

50

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50th EDITION.

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SPRING

50th EDITION.

In this issue we celebrate our fiftieth edition. Focus, as it was then called, was the brain child of Godfrey Cook and Charles Wilkins and their original Mission Statement in 1982 envisages a four to six page paper at a cost of £20 per issue. Today we have upwards of twenty pages, the cost is well over £100 per edition and the price is only kept this low because the work is now printed by Oldbury Deckers Youth Club at Oldbury on Severn. Among the aims of the paper were: "to foster villagers' interests in their own parish by keeping them informed of activities in the village; to encourage the formation of other clubs by allowing interests to be circulated; to interest readers in the history not only of the village but personalities who have lived there in the past and who still live there."

Some things change for the better, some for worse. Among the listed organisations then were Guides, Brownies and Youth Club. Now there are few organisations for young people in the village. The Focal Poyntz layout has been transformed. Originally it was produced on a typewriter; now we have the benefit of sophisticated technology, an IT expert and a scanner. We also have Maureen Blake who has done so much for so long to enhance the paper with amusing illustrations.

The range of contributions has changed too. We have reports from the four corners of the earth from our more exotic holiday makers and from our young people on voluntary projects and the freshness of new contributions is always welcome. It is encouraging that in this our fiftieth edition we have a piece from one of our most long standing writers – John Naish, as well as one from a new contributor – William Climpson. **They say everyone in the world has at least one story worth the telling. We'd be glad to hear yours!**

We operate on a shoe string and the magazine could not have continued for so long without generous financial aid from other village organisations and from individuals. **Thanks are due to them.**

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



SHOPPING AND SEX

Thank you to those people who got in touch after the article in our last edition of Focal Poyntz about a village shop.

Everyone wanted one of course but there were different ideas of how this could be achieved.

1 A Co-Operative Scheme

Interested people with money to spare could buy shares for a village store. The scheme would require a volunteer non-salaried work force. People who gave their time and money in this way would be given tokens which could be redeemed as goods later on. This scheme would need to use an existing building to keep costs as low as possible.

A lot of goodwill and background administrative skills would be required to get this scheme off the ground. At the moment this doesn't seem to be forthcoming. There are good causes in the village at the moment which need people's support and time, ie the Village Hall's Project 2,000 Scheme - it's nearly there but is not finished yet - and the Village Church has also launched an appeal to raise £50,000.

2 An entrepreneurial scheme run by a rich philanthropist

If such a person exists he/she would need to purchase land in the centre of the village, this will require the permission of the Parish Council. The site could be tastefully developed to include a store cum post office building, also restaurant with take-away facilities providing healthy food. The advantages of a big development would be that the different activities would generate support for each other, eg someone going to post a parcel might then decide to have a cup of coffee with a friend and then purchase some take-away food for their evening meal.

The shop could help the tourist industry by selling guides about Iron Acton's historical past, also books and equipment for ramblers. This would raise money and provide more jobs for the village.

The chances of getting this scheme going seem to be nil at the moment.

Where does sex come into all of this? It will be phased out if all the scare stories about the millennium bug are true!

According to my newspaper, communities without:

- * local equipment for releasing energy (eg wind machines)
- * plentiful supplies of nourishing food
- * clean drinking water

are DOOMED

I believe that the resourceful people of Iron Acton will be able to cope with these difficulties when and if they occur.

Penny Percy

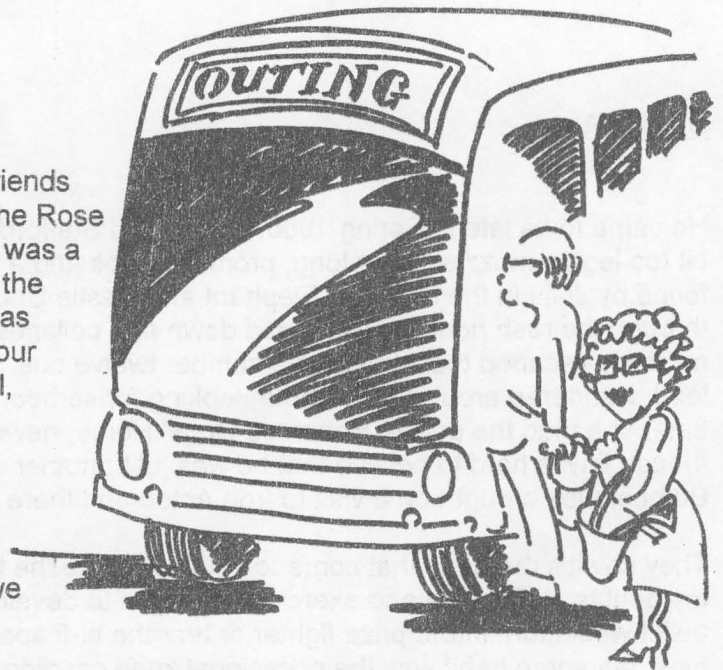
THE ELIZABETHAN CLUB

The members of the Elizabethan Club and their friends had a thoroughly enjoyable Christmas Dinner at the Rose and Crown at Rangeworthy on 16th December. It was a great success and the only missing element from the previous year was Roger Townsend (also known as "The Singing Waiter"). We would like to express our grateful thanks to Yvonne, Martin and their helpful, friendly staff for giving us such a lovely time.

The dates for our summer outings have now been decided. These will take place on 28th April, 26th May, 23rd June, 21st July, 18th August and 15th September. All we have to decide is where we are going - a lively discussion is assured!

If anyone of retirement age is interested in either becoming a member of the Elizabethan Club or is interested in coming along on any or all of our outings please contact either me (228175) or Elsie Blanchard (228566).

Ivy Worsley



IRON ACTON VILLAGE DAY - MONDAY, 3 MAY 1999

Yes, Village Day is again taking place this year with the proceeds going to Project 2000. If you can help; either in the run up to the day or on the day itself, please contact Bob Sheppard on 228515.

The day will begin with the procession from the green on the Estate at approx 11.00 am which will be led by the May Queen and her attendants.

Which leads on to the next point ... if you know of anyone who you think might like to be considered for May Queen or May Queen Attendant please get further details from Bob Sheppard (228515).

We've also been asked to include the following from Tony Townsend:

Bring and Buy Stall

As in previous years, there will be a bring and buy stall on the village green so that you can dispose of all those family heirlooms that have been cluttering up the spare bedroom, the cupboard under the stairs, or even the corner of the garage!

What you do:

- * Put a price on the article and we will sell it for you on a 50/50 basis - half to you / half to the funds.
- * Either bring them along on the day, or telephone Tony Townsend on 228429 before Sunday, 2 May and we can arrange for items to be collected.
- * It would also be helpful if a minimum selling price was indicated for special items - unless you are donating 100% to the funds.

* * * * *

Any offer of help will be gratefully considered. Contact either Bob or one of the Project 2000 Committee, or one of the band of helpers



BUMPER

He came to us late in Spring 1986. A brindled Staffordshire bull terrier puppy of probably 6 months old, a bit too leggy, muzzle rather long, prominent ribs and a skinny tail that wagged in circles. He had been found by Julia in the lift at the Elephant and Castle Underground in London, when she saw him weaving through the rush hour crowds, head down and collarless, purposeful but bewildered. Later, after he had narrowly escaped the wheels of a number twelve bus, she caught him and, turning her leather belt into a lead, wandered around for an hour, looking for someone who looked as if they might have lost a dog. Later she tried the police, Battersea Dogs' Home, newsagents' noticeboards. He was never claimed though it was hard to believe that he was just another unwanted Christmas present. Three weeks later, Bumper was brought on a visit to Iron Acton and there he stayed!

