

Focal Poyntz

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Golden Jubilee Edition 2002

FOCAL POYNTZ INFORMATION:

Your Focal Poyntz Team is:

Lionel Alsop
228400

Lynne Blanchard
228566

Maureen Blake
294381

Hazel Dron
228509

Roy Hubbard
228356

Eileen Hughes
228439

Barrie Wright
228247

Rona Wright
228247

Deliveries are ably carried out by:

Lionel Alsop
Lynne Blanchard
Norman Carter
Hazel Dron
Elizabeth Edwards
Andrew Gowen
John Griffin
Chris Heal
Roy Hubbard
Carole Orley
Sue Shepherd
Laura Walters
Pete Wedgewood
Mike Wheeler
Barrie & Rona Wright

ARTICLES:

If you've got any news or articles that you think we'd like to receive please contact any of the people on the numbers given above. We would love to hear from you!

ADVERTISING:

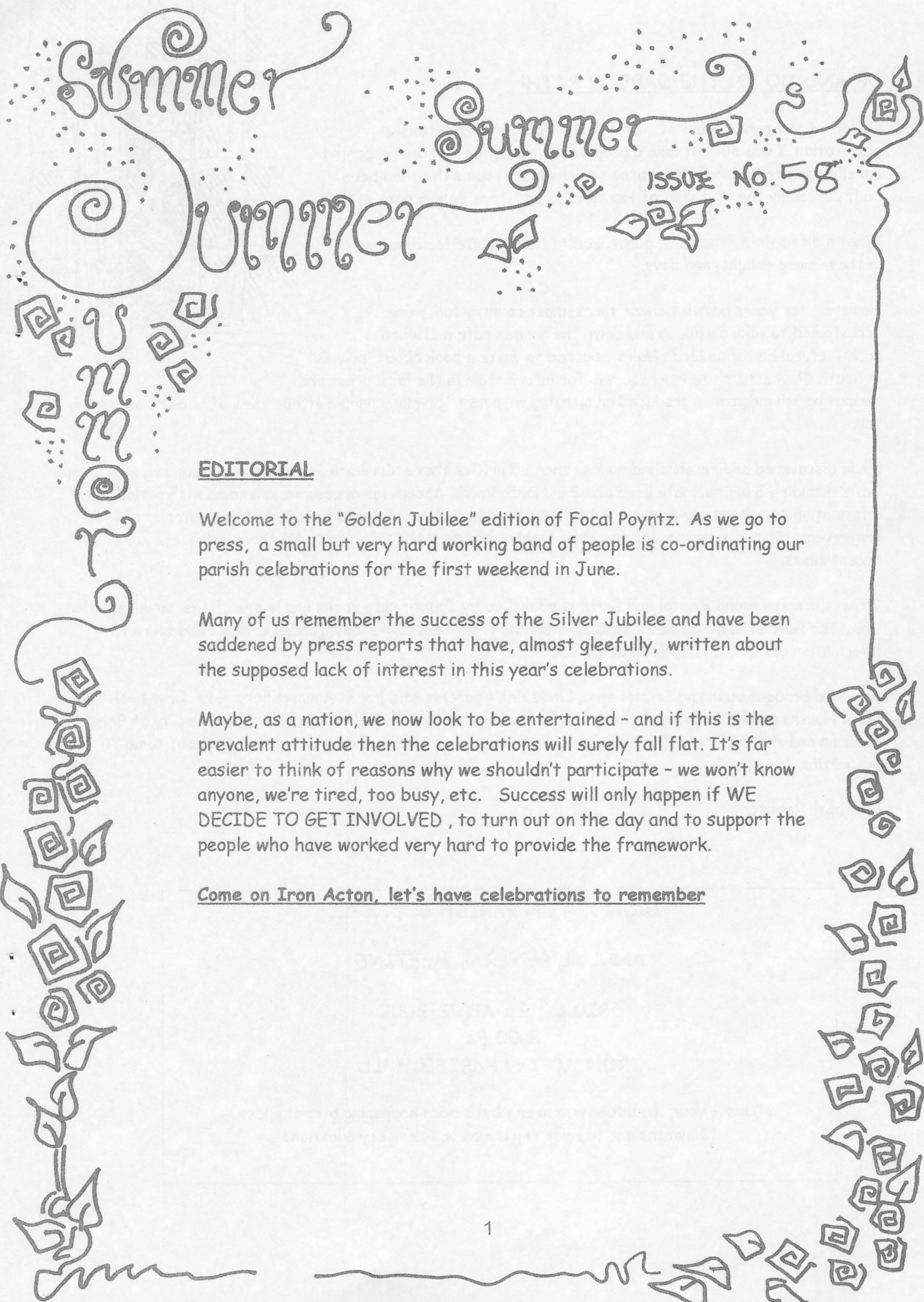
If you would like to place an advert in future issues please contact Barrie Wright (228247) - our advertising "whiz" (£20 for a full page and £10 for a half page - I-invoices can be provided).

COVER AND ARTWORK:

We are grateful to Maureen Blake for designing our special Golden Jubilee cover (as well as providing all of the other drawings).

PRINTING:

As always, our printing has been undertaken by Oldbury Deckers Youth Club and we say a big "thank you" to them.



Summer

Summer

Summer

ISSUE No. 58

EDITORIAL

Welcome to the "Golden Jubilee" edition of Focal Poyntz. As we go to press, a small but very hard working band of people is co-ordinating our parish celebrations for the first weekend in June.

Many of us remember the success of the Silver Jubilee and have been saddened by press reports that have, almost gleefully, written about the supposed lack of interest in this year's celebrations.

Maybe, as a nation, we now look to be entertained - and if this is the prevalent attitude then the celebrations will surely fall flat. It's far easier to think of reasons why we shouldn't participate - we won't know anyone, we're tired, too busy, etc. Success will only happen if WE DECIDE TO GET INVOLVED, to turn out on the day and to support the people who have worked very hard to provide the framework.

Come on Iron Acton, let's have celebrations to remember

UP AND DOWN THE GARDEN PATH!

On one of the public tours of Acton Court, following its extensive restoration, I was able to take a peep at the royal "loo" concealed behind panelling in the master bedroom, one of the many rooms that had been built especially for that visit of Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn back in 1635.

What a difference from that garderobe to the en suite facilities we enjoy in these more enlightened days.

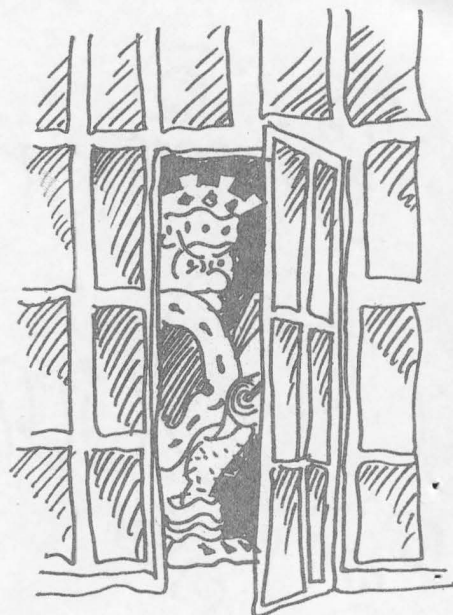
However, for years betwixt these times, most country folk were accustomed to take a walk up and down the garden path and when architectural historian Linda Hall was asked to write a book about "privies" in South Gloucestershire her requests for information in the local press and various parish magazines produced an amazing response. So many people either knew of one or had a story to tell.

Linda discovered and researched no less than 85 privies that still remain in the area surrounding Bristol and Bath; including 3 in Chaingate Lane and 2 in North Road. Anecdotal, gruesome, crammed with outlandish information and shamefully funny, the book is a descriptive and pictorial tribute to the lavatories of yesteryear. It takes the reader from the highly insanitary Middle Ages to the more comic encounters of recent times.

