

60

FOCAL POYNIZ



A magazine for Iron Acton

FOCAL POYNTZ INFORMATION:

Your Focal Poyntz Team is:

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Lynne Blanchard
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Maureen Blake
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Hazel Dron
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Roy Hubbard
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Eileen Hughes
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Barrie Wright
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Rona Wright
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Deliveries are ably carried out by:

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The Bradley Family
Hazel Dron
Elizabeth Edwards
Andrew Gowen
John Griffen
Chris Heal

Roy Hubbard
Sue Shepherd
The Smith Family
Laura Walters
Pete Wedgewood
Mike Wheeler
Barrie and 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 very 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 has been designed by Eileen Hughes. We hope you enjoy the Christmas imagery.

HELP REQUIRED!

If any brave soul out there can help us with all, or part, of the round that Norman Carter used to kindly undertake for us in Chilwood Close, Algars Drive or Nibley Lane please call Lynne (228566) who would love to hear from you.

WINTER

ISSUE

60

As another year comes to an end (they seem to whiz by so quickly) we would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for supporting Focal Poyntz.

We like to think that Focal Poyntz reflects the values and opinions of Iron Acton residents so please, please, please let us have your contributions and help us to continue to produce a magazine that appeals to all interests and age groups in our community.

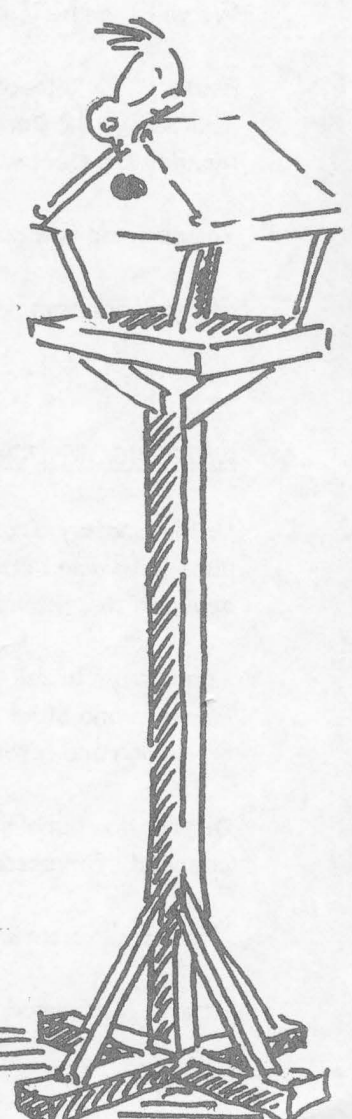
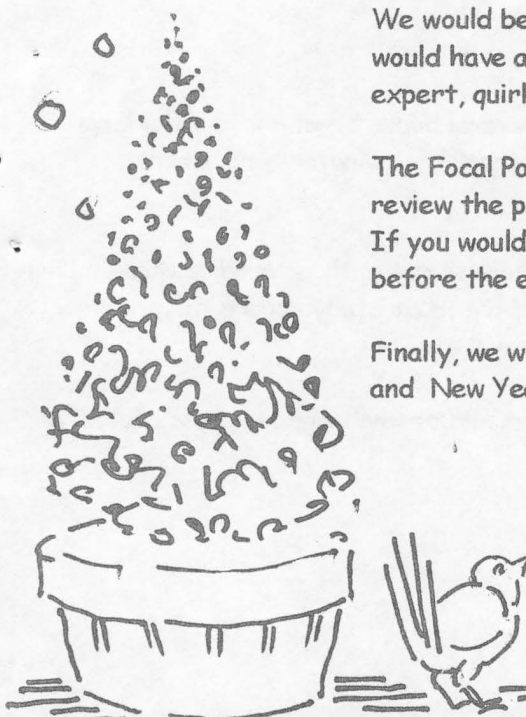
We value the contributions of our organisations who provide the informative backbone of our magazine. We pay tribute to the newly discovered talents of Rona Wright who has taken on the responsibility for gathering these with the zeal of a Rottweiler crossed with Mother Theresa (the letter arrives first, followed by one polite telephone request and then another slightly less so!!) - as several organisations have discovered.

We are grateful to those people who deliver the magazine to all parts of the parish in all weathers. They are our invisible heroes.

We would be lost without Maureen Blake's contribution. We would have a visually boring magazine without her wonderfully expert, quirky drawings.

The Focal Poyntz Committee meets annually in January to review the previous year and to discuss any suggested changes. If you would like to make any comments please let us know before the end of the year.

Finally, we wish everyone a very happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year



NORTH ROAD COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

The Summer Holidays saw further building changes at North Road School. The old toilet block wall was eventually replaced by a beautiful stone wall with inset slabs containing the children's hand prints. The office has been totally refurbished and the Reception Classroom has French doors to the outdoor play area built by AXA Sun Life during their Challenge Week.