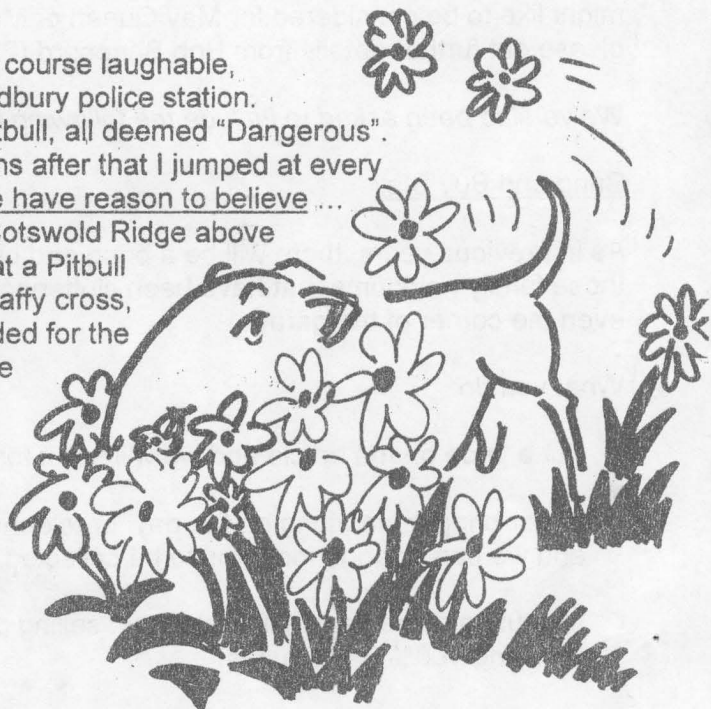
They say it's the dogs that come to you that make the best pets. But Staffies have a reputation and I had my doubts. With food and exercise he began to develop muscle and I wondered if this canine brindled bullet would turn into a prize fighter or tear the hi-fi apart. That first spring, I watched and I waited, but his most fearsome habit was the occasional knee capping job when he would hurtle pollen nosed towards us through the fields of buttercups and forget to jam on the brakes. In time I developed a trick of jumping smartly to one side like a Matador as he approached. He once gave my mother a very impressive rainbow hued leg bruise, by wagging his tail too hard when she came through the front door and his biggest demolition job was a bright green sling back shoe. There was the occasional set piece stand off with Roy and Vera's Bess if they were both on the lead, but the same two dogs would cavort happily together if they met in the fields.

In those early days I had no idea how significant this amiable stray would be in my life. Pip had just taken early retirement and we were looking forward to doing the things wed always meant to do, walking the Cotswold Way, cottage holidays in Cornwall. A dog would be a pleasant companion in this new phase in our lives. Six months later Bumper and I were rattling around alone in a cold and echoing house.

When there were two of us, we had never bothered much about security but now the night time creaks, so insignificant in the past, startled me nightly into a frozen vigilance. Bumper soon took up residence at the end of my bed and doors and windows that would have given with a push from outside, remained unassailed. He had a bark like a werewolf and his nightly round of the garden gave thunderous notice to any would be prowlers. Then one day Richard Pagington said to me with a kind of respectful awe: "I reckon he's a Pitbull."

The idea of a middle aged lady nurturing a Pitbull was of course laughable, then one day a year or so later I saw a photograph in Sodbury police station. There were 3 dogs, all different, all apparently termed Pitbull, all deemed "Dangerous". One of them could have been Bumper's twin. For months after that I jumped at every night time knock on the door. Excuse me madam but we have reason to believe ... I remember a heart lurching moment once, high on the Cotswold Ridge above Wotton when a passer-by turned back and shouted: "That a Pitbull you've got there?" Blithely I shouted back: "Labrador-Staffy cross, of course," as if any fool ought to know that. Then I headed for the woods, scout's pace. But whatever he was, no-one in the village seemed to care. He dived at everyone with a ferociously wagging tail and there was evidently something satisfying about patting his hard gleaming shoulders, because everyone who saw him wanted to stop and talk – even I was included in the conversation sometimes!

I had to continue working, though only part time, and he spent many lonely hours as sole guardian of the house, but his welcome was always the same, ecstatic grunts of delight, total forgiveness for being deserted, the circular whirring of the propeller tail anticipating the pleasures that might lie ahead – the stretched out bliss of a log fire, the gallop in the late afternoon sunshine. At last I thought of him not so much as a Pitbull but a pit prop.



Last autumn, around the day I had once given him as a birthday 13 years before, he began to fail. He had to be coaxed to eat. He'd got ready to walk at the times he knew so well, but there was an apology in his eyes after the first few yards and I knew the walk was for me, not him. We consulted the vet. At first you're given hope of course. It was his liver but there was this and that to try and you grasp the latest bottle of pills with optimism and pay the charges willingly, hoping that you've bought a miracle. But 2 weeks later, tempting him with slices of chicken, I looked at him, grey muzzled, cataracts, a little deaf, collar suddenly too loose on his gladiator's neck and his spine sticking up like a fence, and asked myself whose suffering I was most concerned about, his or mine. So Bumper and I agreed that he'd had enough.

His going was quick and peaceful. I was the fearful one, not him. Under the vet's gentle hands he appeared not even to feel the needle. Under my hands I felt the last breath slowly going out of him. It was a matter of seconds, literally a falling asleep.

In a car you can cry as long and as loud as you like, thank goodness, but back home I stoked the fire and poured a drink and raised a glass to that big hearted runaway who had given me so much stalwart companionship. I hope he's rolling somewhere in sunshine in a golden celestial meadow, bless him!

Jo Voss

* * * * *

IRON ACTON JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB (UNDER TENS)

In July 1998 Iron Acton Junior Football Club was formed. We play at Iron Acton School Playing Fields.

Progress, so far, has been good. We started with a small (our full squad for the first match consisted of only 11 players) but very enthusiastic squad and our initial aim was to get the lads used to playing together as a team.

Our first game was an away fixture to Saltford Stars on 21 November and we lost 9 - 0. Our next match took place on 12 December. This time we were at home to Tytherington Rocks and although we lost 4 - 1 we did learn from both these games. We then did a lot of training to try and put things right. We then played Charfield and lost 2 - 1; a match we should've won easily but it was one of those exasperating days when the ball just would not go into the net. Finally training paid off on 6 February when we travelled to Radstock and Iron Acton won 5 - 3. Our next match is against Tytherington Rocks and all the lads are hoping that they will be able to avenge for their earlier defeat.



When we started out last Summer we tried all sorts of village sources for funding but found this very difficult - lots of promises but nothing concrete arrived. In the end we took out a loan to buy kit and training equipment. We were incredibly grateful to Brendon and his staff at the White Hart who raised the wonderful sum of £172 from their Christmas Draw for us. We would also like to say a big thank you to Richard Larter and his staff at Iron Acton School who have let us use the school facilities.

We have friendly matches arranged every 2 weeks until the end of the season. Our last match will be against Saltford in May. We hope to celebrate by taking the squad out for an outing in the afternoon and then have a disco and awards ceremony in the evening with parents and friends also being invited to the disco (why not telephone 228234 for your tickets now??).

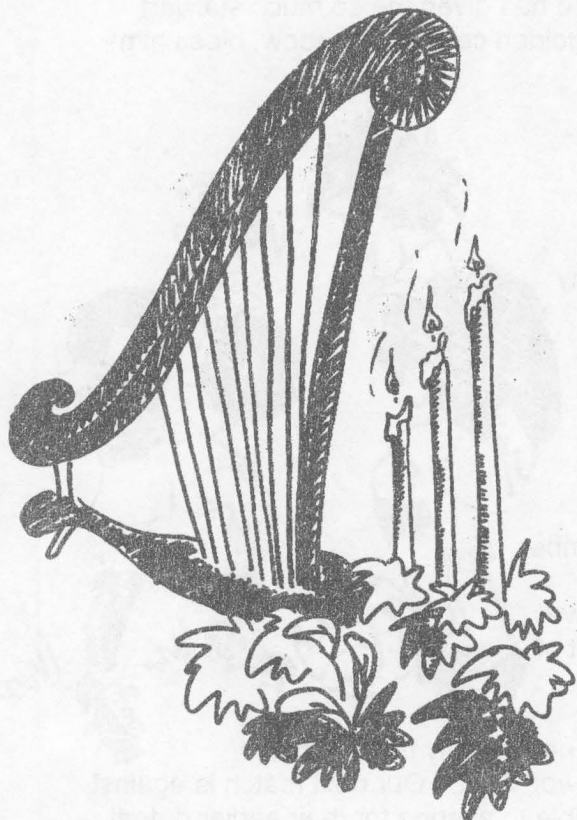
So what for the future? We hope to be able to join a proper under 11 league next season (this starts in September 1999) and we are investigating the possibility of improving our facilities (we hope to be able to give more details in the next edition of Focal Poyntz).

If there is any organisation, individual or company who feels they might like to help the lads out with any form of sponsorship I really would be grateful to hear from them.

K D East

MAGIC

"Magic" they said, and magic indeed it was. Our gem of a church glowing in the candlelight, the light reflecting from the gleaming brass, illuminating the lavish flower arrangements, and sparkling on the polished lid of the grand piano. The pews filled with animated concert-goers from all over the parish and beyond. And then the music started – every corner of the building filled with the most glorious sounds from mainly young people and mainly those with close local connections – music of all styles and from a number of different instruments, besides the grand piano, including the voice, the harp, the flute and the clarinet, in different combinations of players. And the spoken word, too – a group of poems ranging from the great and majestic words of Shakespeare to some delightful short humorous ditties, all on the theme of music.



