

Focal Point



A Magazine for Iron Acton

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
5 th December	Northavon Auctions	
28 th November	Church Sale	
10 th , 11 th , 12 th December	Actonians Christmas Show: 'Allo, 'Allo	
19 th December	Actonians Christmas Party	

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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North Road County Primary School

4 th December	Christmas Fair	2.00pm
14 th December	Infants' Carol Service (at St Mary's Church)	
17 th December	Juniors' Carols and Mince Pies Evening	

Iron Acton CEVC Primary School

14 th December	Christmas Concert Matinee	2.00pm
15 th December	Christmas Concert	
17 th December	School Party	
18 th December	Carol Service in Church	2.00pm

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 Springfield, 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)

Winter

ISSUE 49

Editorial – November 1998

It will not have escaped the attention of those who live around the High Street and Nibley Lane, that the volume of traffic coming through the village has increased markedly over the last year. There is not only more and heavier traffic **but** it is moving ever faster. One of the reasons is that Nibley Lane and the High Street have now become South Gloucestershire's favourite rat-run – a handy little short cut between the Badminton Road and all points west. It is just a matter of time before serious fisticuffs develop over which driver should back down to the passing place. Large vans and lorries now use the lane and it will be no surprise at all when the Sainsbury's containers start trying to push through. Increasing traffic has become a major hazard in this area and the environment is taking a hammering. One local authority in Somerset has stopped maintaining their very narrow lanes, thus saving money and giving the lanes back to walkers, riders and cyclists. How about it South Gloucestershire?

Early Season's Greetings to our readers. We continue to welcome all comments and contributions.

Jo Voss
☎ 228674

Lynne Blanchard
☎ 228566

Penny Percy
☎ 228339

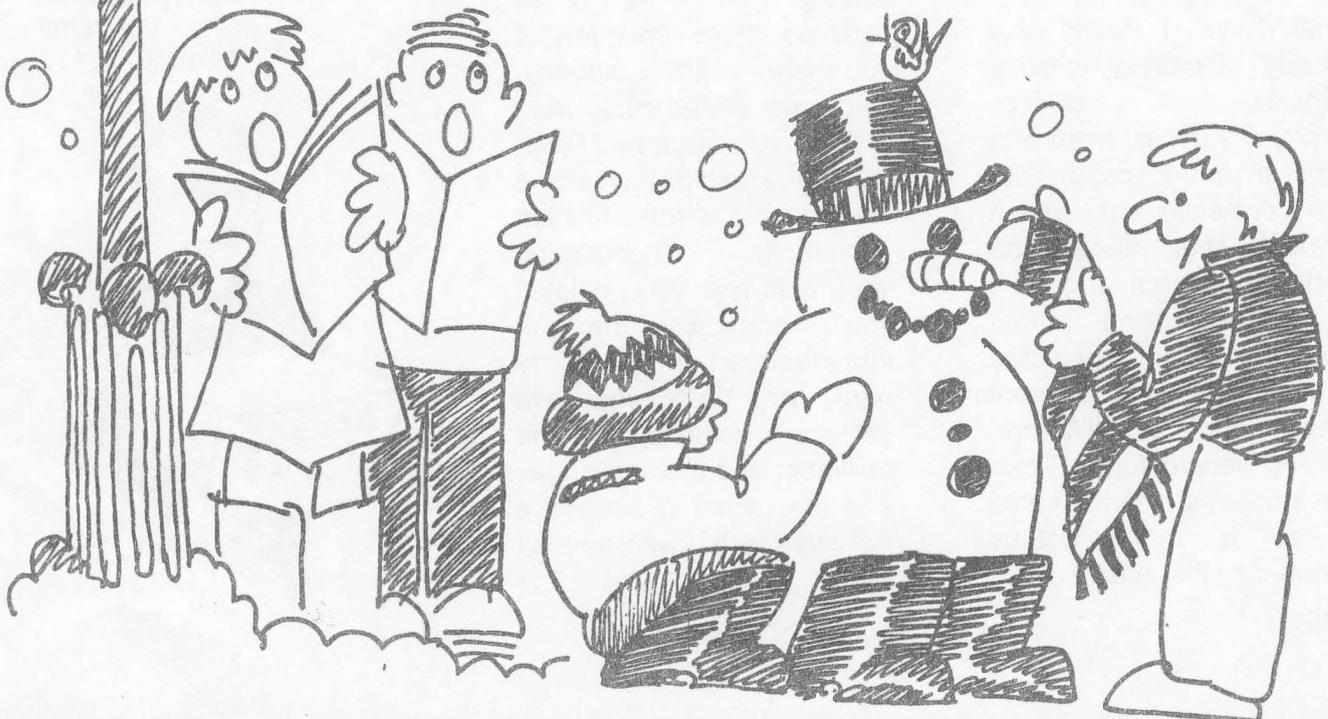
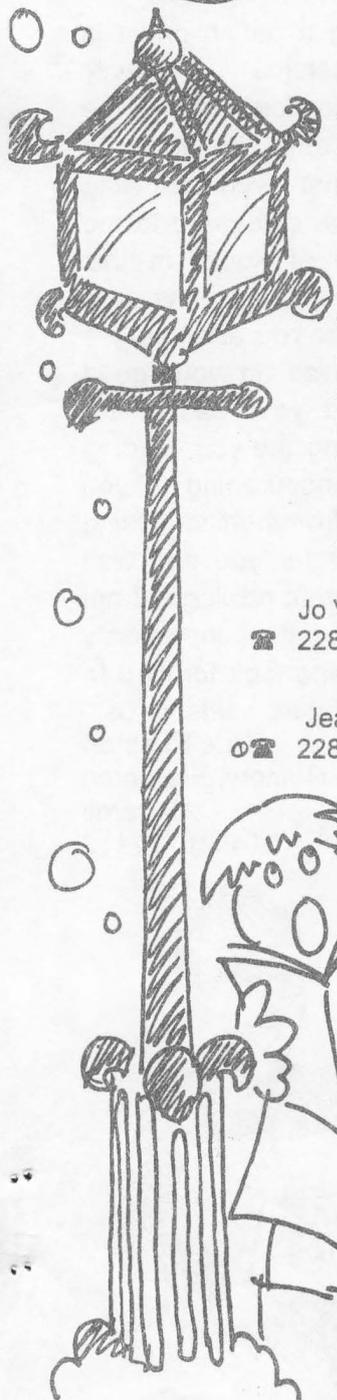
Hazel Dron
☎ 228509

Jean Dickes
☎ 228609

Rona & Barrie Wright
☎ 228247

Maureen Blake
☎ 294381

Gill Thompson
☎ 228954



Random Thoughts From The Rectory

Well, what is it like, being your new priest in charge? Ummmm. I am not sure that newcomers always necessarily see things more clearly. It may be that coming to something new, what you learn at first is only superficial, and you have to wait for a while before you can be sure that your apparently wise and insightful observations are really that, and not just superficial and unreliable. All of this, I have been telling myself since I came. Be cautious, I remind myself, about making instant assessments, and thus possibly mistaken ones.

However, I don't always take my own advice, and there is no doubt that I have already formed some impression of this parish and its people even in such a short time. I may well have to revise them later on, but time enough for that when I start discovering my mistakes!!

What have I found out already? Certainly what a complex, diverse community this is, even with such a small population. The ecclesiastical parish includes the village, the North Road area, a couple of hamlets and some sparsely populated farmland. In these different areas, people are different, leading very different lives. Nevertheless, there seems to be a very vigorous community life, based on

various institutions around the parish, one of them the church, of course.

How the church impinges on all these different people, if at all, is something I will take time to discover. It seems to me that the variety of needs for and responses to the ministry of this church is as great as the variety of people - that is, I can't hope to communicate with this community in only one way. I shall have to learn what the variety of your needs are, and how they can be addressed in appropriate ways.

