

Focal Point

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 designed by Claire from Iron Acton School and was first used in issue number 57 - we thought it was so nice that we'd use it again for this year's winter edition.

Addendum

Lynne's fingers were in the wrong places when she typed Howard Gawler's telephone number in the last issue. If you need to contact Howard his correct number is 01454 228519. Lynne apologises!

THE FRIENDS OF IRON ACTON SCHOOL

We had a very successful Summer Fair in the school grounds on 4 July. The weather was very kind to us and the turnout was great. It was lovely to see the Mother and Toddler Group, and a big "thank you" goes out to everyone who helped and to those who supported us.

We had a brilliant End of Term Disco to say cheerio to our Year 6 children. Hopefully they move onto their new schools taking fond memories with them.

The Annual Sponsored Wellie Walk takes place on 24 October, come rain or shine, with the children tucking into gallons of very welcome hot chocolate and marshmallow after the event!

We will be holding our Christmas Bazaar at the beginning of December in the School Hall. We've already sent our invitation to Father Christmas so we're guaranteed a visit from him and possibly Rudolf! There will be all sorts of Christmassy things on sale, together with home produce and small gifts. There will also be some games for the children to play such as "Pin the Tail on Rudolf" (not the real one, of course!). Please feel free to come along and join us for a cup of tea and a slice of cake.

Following on from the success of our 80's night back in January, plans are in hand for another "Blast from the Past" evening of music and nostalgia. Again this will be at the end of January 2004 so we can all try to forget those Winter blues! Watch out for posters advertising the date. We had a cracking evening last time and raised a wonderful amount of money for the school. Hopefully we can do the same again.

Paula Evans / Chair

ACTON AID

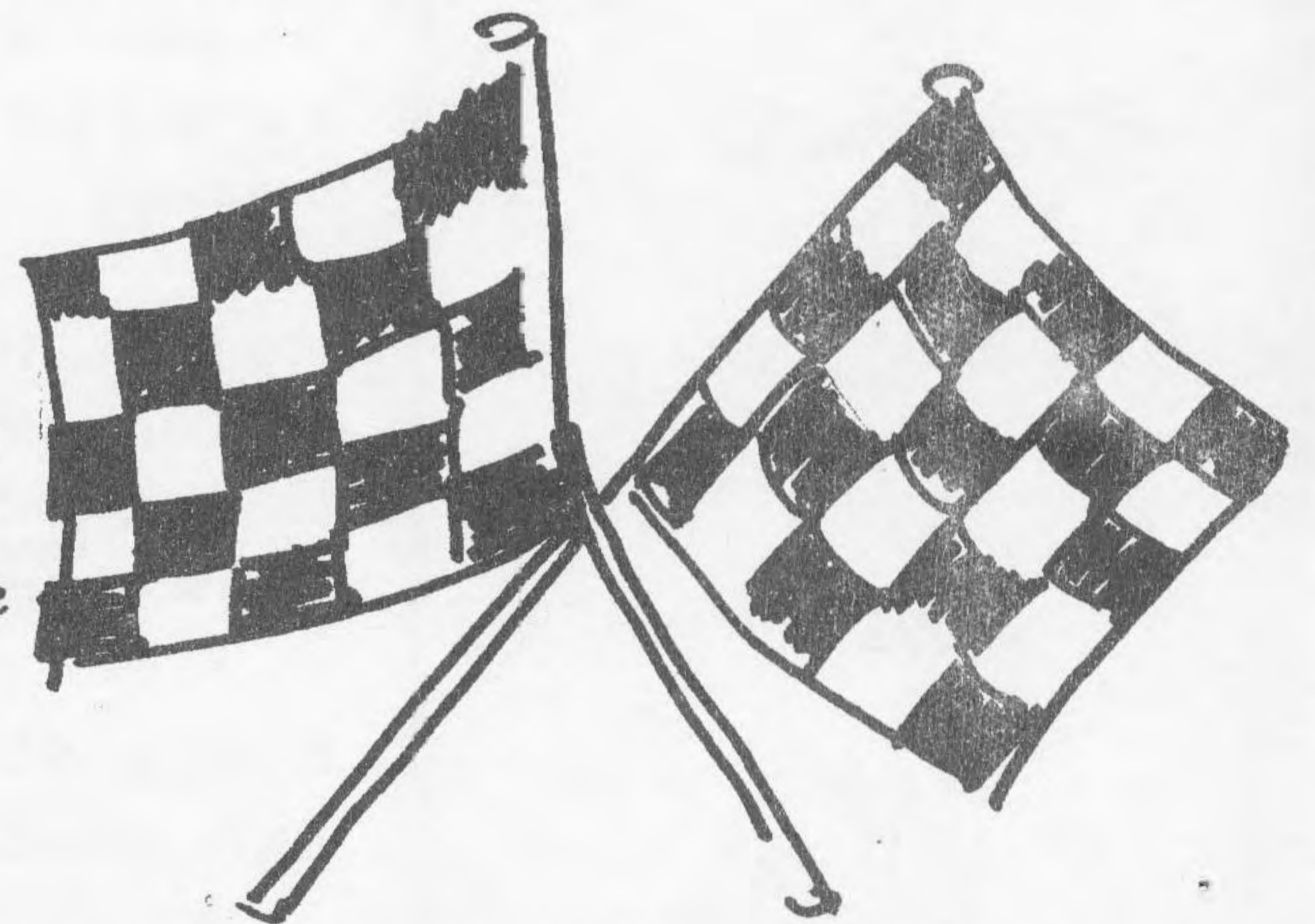
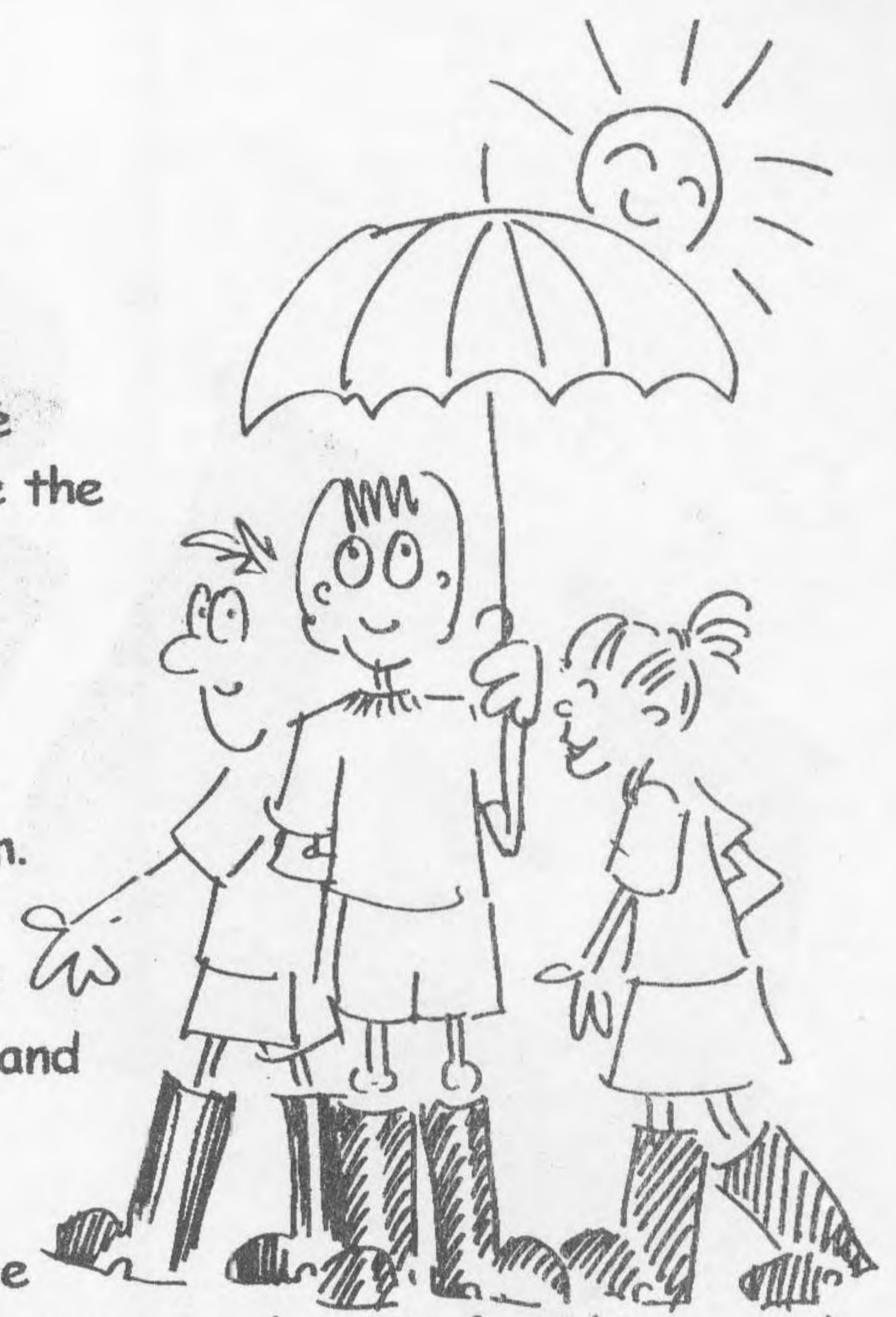
The next event in the Acton Aid calendar is 1 January 2004 when we will be holding the inaugural Iron Acton 500 Scaletrix Grand Priz at the Lamb. The Function Room will be converted into a race track and the starter's flag will drop at 2.00 pm for a children's session. Later in the afternoon we will stage heats for the main team event, the finals of which will be held later in the evening. Look out for posters with entry details nearer the event but, in the meantime, make a diary note for an exciting and varied event to lift those New Year blues! The next in our programme of talks is scheduled for Thursday 5 February when Patricia Allcock, author of the recently published book, will talk about the history of Iron Acton. This will be in the Function Room of the Lamb at 8.00 pm and is open to all parishioners.

If anyone is interested in giving a talk in the future, or knows of someone who may be interested I would be delighted to hear from you.

Any parishioner who wants to find out more about Acton Aid is invited to contact one of the officers, or call in and join us in 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).

Ashley Mee / Secretary



Winter

ISSUE (63)

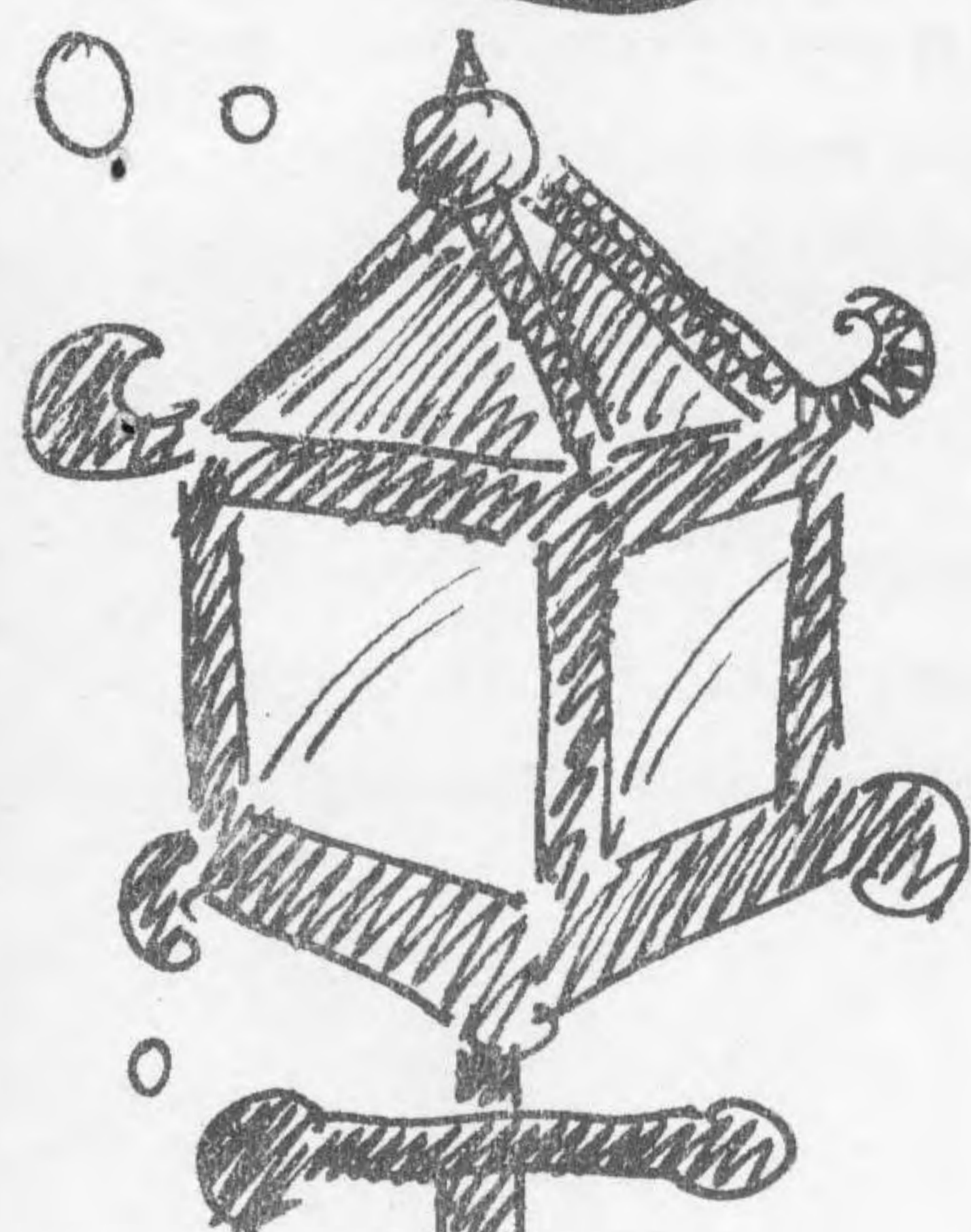
As another year comes to an end (they seem to whiz by so quickly) we would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for supporting Focal Poyntz.