"Privies in and Around Bristol and Bath" is published by Countryside Books and is one of the series entitled Down the Garden Path. Copies should be available from local bookshops, garden centres and tourist information offices. It is priced at £7.95.

Born and brought up in the Bristol area, Linda Hall's parents still live in Almondsbury. Her first book "The Rural Houses of Northavon and South Gloucestershire 1400 to 1720" was published by the City of Bristol Museum and Art Gallery in 1983 and contains detailed plans and architectural descriptions of some 70 properties.

Elizabeth Roberts



IRON ACTON PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

FRIDAY, 26 APRIL 2002

8.00 PM

IRON ACTON PARISH HALL

This is your opportunity to hear what's been happening over the last 12 months and to raise any issues or to ask any questions

GOLDEN JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS - MONDAY, 3 JUNE 2002

Following on from the article placed in the Winter Edition of Focal Poyntz we have managed to bring together organisations, groups and individuals from within the parish who have been endeavouring to arrange celebrations for the Queen's Golden Jubilee. Contrary to what you read in the national newspapers Iron Acton WILL be celebrating in its own way.

We have yet to confirm some of the arrangements but we are hoping to provide a full day of entertainment. The day's events will kick-off with bellringing, a service of thanksgiving by the Preaching Cross at St James the Less and will conclude with the dedication of a time capsule. This will be followed by a variety of games and entertainment for all ages on the Village Green.

At lunchtime we hope to have a "bring your own" picnic in the Parish Meadows with the Actonians performing a play for our delectation and amusement. We also have plans for a carnival style procession of floats through the village (route yet to be confirmed), ending at the Parish Meadow, which will be followed by an "It's a Knockout" type competition. The afternoon's festivities will be rounded off with a traditional street party for the children in the High Street and for our senior citizens.

The celebrations will recommence early in the evening with a Pig Roast and dancing to a live band in the Parish Hall. Tickets for this event will be available nearer the time at £10.00 each.

We hope that the carnival procession and It's a Knockout competition will involve teams from various organisations throughout the parish and, to this end, we are hoping to close off the High Street to major traffic to add to the sense of occasion.

The time capsule is something we are hoping the youngsters and teenagers of the parish will get involved in. We have arranged a preliminary get together on 6th April in the Parish Hall. Anyone interested in putting their ideas forward as to what should be placed in the capsule should get in touch with Paul Chapman or Hayden Rickard.

The above is just a basic outline for the day and, of course, it all depends on parishioners as to how much they get involved and want to enjoy themselves. We are hoping that the parish will enter into the spirit of the occasion and join together on 3rd June to celebrate the Golden Jubilee.

Anyone interested in getting a group together to form part of the carnival procession or a team for the Parish Meadow games or it's a knockout should get in touch with someone from the Golden Jubilee Committee.

To get you started, several of the Committee's names and numbers appear below:

Rob Taylor 227227 - Chairman of the Committee
Paula Evans 228419 - Secretary of the Committee

You can also get in touch with the Committee through the Parish Council, Acton Aid, the Actonians or the schools.

Paula Evans - on behalf of the Golden Jubilee Committee



THE ACTONIANS DRAMA GROUP

Hello your local drama group has been busy over the last few months. Towards the end of November Lesley Keetley directed Alan Ayckbourn's comedy "Season's greetings". This proved to be just right for the time of year, was played to full houses and was thoroughly enjoyed by all who came to see it.

In December Christine Rogers began work on the group's entry for the Avon One Act Drama Festival. She is directing a short, all female play entitled "We Need a Man" (no militant feminists need worry). It's about a WI drama group trying to find a play without any men in it. The Actonians' Juniors are also busy with their festival entry. It is called "Robin Hood - the truth behind the tights". Let's hope that both plays are well received, at Backwell, where the festival is being held in February.

Our first major production of the year is already in rehearsal, so if you want to know if Sebastian really is drowned if Viola will ever succeed in getting Orsino to see her as a woman if Malvolio will be fooled by the letter into becoming the victim of a fashion disaster and just who is the belly dancer and why then find the answers to these and other intriguing questions by being a member of the audience in

Shakespeare's "Twelfth Night" at The Parish Hall
Thursday 16 / Friday 17 / Saturday 18 May at 7.30 pm

Pat Stimson

STOP PRESS!

STOP PRESS!

STOP PRESS!

The Juniors did so well at the Festival. Nominated for Best Actor/Actress were Arron Chapman, Alex O'Brian and Elizabeth Williams. The Juniors won the Denning Cup - which is awarded for the Best Runners Up in the Youth Section. Also, many congratulations must go to Christine Rogers who won the Ian Wethey Award. This is awarded, at the adjudicators' discretion, for Best Direction. Last, but not least, Rosie Warner was also nominated for Best Actress for her part in "We Need a Man".

BRITISH LEGION POPPY APPEAL 2001

The Poppy Appeal last November raised the total sum of £1221.07. This is, once again, an increase on the previous year of about 7%. Iron Acton District can remain proud of its achievement over many years. As usual it is not easy to recruit helpers, in particular house-to-house collectors. However, we managed to add some new faces to the team and have been promised some more volunteers for this year.

Grateful thanks are due to all those who did so much hard work. I must mention David McCoy who, as usual, collected the largest house-to-house donation. Also grateful thanks to Anne and John Murray, the Parish Council and the Parochial Church Council for their donations, and of course, to all of you who donated to this very worthwhile cause.

Once again, many thanks.

Dave White / District Organiser



ST JAMES THE LESS TODDLER GROUP

2002 welcomed us with howling gales and driving rain but, every Friday, undeterred mums and their toddlers can be seen converging on the Marshall Room for a morning's sanity amongst the chaos of life with pre-school children.

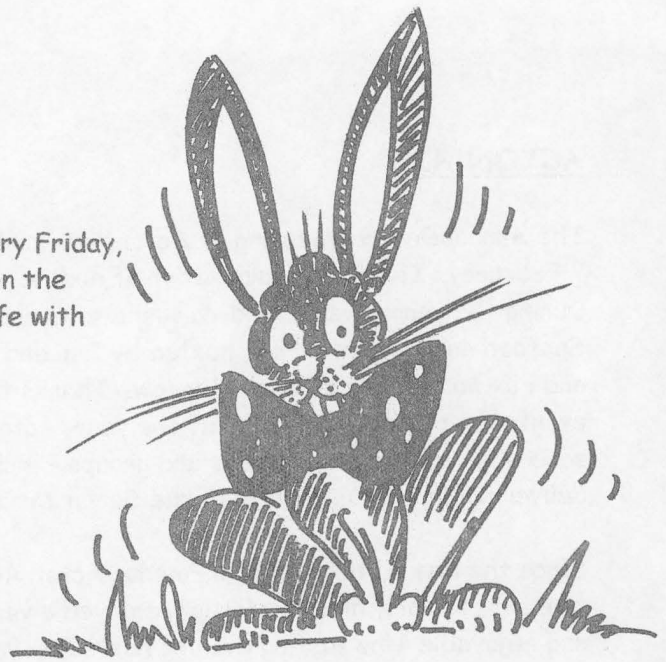
We have recently acquired 2 tiny new members and warmly welcome Louis Cowell and Harry Morgan-Owen. It is incredible how quickly our newborns grow and are soon sitting eager to participate in our activities.

We are busy planning our Easter Party with an Easter bonnet parade and, hopefully, a visit from the Easter Bunny! Further on the horizon is the Golden Jubilee which we are looking forward to being involved with as a group.

Meanwhile, we content ourselves with ever more ambitious craft activities and meeting up in the pub once a month. If you are interested in joining us the group is open to all parishioners looking after pre-school children and we meet in the Marshall Room, from 10.30 am to midday, every Friday during term time.

Please check availability of spaces by ringing either Chris Bellis on 228065 or Lisa Hatherall on 228725.