The existing worshipping family is very diverse, too, and that is a great bonus, a great richness of resources for my ministry here. Together, I hope we shall be able to reach out further into the community, to help more of you to discover or to re-discover the joy of knowing yourselves loved by God, and to want to respond to that generous and forgiving love by worshipping and serving Him. As in all parishes, there are many of you here, I know already, who have drifted away from regular expression of your faith in worship and active membership of the Christian community. Encouraging you, affirming you, helping you back will be an important part of my ministry here. And those who have yet to experience the fulfilment and the challenges and the peace of an active Christian faith, - well, you, all

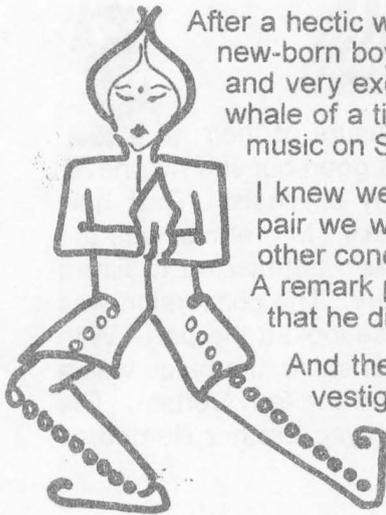
of you, will be an important part of my ministry, too.

But being a parish priest, here or anywhere else, isn't just about coaxing people into church, whatever you may think. And it most certainly isn't just about squeezing more money out of you - despite the need to raise funds to restore the fallen tower ceiling!!

No, being a parish priest is about service - mainly humble service. When the Bishop came in June to conduct that lovely Licensing service, he delegated to me the 'care of souls' in this place, and care means care - caring for you at all stages in your lives, in your good times and your bad times, being alongside you, leading you, encouraging you onwards from behind. Doing all of that for you and with you is a great privilege. I am enjoying it immensely already, and look forward to what the future holds for us.

Sue Rushton
The Rectory, Frampton
Cotterell
(01454) 772112





After a hectic weekend with friends celebrating birthdays and a dedication service for a new-born boy - you know the sort of thing - lots of uncles, aunts, grandparents, etc., and very excited children taking advantage of parental preoccupation and having a whale of a time - we looked forward to some gentle relaxation at a concert of Indian music on Sunday evening. Not so!

I knew we had made a mistake as soon as we arrived at the hall - as an elderly pair we were all too evidently in the wrong milieu. I had the feeling most of the other concert-goers hadn't seen daylight for some time and they were all so young! A remark passed by one of the attendants to some friends who joined us indicated that he didn't think too much of the prevailing dress sense either.

And then the music. Gentle Indian it certainly was not. There were occasional vestiges of Eastern music and there was an Indian dancer but, predominantly, it was **LOUD, LOUD** and more **LOUD**. I felt sorry for that dancer: she had a hundred bells on each leg and she whirled and stamped very energetically but we heard very little of those bells and I kept thinking of the damage she was probably doing to her spine with all that

stamping!

There was also some wonderful "voice music" (I think this is what it is called and made mainly, I imagine, with the tongue). I wouldn't have believed it possible for such rapid sounds to be made.

In spite of all this we enjoyed the concert and it probably does us good to be occasionally jolted out of our musical rut and we do try to vary our musical tastes. At least we didn't make the mistake we made a few years ago when we walked out at an interval in a concert at which we thought we were to hear a "big band". All we heard was a pianist who neither sounded nor looked a happy man. It was only later that we discovered he was the "warm-up" (!). The big band was to follow!

Even concert-going isn't without its hazards.



Jean Dickes

Barbecue Night

A highly successful Focal Poyntz fund-raising barbecue was held in the Wright's garden in July. Your editors want to thank especially our hosts Barrie and Rona and Mike Sutton who cooked with his customary style and confidence and Jayne and Jamie who arranged the bar. The appalling weather did its best as usual to wreck the party but as usual spirits refused to be dampened. Our thanks go out to all those trojans who hung on to the centre poles of the awnings when the gusts reached gale force. We raised a handsome £181.



OXFAM USED POSTAGE STAMP APPEAL

Although I do this all year round, with Christmas approaching I thought now would be the ideal time to remind you that I am more than happy to take any used postage stamps you can collect and will make sure they are passed to Oxfam's stamp and coin section at Banbury in Oxfordshire.

This really is one way that an item we would normally throw into a wastepaper basket can be used by a charity and turned into badly needed cash.



All Oxfam asks is that when the stamp(s) is/are removed from the envelope you also leave a little bit of the envelope surrounding the stamp on all sides.

Lynne Blanchard



Television Comes to Iron Acton



It is a universal truth that parents frequently incur the displeasure of their offspring. Relations with my youngest daughter have happily been always good but she has never forgiven me for refusing the bid of the BBC to film an episode of *Casualty* at Algars. "Dad, how could you!" and black looks to match were my fate for the next few weeks. My refusal was the result of experiences we had had with the BBC in 1974 when I gave them permission to film a *Country Tale* without words by using our home as a modern-day monastery. The conversion was easy enough – just a polystyrene bell-tower on one gable – and the house looked the part. With the fruit-laden apple trees, local people hired as monks and the October sunshine, the piece was a visual success – and even eventually watched by Barbara's cousins behind the Iron Curtain. The star of the show, *The Miracle of Brother Humphrey*, was the actor who played Brother Humphrey and who later came to fame as Baldrick in *Blackadder*.

However, having said all these good things about the film, I have to say that the experience of playing host to the BBC for two weeks was not a happy one. The yard was full of pantechnicons and a mobile canteen; there were lots of cables to trip over and gossiping cameramen and moody actors behind every door. I was even treated to a stream of BBC after-9pm language from the Director when I started up the tractor somewhere near the scene of action. We decided that the derisory fee offered by the BBC did not compensate us for the pain and grief, so – 'never again!'

Then, in 1984, we became suckers once more with the local HTV when they filmed the garden and the Mill in the spring. The presenters were Alison Holloway and a charming fellow called Alan Titchmarsh. We still had the pantechnicons on the yard, the cables all over the garden and the under-employed cameramen discussing whether it would be best to go to the Bahamas or Florida for their next holiday. An over-run of half an hour cost the crestfallen director £500 over his budget, and no wonder, given the number of staff employed. The next experience for Channel 4 in the 1990's was an altogether happier one. Firstly, because I was able to meet, to chat with and to be interviewed by that legendary gardener and plant hunter, Roy Lancaster, and secondly, because the film crew, using modern technology, was far smaller, more efficient and less intrusive. Despite stormy weather in the night before the filming we managed to catch a few gleams of sunshine on the spring blossom; and it was a pleasure to walk and talk with Roy.