We are still celebrating our excellent results in this year's SATs. In the South Gloucestershire Profile we got A for writing, A for reading and A for mathematics at KS1 and A for English, A for Mathematics and A* for Science at KS2. Congratulations to all our staff and pupils on this excellent result - a reputation to live up to?!

Our Harvest Service enabled us to give flowers or a Harvest gift to many local friends and also raised £132 for Genieri in the Gambia. We were delighted that our money from last year helped the village men to build a fishing boat. The contributors' names were put into a hat and I am pleased to report that the first Genieri fishing vessel is named the "North Road"!

Chairman of Governors, Andy Jenkins; the School Secretary, Sue Baird and I are looking forward to lunch at the Mansion House in Bristol on Tuesday, 5 November. This award ceremony is to celebrate our achievement at gaining "Investors in People" status.

We will soon be looking at preparations for our different Christmas activities. Dates to remember are:

Friday, 6 December	2.00 pm	Christmas Sale in the School Hall
Thursday, 12 December	6.30 pm	Infant Performance in the School Hall
Monday, 16 December	7.00 pm	Junior Performance in the School Hall

You are most welcome to attend any of these events.

Glenys Anderson / Head Teacher

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Unfortunately, Iron Acton is not a crime free zone. There have been several house break-ins and the local pubs have also been targeted. The Police are constantly in touch with Area Co-Ordinators and, where appropriate, the message is passed around.

Apart from break-ins to steal jewellery, mobiles, computers and TV's there is currently a trend towards taking car keys and stealing cars left on the premises. Every care should be taken to carefully secure the premises on leaving and let neighbours know if the house is to be vacant for holidays, etc.

Distraction burglaries are also on the increase and unexpected callers should be challenged and their identity checked, if necessary, with the employers.

The watchwords are "always be on your guard".

Peter Wedgewood

PARISH CHURCH OF ST JAMES THE LESS

'GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST'



The Angel Gabriel brought good news to Mary, a young virgin of Nazareth in Galilee. 'You have been chosen by God to be the Mother of His Son ...' And so the immortal story begins - how God sent Jesus to be our Saviour, to live on earth among us and teach us how much our Father God in Heaven loves us.

At your Parish Church of St. James the Less this Christmas time, we shall tell that story again and celebrate its meaning for us today with great joy. Would you like to join us over Christmas and share in the joy?

Sunday, 22nd December
Advent 4

9.00 a.m.

Family Communion

- informal and short - for all the family

6.00 p.m.

Carols by Candlelight

Tuesday, 24th December
Christmas Eve

6.30 p.m.

Crib Service

- very informal - for all the family

11.30 p.m.

Midnight Mass

Wednesday, 25th December
Christmas Day

8.00 a.m.

Holy Communion

at St. Peter's, Frampton Cotterell

9.00 a.m.

Family Communion

- informal and short - for all the family

Sunday, 29th December
1st Sunday of Christmas

10.30 a.m.

Joint Sung Eucharist

at St. Peter's, Frampton Cotterell

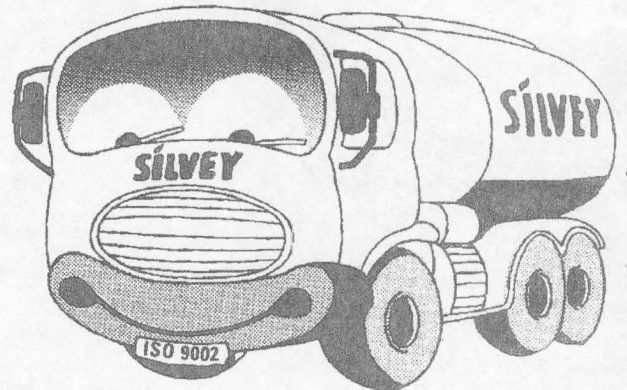
'AND PEACE TO HIS PEOPLE ON EARTH. ALLELUIA'






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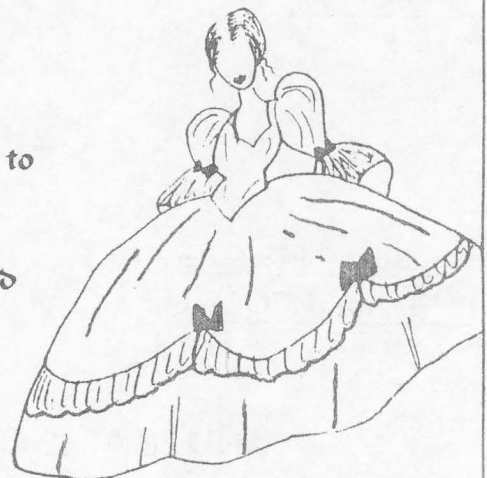
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IRON ACTON WI

In July we meandered gently on foot along the banks of the canal at Frampton-on-Severn, taking the opportunity to catch up on each other's happenings and enjoying the fresh air. We then had our annual break (a time to recover from our canal exertions) before we were back with a vengeance in September and deciding how we wanted to celebrate our birthday, confirming our programme for 2003 (doesn't time fly??) and hassling to encourage people to join the Committee at our AGM in December (where we also enjoy mulled wine and home made mince pies).