Lisa Hatherall



MOBILE LIBRARY

The mobile library stops in Iron Acton have now been amalgamated into one, longer stop in the Parish Hall Car Park. This occurs on alternate Tuesday's from 9.40 am to 10.00 am.

Thank you to everyone who answered the survey about the mobile library. The one thing we needed to be sure about was that existing users would still use the service at the Parish Hall Car Park.

No-one was against the new stop, some were in favour and to some it didn't matter. This change has enabled people to have more time to make their choice of reading material.

Don't forget that the mobile library can offer tapes, videos and puzzles as well as books. If there is something that you particularly want you can ring and ask for it. The telephone number for Yate Library is 01454 865661 and the mobile number for the mobile library is 07801 200026.

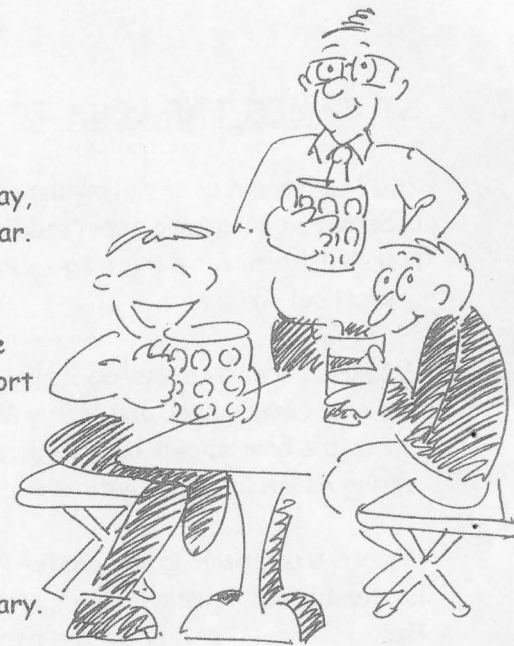
Pete Bellis



ACTON AID

The Annual General Meeting of Acton Aid was held at The Lamb on Thursday, 7 February. It saw the culmination of another successful and very busy year. During the year several fund-raising events were undertaken ranging from Seafood and Sixties Sound, hosted by Tim and Jane Spare, to the Bonfire and Fireworks on the Parish Meadow. Thanks to the support that all of the events have enjoyed throughout the year, Acton Aid has been able to support several village activities, clubs and groups - including the May Fayre and delivering Christmas parcels to the Senior Citizens in the Parish.

Since the last edition of Focal Poyntz, Acton Aid members have continued to meet regularly and, in addition, enjoyed a very interesting, informative and enjoyable wine tasting evening hosted by Pam and David McCoy in January.



The Annual Chairman's Dinner was held at The Lamb on Friday, 15 February and, although there were no formal guests of honour, the evening was enjoyed by all who attended.

The members are actively involved in supporting the village activities for the forthcoming Golden Jubilee and, as well as assisting in the co-ordination of these activities, will be running the Pig Roast and evening event at the Parish Hall.

With the kind support of Marilyn and John Wright, it is also planned to hold an evening event at Algar's Mill in July or August - more details in due course.

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 8.00 pm, in The Lamb. Discussion into ways of furthering our aim is 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 fund-raising 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 were elected onto the current Committee at the recent AGM:

Chairman	Ashley Mee	Services	Ashley Mee
Vice Chairman	Hayden Rickard	Parish Hall	David Hatherall
Secretary	Colin Smith	Publicity	Tony Cowley
Treasurer	Patrick Murphy		

Colin Smith / Secretary

FOCAL POYNTZ SUMMER ISSUE

Distribution Weekend:

Saturday, 27 July and Sunday, 28 July 2002

IRON ACTON WI

We rounded off (or should that be finished off) 2001 in our usual inimitable way with mulled wine (quite large glasses) and homemade mince pies and sausage rolls (more than several). It was a lovely, gentle oasis in the frenetic run up to Christmas. We usually have so many things to discuss that it was lovely to sit in our equivalent of the witches' coven and catch up on all the gossip!

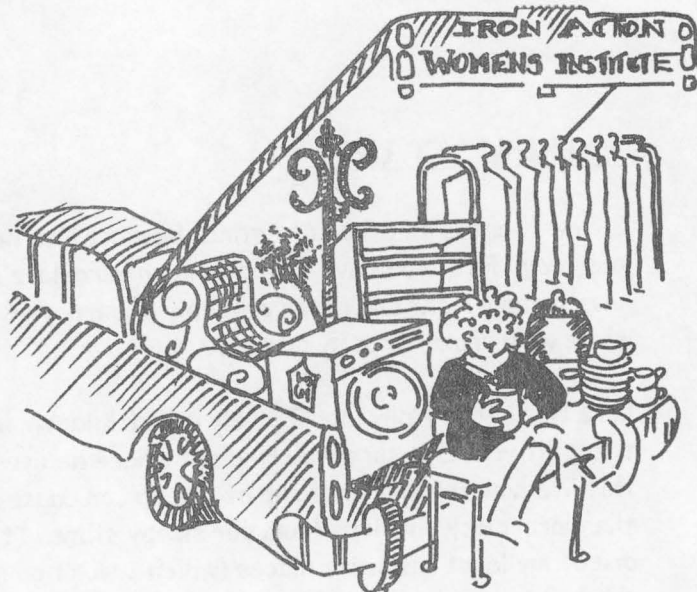
We even managed to fit in a coach trip to Penhow Castle on the Friday before Christmas where we more or less had the castle to ourselves for a candlelit tour (maybe our reputation had preceded us?) and then retired to the Great Hall where cider punch and mince pies awaited us in front of a roaring (albeit smoky) log fire. It made a splendid start to Christmas.

Following our AGM, our officers for 2002 are:

President:	Lynne Blanchard
Vice President:	Judy Park (we can't think of anyone better to be in charge of vice)
Secretary:	Anna Tillotson
Treasurer:	Carole Orley

And our programme includes speakers and activities as diverse as royal parks, yoga, hanging baskets, a vet's life and candlemaking! Anyone schizophrenic enough to join us would be made very welcome. Our meetings take place on the second Monday of each month (excluding August), at 7.30 pm, usually in the Hall.

Fund raising, always a necessary part of any organisation's life, includes a springtime visit to Algars Manor, participating in the teas at Acton Court, a resurrection of our very popular wine and strawberries evening and, as you'll see below, a car boot sale. We'd be incredibly grateful to anyone who would like to participate. Further details can be obtained from any of us, but this really is a good opportunity for any village organisation to get its members to search through all that bric-a-brac that's lying around and, for minimal outlay (but a lot of fun), raise funds.



IRON ACTON WI CAR BOOT SALE

Saturday, 18 May 2002

Starting at 2.00 pm

The Avenue Field (opposite the Church in the High Street)

Cost of car boots: £5.00

Further details from:

Lynne Blanchard (228566)

Judy Park (318235)

Anna Tillotson (228216)

A great opportunity for:

individuals to dispose of items discarded in spring cleaning,
organisations to fund-raise, without high outlay, using left over items from previous events (or gathering new!)

Lynne Blanchard (228566)

"LAPPING" IT UP??

I know there is a Father Christmas because I've been to his house. The house of Father Christmas is a long, long, way. First you have to travel in an aeroplane and head off north and then, when you are past Scotland, you have to turn right and after probably a journey of about 3 hours in the aeroplane you land in a place that is just white with snow. Ghostly or what?

Luke Daniel and Holly, our 2 lovely grandchildren, were so convinced that there was a Father Christmas I said to them, "if you're so sure, you find out where he lives, then Nana and I will take you there". It's quite amazing in this life how the slightest slip of the lip can cause such an expense! So it was that at 4 o'clock in the morning the alarm clock shook us from our sleepy state. It was time to make tracks to see Santa, via Gatwick Airport, one of my least favourite places (which I won't go into as it's rather personal). Airports at 6 am are the pits, the night shift is going off and don't want to know, it must be the same the world over.

