

65

Yate Road

Hope Road

The Green

High Street

Bridge Road

Frampton End Lane

Algars Drive

Earthcott Green

Latteridge Green

The British

Focal

Holly Hill

Poyntz

North Road

Mission Road

Folly Road

The Magazine for Iron Acton

Latteridge Road

Latteridge Lane

Wotton Road

Nibley Lane

Manor Road

Station Road

Bristol Road

Dyers Lane

Engine Common Lane

Park Street

Broad Lane

Lodge Road

Tanhouse Lane

Chilwood Close

Chaingate Lane

Frampton End Road

The Lamb Inn

Iron Acton Village, South Glos.

Telephone 01454 228265



- A Genuine Free House -
16th Century Historical Inn

A warm welcome from Brendan , Tracey and their team.

**COMFORTABLE INN ACCOMMODATION
5 LARGE EN-SUITE BEDROOMS**

**LARGE FUNCTION ROOM AVAILABLE
THE PERFECT VENUE FOR**

**WEDDINGS
ANNIVERSARIES**

**CONFERENCES
CHARITY EVENTS**

**ROOM INCLUDES
BAR, DANCE FLOOR, MUSIC SYSTEM, DISCO LIGHTS**

**LARGE ENCLOSED BEER GARDEN - BBQ and PATIO AREA
FRIDAY NIGHTS HAPPY HOUR 5-7 SELECTED DRINKS £1**

OPEN ALL DAY FOR FOOD AND DRINK

Summer

ISSUE No: 65

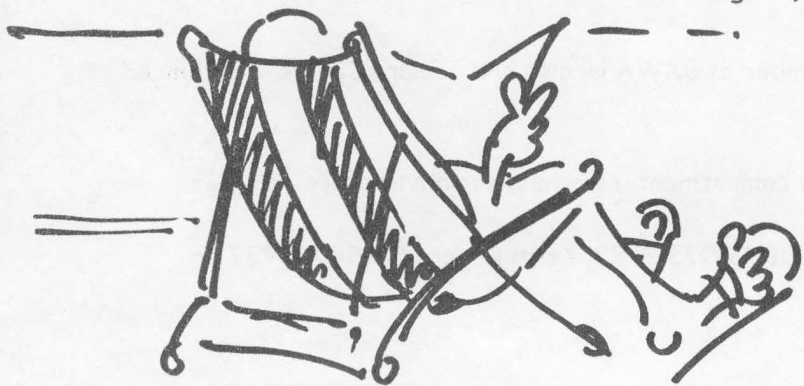
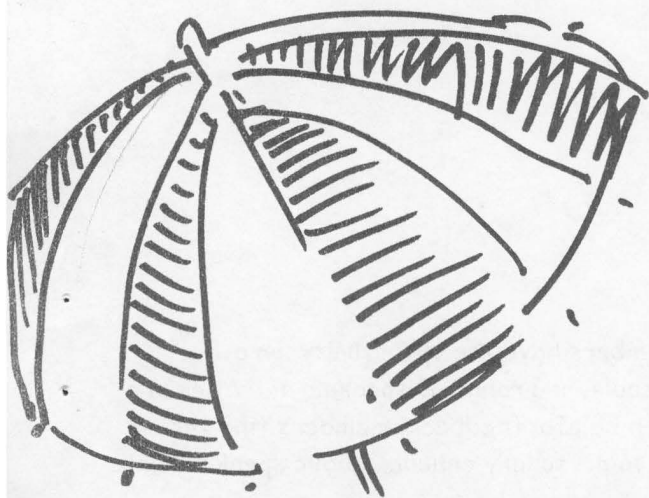
As I write this the sun's beaming down and it's almost too hot to move believe that and you'll believe anything! However, I am ecstatic - I hate hot weather and I could happily kill all TV weather forecasters who keep apologising for the low temperatures I don't care I love it like this! and surely I can't be the only one?

Now, having gronked, here's a challenge for you. When was the last time you tried to put something through your letterbox? If you can't remember, go on, be brave, try it soon and see if it's easy for the poor old post person (or Focal Poyntz person) to deliver things to you.

Why are you being challenged? It was only when I had to deliver a whole batch of FP's that I realised what "fun" it is. The first problem was finding where to put my precious cargo sometimes on front gates, sometimes in the wall, sometimes on a door at the side of the house and the most confusing was no letter box at all - that did have me going round in circles then, once located, you run the gauntlet of grazing/bruising your fingers or having a dog hurtle at the letterbox. Are you delivery friendly?

So, short and brief, rise to the challenge and you'll get a more sedate editorial in November (because I won't be writing it!!).

Lynne B.



ACTON AID

A very successful Proms in the Meadow was held on Saturday, 17 July and while the weather was a little cooler than last year it was still reasonable and at least the rain held off for the duration of the event. Rule Britannia could be heard a good distance away and the fireworks that heralded the official end to the evening were magnificent.

Apart from the Annual Bonfire and Fireworks scheduled for Saturday, 6 November, there are no firm dates for your diaries but an Autumn event in the Parish Hall is a possibility - what out for posters around the village.

Our on-going programme of talks has continued with Melville Dron giving us a fascinating insight into the life of the Gurkha Regiment and, in particular, the work of the Gurkha Welfare Trust. The trust is a charity dedicated to providing welfare pensions, hardship grants and medical care to destitute Gurkha ex-servicemen and widows. A collection on the evening raised a splendid £210 for the trust.

All talks are held in the function room of the Lamb Inn at 8.00 pm and are open to all parishioners. Please keep your eyes open for leaflets advertising future events.

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 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, Paul Townsend, on 228336 or Secretary, Ashley Mee on 228540.

Ashley Mee / Secretary / 228540

BRISTOL SPEAKERS' CLUB

Bristol Speakers Club - an interest group with a difference. Members have the opportunity, on a fortnightly basis, to practise and participate with like minded people, in a range of speaking activities in a supportive environment. Through the regularity of speaking, with helpful feedback, members find that it improves their confidence and capability - it is an excellent way to personally enhance public speaking skills and at the same time have an enjoyable evening.

The 2004/5 season starts on Monday 13 September at BAWA Health and Leisure Centre, Southmead Road, Filton, at 7.30pm

Newcomers are always welcome and can, without commitment, come and sample what we do.

For more information telephone Keith Taylor on 01179 973 2787, Keith Rogers 01454 414737 or Eddie Harding 0117 950 7402



HORTICULTURAL SHOW

Well the weather hasn't been too unkind to us gardeners so far this year (apart from the terrible winds recently). We've have plenty of rain and sunshine - just the type of weather the weeds love!

This is just a quick reminder that this year's Show takes place on Saturday, 4 September in the Parish Hall. As you can see from the enclosed programme we have added several new classes that we hope will inspire you. This is in response to the suggestions we received last year. In addition, we are also including a WI Class, open to all WI ladies, for a photograph "depicting a season". with the WI Rose Bowl awarded to the winner

Once again we will be accepting entries of non-perishable items on Friday, 3 September from 4.30 pm to 6.30 pm in the Parish Hall. You can also still bring all your entries to the Hall on the Saturday morning between 9.00 am and 11.00 am.