And so we come to 1998 when I was approached by Rebecca Pow, an independent producer for HTV. She wanted to bring her small crew to film the magnolias and camellias when they were at their best, which proved to be rather early, March 29th to be exact. The contrast with 1974 was astounding; the party assembled from four cars all coming from different places. Apart from Rebecca and the director there was the cameraman, the sound-recordist and a mysterious character called The Grip. There was also a man who looked after a small monitor which was placed on the ground near the Director's feet, and a student who made herself useful as a



dogsbody. Each scene was shot after considerable discussion as to camera-angles, lighting and weather prospects. The day was chilly but bright with a hint of drizzle in the air. I was advised to wear warm clothes, gum boots and anorak, and never to change my clothing between shots. Rebecca wanted me to speak extempore without her as interviewer which was a bit intimidating at first but I soon got used to it. Many times I had to repeat a sequence because a gust of wind had caused unwanted noise, and several times the sound man vetoed a scene because a jet was passing 30,000 feet overhead. On one occasion I was at fault for fiddling with my anorak and producing 'nasty noises'. When we adjourned for lunch at the White Hart I was exhausted, but it was lovely to talk to the crew and to learn about their personal lives. I even learnt the functions of The Grip. He is the magician with apparatus who positions the camera so that it can take a bird's-eye or worm's-eye view of a scene or object. We went back to complete the filming as a light drizzle set in but it didn't stop us. Then, while the others packed up their gear, Rebecca sat on a bench with me and did a sound interview. Some of the things I said were then stitched into the programme during the editing process. Altogether it had taken six hours of filming to produce about ten minutes of television. I was greatly impressed by their professionalism and skill which was such a contrast with the inefficiency and confusion of 1974. O.K. - they had modern technology and hand-held cameras but they certainly knew how to use them and to play a good team game

We hope that the showing of our garden in *All Gardens Great and Small* on HTV will increase the number of garden visitors next year [Easter Sunday and Monday and Sunday 23rd May] and so increase the amount of money we are able to send to the National Garden Scheme charities which are mainly in support of nursing; but all those in Iron Acton who read Focal Poyntz should know that Barbara and I welcome you here at any time to look round the garden provided that you ring us beforehand to let us know when you are coming. We would also ask you for - not demand! - a contribution towards the NGS charities.



John Naish

SHOP FRONT

I have a dream of standing in Acton's own custom built Country Stores/Post Office/delicatessen/ organically grown vegetable retail outlet/coffee shop (just like Neighbours) off licence ... well perhaps not all of these things, but maybe. There is no doubt that the village is the poorer for not having a commercial centre for some of the more important necessities. Why should we have to waste time and petrol in just posting a parcel for instance? When I first came to the village in 1972 Mr Fursman delivered groceries to villagers, could this sort of service ever happen again?



If you would like to be part of a pressure group, contact Penny Percy on 228339. Don't spend all your hard earned cash in the faceless supermarkets. Shop 'til you drop in IRON ACTON - you can make it happen!



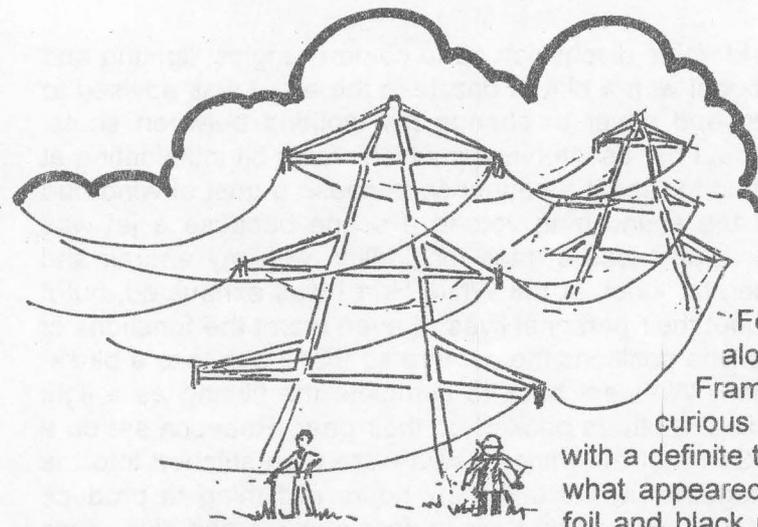
Penny Percy



A Sign Posted In A Bucharest Hotel



The lift is being fixed for the next day. During that time we regret that you will be unbearable with each other for that purpose.



PYLON PEOPLE

Events in Iron Acton have at last hit the national press. The Daily Telegraph no less has become aware of our existence.

For some months, last year and this, walkers along the footpath between Brake Farm and Frampton End, will have been aware and perhaps curious about the two chic men who motionless and with a definite touch of nobility posed near the pylons, clad in what appeared from a distance to be state of the art silver foil and black racing cyclist gear. The nosier among us at

last approached the man who from time to time came out to check their day glow and make notes. He was, he said, a scientist from Bristol University and the model men, borrowed from John Lewis fashion department, were wired up to measure air born pollutants from car exhausts and aerosols to discover whether the proximity to the National Grid pylons attracted the pollutants down onto the model men.

The results of this and of forty years of experiments were reported in the Daily Telegraph of 25th September. Professor Henshaw, in a scientific paper claims that:

"Aerosols may carry carcinogens and viruses and bacteria." He goes on to say that generally speaking, the human body is designed to cope with them but his research suggests that when droplets of this pollution interact with the electromagnetic field of the powerlines it can cause health problems. The view was at once refuted (of course) by the National Grid spokesman. But the argument about the danger of various pollutants and of pylons rumbles on and on and it may be many years before the truth of the situation is known.



Jo V

NEW COUNCILLORS

Following the sad death of Roy Curtis and the retirement of Frank Davis the Parish Council has co-opted two new Councillors. The new Councillors are Donna Worrall of 2 The Green, Iron Acton, Bristol BS37 9TQ. Tel: 228458 and Mrs Jackie Ross of 330 North Road, Yate, Bristol BS37 5LL. Tel: 0850 291668.

BIODIVERSITY

Iron Acton Parish Council is a member of the South Gloucestershire Biodiversity Plan Partnership. As part of the partnership Habitat Action Plans are being drawn up in respect of ponds and hedgerows.

The Ponds Habitat Action Plan, has as one of its targets, the completion of a pond survey by 2003. Whilst several ad hoc pond surveys have been undertaken over the years in the South Gloucestershire area, there are still gaps that need to be filled. A survey form will be circulated in 1999. In preparation for this survey the Council would be grateful if those Parishioners who have a pond could confirm this to the Clerk in writing over the next few weeks.

Clerk: Miss Rachel Weldrake
5 The Brake
Brimsham Park
Yate
Bristol
BS37 7QW

ST PETER'S HOSPICE FLAG WEEK

As a result of the house collections for St Peter's Hospice Flag Week Appeal in July a total sum of £267.11 was donated by the people of Iron Acton Parish.

A sincere "thank you" is due to all those who kindly did the knocking on doors plus, of course, a "thank you" to all those who donated. I know both the staff and patients at St Peter's appreciate the results of all the organisation and hard work which goes into such collections. We are fortunate in this area to have the second Hospice which has recently been opened to serve the north of the city and surrounding areas – an achievement reached by generous donations from people such as yourselves.

At the moment we have a team of 8 people who collect within our Parish, however I am sure that one or two of them would welcome a rest – or maybe we could cover even more of the area should there be more willing volunteers to collect – it is, after all, only one week each year you are asked to help.

If you feel you would like to volunteer please give me a call on 228498 and I will add your name to the list.

Many thanks – I trust I can call upon your support next year.

Di Heal



FLAG COLLECTION IN AID OF ST JOSEPH'S HOME FOR THE ELDERLY

Michael Jouxson undertook a house to house collection for St Joseph's Home for the Elderly and collected the grand total of £72.25. He has been asked to thank all those who donated and we are happy to pass on the following message:

"I want to thank you as warmly and as personally as a printed letter permits for what you have done in the St Joseph's Home Flag Week. It is not easy to collect money but be assured that your time and effort is greatly appreciated by the Little Sisters of the Poor who run St Joseph's Home and by the residents".

(Cyril Frain, Organising Secretary)

FOUND



A plastic bag containing a blue and white blouse plus headsets and microphone. It was found after a rehearsal evening for 'PLAYHOUSE CREATURES'. If you have lost this or know who has, please ring Gerry Millward on 01454 228704.

Dear Friends

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you who sent your good wishes, cards and gifts to me on the occasion of my retirement from Iron Acton School at the end of July.

It was so good to hear from you and see so many familiar faces, past and present, at the leavers' service. I wish I could have spoken to each of you – to catch up on news and thank you all personally, but the opportunity did not arise.

Although very emotional for me, July 24th was such a happy day, one that I will remember always – as I will remember the happy years I spent teaching at your village school.