The following is our programme for next year, if you're trying to find a common theme running through, there ain't one!!! Our main aim is to confuse everyone and to have as diverse a year as possible - this stops us getting bored!!

Mon	13	January	Royal Occasions
Mon	10	February	Deaf Awareness
Mon	10	March	The Lighter Side of Life!
Mon	14	April	Stony Creek to 2003 - the History of the WI
Mon	12	May	Discussion of Resolutions for the National Conference
Mon	9	June	The Hedgehog Lady
Mon	14	July	Visit to Leyhill for Tour and Talk by Jeff Goundrill
---	---	August	No Meeting - (we recover in August)
Mon	8	September	A Journey on the Orient Express
Mon	13	October	Fishing on the Severn - Past and Present
Mon	10	November	Birthday Party Celebration
Mon	8	December	AGM plus Mulled Wine and Mince Pies

Our meetings take place on the Second Monday of the Month, at 7.30 pm, and usually in the Village Hall.

If any of you feel brave (or inquisitive) enough to give us a try and join this very mixed, madcap (almost verging on the psychotic) bunch of intrepid women please come to the Committee Room in the Hall (if, by mistake, you go to the Main Hall you'll end up Line Dancing - they're very nice too, but they don't have quite the variety that we have and we spend most of our time sitting down!). If you're vaguely interested but you'd like some more information, ring me on 228566 - depending on the phase of the moon you may even get a sensible answer!!

Lynne B

NORTH ROAD SCHOOL

Friday, 6 December 2002

2.00 pm

Christmas Sale in the School Hall

IRON ACTON PARISH COUNCIL

Footpaths

Those of you who walk locally will have noticed a big effort is being made to clear the many footpaths and bridleways that criss cross our parish. This work was made more difficult by the Foot and Mouth outbreak last year when all paths were closed. Particular attention has been paid to paths in and around the village, especially the churchyard to Chilwood and Station Road. Work will also be starting soon on paths off Wotton Road and Chaingate Lane. We would also like to hear of any other walkways which have become overgrown and in need of clearing.

The two people responsible for this work, Barry and Martin, have also cleared the old churchyard, as a separate contract with the PCC, under the supervision of Messrs Howard Aplin and Mike Wheeler and have received many commendations, most of which have been by letter and these have been passed to the PCC. They now have a plan of the churchyard and have uncovered many gravestones which, for years, have been covered by vegetation. May I take this opportunity to thank them for their enthusiasm and hard work.

Tennis Courts

Work has been completed with new kick boards installed to replace the old rotted ones. Work is also on going to keep the stream clear and so avoid flooding.

Broad Lane Transport Application

The planning application to operate 50 HGV units and trailers in Broad Lane has caused great concern to many local residents, with lots of objections being sent to the Traffic Commissioner. Points raised were noise, pollution, vibration and road safety. Both North Road and Brimsham Green schools have been made aware and voiced concerns about children's safety.

Millenium Book

This has now been completed and is being proof read. The next step is to arrange type setting and printing and we are all excited and looking forward to its release.

New Footway - Manor Road

Plans have been received and we look forward to this work being carried out - especially as we have voiced our concerns for many years.

Visibility Chaingate Lane / Wotton Road

A request for a mirror to be sited to increase visibility for vehicles coming out of Chaingate Lane onto Wotton Road has been made to South Gloucestershire Council. This will be followed up by the Parish Council. A site visit by Highway Department Officers has already taken place.

Welcome

The Parish Council would like to welcome Dave Taylor as a new Parish Councillor. Dave was recently co-opted.

Bob Sheppard / Chairman

IRON ACTON CRICKET CLUB

As the winter evenings draw in and we contemplate the fate of our brave boys heading off to be ritually slaughtered by the Australians (again), it seems appropriate to reflect on another season for the cricket club.

On the playing side we had one of our more successful seasons under the organised captaincy of Chris Bradley. We actually won quite a few games and many that we didn't win were excitingly close finishes.

One of the reasons for our successes is that we attracted several new players this season who have made a real impact with their enthusiasm and we hope they will play for us for many years to come. The new players also meant that it was easier to find full teams and there weren't too many occasions when we took to the field with less than 11 players, which is a great improvement on previous years.