We value the contributions from our village organisations who provide the backbone of the magazine and we are grateful to those people who deliver the magazine to each far flung corner of the parish (and 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.

We like to think that Focal Poyntz reflects the values and opinions of Iron Acton residents so, 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.

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



ST JAMES THE LESS CHURCH - IRON ACTON

CHRISTMAS SERVICES 2003

Sunday, 21 December 6.00 pm Christmas Carol Service
by Candlelight

CHRISTMAS EVE

Wednesday, 24 December 6.30 pm Crib Service
*Children and their families
are warmly invite to this informal service*

11.30 pm Midnight Mass

CHRISTMAS DAY

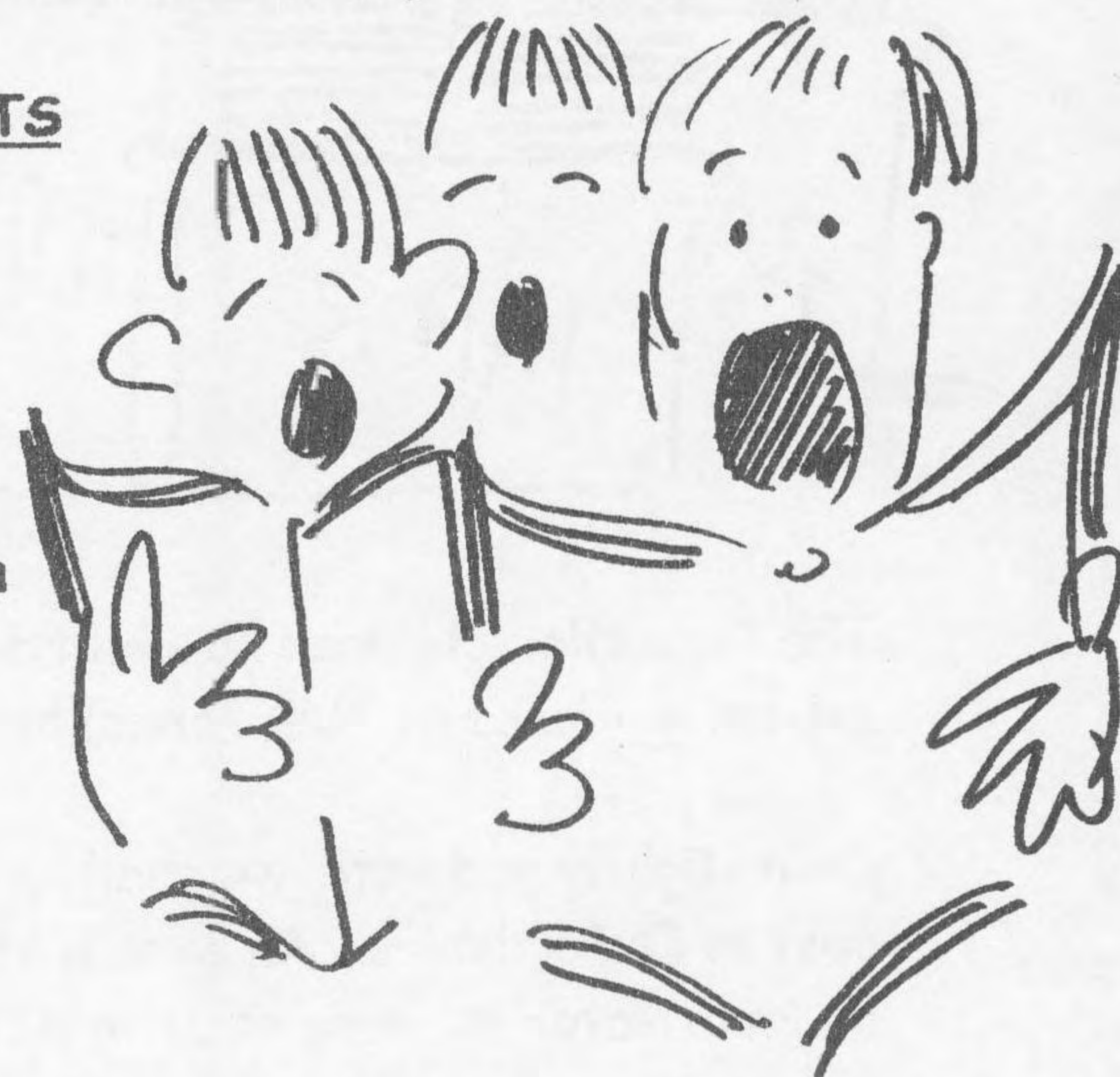
Thursday, 25 December 9.00 am Family Communion
Short and informal for all the family

FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS / FEAST OF HOLY INNOCENTS

Sunday, 28 December 9.00 am Eucharist

EPIPHANY

Sunday, 4 January 9.00 am Family Communion
& Children's Church



THE LATE MR CARTER

A collection was made at the time of Norman Carter's death among his many friends and neighbours and a seat was purchased in his memory. The Parish Council agreed to place this at the allotments in Nibley Lane where he spent much of his time in his later years. Hopefully this will be put into the allotments soon.

Val Pitman

From the Focal Poyntz Committee:

When we received Val's item we though we would give the Parish Council the opportunity to respond through our magazine and so FP's intrepid reporter, Bulldog Blanchard, duly trecked along to the October Parish Council Meting. Hopefully we will receive an article from the Parish Council for our next edition but, in the meantime, a summary of the comments made at the meeting would be that the Parish Council accepts the seat purchased in memory of Norman needs to be sited in the Allotments and that this has not yet happened. They are currently waiting for a local contractor (who has agreed to undertake the work) to remove a swathe of turf which will allow the concrete base to be laid and then the seat can be properly positioned.

IRON ACTON CEVC PRIMARY SCHOOL

This has already been the busiest term that I have ever known as Head Teacher of Iron Acton. Class 2 went on an excellent educational visit to Caerleon and Class 3 went to St Fagans to study Tudor housing as part of their history topic. Both trips took place within the first 3 weeks of term.

In addition to this, the children have once again benefitted from the brilliance of Carol Conolly who has been putting Class 3 through an excellent dance programme. They have also had superb coaching from Frampton Cotterell Rugby Club who have been holding Tag Rugby training sessions at the school.



The whole school have been taking part in a recycling programme, provided by "Sort It" - the South Gloucestershire Recycling Project. This has helped awareness of where our waste products go and how, in future, we can learn to recycle rather than throw items away.

We have our Harvest Festival in October and a homework evening for parents as part of our endeavour to ensure that high standards are maintained at Iron Acton. This will be followed by a visit from the RSPCA who will talk to the children about the important work they do. We end October with our annual Winter Wellie Walk which will raise much needed funds for the school.

The Reception children have settled in really well, already using the computers confidently, and (under the expert guidance of Mrs Jones) have made some really tasty gingerbread men.

On a slightly sad note, we shall be saying goodbye to Mrs Crewe at the end of term as she is taking up a new post in Oxfordshire. An excellent teacher, Annette, in her five and a half years at the school, has inspired and motivated so many of Iron Acton's children. We owe Annette a great debt of gratitude and wish her good luck, and our best wishes, next term.

The School remains an active, thriving establishment, with great teamwork and a strong partnership with both parents and community. If you would like a brochure or a visit the school, please phone Jane on 01454 228322 or e-mail us at: Head@ironacton-pri.s-glos.sch.uk

Karl Joyce / Head Teacher

IRON ACTON WI

Rather than use this issue to look back, I'm going to practise what I preach to the FP Committee, and look to the future! I'll cover the last few months by saying that the WI has enjoyed a great few months with good speakers, good company and good hospitality (and it's a good job that the other FP contributors don't use such brevity to describe their activities!!). The remainder of the year is taken up with our Birthday Party (when we'll be visiting the Codrington Arms), our AGM in December and, of course, I suspect a lot of us will be going to see Calendar Girls!



2004 is only a few weeks away (which is frightening - where did 2003 go??) and we've next year's programme to announce to the world ... Why not come and join us, 7.30 pm, usually in the Parish Hall!

- 12 Jan **PRACTICAL POTTERY** - We're going crafty! Heaven alone knows what it'll look like but at east we try!
- 9 Feb **SNAPPING BUGS** - How to photograph insects and what you can achieve.
- 8 Mar **OLD GRAMOPHONES AND RECORDS** - I'll leave it to the grandparents to explain to the younger ones what a gramophone is!
- 5 Apr **COLOUR FLAIR** - This thing where someone tells you that you've been wearing all the wrong colours for your complexion!
- 10 May **RESOLUTIONS** - Discussion on the topics to be raised at the National WI Meeting
- 14 Jne **WORK OF THE PRISON VISITOR AT ASHFIELD YOI** - Our very own David McCoy
- 12 Jly **TRIP TO MALMESBURY ABBEY GARDENS**
- August We have a well earned rest!
- 13 Sept **THE ORIENT EXPRESS** - Pure unadulterated romance and luxury aaaahhhh!
- 11 Oct **SOMETHING FOR CHRISTMAS** - Well, it is only 2 months away!
- 8 Nov **BIRTHDAY PARTY** - A visit to a local hostelry for good food, drink and company
- 13 Dec **AGM** - Who draws the short staw and becomes President, Secretary or Treasurer, all accompanied by mulled wine, mince pies and seasonal music.