I shall look forward to meeting some of you again at various school events. Until then, please accept my grateful thanks for your help and support over the years and the wonderful send-off that you helped to give me.

Yours truly

J E Hatt



A Sign Posted In a Hong Kong Supermarket –

For your convenience, we recommend courteous, efficient self-service



ARE YOU LOOKING FOR SOMEWHERE TO GO ON NEW YEAR'S EVE?

A dance is being held in Chipping Sodbury Town Hall from 8.30 pm to half past midnight (I've got to put it like that cos I can't work out if it should be 12.30 am or pm!).

Tickets are priced at £12, music will be provided by the West Bennet Sound and refreshments are included in the price.

Proceeds from the evening will go to the new Pre-School Playgroup for children with special needs that's been set up in Cranleigh Court Road. I understand that money is available for the building but that fund raising will be needed for equipment.

Tickets are available from: 01454 774656 or 312190 – the second number is Elizabeth Edwards', who gave me the details, so if you've got any questions ring her and I'm sure she'll be pleased to help.

★ Lynne Blanchard

A MUSICAL EVENING

to launch the fund raising appeal for
Iron Acton Church

will be held on:
Saturday, 30 January 1999
at 7.30 pm in the Church

**Tickets: £5 Adults & £3.50 Senior
Citizens**
(to include refreshments)

Tickets available from:

Chris : 228498	John : 318235
Roddy : 228439	Mike : 228544
Howard : 228243	Paula : 228419
Lynne : 228566	

IRON ACTON CHURCH **CHRISTMAS SERVICES** **1998**

Sunday 20 December
6.00 pm Village Carol Service

Christmas Eve
6.30 pm Crib Service
Midnight Midnight Mass

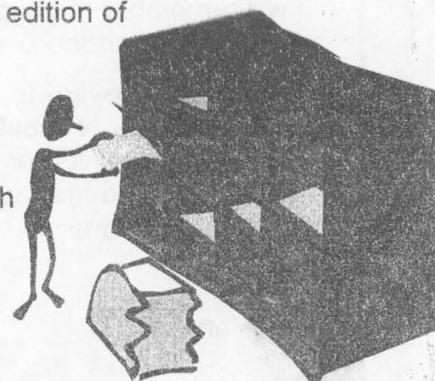
Christmas Day
9.00 am Holy Communion

Everyone Welcome!

SCHEDULE FOR SPRING EDITION OF FOCAL POYNTZ

It's been suggested that people would find it helpful to know when the next edition of this magazine is scheduled so, always happy to oblige:

Deadline for Editorial	Tuesday 23 February
Typing/Artwork/Final Proofing	Tuesday 2 March – Tuesday 16 March
To Printer	Wednesday, 17 March
Collect from Printer	Monday, 22 March
Distribution Weekend	Saturday, 27 & Sunday, 28 March



TREE NEWS



Trees of Time and Place

I wonder if any of our readers collected seeds on Seed Gathering Sunday 11th October. To date I have not received any feedback following the item in the last edition of Focal Poyntz.

I have collected seed from which I think is the best specimen beech tree in the area and also from what I believe to be the oldest oak. The beech, which is the very fine tree in the garden of Dean Lodge West in the High Street, cannot be missed as you pass the house and look through the wrought iron gates. The oak is in the hedgerow running from Chilwood to the railway embankment and could not in anyway be described as a good specimen. It has a twin trunk and is possibly two trees, it is hollow, stunted and ugly but very very old. I hesitate to date it and hope to have some expert help before committing myself to an estimate of age

For further information about Trees of Time and Place:

Telephone 01345 078139 - or
Write to Trees of Time and Place, PO Box 46
TW4 6NF - or
Contact me and I will do all I can to help

Esso National Tree Week

National Tree Week is from 25th November to 6th December 1998, during which time we are encouraged to plant at least one tree for each family member. It is hoped that more than one million trees will be planted during the week. This is another Tree Council initiative and is sponsored by Esso. Hotline for further information 0171 8289928

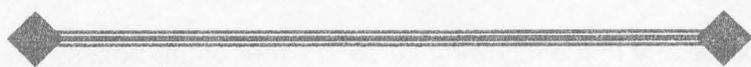
The Woodland Trust

The Woodland Trust has a project called "PLANT A TREE THIS CHRISTMAS" and the idea is instead of giving gifts this Christmas you pay for a tree to be planted in one of 15 locations in England or 2 in Scotland or 2 in Wales and 1 in Northern Ireland. The person to whom the gift would have been given will receive a Certificate with your personal message on it and a personal dedication on the tree. Gifts are £10 for one tree planted in the County of your choice and £25 for 2 trees planted in a wood of your choice. I have further information should anyone be interested.

Westonbirt Arboretum

By the time we publish this edition the Autumn Colour Spectacular will be over. However on Sunday 25th October, immediately after the storms, Rona and I visited the arboretum and were amazed by the colour and beauty of the trees despite the winds and rains of Saturday. There was some damage including a 40 foot birch tree which had fallen and crushed part of one of the large acers in full colour. Nevertheless the photographers were there in force and they certainly had plenty to photograph.

From the 20th November to the 2nd December on Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings there is an illuminated trail walk through the old arboretum; they call this "The Enchanted Wood". It is open from dusk to 8.00pm with last entries at 7.00 pm. The lighting for this event has been designed by one of the country's leading outdoor theatrical lighting designers, Roger Searle, and therefore promises to be something very special



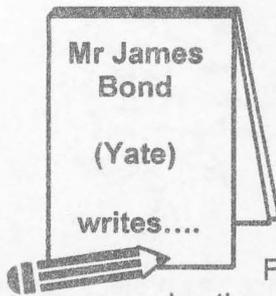
Recipe for Marriage Cake

2 lbs Flour of Love
1 lb Good Looks
½ lb Butter of Youth
½ lb. Sweet Temper
1 oz Powdered Wit
½ Packet of Rippling Laughter
1 oz Dry Humour
½ Packet Common Sense
2 ozs Sweet Argument (be sure it's sweet)

Method

Put Flour of Love, Good Looks and Sweet Temper into a Home. Beat Butter of Youth to a cream. Mix together Powdered Wit, Dry Humour and Sweet Argument, and add them to above. Pour in Commonsense and Rippling Laughter, stir well together. Bake at a uniform temperature for ever!





Is it possible to read the inscription over Fursman's Shop from the original of the photograph used on the cover of July's Focal Poyntz? All that can be made out from the magazine is the word Grocer.

My grandfather James Dole Bond, the son of a baker, having married Kate Evelyn Baker, the daughter of a grocer named William on 22.3.1897. subsequently agreed to purchase the goodwill of the shop now referred to as Fursmans or Just Jane, from someone named Henry Charles Baker. He traded under the name of J. D. Bond. I enclose a copy of the agreement dated 20.10.1899. Perhaps someone could advise me which novel by Charles Dickens mentions a shop called City House, the previous trading name.

A camera expert examined the photograph in the Rose and Crown and told Alan Didcott that it was taken by a very old model of camera and in consequence that the photograph was taken in the 1890's. This is not the case as the photograph displays the inscription Fursmans. My aunt, Kathleen Muriel was born on 12.12.1910. with the address still given as The Stores, High Street.

➤ *Thank you Mr Bond for an interesting letter. Sorry we had not room to print it all. Mr George Fursman bought the grocer's in 1911. So if the photo says Fursmans above the shop front (and we think it does) that means the photo was taken after 1911. It could still have been taken with an old camera of course.*

Mr Fursman kept the shop until 1961 when he died, aged seventy-eight, having given up working only two weeks before. His son George and Marjorie Fursman took it over in 1969, retiring in the eighties. Incidentally, Mrs Fursman tells us that in the 19th century the street was called Turnpike Road and there was a row of cottages behind the shop, where the garden now is. In 1874 there is mention in old documents, of the house being a police station.