The excitement and the response built up as the evening progressed. Many, I think, were unaware of what a treat was in store for them – buying tickets out of a sense of loyalty to the church and to village activities – few, perhaps, had expected to have their breath taken away by the quality of the performance and the joy of the music. But I think we were all a little breathless by the end, and shared the sense that we were present at something really special, an unique occasion in the life of our community.

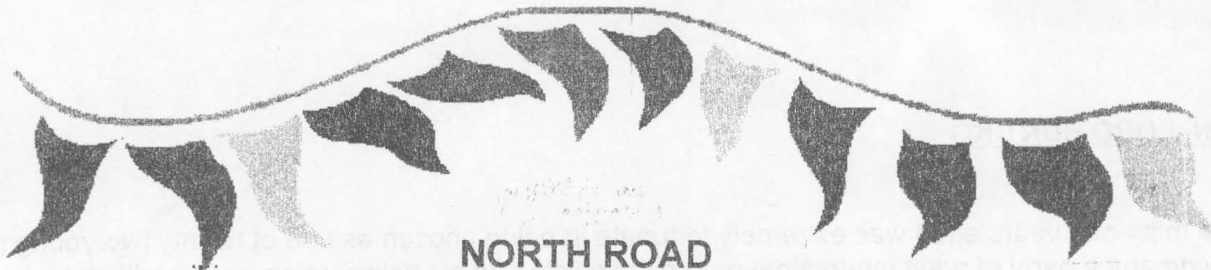
The concert was followed by drinks in the Village Hall, which had been set up as a small exhibition of the church building, past and present, including photographs of the tower ceiling damage and the poor state of the interior decoration. Launching the appeal for funds to carry out the necessary work had been the purpose of the evening, so it was important to be reminded that the building, like any other ancient building, has been in a constant state of decay and repair, restoration and adaptation throughout its life. Our generation has the responsibility of carrying on with these processes so that succeeding generations can delight in the continued presence in the heart of our village of this architectural jewel.

The Appeal Committee was delighted with the amount of money the evening raised (and so was I!) but its main purpose was to put the Appeal on the parish map, as it were. It was just the first event of many still in the planning stage and if the rest are as magic as the first, these events are going to be hugely successful. We discovered how easily the church adapts into a concert venue, and hope that more musical events will be possible. But there are lots of other ideas, too, so watch this space!

Sue Rushton / Priest in Charge

* * * * *

There was a young lad of St Just
Who ate apple pie 'til he bust;
It wasn't the fru-it
That caused him to do it,
What finished him off was the crust.



NORTH ROAD POST OFFICE & STORES

You may recall in a previous edition of Focal Poyntz that when Chrissie decided to retire we wrote how sad we were that Iron Acton had lost its only post office and last remaining shop

We were wrong!

Those intelligent people among you would have realised that THERE IS ANOTHER ONE IN IRON ACTON, IT'S **NORTH ROAD POST OFFICE AND STORES** and we're happy to include the following so you know exactly what's available and can hopefully put some extra business their way.

THE POST OFFICE offers a full range of services. If you would like to arrange to collect your pension from North Road you only have to complete one form – and the people at the Post Office would be more than happy to help you fill this in – and the same applies to all other forms of benefit.

LOTTERY TICKETS can be purchased here – syndicates are especially welcome – if you'd like details on how to set one up just give them a ring (several already operate using North Road Stores).

NEWSAGENT: Again, a full service is available. Ring for details.

GROCERIES AND COOKED MEATS: A variety of items is available for you to choose from.

DRY CLEANING: is collected/delivered every Tuesday and Thursday – if you leave your items on one of these days then they should be ready for you to collect on the next.

SHOE REPAIRS: Items for repair are collected every Tuesday and Thursday. Again, a swift return service is available (exact return will depend on how much work is needed).

COUNCIL TAX: Can be paid at North Road – you don't have to travel all the way to Yate or Thornbury!

TOYS: A range of toys can be ordered from a catalogue available from the stores.

VIDEOS: A range of video tapes is available for sale. These are changed on a monthly basis so it's not always the same stock that's available.

So, as always, remember that you must use it or lose it For further details contact **North Road Post Office and Stores on 228262** you'll be assured of a warm welcome!

OPENING HOURS:

Mondays to Saturdays: 6.00 am to 5.30 pm
Lottery Days (Saturday and Wednesday): extended opening to 7.00 pm
Sundays: Sorry! Closed

JOHN, LORD HUNT KG

Some thirty odd years ago I was extremely fortunate in being chosen as one of twenty two young men to accompany a party of adult mountaineers, ornithologists and glaciologists on an expedition to Greenland. The group was to be taken by the then Sir John Hunt who was the leader of the first successful attempt on Everest back in 1953. Those six weeks in Greenland were to have a profound effect on many aspects of my life which I have only recognised in the ensuing years.

And so it was that on 26 January 1999 Vera and I were privileged to be invited to St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle for a Service of Thanksgiving for the life of John, Baron Hunt of Llanfair Waterdine, KG, CBE, DSO by his widow, Lady Joy, whom I got to know very well on that expedition in 1960.

His love of mountaineering was nurtured as a teenager in the Alps and, while serving in Burma and India before the second world war he joined several expeditions to Northern Kashmir and then to the Himalayas. During the war itself he served in the North African and Italian campaigns, ending as Senior Staff Officer to General Montgomery and Colonel of his own regiment.

In 1952 he was recalled from Army duties to lead the 1953 British Everest Expedition and although this was not the first choice it proved to be the better one, because of the combination of his climbing experience, leadership and organisational qualities.

Then, on the morning of 2nd June 1953, the day of the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II, the news broke that two of Sir John's party, a New Zealand beekeeper, Edmund Hillary and his climbing partner a Sherpa guide named Tenzing Norgay, had reached the 29028' summit of Mount Everest. It is shocking to learn now that the base of the sacred mountain is littered with bottles, cans and all sorts of human rubbish left by a new wave of climbers from a modern society which would be unrecognisable to the men of yester-year.

Soon after Everest he retired from the Army and dedicated his life to working with young people helping the underprivileged and working for penal reform and for this he was made a life peer in 1966. For ten years he also ran the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme in which I had been a participant.

Well here we were in the very place where HRH The Prince Edward and Sophie Rhys-Jones are to be married later this year. What was about to unfold was a ceremony of mini-coronational proportion with military precision obviously going to be the order of the day. Seated there amongst a packed congregation, waiting in anticipation, one's eyes wandered uncontrollably upwards to carvings of shields, fan faulted ceilings, multi coloured banners of the Knights of the Order of the Garter, beautiful stained glass windows, oak carved choir stalls and so much more. It was just impossible to take in anything further as the magnificent organ played out Bach, Elgar and Mendelssohn.

Among the invited guests were such dignitaries as His Excellency the Royal Nepalese Ambassador Dr Singha B Basnyat and HRH Princess Jotshana, the Rt Hon the Lord Carrington, together with Lady Hunt, their daughters and families. The service then started with the Military Knights of Windsor parading Lord Hunt's personal banner of white mountain peaks and a brown bear. We were addressed among others by David Sheppard, former Bishop of Liverpool, and also by George Band an original member of the Everest expedition.

The service over, five hundred or more members of the congregation made their way slowly out of the chapel and down the grand steps to the Horseshoe Cloister. It was here that I met several acquaintances from 1960 although, disappointingly, I could not find Lady Hunt in the general throng. However, I was so pleased to have had a chat with his daughter, Susan, who was also in Greenland and for a brief fifteen minutes we were able to conjure up a few pleasant memories.

Driving back to Bristol left me wondering how such a man whom I did not know well could have had such an inspirational effect on my life. Let us hope that there are many more such people working towards a better life for others. If I may, I would like to finish with a poem that was read out during the service which I found most poignant.

Not 'how did he die?' but 'how did he live?'
Not 'what did he gain?' but 'what did he give?'
These are the units that measure the worth
Of a man as a man, no matter his birth.
Not 'what was his church?' nor 'what was his creed?'
But his work and his care for those people in need.
His strength for his children, his love for his wife
- these are the units to measure a life.
Not what the sketch in the newspapers say
But how many will miss him now he's passed away. Anon.

Roy Hubbard

* * * * *

ACTON AID

The Annual General Meeting of Acton Aid was held in the Rose and Crown on Thursday, 4 February. It saw the culmination of another successful year. although only 2 formal fund raising occasions were undertaken during the year, Acton Aid was able to support several village activities and groups including Focal Poyntz, the Toddler Group, the May Fayre, delivering biscuits to the senior citizens at Christmas and, most recently, the planting of the memorial tree to John Percy.