The social side of the Club has also been maintained by our peripatetic social secretary Phil Debidin and we all enjoyed an end of season barbecue at the Lamb with our opponents after the last game (many thanks to Brendan and Tracy). Our Christmas Dinner will be at The Lamb on Friday, 6th December to which everyone is warmly invited, but book your tickets early as it is usually the social event of the Iron Acton Winter Season.

Our indoor cricket season has now started and we are playing on most Thursday evenings at Marlwood School under the captaincy of John Shepherd. This game is much faster than the summer one and if anyone would like to get involved please ring John on 01454 228374.

On a sad note, our AGM saw the retirement of Chris Perry from his role of Team Manager and of Trish as Treasurer. We all very much hope they will continue to be involved in the club, particularly as Chris' well flighted leg breaks can be relied upon to befuddle any opposition, and our accounts have never been in such safe hands, but I would like to take this opportunity to thank them both for their sterling efforts that have helped to make the club the success it is.

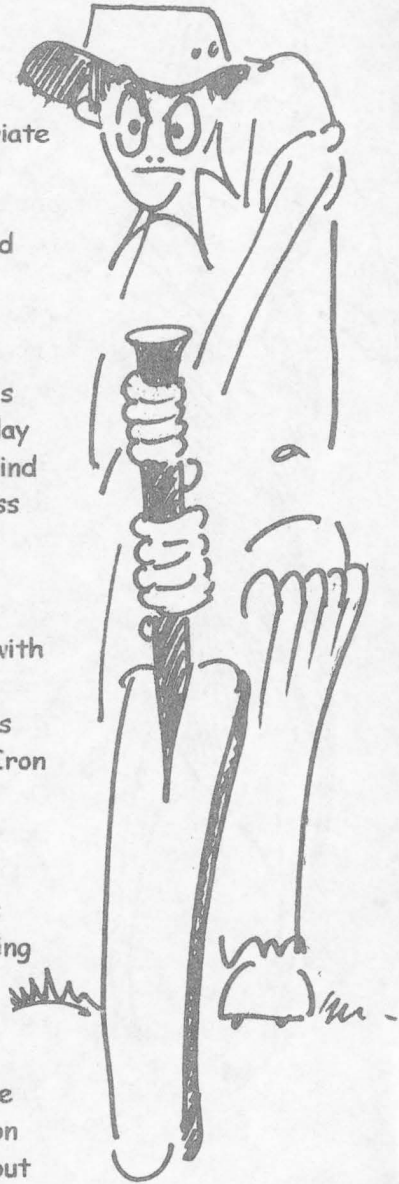
In the absence of a suitable ground here in the village, we continue to play our home games at the YOSC next season, where spectators are always welcome, and can probably be treated to a cup of tea.

In spite of our influx of recruits this season, we are still looking for new players so, if you would like to take those dusty "whites" out of the loft and have a go, please get in touch with Chris Bradley (228559) or myself.

Simon Cross / Chairman / 228291

CONGRATULATIONS - TO ANN APLIN

Ann Aplin recently received the "Bristol Hippodrome Award" for the outstanding contribution to the amateur stage. Well done!





NORTH ROAD LADIES CLUB

On the evening of 1 July our members, including husbands and friends, visited Veddw House Gardens in Devauden, Monmouthshire. The weather prior to our trip had not been very good but the rain held off sufficiently for us to enjoy the beautiful gardens. Before setting off for home we stopped at a local hotel for refreshments, which were really delicious.

At our September meeting Mr P Davey gave us a talk, illustrated by slides, on "Bristol Trams". Of course, this took many of our members down memory lane and several ladies told stories of how, as teenagers, they went to work on the trams and the routes they had to take.

Sandra Hobson visited us in October to speak about "Being a Fashion Model". She told us about the fashion industry, how she had first become a model and her work in Great Britain and abroad. It really was a most interesting evening.

It is 35 years since North Road Ladies Club was formed and on Monday, 4 November we will be celebrating with a Birthday Party at Slimbridge. We will arrive in time to view the feeding session and this will be followed by an evening meal. After our meal we will be given a talk on the Bewick Swans. We are all looking forward to this birthday celebration very much.

On 1 December a lady will be telling us about Operation Christmas Child, a project of Samaritan's Purse, which will be followed by our AGM, an American Supper and Christmas festivities. We will also finalise our 2002 Charity, which is BUST (breast cancer research).

Our meetings are usually held on the first Monday of the month (except when school or Bank Holidays occur) in North Road County Primary School, commencing at 7.30 pm. Visitors and new members will always be made most welcome.