We were "loaded" into the aircraft carrying our hand luggage, luggage that contained clothing that would allow us to exist - no-one can "live" in a temperature of -30 °c. I had purchased a Russian army hat made of bear skin the day before ... well, I thought it looked fetching! The journey began and we headed north. The flight, as with most flights, was boring, the boredom only being briefly interrupted by the issue of boring food. It was dark when we arrived and everywhere we looked it was white with snow. We arrived at Kittila Airport making the standard 1 hour delay on departure and 3 hour flight completely worthwhile.

Kittila is in Lapland, and Lapland is in Finland, and Kittila is within the Arctic Circle. As the temperature was only -22 °c the locals thought they were enjoying a late summer, to us it was a complete shock as we drew in our first breath - even though we had taken the precaution of wearing layers and layers of clothing it does not protect either the nose or the mouth from the first intake of breath!

Everything was very well organised, we were met by Father Christmas' helpers, all of whom spoke perfect English and made us feel most welcome. We were taken across to a great big shed where we were given clothing that was more suited to this climate. This clothing started off with a complete flying suit which covered us from nose to toes, then thermal snow boots which later, walking in snow, I was so grateful for and, most surprising of all, a motor cycle helmet with visor. All became clear very soon.

Father Christmas' house is in the middle of a reindeer forest. To get to his house Santa had arranged transport for us - a sledge pulled along by a snow motorcycle, hence the need to wear helmets. Even Santa's guests have to obey the Lapland laws, and fortunately the helmet stops your head turning into a big block of ice as the sledge whizzed us into the forest. For maybe an hour we were bumped along a track with only the light of the motorcycle lighting our way through a forest of White; white, ground, white trees, it was as if we were hurtling through a Christmas card, it was really magical.

... and there we were, there where Father Christmas lives; his elves were all around us, helping us out of the sledge, help we needed after such a drive. The very first thing was a hot drink of berry juice, a drink that just went into every part of a very chilled body. The elves then showed us the way to the house of Father Christmas, nothing flash, just a simple wooden abode and very quiet - a bit like going into a church.

The door was opened for us by one of the many helpers, and there, sitting by a big open log burning fire, was the man himself. It was THE Father Christmas with the white beard, dressed in the white trimmed red clothes and shiny black polished snow boots. We, I know, were all gob-smacked. He was big and very quiet, when he spoke you really had to listen, I guess because he is quite old. The other thing that hit me was that he was speaking to us in English. I kept thinking that he must be able to speak every language on this earth, to all the children, or maybe it's just sounds that we all understand.

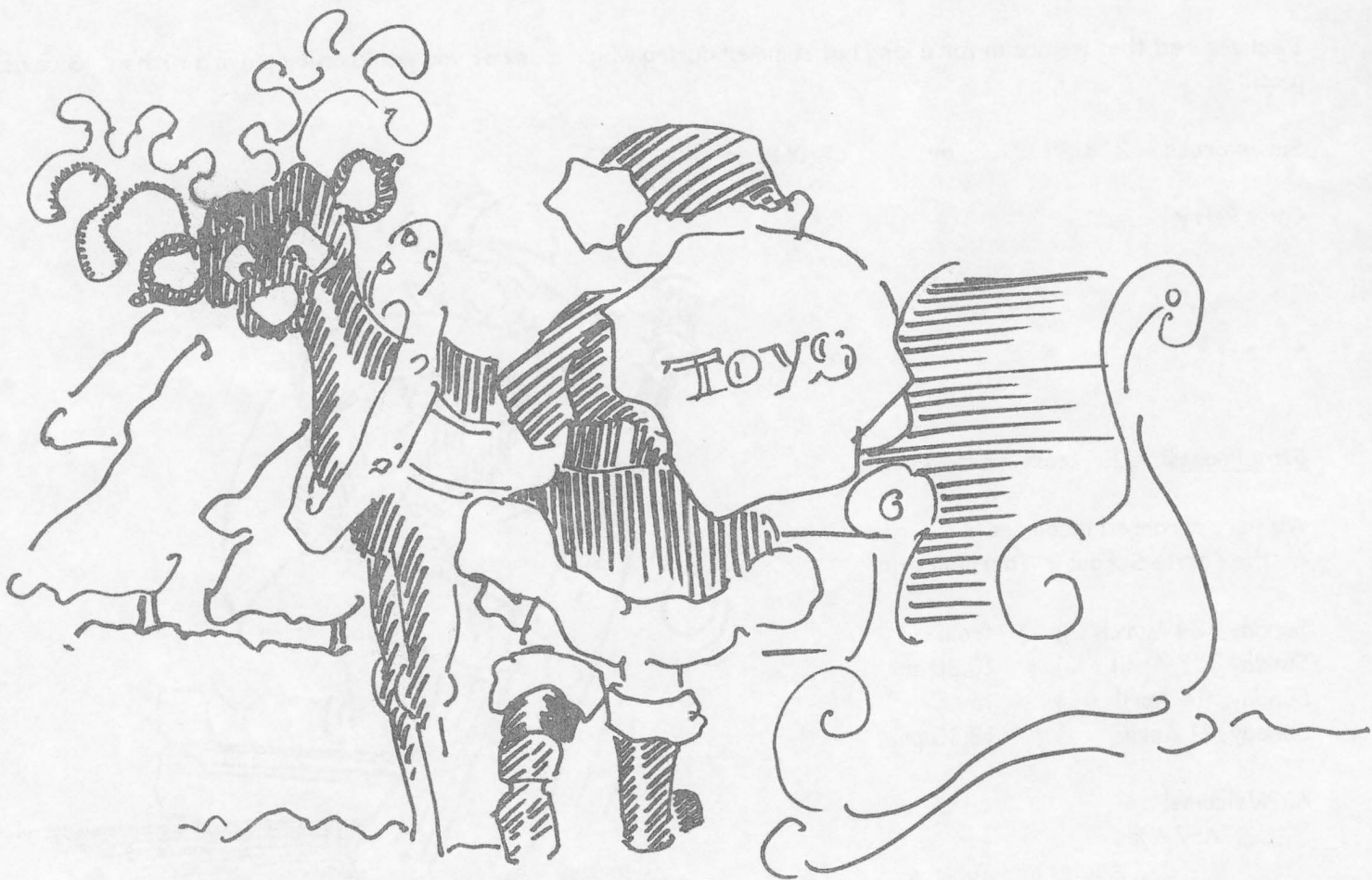
Father Christmas knew all about Luke and Holly, how they had "tried to be good" during the year and how they were getting on at their schools. Father Christmas then thanked us, their grandparents, for making the journey to see him and then, after giving Luke and Holly a personal present, it was all over.

Then we were outside his house, back into a world of white, back to his elves, one of whom took us to meet the trusty Rudolph. He was lovely and in the snow looked so proud, but even in the cold his nose didn't look very red to me, but it was very dark. One of the elves helped the 4 of us into the sledge and, with a driver in the front, Rudolph took us to where Luke and Holly sat on toboggans and slid down a hill, to where Husky dogs pulled sledges around a track and to where Granddad could ride one of those motorcycles in the snow with Luke on the back, wicked or not?

Then it was over, it was time to go. We were very tired, even throwing snowballs at each other had been done, even rolling over and over in the snow had happened without getting wet as the snow was so dry. We returned to the airport by coach as, by this time, Father Christmas, the helpers and all the elves must have been busy with other children so we didn't mind at all. Who was to meet us at Katilla Airport to say farewell to Lapland? None other than Rudolph looking just so fit and proud. Then we had an 18 hour delay because the engines on the aircraft wouldn't start because of the cold, but that's another story, one for the claims dept!