One last thing, could we please have all the cups back by the end of August? This will greatly help us.

If you have any queries please do not hesitate to get in contact with any of the Committee Members (Meryl Cook, Ann Aplin, June Schofield or Rona Wright). We all look forward to seeing you at the show!

Paula Evans (on behalf of the Horticultural Show Committee) / 228419

HAVE YOU GOT A
CUP OR ROSE BOWL
ANYWHERE?



FRIENDS OF NORTH ROAD SCHOOL

Our main events so far this year have been the Duck Race which took place in early April and was a great success. The race was over quickly as the ducks seemed to have the wind behind them, helping them along their way down the river. Since then we have had our Plant Sale - which was another success. The weather on the day was fine and sunny and the event was well supported by local people. Last week we held our annual Sports Day and Summer Fayre. Again we were lucky with the weather - it had rained the day before and then rained the day after! This event was also well supported and the children had great fun in all their races (as did the Mums and Dads in their races!).

We plan to hold another Fashion Show on Friday, 15 October - the start time will be sometime between 6.30 pm and 7.00 pm. We still have to decide on the venue - the last one was held in the school hall but lots of people came and the event ended up a bit of a squeeze. We're looking into the cost of hiring a hall but a final decision has yet to be made. Please look out for posters around the school nearer the time.

This year our fund raising efforts have been focused on providing new books for the refurbished library, a smart board for Class 1 and a video camera for the older children at the school. Both the smart board and the video camera have been purchased. Some books have been purchased but the school is still hoping to purchase some more and I am sure will come up with another "wish list" for us to try and fulfil.

Julie Robinson / Secretary / 850210



KIDNAPPED

In 1978 Acton Court was the venue for filming some of the scenes in an HTV West production of Kidnapped. The production starred, amongst others, Patrick Magee (otherwise known as Steed in the Avengers). The following is a typed copy of an original production document.

We believe there may be quite a few people around the village who were involved as extras in the production and we're including the following in the hope that it will stir memories and that someone will be kind enough to put those memories on paper for us to print next time so, come on, how about putting pen to paper??

HTV West

<u>Production:</u>	Kidnapped	<u>Call Sheet No:</u>	41
<u>Director:</u>	Jean Pierre Decourt	<u>Date:</u>	Wednesday, 24 May 1878
<u>Location:</u>	Acton Court		
	Iron Acton		

	<u>Unit Call</u>	
	Studio	Leave
Main Unit	08.00	08.05
Riggers & Electricians	07.30	07.35
Wardrobe	07.30	07.35
Make-Up	07.30	07.35
Cam. Assist.	07.30	08.05
Sound Assist.	07.30	08.05

Sets: 1) Shaw's Kitchen Sc. Nos. 1) Ep. (1)65Ncomp.68.72

<u>Artist:</u>	<u>Character:</u>	<u>Leave:</u>	<u>W/Robe:</u>	<u>M/Up:</u>	<u>On Set:</u>
Ekkehardt Belle	David Balfour	07.35	08.00	06.15	08.30
Patrick Magee	Ebenezer	07.30	08.00	08.15	08.30

ARTISTES' TRANSPORT: HTV minibus to leave Studios at 07.15 with RED CROSS LADY and ROBIN GRAHAM SCOTT to go to Royal Hotel fo 07.30 to collect PATRICK MAGEE then on to Holiday Inn for 07.35 to collect EKKEHARDT BELLE and take to location.

CONSTRUCTION: Black out Kitchen S/By to derig

PROPS: Bowl of porridge, spoon, mug of beer, locks and chains for front door, letter from Minister Campbell for David to give to Ebenezer, David's plaid blanket, twigs for fire, Ebenezer's bunch of keys, large pan for porridge, ladle, two bowls, spoons, two mugs, cloth to wipe inside of mug, ale to drink, chest with false bottom - padlocked to be opened by key.

W/ROBE: Ebenezer's coat and hat to dress himself Ep (1) 72.

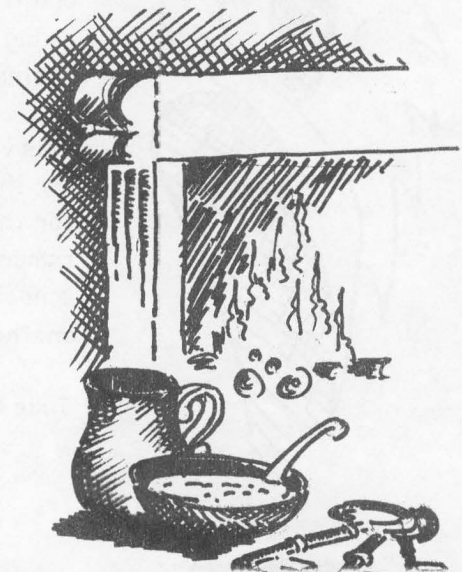
CARAVANS: Mr Belle's and Mr Magee's caravans + 2 others on site

M/UP & W/ROBE FACILITIES: Marquee from Dann Catering on site.

RED CROSS LADY: To leave Studios in HTV minibus at 07.15.

CATERING: Cinefood

SECURITY: On site.



HTV West

Production: Kidnapped
Director: Jean Pierre Decourt
Location: Acton Court
Iron Acton

Call Sheet No: 40
Date: Tuesday, 23 May 1878

Unit Call

	Studio	Leave
Main Unit	08.00	08.05
Riggers & Electricians	07.30	07.35
Wardrobe	07.30	07.35
Make-Up	07.30	07.35
Cam. Assist.	07.30	08.05
Sound Assist.	07.30	08.05

Sets: 1) Road Near Shaw's Sc. Nos. 1) Ep. (1)76.78.93.
2) Shaw's Kitchen 2) Ep.(1)65N.68.

<u>Artist:</u>	<u>Character:</u>	<u>Leave:</u>	<u>W/Robe:</u>	<u>M/Up:</u>	<u>On Set:</u>
Ekkehardt Belle	David Balfour	08.30	09.00	09.15	ASAP
Aude Landry	Catriona	07.30	08.00	08.15	08.30
Patrick Magee	Ebenezer	07.35	08.00	08.15	08.30
Andrew Schofield	Ransome	07.35	08.00	08.15	08.30
Joe Brady	Neil	07.35	08.00	08.15	08.30

ARTISTES' TRANSPORT: HTV Minibus to leave Studios at 07.15 with RED CROSS LADY and ROBIN GRAHAM SCOTT to go to Holiday Inn for 07.30 to collect AUDE LANDRY then to go to Royal Hotel for 07.35 to collect PATRICK MAGEE and ANDREW SCHOFIELD then to Clifton Hotel to pick up JOE BRADY and take to location. HTV Minibus to return to Holiday Inn for 08.30 to collect EKKEHARDT BELLE and take to location.

