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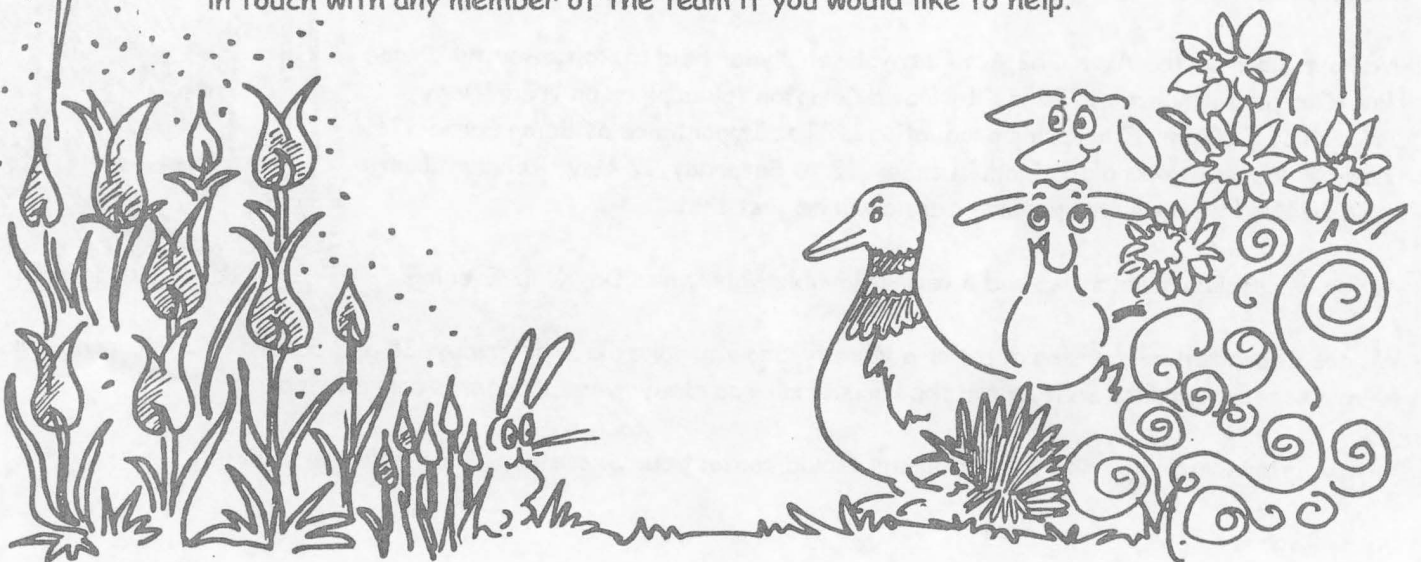
SPRING

ISSUE NO. 61

Spring has at last sprung after a long and cheerless winter and Iron Acton is liberally decorated with early blossom and banks of cheery daffodils. The days are lengthening and gardening prospects are good. It is a time for optimism and planning the regular celebrations so redolent of the English summer scene - May Day on the Village Green, open gardens, and summer fairs and fetes.

Looking back over previous issues of Focal Poyntz it is clear that the hopes and fears, joys and sorrows of our contributors have been expressed in its pages over the last 21 years. Sadly, we go to press at a time of serious national and international anxiety with troops assembling in the Middle East and politicians jettling to and fro in their efforts to resolve the current critical situation. We hope that by the time the Summer edition is published the present crisis will have been resolved peacefully.

A glance at the 'credits' page will reveal that the already small band of stalwarts who comprise our editorial team is dwindling. We really do need some new blood to share the load and bring exciting new ideas to future issues of the magazine. We know there's lots of talent out there so please give some thought to joining us and helping to keep Focal Poyntz alive. We need contributors, proof readers and people to help with general administrative tasks. Please get in touch with any member of the team if you would like to help.



IRON ACTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

Events and activities in school have been numerous over the last few months. These have included a number of musically talented visitors. In December a string quartet provided a welcome addition to our Christmas festivities. This was followed by a harmonica player who demonstrated and outlined the development of the harmonica to the children, impressing them immensely.



In January the hall reverberated to the sound of bagpipes when a local bagpipe player, Andy Workman, gave a wonderful demonstration of how they are played and where they originated from.

Bristol University gave a fascinating presentation about dinosaurs discovered in Bristol. The children were able to handle various dinosaur bones and found out that a Diplodocus was the length of our School Hall.

The children also took part in a successful sponsored "Winter Wellie Walk" which raised around £400 for school funds. As part of our outreach charity programme, the children helped raise money for the National Children's Home.

The Friends of Iron Acton School organised an "80's" evening in the Village Hall. This was well supported by a large number of villagers and helped raise essential funds for the school. A warm thank you for this.

Recently we were sent a picture dating back to the 1850's of the original school in Iron Acton. This has added to our archives and enabled us to do our own research into the history of the school. If anybody has old pictures or similar which could be added to the school collection I would be very interested.

The school remains a popular, successful and thriving establishment. The children experience a wide range of activities and really enjoy their time with us. If you would like a place at the school please do not hesitate to phone on 228322 or e-mail on head@ironacton-pri.s.gloucs.sch.uk

Karl Joyce / Headteacher

THE ACTONIANS

"The Lady's Not For Burning" was a great success; everyone enjoyed the costumes, set and dramatic content. We now have a case of life imitating art as the 2 central lovers, Thomas and Jennet, are going to marry in real life in May, so we wish Rob and Di every happiness.