A very successful annual Chairman's Dinner was held at Bodkin House on Saturday, 27 February when the guests of honour were John and Marilyn Wright. A toast to our guests of honour and to the visitors was proposed by the outgoing Chairman, Rob Taylor, and replied to by John Wright. David McCoy concluded the formal part of the evening with a very amusing and locally topical after dinner speech.

The aim of Acton Aid as a registered charity is to assist in the improvement of village life. To achieve this we meet on the first Thursday of the month at 8 pm in the Lounge Bar of the Rose and Crown. Discussions into ways of furthering our aim are undertaken, over a beer or two, in a lighthearted yet occasionally vigorous manner. The ability of Acton Aid to support village activities is dependent primarily on the enthusiastic efforts of the active members in organising the successful fundraising events. New members are always welcome. If you would like to join us, please contact one of the committee or just turn up at one of the meetings.

The following members make up the current committee:

Chairman:	Barrie Wright
Vice Chairman:	David McCoy
Secretary:	Colin Smith
Treasurer:	Patrick Murphy
Services:	David McCoy
Village Hall:	David Hatherall
Project 2000:	Chris Wiggins



SILVEY

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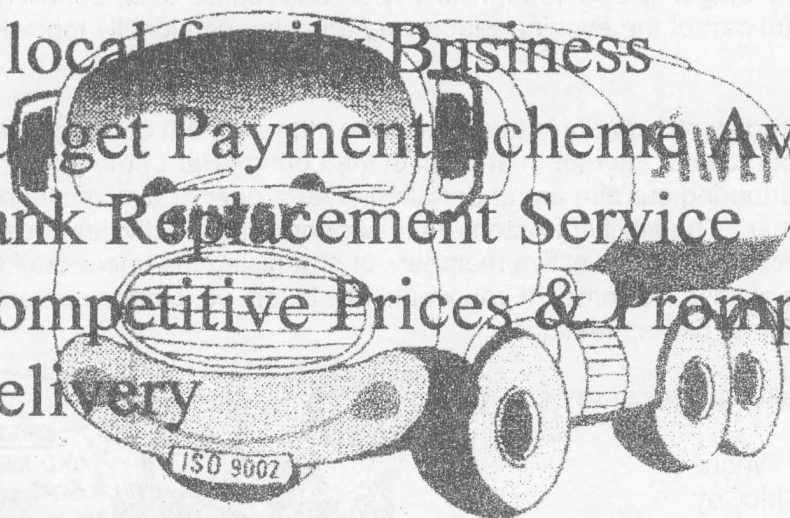
Did you know?

For every litre of heating oil purchased from Silveys for delivery into the parish of Iron Acton 0.2p is donated to Project 2000, the fund to extend and improve the **Iron Acton Village Hall**. That's £2.40 on an average delivery of 1200 litres and a total of just under £500 in the last two years!

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PROJECT 2000

I thought I would write a short report to up-date everyone on the tremendous progress the Project 2000 Committee has made over the last 12 months.

Up until recently we were concerned that the target of completing the renovation of the hall by the year 2000 was not going to be achieved. However, despite these worries, enthusiasm never waned and through certain grants that were available our target seems very much closer. Currently we have raised £130,500 thanks to grants from Iron Acton Parish Council, South Gloucestershire County Council, Greater Bristol Foundation, National Lottery Charity Board and, of course, our own fundraising. A special mention must go to Bob Shepherd and his team on Iron Acton Parish Council for their ongoing encouragement and financial support. In addition, my thanks to Roger Hughes and Tony Pullen for the effort they have made over the last 6 months in pulling together the grant applications and co-ordinating the tenders that have been issued in the last few days. It is certainly no mean feat having to negotiate with the National Lotteries Charity Board, and actually succeed to the tune of a £50,000 grant.

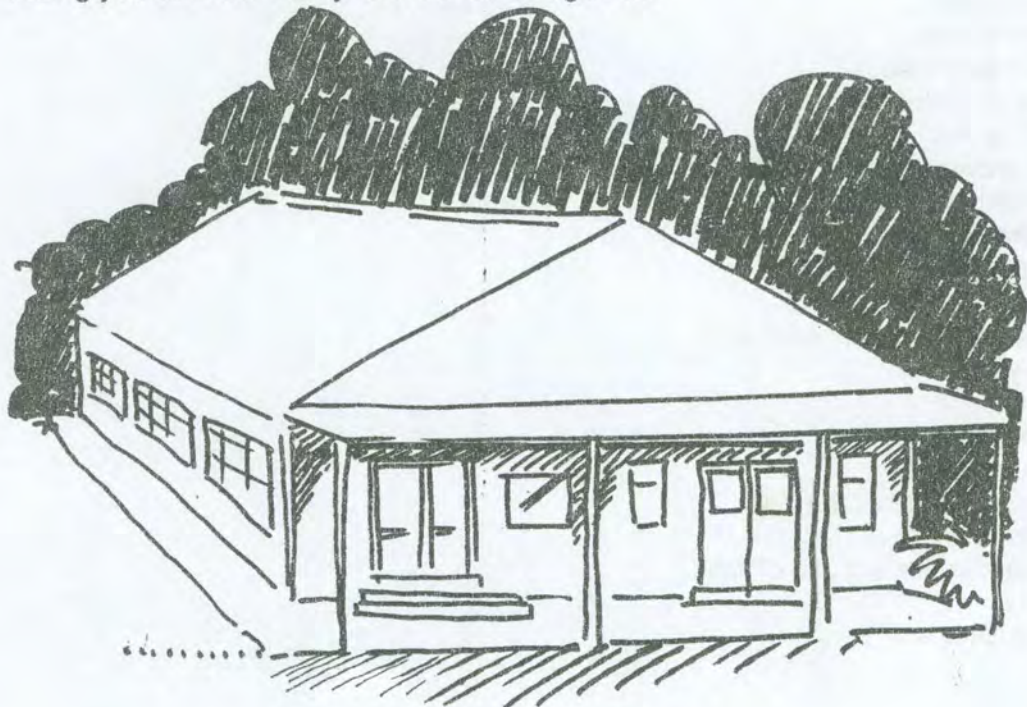
Now to the future. The next 3 weeks are going to be the crucial period for the Committee. We have a deadline of the 31st March to ensure that the sealed tenders are received from the 4 building companies selected to tender for the project and that the contracts are signed and submitted to the successful bidder. The government has set this date as the last time that we can claim back the VAT on work to village hall improvements. If we do not achieve this deadline it could add a further 17.5% to the total cost of the project. This means all hands to the deck for the next few weeks.

Although we have raised a staggering £130,500 to date, we are estimating that a further £50,000 will be required to totally complete the renovation. We have the next Iron Acton May Day Celebrations on 3rd May where we hope to raise in excess of £4,000 and the final instalment grant of £6,000 from the Parish Council in April. This will leave us with a shortfall of £40,000. The Project 2000 Committee, in consultation with the main Village Hall Committee, has taken the decision to proceed with the project despite the shortfall which will mean raising the balance through further grants, fundraising or a loan from the bank.

I would like to make a plea to all the parishioners of Iron Acton to help us to continue raising as much money as possible towards completing the project by supporting us on May Day and with our other fundraising events.

I look forward to seeing you all in our newly refurbished Village Hall!

Chris Wiggins



TREE NEWS



There is little to report locally at present as this is the dormant time for our trees. There is still just time to plant bare root trees before the growth starts in earnest and, of course, container grown can be planted at any time. Be sure to keep a regular watering programme schedule with any trees you plant especially during the summer.

A red chestnut tree was planted on the Green by Acton Aid in memory of John Percy. This has a steel guard to deter vandals and at a later stage it is hoped to set a seat around it. We are hoping to plant some oak trees for the Millennium as our contribution to the two million trees to be planted this year and next. Further information on this in the next issue.

TREES OF TIME AND PLACE: Anyone who planted seeds gathered last autumn will be searching for signs of germination any time now. To date I have nothing to report on my efforts.

There is a full programme of events through the spring and summer with this project and the Forest of Avon, starting with A Wander in the Woods on Saturday, 15 May from 10.30 am to 1.00 pm. This is a guided walk through Leigh Woods learning about the folklore, history and management of the woods. There is a Woodlands Family Fun Day on Sunday, 25 July from 11 am to 3 pm at Ashton Court and an Evening Walk in Leigh Woods discovering the medicinal and healing properties of trees on 28 July from 6.30 pm to 7.45 pm. All events are free but need to be booked by telephoning 0117 929 0066.