Lynne Blanchard / 228566

HORTICULTURAL SHOW 2003

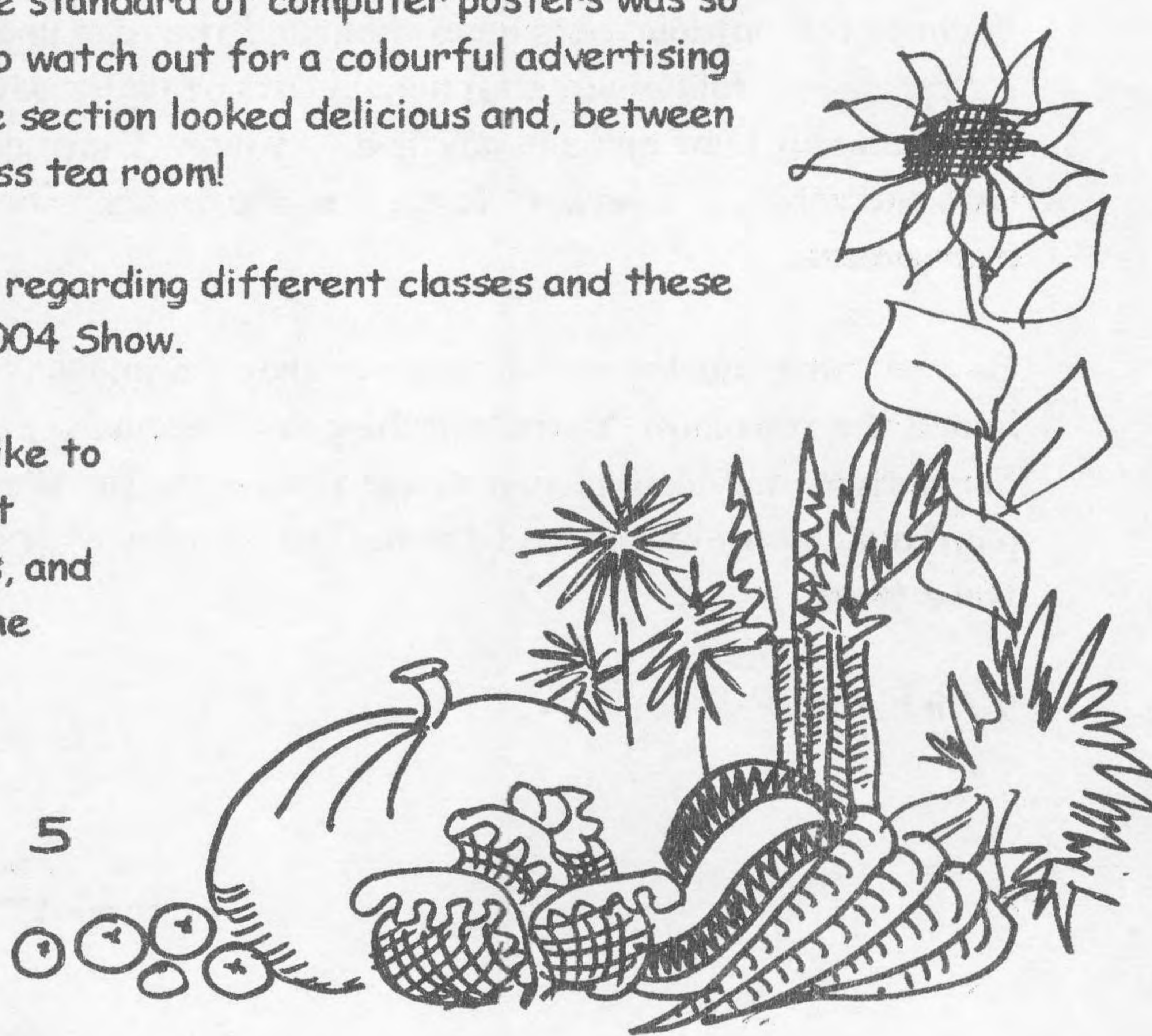
A very big thank you goes out to Iron Acton once again for taking part in this year's show and making it such a great success. We even managed to make the front page of the Gazette!

The turnout matched last year, although the gardeners amongst you commented that the vegetables and flowers had not produced their best due to the hot summer we had endured and the lack of water. However, the Parish Hall looked glorious by the time the judges arrived. We had some superb paintings in the 4-6 year old class and some amazing vegetable animals. The standard of computer posters was so high that the judge awarded joint first prizes. So watch out for a colourful advertising campaign for next year's show. The home produce section looked delicious and, between all the entrants, Iron Acton could open a first class tea room!

The Committee was grateful for your suggestions regarding different classes and these ideas will be taken on board and included in the 2004 Show.

Once again, on behalf of the Committee, I would like to thank you all for your horticultural endeavours. It takes a great deal of time to prepare your entries, and this is much appreciated. We hope you enjoyed the Show as much as we did.

Paula Evans



NATURE NOTES

The River Frome, which forms the borders of Iron Acton Parish and the boundary with the parishes of Westerleigh and Frampton, is a gem of a tiny English brook. Arising from aquifers above Codrington and flowing around the back of Chipping Sodbury and the north of Yate it collects a quota of urban waste but as it spreads out below Nibley Mill it enters pristine, green-belt country. Trees grow luxuriantly fed by its water table and as the valley is constricted by rocky outcrops near Algars Mill we find a wildlife haven typical of southern England. Now that more and more people from Iron Acton and further afield are using the Frome Valley Walkway along the Westerleigh side of the river they are appreciating what a treasure it is. John and Marilyn Wright, Barbara and I act as unofficial wardens of the valley. We note the resident birds and the occasional bird visitor, the common mammals and the less common.

Along with us are the robins, wrens, blackbirds, song and mistle thrush great songsters all; and in the summer we welcome chiff-chaffs, black caps, house martins and swallows. The grey wagtails who feed on the river banks are more often seen in the spring when they are nesting. The same goes for the kingfishers, mallard and moorhens, all of them successful in bringing up young. In the trees we see blue tits, great tits, long tailed tits, tree creepers and goldcrests. Bullfinches, chaffinches, goldfinches and green finches fill the summer with song and call notes. From the crow family we have jackdaws galore, carrion crows, magpies and a few jays. All seem to be on the increase.

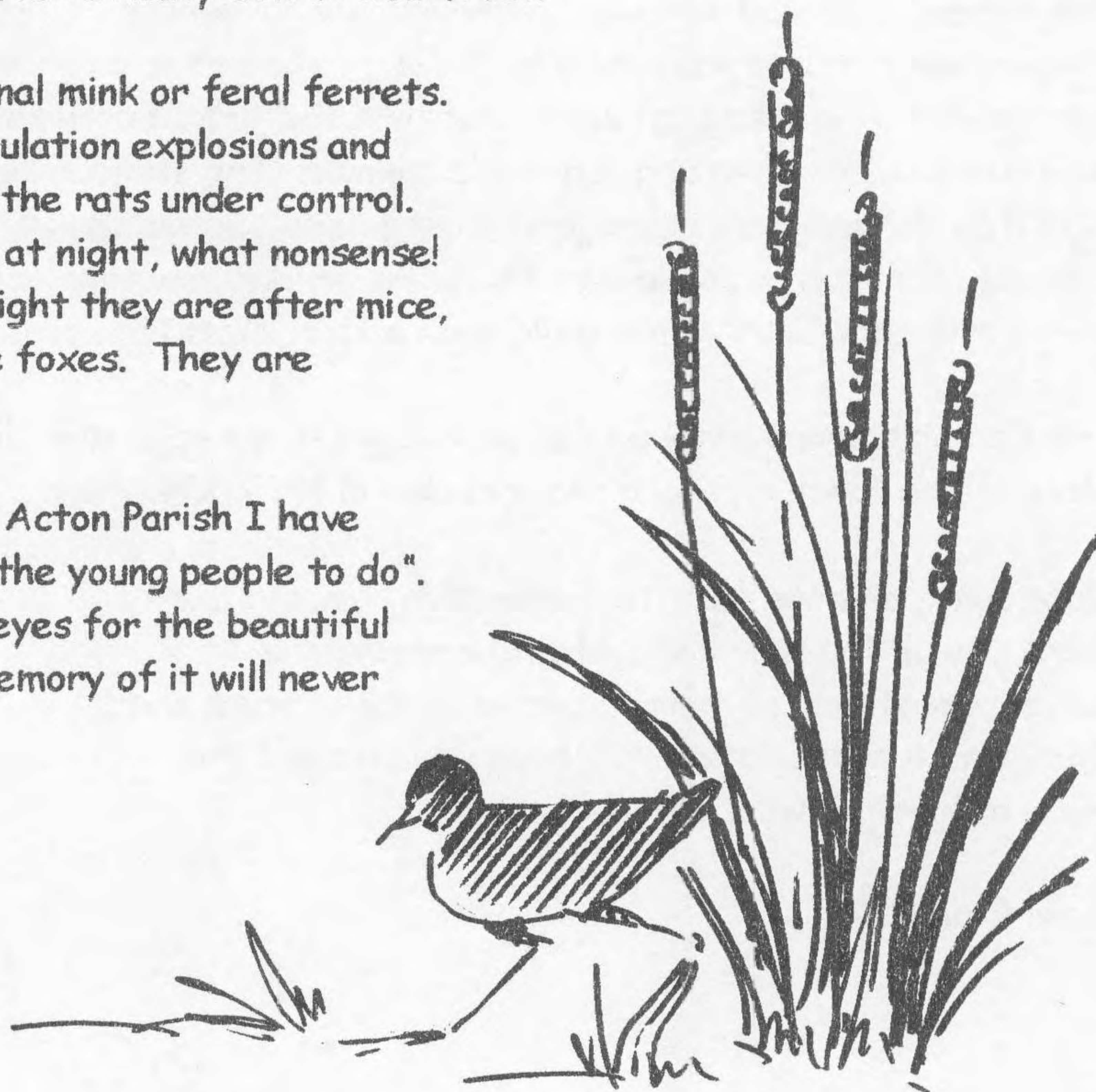
Pheasants and, recently, grey partridges are back with us to breed, while the hawks are represented by the buzzard and the sparrow hawk - both of which are successful nesters. The owls seem, to me, less than they were. The little owl is the commonest while the tawny owl is occasionally heard in autumn. All 3 British species of woodpecker breed in the valley (green, lesser and greater spotted).

As for the mammals, we have lost the water vole which used to be so common, but we are overrun by badgers who, finding earthworms scarce this dry spring, have taken to digging up bumble-bee nests and dismantling low walls in search of hibernating snails. No doubt they do good by eating slugs but I would rather the toads did that. Certainly, the badgers have made me give up trying to grow sweet corn. Of course, being nocturnal, we rarely see them but, believe me, in our little valley they are very common. The best time to see their tracks is in the early morning after a heavy dew or hoarfrost.

Other less welcome mammals are occasional mink or feral ferrets. Rabbits and grey squirrels have their population explosions and declines but outdoor cats keep them and the rats under control. As for all the talk about shutting up cats at night, what nonsense! Cats can only hunt birds in daytime. At night they are after mice, rats and rabbits. I haven't forgotten the foxes. They are everywhere.

Several times during my 53 years in Iron Acton Parish I have heard the complaint "there's nothing for the young people to do". For a start they could learn to use their eyes for the beautiful plant and animal life around them. The memory of it will never leave them.

John Naish



NORTH ROAD COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

We are well into our new school year now and everyone has settled well into their new class. Our numbers are approximately the same as last year and we have not suffered any staff changes.

Cycling Proficiency

This course, for 5 x Year 6 pupils, is being run by 2 parents over a 2-week period.

Italian

Giovanna Fuoli has moved to Barcelona. The Italian Embassy has informed me that we will have a replacement teacher some time in October.

Learning through Innovation

The school is part of a 3 year pilot project in South Gloucestershire which promotes a variety of learning styles by using Information, Communication and Technology (ICT).

Business Links

- * Sponsored mural, on approach to school entrance, was carried out by HSBC.
- * A meeting has been arranged with Ian Keeling (Tortworth Court) to discuss the possibility of further links.
- * Mrs Baird and Mrs Harrison will be attending a Business Link West meeting.

Ladies Evening

We had a very successful Ladies Evening this week which enabled some of us to start our Christmas shopping early! It was lovely to see so many North Road people at the event.