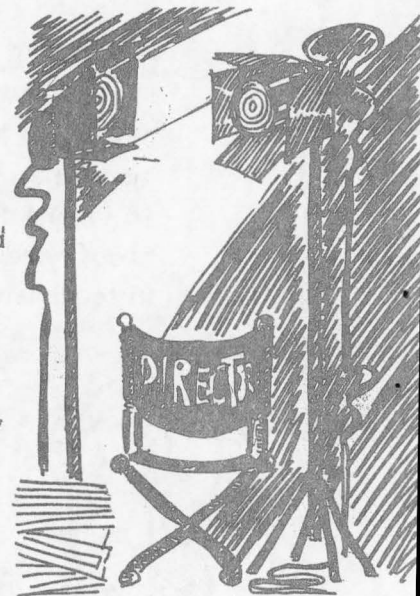
We have entered the Avon One Act Festival - this year held at Rangeworthy Village Hall. Our performance of "Relics" by David Compton takes place on Wednesday, 5 March at 7.30 pm. Our spring production is "The Importance of Being Earnest" by Oscar Wilde and takes place from Tuesday, 13 to Saturday, 17 May. Rehearsals are going well and we hope this popular classic will be just that.

As for our social calendar, we had a very enjoyable Valentine's Day Quiz Evening.

We are at present rehearsing acts for a Variety Show to take place on Friday, 28 and Saturday, 29 March. This is a fundraiser to buy raked seating for the Parish Hall - as always your support is appreciated.

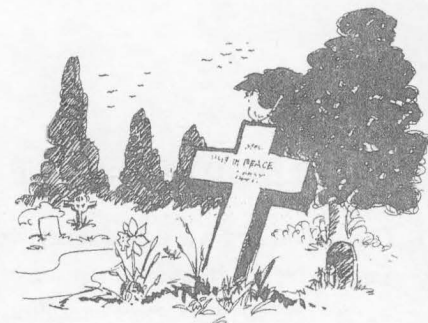
Anyone interested in joining the Actonians should contact our Secretary, Anne Aplin, on 228243.

Danny Rogers



ELIZABETH ROBERTS

Focal Poyntz has learned with sadness of the death of one of it's contributors. Elizabeth Roberts was born in Warrington, Lancashire. Even as a young child Elizabeth showed dedication in acquiring knowledge and disseminating it. She only missed 5 days of school ever (part of this absence was spent travelling for a music exam). Elizabeth certainly knew how to fill the unforbearing minute.



After school Elizabeth joined the Women's Auxiliary Airforce. Later on she worked for the BBC in Manchester and London in charge of information retrieval. She first came to the Bristol area 38 years ago when her late husband was offered a job at Chipping Sodbury Modern School.

Elizabeth had 4 children and 7 grandchildren. For a while she worked for Abbots Estate Agents. She is remembered as having a great talent for matching clients with properties.

Elizabeth was a tireless worker for many good causes particularly the environment which she cared about passionately. She founded the Winterbourne Recycling Group and Neighbourhood Watch Scheme. She was Publicity and Membership Secretary of the International Tree Foundation. She was a foundation member of Winterbourne Writers' Group.

Six years ago, when her health deteriorated, she came to live with her daughter and family in Iron Acton. She kept herself busy with a weekly column in the Evening Post on topical issues. She also contributed to other local publications. Elizabeth will always be remembered as a consummately kind person who, in a quiet unassuming way, used her lively intelligence to benefit the world around her. May she rest in peace! Nobody could have deserved it more.

IRON ACTON CRICKET CLUB

With the season due to start in a few weeks time, I am pleased to report that the Cricket Club is in good shape (metaphorically, not physically) and we are all looking forward to a successful season.

Our indoor nets have started and are being held every Tuesday evening at Thornbury Sports Centre from 8.30 pm to 9.30 pm in conjunction with Tortworth CC, not only so we can jointly raise enough players to make the nets worthwhile, but to also enable us to check out any new players they may've signed during the winter! If anyone is thinking about playing a few games for us this season, the nets can be a very relaxed way of getting to know everyone and finding out whether they can cope with our intensive pre-season training routines.

Our biggest problem this year is that our loyal band of tea-ladies has dwindled to the extent that it is no longer fair to ask the remaining few to prepare teas for all our home games on the current voluntary basis. If anyone from around the parish has the inclination to help us out on Sunday afternoons we are now in a position to pay them a reasonable wage for what is usually just a couple of hours of sandwich making.

If anyone would like to play a few games for us this season we are always looking for new players, so please get in touch.

Simon Cross / Chairman (228291)



NORTH ROAD LADIES CLUB

Our members were saddened to learn of the death of Eunice Parkin in December 2002. Eunice was a founder member of the North Road Ladies Club and entertained us on many occasions with stories recalling her childhood days. We hold fond memories of Eunice.



Despite the very cold weather at the beginning of January, 28 members attended our first meeting of 2003 to listen to Susan Marshfield talking about "The Lighter Side of Life" She had us all in stitches from the beginning to the end of her talk, which made for a very happy evening.

Yvonne Cox came along to our February meeting to tell us about "Hedgehog Rescue" which she runs from her home. We didn't realise there was so much to learn about hedgehogs and their habits. Yvonne brought along a hedgehog she had nursed back to health. His name is Fuzzypeg and he has now been adopted by our Club.

Our next meeting is on Monday, 3 March when we will be watching slides with a talk by Bernard Tapp entitled "Ladakh, the Last Shangri-la" and on 31 March a group of members, with husbands and friends, will be going to the Bristol Hippodrome to see "Miss Saigon".