TREE COUNCIL The annual Esso Walk in the Woods takes place from 1-3 May 1999. For further information call the hotline on 0171 828 9928 from 6 April. The Tree Council celebrates 25 years of planting and conserving trees and woods throughout the UK this year. They are responsible for the Tree Warden Scheme which now has 6,500 active members.

Barrie Wright

WOMAN IN A COUNTRY CHURCHYARD

The Church tower looms
against a darkening sky
and November arrives with a chill
in Iron Acton
Still she kneels
on the slippery sods
a spray of winter pansies
in frail hands
by the gravestone
with a raking back
older than she
and attends her charge.

Then leaning on an angled stick
she rises
shuffles
towards the gate
and as we pass
face braced against the wind
eyes smiling
she sparkles like a glass of wine.

William Climpson

The Focal Poyntz Committee approached the Parish Council to ask if they would provide an article explaining the current position with the (proposed) traffic lights on the bypass. We would like to express our thanks to Sue Gawler who kindly volunteered to write the following article.

TRAFFIC LIGHTS ON THE IRON ACTON BY-PASS

It is at least 12 years since the idea was put forward to have traffic lights at the Wotton Road and Latteridge Road junctions on the Iron Acton Bypass. Now, at long last, there is a light at the end of the tunnel. The lights are coming!

Developers at Wickwar put money into Avon County Council coffers towards a Wickwar by-pass when they built the houses. Last year it was agreed by the developers and Councillors that the money could be used for traffic management schemes for routes affected by the lack of the Wickwar by-pass. Cll. Pat Hockey only agreed for the money to be used on certain other routes if we got the traffic lights on the Iron Acton by-pass.

This has now been approved and John Fox, Principal Highways Engineer, has confirmed that they will be in place within this calendar year. The scheme is well advanced. One set has been designed and the other set is on the drawing board. All that is holding them up is pressure of work. The new traffic lights these days are very clever and can judge the speed and the volume of traffic and the lights automatically adjust. We shall have to wait and see!

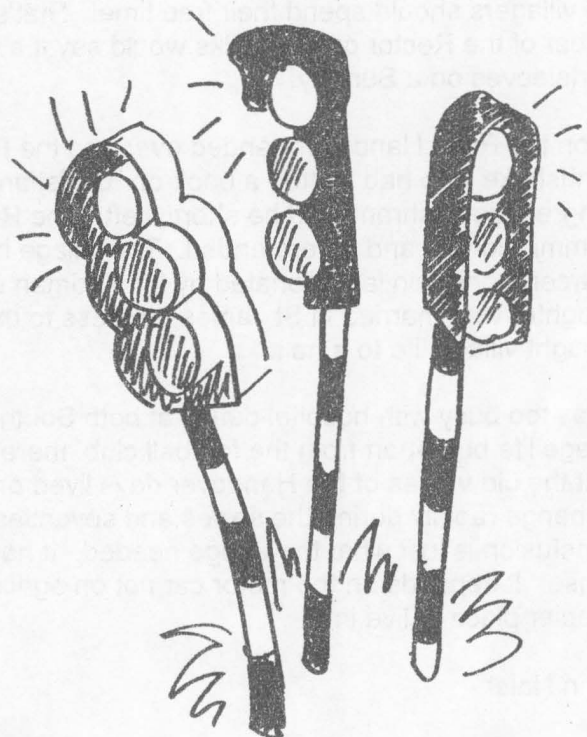
We have been asked what action the Parish Council has taken in the past and what they are doing currently on this matter. I can assure you that we have been putting pressure on the Council at every opportunity. Letters have been written and Councillors and Officers pestered. I was recently invited to a Local Transport Plan Workshop and guess what? I had my say about the traffic on the Iron Acton by-pass and the heavy lorries having to use the Latteridge and Wotton Roads, so rest assured we do not let up. We will not give up until they are in place and working.

South Gloucestershire Council has to prioritise the highways work; there are so many worthwhile and necessary schemes and only so much money to go round. If the developers did not fund the lights I dread to think how long we would have had to wait. Work was done to make a pedestrian refuge near Parker's Garden Centre about 4 years ago to improve safety after 2 accidents.

It has been suggested that it would be the right time to co-ordinate a letter writing campaign. PLEASE DO NOT. If letters are written the officers will be too busy answering the letters to organise the new traffic lights.

I hope this answers all the questions parishioners have been asking. If you have any queries about anything to do with the Parish you can always come to any Parish Council meeting (7.30 pm on the third Monday; either in the Village Hall or North Road School – watch the notice board for venue). We set aside some time at the beginning of each meeting for questions from the public.

Sue Gawler / Parish Councillor



IRON ACTON FIFTY YEARS AGO

The fiftieth issue of Focal Poyntz set me thinking about what the village was like fifty years ago. At that time I lived in a cottage in Chipping Sodbury and had a very junior post as Lecturer in the Department of Medicine of Bristol University. Having just got my first car I used to drive in for a nine o'clock lecture down the Badminton Road or, for variety, through Iron Acton and Winterbourne. In those days all the traffic coming from the east towards Aust Ferry and South Wales used to converge on Iron Acton and turn down Park Street – of all places – then across the old larger Green, towards Latteridge. Traffic from Wotton to Bristol also used Iron Acton High Street where the pavements were very narrow and the lorries growing larger by the week.

In the High Street there were four shops: Fursman's general store and grocery, Huggins the butcher near the White Hart, a shoe shop near the Rose and Crown and Dillon's post office near the Clove Hitch. It seemed to me, fresh from the war and the wide world beyond our shores, a charming place and much as it must have been during the early part of the century, except that Blanchard's smithy had closed down. Later, in February 1950, I saw an auctioneer's notice advertising the sale of Algars Manor, umpteen tenanted cottages and about seventy acres of land, so, being of a curious turn of mind, I drove down Station Road to explore. There were old-fashioned crossing gates and an abandoned station platform complete with waiting room. Goods trains still ran and the gates were opened and closed by a signalman or his wife who lived in the railway cottage. The cottage had no water supply so the engine driver of the morning train used to bring a milk churn full of fresh Yate water to the folk in the railway cottage. Algars Manor and the Mill also had no mains water but they did share a well and an electrically operated pump which was used to fill the header tanks of both houses in the morning and in the evening. The operator of the pump and of the water turbine beneath the mill was Mr Leonard Mainstone who had driven a lorry behind the trenches of France during the First World War and who had since become a chauffeur-gardener. When I came to live in Algars and employed Leonard I was told that I was expected to purchase his annual driving licence at a cost of five shillings (twenty five pence). Luckily he did not demand a uniform and gaiters!

Mainstone it was who told me that he used to be one of the bell ringers at St James the Less, but the Revd Handover, the Rector who lived at the Rectory (now the Old Rectory) and who was the virtual ruler of the village had rebuked him and his fellow ringers for going to The Lamb for a jug of beer after Sunday Matins. This was during the war and socialism was stirring so Leonard and his mates told the Rector what he should do with his bells and ceased to ring them. Wages were terribly low in those days so just imagine what a treat it was for those men to have a beer, probably the only one in the whole week, after the exertions of bell ringing. Imagine the arrogance of a rector trying to dictate how the villagers should spend their free time! That's how it was in those days in Iron Acton: everyone was in fear of the Rector or what folks would say if a woman appeared without a hat or a man in his shirtsleeves on a Sunday.

Soon the Revd Handover handed over and the Rectory was inhabited by a lanky man with a damp handshake who had written a book on "Christianity after Freud". This failed to impress Iron Acton, congregations shrank and he shortly left. The Rectory was put up for sale by the Church Commissioners and an era ended. The village hall was built from scarce building materials and even scarcer money on land donated by Mr Rudman who lived in Dean Lodge – both east and West! His daughter was married in St James the Less to the local coroner, a really grand occasion which brought village life to a halt.

I was too busy with hospital duties at both Southmead and Frenchay Hospitals to take any part in village life but, apart from the football club, there didn't seem to be much of it. I had the impression that the old values of the Handover days lived on and that it was a pretty narrow minded place then. It change rapidly during the sixties and seventies and it is my personal opinion that a social blood transfusion is just what the village needed. It has utterly changed. It is no longer a village in the old sense. It depends on the motor car not on agriculture and dictatorial rectors but it seems a much happier place to live in.

John Naish

IRON ACTON CRICKET CLUB

With the weather turning wintry outside it must be time to talk about cricket again. As the club prepares for its fourth season, we find that our success at attracting fixtures has outstripped our ability to attract new players, and, whilst playing numbers are growing all the time – with 26 matches on the fixture list for this year – our playing resources may at times be severely stretched.