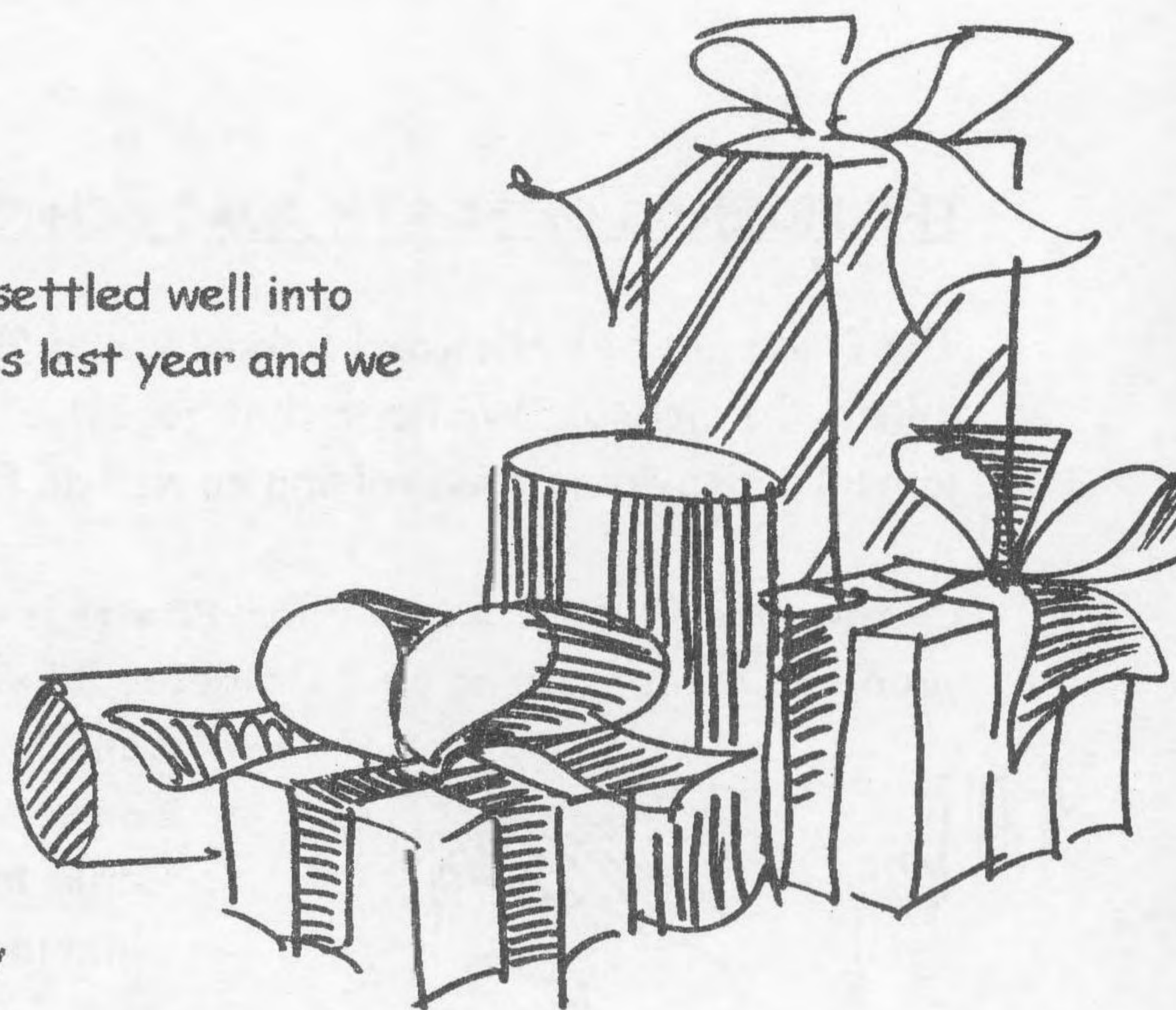
Future Events

Friday,	5 December	2.00 pm	Christmas Fayre
Friday,	12 December	2.00 pm	Dress Rehearsal for Classes 3 & 4
Tuesday,	16 December	2.00 pm	Dress Rehearsal for Classes 1 & 2

We extend a warm invitation to anyone who would like to attend any or all of the above. We look forward to seeing you.

USEFUL EXPRESSIONS FOR THOSE HIGH STRESS DAYS IN THE OFFICE!!

- * How do I set the laser printer to stun?
- * When I want your opinion I'll give it to you!
- * I'm not tense, just terribly, terribly alert.
- * You! Off my planet!!
- * I like cats too, let's exchange recipes!
- * How many times do I have to flush before you go away?
- * Earth is full, go home!!



THE FRIENDS OF NORTH ROAD SCHOOL

The Friends of North Road School would like to welcome all those new parents whose children have just joined the School. We hope that together with existing parents and members of the community they will join us in providing fund raising as well as fun events for the children.

By the time this edition of Focal Poyntz is distributed we will have held our first fund raising event of the year - a Ladies Evening on 2 October. If you did see the notices outside the school we hope you came along and had an enjoyable evening. The next event is the Christmas Fayre on the afternoon of Friday, 5 December where the children will be able to greet Father Christmas and then have the opportunity to visit him in his grotto.

Another date for your diary, although a little way ahead, is Friday 13 February when we will be holding a Family Quiz Evening. Entry is £5 per team and the emphasis is on a fun evening!

This year our fund raising efforts will focus on providing new books for the refurbished library as well as funds to enable each teacher to purchase items that would really help their individual classes.

Julie Cooper / Secretary

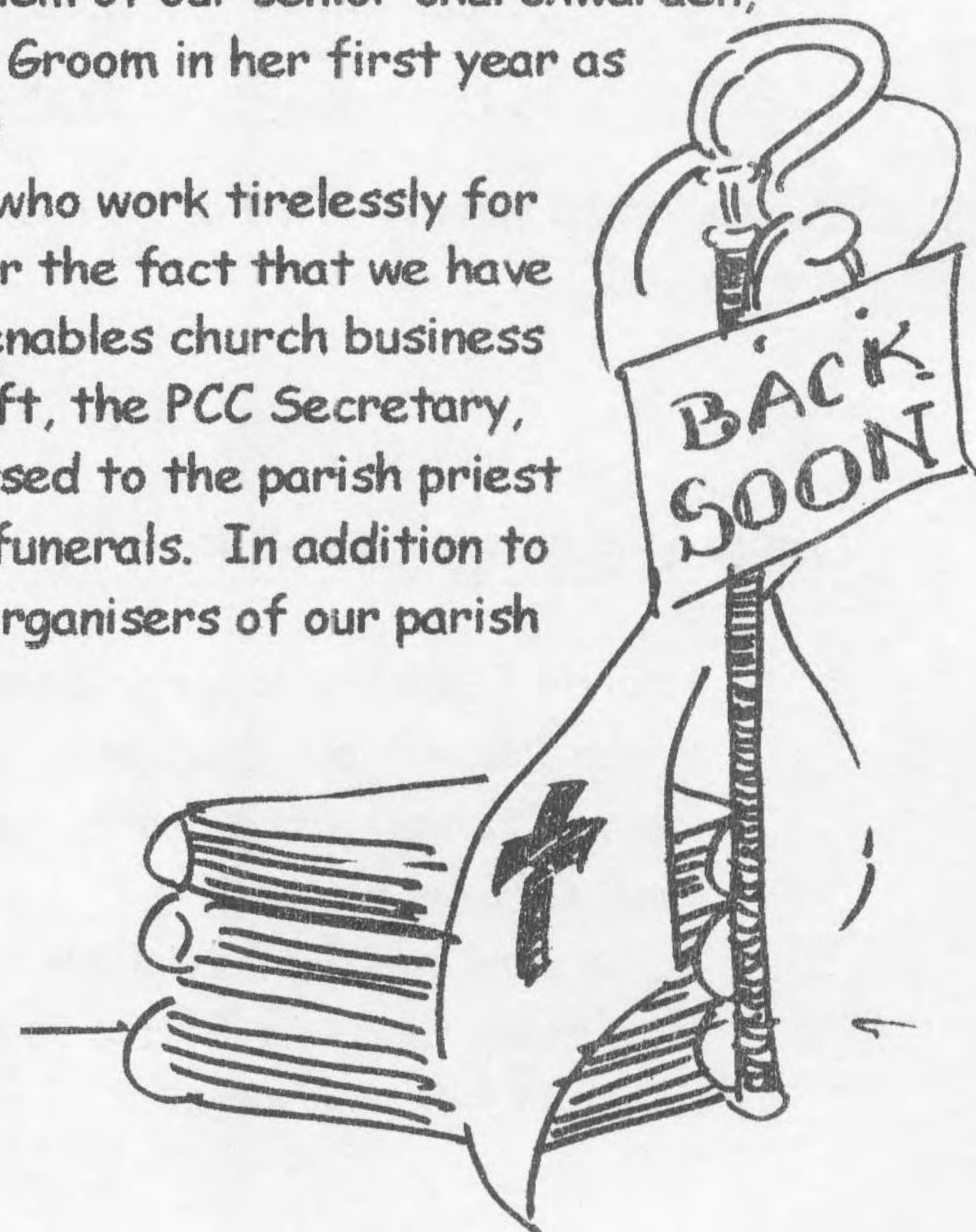


ST JAMES THE LESS

Since mid August the parish church has been without our priest-in-charge. This is because Sue, following her family holiday, has been on 3 months study leave involving research into ethical issues in the church today. For most of her period of leave she is based in Oxford so the 2 parishes of Iron Acton and Frampton Cotterell are at the mercy of their respective PCC's for day to day management. We are grateful to the many priests and readers, many retired but others with their own parishes, who have and will continue to ensure that our regular services are covered.

How are we coping? In Iron Acton we have had the additional problem of our senior churchwarden, Mike Wheeler, taking an extended holiday in Canada, leaving Carole Groom in her first year as churchwarden to cope with the important legal and parochial duties normally addressed to the parish priest. Mike and his wife, Penny, who work tirelessly for the church thoroughly deserve their holiday and we are grateful for the fact that we have enormous support from other members of the congregation which enables church business to proceed seamlessly. Mention should also be made of June Rycroft, the PCC Secretary, who is responsible for handling all the mail which is normally addressed to the parish priest as well as dealing with requests relating to baptism, marriages and funerals. In addition to all this administrative responsibility June is also one of the leading organisers of our parish activities.

The first major function in the parish during this period was the Harvest Festival held over the weekend of 4/5 October. This important festival included a joint harvest supper with Frampton Cotterell on the Saturday, our Harvest Festival Service on Sunday



and the auction held in the Rose and Crown (courtesy of Allan and Gail) on Monday. It was a very successful weekend. The supper catered jointly by Iron Acton and Frampton Cotterell cooks was excellent and we were delighted to be entertained by a spoof Greek Tragedy sketch from the Frampton Cotterell Thespians and the nostalgic melodies of our own musical duo, Andy and Pete. How they trigger the delicate sensibilities of those who are not in the first flush of youth!

