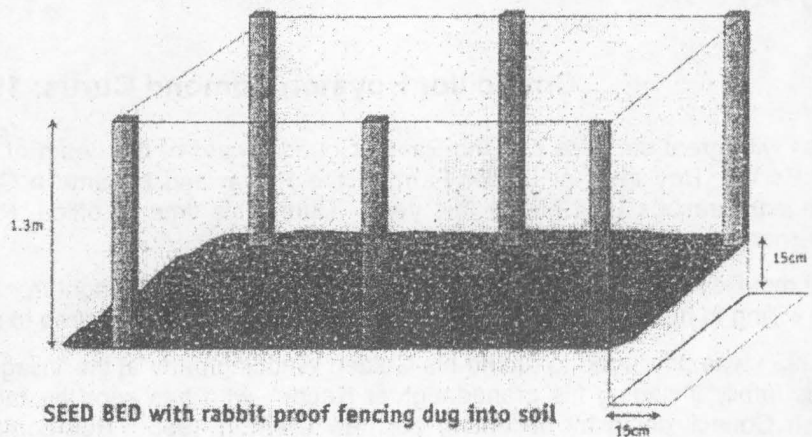
Seed sown in seed beds can be left for a year or more. Seedlings in pots may need repotting in midsummer to avoid confining the growing roots; move seedlings to larger pots or plant in rows in the ground when necessary. When transplanting the seedlings to their final growing positions, follow the same rules as for tree planting, such as moving them when dormant in winter and keeping the roots covered while moving. The only real difference is that the hole doesn't need to be so big! Care in the first few years is essential since small seedlings are even more vulnerable than whips to weed competition and accidental damage.

This may sound like hard work, but watching the whole process of growth from seed to tree is tremendously exciting, particularly if you share the magic with children. Seed trays or yoghurt pots are ideal for a classroom or window ledge, and seed gathering makes an excellent school project with a practical result - more trees for the kids to plant!

\*Roottrainers: available from the *Arid Lands Initiative, Machpelah Works, Burnley Road, Hebden Bridge, W. Yorks HX7 8AU (tel.01422 842241)* at around £15 for 32 cells. Similar plug trays are available from garden centres.



4 OPEN ROOTRAINER CELLS

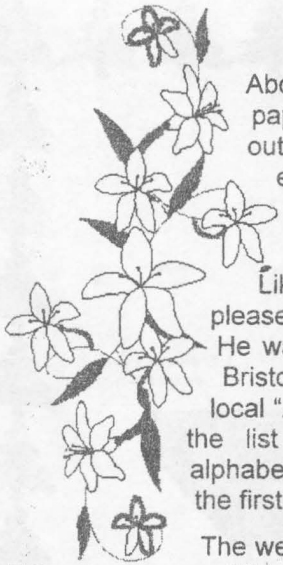


SEED BED with rabbit proof fencing dug into soil

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## Elizabeth Birch: 1949 – 1998



About 20 years ago Liz Chilvers answered a slightly desperate advert placed in the local paper by the Actonians Drama Group who were trying to recruit new members. Liz turned out to be an ideal person for the group; She was attractive, intelligent, hardworking and enthusiastic. She was good at acting but, on the whole, she was happier with behind the scenes activity - props, prompt, sewing, writing letters, catering, everything was done with quiet efficiency.

Like everyone else, Liz was highly pleased when Steve Birch joined the group. He was setting up a new business in the Bristol area and decided to explore the local "Am Dram" scene. Fortunately for us, the list he got from the library was in alphabetical order and the Actonians were the first group he contacted.

The wedding of Steve and Liz at All Hallows School was one of those magical occasions that stay in the mind forever. The sun shone, the bride looked radiant. As true thespians the lines were spoken perfectly and the couple seemed just right for each other. After the festivities were over, the Actonians descended enmasse to the nearby beach at Beer and pitched headlong into the sparkling sea. It was a perfect end to a perfect day.

Over the years, Steve and Liz have given their time and energy to countless good causes in Iron Acton and Frampton Cotterell.

We were all stunned last year to learn that Liz was seriously ill with cancer. Liz herself however was truly amazing. Sustained by the support of the close family which she loved so much and strengthened by her deep Christian faith, she radiated peace and inner serenity. Frequently those who went to cheer Liz up, came back comforted by her thoughtfulness and kindness.

We have lost a good friend and we send our love and sympathy to Steve, Luke and Miriam and to Keith and Joan, Liz's parents.

*Penny Percy*

## Councillor Royston Edmond Curtis: 1921 – 1998

It was with great sadness that the Parish Council heard of the death of its longest serving member, Roy Curtis. Roy lived at Poplar Farm in the Parish and became a Councillor back in 1952. He attended meetings until March this year. During his time of office, Roy was Chairman, a School Governor, Church Warden and a Charities Trustee.

I first met Roy back in 1988 when I came on to the Council and right from that first meeting he was very willing to help and impart some of his vast knowledge of the area to me.

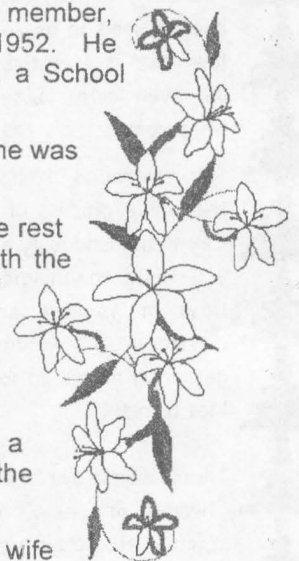
In 1993 I was privileged to attend his Golden Wedding party at the Village Hall and meet the rest of his family including his granddaughter Rachel, who has kept the family association with the Parish Council going by becoming our new Clerk in 1996. Roy completed 40 years of Parish Council service to the community, a feat in itself. When you add up all the unpaid hours that Roy put in, the Parish was a large part of his life.

The Council and I will always be grateful for his unselfish dedication and honesty.

We will choose another member to fill the position but we could never replace Roy. He was a walking encyclopaedia on local affairs and history, and we owe a lot to his work in keeping the footpaths and the rural open spaces of Iron Acton a place for all to enjoy.

Our council meetings just won't be the same without him and our condolences go to his wife Betty, son, Tony and daughters Lorna and Diane. Our grateful thanks for his life.

*Bob Sheppard – Chairman: Iron Acton Parish Council*



### Loving Mum

Love is an everlasting thing,  
It does not come or go.  
It is with the things we treasure,  
'Tis in our hearts forever.

Death in no way destroys the love,  
Just rearranges it.  
Gives it another point of view,  
'Tis always there for you.

In the end when we ourselves die,  
We meet the love again.  
In same amounts as was before,  
But again it seems more.

*By Miriam Birch (aged 14)*



## Mothers' Union: St James The Less

Did you know there is a local branch in Iron Acton?

We are a small group of ladies who meet every month – usually the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday – (but not always – so you need to read the local Parish Magazine!). We generally meet in the Marshall Room (to the East of the Church) at 2.30pm.

We are having a Garden Party in Primrose Cottage, High Street on July 21<sup>st</sup> (Tuesday) at 2.30pm for all newly baptised children and also mother and toddlers from the Parish. So if you would like to come, please ring me on 228544 or let Penny Percy know on 228 339



### What is the Mothers Union?

The Mothers' Union is a world-wide society whose aim is the advancement of the Christian religion in the sphere of marriage and family life. In order to carry out this aim, its objects are:-

- ❖ To uphold Christ's teaching on the nature of marriage and to promote its wider understanding
- ❖ To encourage parents to bring up their children in the faith and life of the Church
- ❖ To maintain a world-wide fellowship of Christians, united in prayer, worship and service
- ❖ To promote conditions in society favourable to stable family life and the protection of children
- ❖ To help those whose family life has met with adversity

We would love to have some younger mums come and see what we're all about. It's all very informal – so we don't mind noise and have all been mums ourselves, so know what it's like!

Some of our future events are as follows, so why not make a note in your diary and come along.