As a result of our charity fundraising during 2002 we were able to send a cheque for £100 to BUST. Our 2003 charity is Christmas Child and members will be busy knitting and collecting items to fill shoe boxes for Christmas in readiness for needy children overseas.

Our programme for the next 3 months is as follows:

Monday, 7 April	The Babygrow Project in Zimbabwe - talk and slides by Lesley Coppin
Monday, 12 May	Flower Arranging with Jean Drew
Monday, 2 June	Summer gardening - talk and slides by Mr D Everitt



We have 34 club members so far this year - which is very encouraging. New members, or visitors, are always most welcome to join us at any of our meetings. Meetings are held in North Road CP School commencing at 7.30 pm.

June Rycroft / Secretary

ST JAMES THE LESS PARENT AND TODDLER GROUP

It is encouraging to see the village thriving with new, young families. So much so that it was necessary to host a coffee morning for new and expectant mums. These families are now gradually joining in our group. Our end of term parties are now even more exciting due to us being able to join a toy hire scheme including bouncy castles!!

We finish for the Easter holidays on Friday, 11 April and return on Friday, 2 May, in the Marshall Room, from 10.30 am to 12.00 pm.

See you at the skittle stall on Monday, 5 May!

If you are interested in joining our group please contact Chris Bellis on 228065 or Lisa Hatherell on 228725.

Chris Bellis / 228065



ST JAMES THE LESS - IRON ACTON

EASTER SERVICES

... "and they took palm branches"

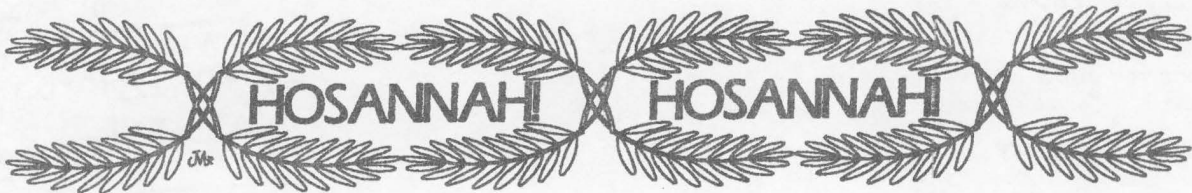
PALM SUNDAY - SUNDAY, 13 APRIL 2003
10.30 am

Starting at The Parish Hall Car Park

Iron Acton's very own Palm Procession to Church,
along the High Street, with Eyore the donkey,
and Graham on the piano accordion,
carrying palm branches and crosses,
singing the praises of Jesus,
who entered Jerusalem in triumph on His way to die.

A Sung Eucharist follows in church for the adults,
while there are activities for the children in the Marshall Room

All Are Welcome!



Services for the rest of Holy Week and Easter at your Parish Church

Wednesday,	16 April	10.30 am	Holy Communion
Maundy Thursday,	17 April	6.00 pm	Holy Communion and Stripping the Altars
Good Friday,	18 April	6.00 pm	Stations of the Cross
Easter Day,	20 April	9.00 am	Sung Eucharist of Easter

ACTON AID

After a year in which Acton Aid members made a significant contribution to the Jubilee Day Celebrations and organised the second parish bonfire and fireworks night, we enter 2003 with the confident intent to continue to raise funds to support parish organisations and individuals.

Already this year we have held one of our quarterly programme of talks when Dr John Naish gave an illuminating talk on the disparate members of the Lunar Society. This was followed in February by the Chairman's Dinner, when 50 members and guests enjoyed excellent food, wine, company and entertainment at The Lamb. Full marks to Brendan, Tracey and their team! The entertainment was provided by Alex and Dominic, who were joined by a selection of willing buskers as the evening progressed.

At the AGM in February the following officers were appointed for the coming year:

Chairman	Hayden Rickard
Vice Chairman	Paul Townsend
Treasurer	Patrick Murphy
Secretary	Ashley Mee
Services	Colin Smith
Publicity	David Hatherall

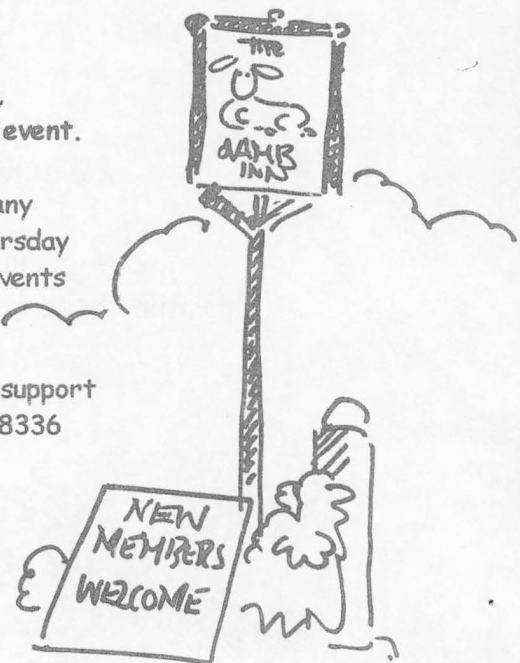
The next in our programme of talks will take place on Thursday, 3 April at 8.30 pm in the Lamb. For more details of this event look out for circulars, or give me a call on 228540. ALL parishioners are welcome to attend this event.

Anyone interested in finding out more about Acton Aid is invited to contact any of the officers, or call in and join us at the Lamb at 8.00 pm on the first Thursday of each month.. Meetings have the minimum of formality, with fund raising events and the distribution of resources discussed and planned over a pint or two.