Even with all the hours of travel the trip was completely worthwhile because we can confirm that there is a Father Christmas - we know there is because we've been to his house.

Bryan Taylor



IRON ACTON CRICKET CLUB

We are now in the last quarter of the Winter Season, during which we have played indoor cricket on most Thursday evenings. The current inter-village competition will finish on 21st March and following this there will be a few practice nets sessions before the Summer Season gets underway at the end of April.

Everyone who has played the lively indoor game has thoroughly enjoyed it and we anticipate expanding the number of fixtures next winter. Whilst we have a fair number of members, we are always looking for more and now is a good time to have a go as the practice sessions start shortly. If we get enough new members we could look at starting a second team!

Briefly, we are a social cricket club, playing local teams who mainly come from surrounding villages, on Wednesday evenings and Sunday afternoons from May to September. To qualify for membership you need some sort of connection with Iron Acton and must have held a cricket bat at least once in the last 50 years. It also helps to be able to talk a good game! Whilst we do have a core of "proper cricketers" most of us make up for a lack of skill with enthusiasm and determination - which occasionally enables us to defeat teams such as British Aerospace and the BBC.

Due to ever present work pressures and family commitments, most of us cannot play in anywhere near all of the games and the same is true of most surroundings teams, with the result that the standards of the teams varies dramatically from week to week - and every game is a challenge for all of us. The only really consistent factors are the enjoyment had by all and the high standards of teas served by the IACC wives. The latter ensures that we always have a lot of teams wanting to play us!

I am assured that we are in for a long hot summer during which many of you would enjoy playing with us. Give us a call:

Simon Cross - 228291 or Chris Perry - 228798

Chris Perry

* * * * *

Stop Press!!! from Simon Cross

We have arranged indoor nets
At the Castle School in Thornbury on

Sunday, 24 March)	from
Sunday, 7 April)	10.30 am
Sunday, 14 April)	to
Sunday, 21 April)	12.30 pm

All Welcome!

..... Any Ages

..... Adults and Juniors



IRON ACTON CEVC PRIMARY SCHOOL

We had a really busy end to the year. A sponsored "Wellie Walk" raised £189 towards maths and playground equipment. The children enjoyed a visit from a puppet theatre company and our 2 Christmas performances were well received.



In November I formed part of a headteacher delegation to NATO in Brussels. We went to find out about the role of NATO and to research ways of promoting what it does throughout Europe.

This term we are looking forward to the visit of Bristol Rovers to do football coaching and our school team will be playing St Mary's from Thornbury.

The children are studying a wide range of subjects including toys, the Tudors and children during the Second World War. We would welcome anybody who could recount an evacuation experience to the children.

After Easter we are looking forward to May Day, the Queen's Golden Jubilee celebrations on 3rd June and the Year Six camp in Pembroke.

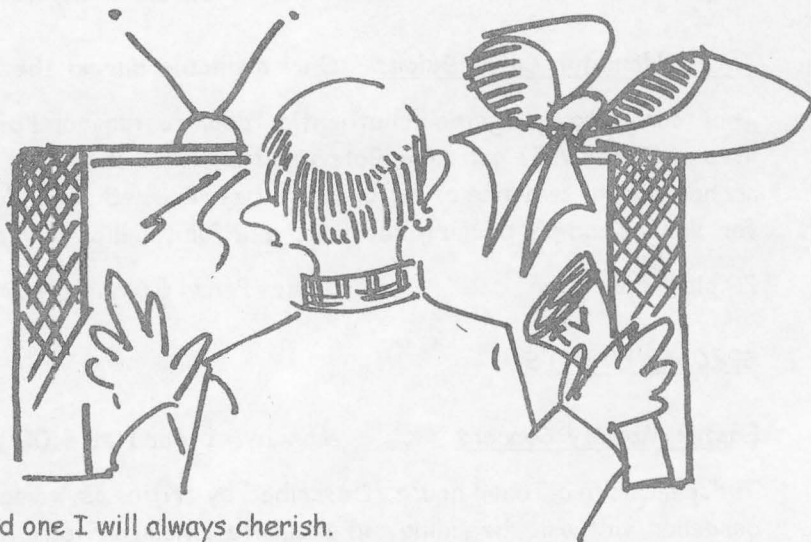
Anyone wishing to join Iron Acton Primary School, or help out in any way supporting the children, please do not hesitate to phone or visit us on our website: www.ironacton-pri.s-gloucs-sch.uk or e-mail us on Head@ironacton-pri.s-gloucs.sch.uk.

Karl Joyce / Headteacher

A LETTER FROM NORMAN CARTER

Dear Friends

I wish to convey my sincere thanks to all who, in whatever way, contributed to my "surprise" retirement, from the Parish Council, party and presentation. It was a most wonderful evening and one I will always cherish.



It must have taken a considerable amount of time and work behind the scenes (and my back) to put on such a wonderful occasion, especially so without my knowledge. Now I know how people feel when confronted by Michael Aspel and his big red book on "This is Your Life".

I wish the Parish Council well for the future and that the harmony between Councillors that I witnessed at all times throughout my term of office will continue forever. To Rachel, I wish every success. To all Parishioners, I say you can rest assured that the clerkship of the Parish Council is in very capable hands and I know that time will show this to be correct.

Sincerely,

Norman Carter

ACTON COURT - 2002 SEASON

Acton Court will be open:

Saturday, 30 March to Sunday, 21 April (Spring)
Saturday, 3 August to Sunday, 8 September (Summer)

- * Access will only be by pre-booked ticket.
- * There is partial access for disabled visitors.
- * Parking, loos and light refreshments are available on site.

Programme details and a booking form are available by:

- * Writing, including a letter sized SAE, to: Acton Court, Latteridge Road, Iron Acton, Bristol, BS37 9TJ
- * e-mailing your full name and address: actonct@dircon.co.uk
- * Collecting from Thornbury Tourist Office
- * For group bookings and any other queries please ring the Acton Court Information Line on 228224

This year a varied programme of tours and events has been arranged:

Blue Badge Guide Tours Spring: 10.30 am and 12.00 pm Summer: 2.00 pm and 3.30 pm

This tour tells the story of the house and grounds within their local context. It covers the Poyntz Family who owned it, the monarchs they entertained and the state apartments they built for Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn.

20 places per tour Ticket Price: £5 and £3.50 concessions

JMD - Hampton Court Guides Only available during the Summer: 10.30 am, 12.00 pm and 2.30 pm

This tour is led by a guide in authentic Tudor costume and offers a fascinating glimpse in the public and private lives of Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn. It explores the social life of the Court and explains how the archaeological evidence of Acton Court has revealed the hidden past of the rooms built for the King. Enjoyable for all ages and particularly recommended for families with children studying Key Stage 2.

20 places per tour Ticket Price: £6 and £4 concessions

SPECIAL EVENTS

Easter Monday Concert Monday, 1 April at 4.00 pm

Tudor music in a Tudor house. Described by critics as "remarkably expressive, stylish, exciting, delightful, sexy, gorgeous, virtuosic, beguiling and exquisite", Musica Fabula (Jenny Walters - Harp-Director, Jennie Cassidy - Voice and Belinda Sykes - Voice) has presented its unique brand of early music concert throughout the USA, the UK and Ireland as well as having featured live on BBC Radio 3 and having released 5 CD recordings.

Only 60 seats available Ticket price: £12 and £10 concessions

Painting Day Saturday, 3 August, site open 10 am to 4 pm

The site will be open to watercolour artists to come and paint at Acton Court - tea and coffee supplied but please bring your own lunch.