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Tues 29 <sup>th</sup> September	The Rev'd Sue Rushton will show us slides of her travels in Israel	2.30pm: Marshall Room
Tues 27 <sup>th</sup> October	Nothing definite planned as yet	
Tues 24 <sup>th</sup> November	Jane Giddings: Beauty Treatments	2.30pm: Marshall Room

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We really would welcome some new faces (new or old!) and encourage Iron Acton to grow as a Parish too.



Penny Wheeler  
Branch Leader

# BELOW SEA LEVEL

Have you ever watched those wonderful wild life programmes where they explore the underwater life of fish and coral? I have, many times, and wanted to experience it first hand. Someone said to me the other day that I was not born to live at sea level. My working life is spent at about 37,000 ft. above the ground and I now find myself wishing to pass my leisure time under the sea.

Last Autumn I did something I have always wanted to do - I learned to SCUBA Dive. Fortunately I had the very best diving instructor - her name is Tina Symons and she has become a friend and my diving mentor. I say fortunately because I was very apprehensive. On my initial course I was the oldest person and the fact that I was teamed with a group of five strapping, fit 20 - 30 year old chaps - didn't bother me! The course consisted of two weekends. First weekend: Saturday morning, classroom watching videos, having brief lectures and writing basic tests followed by the afternoon in a swimming pool performing underwater skills. I need to tell you that the temperature was somewhat less than tropical! Sunday morning was similar, ending with a final written exam (easy), and the afternoon was spent in the same chilly pool doing further underwater activities.

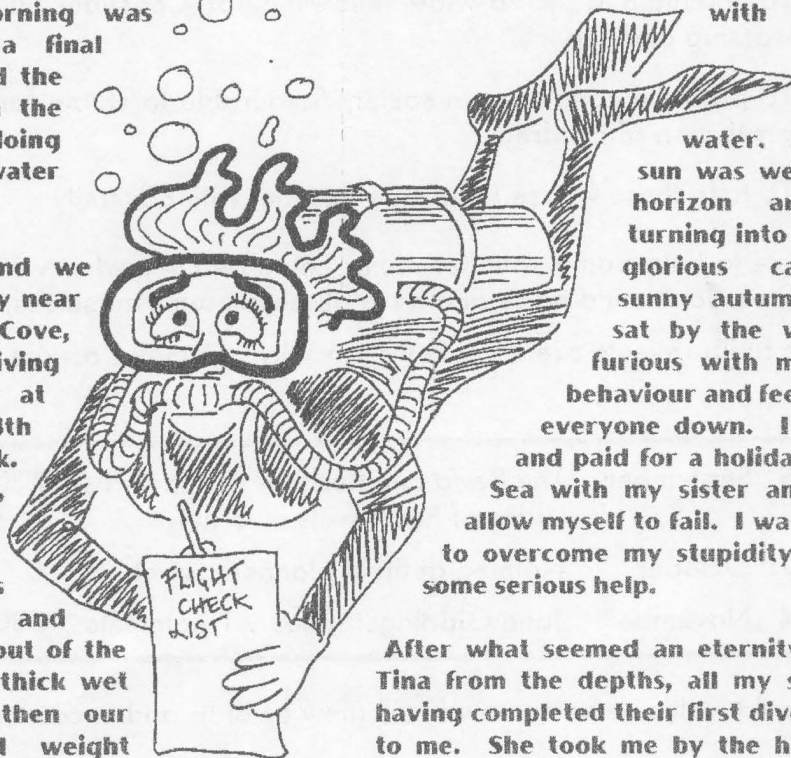
The subsequent weekend we went to a flooded quarry near Leicester called Stoney Cove, infamous for some diving deaths. We gathered at 0600 hrs - it was the 18th October - cold and dark. The location was, in fact, very picturesque with still waters, a mist rising and steep banks covered with shrubs and trees. As the sun rose out of the mist, we kitted up into thick wet suits, boots & hoods then our diving equipment and weight belts. I felt like the "Michelin man" but more cumbersome and very nervous. We

were about twenty-four students divided into groups of six with an instructor and divemaster.

Eventually we had to get into that cold, forbidding water. My group of fit young chaps went in with apparent ease - then it came to my turn. In I jumped, down I went, up I came to find that the mask I had been given was leaking! Good start because my big problem in the pool was performing a skill called "mask removal and clearance". Tina shouted to someone to get me a fresh mask, it arrived very quickly and I was told to swim about 30 metres to a buoy and descend - easy! I rushed my swim to the buoy, probably because I was last and did not want to hold everyone up. I was very nervous, had not acclimatised to the environment, got into a panic attack and hyperventilated. If, like me, you have never experienced such a thing, it comes as a total shock and is very frightening. Up from the bottom came Tina and tried to calm me, which she did for a short time. Down I went to about 5 metres and settled on the bottom only to find my panic returning. Up I went

with the divemaster and out of the water. By now the sun was well above the horizon and it was turning into one of those glorious calm, warm, sunny autumnal days. I sat by the water's edge furious with my ridiculous behaviour and feeling I had let everyone down. I had booked and paid for a holiday to the Red Sea with my sister and could not allow myself to fail. I was determined to overcome my stupidity but needed some serious help.

After what seemed an eternity up popped Tina from the depths, all my strong chaps having completed their first dive, and talked to me. She took me by the hand into the water saying we would take our time and go



for a gentle swim under the water. She is far from stupid for she led me to a sunken aircraft cockpit, put there for interest. My nerves were diverted by my interest in the sight. Eventually we performed the necessary exercises for the first dive with the exception of "mask removal and clearance". I adamantly refused, under the water to do this task so up we came! On the surface we chatted, or rather I chatted:

"If I don't do this, I don't get the tick in the box" I said

"No" she said

"If I don't get the tick in the box, I don't get the licence and I can't dive in the Red Sea" I said.

"That's right" she said "but you can do it tomorrow if you prefer"

"No let's do it!" I said.

Down we went and after some concentration and lots of determination I did it. The second dive that day went OK but I was emotionally very tired and did not sleep well. The second day went well as far as I was concerned and I actually enjoyed it.

A few weeks later I went off to the Red Sea with my sister. The waters were warm, clear and very blue. The underwater scenes were amazing with stunning coral colours and the prettiest fish in their hundreds. It was a most wonderful experience that I vowed to repeat.

My diving has not stopped. Tina promised, against my protestations, that she would get me diving in the U.K waters.

"Never" I said

"Wait and see" she said.

Sure enough - the weekend of 23rd May, having done a "dry suit" course I went to the Lizard Peninsular to experience my first dive in British waters. I rose at 0500 and arrived at the appointed place and did three dives. Needless to say I was rather nervous but with the help and encouragement from Tina I had the most wonderful day. We saw a reef equal to anything in the Red Sea basking sharks. It was amazing. I got home late, tired and totally elated. If anyone fancies a go, at what has become for me an essential leisure activity, please call me and I will put you in touch with Tina. Be warned, however, she will get you addicted, and so will I.

Diving has no barriers of sex, age, race or class. One meets a totally broad spectrum of people, all of whom are extremely friendly, kind and full of enthusiasm - and I have met some lovely people. It need not be an expensive pastime, unless one intends to really go for it! I am off to Mexico late June, with a friend, for a week's diving and I know it will be fantastic. The tropical waters with their associated wild life are irresistible. I will, however, look forward to my next dive in those more challenging, but fascinating waters off the U.K.

Pam McCoy

## Sue Rushton

As one who walks through the churchyard at least four times every day, but goes into the church less frequently, I found the licensing service of Sue Rushton, our new priest in charge (as we must now term it), a moving and happy occasion. There was a feeling in church of optimism, perhaps rejuvenation at the thought of Iron Acton having a priest again, albeit a shared one. It is now clear why the Council has been repairing the potholes in Frampton End Lane, as the Rev. Sue may need roller skates to travel between the two churches on Sundays. One felt for the Bishop of Bristol when, at the most solemn part of the service, he had to declare (on the advice of a lawyer it seems) that Sue's position would be "At no extra stipend." The phrase sent a ripple of amusement and bemusement through the congregation, and will no doubt pass into the annals of Iron Acton anecdotal history. It also left at least one of your editors wondering: Why not?