Finally, if readers are aware of any parishioners who would benefit from the support of Acton Aid they are welcome to contact, in confidence, our Chairman on 228336 or Secretary on 228540.

Best wishes for 2003

Ashley Mee / Secretary



CONGRATULATIONS TO JOHN NAISH

Who's been presented with a silver gardening fork by the National Gardens Scheme in recognition of his services to the charity. Algars Manor has been open to the public as part of the NGS for over 40 years and has raised a significant amount of money for the charity which is divided amongst several charities, including the Queen's Nursing Institute and the Macmillan Cancer Relief Fund.

POPPY APPEAL 2002

Once again the time has come to inform you how the Poppy Appeal was received in the Iron Acton Districts and to also give my thanks to those who helped by taking on the unenviable task of visiting most of the houses in the district with their collecting trays and boxes, extracting donations.

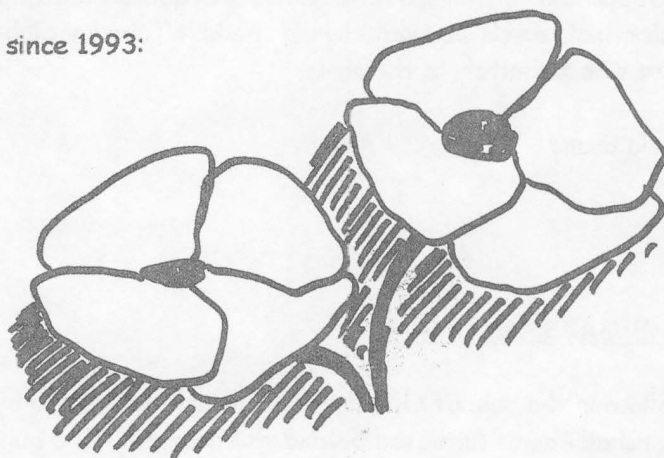
Thank you everyone for all your efforts, not forgetting those who gave up an evening to count the contents of the boxes, and also a great big thank you to the shops, businesses, pubs and cafes who allowed me to put trays and boxes on their counters and those, too modest to say so, who added substantial donations of their own. Once again, thank you to all those who helped.

Each year I invariably start off finding difficulty in obtaining house-to-house collectors but as usual a little persuasion, and even some gentle arm twisting, produces results and several new collectors have joined our team.

Regarding the financial achievement, this year like all previous years, we have managed to increase our donation. This time the amount was £1416.86 (representing an increase of £195.76 or 16% on 2001's total). Well done everybody!

It may be of interest to show you what we have achieved since 1993:

1993	£435.81
1994	£601.68
1995	£714.60
1996	£816.86
1997	£976.57
1998	£1031.45
1999	£1098.39
2000	£1143.26
2001	£1221.07
2002	£1416.86



Dave White / District Honorary Organiser

Iron Acton Parish Meeting

Friday, 25 April 2003

8.00 pm

Iron Action Parish Hall

All Parishioners Welcome!

THE TUESDAY CLUB

We are still going strong with a group of 25 really great kids who keep turning up week after week (so we must be doing something they enjoy!). Alison, Sue and I are always grateful to the mums and dads who are able to help. We are especially grateful to Jahana Brindle who comes every week to help us out looking after the Tuck Shop.



We ended the Autumn 2002 term with a party for the children and Father Christmas paid us a very unexpected visit! He managed to make time in his very busy schedule. He spoke to all the children individually and handed them a small gift.

Still our activity table is usually the first place the children come to, to see if we are making or painting anything that appeals to them. We've recently branched out into glass painting, with some pretty amazing results! The Valentine's cards we made during the last Tuesday Club before half term appealed to both the girls and the boys. Love was definitely in the air!!

Paula Evans

THE MARSHALL ROOM

Following the sale of Church House, which was owned by The Marshall Trust, the proceeds were used to build the Marshall Rooms (situated behind the church). This building was intended to replace the facilities previously available to the village in Church House and which, over the years, had been used as a reading room, meeting room and home for the 1st Iron Acton Girl Guides. These days the St James the Less Mother and Toddler Group meets there each Friday morning.

We would like to remind parishioners that this building is available for their use for meetings, small family gatherings, etc. If anyone is interested in taking up this opportunity, please contact Hazel Dron on 228509.

CONTRIBUTIONS!

Are there any brave souls out there who would like to produce a cover for any of our future Spring, Summer or Winter editions? It needs to be on A4, with a white background, photocopyable (I think I've just made that word up!) and drawings/outlines/etc predominantly in black to aid reproduction. Contact ANY member of the team! We need contributions! There is NO age limit at either end of the scale. What about some of our younger villagers having a bash?

Also, we don't seem to be receiving many of the one-off type articles that used to be a fixture of our pages. Do you have anything topical, whimsical, even controversial?? We'd love to receive your items.

EVENTS AT ACTON COURT - 2003

Acton Court will be open to the public from 2 July to 7 September, excluding Mondays except Bank Holidays. Access to Weekend Special Events is by pre-booked ticket only. Pre-booking for Blue Badge Tours is not always essential but is advisable as places are limited. Regrettably, we cannot guarantee access if tours are full.

Group Bookings:

We charge a standard rate of £100 per tour, maximum 25 persons. Advance booking is essential. For group bookings and any other queries, ring the Acton Court Information Line on 228224 or e-mail on actonct@dircon.co.uk

Access to Acton Court is with a professional guide only. Allow approximately one hour for the tour. Please wear soft-soled shoes (absolutely no stilettos!).