CONSTRUCTION: S/BY to erect blackout for Ep.(1) 65N.

ANIMALS: 1 Galloway pony with side-saddle from Dave Goodey

SFX: Fire Brigade to provide Rain FX, lightning FX.

PROPS: Ebenezer's rusty cutlass, David's knapsack, Ransome's carving knife, Ebenezer's blunderbuss, letter from Capt Hoseason to Ebenezer, lock and chains for front door, ring of keys for Ebenezer, 2 bowls, 2 spoons, 2 mugs, porridge, beer letter from Minister Campbell for David to give to Ebenezer, David's plaid blanket, large pan for porridge, ladle, cloth to wipe inside of mugs (to be seen in shot), chest with false bottom with padlock and keys.

M/UP: Special wound made-up on Ransome's leg.

CARAVANS: Caravans for Mr Belle, Ms Landry, Mr Magee and one other on site.

W/ROBE AND M/UP FACILITIES: Marquee from Dann Catering on site.

RED CROSS LADY: To leave studios at 07.15 in HTV Minibus.

FIRE BRIGADE: One leading fireman + 3 Men and Fire Engine on site at 08.30 to 12.30 only.

CATERING: Cinefood

SECURITY: On site.

IRON ACTON CRICKET CLUB

As a contributor to this magazine it is always of great interest when the copy drops through the door to find which aspect of the report has been seized upon to appear as one of those special drawings. When opening the last edition, after a first glance at page 13, I thought that the cricket section had been honoured with 2 such special drawings - however, on closer inspection, I noticed that the second drawing related to the Friends of North Road School and was advertising their annual duck race! A mere coincidence?

Back in May the club participated in the annual village May Day and those who attended would have noticed the traffic-like contraption in the corner of the green chucking out balls with astonishing accuracy at 5 pieces of wood some distance away with competitors holding just one piece of wood to fend off the missiles. No, this wasn't a recreation of a scene from the latest Jackie Chan movie (nor was it, as some seemed to think, an extension of the assault course that was set up alongside us) but a chance to enjoy the thrill of bat on ball.

I am pleased to report a number of new (and, more importantly, young!) faces playing cricket for Iron Acton this year which has made an enormous difference to the balance of the team. However, despite these additions, it is still to raise teams, particularly on Sundays so please get in contact if you'd like to play a game or two.

The season is well underway now and we have played 6 very enjoyable and, generally, close fought matches against varied opposition. After a couple of defeats to Frenchay Hospital X1 (historically the only fixture where we are out-numbered by doctors) and Old Sodbury we regained our winning ways with an excellent victory against North Nibley in the first match of the local Pratt Cup competition. This was followed by a very enjoyable Sunday fixture against a touring team of teachers from a school from across the Severn in which we were narrowly defeated in the last over of the match. Next came the not so closely fought, yet not so thoroughly disgraced, performance against a strong team from Kingswood. The most notable achievement in this match, where balls seemed to be flying over all corners of the field, was the fact that one of our bowlers managed 3 dot balls in succession. The last match we played saw North Nibley getting revenge for their earlier defeat in which we, good spiritedly, helped one of their bowlers get a hat trick!

Only 3 matches remain on the fixture list this year and, according to the schedule, these will all have been completed by the time you read this.

It will soon be time for the indoor Winter League!!

Chris Bradley / Chairman / 228559

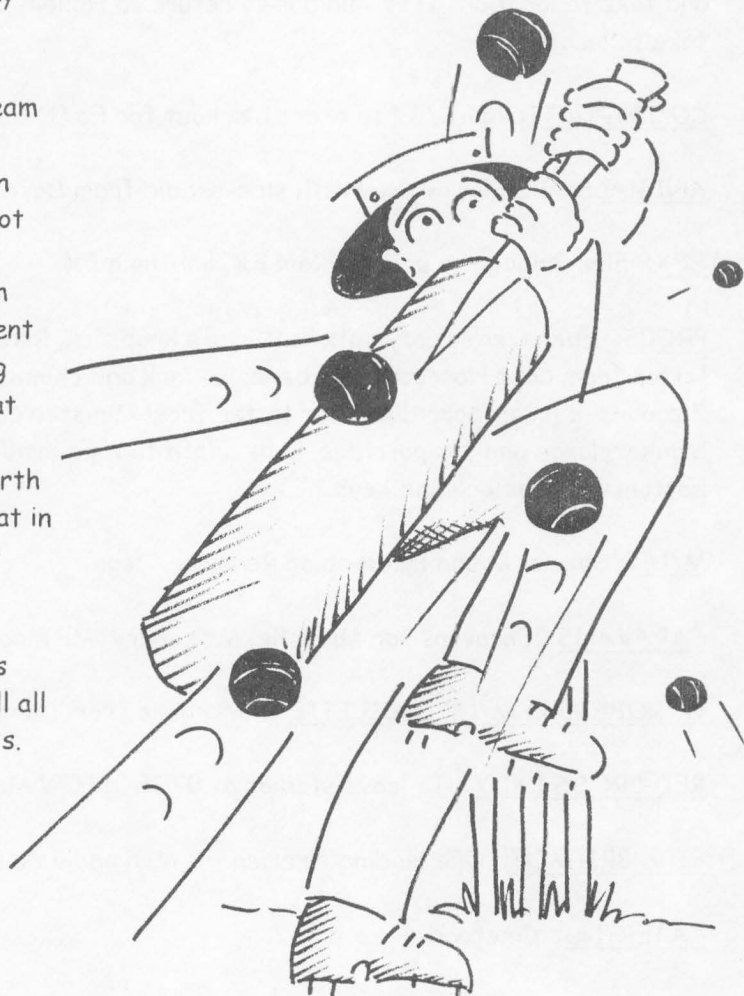


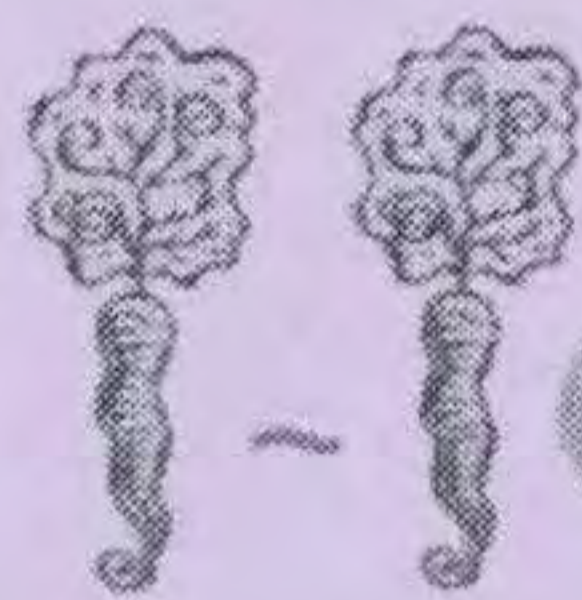
Illustration by Thomas Evans, Aged 8½



IRON



ACTON



HORTICULTURAL

SHOW



2004



Iron Acton Horticultural Show

Saturday 4th September 2004

Entries 9.00am – 11.00am

Exhibition Opens – 2.30pm

Welcome to the 2004 Show! As you can see we have added a new Craft Section which we hope you will enjoy entering. Please let us know if you have any suggestions for further classes, new ideas are always welcome.

