

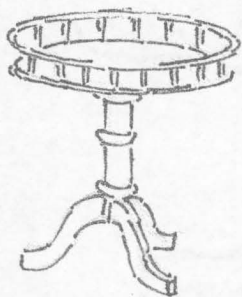
FOCAL POYNTIZ



School Centenary 1974

A magazine for Iron Acton

HANDMADE OAK TABLES and Occasional Furniture



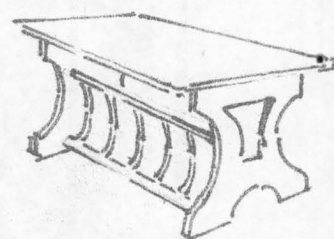
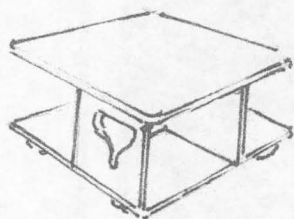
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GOLDEN Jubilee Summer

ISSUE NO. (59)

Please join us in wishing Focal Poyntz "Happy Birthday" - it's 20 years since the magazine first appeared and we are proud to have had the opportunity to reflect the joys and sorrows, opinions and concerns of our community 3 times a year for so long.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have been involved in the production and distribution of the magazines, as well as our advertisers and those who have supported us with donations.

- Thanks also to our contributors and readers who have encouraged us to keep going through the inevitable sticky patches which we have occasionally experienced. We hope we can count on your support for many years to come.
- We have much to reflect on in Summer 2002. The Golden Jubilee Celebrations have given the media the opportunity to review the 50 year reign of the Queen and those of us who are old enough have marvelled at the changes we have seen during her reign. Earlier, the death of the Queen Mother prompted reflection back to the beginning of the 20th Century and the dramatic events experienced during her lifetime. By the time we go to press even the football World Cup will be only a subject for reflection!

We hope the cover of this edition will bring back memories of the centenary that Iron Acton School celebrated back in 1974. Many of the bright young faces portrayed there are now the young parents of Iron Acton contributing to the community in their turn. Wouldn't it be great if we could persuade some of our younger folk to join the old codgers of our production team to keep Focal Poyntz up to date for the next 20 years?



IRON ACTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

As yet another highly successful year comes to an end at Iron Acton Primary School I would like to reiterate the importance that the village community spirit provides in supporting the school; from Acton Aid, kind contributions from individuals, Parker's Garden Centre, the pubs and church who we work so closely with.

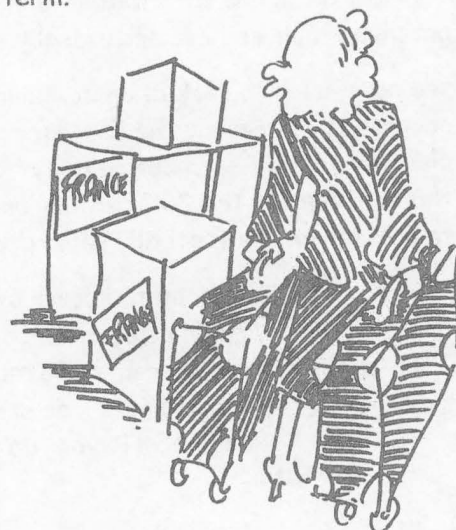
The May Day and Jubilee celebrations, which we took part in recently, provided such a great memory for all the children and demonstrated our role in the community of Iron Acton. These aspects make our school very special, a joy to be part of and a wonderful environment for the children to grow and develop in. The Jubilee was extremely well organised - thank you to everybody concerned on the Jubilee Committee for allowing us to be part of such a special occasion.

Another aspect of our growing school has been the recent extensions, both to Class 1 and the new entrance lobby, and a new member of staff, Mrs Anna Ram Listowski, who joined our team this term.

I would like to wish good luck to our Y6 children who will be leaving us at the end of term. They embark on a new adventure in their respective secondary schools in September. I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome our new reception children for September. Sadly, we shall be losing our secretary, Mrs Taylor, as she bids farewell to Britain for a new life in France.

We still have places available throughout the school for September. If you would like a brochure, or to look around the school, please do not hesitate to phone (228322) or e-mail (Head@ironacton-pri.s-gloucs.sch.uk).

Karl Joyce / Headteacher



IRON ACTON CRICKET CLUB

As mid-season approaches, there is not much to report on the playing side, we have had a couple of games washed out by the weather and, in the games we have played, results have been "variable".

We began the season with a crushing victory over local rivals North Nibley, in which Chris Bradley and Mark Scheeper both reached 50. We then lost narrowly to Oldbury and have followed that up with 3 heavy defeats - which suggests that our intensive pre-season training, co-ordinated by Phil Debiden, caused us to peak too early! Perhaps we should revert to more traditional training methods?!

We were delighted to participate in the excellent Jubilee Celebrations, both in the wonderful procession down the High Street and by entering the winning team in the "It's a Knockout" competition. I would like to scotch any rumours around the village suggesting that we somehow cheated in the last game.

As many of you will know, we also ran our usual stall on May Day and attracted several new players - many of whom have now played for us and are especially welcome. If anyone would like to join us please get in touch.

We are confidently looking forward to an improvement in the weather in the possibly optimistic belief that our form will improve on harder pitches!!

Simon Cross / Chairman (228291)



AWARDS

GENERAL SECTION: The Hall Committee Rose Bowl will be awarded to the Competitor gaining the highest points and the Gordon Powell Cup to the Competitor gaining the second highest. The St. James the Less Cup will be won by the resident of Iron Acton Parish who gains the highest points.

HOME CRAFT SECTION: The Acton Aid Cup will be awarded to the Competitor gaining the highest points and there will be a prize of £1 for the second highest.

Sections Having Their Own Trophies: Classes in these sections will not be given points towards the General and Homecraft Section Trophies.

The Amateur Gardening Red Ribbon will be awarded to the most outstanding exhibit in the Show.