Blue Badge Tours:

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

Weekday Tour Times: 2.00 pm and 3.30 pm every day excluding Mondays and Friday 1 August.

Weekend Tour Times: 2.00 pm and 3.30 pm on 6, 19, 20 July, 16, 31 August and 6 September

20 places per tour; tickets £5.00 and £3.50 concessions

SPECIAL EVENTS

Sunday, 6 July The Chandos Singers of Bath "Open the House"

The season begins with one of the Roman City's most respected choirs and a programme of music that was composed and performed during the time when the Poyntz family lived at Acton Court. Directed by Malcolm Hill.

3.00 pm / 60 seats / tickets £8.00 and £6.00 concessions

Saturday, 12 July A Tapestry of Words and Music for a Tudor House

A view of Tudor England through the songs and letters, verse and prose of those who were witnesses to the Reformation, the Renaissance and the full flowering of the English language. Performed by Brenda Page (narrator), Scott Baker (lute) and Tom Sherman (actor).

Two performances at 3.00 pm and 7.00 pm / 60 seats / Tickets £8.00 and £6.00 concessions

Sunday, 13 July Open Painting Day

The site will be open to artists to come and paint at Acton Court. All mediums except oil paints. Tea, coffee and light refreshments supplied. Bring your own lunch.

10.00 am to 4.00 pm / 30 places / tickets £8.00

Saturday, 26 and Sunday, 27 July Hawk and Owl Weekend

Saturday, 26 August: Open Afternoon Charity Event

Come and visit the Acton Court grounds and join in activities to support The Hawk and Owl Trust. Chris Sperring, wildlife broadcaster, will be here with Cotleigh, the Barn Owl, to give advice and lead a nature walk. There will be a slide show, a tit box building workshop and other activities.

2.00 pm to 5.00 pm / tickets £2.00 at the door

Saturday Evening 26 August An Evening with British Owls

Join Chris Sperring MBE for a talk and slide show about British Owls followed by an owl prowling around the grounds of Acton Court.

7.00 pm / 30 places only, tickets £8.00

Sunday, 27 July Falconry Display

Special tours of the house, concentrating on hunting in Tudor times and including a Falconry Display.

2.00 pm to 5.00 pm / 60 places / tickets £8.00 and £6.00 concessions

Friday, 1 - Sunday, 3 August Harp Weekend with Jan Walters

Come and hear harps in the beautiful environment of Acton Court, with workshops, informal master classes, a lecture and concerts. We begin with a recital by historical harpist, Jan Walters, on Friday evening, featuring music and harps spanning 5 centuries, and end with an informal student concert on Sunday afternoon. Other events include a lecture by Simon Capp, an early harp maker, and classes on accompanying with harp, continuo and a "hands on" session with a variety of early harps. All levels and all harps welcome!

Friday Evening, 1 August Recital by Jan Walters

7.30 pm / 65 places / £10.00 and £8.00 concessions

Saturday, 2 August Workshops

9.30 am to 5.00 pm

Observer tickets: 9.30 am to 12.30 pm and 2.00 pm to 5.00 pm / 15 places each session / tickets £2.00

Sunday, 3 August Workshop, Lecture, Student Concert

11.00 am Lecture by Simon Capp / 30 places / £2.00

3.00 pm Student Concert / 50 places / £2.00

For information on, or how to join, the workshops contact Jan Walters on 01749 812429

Saturday, 9 and Sunday, 10 August Archaeological Weekend

"The Excavations and Household Objects Found at Acton Court" - Rob Bell

"The History and Restoration of the Buildings and Architectural Finds" - Kirsty Rodwell

Acton Court archaeologists, Kirsty Rodwell and Rob Bell, will give talks and slide presentations focusing on the finds and archaeological excavations at Acton Court including a "walk round" the house.

Saturday, 9 August

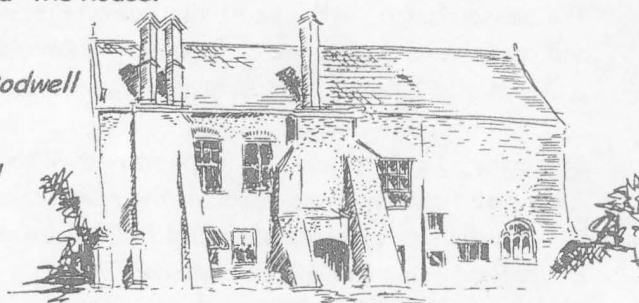
11.00 am-12.30 pm / Rob Bell

2.30 pm-4.00 pm / Kirsty Rodwell

Sunday, 10 August

11.00 am-12.30 pm / Kirsty Rodwell 2.30 pm-4.00 pm / Rob Bell

50 places for each talk / £8.00 and £6.00 concessions



Sunday, 17 August Frottola "The French Ambassadors"

A sound picture of one of Holbein's most brilliant works, "The Ambassadors" painted in 1533. Jennie Cassidy (voice) with Philip Thorby (viol and recorder) and Jacob Heringman (lute).

3.00 pm / 60 seats / £12.00 and £8.00 concessions

Saturday, 23 to Monday, 25 August The House's Birthday! JMD - Hampton Court Guides

For Bank Holiday weekend only, these guides in authentic Tudor costume will lead tours which offer a fascinating glimpse into the public and private lives of Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn. They explore the social life of the Court and explain 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. Allow one hour.