30 places available Ticket Price: £8 per person

Dr Timothy Mowl

Sunday, 4 August, 11 am and 2 pm

Eminent architectural and garden historian and author, Dr Timothy Mowl will conduct 2 specialist tours around the grounds of Acton Court, giving his interpretation of the history of the gardens dating back to the time of Henry VIII. Signed copies of his book, in which Acton Court features, will be available

20 places per tour

Ticket Price: £10 and £7 concessions

Archeological Weekend

17 and 18 August, 10.30 am - 12.00 pm,

11.30 am - 1.00 pm

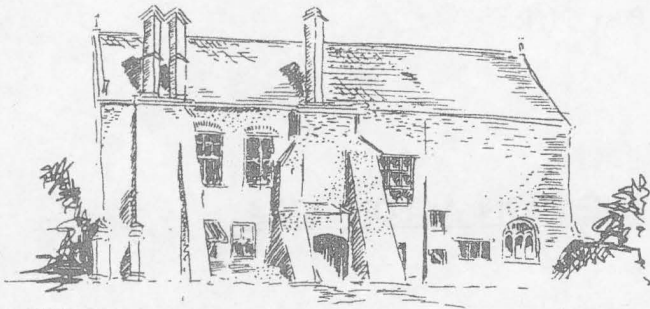
2.00 pm - 3.30 pm

3.00 pm - 4.30 pm

Bristol Museum will release some artefacts which were recovered at Acton Court during the excavations. Archaeologists who worked at the site, Rob Bell and Kirsty Rodwell, will conduct tours to explain the finds in context with the house and grounds. This is a rare opportunity to view finds from the archaeological digs.

20 places per tour

Ticket Price: £8 and £6 concessions



Can we just add that although every effort will be made by Acton Court to present the events as listed, if they have to cancel or change the programme for reasons beyond their control, their liability will extend to the refund of the ticket fee only.

Focal Poyntz would like to say thank you to Acton Court for giving us this article

FOCAL POYNTZ NEEDS HELP!

As we are for ever shouting long, loud and hard from the rooftops at anyone who will listen, the success of Focal Poyntz depends on a huge wave of community support from the organisations who kindly submit reports issue after issue, the people who part so readily with their money and insert adverts and the distributors who go out at all times of the year and in all weathers to make sure each and every household receives their copy of Focal Poyntz.

.. but we're greedy and we'd still like some help in the following ways ...

Is there anyone out there who would like to write an article for us? If you're a regular reader of Focal Poyntz you'll know the sort of thing we print. It can be serious, humorous, topical, quirky, something that makes you smile or something that sends you skywards. If items could be anything up to one and a half pages long this will allow space for some of Maureen's wonderful artwork. Please deliver any articles to Roy Hubbard, the Homestead, High Street and he will welcome you like a large labrador puppy!!

Do you live in Latteridge? Until recently 3 people have kindly helped with our deliveries in Latteridge. Chris delivers the Spring issue, Del delivers the Spring issue and John delivers the Winter issue. However, Del has now moved to pastures quite far away. So, if anyone could spare some time, once a year in the summer, to deliver 24 magazines around Latteridge then Lynne (228566) would love to hear from you!

THE FRIENDS OF NORTH ROAD SCHOOL

The fundraising team is currently trying to raise funds for much needed shelter from the sun for the playground. One of our main events is an annual Duck Race. 300 ducks (plastic we hasten to add so we don't upset any nature lovers) are released into the River Frome at the Templar Road Bridge at North Road and race downstream to the finishing line. Ducks cost £1 each and the winner will receive £25.



This year's race is taking place on Sunday, 28th April at 1 pm. Spectators are welcome!

Ducks, if you would like to buy one, will be on sale at North Road Post Office.

Julie Cooper / Secretary

FROM WPC LEE BENNETT, BEAT MANAGER FOR THE IRON ACTON AREA

Car Parking

I have recently received complaints from residents about vehicles being parked on the "keep clear" markings painted on the road at the bottom end of the High Street where you turn right to the Green and left to go over the bridge. This appears to be a "round the clock" problem. However, it increases during the late evenings, possibly due to customers at the White Hart or perhaps visitors to Iron Acton. In the past I have requested that some drivers move their vehicles whilst others have received warning notices. Vehicles parked on the keep clear markings commit offences such as unnecessary obstruction or failing to comply with keep clear markings, which are contrary to the Road Traffic Act, and can result in a fixed penalty notice, which will cost £30.

Thefts from the Area

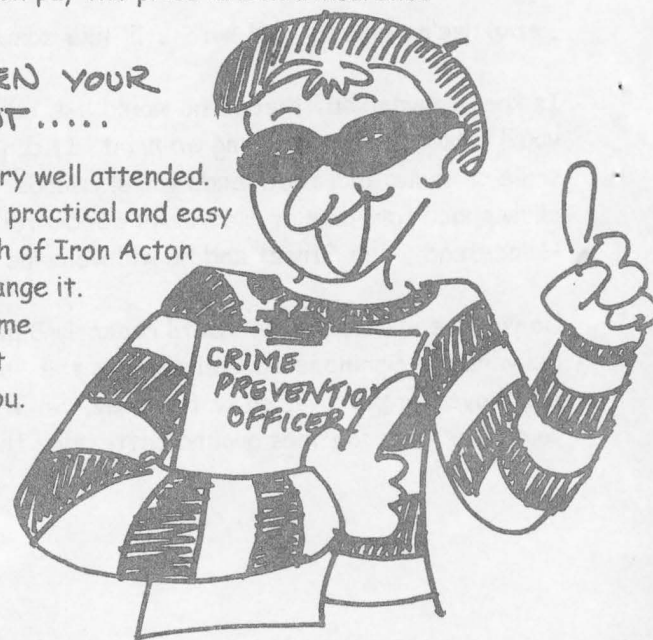
Many thefts and attempted thefts of caravans, trailers and horseboxes have been reported recently, both locally and on the borders with Gloucester and Wiltshire. Please be aware that these are specialist items that are highly sought after and will always attract a certain market. Please consider wheel clamps (the type that cannot be removed by deflating a tyre), tow hitch locks, good quality padlocks and chains, and security lighting. Unfortunately these items are rarely recovered once stolen and we all pay the price in extra insurance premiums.

Crime Prevention

A crime prevention evening was recently held in Wickwar and was very well attended. Statistics show that many crimes are preventable by following some practical and easy guidelines. I would welcome some feedback as to whether the parish of Iron Acton would benefit from such an evening and, if so, I will be happy to arrange it. Again on the topic of crime prevention, if anyone would like their home surveyed to review the effectiveness of their security please do not hesitate to call and I will arrange an appointment to come and see you.

WPC Lee Bennett
(WPC Bennett can be contacted if you ring 0117 927 7777
and ask to be put through to Chipping Sodbury Police Station)

WHEN YOUR
OUT.....



GOLDEN JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS - MONDAY, 3 JUNE 2002

SENIOR CITIZENS' TEA PARTY

As you will see from other articles in Focal Poyntz, village celebrations are planned to celebrate the Queen's Golden Jubilee on Monday, 3 June.

As our contribution to the festivities, Iron Acton WI is delighted to be co-ordinating the tea party for our Senior Citizens (we thought we'd all have an enjoyable afternoon too!).

The first, and biggest problem, will be to make sure that everyone who is eligible receives an invitation and no one is left out.

We hope to have the invitations hand delivered to all of our senior citizens by the May Day Holiday. However, because there will be some moves that we won't know about, can we ask all friends, families and neighbours to keep an eye on anyone we should invite, make sure they've been invited and if they haven't can someone let us know?

We realise that getting to the Hall may cause problems so we'd like to reassure people that we've already thought of this and we will, wherever possible, arrange transport.

If there's anyone who could/would like to help out by providing:
cakes / sandwiches / sausage rolls / transport
let us know and you'll be welcomed with open arms!

Contact Numbers:

Lynne Blanchard	-	228566
Judy Park	-	318235
Nora Kingscote	-	228615
Elizabeth Edwards	-	312190
Anna Tillotson	-	228261
Geraldine Whittle	-	228216

(just to confirm eligibility, it's anyone who's of state pension age - some people retire as early as 45 (and they can get their own tea!!!!))