RULES

1. Entry fees for all classes: **20p** first entry **15p** all others
16 Years & Under 10p first entry 5p all others
2. Points are awarded as follows:
Classes 1, 2 & 3 **1st** – 8 points **2nd** – 6 points **3rd** – 4 points
Classes 4 to 68 **1st** – 3 points **2nd** – 2 points **3rd** – 1 point
3. Prize money as follows:
Allotment and Classes 1, 2 & 3 **1st** – £1.50 **2nd** – £1.00 **3rd** – 50p
All Other Classes **1st** – 70p **2nd** – 50p **3rd** – 30p
4. It is understood that all entries have been made or grown by the Exhibitor and have not been exhibited in any other show.
5. The Judges reserve the right to inspect the garden or allotment of any Exhibitor.
6. Any complaints must be made to a member of the Committee by 4.00pm.
7. Doors will be open at 9.00am on Saturday 7th September 2002 and all entries must be made before 11.00am.
8. Staging must be completed by 11.30am prompt when the hall will be cleared for judging.
9. In classes with 3 or less entries the Judges reserve the right to withhold any 1 or 2 prizes.
10. The Judges' decision will be final.
11. Entries from all sections may be donated for sale and gifts of all kinds will be gratefully received.
12. Awards will be presented at 3.30pm and exhibits may be removed immediately afterwards. Any items remaining will be auctioned at 4.00pm approx.

Entry forms and enquiries to:

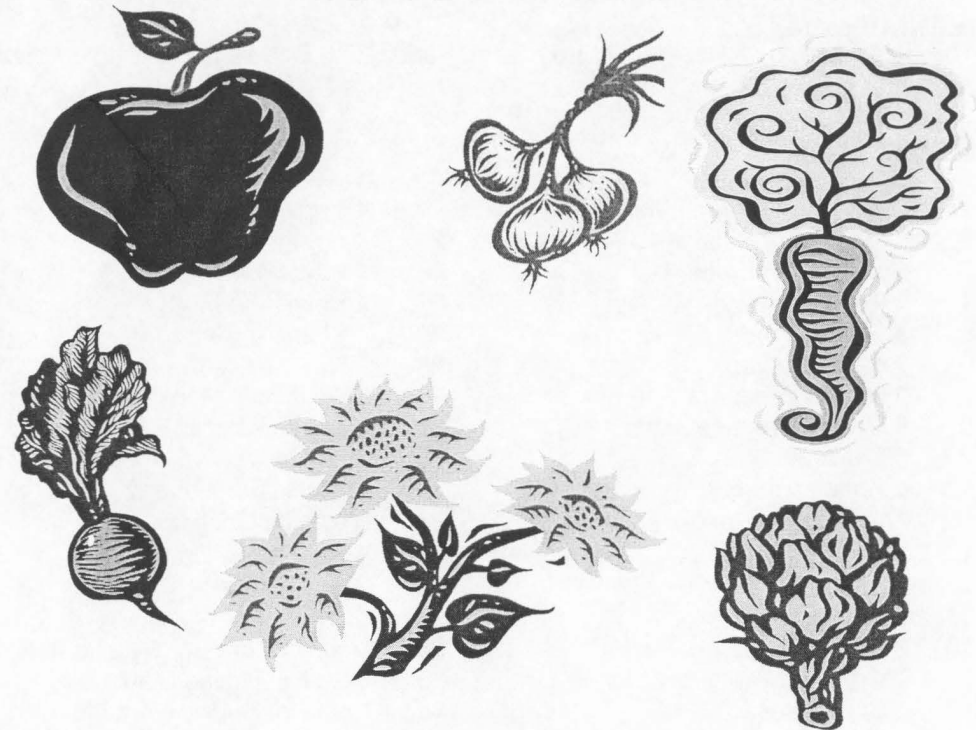
Meryl Cook
Dean Court
High Street
Iron Acton

Ann Aplin
The Clove Hitch
High Street
Iron Acton

Paula Evans
"Gorlan"
High Street
Iron Acton

- Why not come along?
- All fresh produce, at reasonable prices.

Iron Acton Horticultural Show



Iron Acton Parish Hall
Saturday 7 September 2002
Exhibition Opens 2.30pm

Admission: Adults – 20p Children/OAP's – 10p

With Thanks to our Sponsors
C.G & D. Heal, Latteridge Green Farm, Latteridge

The Organsiers would like to thank you for supporting the Horticultural Show. The Show has been revived after a five year gap, and it is only with your support, both as competitors and spectators, that we will be able to keep it going.

If you would like any additional classes included in next years' event, please let us know. We try to make the schedule as comprehensive as possible but we are always open to suggestions.

So, WELCOME to this year's Show!

ALLOTMENT TROPHY

The Best Collection of Vegetables grown on an Allotment.

ASTER TROPHY CLASS

The Best Entry, by a Resident of Iron Acton Parish, of 6 Double and 6 Single Asters.

GENERAL SECTION

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Collection of Vegetables | 24. 4 Apples (dessert) |
| 2. Collection of Salads | 25. 4 Apples (culinary) |
| 3. Collection of Fruits | 26. 4 Pears (dessert) |
| 4. 4 Potatoes (any 1 variety) | 27. 4 Plums (dessert) |
| 5. 3 Carrots (long) | 28. 4 Plums (culinary) |
| 6. 3 Carrots (short) | 29. 6 Roses (assorted) |
| 7. 3 Onions (from seed, trimmed) | 30. 1 Specimen Rose (named) |
| 8. 3 Onions (from sets, trimmed) | 31. 6 Single Asters |
| 9. 6 Shallots | 32. 6 Double Asters |
| 10. 6 Runner Beans | 33. 6 Dahlias (not over 2 ½ ") |
| 11. The Longest Runner Bean | 34. 3 Cactus Dahlias |
| 12. 2 Peppers | 35. 6 Decorative Dahlias |
| 13. 2 Cabbages (any 1 variety) | 36. 3 Spikes Gladioli |
| 14. 2 Cauliflowers | 37. 6 Sweet Peas |
| 15. 2 Marrows | 38. Vase of Flowers (5-10 stems) |
| 16. The Heaviest Marrow | 39. Best Pot House Plant (foliage) |
| 17. 3 Courgettes | 40. Best Pot House Plant (flowering) |
| 18. 2 Cucumbers (frame or greenhouse) | 41. Pot Grown Herbs (any 1 variety) |
| 19. 2 Cucumbers (ridge) | 42. Bunch of Herbs |
| 20. 6 Tomatoes | 43. Tallest Sun Flower |
| 21. 3 Parsnips | 44. Hanging Basket |
| 22. 3 Beetroot | |
| 23. 3 Blanch Leeks | |

FLOWER ARRANGING

- | | |
|-------------------------|--|
| 45. Small Arrangement | 48. Container Arrangement |
| 46. Dried Arrangement | 49. Subject Arrangement – A Named Book or Song Title |
| 47. Foliage Arrangement | |

(Rose Bowl to Winner)