Tour Times: 11.15 am, 12.30 pm, 2.45 pm and 3.30 pm / 25 places per tour / £6.00 and £4.00 concessions

Saturday, 30 August "Painting Mood"

A painting day, with expert tuition, exploring expression of atmosphere. All mediums except oil paints. Tea, coffee and a light lunch supplied.

10.00 am - 4.00 pm / 20 places / £12.00 per person

Sunday, 7 September Musica Fabula "Closing the House"

Come and help us close the house for a season with our final concert; a programme of exquisitely beautiful and rarely heard Georgian music. Rachel Elliot (soprano) and Jan Walters (historical harps).

4.00 pm / 65 seats / £12.00 and £10.00 concessions

IRON ACTON WI

We ended last year with our AGM. My shackles are still in place as President, Anna Tillotson's managed to escape from being Secretary (Judy Park has moved from vice to Secretary and, to escape from being treasurer, Carole Orley had moved to Wales last autumn and her place has been taken by Elizabeth Edwards.



Once the formalities of the evening were over (as fast as decently possible) we moved on to guzzle and munch our way through hot mulled wine, home made mince pies and sausage rolls. Usually our meetings whiz by and we don't get too much opportunity to natter (groans of disbelief from all the husbands reading this) and so December always provides a pleasant opportunity to catch up with each others' news. It's good that the second Monday (our meeting night) is close enough for it to feel Christmassy but not close enough for panic to be rising over too much to do and not enough time to do it. Gluttons for punishment, we still managed to find time to finish off the evening in the warm environs of the Rose and Crown.

Anyone who has to try to plan a year's selection of speakers will tell you that the most important thing is to try and have as diverse a range as possible - so you annoy a small number of people each month, rather than annoying a big bunch of them for the whole year! 2003, we think, proves, how diverse we can be!

January saw the return of Peter Goodchild with his slides showing "Royal Occasions". It was a gentle, breaking in to the year. In February Graham Darley came to explain the trials and tribulations faced by those who are either partially or severely deaf, and also the ways they can be helped. We even had a go at signing the alphabet. March gave the welcome return of Susan Marshfield to tell us about the Lighter Side of Life. Susan's one of those ladies who looks slightly Margaret Thatcherish, and then she starts to talk and you can't believe what you're hearing. I wonder how many dared to go back home and repeat the one about the crocodile and the male circus performer's very important places?? Don't let anyone say the WI doesn't have a sense of humour (yes, I will repeat it if anyone asks me, but I don't think it would be appreciated by ALL the FP readers!).

We thought we ought to get headucated so in April so we've got someone coming to tell us the history of the WI (although maybe we should've known about this years ago) and in May we've got a trip planned to Algars Manor. If anyone's planning a holiday, in England, DON'T go the second week in May - this will be our third or fourth attempt at going around the gardens and we've had all sorts of rain up to monsoon level each time we've tried. You don't need a rain dance only the WI! In June Yvonne Cox, the Hedgehog Lady's, coming to talk to us. We heard about her from Elizabeth Edwards as I turned up one morning with yet another load of magazines for Elizabeth to delivery and she invited me in as she'd taken over 3 of Yvonne's "overflow" and was hand rearing three of the most minuscule baby hedgehogs you've ever seen. They were adorable (even if they bemused the dog). So we're all collecting tins of cat food like mad to help out with the feeding regime and in July we're all looking forward to a trip to Leyhill Prison Gardens to see what they're doing and to listen to Jeff Goundrill- the gentleman who's masterminded their Chelsea and Hampton Court Gold Medal gardens.

Join us (if you dare!!), 2nd Monday of the Month, at 7.30 pm - usually in the Village Hall but sometimes not!

Lynne Blanchard / 228566

NEXT EDITION OF FOCAL POYNTZ

The distribution weekend for the Summer Focal Poyntz is planned for Saturday, 2 and Sunday, 3 August. Lynne's aiming to get them to our distributors by Sunday, 27 July ready for delivery by the end of the following weekend.

Hopefully, by the time you read this, all regular contributors and distributors will have received the Focal Poyntz Schedule for 2003 and Spring 2004. If you are missed off the list or you'd like a copy please ring Lynne on 228566. Her advancing years make her somewhat forgetful at times!

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

Parish Council work is often concerned with the minutiae of life - footpaths are small when compared to the highways which are the concern of larger authorities, but they are important to those of us who use them - or attempt to use them when they are overgrown. We have been very much encouraged by the appreciative comments that have been received following recent tidy-ups. If there is a particular footpath that you use that is in need of attention please bring it to the attention of your councillors - remembering that our footpaths are country tracks not suburban pedestrian walk-ways.

This should be borne in mind by the plotters of the Parish Easy Access Trail when they ask for it to be accessible by pushchairs. Anyone who has walked through this season's mud near Algar's Manor will know that if it was made accessible by pushchairs at all seasons its character would be ruined.

One project of ours that is about to come to fruition is the Millenium Book or, to give it its rightful title, "Iron Acton: the Parish with a Heart of Oak" which is currently with the printers. This little book (which gives local historian, Patricia Alcock's account of our village's history) will be available to purchase soon - possibly as soon as May Day.

Any other historians out there, especially those interested in our ancient field boundaries, are invited to attend a free event at Dyrham Park on 20 March. The project aims to survey all the hedges and dry stone walls in South Gloucestershire and Bath and North East Somerset in order to find the ancient and species rich ones and to also find out more about their current condition and management. The survey is being done parish by parish and volunteers can do as much or as little as they like. Further details can be obtained from Sally Pattison on 01225 477505.