Regarding the name City House. The Curator of the Dickens Museum in London has been approached. He knows Charles Dickens' novels very well but has no knowledge of that name appearing in any of them. Further information please anyone?

IRON ACTON CHURCH 1998 SOCK SWAP APPEAL FOR BRISTOL CYRENIANS

The idea behind this is that Bristol Cyrenians (a registered charity offering help to the homeless in Bristol) are always in dire need of clean socks. One of the biggest problems for homeless people is trying to keep warm and dry. With this scheme they can go into a Cyrenians Centre exchange the socks they're wearing for a clean pair and the Cyrenians can then wash and dry the returned items so there's a constant supply chain available. They are also happy to receive items such as soap, toothpaste, shampoo, etc.

Gill Holmes, a member of our church, not only told us about this scheme but has offered to run it for us.

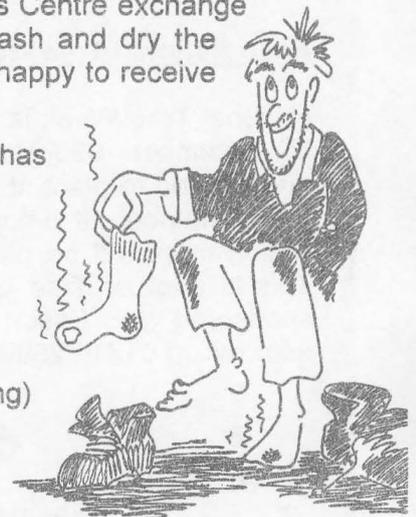
How you can help:

At the beginning of November a box will be placed:

- ▲ At the bottom of the steps to the pulpit in church
- ▲ In North Road Post Office Stores (thank you to the owners for agreeing)

All you have to do is place any of the following items in either of the boxes:

- | | | | |
|---|----------------|---|---------|
| ☺ | Pairs of Socks | ☺ | Soap |
| ☺ | Toothpaste | ☺ | Shampoo |



How about adding one of these to your next shopping list – a little contribution from a lot of people is going to add up to a great deal of help for a worthwhile organisation.

PS Or maybe after Christmas, when you've received more socks than you know what to do with, we'll be able to take some off your hands or should that be feet?

5/1/80



An Agreement made the twenty seventh day of October One thousand eight hundred and ninety nine **Between** Henry Charles Baker of "City House" Iron Acton in the County of Gloucester Grocer and Draper ("the Vendor") of the one part and James Dole Bond of 100 North Road in the City and County of Bristol Grocer ("the purchaser") of the other part Whereby the Vendor agrees to sell and the Purchaser to purchase at the price of Fifty pounds (1) All the goodwill of the business of a Grocer Draper Ironmonger and General Stores as carried on by him at "City House" Iron Acton aforesaid (2) And also all the fixtures trade fittings and utensils used by the Vendor in relation to his said business And for the same consideration the Vendor further agrees that he will not at any time hereafter either alone or jointly with any other person or persons carry on or be engaged or concerned in the trade or business of a Draper Grocer Ironmonger or Storekeeper within four miles of Iron Acton aforesaid As witness the hands of the said parties the day and year first before written

Witness to the signature of the above named Henry Charles Baker } Henry Charles Baker
 Charles Baker

Johnathan
 Solr Bristol

IT'S NOT JUST THE WALLS OF JERICO THAT COME TUMBLING DOWN!

Some of you will be aware that back in the Summer a problem arose with the ceiling under the church tower. After investigation we were horrified to find out the level of damage. This news was bad enough, but we already knew we had to replace the heating system before winter arrived, get the inside of the church decorated (areas of paint have already fallen off the walls and the church is beginning to look shabby) and last, but not least, continue the work needed to return the bells to good condition. Things were looking bleak and depressing.

Bearing in mind that winter was fast approaching, the PCC decided the most important thing was to get the heating operational. Miss Kate Anstey had left £5,000 to the church in her will and the PCC voted to allocate this for the heating work with the remainder coming from church funds. The good news was that one thing had been removed from our "to do" list, the bad news was that we didn't have the money to start, let alone complete, the other work.

Sometimes, and this was one such occasion, adversity can be the spur to get people moving and a small committee has been formed to co-ordinate the fund raising comprising of: Chris Heal, John Park, Roddy Hughes, Mike Wheeler, Howard Aplin, Paula Evans and Lynne Blanchard.

The initial aim of this group is to raise a sum in the region of £50,000 to cover the cost of repairing the tower ceiling and redecorating the inside of the church. Should we be lucky enough to be inundated with money any surplus will be put towards the remainder of the "to do" list but our first priority is the tower ceiling and internal painting.

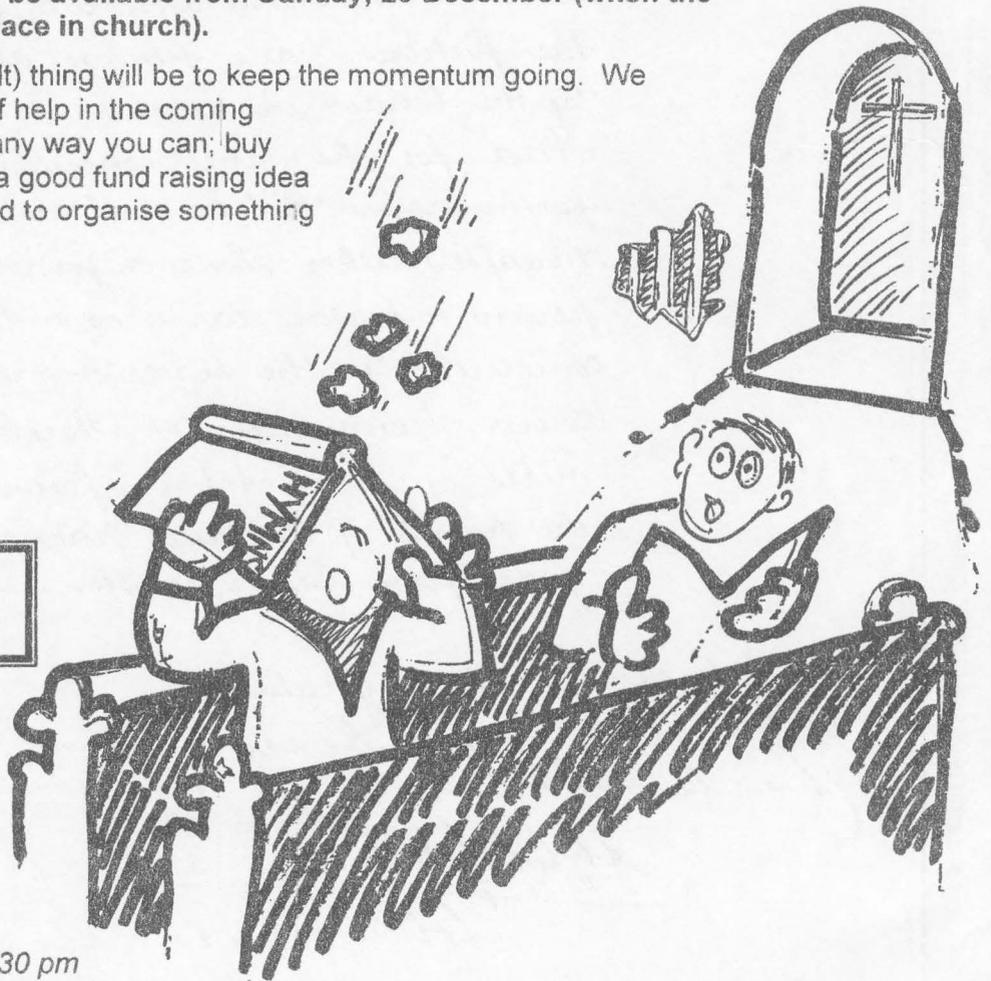
The appeal will be launched with a Musical Evening in church on Saturday, 30 January 1999. Why don't you write the date in your diary now? Tickets will be £5 for adults and £3.50 for senior citizens and a wide range of musical tastes will be accommodated. We are also planning an exhibition explaining the problem and what we want to achieve. We hope that those who attend will stay after the music to enjoy a glass of wine and refreshments and look at the exhibition. Tickets will be available from Sunday, 20 December (when the Village Carol Service takes place in church).