JoV

# POETRY CORNER

*Thank you for your excellent magazine – lovely to look through and informative to read. Came across this little poem and thought you might like to share it with your readers. It caused quite a few chuckles (and meaningful glances in my direction) in our family.*

Betty Rees – New Zealand

## MY WIFE THE GARDENER

She dug the plot on Monday –  
the soil was rich and fine,  
She forgot to thaw out dinner –  
so we went out to dine...  
She planted roses Tuesday –  
she says they are a must,  
They really are quite lovely  
but she quite forgot to dust.  
On Wednesday it was daisies –  
they opened up with sun,  
All whites and pinks and yellows –  
but the laundry wasn't done...  
The poppies came on Thursday –  
a bright and cheery red,  
I guess she really was engrossed –  
she never made the bed...  
It was violets on Friday –  
in colours she adores,  
It never bothered her at all –  
all crumbs upon the floors...  
I hired a maid on Saturday  
my week is now complete,  
My wife can garden all she wants –  
the house will still be neat!  
It's nearly lunchtime Sunday –  
and I cannot find the maid,  
Oh no! I don't believe it!  
she's out there WITH THE SPADE!

## Thank You!

To the **Actonians** for their most welcome donation of £171 to Focal Poyntz. This was the proceeds from their May Day bottle stall and tea tent.

To the **Parish Council** for a donation of £350 and...

To **John and Barbara Naish** who kindly donated £120 – the proceeds from teas served on their two Open Garden days.

Over time we have received other donations; large and small they are all very welcome.

It is a boost to the morale as well as funds, to know that readers and village organisations think the magazine is worth supporting in such a magnificent way.



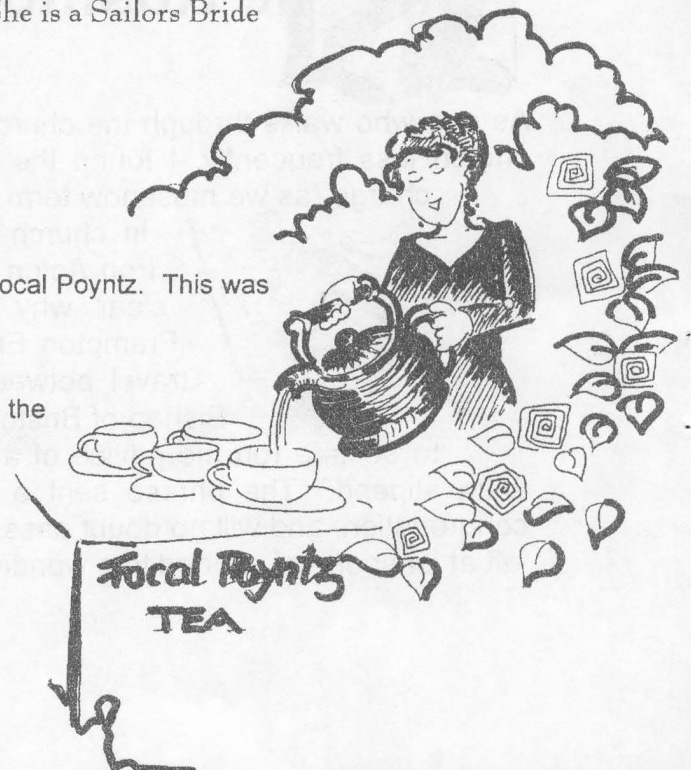
*Mrs B Morris was given this poem over 40 years ago, while her husband was serving n the Royal Navy*

## THE SAILORS BRIDE

She knows before she weds  
That her's will be a lonely bliss  
Living for the welcome home  
Or on a farewell kiss  
Waiting for a letter  
She is longing to receive  
Following a map  
Or looking forward to a leave  
Her's will be the homely tasks  
Cheered by a memory  
While he will ride the storms and pit  
His strength against the sea

She'll make her own decisions  
And hope that they are right  
She'll envy other wives whose husbands  
Come home every night  
She knows before she was wed, the part  
That she has got to play  
Yet sometimes it is hard to watch -  
And work and wait and pray

May God bestow his blessings  
For her patience and her pride  
And warm her lonely heart, because  
She is a Sailors Bride





## LYNNE'S WHIMS *(subtitled we're a page short)*

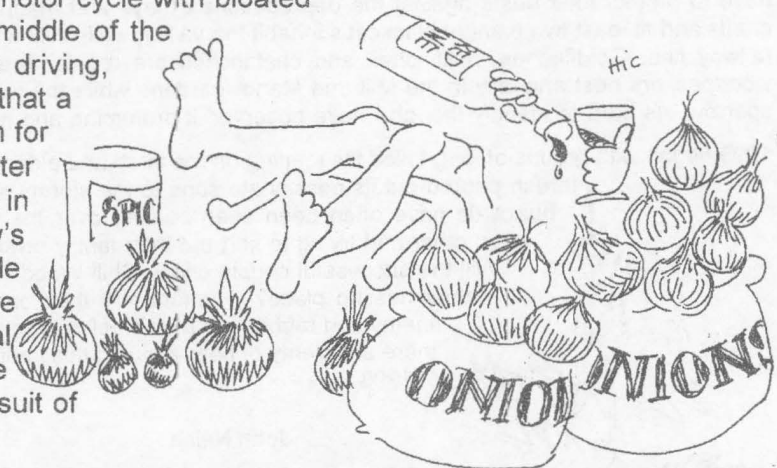
My main gripe this edition is where's our traffic lights for the bypass?? It's getting to the stage where to turn right out of the village opposite Parker's or out of Latteridge Road towards Frampton is virtually impossible during rush hours and it's not that easy at other times either, especially when the grass is so high (S Glos has a policy of only cutting the grass a certain number of feet from the road, which is fine until you've got bends in the road as we've got on the bypass and then the longer grass obscures vision).

I accept that funds are short and that South Glos don't have a bottomless pit of money ..... until I go along the Badminton Road in Coalpit Heath and see how much money must've been wasted reducing the speed limit to 30 (together with all the related road markings and areas where the different road surface is laid) and then when I go along the A38 (still in South Gloucestershire's jurisdiction) they've decided to paint in a cycle lane (which in places has to disappear 'cos there isn't room for it) and alter all the road markings and again play around with funny surfaces you've got to question the judgements, haven't you?

As some of you may recall, either from the church magazine or from Jim Rycroft's comment in the last Focal Poyntz, I'm partial to onions! Jim's red ones were superb with beetroot and spiced red wine vinegar, and I'm now working my way along North Road and I've reached Wes Bond's shallots - which, just like Wes himself, are small and perfectly formed. When sliced and combined with thinly sliced new potatoes and baked in double cream with a hint of nutmeg they become something to die for. It's amazing how the conversation ends up when you start talking cricket and how Gloucestershire are doing with Wes' wife, Freda, in the Rose & Crown at Rangeworthy.

Talking of cricket, guess who were the last to leave the licensing service? None other than Simon Cross, Rob Taylor and John Shepherd - they were discussing the team to play at Chew Magna the following Sunday. I thought it would be the First Eleven but I was promptly informed "it's the only eleven". I'm not sure how they did but I just hope the little bit of extra "divine intervention" helped to boost the run rate. I was also gently chided about being a member of Gloucestershire CCC but not supporting my own village team - fair comment and justified, but how about asking David McCoy to put a fixture list on the Acton Aid noticeboard so we know where you're going to be with very little effort and then maybe even more would come and cheer?

It's always been a bit dangerous driving through the lanes between Latteridge and Tytherington as cars often seem to travel faster than the width of the lane allows, but recently there's been an even more frightening vision! It's Digby Blanch on his quad bike. I first encountered this apparition one summer evening when, happily driving along in third gear without a care in the world, I turned a corner to find what I thought was a motor cycle with bloated wheels hurtling towards me in the middle of the road. On this occasion David was driving, but as the vehicle passed I realised that a panic stricken Digby was hanging on for grim death behind. Laughter overcame me and I nearly ended up in the ditch! Lately, however, Digby's been allowed sole use of the vehicle and he travels along much more sedately and looks almost regal perched, straight backed, as he traverses the fields and lanes in pursuit of his cattle.