June Rycroft / Secretary

THE ACTONIANS

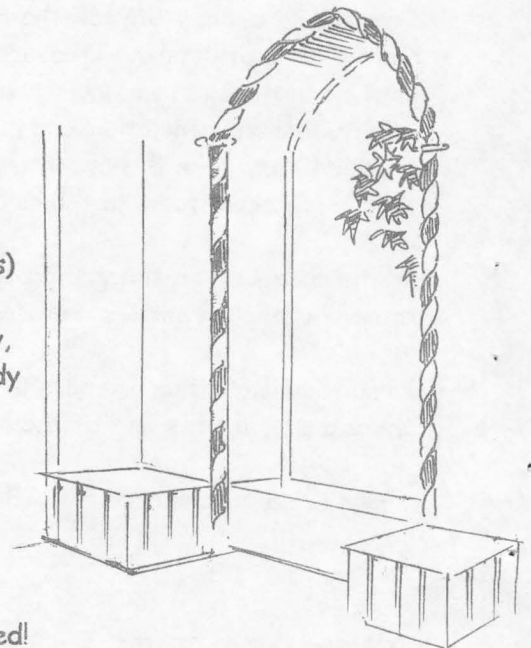
The intended Autumn production "The Importance of Being Earnest" by Oscar Wilde has had to be postponed because the director's (John Adams) partner Lesley suffered a cerebral haemorrhage and although she is thankfully out of danger and making a slow recovery, John, understandably, felt unable to direct the November production. We all wish Lesley a speedy recovery and hope John will be able to direct "The Importance of Being Earnest" in the Spring.

Ann Aplin subsequently stepped into the breach with "The Lady's not For Burning" by Christopher Fry. This is scheduled to take place on 21-23 November. It is an interesting play, both funny and thoughtful and set in the 15th Century - so lovely medieval costumes are to be expected!

Our Summer activities included a lovely picnic in Mr Beasley's garden and a great barbecue at Barrie and Rona's.

We are looking forward to a skittles evening in November and to our Christmas Party in December. On 14 February we're holding a Quiz Night with a St Valentine's flavour!

If anyone is interested in joining the Actonians please call Ann Aplin, our Secretary, on 228243



HORTICULTURAL SHOW - 7 SEPTEMBER 2002

It was with great trepidation that we opened the doors to the Parish Hall at 9.00 am on Saturday, 7 September for the resurrected Horticultural Show. Would anyone bother to bring in their lovingly nurtured, possible prize winning vegetables, or go to the trouble of creating a spectacular flower arrangement?

Things started very slowly and we had a trickle of entries, but by 10.30 am we were inundated with vegetables, fruit, pictures, painting, jams and cakes - as those of you who came to view the exhibits during the afternoon will know.

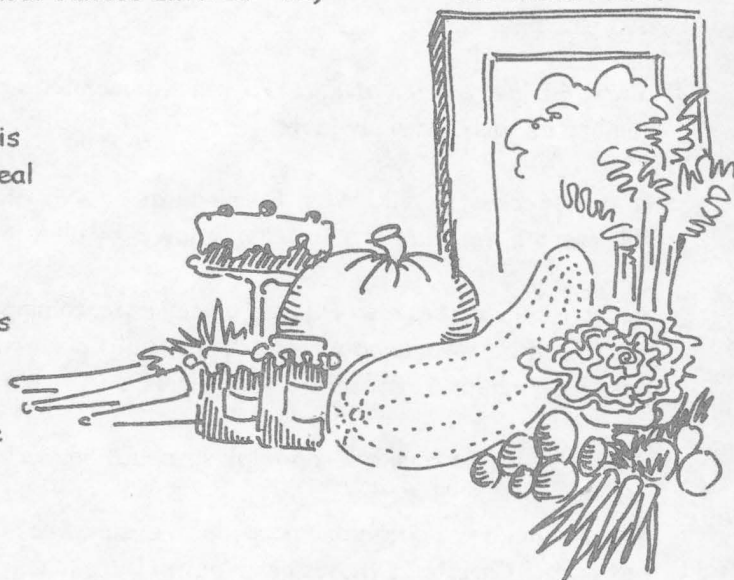
So the Horticultural Committee would like to say "thank you" to all of you who entered the Show. We hope you had as much fun entering as we did organising the event. We would also like to say a big "thank you" to everyone who volunteered their help on the day - there are far too many to mention, but you know who you are.

<u>General Section</u>	Hall Committee Rose Bowl (Highest Points) Gordon Powell Cup (Second Highest Points) Red Ribbon Cup (Best in General Section)	Mrs B Naish Mr C Heal Mr A Davis
<u>Flower Arranging Section</u>	Flower Arranging Rose Bowl (Highest Points)	Mrs L Boyce and Mrs W Dowding
<u>Homecraft Section</u>	Acton Aid Cup (Highest Points)	Mrs R White
<u>Children's Section</u>	Pre-School Cup (Highest Points) Junior Cup - 4-7 Years (Highest Points) Parker Shield & Voucher - 7-11 (Highest Points) Rudman Cup - 11-16 (Highest Points)	Jennifer Bellis Harry White Charlotte White Edward Bourns
<u>Overall</u>	St James the Less Cup (Highest Points Overall) Golden Jubilee Cup (Most Classes Entered - 52)	Mrs B Naish The White Family

The Committee is already making preparations for the 2003 show which we hope will be as well attended as this year. Thanks to the kind sponsorship of Chris and Di Heal we have enough funds to keep the show going for many years.