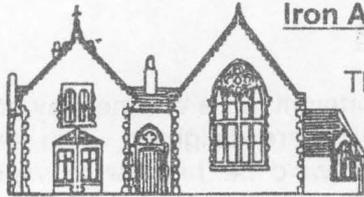
The important (and most difficult) thing will be to keep the momentum going. We will be asking for a great deal of help in the coming months. Please support us in any way you can; buy tickets for events, if you've got a good fund raising idea let us know, if you'd be prepared to organise something for the appeal give us a ring:

Chris	228498
John	318235
Roddy	228439
Mike	228544
Howard	228243
Paula	228419
Lynne	228566

**We Need Your Help
Please Support Us**

Stop Press! We've just heard that our first offer of help has arrived. The Gloucestershire and Bristol Diocesan Association of Church Bell Ringers will be holding a Barn Dance on Saturday, 26 June 1999, at Latteridge Green Farm, from 7.30 pm with the proceeds split between "them" and





Iron Acton CEVC Primary School – October 1998

The activities which the school were looking forward to in our last communication were indeed successful except for the sporting events, which, for the second year running, fell on days on which the weather was far from suitable.

The children in the Years 5 & 6 enjoyed their visits to the Isle of Wight, having good weather throughout the week.

The School Fete this year far exceeded expectations and raised over £1,000. May I express my gratitude on behalf of the school staff and children to the members of the 'Friends Committee' and to all who helped make the day such a success.

The weather was uncharacteristically kind during our visit to the Parish Meadows for our end of term picnic. A good time was had by all.

We returned to school for the Autumn Term and the implementation of the Government's Literacy Hour. The school, I believe, is in a fortunate position due to the support of the Friends of the School, who have agreed to aid the purchase of new reading material and associated resources.

At the school, we always endeavour to further the already high standards achieved by our pupils, and we consequently look forward to striving to improve their achievements with this initiative. The Literacy Hour will be phased in during this term as resources become available. Children will read and write in class and group activities designed to focus teaching – concentrating on basic skills.

Early in the new year the school intends to hold a meeting for parents and anyone interested, where they themselves can experience the content and format of the lessons.

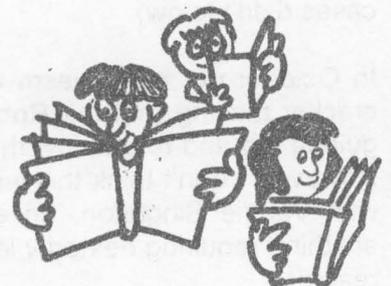
The school held a Harvest Festival Service with the Rev. Sue Rushton as guest speaker and Minister. Children donated offerings of fruit and vegetables to be a focus for the service; these were then auctioned in aid of Save The Children. With this money the school has sponsored an Indian boy's education for the last seven years. The Auction made over £230. Again, a big thank you to all who helped.

The school is now the proud owner of a new hall floor. During the summer holidays the floor was renovated with financial help from the Parish Council. A sincere thank you from the school for this support.

Children from Oak Class will be attending the Carol Service during the beginning of December.

Dates:

November 2 nd	Inset – School Closed
November 9 th & 10 th	Parents Evenings
November 16 th	Science Curriculum evening 4.00 – 7.00pm
December 14 th	Christmas Concert Matinee 2.00pm
December 15 th	Christmas Concert
December 17 th	School Party
December 18 th	Carol Service in Church 2.00pm



ROYAL BRITISH LEGION POPPY APPEAL

I am pleased to inform you that due to the hard work of many helpers, the co-operation of numerous business' and your generosity, the Iron Acton area raised the sum of **£1,031.45** this year.

My grateful thanks to everyone.

Dave White – Appeal Organiser



THE ELIZABETHAN CLUB

We currently meet every fortnight, on a Wednesday at 2.30 pm in the Village Hall. We were delighted when several new members joined us but we'd be happier to welcome even more, so if you're over retirement age and would like to come along and join us we'd love to see you.

Our outings continued on a monthly basis right through into late September: April to Cardiff, May to the Elan Valley, June to Teignmouth, July to Bognor Regis, August to Sidmouth and September to Poole. We're now taking a well earned rest from our travels but we'll start to think about the destinations for 1999 in early spring – this gives us something to look forward to.

We were very sad to hear of the death of Sue Russell. Sue passed away, very unexpectedly, in September. She had been a very staunch and loyal supporter of the Elizabethan Club and had, over the years, been both our Secretary and Chairman and our thoughts are very much with her husband, Phillip, son and daughter.

Our Elizabethan year will finish in December with our customary Christmas Dinner at the Rose and Crown at Rangeworthy and we would like to wish all Focal Poyntz readers a happy Christmas and New Year.

 Ivy Worsley

IRON ACTON WI

◆ Lynne Blanchard

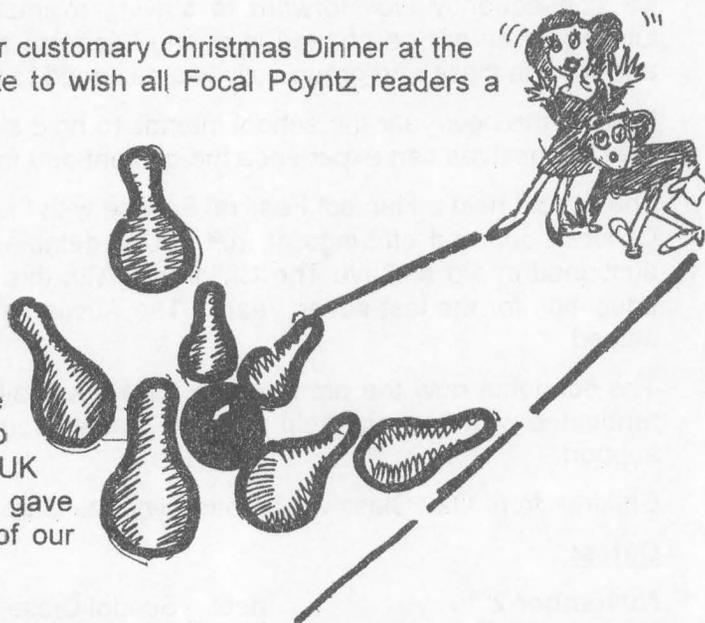
We were "raring to go" after our August break and in September we were delighted to welcome the Chairman of Dursley Bird Watching Society who showed us some spellbinding photographs of our UK wild birds and also, with not quite so much success, gave us a quiz to see how much we knew (or in most of our cases didn't know).

In October our enthusiasm continued unabated with a demonstration of cracker making (not the Robbie Coltrane variety either). Geraldine very gallantly "volunteered" to be our guinea pig and to shadow the expert – her cracker looked very professional and we were very impressed. However, I don't think this will be something that I'll be trying – ever since the good old days of Blue Peter with Valerie Singleton, an empty detergent bottle and the never to be forgotten sticky-backed plastic anything requiring dexterity leaves me chilled to the bone – a Blue Peter badge was always well beyond my reach!

In November we'll be heading to The Swan at Winterbourne for our Birthday Party and this should be followed later in the month by our first match in the County Federation Skittles Tournament (this is about as far as we usually get, which means we feel we've participated without having exerted ourselves too much!)