HEMCRAFT SECTION

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| 50. 6 Chicken Eggs | 61. 6 Scones |
| 51. 6 Eggs (any other variety) | 62. A Loaf of Bread |
| 52. 1 Pot of Jam | 63. An Apple Pie |
| 53. 1 Pot of Jelly | |
| 54. 1 Pot of Marmalade | <u>A Handicraft Article to include:-</u> |
| 55. 1 Jar of Chutney | |
| 56. 1 Jar Pickled Onions | 64. A Painting, Sketch or Drawing; Framed or Unframed, Any Subject |
| 57. A Victoria Sandwich | 65. A Knitted Garment |
| 58. A Savoury Flan | 66. A Crocheted Article |
| 59. A Fruit Cake | 67. A Childrens Toy |
| 60. Plate of 6 Biscuits | 68. A Sewn Article |

PHOTOGRAPHY SECTION

69. Photograph of a Landscape
 70. Photograph of People
 71. Photograph entitled "My Friend" (under 16's)

CHILDREN'S SECTION

4-7 YEARS

72. 6 Decorated Fairy Cakes
 73. Miniature Garden
 74. Vegetable Animal
 75. Painting of an Animal
 76. Junk Model

7-11 YEARS

77. 6 Decorated Fairy Cakes
 78. Miniature Garden
 79. Vegetable Animal
 80. Self Portrait
 81. Computer Poster Advertising Next Year's Horticultural Show

11-16 YEARS

82. 6 Decorated Fairy Cakes
 83. Miniature Garden
 84. Painting or drawing of "Village Scene"
 85. Computer Poster Advertising Next Year's Village Day

We hope you enjoy the Show and Thank You for your support.

IRON ACTON HORTICULTURAL SHOW NEWS EXTRA!!!

The Iron Acton Horticultural Show Committee are very pleased to announce the following additions to the 2002 Show schedule:

The Committee are proud to announce a new Award. The Iron Acton Golden Jubilee Committee have donated a new trophy that will be presented to the Family who has contributed most to the Horticultural Show.

The Committee are also pleased to announce the addition of a new "Pre-School" Section. This will include 2 new categories - Firstly, a drawing or painting of any subject, and secondly, some Mustard and Cress grown in a decorated container.

IF YOU HAVE ANY SUGGESTIONS
FOR ADDITIONAL CLASSES FOR
NEXT YEAR'S SHOW, PLEASE LET
US KNOW.

IRON ACTON HORTICULTURAL SHOW

Name:

Address:

Class No.

Pence

Class No.

Pence

I enclose the sum of £..... to cover the above entries and I agree to abide by the **RULES** as shown in this year's schedule.

Signed:

EITHER BRING THIS COMPLETED FORM TO THE PARISH HALL ON THE MORNING OF THE SHOW OR RETURN IT TO:

Meryl Cook
Dean Court
High Street
Iron Acton

Ann Aplin
The Clove Hitch
High Street
Iron Acton

Paula Evans
"Gorlan"
High Street
Iron Acton

ST JAMES THE LESS PARENT AND TODDLER GROUP

It was suggested by one of our members that when the rest of Iron Acton saw us marching through the High Street singing our repertoire of children's songs with gusto, it might invite the comment "these women have been at home too long!!!".

Well, the Golden Jubilee has been quite an astonishing event both nationally and locally. Everyone entered in to the spirit of the occasion with as much gusto as our slightly dubious singing! Way back before Christmas we tentatively began laying our plans, not wishing to over burden and over stress our very busy members.

A suggestion that maybe a banner could be made was put to the members but, as is typical, the idea took on it's own momentum through everyone's enthusiasm and hard work. The result was not only a beautiful banner, but a lasting memory of the Jubilee and the camaraderie of the group. We have captured the magic of infancy by decorating the banner with the children's handprints and even the baby footprints of our newest arrivals Rosie Haselhan and Jessica Hatherell. The banner making sessions brought everyone closer together and unveiled some true talent among us. It was sheer hard work for those who gallantly spent their evenings sewing on the letters - each one taking approximately an hour. If you were distracted from seeing the banner by our melodious singing, or our cute little "kings and queens", we are hoping to display the banner permanently somewhere suitable.



We also had great fun entering a team into the "It's a Knockout" competition to discover some sporting talent in the group and despite being the only all girl team managed to avoid coming last!

Meanwhile we will continue to practise our singing and look forward to the rest of the summer term ending with our toddler party and hopefully an outing. We also meet in the park on the Parish Meadows during holidays - weather permitting.

Our group meets on Fridays, from 10.30 am to midday, in the Marshall Room. If you wish to join or want further information please contact either Chris 228065 or Lisa 228725.

NORMAN CARTER

It was with incredible sadness that the Focal Poyntz team heard, just before we went to print, the horrible news that Norman Carter had died. Norman, for all of us, was intrinsically linked with the village. We mourn him and we will miss him so much. He was always helpful, never angry, a fount of all knowledge and, above all, just so very, very nice. To see him walking along the street or to pick up the phone and hear "Hello, Norman here" was enough to make you smile and be glad to see or talk to him. His friendships crossed all ages and boundaries. We're sure there will be a fuller tribute to him in the next edition but, until then, we're just glad that we had the great delight to know him and sorry that it wasn't for longer.

GOLDEN JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

What a day to remember. All that preparation, everyone joining into the spirit of the occasion, bunting and flags popping up all over the village, and what happens??? IT RAINED!!! (only to be expected really for a double Bank Holiday) but, not to be dampened by the weather, crowds of people were out in force ready to enjoy themselves.

This article is to say "thank you" to all those of you who attended the Celebrations (regardless of the rain) and to the army of volunteers - you all made it a really special day to remember.

I happened to be down in the Parish Meadow, holding an umbrella over my husband as he was putting up a gazebo, when the Church bells began to ring out over the village. My initial thought was "crikey, is that the time already?" and then the panic set in; have we remembered everything, will people come along, will it ever stop raining!!! However, it was a joyful sound to hear to mark the start of a day of Celebrations and bah-humbug to the weather.

Due to the weather the Service of Thanksgiving started inside the Church - then the whisper went around that the rain had stopped and so everyone dutifully de-camped outside. Unfortunately the rain clouds were playing games with us and the break was extremely short lived but Rev Sue and Howard persevered through the showers and we were able to give thanks around the Preaching Cross. The time capsule was duly dedicated and Rev Sue presented the 12 children selected from the Parish with their Trustee Deeds.