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 - The most entries in all Sections by any one family.

GENERAL SECTION

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| 1. Collection of Vegetables | 23. 3 Blanch Leeks |
| 2. Collection of Salads | 24. 4 Apples (Dessert) |
| 3. Collection of Fruits | 25. 4 Apples (Culinary) |
| 4. 4 Potatoes (any 1 variety) | 26. 4 Pears (Dessert) |
| 5. 3 Carrots (Long) | 27. 4 Plums (Dessert) |
| 6. 3 Carrots (Short) | 28. 4 Plums (Culinary) |
| 7. 3 Onions (from seed, trimmed) | |
| 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 ½ ") |
| 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. 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 |
| 22. 3 Beetroot | 43. Largest Sunflower Head |

Homecraft Section

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| 44. 6 Chicken Eggs | 58. A Painting, Sketch or Drawing:
Framed or Unframed, Any Subject |
| 45. 6 Eggs (any other variety) | 59. A Knitted or Crocheted Article |
| 46. 1 Pot of Jam | 60. A Sewn Article |
| 47. 1 Pot of Jelly | 61. A Kit Tapestry/Cross Stitch |
| 48. 1 Pot of Marmalade | 62. An Original Tapestry/Cross Stitch |
| 49. 1 Jar of Honey | |
| 50. 1 Jar of Chutney | |
| 51. Victoria Sponge (3 eggs) | |
| 52. A Quiche | |
| 53. A Rich Fruit Cake | |
| 54. Plate of 6 Biscuits | |
| 55. 6 Fruit Scones | |
| 56. A Loaf of Bread | |
| 57. An Apple Tart | |

CRAFT SECTION

- | |
|-------------------------|
| 63. A Wooden Item |
| 64. An Upholstered Item |
| 65. A Ceramic Item |

FLOWER ARRANGING (ROSE BOWL TO WINNER)

66. Small Arrangement (not more than 12" high x 9" wide)
67. A Predominantly 'Red' Arrangement
68. A Foliage Arrangement
69. A Dinner Party Arrangement (including the candle)
70. Subject Arrangement - The 1920's

PHOTOGRAPHY SECTION

71. Photograph entitled "Animal Magic"
72. Photograph encompassing Light and Shade
73. Photograph entitled "Building" (Under 16's)
74. Photograph Depicting a Season - WI Class Only

CHILDREN'S SECTION

Pre-School

75. 6 Decorated Fairy Cakes
76. A Painting (any subject)

Ages 4, 5 and 6 Years

77. 6 Decorated Fairy Cakes
78. A Miniature Garden
79. A Vegetable Animal
80. A Painting of a Person
81. A Junk Model

Ages 7, 8, 9 and 10 Years

82. 6 Decorated Fairy Cakes
83. A Miniature Garden
84. A Vegetable Animal
85. A Painting of an Animal
86. A Computer Poster Advertising Next Year's Horticultural Show

Ages 11, 12, 13 and 14 Years

87. A Cartoon Strip (any medium, including computer generated)
88. A Computer Poster Advertising Next Year's Village Day

We hope you enjoy the Iron Acton 2004 Horticultural Show

Thank You for your continued support

IRON ACTON HORTICULTURAL SHOW

Name:

Address:

Class No.

Pence

Class No.

Pence

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

Signed:

Please bring this completed form to The Parish Hall on Friday 3rd September between 4.30pm and 6.30pm (for non-perishable items), or on the morning of the Horticultural Show.

AWARDS

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

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

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

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

Rules

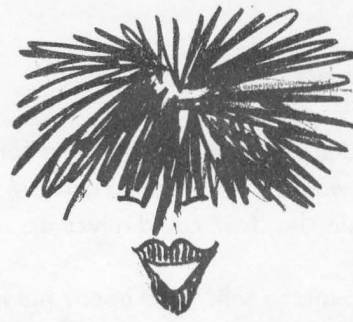
1. Entry fees for all Classes:
16 Years & Under
2. Points are awarded as follows:
Classes 1, 2 and 3
Classes 4 - 70
3. Prize money as follows:
Allotment and
Classes 1, 2 and 3
All Other Classes
4. It is understood that all entries have been made or grown by the Exhibitor and have not be exhibited in any other show.
5. The Judges reserve the right to inspect the garden or allotment of any Exhibitor.
6. Any complaints must be made to a member of the Committee by 4.00pm.
7. Doors will be open at 9.00am on Saturday 4th September 2004 and all entries must be made before 11.00am. **Non-perishable entries can also be accepted on Friday 3rd September 2004 at the Parish Hall between 4.30pm and 6.30pm.**
8. Staging must be completed by 11.30am prompt when the Hall will be cleared for judging.
9. In Classes with 3 or less entries the Judges reserve the right to withhold any 1 or 2 prizes.
10. The Judges' decision will be final
11. Entries from all sections may be donated for sale at the Auction to be held after the Show, and gifts of any kind will be gratefully received.
12. Awards will be presented at 3.30pm and exhibits may be removed immediately afterwards. Any items remaining will be auctioned at 4.00pm approximately.

Entry Forms and Enquiries to:-

Meryl Cook	Ann Aplin	Paula Evans	June Schofield	Rona Wright
Tel: 228405	Tel: 228243	Tel: 228419	Tel: 228760	Tel: 228247

FRIENDS OF IRON ACTON SCHOOL

We've had a busy couple of months with various fundraising activities for the school. Our "Blast from the Past" evening was really well supported - although I'm not sure whether it was the lure of some excellent 70's and 80's music or the fact that we had an absolutely scrumptious pig roast! Thank you to all who attended the evening and supported us.



Our home produce stall at the May Day Celebrations on the Village Green was a great success and we'd sold out by 3.00 pm. The inclement weather helping us a little as people sought refuge from the rain in our tent!

Our Summer Fayre on 2 July was very well supported. Although the weather was not too good we still managed to barbeque underneath a gazebo! I would like to say thank you to everyone in the village who helped by buying raffle tickets, or just came along to support us.

Our last fundraiser is the "Leavers Disco" that will be taking place on Thursday 15 July to say cheerio to our Year 6 pupils. After this the Friends will be taking a well earned rest for the summer holidays.

Paula Evans / Chair - The Friends of Iron Acton School / 228419



NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH



In the last issue of Focal Poyntz I indicated that I wished to give up the running of the Village/Latteridge Neighbourhood Watch and hoped that someone would come forward to take over.