December and it's the time when all things could change as it's our Annual General Meeting. Our 1999 programme will be finalised in the next couple of weeks and we get our first glance of this at the AGM when it's accompanied by sherry or wine and mince pies and sausage rolls. Ain't life grand!

So, here comes the annual suggestion, if anyone would like to join a group of mad, fairly unorthodox WI ladies (we're not particularly crafty – I'll never forget the shock wave that reverberated around the room and accompanied the arrival of a nasty little piece of embroidery canvas on which we were meant to stitch our contribution to the county wallhanging – but we do try!) please come along on the **Second Monday of each month (January's will be the 11th) at 7.30 pm** and you'll be sure of a warm welcome.



parent and Toddler Group

We meet every Friday during term-time in the Marshall Room (next to the Church) between 10.30 am and 12.00 noon. The entrance price is £1 which includes refreshments.

There are toys, dolls and puzzles to play with, books to read and paper, crayons and stickers to make a model or draw a picture.

Sometimes we have "play-doh" and of course there's somewhere to wash your hands before sitting down for a drink and biscuit. Thanks to a generous donation from Acton Aid we now have a selection of small percussion



instruments, so our sing-a-long session at the end of each meeting is even more fun.

Do come along and join us, bring Mum, Dad, your Nanny, Childminder or Grandparent and make new friends and have fun. During December we will be making decorations ready for our Christmas Party on December 18th,

so we hope to see you soon!

Call Donna on 228458, Christine on 228065 or Lisa on 228725

North Road Ladies Club

Members of the North Road Ladies Club were saddened at the death of Mrs Sue Russell. She was one of our founder members.

During the second half of this year the North Road Ladies Club have enjoyed a visit to an Ostrich Farm, a talk on The History of Buttons and a talk, with slides, telling us about the Cotswold Warden Service. In November we will be celebrating our 31st Birthday at the Rose and Crown Rangeworthy. Our December meeting will include the A.G.M and an American Supper.



We are always happy to welcome new members to our Club.

June Rycroft

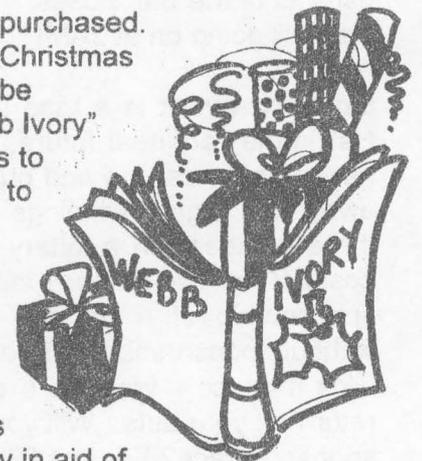
The Friends of Iron Acton CEVC Primary School

During the time since the last report the Friends have been active especially with the summer fayre which was a wonderful success. During the afternoon of the 4th July well over £1100 was raised to support the school with further educational resources that its limited budget is unable to provide.

With the School and Cluster Sports cancelled due to the weather, a large amount of surplus cakes were sold to parents after school which raised a further £25.

The Friends supported the school's field studies trip by sponsoring the transport for all of the children associated with the Literacy Hour and were given a preview of some of the

resources already purchased. Between now and Christmas the committee will be working with "Webb Ivory" Christmas Supplies to which all profits go to furthering the resources in the school's library. If you would like to contribute, and buy your Christmas supplies through Webb Ivory in aid of the school, please see a committee member or contact the school



Acton Aid

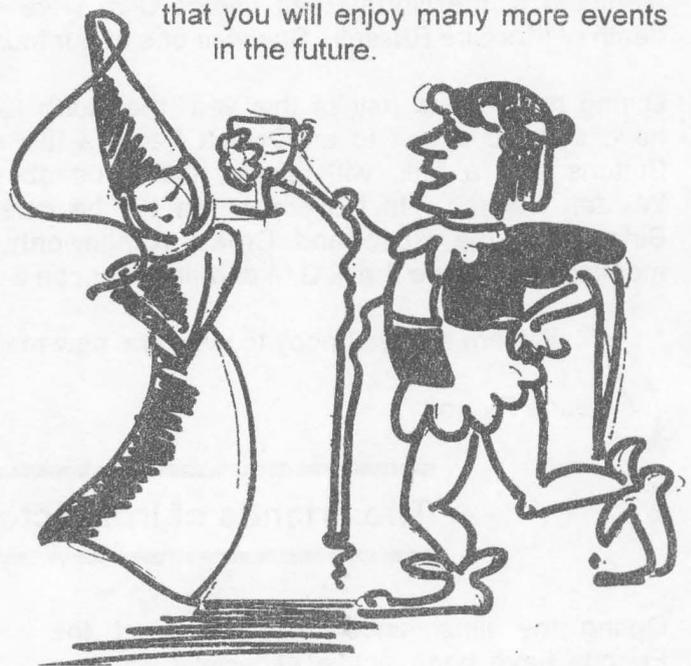
In 1998, we have had much pleasure in providing support for many village clubs and organisations including the Anthony Waker Fund, the Village Church, Iron Acton School and the OAPs who received a Christmas gift. More recently, we have been able to provide funds for the Toddlers Group that received a donation for new toys, and Iron Acton Junior Football Club which will receive some new kit and a kit bag. We will also be making donations to Focal Poyntz towards their publishing costs and Project 2000 to assist with the extension and refurbishment of our ageing village hall. The OAP's of the Parish will be receiving a Christmas gift again this year.

A major fund raising event was the Medieval Night in the garden of John and Marylin Wright last July. The evening was voted one of the best garden parties so far and over 150 villagers and friends enjoyed a night to remember. The organising committee did a magnificent job in decorating the marquee in true medieval style and treated the merry band of party goers to a spit roast dinner hosted by the King and Queen, and Sir Lancelot. Entertainment was provided by a troupe of acrobats, poets, stilt walkers and jesters. Music and dancing carried on way after sunset with some partygoers commenting that we kept the bar open far too long! Its not that we are a particularly boozy lot, but at Acton Aid social events, we don't like to close the bar until the last person has left; however, some villagers evidently feel it is rude to leave a party until the bar closes. The merry making was still going on at 2AM!

Our next event is a race night in the Village Hall in the very near future. In the past, these have been great fun and punters have walked away with bigger winnings on one race than three numbers on a lottery ticket! Tickets will cost £10 for two persons including supper and sponsorship of a horse. (Individual tickets without sponsorship £2.50 each.) If your horse wins it's race - you win a prize as well as a return on your bets. Will you or your company sponsor a race? For just £20 you can promote your company to all in Iron Acton as well as their friends and families. Come on local businesses; help us raise some cash for

worthy causes in the Parish. Contact Andy Garside on 228954 for more details.

All of our events require considerable planning and members work enthusiastically to ensure their continued success. For functions in the village hall, we normally provide food, a bar and first class entertainment and sometimes have assistance from other organisations. For outdoor events, we rely purely on local people to organise, or to provide the expertise for, lighting, power, music, entertainment, decoration, food, a bar and marquees as well as cutlery, crockery, tables, chairs, flowers, flooring and a host of other items. We have a lot of fun organising our events, knowing that every penny raised goes to good causes in the Parish. We really appreciate all your support and hope that you will enjoy many more events in the future.



Our congratulations go to our Vice Chairman David Hatherill and his wife Lisa on the birth of their son Joseph. As any mother will tell you, giving birth is no holiday but David falling and breaking his leg in three places the day before the happy event did not help this one!

Acton Aid meets on the first Thursday of each month in the Rose and Crown at 8 PM and is open to all men in the Parish. New members are always made welcome so why not come and join us for a sociable evening and the odd pint or two?

Actonians Drama Group

Our next major event will be a joint fund-raising production with Project 2000.