If you have any ideas for different or additional classes please let us know.

Paula Evans / On Behalf of the Horticultural Committee



HAPPY BIRTHDAY FRED!

Focal Poyntz would like to wish a very happy 80th birthday in January to Fred Blanchard - long may he continue to cycle to his allotment! We think you've done very well - especially as you've still got to put up with Lynne living at home!

FRIENDS OF IRON ACTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

The new school term started with our "American Evening" barbecue on 20 September in the school grounds. The weather was exceptionally kind to us that evening and everyone who came along enjoyed the food, music, stalls and games. We had a face painting stall that was kept busy all evening, with some amazing artistic creations! All in all we raised over £350 which will go towards the school.

On 4 October we had our annual Harvest Service and auction. The £270 raised will be sent to the Water Aid charity. Mr Joyce told the children all about Water Aid and how precious water is in parts of the world, and how difficult it is for some children to find water for every day use.

Plans are well in hand for a Christmas bazaar to be held in the School Hall. Along with a visit from Father Christmas, there will be a number of "White Elephant" type stalls selling, amongst other things, Christmas cards and paper. We will also be serving tea, coffee, cakes and mince pies.

One of the major fund-raisers we have planned is a "Back to the 80's" party night in the Parish Hall, some time in January. There will be a disco, bar and buffet, along with a music quiz and, of course, some excellent, memorable 80's music to bring back all those great recollections of fashion, hairstyles and trends! Please look out for posters advertising the date shortly. Tickets will be available to anyone wishing to re-visit that inspirational decade!!

Tracy Byrne / Secretary to the Friends

ACTON AID

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

A very successful Wild West Evening was held at Algar's Mill, thanks the hospitality of John and Marilyn Wright, the evening, food and music being enjoyed by all who attended.

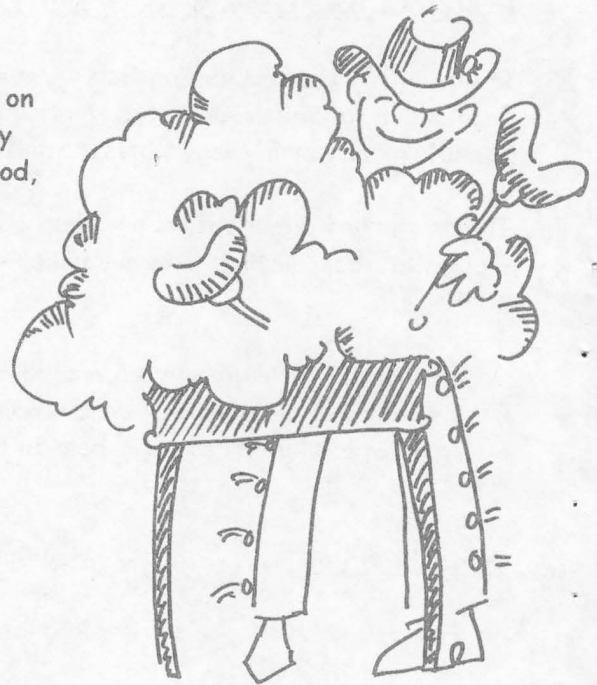
Acton Aid members also enjoyed a very entertaining informal lecture after the October meeting by Dave McCoy on the life of Admiral Lord Nelson. The insight given into his life and achievements was most enlightening. Further post meeting informal lectures are planned. The next one will be after the January Meeting, starting at 8.30 pm.

A bonfire in the Parish Meadow plus refreshments in the Parish Hall are planned for 2 November.

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

Don't forget, we always welcome new members - 1st Thursday of each month, 8 pm, the Lamb Inn.

Colin Smith / Secretary





FRIENDS OF NORTH ROAD SCHOOL

North Road School would like to welcome everyone to come along to their Christmas Fayre on Friday, 6 December from 2 pm onwards.

Come and see Father Christmas and his beautiful assistant in their grotto, or just come and sit, have tea and cake and catch up with what's going on.

As always, there will be opportunities to buy hand made gifts and decorations for Christmas.

Julie Cooper / Secretary

ST JAMES THE LESS PARENT AND TODDLER GROUP

The weather was perfect for our Summer Trip - a picnic in the Munday Playing Field at Thornbury where the children enjoyed their lunch in the shade of the trees by the stream, followed by fun in the paddling pool, on the play park, football and ice creams!

With mixed emotions we've seen another set of little people don red uniforms and troop into school with their chums. The overriding feeling is of satisfaction that our group has achieved one of its purposes by providing friends and support through life's early stages.