This did not happen and so, soon after this issue is delivered, if no one is prepared to take on the job, I will notify the relevant department of Staple Hill Police Station that this Neighbourhood Watch Branch has closed down.

Peter Wedgewood / 228532

MOBILE PHONES AND PETROL DON'T MIX!

One of the UK's largest fuel companies has recently issued a warning after 3 incidents in which mobile phones ignited fumes during fuelling operations.

- 1 A phone was placed on the car's boot lid during fuelling, it rang and the ensuing fire destroyed the car.
- 2 An individual suffered severe burns to their face when fumes ignited as they answered a call while refuelling their vehicle.
- 3 An individual suffered injuries to thigh and groin (ouch!) as fumes ignited when the phone, in their pocket, rang while they were filling their vehicle.

Did you know that Mobile phones can ignite fuel or fumes? Mobile phones that light up when switched on or when they ring release enough energy to provide a spark for ignition Mobile phones shouldn't be used in petrol stations or when fuelling lawnmowers, boats, etc.

IRON ACTON WI

We diligently discussed the resolutions for the AGM in May; the topics were funding for air ambulances, trafficking of women and children and GM crops. For once, the discussion was very spirited and anyone listening outside the door could never accuse our little group of being "yes" people.

David McCoy came to talk to us about his work at Ashfield YOI in June. He managed beautifully to convey enough of his experiences without being indiscreet - not an easy task and when you see this successfully manoeuvred you sit there spellbound and, yes, of course, he became an honorary member and came to the pub with us afterwards for our "sub-committee" meeting.

In the last edition I eulogised over a proposed trip to Abbey Gardens in Malmesbury (remember the man with the apron?). Unfortunately, this didn't materialise as we chose a time when several of our members were on holiday so it wasn't cost efficient to go this time who knows what may happen in the future?

Instead we decided to go on a walk. Judy found the details for us and we duly set off from Old Sodbury church, walked across numerous fields (met some cows, very large horses and a sign that said "beware of the bull" - the biggest load of bull was the sign as no great steaming mass of bovinity was visible!!), got lost, then found someone who looked at us (he must've been all of 20) and decided that it was much too steep to carry on the way we were heading, so we retraced our steps all the way back to the pub and very welcome was the sight of the Dog, where we sat in the garden and gossiped. It was a lovely evening!

The night after our Old Sodbury escapade 4 of our mob went off on a WI organised trip to Norfolk. I'm highly suspicious about what went on when you ask them if they had a good time and what it was like, all you get is a "yes, we had a lovely time", no little snippets of gossip about what they did - very mysterious, suppose we'll have to ply them with drink and hope they spill the beans but with the amount they drink we'd probably be bankrupted before we found anything out.



... FOOT BATHS AT THE DOG INN...

The WI has very strange rules on what we can and cannot raise money for - it's because of our charitable status and all fundraising must only be within the strict parameters of our charity. Consequently when Marie suggested a get-together in her garden with a bring and buy and coffee and cakes it had to be announced as "a group of ladies who just happen to be WI members will be holding". Doesn't life get complicated? It was a lovely evening and with very little effort £70 will be winging its way to a breast cancer charity.

Like North Road Ladies we, too, take a break in August and will be gathering once again in September for a quiz and social evening. In October Pat Faithful's going to come and try to get us doing all sorts of things with wire, flowers and oasis (she's a very optimistic lady!!), we have our birthday party in November (always an outing to a hostelry somewhere) and our AGM accompanied by mulled wine and home made mince pies in December - and then that's yet another year flown by.

We meet on the second Monday of the month. Why not give us a try? You might be pleasantly surprised and, I suppose, so might we!!!!

NO SUCH THING AS CO-INCIDENCE?

His name was Fleming and he was a poor Scottish farmer. One day, while trying to make a living for his family, he heard a cry coming from a nearby bog. He dropped his tools and ran to the bog. There, mired to his waist in black muck, was a terrified boy, screaming and struggling to free himself. Farmer Fleming saved the lad from what could have been a slow and terrifying death.

The next day a fancy carriage pulled up to the Scotsman's sparse surroundings. An elegantly dressed nobleman stepped out and introduced himself as the father of the boy Farmer Fleming had saved. "I want to repay you", said the nobleman, "You saved my son's life". "No, I cannot accept payment for what I did", the Scottish farmer waived away the offer. At that moment, the farmer's own son came to the door. "Is that your son?" the nobleman asked. "Yes" the farmer proudly replied. "I'll make you an offer, let me provide him with the same level of education that my own son will enjoy. If the lad is anything like his father he'll no doubt grow to be a man we will both be proud of."

And this is what happened. Farmer Fleming's son attended the very best schools and, in time, he graduated from St Mary's Hospital Medical School in London and went on to become known throughout the world as the noted Sir Alexander Fleming - the discoverer of penicillin.

Years afterwards the same nobleman's son who was saved from the bog was stricken with pneumonia. What saved his life this time? Penicillin. The name of the nobleman - Lord Randolph Churchill. The name of his son - Sir Winston Churchill.

FOCAL POYNTZ - FUTURE EDITIONS

It's our intention that, by the time you're reading this latest edition, all of our distributors and contributors will have received a copy of the schedule we hope to use to the end of 2005. Letters will still be sent out approx. 3 weeks in advance so don't worry that you have to keep masses of dates in your heads.



Because Lynne's now typing the magazine at home we've been able to give a deadline for the bulk of articles to be received (these are then photocopied and taken to Maureen for her to devise the drawings while Lynne can get the bulk of articles onto the screen - thus saving precious time and making what you read as relevant as possible) and then the absolute deadline so that if any small snippets become available later these can be also/still be included.

If anyone out there would like to submit articles these will be gratefully perused by the FP committee. We get lots of lovely organisation reports but the number of one off articles has seriously reduced as many of our writers have moved away from the village. Please, anyone out there, can you help?? Or, maybe, could you devise a cover for us.

Schedule for the Winter 2004 Issue

Deadline for contributions from organisations and individuals
Focal Poyntz committee gets together to review
Articles taken to Maureen
Drawings back from Maureen
Proof reading
Final draft taken to Oldbury for copying
Edition collected from Oldbury and out to distributors
Distribution weekend

Sunday, 10 October
Thursday, 14 October
Friday, 15 October
Sunday, 31 October
Thursday, 4 November
Saturday, 6 November (latest)
Friday, 12 November
Saturday 20 / Sunday 21 November

THE ACTONIANS DRAMA GROUP

It's been another packed programme for the Actonians in the last few months. Here are a few highlights.

This year's entry for the Avon One Act Drama Festival, "Polly Honeycombe" by George Colman, was very well received and came second overall. Sarah Atkins, playing Polly, received the award for best actress which was hugely well deserved. As the winning play was already going forward to the next round this left the way clear for "Polly". The cast and crew did a stunning job and were just 'pipped at the post' for first place in this second round, a very accomplished performance all round!