Do you ever see signs and posters and find that your mind's wandering? On a journey to Thornbury I passed a whole series of signs advertising the location of a psychics fair. Would you've thought the same as I did that they couldn't be very good psychics if they needed to be told where they had to go?????



Lynne Blanchard

## YOUR PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN	Bob Sheppard	01454 228515
VICE-CHAIRMAN	Peter Wedgwood	01454 228532
COUNCILLORS	Carolyn Baker	01454 228240
	Sue Gawler	01454 228519
	Chris Heal	01454 228498
	Bob Lomas	01454 228327
	David White	01454 228005
CLERK	Rachel Weldrake	01454 321362
ASSISTANT TO THE CLERK	Norman Carter	01454 228563

Your South Gloucestershire Councillor is Gillian Elston and she can be contacted on 01454 294851.

### NOTES FROM A NATURALIST ON THE FROME

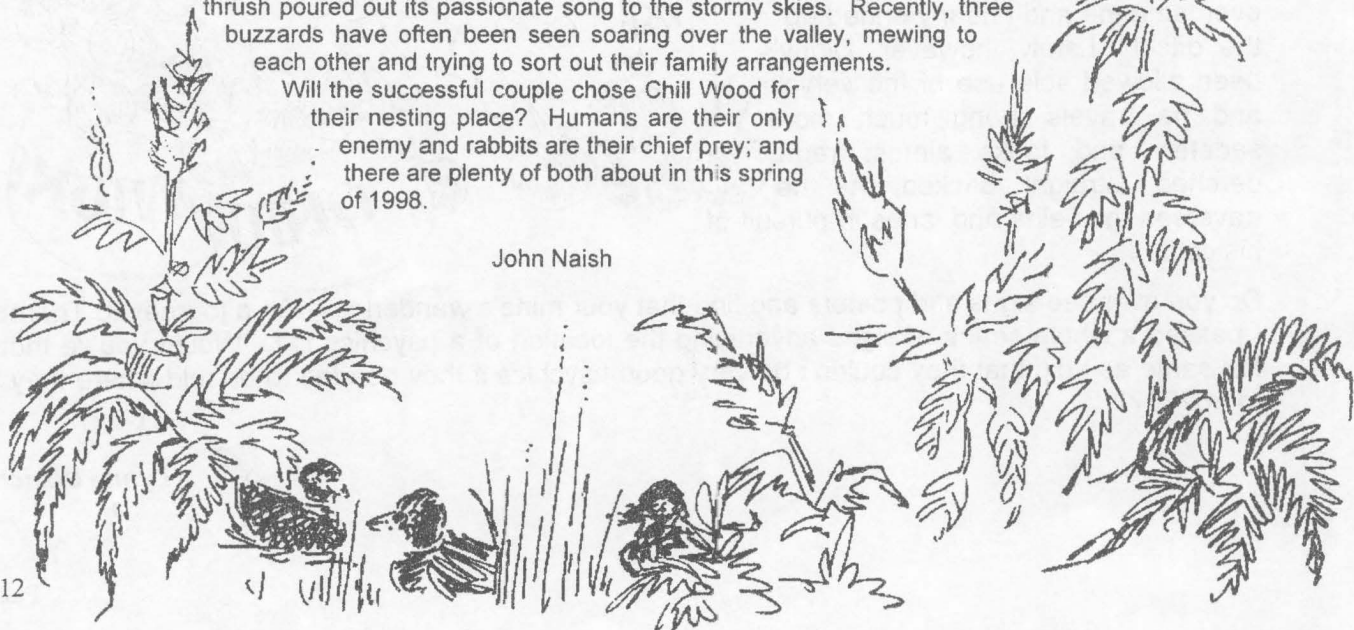
Observing the flora and fauna on the banks of the River Frome at Iron Acton for some 48 years, many changes have been noted. Not surprisingly, in view of the low rainfalls of the past decade, the summer flow of water seems to have decreased. At the same time - perhaps as a result of the use of nitrogenous fertilisers on the farm-land draining into the Frome - there is phenomenal growth of summer vegetation along the banks of the mill-stream. The population of water snails has also gone up so that the millstream is currently supporting no less than three pairs of mallard. One of the ducks appeared to have two drake suitors until early April when a dead drake was found on the bank. Although there were no signs of external injury we suspect foul play, perhaps even a *crime passionel!* During this decade of the 90s there have been many families of ducklings raised on the millstream so there must be plenty of food for them - even discounting Marilyn Wright's duck breakfasts of stale bread! The other habitual visitor to the mill-stream is the Kingfisher which must breed locally as a family of young ones was observed by the weir in 1995. There are masses of small fish in the millstream for them to feed on. Grey wagtails breed most years close to the mill and are usually successful in raising young. Moorhens used to be much more common but recently they have become scarce. Could this be due to the activities of a mink which has been sighted several times during the last five years? The other sad decline is in the water vole population; they used to be common in the 60s and 70s but now they are rarely seen. Frogs, toads and newts are as common as ever, as well as the grass snakes which prey on them. The over-all good news is that the incidents of bad pollution originating from upstream at Yate are decreasing; the Rivers Authority is very prompt in dealing with the culprits.

Away from the river, the population of carrion crows continues to increase which is bad news for the small birds which have to protect their nests against the depredations of jays and magpies as well. Despite these risks several chaffs and at least two pairs of blackcaps inhabit the valley, while willow warblers prefer the rough tangle along the railway line. Goldfinches, bullfinches and chaffinches are regular breeders. The green and greater spotted woodpeckers nest annually in the Mill and Manor gardens while the lesser-spotted woodpecker - only the size of a sparrow - is hard to identify though I have observed it drumming and nesting during several previous years.

1998 began with groups of long-tailed tits feeding on the birch and alder trees while the missel thrush poured out its passionate song to the stormy skies. Recently, three buzzards have often been seen soaring over the valley, mewing to each other and trying to sort out their family arrangements.

Will the successful couple chose Chill Wood for their nesting place? Humans are their only enemy and rabbits are their chief prey; and there are plenty of both about in this spring of 1998.

John Naish



# IRON ACTON CRICKET CLUB

By Simon Cross - Chairman

As we approach the mid point of our third season it is pleasing to report that the club continues to thrive and can boast an increased playing membership this year.

Our results have continued to be inconsistent but we have achieved a notable victory against North Nibley, in the John Pratt cup; a round robin mid-week competition in which we play sides from many of the neighbouring villages, and a famous victory against our oldest opponents, the W H Owen XI, in the picturesque surroundings of Chew Stoke.

The standard of our batting has improved immeasurably since last year, as can be demonstrated by greatly improved totals and our first two centurions in Chris Bradley and Simon Cross. Several other notable scores have been posted including a suitably robust 77 from our new fast bowler, Mark Scheepers, and many valuable 30's and 40's.

Our bowling and fielding has maintained the high standards set last year and the team is now a much more competitive unit, ably led by Captains John Shepherd (weekend) and Darren Pulman (mid-week).