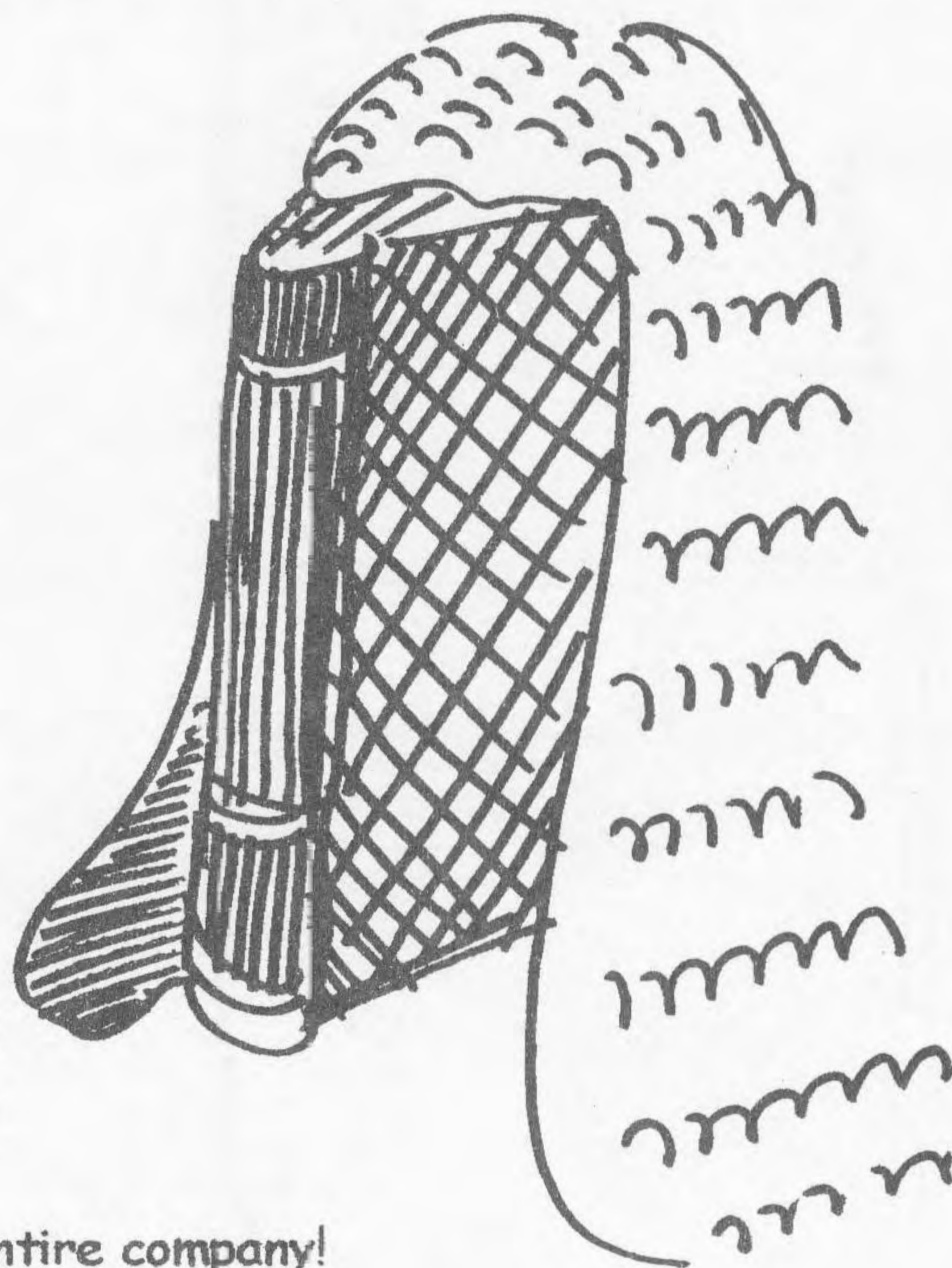
Monday night was a riot. Thank you to Allan and Gail for allowing us to carry out our wild and woolly auction in the Lounge Bar. Thanks also to Howard Aplin (auctioneer) and David McCoy (sidekick) - boy, you were wonderful! We raised £360 at the auction thanks to the enormous generosity of the pub regulars. You, too, were wonderful. Please come back next year. We, and the charity supported (USPG's initiative "Tomorrow's Harvest"), are so grateful. All the money will go to provide seed corn for third world families.

Please Note: There will be a sequel to the auction. Hayden Rickards has donated a huge squash which will be made into soup to provide a "Famine Lunch" at a later date with the objective of adding to the funds raised during the Harvest Festival.

It seems we are not doing too badly, but we shall be delighted to welcome back Mike and Penny at the end of October and Sue in time for our Advent Service on 30 November.

THE ACTONIANS DRAMA GROUP

The past year has seen a production of "The Lady's not for Burning" by Christopher Fry which has since been nominated for the Walter Hawkins Award for Creativity and Design at the Rose Bowl Awards. This was followed in early spring by a submission to the One Act Festival of the play entitled "Relics" which was well received and progressed to the second round of the competition. There was also an evening of entertainment to raise funds for the group and the Parish Hall Committee which provided much fun and enjoyment for all who attended. The late spring saw a delightful production of the much loved "The Importance of Being Earnest" by Oscar Wilde, which ran for 5 nights, rather than the usual 3, to accommodate the demand for seats. Robert Pardoe has been nominated for Best Actor (Drama) at the Rose Bowl Awards for his interpretation of the role of Algernon Moncrieff. What a year of success and enjoyment for the entire company!



The Actonians are now in the midst of preparing for their Christmas production of "Beyond Reasonable Doubt" by Jeffery Archer. The group hopes to attract large crowds to witness the trial of Sir David Metcalfe who stands accused of the murder of his wife, Lady Millicent Metcalfe. Members of the audience will be asked to perform the duties of the jury and pass judgement on the accused at the end of the first act. The second act will then reveal the true story.

This will be performed in Iron Acton Parish Hall from 11-13 December 2003. Please see advert in this issue.

New members, both playing and non playing, are always warmly welcomed at this very friendly and inclusive drama group. We both work hard and play hard and provide much pleasure for our enthusiastic and appreciative audiences. Your support is always gratefully received. For more details please contact Ann Aplin or Pete Lawry (01454 311951).

Robert and Di Pardoe (Publicity)

You are hereby called to
serve on the jury at the
trial of ~
Sir David Metcalfe
for the murder of
his wife
Lady Millicent Metcalfe

The Actonians Drama Company
is proud to present -
Beyond Reasonable Doubt
by Jeffery Archer

at: Iron Acton Parish Hall
on: 11th - 13th December 2003
at: 7.30 pm

Tickets: £5

Available from Gaynor Clark
tel: 01454 776779

CHRISTMAS FAYRE



at Iron Acton Parish Hall

SATURDAY, 29th NOVEMBER, 2003

AT 2.30 P.M.

Gifts

White Elephant Stall

Children's corner

Home Produce

Books



Father Christmas

Raffle

Tombola

Cakes



Refreshments

in aid of Church Funds

PLEASE COME ALONG AND SUPPORT THIS CHRISTMAS FAYRE.



ST JAMES THE LESS TODDLER GROUP

With the last of those glorious summer days trailing hazily into the distance, our group has turned to a more autumnal theme with the children's craft activities reflecting this. Dare I say it, but we are already busy preparing for Christmas! We are planning a children's party on 19 December along with bouncy castle and, hopefully, Father Christmas might have time to pop in and see us too!!

Meanwhile we are planning our own, equally important, 'adults' only Christmas party; this year we are celebrating in style in the Marshall Room.

Our group is always expanding and changing and is always great fun for children and adults alike, a great way to let off steam after a busy week.

We now have a superb "cottage" to add to our collection of toys - all thanks for this go to the generosity of the master craftsman, Barrie Wright. The children love it and it is amazing how many can squash in at once!

If you would like to join our group, please contact Lisa on 228725 or Chris on 228065 for further information.

NORTH ROAD LADIES CLUB

Our annual evening outing took place in July when members, including husbands and friends, visited The Peto Garden, Iford Manor, Bradford-on-Avon. The weather was kind to us and we were able to stroll around the gardens guided by the head gardener. This Grade I, Italian-style garden is famous for its tranquil beauty and was the home of architect and landscape designer Harold Peto from 1899-1933. The unique and romantic hillside landscape is characterised by steps, terraces, sculpture and magnificent rural views. On leaving Iford Manor we called in at the King's Arms, Monkton Farleigh for refreshments, where the catering stall did us proud. It was a most enjoyable evening.

Mr Des Wakefield came along to our September meeting to tell us about the Donkey Sanctuary at Sidmouth. Mr Wakefield kept everyone entertained with his interesting talk on how the Donkey Sanctuary was founded. Donkeys can be adopted, but many rules and regulations have to be met before an adoption is allowed.

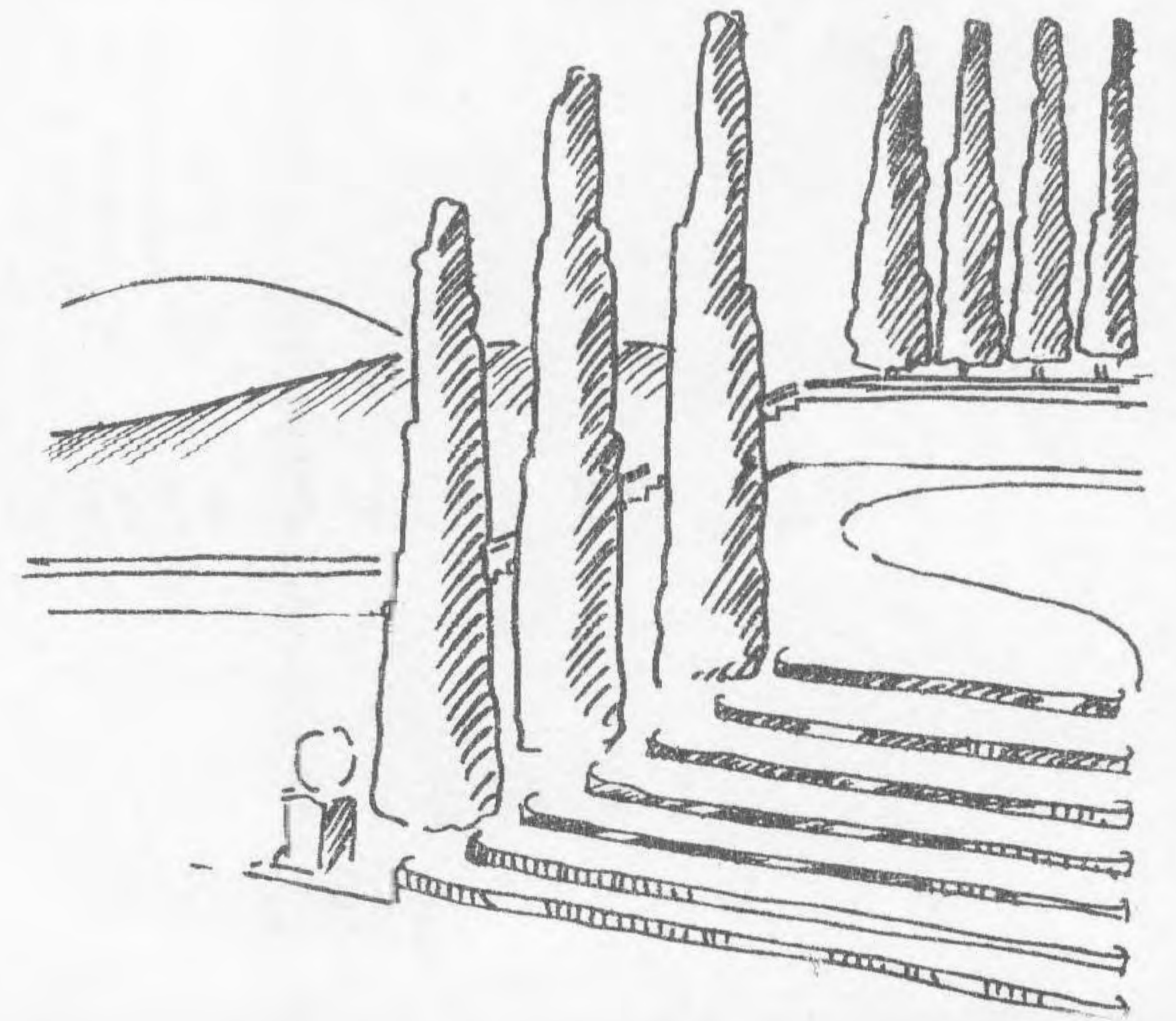
On 6 October Mr P Basterfield will be giving a talk, illustrated by slides, on "Garden Birds Around the World". Also, at this meeting, our filled shoe boxes for needy children overseas will be collected by a representative from "Christmas Child" Charity.

Our 36th Birthday will be celebrated on Monday, 4 November with a meal at Chipping Sodbury Golf Club.

Monday, 1 December will find us listening to Mrs P Clements "Remembering Christmas". This evening will also include our AGM and an American Supper.

Visitors, or new members, are most welcome to join us at any of our meetings which are held in North Road Community Primary School commencing at 7.30 pm.