The "Evening of Entertainment" in March was great fun and the money raised made a considerable contribution to the funds for the new raised seating - which was purchased and used for the first time for "The House of Bernarda Alba". The company is very pleased with this new addition. It will make the theatrical experience even more enjoyable for our future audiences.

Our Spring production of "The House of Bernarda Alba" by Federico Garcia Lorca was a great success. We had good audiences; all of whom appreciated this tragic tale about a household of women ruled by a tyrannical mother. The adjudication was most complimentary and recognised the energy and commitment of the whole company.

The Five Counties Youth Festival, also in March, was another considerable success for the company. A busy but enjoyable day was had by all hosting the 5 winning groups from the Wiltshire, Avon, Bristol, Somerset and Gloucestershire Festivals.

Our next major production will be the pantomime "Cinderella" in the week beginning Monday, 29 November. We anticipate an evening of high jinks and much fun which will provide a little warmth on a winter's evening and add to your preparations for the festive season. Please look out for further details nearer the time.

The Actonians are always keen to welcome new members for both on-stage, backstage and technical work. We are particularly interested in anyone out there who is a frustrated sound and/or lighting technician who would like to join a friendly and hard working drama group. Please contact Ann APLIN (228243) or Steve BIRCH (883300) for further information.

Robert and Di Pardoe (Publicity)

JILL BENDEAUX

Focal Poyntz would like to extend a very warm welcome to Jill Bendeaux. Jill has recently been appointed Headteacher of Iron Acton CEVC School. We wish her a very long and extremely happy association with the school and our community and, yes, we're looking forward to her wonderful reports for Focal Poyntz!!

THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST JAMES THE LESS

CHILDREN'S CHURCH



On the first Sunday of every month, worship at the parish church is wonderfully more vivid and more noisy than usual because of the presence of our children.

It gives the service a very special feel when the families arrive with all their small children and stay with us in church for the entrance hymn, are welcomed as particularly valued members of our congregation and then leave the church with their leaders for their own worship and teaching in the Marshall Rooms.

There they sing children's hymns, hear stories, usually do some art work and pray together. Their theme is usually the same as the adult worship in church. They come back into church just before we start to say the 'Our Father' so that they can join in, and they are then present for the distribution of Holy Communion, when they come up for an individual blessing at the altar rail.

After the service, they show us what they have been doing and tell us something about it - always a most enjoyable moment for all the rest of us.

In July, for instance the Gospel reading for the day was the story of Jesus sending out the 12 disciples in twos to take the message of the Gospel out into the villages. The children had dressed up a couple of Barbie dolls in buff tunics (quite a change from shocking pink!), had taken off their sandals and bags, (as Jesus had told the disciples that they would not need them) and put a scroll with the message on into their hands. They brought the dolls into church and unrolled the scrolls to read to us what the message was - simple, but powerful teaching.

More families with children are always welcome at Children's Church - just turn up at 9.00 a.m. on a first Sunday of the month. When the children are in church, we all enjoy having them there just as they are, behaving naturally. And when they are in the Marshall Rooms for their own worship, they learn not only the great stories of the Bible, but also the beginnings of a living relationship with our heavenly Father.

If you would like more information about Children's Church, Lisa Hatherall (228725) will be glad to hear from you.

Rector Sue / 772112

GREAT TRUTHS ABOUT LIFE THAT ADULTS HAVE LEARNED

- * Raising teenagers is like nailing jelly to a tree.
- * Wrinkles don't hurt
- * Families are like fudge - mostly sweet, but with a few nuts
- * Today's mighty oak is just yesterday's nut that held its ground
- * Laughing is good exercise - it's like jogging on the inside
- * Middle age is when you choose your cereal for the fibre and not for the toy

NORTH ROAD LADIES CLUB

Judy King came along to our club in February to demonstrate how she makes goat and sheep cheese and we were able to taste 5 different delicious cheeses.

On 1 March Dave and Jan Fulman showed some beautiful slides and told us of their walk along the Macmillan Way. They explained that all monies raised from people using the Macmillan Way goes to charities, which include the Macmillan Nurses. We were disappointed to learn that Dave and Jan will no longer be giving talks. They have been visiting speakers at our club for more than 15 years.

The title of the talk for our April meeting was "How the Wolf Clubs Won the War". Mike Brayley was highly entertaining with stories of his escapades when, as a 6 year old boy in 1940, he was evacuated from Bristol to Devon where he was sent to a local school and joined the Cubs. Their little gang thought they could help the war and decided to make some catapults. A particularly funny discussion was where they would find elastic for their catapults! Following Mike's talk, one of our members told us of her experiences when she and her 3 brothers were evacuated to Cornwall. All this made for a most enjoyable evening.



On 29 April members, husbands and friends boarded a coach to take us to see the "Holiday on Ice Spectacular" on the Downs in Bristol. It certainly proved to be a wonderful show.

Ann Freeman visited us in May. Ann is a qualified herbalist and gave a talk, illustrated with slides, on "Herbs for Women". This was a very interesting evening and we came away with a greater understanding of the use of herbs.

At our June meeting Edouard Fleurist Ficht introduced us to reflexology and explained that this treatment is a gentle healing massage of the tops, sides and soles of the feet.

Monday, 5 July is our club's annual evening outing when we will be taking a guided tour of Bristol with Brian Amesbury. Although we have all been to Bristol on many occasions there are always historical parts of the city which are unknown to us and prove to be of great interest.

We do not hold a meeting in August, but our programme for the rest of the year is as follows:

- | | | |
|---------|-------------|--|
| Monday, | 6 September | Beetle Drive and Quiz Evening |
| Monday, | 4 October | "Tyntesfield" - a talk and slides by Mrs A Bowering of the National Trust |
| Monday, | 1 November | Our 37 th Birthday Party at The Codrington Arms, North Road |
| Monday, | 6 December | Christmas Decorations and Flower Arrangements by Jean Drew;
AGM and American Supper |

The North Road Ladies Club continues to thrive and we now have 38 members.

Visitors are always most welcome to come along and join us at any of our meetings - which are held in North Road Community Primary School commencing at 7.30 pm.

ABACUS PRE-SCHOOL

Abacus Pre-School will be opening in September 2004.