Mike Wills, Jim Sinkinson and Danny Rogers have been working on a script for the "Allo, 'Allo Christmas Show". Although based on the well-known TV series, they've added lots of new and topical material. This family show will run for three nights: December 10th, 11th and 12th. Tickets cost £8 (£6 concessions) and this includes a three-course French-style meal. Don't forget, profits will go towards the refurbishment of the Village Hall. For further information call Mike Wills on 01278 751252



The Actonians are hosting a Christmas Party in the Village Hall on December 19th. Friends old and new are welcome to attend. Call Ann Aplin, our Secretary, on 228243 for details of this or general membership enquiries.

Our spring production is still in the planning stage, so it's an ideal time to join us if you'd like to try acting or help backstage.



Donna Worrall

North Road County Primary School

We already feel as though the school year has been going for much longer than three weeks! The new Reception children have settled well into the school and have almost completed their Baseline Assessment. We have a total of 114 pupils on roll. There have been no changes in the staff.

The Literacy Hour has begun in all classes and many of the children are feeling quite excited by the new challenges. We would welcome any retired neighbours who would be able to help out in a classroom during the Literacy Hour as it is a very labour intensive period of the day!

Many of you will be aware that this is the National Year of Reading and the foci for the coming months are:

September: Story Telling
October: Poetry
November: Picture Books
December: Drama and the Theatre

We have been very pleased to receive photographs from Genierie, Gambia, showing how our money from the Harvest Service (1997) was used to buy seeds for a Women's Co-operative. The results were absolutely amazing! We hope that the proceeds from this year's Harvest can be used in the same way. Gifts and visitors were very welcome on **Tuesday, 13 October 1998**.

I hope some of you were able to see the write-up and photographs, in the Evening Post, of the Breakthrough Breakfast which Mrs Harrison organised on 18 September. She raised £120 to send to the Breast Cancer Charity. We had a **Macmillan Coffee Morning on Thursday, 22 October 1998**.

Our brass group played for the **Remembrance Day Service in Iron Acton Church on 8 November 1998**.

The date for our **Christmas Fair is 2.00pm Friday, 4 December 1998**. Tables may be booked through the office (Tel 228398). Other Christmas dates include the **Infant Carol Service at St Mary's Church Monday 14 December 1998** and the **Junior Carols and Mince Pies Evening at school on Thursday, 17 December 1998**.



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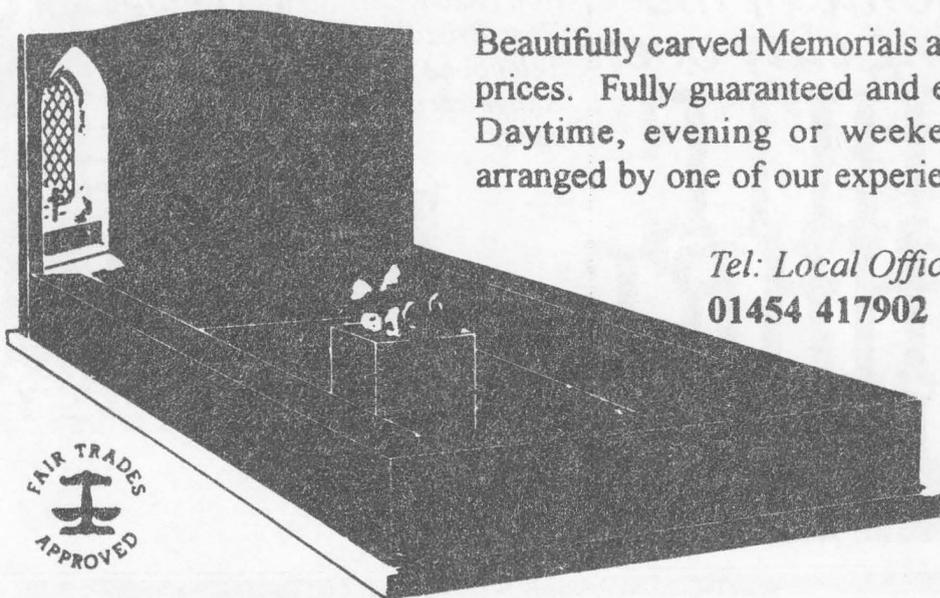
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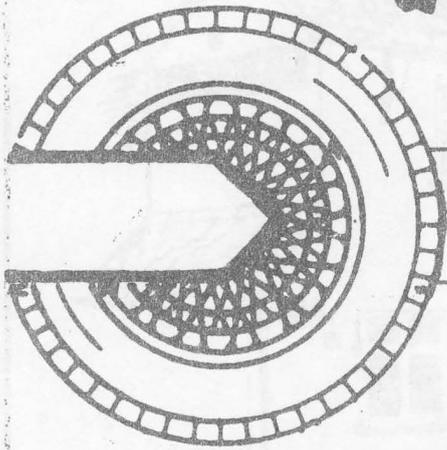
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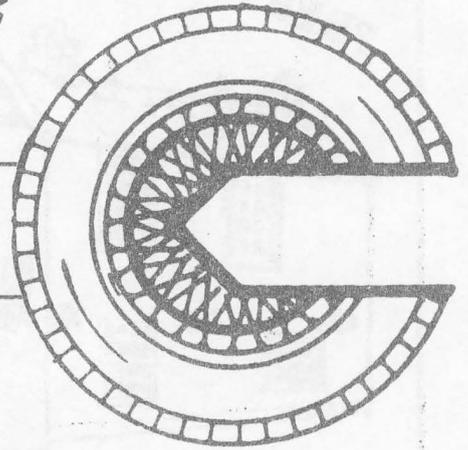
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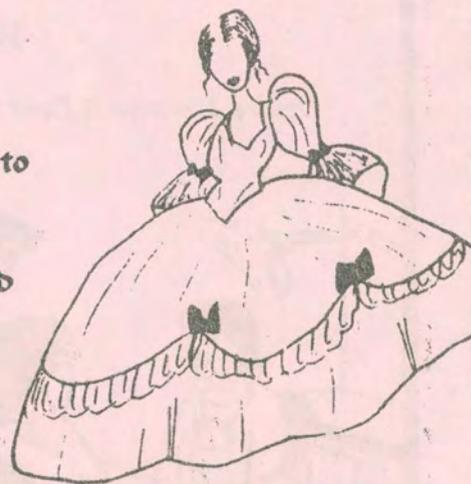
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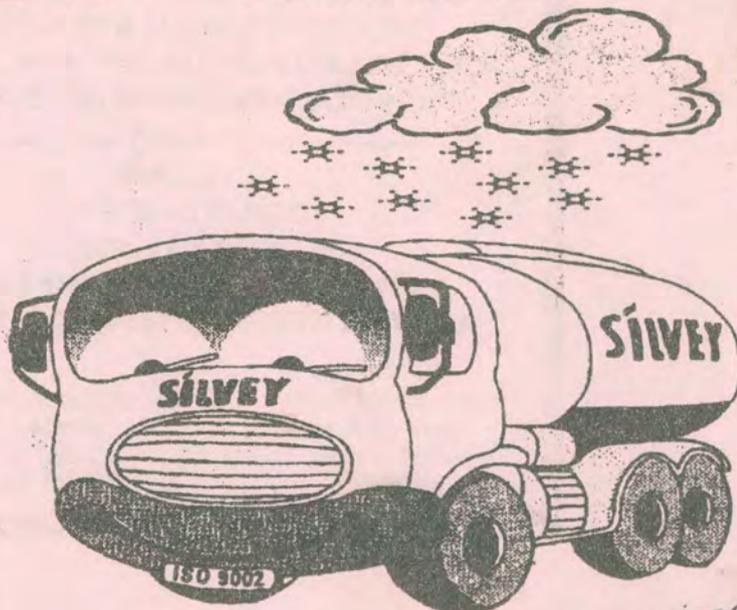
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