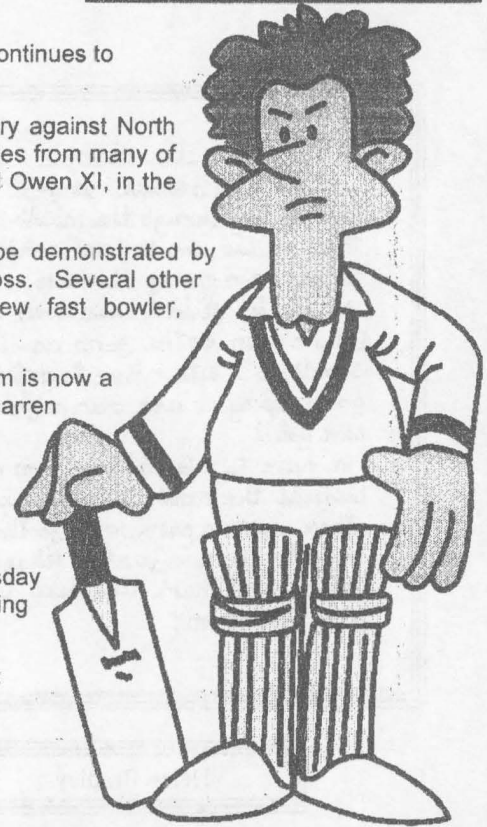
The pitch at Rangeworthy has improved greatly over the last year and with the support of Brendan and his team at the White Hart, the social side continues to flourish.

Chris Bradley has been organising coaching sessions at the Primary School on Thursday evenings (6-7pm) for 8-12 year olds that have proved immensely popular, with anything up to 25 children attending.

If anyone nurses hidden cricketing talent that they wish to expose, they should contact:

☎ Chris Perry 228798  
 ☎ John Shepherd 228374  
 ☎ Darren Pulman 320070

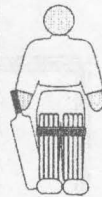
or attend our regular Wednesday evening practice at Rangeworthy



## A Sign Posted in Germany's Black Forest -

It is strictly forbidden on our Black Forest Camping Site that people of different sexes - for instance, men and women - live together in one tent unless they are married with each other for that purpose

## Our next home matches are:



19 July	vs	The Drinking Fellows	2.30pm
22 July	vs	Tortworth	6.00pm
26 July	vs	Wickwar	2.30pm
2 August	vs	Tortworth	2.30pm
9 August	vs	North Nibley	2.30pm

and any supporters would be very welcome.

## Junior Actonians

The past few months have been very busy. In February and March we entered the Festival Season. The Lighthouse Keeper's Secret by John Townsend, was great fun to perform and was successful at both Avon and Malmesbury. We also went to Swindon for the Five Counties Final.

In June, some members joined Rangeworthy Youth for an active workshop including a visit to the Wild West and some very energetic stage fighting all led by Jane and Mike.

At the moment, we are taking part in weekly workshops and hope to perform a concert for friends and supporters in July.

All new members are welcome 6.30pm - 8.00pm on Wednesdays.



## A Sign Posted in the lobby of a Moscow hotel across from a Russian Orthodox Monastery -

You are welcome to visit the cemetery where famous Russian and Soviet composers, artists and writers are buried daily except Thursday.



### Latteridge

Latteridge is a small village. It has got a huge road coming through the middle of the village. There are two small lanes coming off it. I go to ride my bike down one of the lanes.

At our top field I have a den which I play in. I have a den on the farm as well. If I need something I either have to get in the car and go shopping or ask our neighbours if they have got it.

We have to stay at our farm most the time because the road is busy and dangerous. There isn't a park or a football pitch we can walk to. There is just a village green.

Jason and Mark live next door. We sometimes play with them.

Helen Bradley

### Iron Acton

Iron Acton is a small, pretty village quite near to Yate.

The river Frome runs through the middle of Iron Acton.

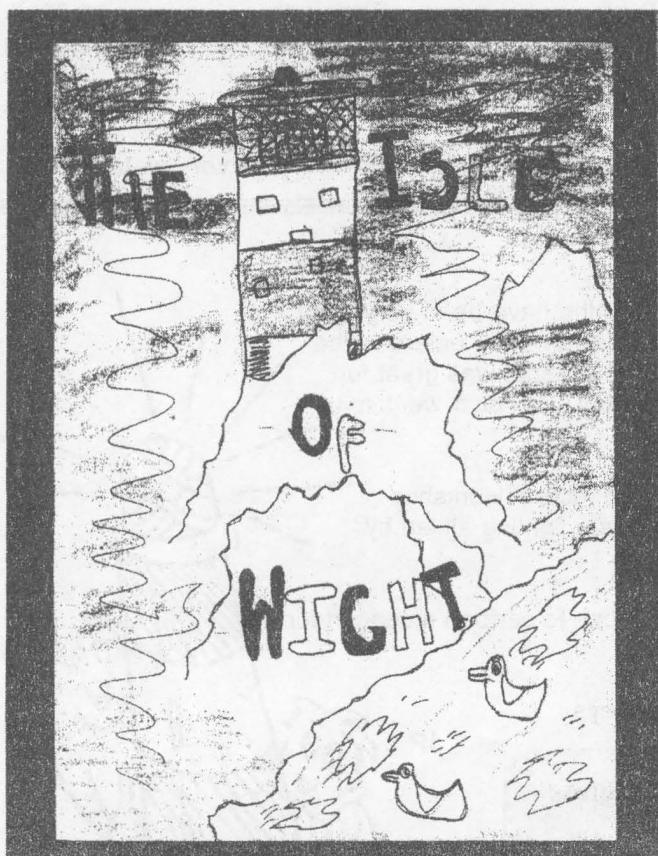
Iron Acton has a little village school, a church, 3 pubs and a farm shop. There was a Post Office which sadly has been recently closed.

The best thing about living in Iron Acton is that it is so small you probably know everyone there.

In the summer it is really good because there is a lot of greenery and space to play on and you can climb trees and ride bikes.

I like living in Iron Acton because its sun and the roads are not very noisy or busy.

Sarah Bourns



Samantha Hillier

### Living in Iron Acton

Iron Acton is a small, isolated village in the South West. Living there can be dull sometimes.

There is a park next to my house which I play in on my bike and with my friends. I also ride my bike around the village and to the garage along the bypass. To buy food, clothes, and other shopping we drive a few miles to Yate shopping centre. We shop also at The Mall, Cribbs Causeway and at Broadmead, Bristol.

When I go to my friends' houses, to pubs and to other places my parents usually drive in a car although we sometimes walk to one of the three small pubs in Iron Acton.

Living in Iron Acton is good because the roads in the village are quite safe for me and other children.

There used to be a small post office in Iron Acton but it shut down in April 1997.

Grace Jackson



# Iron Acton CEVC Primary School



We are all looking forward to our regular summer events, sports days, fetes, parish meadow picnic and the Isle of Wight Study Trip.

Work has already begun in the classrooms preparing for the trip and the children cannot wait for it to happen. Whilst there, the children will be visiting Alum Bay using the chair lift and attending the glassworks for a demonstration of glassmaking. They will be visiting historical sites, Osborne House, Carisbrooke Castle and Haseley Manor where they will see a working pottery and a traditional sweet maker. There will also be time for recreation.

At the end of this term we say cheerio and a happy retirement to Mrs Janet Hatt. Mrs Hatt has been part of the teaching staff at Iron Acton CEVC Primary School since 1974. During that time she has taught many children and has recently begun to see a second generation of children in her class. Mrs Hatt has always supported and nurtured the children in her care enabling them to grasp the fundamental skills necessary to further their education. The school will greatly miss her.

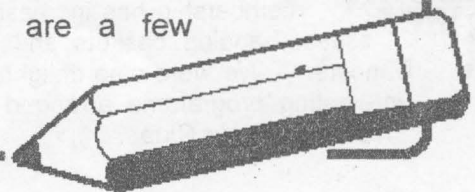


We are holding our leavers service this year in the Church and invite you to come and join our service in which we shall say a fond farewell to our Year 6 children and Mrs Hatt.

As I reported to you in my last contribution to the magazine, the school is participating in a Heritage Project which will be involving other local schools in South Gloucestershire and schools from Sweden and other parts of Europe. The school intends to bring together a potted history of Iron Acton from the time when the school was built (1874) up to the present day, documenting how things have changed for the children during this time. If you feel that you may be able to help in any way by having photos that we may copy, experiences of school or of working life in the village during this time, please contact the school. We want the outcome of this work to be an enrichment of our children's knowledge of their changing surroundings as well as being able to show others across Europe what it is like to live here.