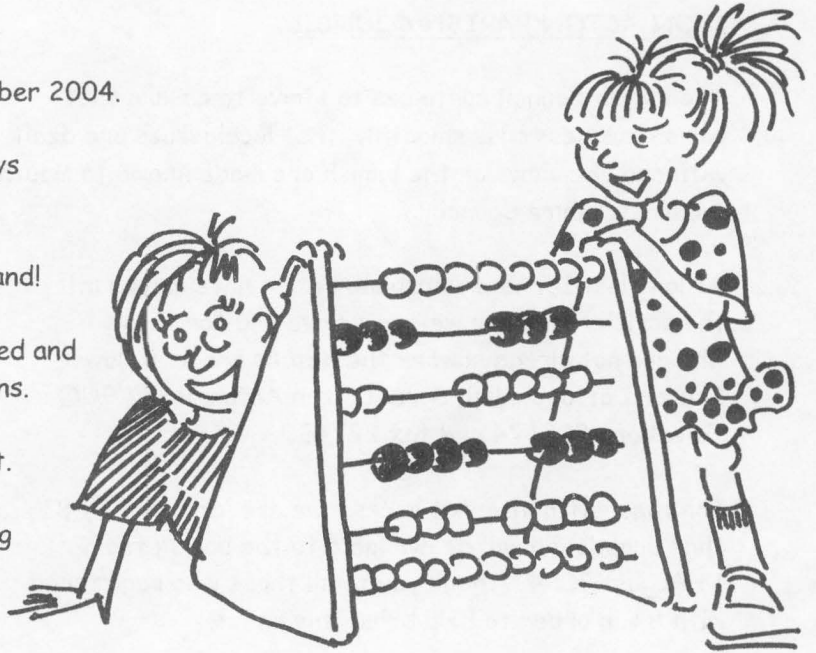
- * Open on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays
- * from 9.15 am to 1.15 pm
- * in Iron Acton Parish Hall.
- * Other sessions will be available upon demand!

All staff are qualified and OFSTED registered and will be pleased to answer any of your questions.

Please come and meet us for an informal chat.

We look forward to seeing you or you can ring us on 01454 884575 or 01454 618243

Jayne and Nicky



SAFER SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE - COMMUNITY SAFETY AND DRUG PARTNERSHIP

The following article has been passed to us by the Parish Council, who received it from Ann Smart, Community Safety Projects Officer for the South Gloucestershire Community Safety & Drug Action Team.

Thanks to the work of the Community Safety and Drug Partnership, South Gloucestershire is a much safer place to live and work.

The partnership was established in 1998 as a requirement of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 which placed a legal responsibility on the local authority and the police to develop a strategy for combating crime and disorder in their area.

Since then the Primary Care Trust, Fire Brigade and Police Authority have joined the original statutory partners. Representatives from the voluntary and business sectors are also members of the partnership.

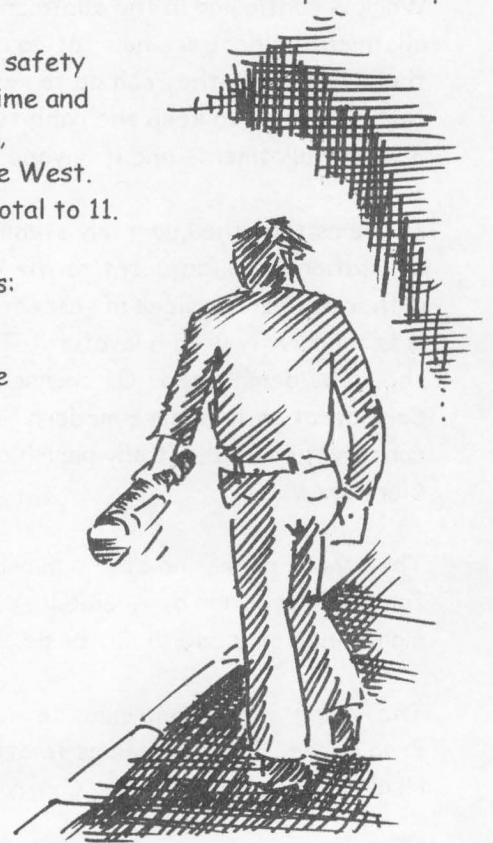
Helping to deliver the strategy on the ground are 10 local community safety groups which are based in those wards that have relatively higher crime and associated problems. The groups are Cadbury Heath, Filton, Hanham, Kingswood, Patchway, Staple Hill, The Stokes, Winterbourne and Yate West. A new group will be established later this year in Siston, taking the total to 11.

The South Gloucestershire Community Safety Strategy has 6 themes:

- * Offering public reassurance
- * Tackling anti-social behaviour
- * Supporting vulnerable people
- * Drug action
- * Tackling property crime
- * Creating safer roads

The consultation process will start in October and will be widely advertised, so keep a look out in the local press and council publications so that you can contribute your views.

If you would like to know more about community safety or about issues of concern in your area, please contact us on 01454 868760 or write to the Community Safety Manager at Parkman House, Lime Kiln Close, Stoke Gifford, BS34 8SQ.



IRON ACTON PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council continues to strive to ensure that parish business runs smoothly, that local issues are dealt with and the views of the parish are made known to South Gloucestershire Council.

At long last I, and my husband Peter, have moved into the parish. This is a welcome move and for those who are not already aware the details are as follows: Church Cottage, High Street, Iron Acton, BS37 9UQ, Telephone 228674 and fax 227490.

For those with internet access, we are informed by BT, that Broadband will be available to the parish from 18 August 2004. Thank you to all those who registered with BT in order to help bring this about.

The Parish Council intends to use e-mail as a form of communication in the near future. Discussions are currently being had with South Gloucestershire Council in this regard. We hope the e-mail address will be available for the next edition of Focal Poyntz but, in the meantime, keep an eye on the notice boards.

The May Day celebrations went well. In response to complaints that the grass was too long the Parish Council has amended the grass cutting specification so that cutting commences in March rather than April in the hope that this will improve things for next year. We all agreed that the maypole needs repainting - any volunteers?

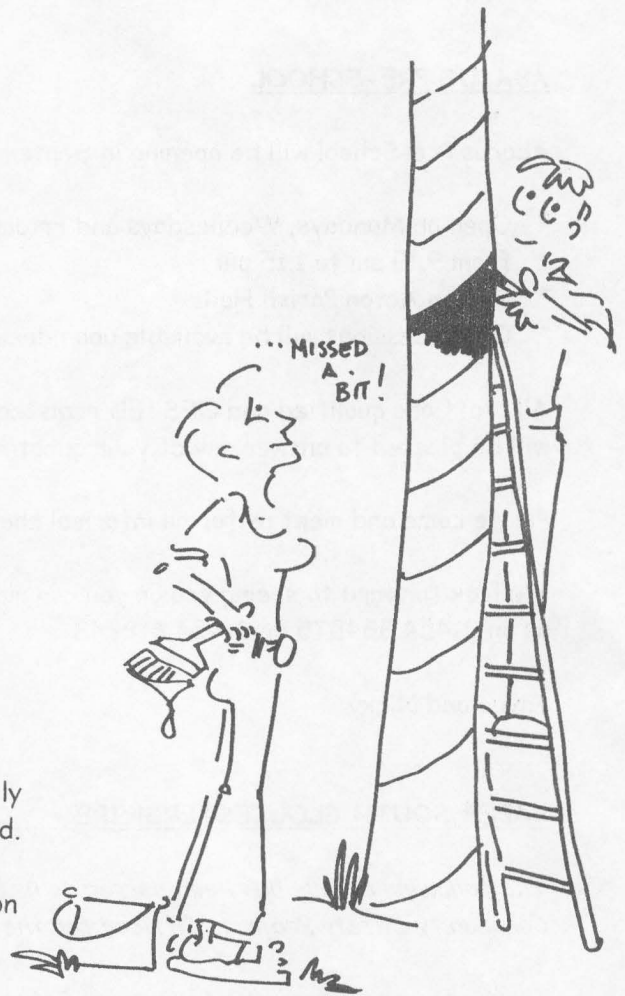
At the Annual Parish Meeting concerns were raised about flooding in the Engine Common area and in Bridge Road. These concerns have been reported to South Gloucestershire Council.