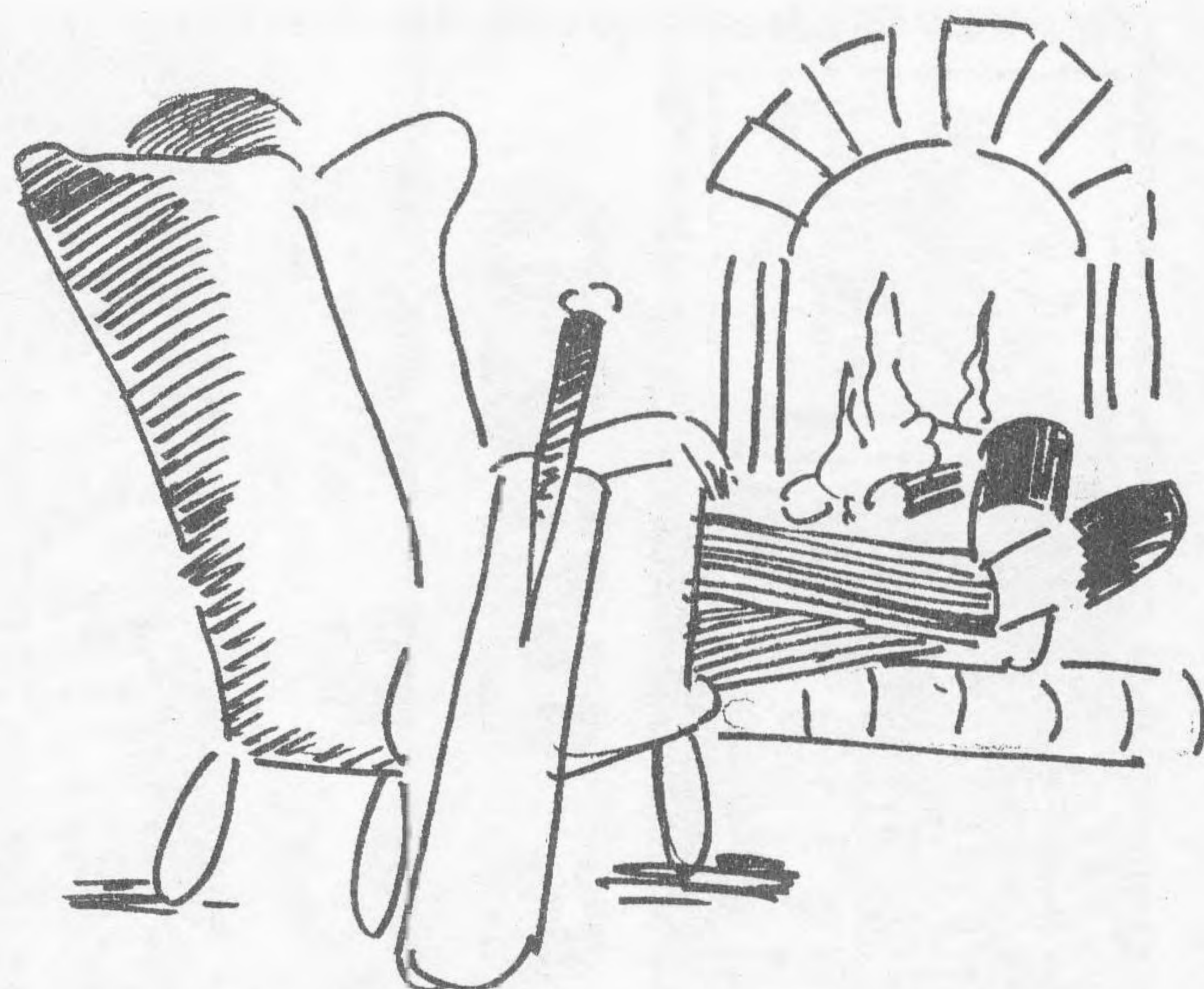
June Rycroft / Secretary



IRON ACTON CRICKET CLUB

Now that another season has come to an end we can look forward to sitting around a roaring fire and discussing the highs and lows of the summer. It's amazing how that nudge past gully in the last game begins to look more like a masterful square cut after the passage of time!

We can reflect on another successful season, in that we fulfilled almost all of our fixtures and survived for another year. This was in no small part down to the tireless efforts of our Captain, Chris Bradley, who has decided to stand down after 3 years loyal service. In



many ways, I think Chris has been our most successful skipper, and certainly our longest serving, as he has been at the helm whilst our initial enthusiasm has waned slightly and several of our premier players have begun to play fewer games, leading to a significant "changing of the guard". We can all gain inspiration from the example of our Secretary, Philip Debidin, who has continued to serve the club loyally, in spite of holding down a succession of jobs that have taken him from Keswick to St Ives!

Now is the time for some of the younger cricketers from the village to join in, to ensure the future of the club as us old fogies retire to remember our past glories.

In terms of results, we started the season well with a few victories but, in spite of some spirited performances and close results, we seemed to come second most of the time in the second half of the season.

On a positive note, several of our newer (and younger) recruits have acquitted themselves well both on and off the field, and I hope they will be able to continue the traditions established within the club over the last 7 years.

Our AGM is scheduled for the Lamb on 20 October, when we need to make several important decisions about our future. By the time Focal Poyntz is published the 20 October will have come and gone so if any cricketers (keen or otherwise) are reading this and feel that they would like to get involved and play a few games next season PLEASE make yourselves known to me or any other committee member.

Simon Cross / Chairman (228291)

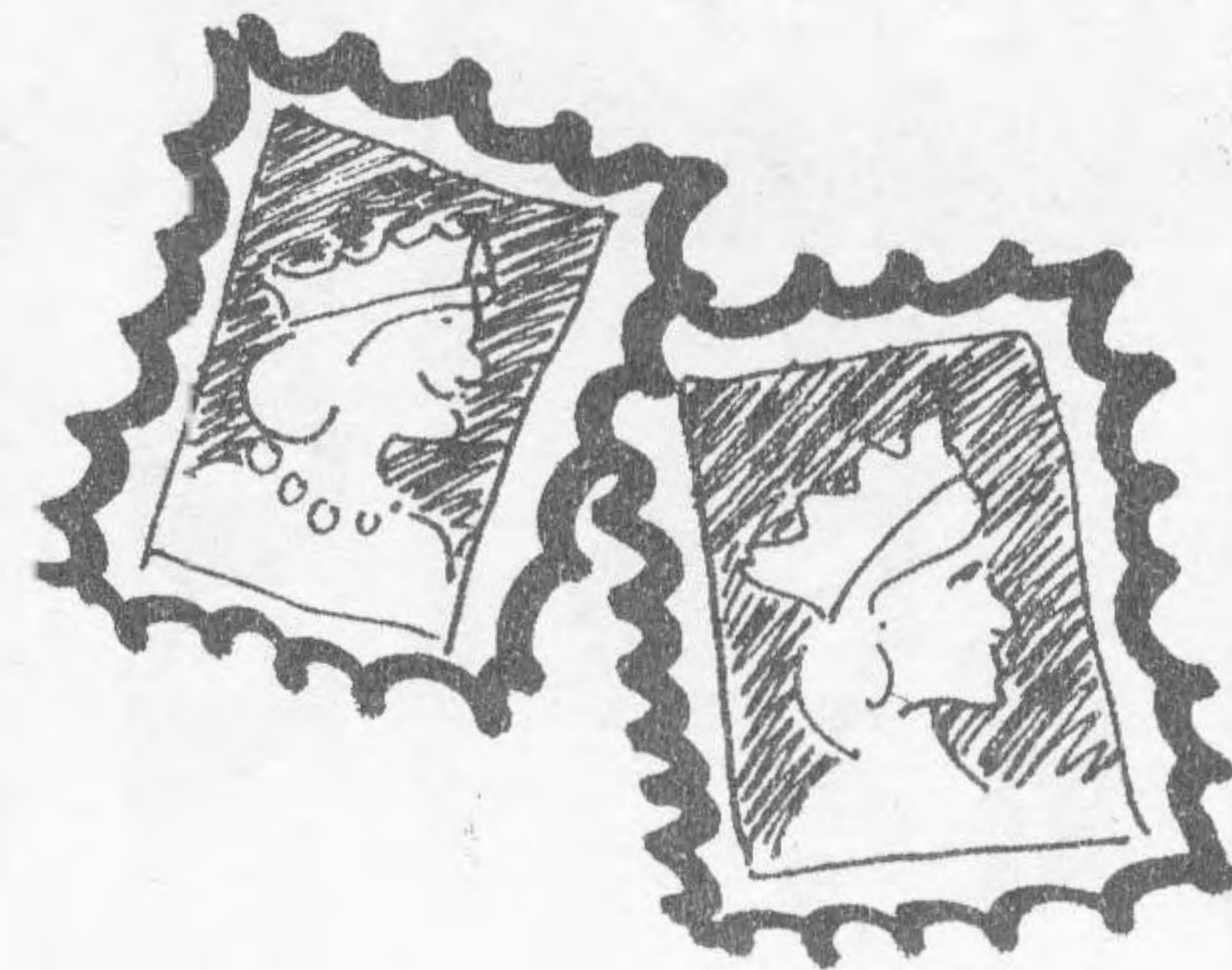
STAMPS

I am happy to receive any stamps from this year's Christmas cards (or any other stamps at any other time of year) and will forward them to Oxfam. Oxfam raises money for its much needed relief work by selling them to stamp collectors overseas as "foreign stamps".

All donations gratefully received, just cut them off, leaving a small amount of the envelope around each stamp.

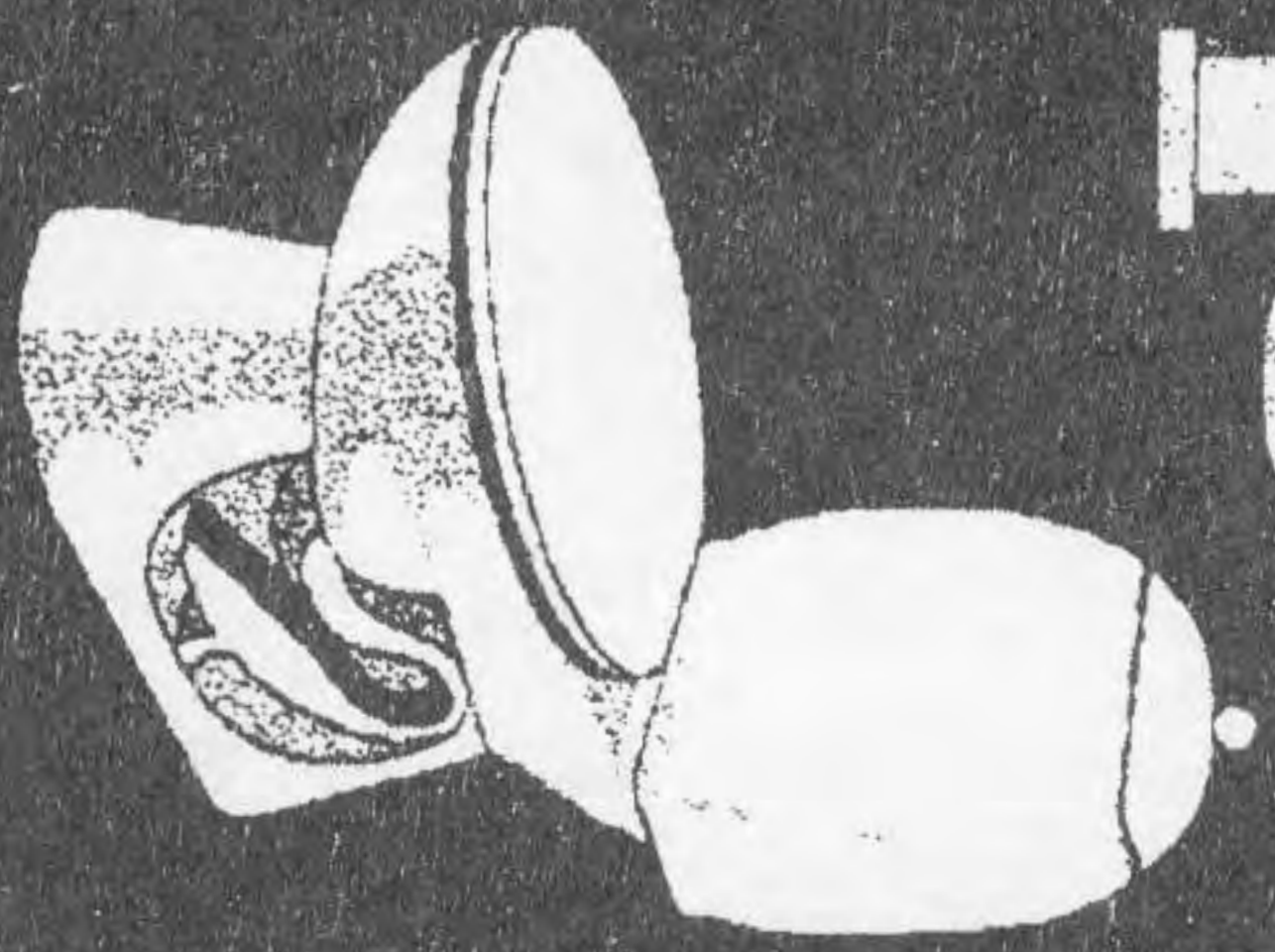
Either hand them to me when you see me out and about, put them through the letterbox of Rose Cottage, or give me a ring and I'll collect them from you. Something good coming from rubbish, don't you just love it!