Prior to the school study trip reported above, the children were asked to write about their own village, to compare with life on the Isle of Wight. Shown opposite are a few examples of their work.



Back in March, Tesco at Thornbury was mad enough to agree to a behind the scenes visit! So on a reasonably warm Monday evening there we all were, clogging up the entire customer service area, waiting for our intrepid hero for the night to start showing us around.

The aforementioned hero turned out to be Colin Chivers and he was great, setting off at a fair pace as far as the staff canteen where we all sat down and had tea! A brief history of Tesco in general and Tesco in Thornbury followed and then we were off once again to see the offices, store rooms, cold stores and in-store bakery. It's a pity Jim doesn't fix it any more 'cos I would love to try and reverse one of those big artics into an unloading bay.

Our April meeting speakers, through slides and words, took us on a journey starting at Canterbury and finishing at Salisbury via Winchester. It was lovely to see all the places but not have to do any of the walking. This was Jan and Dave's fourth visit and so it was like welcoming friends rather than speakers.

We were off on our travels again in late April. This time to Lockyer's Fuchsias at Coalpit Heath. After a film show on how to grow the perfect plant (oh it seemed so easy), we were given a guided tour of all the different greenhouses and sheds and finally let loose in the shop! Some of the husbands not brave enough to come along had tried to issue commands like "don't buy too much" - did Canute successfully stem the tide?? Staggering under the weight of all these wonderful plants we departed, back to the warm security of a village hostelry - spending money is hard work!



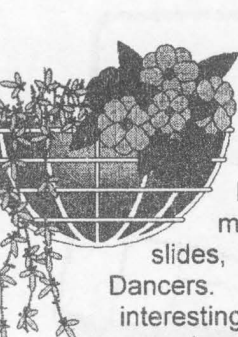
This brings us to our last meeting. The dry sounding talk was entitled "useful, edible and interesting plants" and was anything but dry. The speaker was a biologist who earned his living in a laboratory but for fun rummaged around in the undergrowth to see a) what plants he could find and b) how he could use them. He was absolutely fascinating, not least because you could tell how much he enjoyed his wanderings and his enthusiasm made you smile. We ended the evening trying elderflower fritters (made in the kitchen of the village hall) and seaweed quiche (which he'd made at home) - the latter not for the faint hearted!

In July we're off on our travels again. We're going on a walk! It's a circular one with the start and finish points at the Windbound down on the Severn (we don't want to be dehydrated before we start and we'll certainly need to restore our fluid levels when we finish).

No meeting in August, back in September for a talk on Wild Birds (no, not the WI when we've been upset) from Dursley Bird Watching Society and then in October we try and turn crafty in a slightly different way when poor old Jan Horler has agreed to attempt to teach us how to make Christmas Crackers, then it's our Birthday Party in November and sherry and mince pies to accompany our Annual Meeting in December ..... and that's 1998 gone!

If any ladies would be interested in joining our little gatherings please ring Judy on 318235 for details on how and when we meet.

Lynne Blanchard



## North Road Ladies Club

North Road Ladies Club is now in its 31st year and meetings are still held in North Road Primary School at 7.30p.m. on the first Monday of the month (term time only). This year our membership has increased to 30. During the last six meetings we have enjoyed talks and slides, hanging baskets and craft demonstrations and a display by the Concorde Wheelchair Dancers. We were also delighted to visit the gardens of Highgrove on 2nd June. We have a very interesting programme arranged for the rest of the year and are always happy to welcome new members to our Club.

June Rycroft

# How to Improve the Environment

## "Yes, Prime Minister"

- a conversation which might (?) have been overheard in Whitehall just before the budget.

**Prime Minister** "We are in desperate need of more money, Humphrey, we shall certainly need to increase income tax"

**Sir Humphrey** "Good gracious, Prime Minister, you can't do that! You've promised that you wouldn't!"

**PM** "Then where are we to get it from Humphrey?"

**Sir H** "What you must do, Prime Minister, is this; you must look as though you are not trying to raise money at all, but are trying desperately to carry out something everyone wants you to do."

**PM** "How do you suggest we do that?"

**Sir H** "Well, you could say that you are concerned about the environment and you really want to cut down all this dreadful pollution from cars. So you intend to slap a big tax increase on petrol"

**PM** "But then everyone would give up their cars and we would be back at square one!"

**Sir H** "Of course they wouldn't Prime Minister. It wouldn't make the slightest difference to the number of cars. Tell me this; when has the number of cars ever decreased after a tax increase?"

**PM** "You're quite right, Humphrey. So it would raise all the money we need and everyone would say what splendid chaps we are - determined to improve the environment!"

**Sir H** "Yes, Prime Minister."

The same scene, in August .....

**PM** "I have an important proposal for the White Paper on Transport."

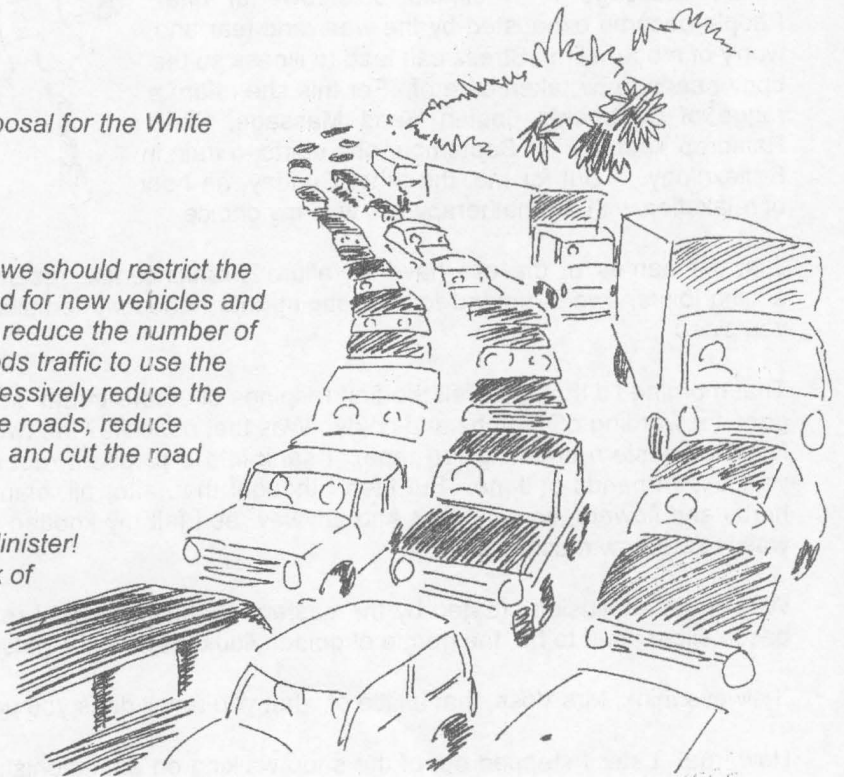
**Sir H** "Yes, Prime Minister?"


**PM** "Yes, Humphrey. I think we should restrict the number of licences issued for new vehicles and new drivers. That would reduce the number of cars, and encourage goods traffic to use the railways. We could progressively reduce the number of vehicles on the roads, reduce traffic jams and pollution, and cut the road building programme."

**Sir H** "Prime Minister, Prime Minister! Perish the thought! Think of the revenue we should lose on car and fuel tax!"

**PM** "So the more cars, the more congestion, the happier we should be?"

**Sir H** "Yes, Prime Minister."



 With acknowledgements and apologies to the TV programme, "Yes, Prime Minister"

# THE FURS ON CHANGE ...?

The world turns. It not only turns but it turns in very strange ways. Twenty years ago, buying bacon at Fursman's grocer's shop, cut precisely to the thinness I wanted, sampling leisurely, while I waited, the fat sugary muscatel raisins, judiciously watching the moving cheese wire until it was poised in exactly the right line to give me the amount of farmhouse Cheddar I wanted (and could afford) would I ever have imagined that one day I'd be lying in this shop, face down, clad only in a pair of briefs, on a bed that is in precisely the position of the old sweet counter, with my head slightly to the east of Mrs Fursman's drapery display?