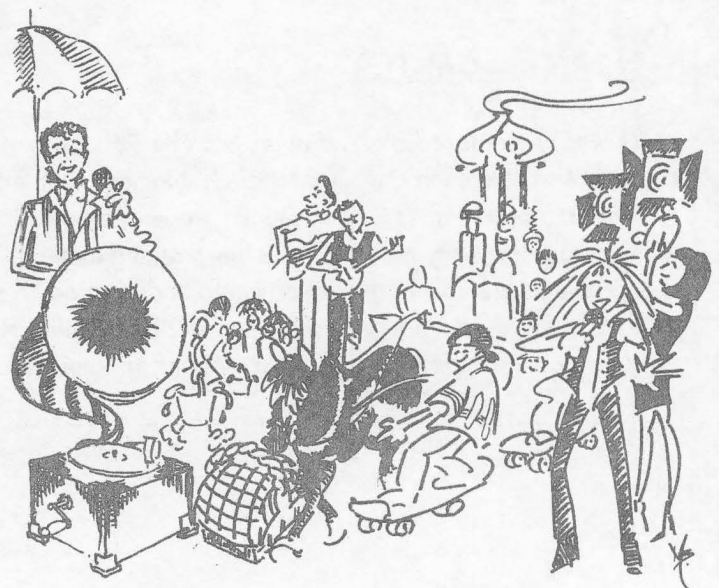
Soggy, but still determined, the Carnival Parade was led, very proudly, by Sam the horse pulling the cart with the May Queen and her attendants followed, at a safe distance, by Mrs White in a lovely vintage car. Then followed the Actonians' exceptionally well presented float, chased by the Skateboarders (who later provided us with a great display of their skills in the Tennis Courts). The School followed with their scooter/walking float entitled "The Garden". Then came Dave White in another vintage car, followed by the Mother and Toddler walking float. Unfortunately toddler legs don't go quite as quickly as adult legs, so there was a little break in the proceedings. And finally, trailing along behind (as usual - sorry IACC) were Iron Acton Cricket Club. All-in-all the Parade was a wonderful sight to see.

After the slight technical difficulties of getting the Actonians' Arabian Nights float into the Parish Meadow, children of all ages enjoyed potato and spoon races (as the egg supply within the village had dried up due to the demand for the It's a Knockout Games!), running, relay and sack races. Plenty of chocolate was handed out to all the children who took part.

Thankfully there were a couple of gazebos in the Parish Meadow for people to shelter under during the cloud-bursts and, in true British, stiff upper lip fashion, we all enjoyed our picnics to the lovely melodious tunes from an old-fashioned gramophone someone had so thoughtfully brought along. Thank you so much, it really added to the atmosphere.

"The show must go on" and, despite the frequent showers during the Actonians' presentation of Save the Children, the audience rose to the challenge of booing and hissing in the appropriate places. Well done Actonians!

At around 1.00 pm the call went out for all competitors for the It's a Knockout competition to assemble at the Cricket Club caravan. In total 7 teams gathered to pit their strength and wits against each other. Roger Hughes ably related the fun and games to the crowd and, as promised, there was plenty of water involved - provided both from the sky and the rather large water tanks on the sidelines. The competition hotted up and Jokers were played very



tactically, the "gloves came off" and it was "each team for themselves". The local Gazette photographer managed to arrive right in the middle of the last deluge and got a cracking photograph of the Lamb Team in the sack race! Eventually Iron Acton Cricket Club emerged as winners - although rumours abounded that they had actually soft boiled their eggs in the final egg game.

Eventually the sun remembered just what it was supposed to do in the month of June and decided to show its face by 3.30 pm - just in time for the Senior Citizens' and Children's Tea Parties.

The Senior Citizens' Tea Party was extremely well attended and enjoyed so much that a comment was heard "Couldn't we make this an annual event?" Thank you to everyone who contributed cakes, etc for the Senior Citizens to enjoy. Well done the WI!

The Children's Tea Party was absolutely wonderful. The atmosphere within the marquee was magic. We had approximately 100 children to sit down to enjoy their lunch boxes to the sound of Sclub7! We had fairy cakes coming out of our ears - much to the enjoyment of the children!

After a short break the evening Jubilation Party got underway. Members of the Iron Acton Cricket Club's "It's a Knockout" team attended, proudly wearing their winner's medals (causing mutterings of "we wuz robbed" from the other teams present). A comedian warmed up the audience and, much to the audience's delight and delectation, we were honoured with a short musical recital by our very own "Village Idiots", aka Alex and Dominic. The main event of the evening was "Never Mind the Bride" who kept us rocking 'til midnight. The day's events were brought to a close with a spectacular firework display and an impromptu rendition of the National Anthem.

On behalf of the Committee, I would like to say thank you to everyone who got involved in the Golden Jubilee day. A great deal went on behind the scenes from washing and grooming horses, wrapping sandwiches, to holding the finishing rope for the children's races. You all know who you are, so thank you very much indeed.

Well done Iron Acton - you did yourselves proud!

PS There were numerous photographs taken during the day and the Golden Jubilee Committee is Planning to have these on display at a later date in the Summer - we will keep you informed. If you have any video footage, or photographs that you feel we can use in the time capsule, please call me.

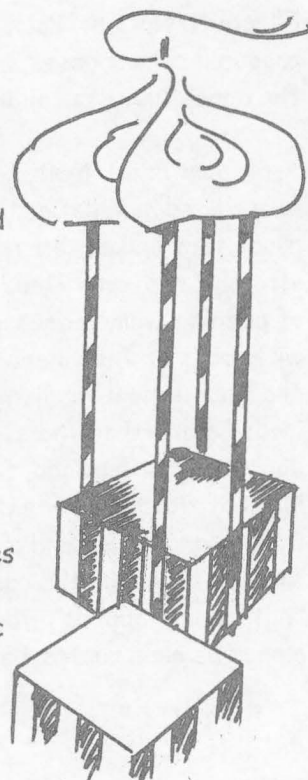
Paula Evans - on behalf of the Golden Jubilee Committee / 228419

ACTONIANS

The Actonians finished a busy season with Pat Stimson's very successful production of "Twelfth Night", which received a very complimentary Rose Bowl adjudication and disproved the idea that "Shakespeare doesn't sell". Thank you to everyone who supported us.

Pat's lovely costumes were also seen wobbling around the village on Jubilee Day on our Turkish Delight float. As usual, we had some ideas slightly about our station and there was some difficulty in negotiating the float around the sharp bend into the Parish Meadow! We persevered with the melodrama, although its beginning was slightly delayed because the heavens decided to open, and Barrie Wright made a suitably villainous Mr Wolf!