Lynne Blanchard / 228566

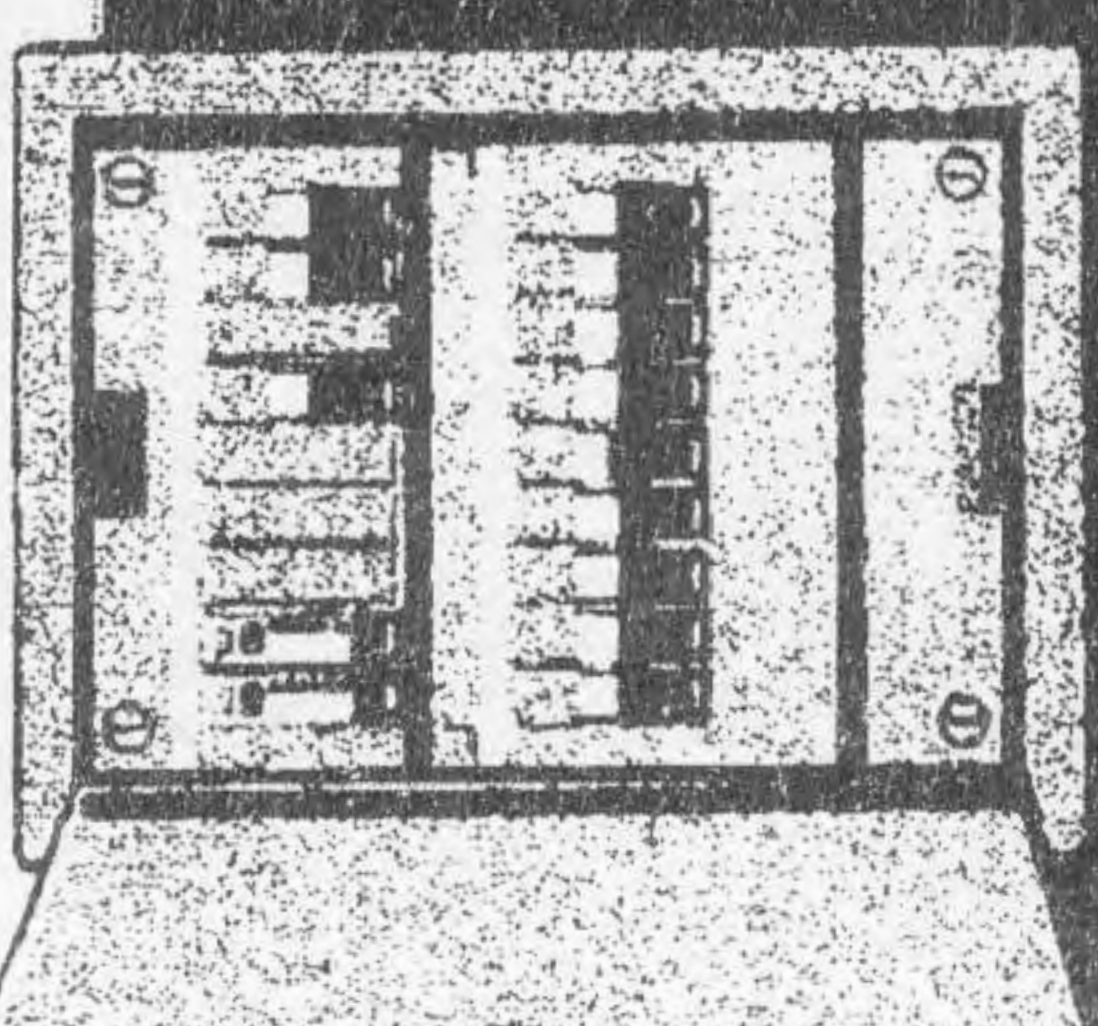
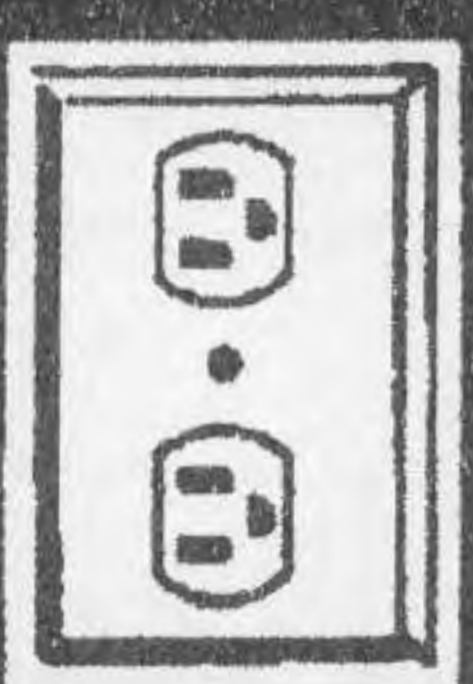
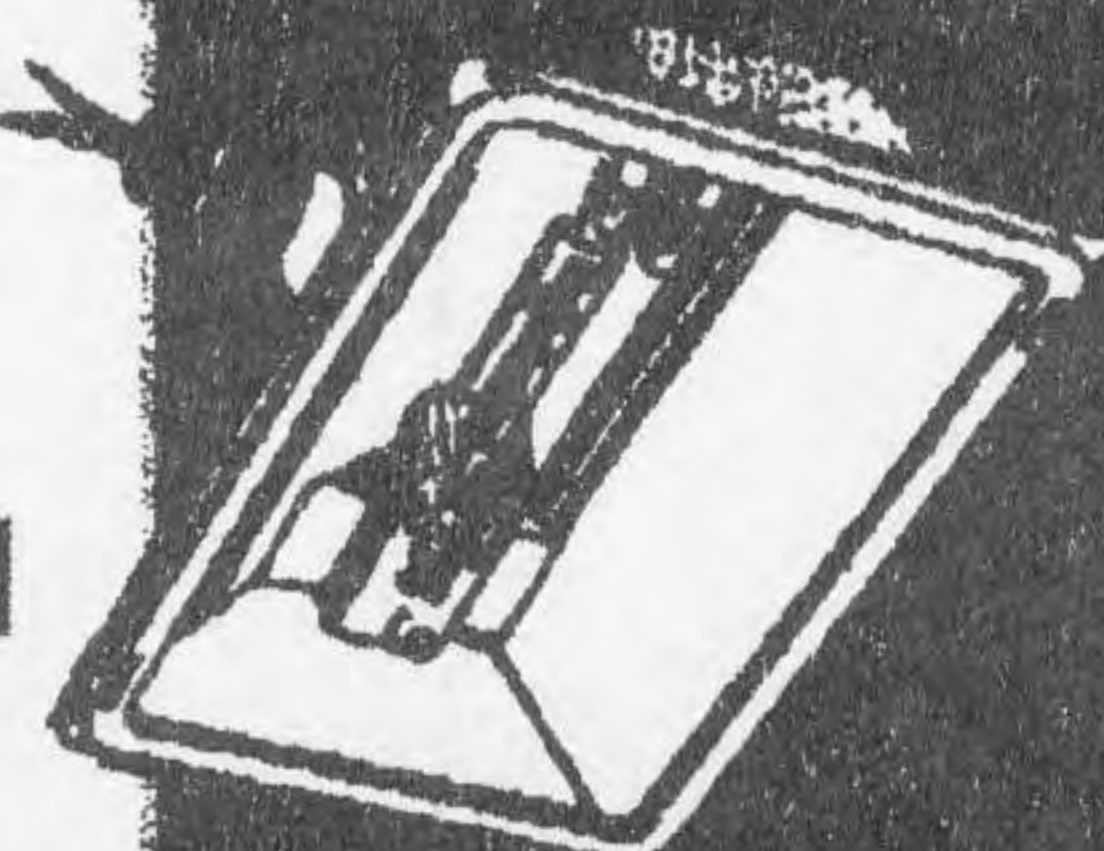


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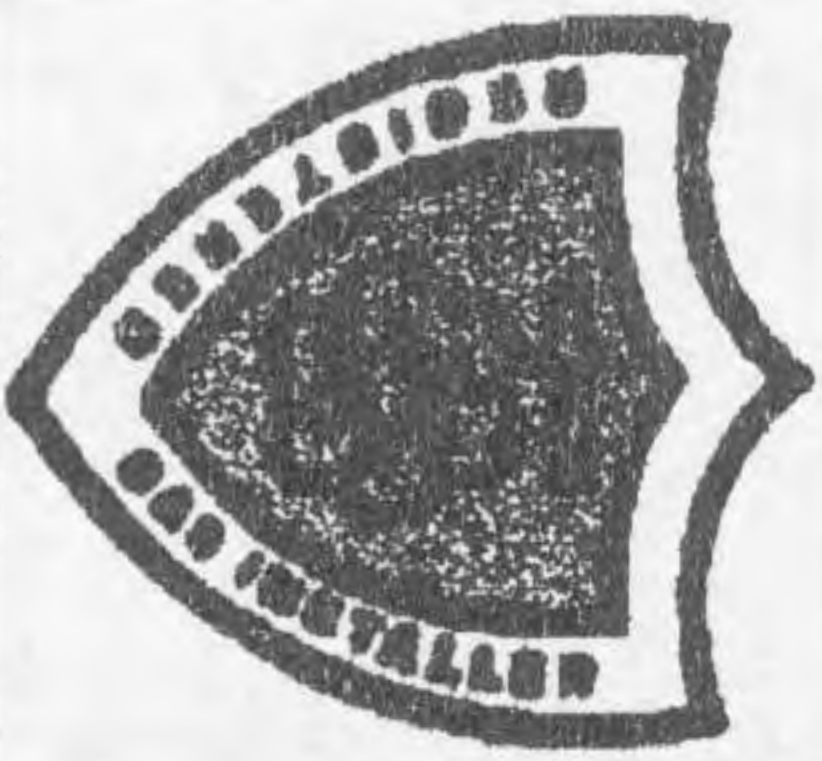