We have plans afoot for our Christmas Party at the end of term (including a quiet word in the ear of a very special visitor).

By popular request "Carols on the Green" is again taking place on Thursday, 12 December from 7-8 pm on the Village Green. Mulled wine and mince pies will be available. We'd love to see as many of you as can join in (and any contributions of mince pies will be gratefully received!!).

If you'd like to join our group, or want further information, please contact Lisa on 228725 or Chris on 228065. We meet together on Fridays from 10.30 am until midday in the Marshall Room during term time.

PS: Are you a First Time Mum? Did you know there are several of you in and around the village? We are considering organising a get-together session, just for you, in the New Year. Please contact Lisa or Chris if you are interested.

Chris Bellis



Iron Acton Church Christmas Fayre

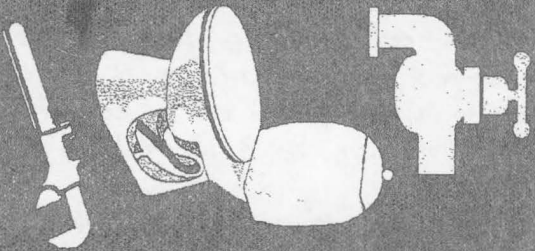
Saturday, 7 December 2002

Iron Acton Parish Hall

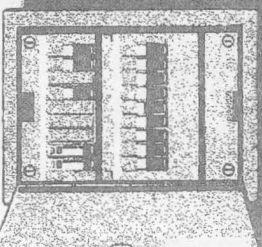
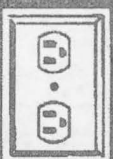
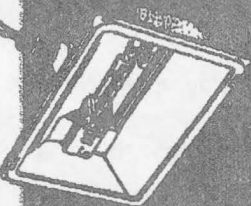
- Come and let Father Christmas make all your dreams come true!

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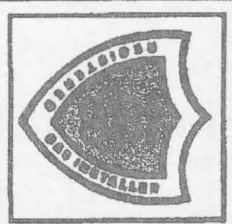


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Carols on the Green!



*Come and Sing your Heart
Out!*

On the Village Green

(in Parish Hall if wet)

At 7.00pm

On Thursday 12th December

- ★ Very informal
- ★ All ages welcome
- ★ Mulled wine to keep out the frost
- ★ Bring a lantern & lots of friends!

See you there!

*For further information call Lisa Hatherell
on 228725 or Peter Bellis on 228065*



FROM OUR COMMUNITY POLICE

Just to let you all know that I am now well into my Maternity Leave and that PC 3799 Roger Jones will be available to cover and will be around should you need to speak to him. You can ring him on 0117 945 5926.

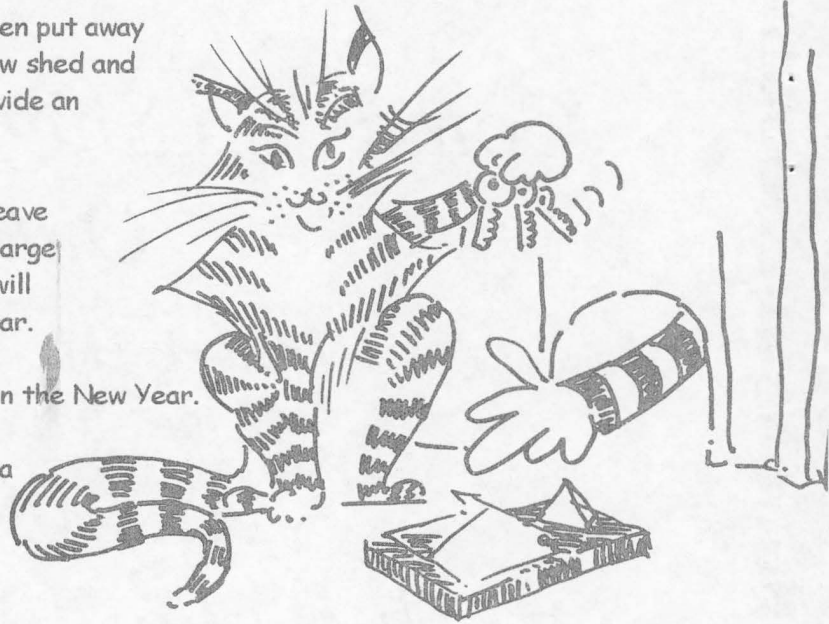
Now that the evenings are drawing in, can I remind you all that timer switches are an excellent crime prevention device. During the winter months the prime time for burglaries to take place is tea-time, when it's nice and dark and people are still at work. The early darkness easily illustrates which are the empty houses, and a few timer switches operating lamps, and perhaps a radio, will hopefully make the burglar try elsewhere. Check window and door locks and please remember not to leave keys inside locks, especially if you have a cat-flap or letterbox near the lock.