Our summer is usually spent gathering our energies and getting together for social activities such as picnics and barbecues. This time is a good one for any new members to come along and meet us and join in with our plans for our November production of Oscar Wilde's classic "The Importance of being Earnest!". Anyone interested should call Ann Aplin on 228243.



DID YOU HAVE A WONDERFUL TIME?

Well I haven't known how to answer that question, which has come at me from many different directions, since I returned from a visit to Uganda a few weeks ago. People genuinely and kindly want to know how we got on, and that is the conventional question you ask someone who has just returned from holiday.

This, however, was not a holiday - most emphatically not a holiday. The purpose was to re-establish links between this part of Bristol Diocese, the Deanery of Kingswood and South Gloucestershire, and 3 Dioceses in the West of Uganda whose cathedral towns are Fort Portal, Bushenyi and Mbarara. The link between the Dioceses of Bristol and the Church of Uganda has been going since 1969 but there has been a bit of a lull recently for administrative reasons and so I, as Assistant Area Dean, and 3 others from the Deanery went for a 3 week visit in April. My husband David, Judith Lee (Reader at both Frampton Cotterell and Iron Acton) and Julia Lettey (who comes from Downend and who took a particular interest in the Mothers' Union visits) were those who came with me.

Each of the 3 Diocesan Bishops planned our visits differently. In Fort Portal we were split, staying with different people around the town. David and I stayed with a parish priest who is also archdeacon, who took us to visit several schools and parishes, a teacher training college and the foothills of the beautiful Rwenzori Mountains (where, on rare occasions, when the cloud lifts from the mountain tops you can see snow at the Equator!). Everywhere we went we were greeted enthusiastically, asked to sign the visitors' book, given some lavish hospitality (and often gifts) and expected to make a speech - or two.

This set the pattern for our later visits to the other 2 Dioceses, where we were shown what the Church of Uganda is doing in health, health education, family support and education, and education all the way from primary schools to universities.

The warmth of our welcome was always overwhelming, generous, sensitive and loving. They are a wonderfully outgoing people and it was impossible not to respond to their warmth. We were touched and humbled that our visits meant so much to them and such effort was put into making us comfortable. As first time visitors to the developing world we had to adjust very swiftly to their culture and lifestyle but the kindness we received everywhere made that so much easier.

We were overwhelmed, too, by the beauty of the country. Unspoiled and totally unselfconscious by European standards, the mountains, the hills, the plains and the valleys are glorious; the National Parks preserving much of the natural landscape as well as the wealth of wildlife. On just one drive on the main road that bisects Queen Elizabeth National Park we saw elephants, baboons and buffalo, and later had the opportunity to see hippos, crocodiles, mongooses, lions and a leopard (those who got up early enough, not me!), monitor lizard, exotic birds, and the opportunity to fall in love with the warthogs.

Transport is difficult, for the network of tarmac roads is limited and much of our travel was along dirt roads - dirt roads that looked like the stereotype of an African road, straight, red, dusty mud with vivid green verges, always full of people - women dressed in bright colours walking, often with loads on their heads. Children walking with bare feet to and from school, or men cycling or pushing bicycles with huge loads balanced on them - bananas, goats, wives and children, double beds, firewood, furniture. Cars are rare, and the kings of the road. The driver hoots his horn at everyone walking or cycling, and if they haven't already left the road to make room for the car they have to do so quickly, even if that means toppling into the verge. Goods traffic hurtles along the main routes from Kenya to Rwanda and back, but



most (all?) vehicles are poorly maintained so accidents and breakdowns are frequent, especially among the hugely overloaded lorries carrying green bananas (the staple food in this part of Africa - steamed in their own leaves and served at every meal as matoke).

and saw just a little of the tribal dancing with its intricate rhythms. Our gifts were often hand-crafted from local materials - wood, woven grasses, leaves and papyrus fashioned into baskets, mats, trays, animals, hats and lampshades; seeds stuck onto boards to make mottos and patterns; designs and texts scorched onto wood and then varnished; an ornamental version of one of the tools used in agriculture (we thought we'd never get it through security at Entebbe Airport but, securely wrapped in newspaper and string, it travelled all the way home with us!). I longed for one of the local dresses, so beautifully embroidered and so blissfully loose and shapeless for hot weather, and was delighted to be given one towards the end of our stay.

As first timers in the developing world, a lot of what we experienced was very challenging to our own way of life, assumptions and sensibilities; and this in a country that is making real progress in many ways, especially in education, and is by no means the poorest in that part of Africa, but we learned just a little about the struggle to recover after the terrible years of oppression soon after independence, saw great signs of hope in the efforts that are being made, not least by the Church of Uganda, but also experienced something of the seemingly overwhelming problems that still have to be overcome.

In many, many ways, yes, thank you for asking, we did have a wonderful time; but "wonderful" hardly covers the range of emotions that we felt, many of them all at the same time. We shall never be quite the same again and, hopefully, will never take our material wealth for granted again. We are privileged beyond their wildest dreams, but many of the finer values in life that we are losing sight of in our society are alive and flourishing among the Ugandans we met who have so little. A salutary and not entirely pain-free discovery.

Sue Rushton

IRON ACTON HORTICULTURAL SHOW

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

A copy of the schedule and entry form are enclosed with this Focal Poyntz

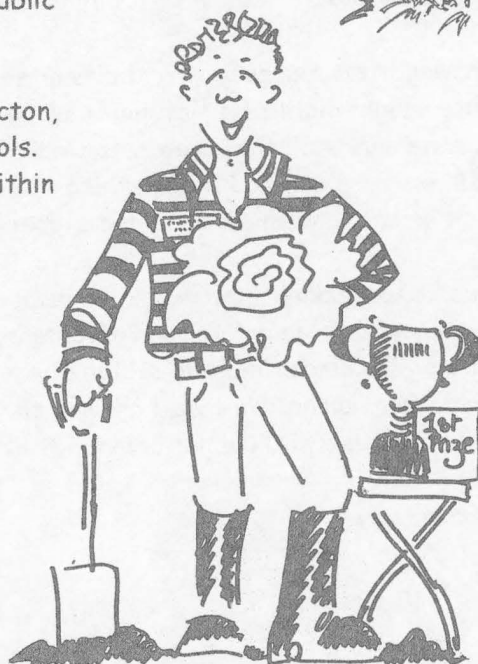
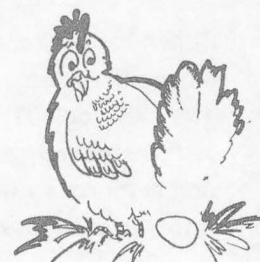
The show will take place on **Saturday, 7th September**. It will run along similar lines to previous ones, with entries being accepted between 9.00 am and 11.00 am. The show will be open for viewing to members of the public at 2.30 pm and the prizes will be awarded at 4.00 pm.