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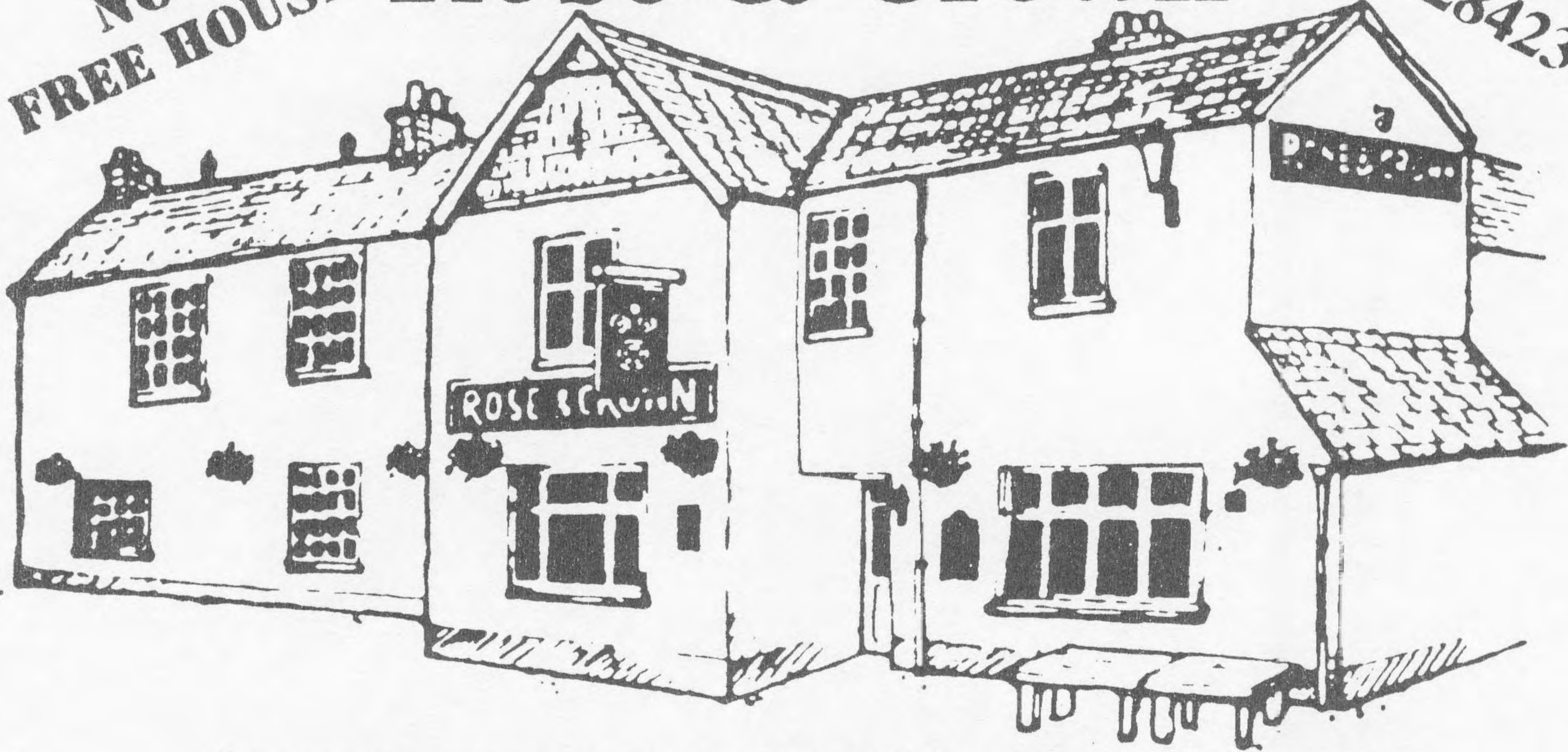
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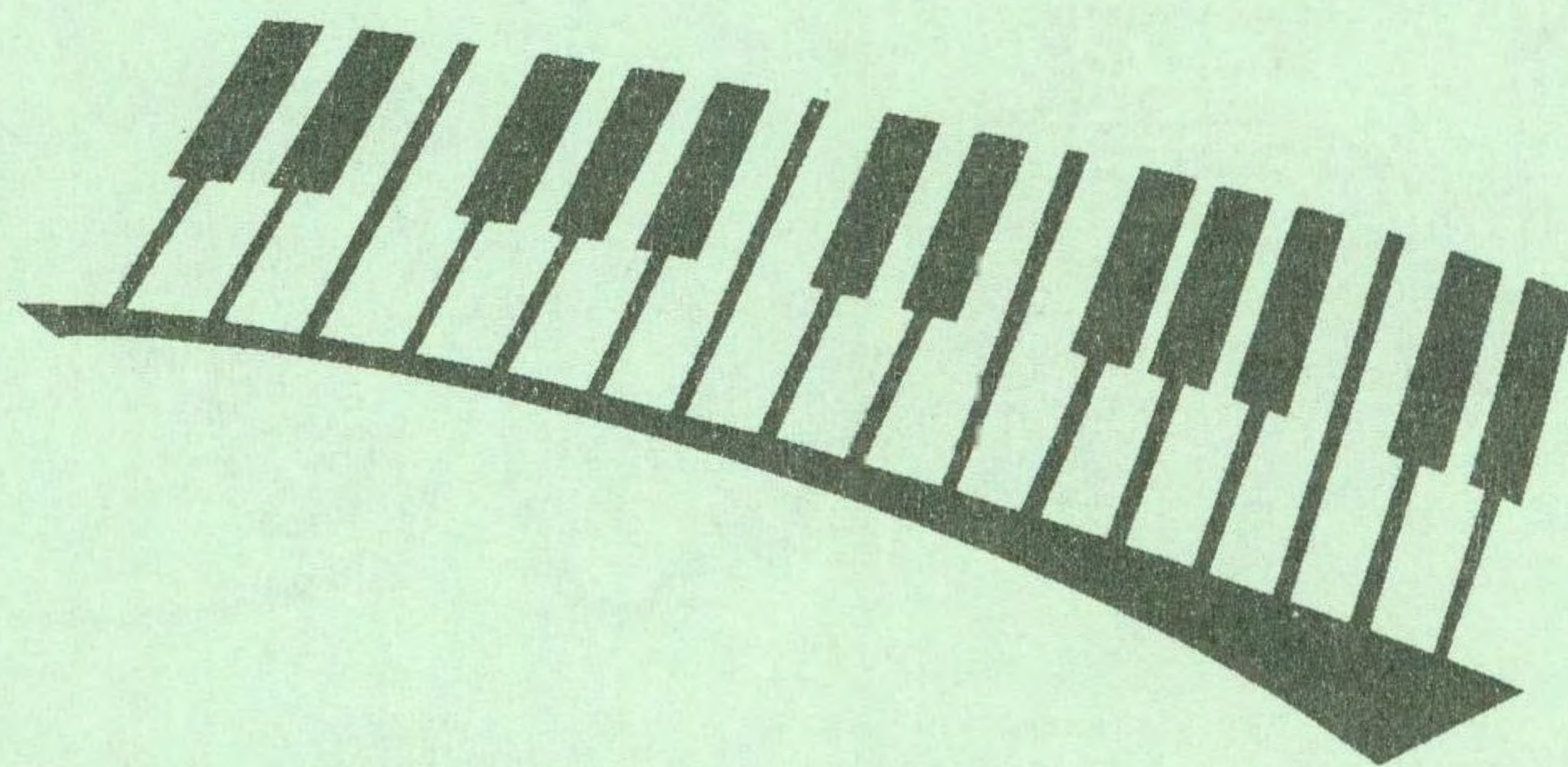
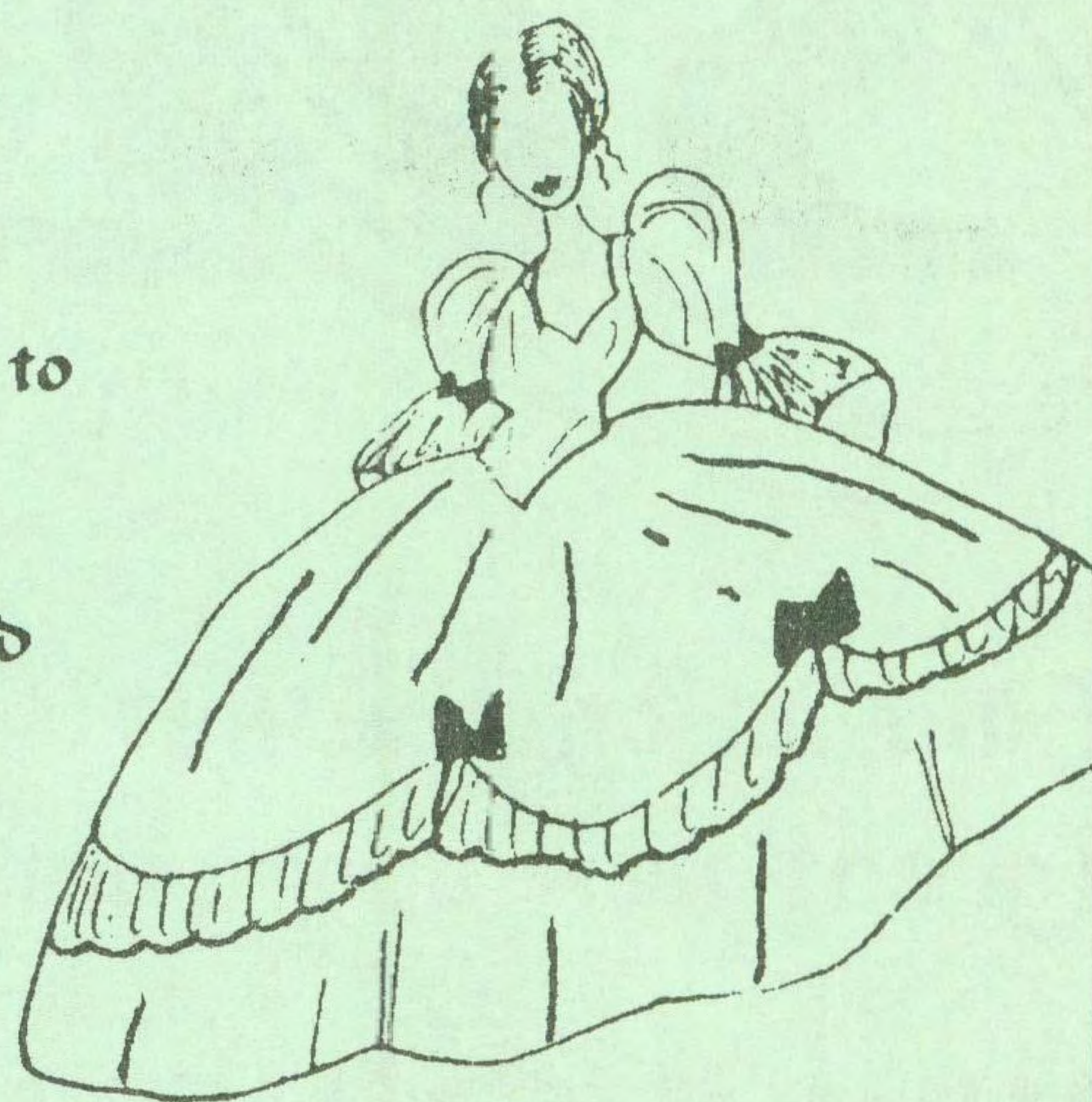
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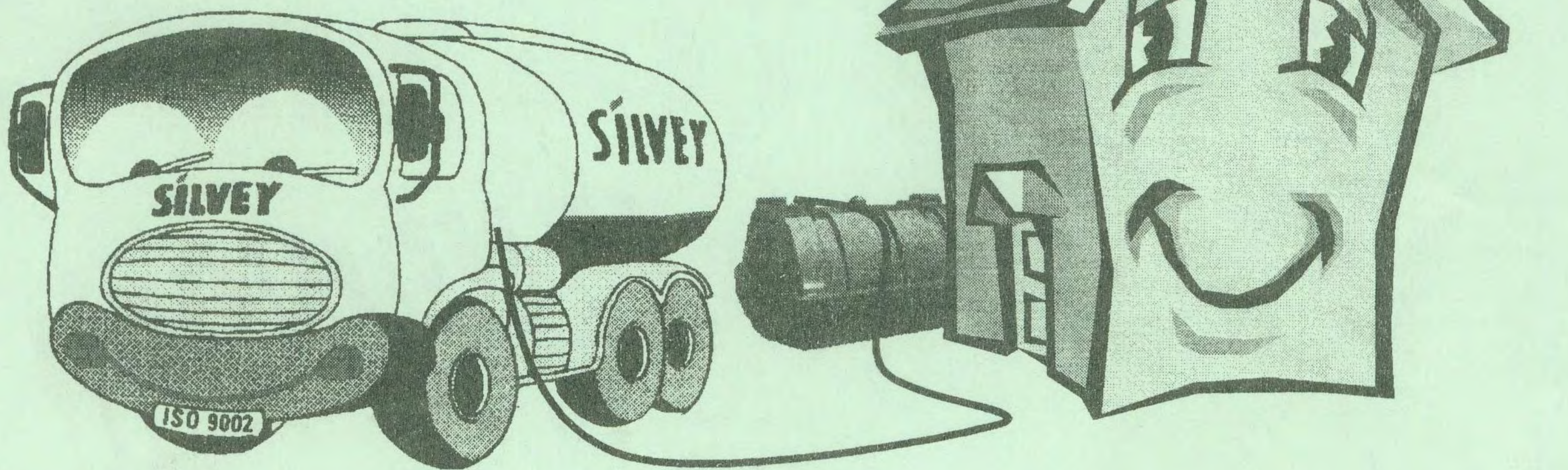


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Village Fund Update

Silvey are pleased to confirm that for every litre of heating oil purchased from them for delivery into the Parish of Iron Acton they will continue to donate 0.2 pence to 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 ..£2000! Thankyou for the support.