Now that all lawnmowers and strimmers have been put away for a while, please take the opportunity to review shed and garage security, as again, the dark evenings provide an excellent cover for the opportunist thief.

As Christmas approaches, please remember to leave nothing on display in your vehicle. Some of the large shopping centres are a magnet for thieves who will happily relieve you of the shopping left in your car.

Have a Happy Christmas, and I hope to see you in the New Year.

PC Lee Bennett - Beat Manager for the I/A Area



THE GREAT PUMPKIN

We all know the story about Jack who was given a handful of beans and ended up making his fortune, but do you know the one about the boy who was given a handful of pumpkin seeds by a well known Iron Acton gardener and through his best efforts made a small fortune for a very deserving cause?

This boy threw the seeds into a corner of the garden and forgot about them while he concentrated on other matters. The summer was warm and wet - ideal conditions for pumpkins and, one day, as autumn approached the boy was out walking in his garden when he came upon the biggest pumpkin he had ever seen - so enormous it took 4 men to carry it. The boy decided to contribute his prize pumpkin to the church which was being decorated for the Harvest Festival and there it lay in the chancel with all the other produce throughout the Harvest celebrations. The church was beautifully decorated with flowers, vegetables and fruits and berries from the hedgerows. It was a wonderful sight and everyone was amazed by the giant pumpkin.

On the following day an auction was held in the local hostelry, presided over by a well known local auctioneer. The beer flowed and produce changed hands amid feverish bidding by the assembled company. During the evening a competition was held to guess the weight of the giant pumpkin before it too was auctioned. The sight of serious faced villagers hugging the pumpkin as they tried to estimate its weight was one not to be forgotten in a hurry and the range of estimates was unbelievable. Finally, the result was announced - 60 kgs or 131.5 lbs. Exactly the same weight as the winning guesser. The pumpkin contributed £100 to the sum of £335 raised at the auction - which will be donated to the Southern African Famine Appeal. But the story of the giant pumpkin is not yet over. It will be made into soup and served at a famine Lunch to be held later in the year in aid of the same charity, and we hope the boy will dry and save a few of the pumpkin seeds towards next year's harvest and another successful village event.

THE TUESDAY CLUB

The Tuesday Club started off as one of those comments "there's nothing for the kids to do in the village". We had young children who were full of enthusiasm and energy that needed to be directed in some way, shape or form. So we decided to make enquiries about starting up an early evening club where children between 5 and 10 years of age from Iron Acton could socialise with their friends, out of school time, in a safe and friendly environment. South Gloucestershire Education Department was very helpful and encouraging, although a little surprised that a group of mums wanted to go to the trouble to set up a club for the children!!

We canvassed parents at Iron Acton Primary School and asked whether they would be interested in sending their children and the response we had was overwhelming. We wanted to keep a ratio of 1 adult to 6 children, but within days of our letter being sent to parents we had 25 children wanting to sign up!!

So, on 16 April 2002, the first session of the early evening club took place in the Parish Hall, with children from all over the village coming along. We asked the children what they wanted the club to be called, and so "The Tuesday Club" was born. Once the Club started, and word went around the playground at School, we soon had a waiting list. We currently have 10 children waiting to join in the fun. Thankfully, we also have a great group of mums who help out on a rota basis.

To some extent the children have dictated how the Club is run. We have a tuck shop where they can spend their 50p on sweets, crisps and drinks; we have a craft activity where the children can make anything from cards and funny flower pots through to bookmarks and friendship bracelets; we have an area where they can listen to music and create fascinating dance routines. One end of the Hall acts as a small 2-a-side football area, played with a foam football. They can play with board games, lego and building shapes. We also have a very large snakes and ladders game where the children themselves are the counters, as well as a Twister game that's great fun to watch.

So, there you are, that's how it all started and hopefully will continue. With the support and enthusiasm of the children and their parents we will still be going for a few more years yet.

Paula Evans / Sue Leyden / Alison Lovell



SONGS OF PRAISE

On 15 September a splendid service of Songs of Praise was held at the Parish Church. This celebration marked the introduction of the new hymn book, "Hymns Old and New", which includes many modern hymns as well as the old favourites we all love. All the village organisations were invited to contribute a hymn and a representative introduced each one by telling the congregation the reason for the choice. Not surprisingly, the WI chose "Jerusalem" which was rendered lustily by the congregation. All of the hymns chosen were well known and everyone seemed to be in good voice. It was a lovely, sunny evening and a great inauguration for the new hymn books. Anyone who would like to have a family event commemorated or a loved one remembered is invited to make a donation of £5 to the hymn book fund and a book will be suitably inscribed in the name of the family concerned. For further details please contact Revd Sue or any member of the Parochial Church Council.

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