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.

If you have any questions or queries please contact:

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

Paula Evans on behalf of the Horticultural Show Committee



THE FRIENDS OF IRON ACTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

The Friends have continued to work hard fund raising. May Day was good fun - even if the weather was not. The Jubilee celebrations were a great success; the Friends organized the Children's Tea Party which was well attended, and a big "thank you" to all the parents who helped and supported us.

We are planning hard for our next event - an American Independence Day Party that will be held on Friday, 5th July between 6.00 pm and 9.00 pm. It will be a family fun evening with American themed stalls, games, cheerleading dancers, bar and B-B-Q.

The children and parents are also hard selling Grand Draw Tickets that will be drawn on 5th July.

As this is the last Focal Poyntz of the current school year, we would like to take this opportunity to thank the village and the various village committees for their continued support.

Tracey Byrne / Secretary



IT'S A DOG'S LIFE

Hi folks! It's Lucy here once again. As you probably know, I'm a Jack Russell who lives with my sister Trixie in this lovely old farmhouse, where its fields and garden attract all sorts of wildlife.

We love the long summer days and, in hot weather, we're happy to have our winter coats trimmed. However, on the first few warm days this year, the humans got to work with clippers making us look so smart but when the weather turned cold they had to fit us out with nice woolly coats to keep us warm!

When rabbits are playing in the fields we want to join in their games but after chasing one the other day Trixie managed to get herself stuck in the barn and our mistress had to call for help to move things to free the silly dog. Then I was the one who needed rescuing from up a tree after I'd chased off the squirrel that keeps stealing the food put out for the birds. It's not just the peanuts it takes, it loves the sunflower seeds and even eats the birds' bread. I heard the humans say "It's amazing how it manages to unhook and break into those supposedly "squirrel-proof" seed and nut holders."

But, having little success with rabbits or squirrels, didn't stop us this morning when we caught sight of a tiny mouse along the side of the house. In hot pursuit, we scraped and dug away to where it had run and, suddenly, whoosh, we were covered in something that didn't smell so good, but felt nice and smooth and slippery.

Yes, we had struck oil - Dad would be pleased, we could all be millionaires! But he wasn't! All we got for our efforts was a good smacking, hot baths and lots of scoldings which we couldn't understand until we heard him tell the other humans that we'd chewed through the pipe from the oil tank to the house! Talk about being in the dog house, we're in utter disgrace.



Love from Lucy

NORTH ROAD LADIES

On 4TH February our members listened to Mr Don Everitt speaking about The Spring Garden, illustrated by slides. This was a most enjoyable evening and members were eager to purchase plants brought along by Mr Everitt in readiness for the Spring.

Every March we welcome Dave and Jan Fulman to our meeting and this year they entertained us with a talk and slides on their holiday along The Macmillan Way. As usual, a very happy evening.

At our April meeting, Mr Bernard Tapp gave an enthralling talk on his 31 day trek along the Everest Trader's Route and we marvelled at how he and his party were able to withstand the freezing temperatures. This talk was illustrated by stunning mountain slides.

- * Remembering Yesterday was the subject on which Mrs P Clements spoke at our May meeting and she had us in fits of laughter. Of course,
- most of us could relate to mother's washing day with the old mangles, stone hot water bottles and the dreaded liberty bodice. It really was a most hilarious evening.

Our planned evening trip to Abbey House Gardens, Malmesbury on 10th June has been cancelled and is replaced by a Treasure Hunt, on foot, finishing at Jameson's Bar in North Road - where a barbecue will be laid on for us.

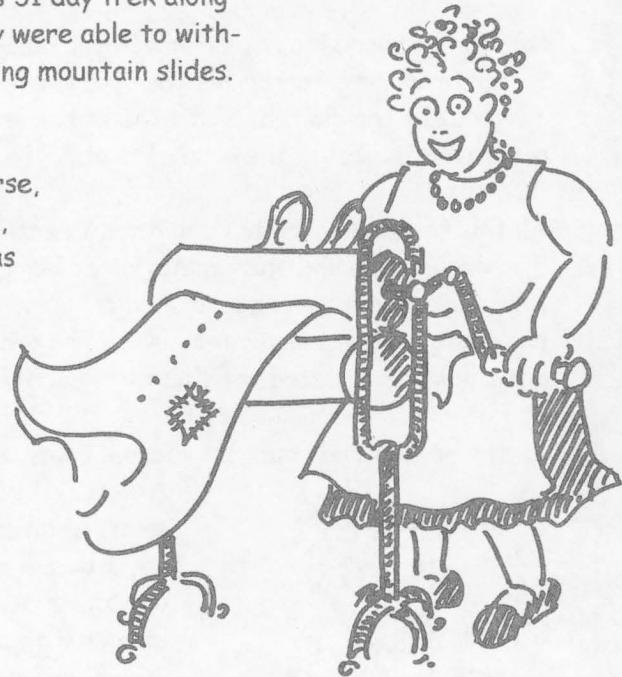
Our charity for 2002 is BUST (Breast Cancer Research). To raise money we have held bring and buy and car boot sale stalls.

Our programme from July to December is as follows:

- | | | |
|---------|-------------|--|
| Monday, | 1 July | An Evening Trip to Veddw House Gardens, Devauden, Monmouth |
| Monday, | 2 September | Bristol Trams - talk and slides by Mr P Davey |
| Monday, | 7 October | Being a Fashion Model - talk by Sandra Hobson |
| Monday, | 4 November | Our 35 th Birthday Party to be held at Slimbridge |
| Monday, | 2 December | AGM, American Supper and Entertainment |

Meetings are held in North Road Primary School, commencing at 7.30 pm. Visitors and new members will always be made most welcome.

June Rycroft / Secretary



In the last edition we appealed for help with deliveries in Latteridge and we would like to say a big "thank you" to the Bradley and Smith Families who kindly offered to help. We are very grateful.

Unfortunately, we now need to ask if there are any volunteers to help with Nibley Lane, Algars Drive and Chilwood Close. If you'd like to volunteer we'd love to hear from you. Please call Lynne B on 228566 to either say "yes" or to find out more details.