We shall again be playing at the Rangeworthy Recreation Ground and any supporters for our home matches will be made most welcome. There will shortly be fixture cards dotted all round the village and if you would like one of our own please telephone our social secretary Chris Perry on 228798.

If anyone is thinking about turning out for us, our indoor nets will be from 9.00 am – 10.00 am, at King Edmunds School in Yate, on the following Sundays: 7th March, 21st March, 11th April, 18th April, 25th April and we all players and respective players will be welcome.

We have several promising youth players and we intend to offer specialist coaching for any interested players and to organise competitive matches if we can raise sufficient players in this age group. Practices will take place at Rangeworthy probably on Thursday evenings and if anyone would like more details please contact Roger Averis on 228481.

Chris Bradley has kindly agreed to continue with the junior coaching (ages 7-11) that takes place on Friday evenings on the Iron Acton Primary School field and he can be contacted on 228559 if anyone would like more details.

If any of you out there is nursing any form of cricketing talent, whether young or old, we would love to hear from you and, whilst we may not be the best team in the area, we can justifiably claim to be one of the most social.

For further information you can also contact our Captain, John Shepherd on 228374 or our Chairman, Simon Cross, on 228291.

Simon Cross

NORTH ROAD COUNTY PRIMARY SCHOOL

This half term leading up to Easter is very short but extremely busy! We are looking forward to a drama workshop with the English Shakespeare Company, a Readathon, SATs meetings, an Easter Service and, of course, Red Nose Day!



The Summer Term is also beginning to get booked up. We have fund raising events of a "Sleep Over" on Friday, 16 April, Duck Day on Saturday, 1 May, Iron Acton Village Day on Monday, 3 May and our Summer Fair on Friday, 9 July (from 2.45 pm to 5.30 pm).

We have Year 5 Camp at Abergavenny, Year 6 Camp on the Isle of Wight and a theatre performance of Alice in Wonderland to make up for the SAT s week!

We were very disappointed with our SATs results for English last year. Small numbers of children mean that each child represents 7% so there will always be large fluctuations in terms of statistics. The large number of children with statements and on the Special Needs Register receiving additional support meant that we had already predicted a poor result. We expect better next year.

We will all be pleased to see the return of Mrs Ellery after her long absence with a broken knee cap. Mrs Trickey will be away during the Summer Term awaiting the arrival of her baby. We look forward to seeing her in the Autumn Term.

Glenys Anderson / Headteacher

NORTH ROAD LADIES CLUB

Although the night of our January meeting proved to be very cold and several of our members were unwell, the 18 members who did attend had a most enjoyable evening listening to Mr Latham and Mr Wicks telling us about and showing us their Birds of Prey. Our February meeting was well attended when a young lady from Fantasia of Mangotsfield spoke about Aromatherapy.

For our March meeting Dave and Jan Fullman will be telling us about their holiday "Rambles with Rosie North of the Border"; in April we are to have a Jewellery Presentation and in May a member from The Wildlife Trust will be giving an illustrated talk. Also in May a group from our Ladies Club will be going to see "Phantom of the Opera" in Bristol.

On Monday, 5th July we have planned an evening excursion to Coldharbour Mill Working Wool Museum in Devon. We will be given a guided tour followed by a meal in the Mill Restaurant. We are hoping to fill a coach, so if any non-members would care to join us please contact any member of our committee.

Our meetings are held in North Road Primary School and new members or visitors are very welcome.

June Rycroft / Secretary



THE MAN AT THE TOP

If you want to see the past, look up. So said my history teacher and he was right.

As we hustle through our busy town centres, it is so easy to miss the landmarks of the past. Much of what was there before lies buried beneath our feet and what remains is frequently hidden by the modern fascias of shops and offices. Until, that is, you look up. One dowdy high street I used to drive through every day in North London has the most exquisite Edwardian terraced facades which have survived above shop level. But you have to get out of the car and look up to see them. Try this yourselves in downtown Bristol or Gloucester and you will see what I mean.

The same is true of our villages although we in Iron Acton are luckier than most. The village has retained its rural character to a surprising degree and its medieval ribbon development is still obvious to the most casual observation. But even here I have found that the advice of my history teacher can still bear fruit.

I had been living here for several weeks before I noticed him; and a further 2 weeks before I could persuade my wife to look up and convince herself that he was not a figment of my imagination. What on earth is he doing there? There are some explanations in the guide books but somehow they did not seem satisfactory to me. Sir John Poyntz, son of Sir Nicholas and father of Robert, he may be. But what is he doing on the top of the church tower?

I asked everyone I came across in the village but no one could give an explanation. Then last May Eve, as I strolled through Chilwood, I came across an old man with silver hair sitting on a tree stump near some old iron workings. He wore green leggings, a leather jerkin and what appeared to be a night cap on his head. His feet were shod in wooden clogs and by his side lay a pick and shovel. His reply to my "good evening" was spoken in English with a pronounced Gloucestershire accent but it did not belong to this century.

When he told me that he had lived in the area for 600 years, I naturally asked him what Sir John was doing on top of the church tower. He roared with laughter, did a couple of tumbles and then sat down again on his tree stump. I listened with increasing hilarity as he told his story. Then slapping his thighs he jumped to his feet, gathered up his tools and pressing his face so close to mine that our noses almost touched, he cackled this chilling refrain:

Reveal the story of the knight
and yours will be a sorry plight.
Just like the knight you'll turn to stone
and end your days as a garden gnome.

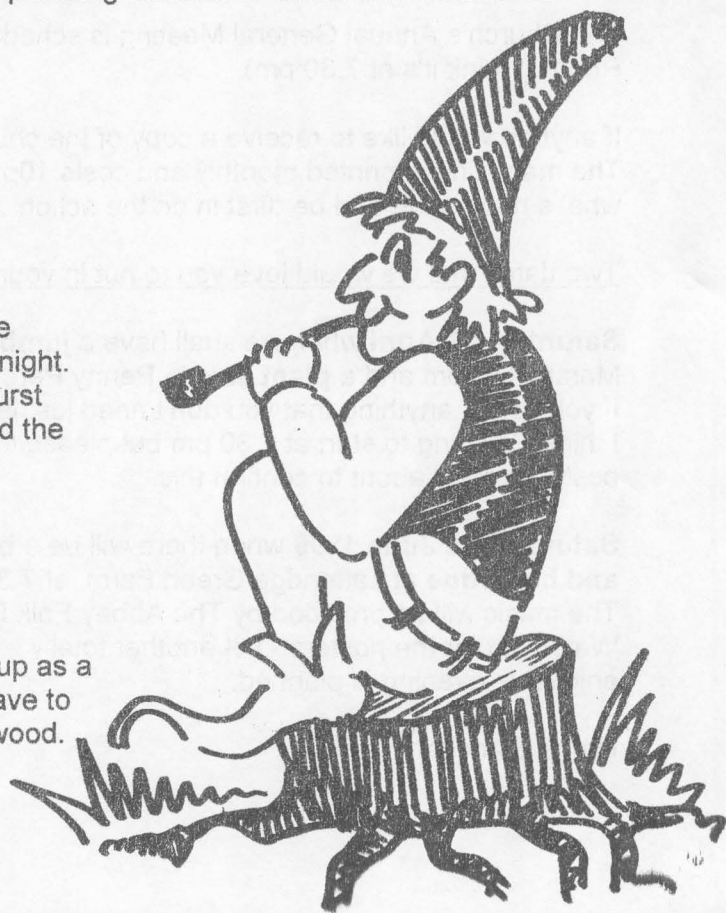
Then, in an instant, he was gone.

I walked back to the village, taking the path through the churchyard and stood for a moment to look up at the knight. Then, remembering what the old man had told me, I burst into laughter. Just then a woman emerged from behind the church.

"You've come from Chilwood." She said.
"How do you know that?"
"I don't think we'd better discuss it."

And neither can I say more to you, I'm afraid. To end up as a garden gnome is an appalling thought. You will just have to wait for next May Eve and take that walk through Chilwood.

William Climpson



NEWS FROM THE PEWS

There's a lovely article from Sue on the concert that launched our fund raising appeal in January and on the follow up that's planned so there's no need for me to stretch your eyeballs any further so I won't!

By the time you get to read this Easter will be very close. Our services for Maundy Thursday through to Easter Day are as follows:

Maundy Thursday / Thursday, 1 April	7.30 pm	Sung Eucharist followed by stripping of the Altar and Watch until Midnight (venue still to be confirmed)
Good Friday / Friday, 2 April	2.00 pm	An hour's meditative service at the foot of the cross at Frampton Cotterell
	6.30 pm	Stations of the Cross at Iron Acton
Easter Day / Sunday, 4 April	6.00 am	Dawn Service at The Hillyfields, Frampton Cotterell
	9.00 am	Sung Communion at Iron Acton

Everyone associated with Iron Acton Church extends a very warm welcome to anyone who would like to join with us for any (or all) of the above services.