Admittedly around Christmas Mr Fursman used to administer generously to his regular customers a certain wheat wine - often with a little something else added "to keep the cold out". Certainly it brought a flush to the cheeks, a tingle to the lips and, if it was a particularly good year for wheat, a wobbly way of walking back across the street, but categorically one was always decently clad in winter woollies and never even approaching the horizontal.

There are so many differences between the old grocer's shop and Just Jane, Beauty and Holistic Therapist. But there are also some similarities.

Mr and Mrs Fursman had a chair at the counter. After a day on my state of the art Olympia portable, or down the garden planting fruit trees, while I shopped I could sit and relax and discuss garden plants, or bees, or where the government had gone wrong. They always had time for a chat.

Just Jane has relaxation down to a fine art though there's a clinically white sheeted bed instead of an old chair, and Jane loves to talk too, bubbling over with enthusiasm for her new venture. But Fursman's was closed on Sundays (so was everything then). Jane opened up on Sunday morning, just for me, because on Saturday she'd been busy at Downend Day Centre, talking to the hard working carers of elderly or handicapped people, helping them relieve tension with aromatherapy massage.

Jane's message is a simple but powerful one. People become exhausted by the wear and tear and worry of modern life. Stress can lead to illness so the body needs to be taken care of. For this she offers a range of treatments, Indian Head Massage, Reiki, Raindrop Therapy. In September she starts to train in Reflexology. But for me, the other Sunday, an hour of relaxation with aromatherapy oils was my choice.

Just the names of the oils have an allure: Frankincense, rosemary, geranium. Eucalyptus for soothing aching joints, sweet almond for massaging into headachy temples, drops of lavender on the pillow to help you sleep.

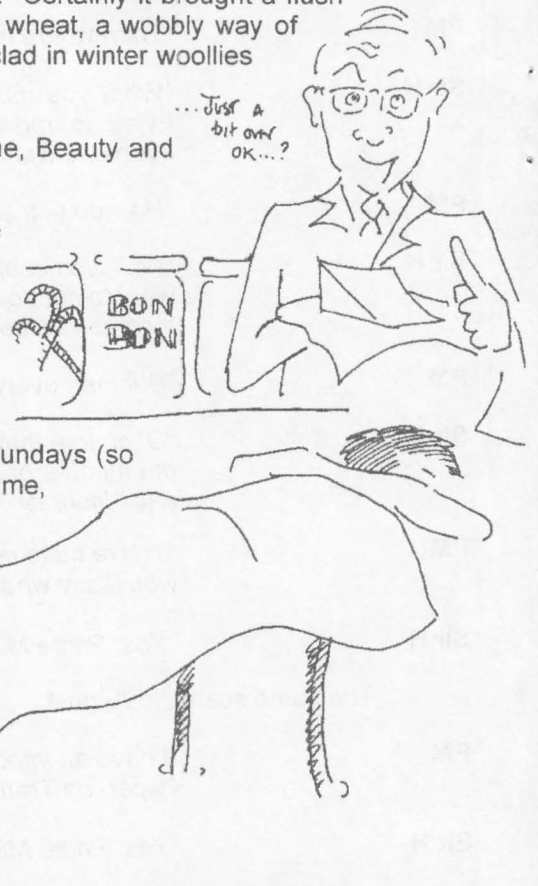
That morning I'd thought I felt the first raspings of a sore throat, so I chose a camomile massage, said to be good for warding off coughs and colds. Was that possible? the twentieth century rationalist in me asked, as, lulled by eastern chanting (on tape) I sank into a pleasant repose, breathing camomile gently, under the very expert hands of Jane. But then I thought that, after all, many of the world's remedies originated from herbs and flowers, so why not? And anyway, as I felt my knotted neck muscles untangle, I felt so relaxed I wasn't sure how much I cared.

Was it just an illusion created by the eastern chanting, or did I really hear, from the direction of where the bacon slicer used to be, the gurgle of golden liquid as it hit the glass and an old familiar voice.

"I always think, Mrs Voss, that a little of what you fancy does you good."

How true! Later I stepped out of the shop walking on air, astonished to discover that Jane seemed to have massaged my stresses away. I was floating, it seemed, just as in the days of the wheat wine, but without the hangover.

My sore throat never developed either.



## The Elizabethan Club

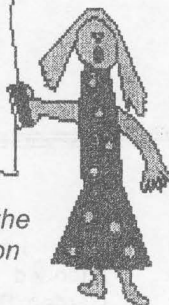
The trips to Cardiff, Elan Valley and Teignmouth were thoroughly enjoyed by members and visitors. We are fully booked for the next trip to Bognor Regis on July 15th and we are hoping the weather will be kind to us.

We very much regret the passing of one of our past members, Mrs Howes.

A warm welcome awaits any new members wishing to join the Club. We meet every other Wednesday in the Village Hall at 2.30pm and our next meeting is on 29th July.

IVY WORSLEY

### ST JAMES THE LESS PARENT AND TODDLER GROUP






*A new social event for the youngest residents of Iron Acton and nearby!*

*We meet every Friday during term-time in the Marshall Room, from 10.30am until 12.00 noon. This is a small and friendly group and you and your baby or pre-school child will be made most welcome. If you're a grand-parent, child-minder or nanny looking after young children, then do come along too.*

*The entrance fee is £1, which includes refreshments.*

*We would like to take this opportunity to thank those who have donated toys and helped to get this new venture up and running.*

*For Further Information please contact:*

-  Donna Worrall 228458
-  Lisa Hatherrell 228725
-  Christine Bellis 228065

## THE FRIENDS OF NORTH ROAD SCHOOL

The School was founded late last century to serve the local coal mining community on the northern edge of Yate.

The mines have long gone, and now the School serves the thriving, modern town of Yate, although the School's main building remains very much as it was 100 years ago. Through extensions and additional classrooms, the School now accommodates 112 pupils, and although old, has a warm but purposeful feel.

The Friends were formed in 1978 as a fund raising support group of parents. Since then it has raised thousands of pounds to help the children by providing extra teaching aids. For example, last year, the Friends enabled the School to:

- ✓ Buy over £1000 worth of books for the library,
- ✓ Spend nearly £2000 on the latest computing equipment and software so that every Class now has at least one CD-ROM Computer,
- ✓ Spend over £800 on improvements to the school environment,
- ✓ Fund support for pupils with special educational needs and subsidise field trips.

In all, the Friends provided almost £50 worth of funding for every child at North Road!

The annual calendar provides events for children, parents and families and includes dances and a very popular Promises Auction. This is the Friends' main fund raising event held each spring, and this year raised over £2000 for the Friends' funds.

This school year's round of events finishes off with the Summer Fair, on Friday July 3rd, 2.45 to 5.30 pm, in the school and school field. Lots of activities are being planned for children, parents, grandmas and grandpas, uncles and aunts .....everyone! Visitors are very welcome!

Our events calendar for the 1998/99 School Year will be planned and published in the autumn, but in the meantime if you want to know more about us, please contact the School, or the Chair of the Friends, Mrs Jane Moss, telephone Chipping Sodbury 311127.

**John Lee -  
Secretary**



### A Sign Posted in a Hotel in Athens

Hotel Guests are expected to complain promptly at the office between the hours of 9 and 11am daily.

## THE ACTONIANS

### TEMPEST IN NOVEMBER

This is not the latest long-range weather forecast from Michael Fish; it's the next production from the Actonians. Bob Allen is well under way with his preparations for our next play which you can see on November 12th, 13th, and 14th.

The Tempest is a magical story and our production will be full of special effects, startling lighting, music and comedy. The set will be one of our most ambitious yet, projecting right out into the hall so there will be plenty of audience involvement.

The Junior Actonians will be participating too so this promises to be a spectacular show for all the family, even if you have never read Shakespeare before. Tickets will go on sale at the end of October (phone 228458) and if you would like to make a group booking we will be happy to arrange a discount.