CRIME AND PUNISHMENT

I have just been reading Ian McEwan's excellent novel "Atonement". I found it a gripping story and very well written.

The heroine, Bryony Tallis, regrets mistakes made in adolescence and seeks to come to terms with what she has done by choosing a career in nursing. She has to face suffering on a stupendous scale as she deals with badly mutilated soldiers recently evacuated from the Normandy Beaches in World War II.

McEwan has done his research well and authentically, conveys the minor conflicts in the medical world as Sister Drummond terrorizes the fledgling nurses in her care. Bedpans must be taken out in stacks of 6 and given out to the glory of God. The wheels of hospital beds must always face inwards. A true nightingale never runs except in the case of haemorrhage or fire.

All this sounded horribly familiar as I recall my own nurse training days in the early 1960's. I was supervised by a dragon who had the reputation of being the worst tempered ward sister in the hospital. Sister Wrath's flair for organisation and her medical knowledge were without parallel. She diagnosed the difficult cases, not the doctors. She ran her ward with the precision and skill of a military commander. Unfortunately for her, and she made no secret of this fact, her troops were the scum of the earth.

As the newest and youngest recruit I was constantly in hot water. The steriliser ran dry, "Come here, Nurse Atkins", a broken thermometer was discovered, "Where's Nurse Atkins?", someone dropped a bedpan, "Nurse Atkins, AGAIN". I shall never forget the day I was in big trouble. I had the unlucky task of showing Sister the Save Cupboard. Anything unusual in the excretory line was deposited here in a bedpan with a red cover over it. I had hoped, on this particular day, that I would escape without a telling off as there was only one bedpan in residence.



The contents belonged to Number 17. He was a mild, inoffensive man who suffered with constipation. This was unfortunate as a stool specimen was required to confirm his diagnosis. After days of inactivity, movement had been achieved and Sister and I gazed at the result. Sister fixed me with her beady eye. "You will put this matter into a specimen jar, label it correctly and then return it to the Save Cupboard. You will then collect it at 3.30 pm, when you go for your tea break and deliver it to the Path Lab on your way to the Dining Room. Is that understood?"

If Sister had left it there all would have been well but unfortunately she chose to lecture me as well. "I ask myself can I trust you to carry out this procedure correctly? My previous experience suggests not. You are the sort of individual who gets hold of valuable material and flushes it down the toilet. However, since I am due at an important meeting I do not have time to watch over imbeciles." She turned on her heel and left abruptly.

My head was reeling after this outburst. What was it that Sister wanted me to do? I recalled her words, "take hold of valuable material and flush it down the toilet". Like a person in a dream, I did exactly what Sister had said I would do. As I pulled the chain I realised instantly the enormity of my crime. Strangely I did not feel nervous. I knew that only Divine Providence could save me now. I heard the chimes of Big Ben strike 3 o'clock. "It's up to you now God", I said

"You have 30 minutes". I entered the ward and approached Number 17. "You know the specimen we wanted?" "I did it this morning, nurse", he said proudly. "I've just thrown it away!" "You never!" Number 17's face crumpled as he took this in. He gazed at the bedpan I carried. "Well, I will try Nurse, but I can't promise nothing".

God WAS good to me. At 3.30 pm I went for my tea break clutching the all important specimen bottle. There had even been 10 minutes to spare!

ACTON AID

Since the last edition of Focal Poyntz the members of Acton Aid have been quite busy and have been involved in a number of successful projects.

The "burger-burners" were in action again at the Village Funday on 1st May. The larger than normal crowd, who were not put off by the smoke from the barbecue, managed to devour all of the available burgers, enabling the burger stand to be one of the major fund raising stalls contributing to a very successful day.

Acton Aid members also acted as a catalyst, and contributed to the organisation of, the very enjoyable Jubilee celebrations. Acton Aid's main contribution was organising the evening celebrations. Thanks are due to Paul Chapman for his assistance in organising the entertainment and to Chris Heal for the loan of the spit-roaster and his assistance in cooking the pig. The sale of tickets was way beyond initial expectation and the money raised adequately covered the expenditure for all of the other free events enjoyed by so many throughout the day's festivities.

What's in Store?

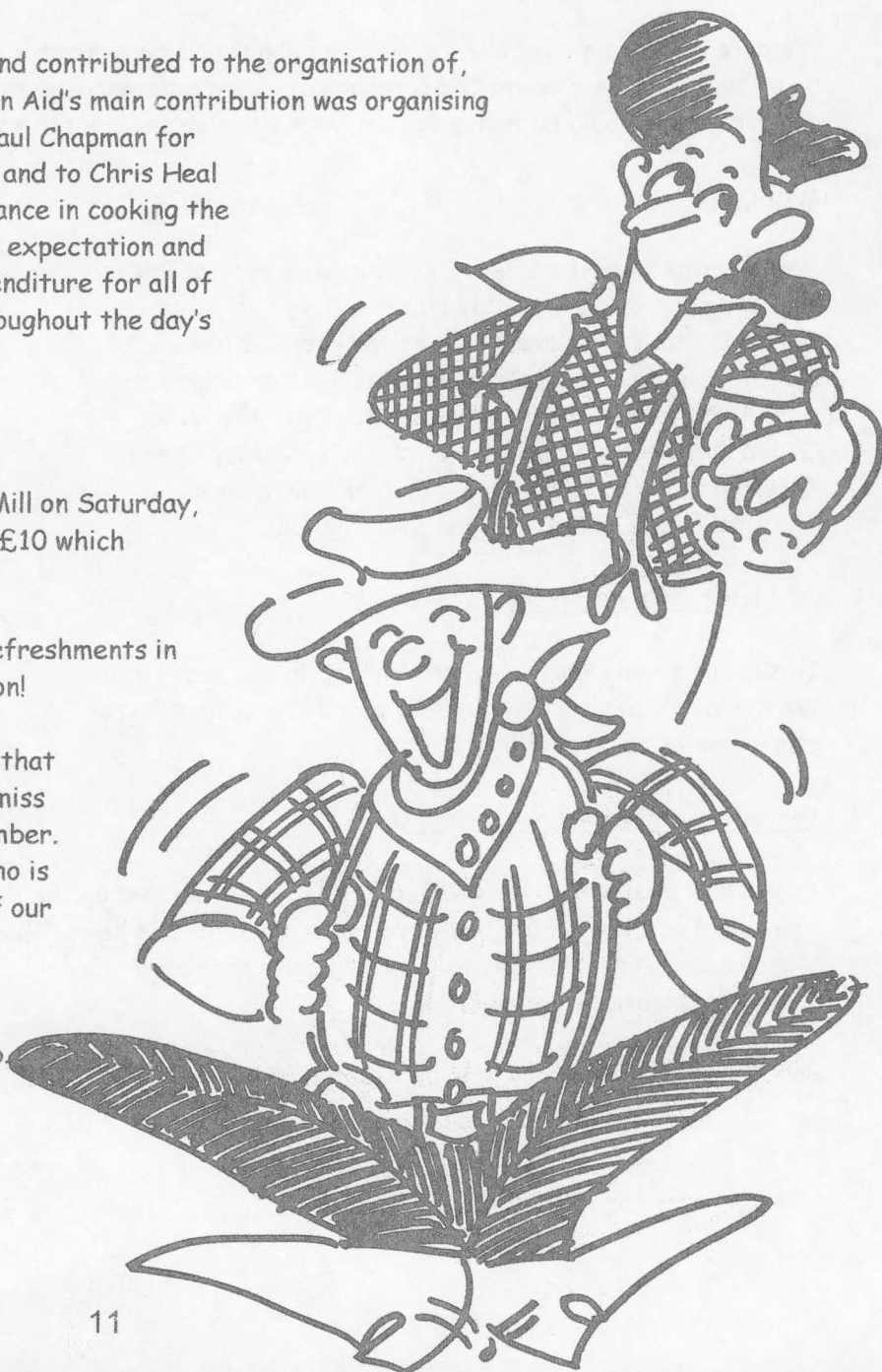
There will be a Wild West Evening at Algar's Mill on Saturday, 20th July. Tickets available from members at £10 which includes entertainment and food.