Can I say a thank you to all those who saved their used postage stamps and Christmas cards – all were gratefully received.

A huge thank you, too, to all those who supported our appeal for Bristol Cyrenians. Gill Holmes almost disappeared under the mountain of goods that arrived both in Church and at North Road Stores. We really owe a big thank you to the owners of North Road Stores as they kindly allowed us to put a box for goods inside their shop at a very busy time of the year and to all those who helped fill it time after time – the church and commerce working together, long may it continue!

The Church's Annual General Meeting is scheduled to take place on Tuesday, 13 April in the Marshall Room (I think it's at 7.30 pm).

If anyone would like to receive a copy of the church magazine please contact Hazel Dron on 228509. The magazine is printed monthly and costs 10p – it's one way that you can keep up to date with what's happening and be "first in on the action".

Two dates that we would love you to put in your diaries are:

Saturday, 17 April when we shall have a **jumble sale** in the Marshall Room and a **plant sale** in Penny Percy's garden. If you've got anything that you don't need just let us know! I think it's going to start at 2.30 pm but please look out for posters dotted about to confirm this.

Saturday, 26 June 1999 when there will be a **barn dance and barbeque** at Latteridge Green Farm at 7.30 pm. The music will be provided by The Abbey Folk Band. Watch out for the posters - yet another totally enjoyable evening is planned.

Lynne Blanchard



IRON ACTON PARISH COUNCIL

SCHOOL GOVERNOR REQUIRED

Iron Acton Parish Council needs to appoint a School Governor for Iron Acton Primary School.

Could any volunteer wishing to be considered for this position please contact the Clerk, Rachel Weldrake, on 01454 321362.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

This will take place on Friday, 23 April 1999 at 7.30 pm in Iron Acton Village Hall.

PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS

These will take place on Thursday, 6 May 1999.

Anyone who is interested in becoming a Parish Councillor should contact Rachael Weldrake who will be happy to provide further information and/or a nomination form. Nomination forms have to be returned by Thursday, 8 April.

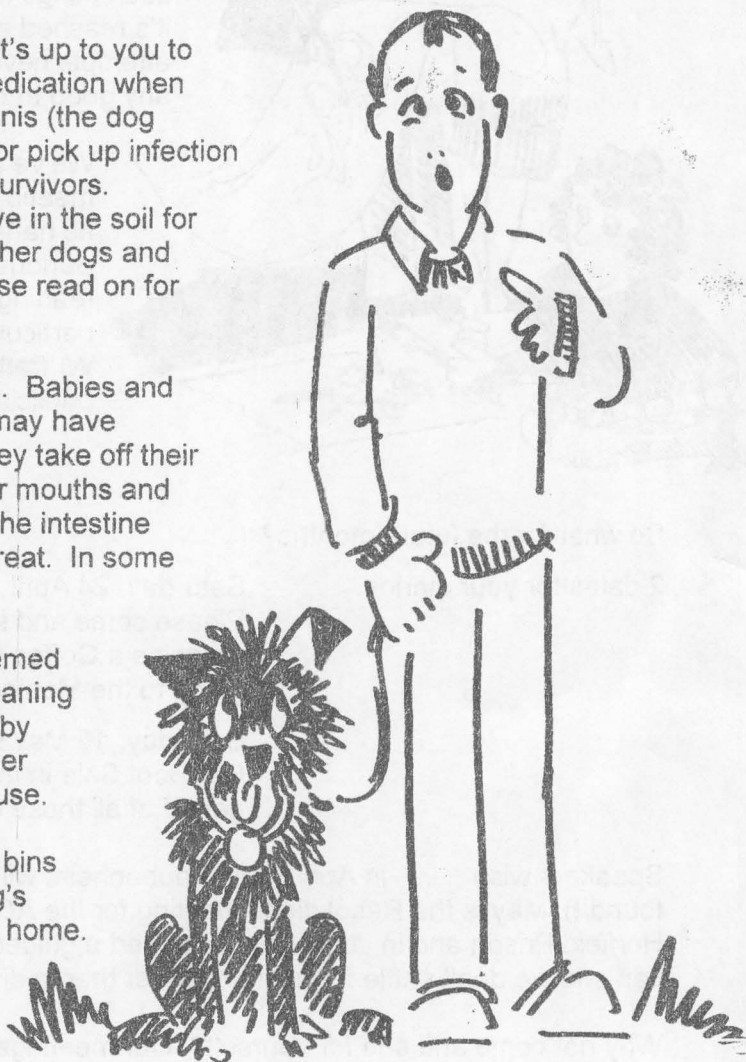
DOG FOULING

Owning a dog brings with it certain responsibilities. It's up to you to provide your pet with a healthy diet, exercise and medication when required. All owners will have heard of *Toxocara canis* (the dog roundworm). Puppies can be born already infected or pick up infection from the environment. Roundworm eggs are great survivors. Given favourable conditions, they can remain infective in the soil for several years, acting as a reservoir of infection for other dogs and children alike. So, even if you don't have a pet, please read on for your family's sake.

Children can pick up *Toxocara* eggs from the ground. Babies and toddlers are most at risk. Dog faeces which a child may have stepped in can be transferred to their hands when they take off their shoes. They tend to put dirty fingers and toys in their mouths and once swallowed, *Toxocara* eggs release larvae into the intestine causing unpleasant symptoms which are difficult to treat. In some cases severe sight problems can also result.

Any person who has a dog in their possession is deemed to be the keeper of the dog and is responsible for cleaning up after it. Being unaware of your dog fouling either by not being in the vicinity, or not having a device or other suitable means of removing the faeces is not an excuse.

Please be a responsible dog owner and use the dog bins your Council has provided or simply pick up your dog's faeces in a plastic bag and dispose of them safely at home.



IRON ACTON WI

January is always such a boring, cold, unexciting month after all the hype and build-up to Christmas that long ago the WI decided to spice up their January meetings with a little alcoholic beverage - purely medicinal, of course, to keep SAD away! This year was no exception. We had mulled wine and biscuits and cheese and sat back and listened to the glorious Mrs Clements and, just to prove how unselfish we are, we invited our families and friends. Some of us had already heard Mrs Clements give this talk. At first sight, Mrs Clements looks like a Wagnerian Brunhilda, with plaits wrapped around her ears and a somewhat generous figure (I could happily picture her belting out "Rule Britannia" at the proms, but far from being somewhat staid she's a delicious contradiction as her humour is somewhat earthy and she get away with telling rather risqué stories - the sort David McCoy tells at Acton Aid dinners!!). It was a glorious evening and just what was needed to forget about the cold and frost outside.

In February a lady came from Body Shop Direct and showed us the range of products now available from this Body Shop offshoot that trades in a similar manner to Pippa Dee and Tupperware! We had great fun sticking various appendages into jars and containers to see if the elixir of youth might exist - it didn't, but a variety of bits became sweetly smelling and a lot softer!!



In March our programme organiser tried to turn us crafty by booking a lady who would explain the intricacies of painting on silk. She made it look so simple and we were staggered to see the effects she achieved by dropping small amounts of salt onto the recently painted silk. A small, intrepid band had a go and produced some lovely pieces - I wasn't one of them, my enthusiasm to try such things hits an incredible high at the time of demonstration, but it's reached apathy level by the following morning because my attempts never end up looking as they should and it never does any good to confirm how hopeless you are on a very regular basis.

We've actually managed to attract two new ladies to our meetings! Both called Carole (with an "e") and both as mad as hatters - they blend in beautifully with the rest of us. Seriously though, it's great to get a call that says "I've been reading your reports in Focal Poyntz and you don't sound particularly WI'ish so I'd like to come along". So, wearing my WI (rather than Focal Poyntz) hat, it's great to be able to publicise our activities in this way. Thank you Focal Poyntz.

So what for the future months?

2 dates for your diaries:

Saturday, 24 April (10.00 am to 12.30)

Please come and support the group of ladies who have agreed to organise a Coffee Morning in the Marshall Room with all proceeds going to the Meningitis Trust

Saturday, 15 May starting at 2.30 pm

Car Boot Sale in the Avenue Field (opposite the Church) - come and get rid of all those unwanted items - further details from any WI lady.

Speakers wise in April Philip Taubenheim will be assessing our antiques (who knows what may be found!!), May is the Resolutions meeting for the AGM, June sees a visit from the Prison Chaplain at Horfield Prison and in July we've arranged a guided tour of the botanic gardens in Leigh Woods. As you can see we don't settle for anything other than a diverse programme.