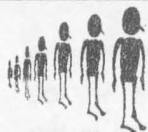
Moving on to December, we will be collaborating with Project 2000 for two Evenings of Entertainment

The 'Allo 'Allo Christmas Show will be based on the popular TV series with additional material written by Mike Wills, Danny Rogers and Jim Sinkinson. The familiar characters from Rene's cafe put on a Christmas Show to entertain the German troops and you can join them for a traditional French-style meal and wine in the Village Hall on December 11th and 12th. Un spectacle à ne pas manquer! This will be a family show and profits will go to Project 2000, which as you may know, is aiming to extend and refurbish the Village Hall.

Mike Wills has not yet cast this production so if you can sing, dance or play a musical instrument and you'd like to be involved in what may well be Project 2000's last major fund raising event then call Mike on 01278 751252. Let him know too if you can lend a hand backstage.

Finally we are pleased to announce that thanks to Howard Taylor, The Actonians are now on the Internet. Visit our pages on [www.xor1.demon.co.uk](http://www.xor1.demon.co.uk). For those of you who prefer to use the phone you can get further information about membership or future events from our secretary, Ann Aplin, on 228243.

DW



During the first six months of 1998, Acton Aid has continued to offer more support to local organisations in the Parish. In May we were asked to purchase a scanner on behalf of Focal Poyntz which the publishers had initially wanted to buy from Focal Poyntz funds. There was unanimous agreement amongst our members and it was proposed to spend around £100.



We subsequently decided to almost double this amount and buy something substantial enough to provide a service for all village organisations. This very useful piece of equipment can copy all types of images onto a computer, from photographs, pictures and graphics to hand written text, which can then be formatted into paragraphs like the one you are reading now! In fact almost anything flat, up to A4 size can be scanned and then printed or used in the production of tickets,

## - ACTON AID -

brochures, posters, magazines etc. If any village organisation would like an image scanned or require further information about its potential, telephone Gill Thompson on 228954.

We will soon be purchasing a semi mature Red Chestnut tree in memory of John Percy who gave so much to Acton Aid and to the village and Parish of Iron Acton. It is a fitting memorial for someone whose charitable actions encompassed so much and who grew to be appreciated by so many people. The Parish Council has kindly offered several locations for the planting of the tree and a suitable site will be announced soon.

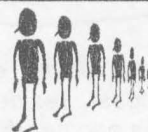
The annual Garden Party at John and Marilyn Wright's will now be held on the 25th of July. This year's theme is a Medieval Banquet complete with a pig roast, dancing and live entertainment. Dress of the period is highly recommended and authentic drinking vessels will be applauded! If

you have never attended one, the Garden Party is the village event of the year and previous do's have been tremendously enjoyable and successful, attracting over 250 people! Bring yourselves and your friends - you can even have your own table if you have a party of eight to ten. Tickets are selling fast so if you don't already have yours telephone Rob Taylor on 326592.

We are pleased to welcome Colin Smith of Latteridge as a new member and trust that he will enjoy the amiable company at our meetings as well as the odd pint or two! Acton Aid meets on the first Thursday of each month in the Rose and Crown at 8pm and is open to all men in the Parish. We would be delighted to welcome you too.



AG



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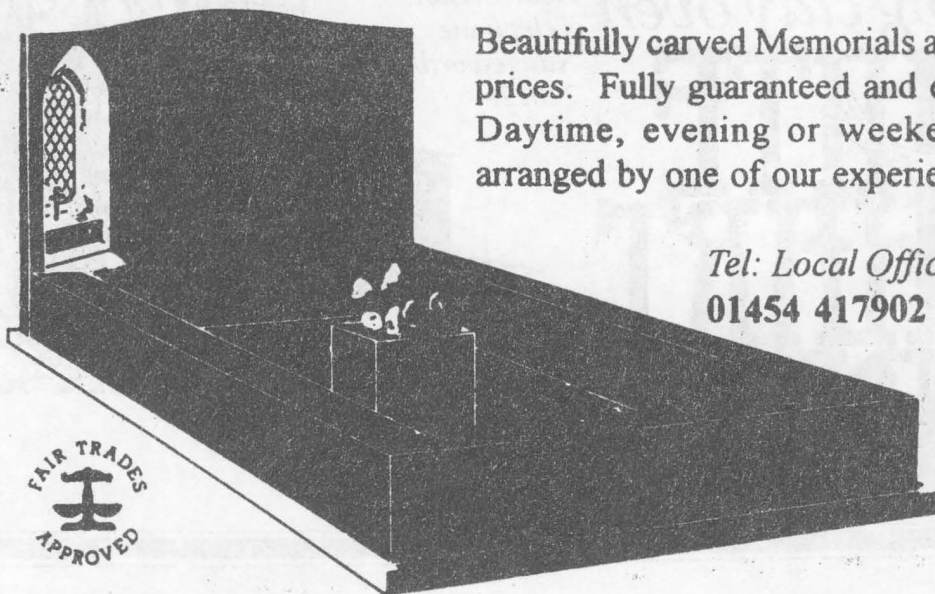
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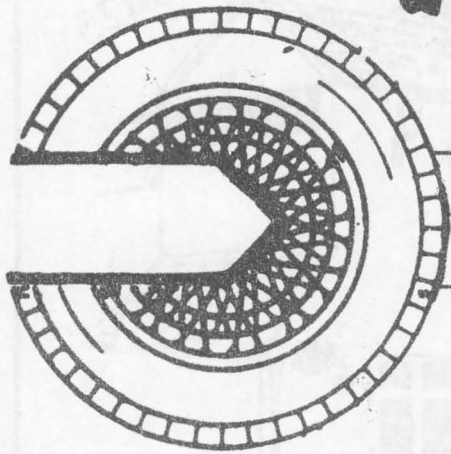


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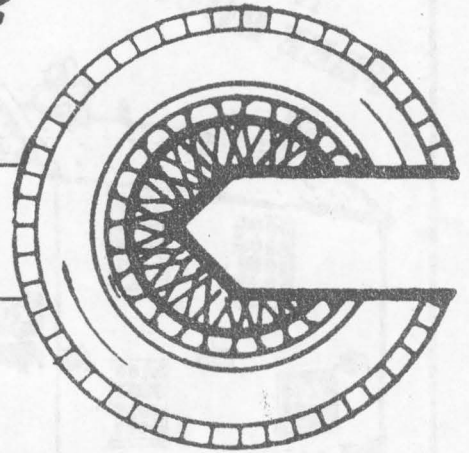
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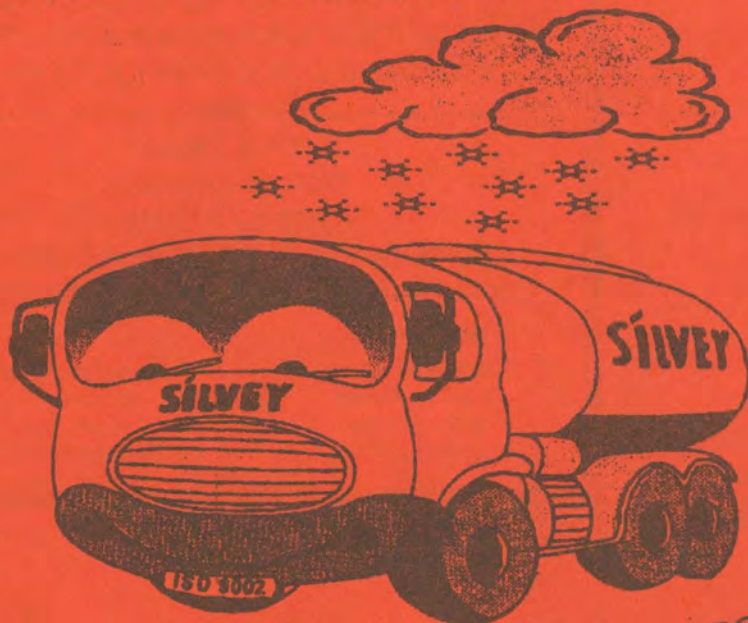
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