It's planned to have a fireworks display plus refreshments in the village in November - more information soon!

We also need to update our records to ensure that all parish residents of pensionable age do not miss out on the Christmas treats given out in December. If you know of anyone who might be eligible who is unlikely to be on the list, please contact one of our committee members.

Don't forget we always welcome new members
- First Thursday of the month, 8 pm, the Lamb

Colin Smith / Secretary



IRON ACTON PARISH COUNCIL

Speeding in the High Street

We have, at long last, been given the data from South Glos Council for monitoring traffic east and west along the High Street over a one week period for 24 hours. Only 6 incidents where the speed limit was broken were recorded. The average speed of all traffic was 26 mph. Station Road was also monitored but we have not yet received the data.

We, as a Parish Council, would suggest a 20 MPH limit in and around the "village" and would welcome any further suggestions you might have.

Jubilee Celebrations

We are pleased to report that the Jubilee Celebration was a great success and say thank you to all the people who helped to make it such a memorable day.

Dog Fouling in the Parish Meadow

We have received a number of complaints about dog excrement in the Parish Meadow. The problem seems to be on the increase, despite the provision of extra bins, perhaps this popular play and picnic area should be dog free? We would be happy to hear your views or any solutions to the problem.

May Day

May Day was a great success this year with more people attending and wanting to stay longer. This, I think, is mainly due to the children's games and races. I would like to thank all those people who attended, or helped to make this a village event to look forward to. The May Queen this year was Inga Mansfield, and the May Queen Attendants were Hannah Byrne and Natalie Moore. The final figure raised was just over £4,000.

Rubbish in the Cemetary

This is due to be cleared by Bob Williams in the near future. We would ask all allotment holders to help by composting as much vegetation as possible.

Travellers on the Village Green

As you may be aware, 5 vans with cars and trucks arrived on the Green but due to prompt action by local councillors and the police they were moved on after one hour. Thanks to all the people who took the trouble to ring me. Please don't hesitate to ring again if needed. One of the keys to solving this problem is prompt action - so please be aware.

Bob Sheppard / Chairman of Iron Acton Parish Council (228515)



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

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 - invoices can be provided).

ARTWORK:

We are grateful to Maureen Blake for some more of her very special drawings to complement the articles.

PRINTING:

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

COVER:

Our cover photograph was taken by the preaching cross in Iron Acton churchyard in 1974. The occasion was the celebration of the centenary of the opening of Iron Acton C of E School by the National Society in 1874.

Mr Brian Burgess, seen in his top hat, was Headmaster. The 2 other teachers were Mrs Margaret Pick, in a lace bonnet to his left, and Mrs Janet Hatt on his left. On Thursday, 30 April 1974 the pupils all dressed in Victorian costume to attend a combined Ascension Day and Centenary Service in the Church led by the Rev A Waker. After the service the children were entertained to a Victorian tea party. In the evening there was a Victorian exhibition in the school.

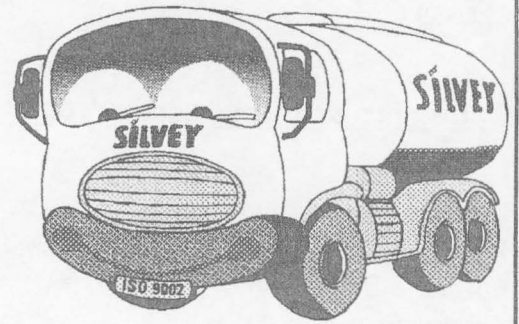
Many of the children in the photograph are now married with children of their own. It would be interesting to publish other old photographs of village events, maybe of the last Jubilee, together with memories of the event.



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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 Iron Acton Parish Hall funds for the provision of new facilities. That's £2.40 on an average delivery of 1200 litres and to date has totalled well over

£1500.00! Thankyou for the support.

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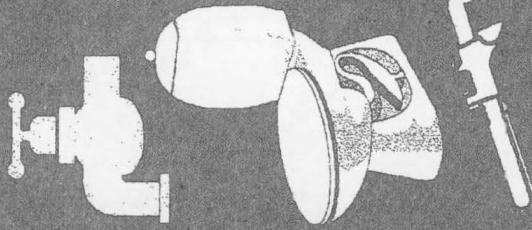
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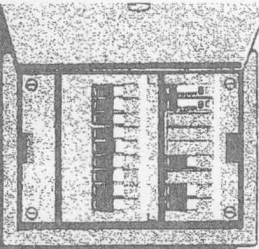
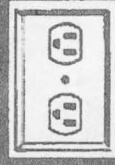


■ PART & FULL REWIRES

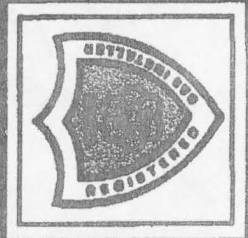
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