Ann Aplin

THE FRIENDS OF IRON ACTON SCHOOL

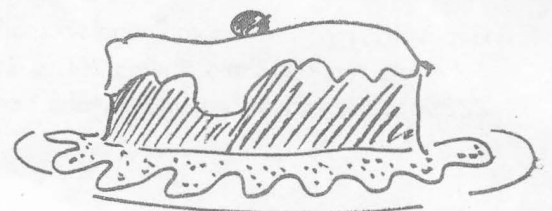
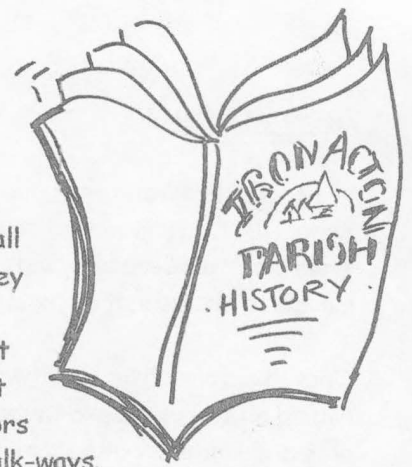
The 80's Party Night in the Parish Hall in January proved to be a great success. It was wonderful to see so many people joining in the fun with some wonderful fashion statements of the 80's. Prince Charming, Adam Ant, Phil Oakley and Boy George were all in attendance, to name but a few. Oh yes, if Boy George would like to get in touch with the Friends' Committee we believe we may have something in our possession which he might have mislaid during the evening!!

The music was excellent, the food was plentiful and the drinks kept flowing during the evening. The quiz had a number of people scratching their heads and was eventually won by the Black Salamander Team.

We raised over £600 for the School and had great fun doing it. I would just like to say a big thank you to everyone who helped organise the evening. So, fresh from the success of the 80's evening, watch out for posters advertising our 70's Party Night.

Our future events include a Plant and Cake Sale on 4 April at 3.15 pm in the School, and our Summer Fair will be on the evening of Friday, 4 July - also at the School. So, please feel free to come along and support the School.

Paula Evans / Chair



IRON ACTON HORTICULTURAL SHOW SATURDAY 6TH SEPTEMBER 2003



"TIPS AND WRINKLES"

Following on from last year's show, and comments made at the time by the various judges and participants, we have put together a few helpful hints that we hope will help you with your entries for this year's show.

Garden Section

- For interest and education value the Show would be greatly enhanced if the name of the variety, species or genus are given. Accurate and neat labelling is essential.
- Stage exhibits as attractively as possible.

The Judge will look for the following points and mark accordingly:

- **Condition:** Freshness, cleanliness, tenderness and freedom from coarseness and blemishes.
- **Size:** Not so overgrown as to be coarse or too small to be useful. This will vary with cultivars.
- **Uniformity:** Size, shape or form, colour and maturity.
- **Colour:** Attractive and naturally produced.
 - Apples/Pears: Stalks and eyes intact
 - Plums: Stalks intact.
 - Beans: Cut from plant with a short stalks and staged in a neat row.
 - Beetroot: Small tap roots, leaves removed leaving approx 3 inches of leaf stalk.
 - Carrots: Good uniform shape. Tender roots free from side roots.
 - Courgettes: Any colour, but well matched, 4-6 inches in length.
 - Cucumbers: Straight and of uniform thickness.
 - Onions: Tops neatly tied and roots neatly trimmed. Uniform size and colour.
 - Shallots: Necks neatly tied. Firm, well ripened bulbs of good colour.
 - Potatoes: Medium size good shape. Skins should never be scrubbed.
 - Tomatoes: Medium sized, ripe but firm, stalk intact.

Homecraft Section

Bread

- Bread should be baked 24 hours before judging.
- 1lb dough is used to make a 1lb loaf, not a 1lb of flour.
- No glaze needed.

Victoria Sponge

- No cooling rack marks on top of cake.
- Cake should be presented on a plate with a sweet doily
- Victoria Sponge should be topped with caster sugar, not icing sugar.

Rich Fruit Cake

- Top should be flat, or almost flat.
- No burnt or hard fruit on the outside.
- Texture fine and moist, but not wet, heavy or soggy.

Biscuits

- Uniform in size.
- Baked through until crisp and should snap when broken.
- Approximately 1/8 inch thick, and 2-2 1/2 inches cutter.
- Fluted cutter for sweet, plain for savoury biscuits.

Apple Tart

- Cooked on a plate/shallow dish with lining layer of pastry, fruit filling and covered by a layer of pastry.
- Edged neatly 'knocked up' or fluted.
- Pastry cooked through and crisp, slightly domed.
- No decoration or glaze but finished with a light scattering of caster sugar.
- Small hole may be made on top to allow the escape of steam.
- Fruit in good proportion to pastry.
- Served on a cooking plate

Chutney

- Keep at least two months before showing.
- Covers for vinegar preserves must prevent evaporation and should not be liable to corrosion due to presence of vinegar (for example twist tops with plastic lining, pliable plastic on traditional jam jars).
- Must be a good fit - suggestion Kilner Jar
- Do not use cellophane cover.

Scones

- 2-2 1/2 inches in diameter.
- Plain cutter.
- No glaze but may be dusted with flour before baking.
- Should be even in shape, almost as tall as round.