NATIONAL GARDENS SCHEME FOR 2002

Details of Iron Acton properties participating in the scheme

Algars Manor and Algars Mill in Frampton End Lane

Sunday,	21 April	2.00 pm - 5.00 pm
Sunday,	19 May	2.00 pm - 5.00 pm

The Gables in Park Street and Avenue House in the High Street

Saturday,	22 June	2.00 pm - 5.00 pm
Sunday,	23 June	2.00 pm - 5.00 pm

ST JAMES THE LESS

O PRAISE YE THE LORD! NEW HYMN BOOKS

The PCC has been spending some time considering our hymn books in recent meetings. They decided we needed a larger selection of hymns suitable for use when we have young children in church, as well as access to some of the excellent hymns that have been written in the last 30 years or so and that the current method of printing occasional hymns not in our hymn books on sheets of paper is no longer satisfactory. So they have bought some new ones.



We looked at the many current hymn books available, all of which have their advantages and disadvantages, but eventually decided on Hymns Old and New, published by Kevin Mayhew. It has a very wide selection of traditional hymns, a good number of children's hymns from the hymn book used in school and some of the modern hymns that have already become standards. As a friend of mine puts it "If it includes Sweet Sacrament Divine, Shine Jesus Shine and The Old Rugged Cross it has got to have everything we need!"

We hope to start using it on Mothering Sunday, 10th March and to launch it later on with a Songs of Praise exploring some of the hymns in it.

The PCC gave careful thought to the disposal of the old hymn books, especially because a number of them were given to the church in memory of loved ones. They decided to keep and store all the donated English Hymnals and all the others in good condition, but to send for recycling all the ones that are in very poor condition.

It is possible that people may want to donate and inscribe new hymn books in the same way. The cost of doing this will be £5. There is a form that you can use to order an inscribed hymn book and copes if this form are available at the back of the church, or from Rev Sue Rushton or a churchwarden.

EASTER AT YOUR PARISH CHURCH

Sunday, 24 March

10.30 am

Palm Sunday

Palm Procession from the Parish Hall Car Park to Church for the Sung Eucharist of Palm Sunday including the reading of the Passion Gospel. This will be a joint service with St Peter's Frampton Cotterell

Wednesday, 27 March

10.30 am

Wednesday of Holy Week

Said Holy Communion

Thursday, 28 March

7.00 pm

Maundy Thursday

Said Holy Communion and Stripping the Altars

Friday, 29 March

6.00 pm

Good Friday

Stations of the Cross

Sunday, 31 March

9.00 am

Easter Day (clocks go forward)

Sung Eucharist with lighting the Paschal Candle and Renewal of Baptismal Vows.

Sue Rushton / Priest

IRON ACTON HORTICULTURAL SHOW

This is the second call for all horticulturalists in Iron Acton!

Plans for resurrecting the show are well in hand and we have an enthusiastic group of ladies (yes, ladies - where are all you men-folk out there??) who are getting to grips with the finer details of running the show.

We are pleased to announce that the show will take place on **Saturday, 7th September**. It will run along similar lines to previous ones, with entries being accepted between 9.00 am and 11.00 am. The show will be open for viewing to members of the public at 2.30 pm and the prizes will be awarded at 4.00 pm.

The Show is open to adults and children living in the parish of Iron Acton, as well as all the children attending Iron Acton and North Road Schools. We will also be happy to accept entries from the allotment holders within the parish, as well as anyone with close links with Iron Acton.

Sadly we have had only a limited response to the call for outstanding trophies to be handed back. We are still looking for:

- * The Acton Aid Cup (for homecraft)
- * Gordon Powell Cup
- * Rudman Cup
- * Parker Shield

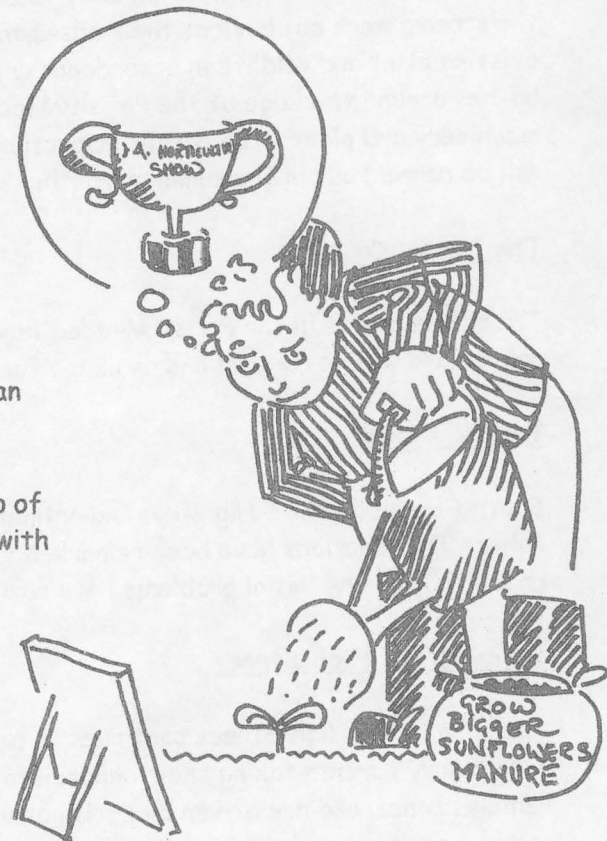
The last time the show was held was in 1996 so if you could please have another look for the cups that were awarded that year we would be most grateful.

In the next Focal Poyntz there will be a copy of the schedule and an entry form.

If there is anyone out there who would like to join our happy group of organisers all would be welcome. If you would like to get in touch with us here are our contact names and telephone numbers:

Ann Aplin	228243
Meryl Cook	228405
Paula Evans	228419
June Schofield	228760
Rona Wright	228247
Jean Turner	228277

Paula Evans on behalf of the Horticultural Show Committee



Tallest Sunflower Competition

Now's the time to start planting your seeds ready to stand a reliable chance of having a gargantuan specimen by September

IRON ACTON PARISH COUNCIL

Retirement of David White

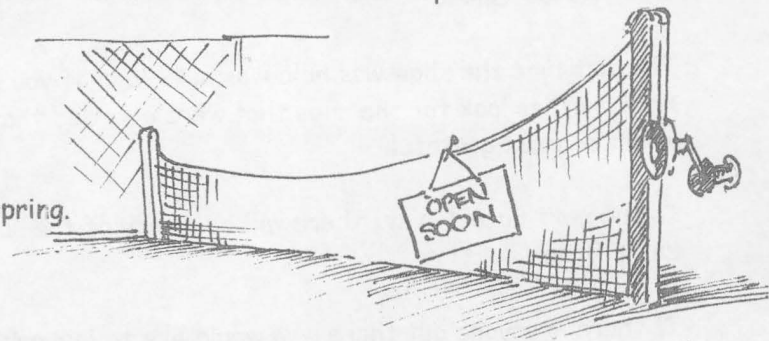
Regrettably, one of the Parish's most valued Councillors, David White has retired from his position as Parish Councillor. David was co-opted in September 1993 and has been involved in many parish activities - these included representing the Council at biodiversity meetings, using his musical talent on many occasions, as a governor at North Road School, and his vintage cars were always a delight to see on the Village Green on May Days. The Parish Council wishes to thank David for his loyal service to the Council and wish him all the best for the future.

The Parish Meadow

As those parishioners who use The Parish Meadow will have noticed, major works have been carried out during November and December 2001. The stream has been dredged from the bridge to the culvert at the rear of the tennis courts. This work was vital to stop the flooding of large areas of land including the play area, tennis courts and some nearby properties. Bob Williams and his team of men with JCB tractors and trailer took tons of rubbish, stone and vegetation away to enable the water to flow more freely. All the trees along the edge of the stream were cut back at their bases to avoid future blockages. Particular attention was paid to maintain existing plant and wildlife in accordance with expert advice given by South Gloucestershire Council. All the bushes around the edge of the Parish Meadow were cut back. Although the whole area was heavily marked by machinery and plant, upon recent inspection, the ground has recovered well. Some wall repairs to the stream will be carried out in the summer months.