Why not come and see for yourself? Our meetings take place every second Monday of the month at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall. We would love to see you!

IRON ACTON C OF E SCHOOL AND FRIENDS OF IRON ACTON C OF E SCHOOL

The school is now nearly half way through the academic year with the children working hard in all areas of their studies. Recently the school, with the help of the Friends, has purchased a complete computer package which not only is an up-to-date very powerful PC, but also includes a digital camera, scanner and printer. These resources are invaluable when used to communicate with the school's partner school, Savastaskolan School, in Sweden. The children are now beginning to exchange e-mail and fax communications enabling the children to learn more about others in different parts of the world. Much of this work will form part of the school's contribution to the Millennium Project being run by a number of South Gloucestershire schools.

Again with the help of the Friends of Iron Acton School, the school continues to purchase new books for the Literacy Hour which is now fully underway in all classrooms in the school.

The school will be holding a Book Fair after Easter, beginning on 19th April and continuing until 23rd April. The Fair will be open at school every day between 3 pm and 4 pm during the week. Every book purchased means half a book can be donated to the school so please come and support us.

The school continues to strengthen its links with the church. In December the school was invited to the church for the Carol Service before Christmas. The school sang a carol with 3 soloists and the tableau was displayed from the Infant Nativity Play. The church was full to bursting. Thank you to all who participated and helped with the costumes.

We have already returned to church this term for an Ash Wednesday Service and the school is intending to attend for an Easter Celebration on the last day of term. You are all most welcome to join us on Friday, 26th March at 2.15 pm.

The Friends of the School continue to organise events to support the purchase of resources for the children in the school. Recently the Friends held a quiz night with fancy dress (where we had punk rockers, flower power people, early sixties and all the Blues Brothers in attendance). A great night was had by all. Continuing our music theme, a school disco was held where, again, both children and parents enjoyed themselves.

The Friends will be manning some of the stalls at Village Day and the school Summer Fayre will be held on Saturday, 3 July.

Richard Larter



* * * * *

It was recently reported in one of the national dailies that a car had been spotted parked in the front garden of the House of Commons with the registration FIB5 91.

No comments are necessary!

THE ACTONIANS

It seems that Actonians productions are now THE venue for corporate entertaining!

Our last major production, in collaboration with Project 2000, was the "Allo Allo Christmas Show" which played to capacity audiences on each evening of it's three night run in December.

The Front-of-House team noted several block bookings from local companies and has since received some great feedback. The show was a tremendous success, with those on stage having just as much fun as those in the audience.

So, if you are in charge of social functions for your company (or school) and would like information about our future productions then please let us know. We offer a discount for group bookings and always run a licenced bar for pre-show and interval drinks.

Our next production is a comedy once again. "The Farmer's Wife" by Eden Philpotts was written in the early years of this century and follows the fortunes of West Country farmer Samuel Sweetland. Samuel has decided to marry and makes a list of all the eligible women who live nearby. But does his list have one glaring omission

To see if Samuel makes it to the altar, come along to Iron Acton Village Hall on May 13th, 14th or 15th at 7.30 pm. Tickets are available from Christine Rogers on 01454 773166 or Angie Croome on 01454 324204.

As we write, the thriving Junior section of the Actonians is on the local Festival circuit with their production of "The Last Laugh" by Ben Payne. We wish them every success. Jenny Warner coaches the Juniors; call her on 01454 317945 if you would like to know more.



For further information about membership or future productions please call Ann Aplin, our secretary, on 01454 228243.

The Actonians would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Focal Poyntz and it's editorial team on it's 50th edition. The magazine is a great medium for local communication (and in our case, promotion!). Here's to the next 50!

FOCAL POYNTZ

Focal Poyntz is produced 3 times a year (usually at the end of March, July and November) and is distributed to every house in the Parish. Contributions are always welcome and should be sent to Penny Percy, Springfield, High Street, Iron Acton, or to any other Editorial Team member. Advice can be given if required!

If you would like to advertise in Focal Poyntz please contact Barrie Wright on 228247 and he will be more than happy to help.

The schedule for the next (Summer) edition is as follows:

Deadline for articles to be received by Penny Percy:

Tuesday, 22 June 1999

We then have 2 weeks to type the magazine, insert artwork and proof read.

Focal Poyntz will be collected after printing:

Monday, 19 July 1999

Focal Poyntz will be distributed:

Saturday, 24 / Sunday, 25 July 1999

DIARY OF FORTHCOMING EVENTS

IN THE VILLAGE HALL

Every Tuesday	War Hammer Club	7.30 pm
Every Wednesday	Nursery School Junior Actonians Actonians	9.00 am 6.00 pm 7.30 pm
Every Thursday	Line Dancing	7.30 pm
Wednesday (Fortnightly)	Elizabethan Club	7.30 pm
1 st Wednesday	Village Hall Committee Meeting	7.30 pm
2 nd Monday	W.I.	7.30 pm
3 rd Monday	Parish Council	7.30 pm
Friday, 23 April	Annual Parish Meeting	7.30 pm
Saturday, 3 April	Northavon Auctions	
Saturday, 1 May		
Saturday, 5 June		
Saturday, 3 July		
Thursday, 13-15 May	The Actonians' Production of 'The Farmer's Wife	7.30 pm

ELSEWHERE IN THE VILLAGE

1 st Thursday	Acton Aid meets in the Lounge Bar, Rose & Crown	8.00 pm
Every Friday	Parent and Toddlers' Group in the Marshall Room	10.30 am to midday
Sundays: 7, 21 March 11, 18, 25 April	Cricket Club Indoor Nets Practise at King Edmunds School	9.00 am to 10.00 am
Friday, 16 April	Sleep Over at North Road School	
Saturday, 17 April	Plant Sale at Penny Percy's) Jumble Sale in The Marshall Room)	2.30 pm
19 th - 23 rd April	Book Fair at Iron Acton School	3.00 pm to 4.00 pm
Saturday, 24 April	Coffee Morning (proceeds to Meningitis Trust) in the Marshall Room (by the WI)	10.00 am to 12.30
Saturday, 1 May	Duck Day at North Road School	
Monday, 3 May	May Day on the Village Green	Starting 11.00 am
Saturday, 15 May	Iron Acton WI Car Boot Sale in the Avenue Field	Starting 2.30 pm
Saturday, 3 July	Iron Acton School Summer Fair	
Friday, 9 July	North Road School Summer Fair	2.45 pm to 5.30 pm

This page has deliberately been kept blank
to allow you to remove
the diary page on the reverse
so you can pin it to your noticeboard
or keep it somewhere handy!

To advertise your organisation's event(s)
in future diary pages please contact

Jean Dickes on 228609

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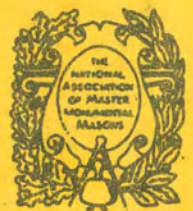
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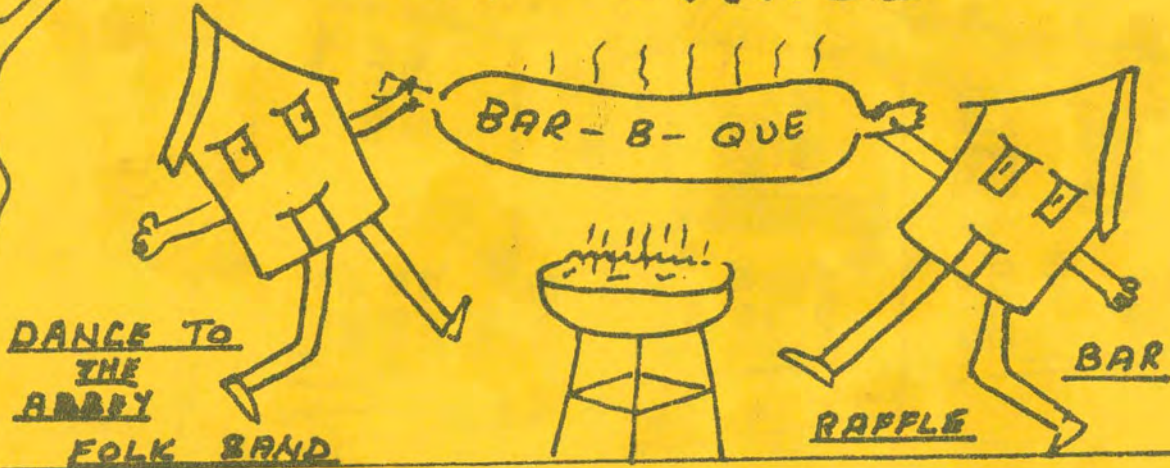
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