Quiche

- A pastry flan base, with a savoury egg custard filling, which is cooked together with a pastry base.
- Pastry even at edges and not too thick.
- Filling adequate without spilling over. Uniformly chopped/diced and flavoursome

Jams, Jellies, Marmalades

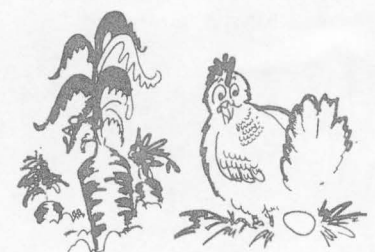
- The first thing the judge looks for is the seal. This shows that the item is actually worthy of the term *preserve*.
- Lids should always be put on freshly potted sugar preserves, immediately each jar is filled, when hot.

This can be achieved by:

- Twist top (only), not screw top.
- A wax disc (covered with cellophane top when cooled).
- No wax disc is needed under a twist top or plastic top.

Eggs

- Presented on a plate, with container into which judge may break egg.
- Uniform in size, colour and shape.
- Shells free from stains and dirt, good texture.



The Organisers would like to thank you for supporting the Horticultural Show last year.

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 of 6 Double and 6 Single Asters.

GOLDEN JUBILEE CUP - Most Entries in all Sections by any One Family.

GENERAL SECTION

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

MECRAFT SECTION

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| 43. 6 Chicken Eggs | 55. A Loaf of Bread (not electric Bread Maker) |
| 44. 6 Eggs (any other variety) | 56. An Apple Tart |
| 45. 1 Pot of Jam | |
| 46. 1 Pot of Jelly | <u>A Handicraft Article to Include:</u> |
| 47. 1 Pot of Marmalade | |
| 48. 1 Jar of Honey | 57. A Painting, Sketch or Drawing; Framed or Unframed, Any Subject. |
| 49. 1 Jar of Chutney | 58. A Knitted Garment |
| 50. Victoria Sponge (3 eggs) | 59. A Crocheted Article |
| 51. A Quiche | 60. A Childrens Toy |
| 52. A Rich Fruit Cake | 61. A Kit Tapestry/Cross Stitch |
| 53. Plate of 6 Biscuits | 62. An Original Tapestry/Cross Stitch |
| 54. 6 Plain Scones | |

FLOWER ARRANGING (Rose Bowl to Winner)

63. Small Arrangement (Not more than 12" high x 9" wide)
64. Dried Arrangement
65. Autumn Foliage Arrangement
66. Favourite Container Arrangement
67. Subject Arrangement - A Named Book or Song Title

PHOTOGRAPHY SECTION

68. Photograph entitled "Reflection"
69. Photograph of Parent & Child
70. Photograph entitled "Holiday" (under 16's)

CHILDREN'S SECTION

Pre-School

71. 6 Decorated Fairy Cakes
72. Painting (any subject)

4, 5, 6 YEARS

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

7, 8, 9, 10 Years

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

11, 12, 13, 14 Years

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



WE HOPE YOU ENJOY THE SHOW, AND THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

15

FOCAL POYNTZ INFORMATION:

Your Focal Poyntz Team is:

Lionel Alsop
228400

Lynne Blanchard
228566

Maureen Blake
294381

Hazel Dron
228509

Roy Hubbard
228356

Barrie and Rona Wright
228247

Deliveries are ably carried out by:

Lionel Alsop
Lynne Blanchard
The Bradley Family
Hazel Dron
Elizabeth Edwards
Andrew Gowen
John Griffen
Chris Heal

Roy Hubbard
Ashley Mee
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 was first used 11 years ago in 1992 and we thought it deserved another airing in 2003. The artist is one Maureen Blake!

The FP Committee greatly appreciates and has accepted Ashley Mee's kind offer to deliver the magazine in Chilwood Close, Algars Drive and Nibley Lane. Ashley confirms the principle "if you want something done ask a busy person"!

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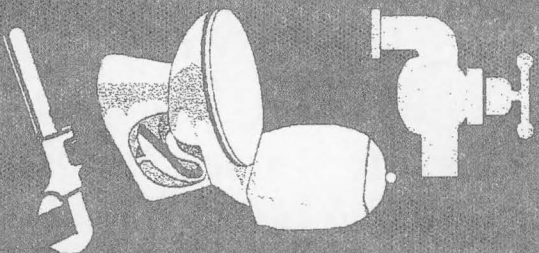
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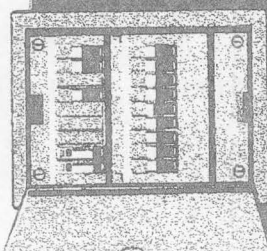
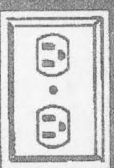
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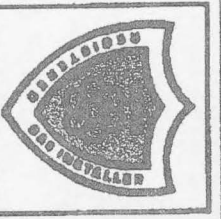
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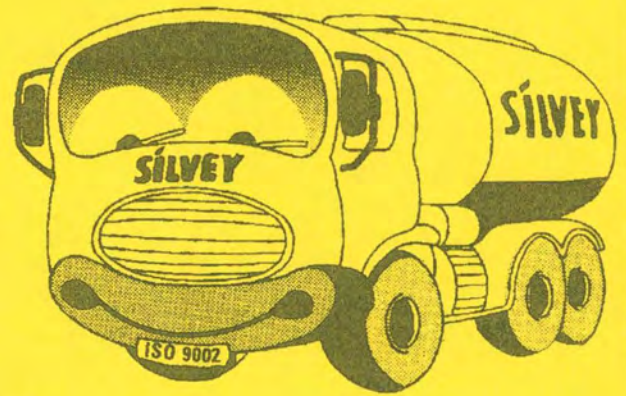


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