The Tennis Courts

The tennis courts in the Parish Meadow have been relined and will be cleaned and available for use in the spring.



Traffic Lights

South Gloucestershire Highways Department has made various adjustments to the signal patterns at the traffic lights. The junctions have been remarked which should make the junctions safer and easier to negotiate. It is hoped that all the initial problems have now been overcome.

Speed in the High Street

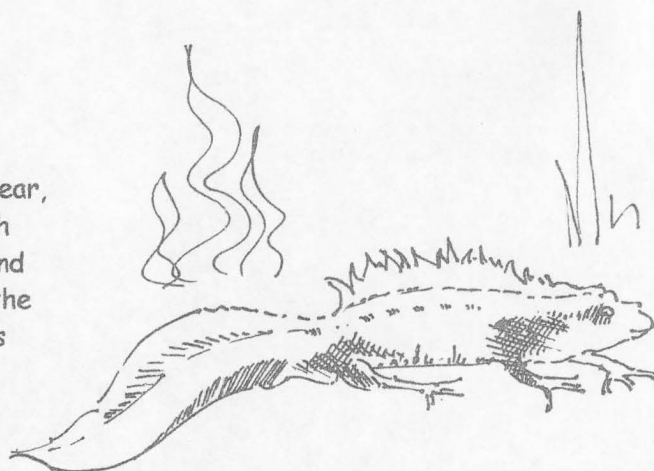
Speeding in the High Street continues to be of concern to a number of people living in the High Street, particularly parents taking their children to and from school. Recent monitoring has shown that some of the vehicles concerned are driven by parishioners themselves. Highway officers and police will be monitoring traffic speeds in and around the High Street. A suggestion has been made that a speed limit of 20 mph be imposed in the High Street and the Clerk would welcome your views on this. Please drive more slowly, not only in the High Street, but throughout the parish.

Street Lighting

A number of complaints have been received about South Gloucestershire Council replacing the white bulbs in the street lights with orange ones. An official complaint has been made to South Gloucestershire Council as it is felt that the orange bulbs are not in keeping with the Conservation Area. Hopefully there will be a change of policy by South Gloucestershire Council in respect of this issue.

Coach Pool at Dyers Lane

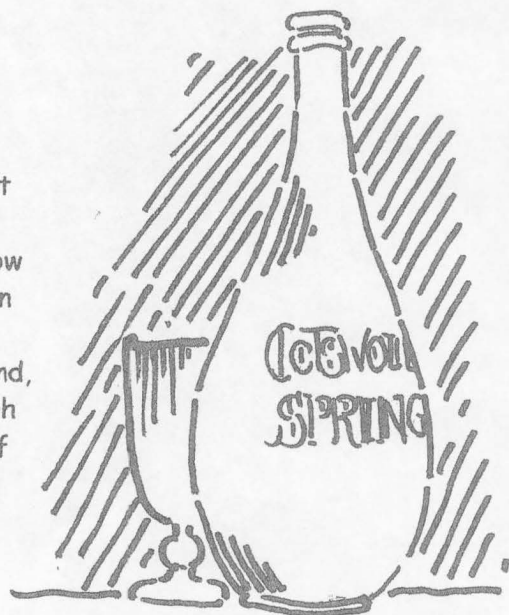
After many years of preparation, towards the end of last year, approximately one third of the pool was cleared. The Parish Council noticed the deterioration in the pool back in 1998 and it has been an item in the minutes ever since! Historically the pool used to be looked after by the parishioners themselves who set up working parties to do the work. However, there have been no working parties for many years. In 1998 the Parish Council contacted the Herpetological Conservation Trust and the Avon Reptile and Amphibian Group. Through these organisations the Council was put in touch with the British Naturalists Society who kindly carried out a survey on the pool in 1999. In conjunction with South Gloucestershire Council's Environment and Conservation Manager, a careful 3 year plan was formulated in which sections of the pool would be cleared each year. The pool is particularly sensitive as in the past great crested newts have been present. In the 1999 survey no evidence of great crested newts was found but it is hoped that a new survey in May will show their presence again.



Rachel Weldrake / Clerk

NORTH ROAD LADIES CLUB

On Monday, 7th January members of North Road Ladies Club met at North Road Primary School for their first meeting of 2002. The speaker was Mr J Marshall, who gave a really interesting talk on how he had diversified from dairy farming at Spring Farm at Codrington to bottling Cotswold Spring Water. Many questions were put to Mr Marshall and one of our members was particularly thrilled to find, in one of the books brought along by Mr Marshall, an old photograph showing 2 of her relatives outside their cottage. Sample bottles of Cotswold Spring Water were distributed to members. The evening was rounded off with a beetle drive, which caused much laughter.



Our programme for meetings until June 2002 is as follows:

Monday, 4 February	Spring in the Garden	- Talk and slides by Mr D Everitt
Monday, 4 March	The MacMillan Way	- Talk and slides by Dave & Jan Fulman
Monday, 15 April	The Everest Traders' Route	- Talk and slides by Mr B Tapp
Monday, 13 May	Remembering Yesterday	- Talk by Mrs P Clements
Monday, 10 June	Evening visit to Abbey House Gardens at Malmesbury	

Our meetings are held in North Road Primary School, commencing at 7.30 pm. New members or visitors will be made most welcome at any of our meetings.

June Rycroft / Secretary

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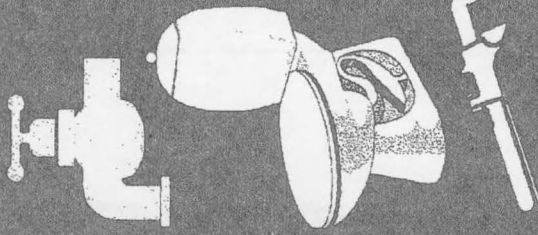
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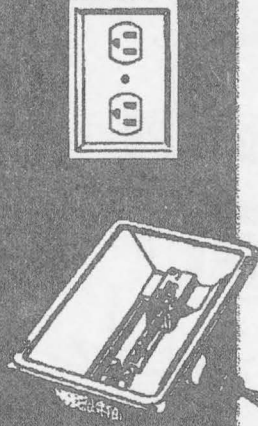
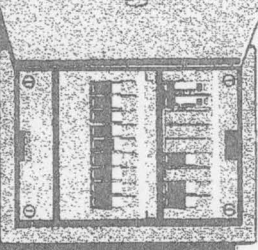
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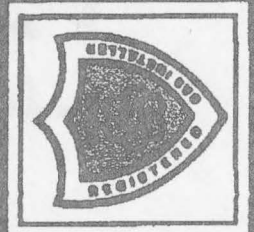
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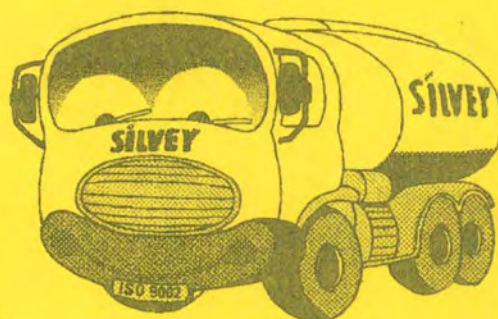


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Village Fund Update

SILVEY are pleased to confirm that for every litre of heating oil purchased from them for delivery into the Parish of Iron Acton they will continue to donate 0.2 pence to Hall funds for the provision of new facilities! That's £2.40 on an average delivery of 1200 litres and to date has totalled just over

£1300.00! Thankyou for the support.