Work is continuing in the allotments. At Station Road a water supply has now been installed. The allotment holders are now facing a new problem rabbits. Unfortunately the Parish Council feels there is nothing they can do to resolve this new difficulty. Fencing the area has been considered but this is unlikely to keep the rabbits out. At Nibley Lane tidying up work is continuing. There are currently 3 vacant allotments and if anyone is interested please contact the Clerk.

It seems that the quarterly steam cleaning of the bus shelters is still not enough to keep the bus shelter on Station Road (adjacent to the White Hart) clean. Unfortunately our regular bus shelter cleaner has withdrawn her services in respect of this particular shelter and who can blame her, bearing in mind that it is frequently used a lavatory! The Parish Council is considering whether this particular bus shelter should be demolished. Of course, the bus stop would remain but with a post rather than a shelter. Consideration to a more modern "see through" shelter could be given but is likely to be unacceptable in a conservation area. If any parishioners strongly oppose the demolition of this bus shelter please let the Clerk know.

The annual inspection of the play area in the Parish Meadow has been carried out by RoSPA (Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents). The report concluded that the play area is in good condition and well maintained on a day to day basis.

The Parish Council continues to express concern about the state of disrepair at the old garden centre in Broad Lane. The site seems to attract teenagers and their safety is of concern. An Environmental Health Office and Building Control Surveyor from South Gloucestershire Council recently visited the site.



The only problem was that the house was accessible and the owners of the site were called in to secure the property. There is no prospect, at this time, of the house being demolished as this would have an impact on the status of the land for planning purposes.

Speeding within the parish remains a problem. The mobile safety camera will be in operation in North Road on a regular basis throughout the remainder of 2004 and on into 2005. The Parish Council is also working closely with the Director of Planning, Transportation and Strategic Environment at South Gloucestershire Council in this regard and has been consulted informally in respect of a review of speed limits across the Parish.

Finally, works to trees are being carried out in and around the churchyard and cemetery. Unfortunately, a tree fell down into the cemetery in January 2004 causing damage to headstones. Any persons who can assist in tracing the families of the damaged headstones please contact the Clerk urgently.

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A REUSABLE NAPPY WORKER!

I start the day, like most other parents of young children, being woken up by a small person demanding attention and a nappy change. I still marvel at the way my son's fleece wrap and cotton nappy can last 12 hours without leaking!

This is partly what we are trying to tell parents and carers out there, that by using modern reusable nappies you do not have to compromise on effectiveness, ease of use, style or comfort. There is even a laundry service that will provide and wash nappies for you!

A typical day may start with a visit to an ante-natal class to give a talk to expectant parents. We provide advice and information on all aspects of reusable nappy use: -

- * The types of nappy systems and use
- * Washing
- * Financial and environmental savings
- * Where to get the nappies

I try to make this lighthearted and pass some nappies around for closer inspection. This usually prompts some discussion among the group - especially the leopard print ones! We also have a very informative video available to buy for more practical information.

We've also started a nappy loan service for anyone interested in 'try before you decide' so I will spend sometime with the parent(s) advising on use, etc. This means that a selection of the different types of nappies, wraps and liners are loaned for a week so that an informed choice can be made without any financial outlay.

We also do a lot of networking with health professionals, community development workers and other interested groups. We also have regular displays and stands at all types of event from the Scrap Store Road Shows to the Children's Festival - so please invite us along as we make a good talking point!

For more information, advice, talks or loans please contact:

The Real Nappy Project at The Recycling Consortium
on 0117 930 4355
(e-mail is: mom@recyclingconsortium.org.uk)

Haidee Baker
Real Nappy Projects Outreach Worker
for the South Gloucestershire Area



FOCAL POYNTZ INFORMATION

Your Focal Poyntz Team is:

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228566

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294381

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Barrie Wright
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228247

Deliveries are ably carried out by:

Lionel Alsop

Roy Hubbard

Lynne Blanchard

Ashley Mee

The Bradley Family

Sue Shepherd

Hazel Dron

The Smith Family

Elizabeth Edwards

Laura Walters

Andrew Gowen

Pete Wedgewood

John Griffen

Mike wheeler

Chris Heal

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:

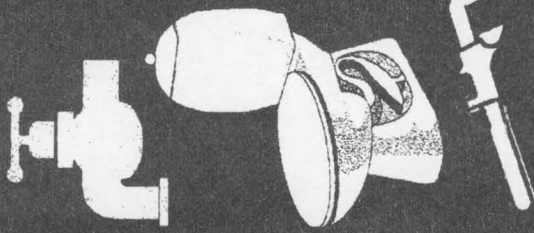
As always, our printing has been undertaken by Oldbury Deckers Youth Club and we say a big "thank you" to them.

COVER:

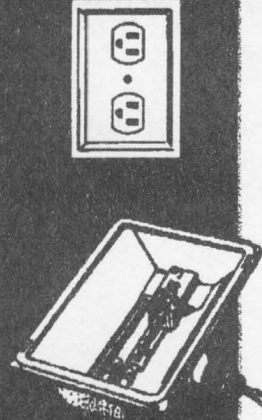
We think we've included all the places in Iron Acton. If we've forgotten you please let us know!

PLUMBING & ELECTRICAL

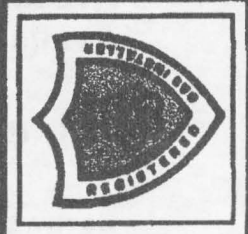
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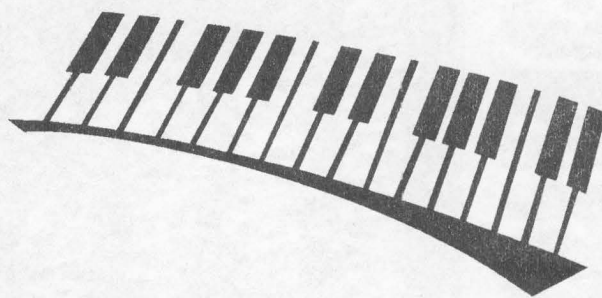
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And Speak to Steve

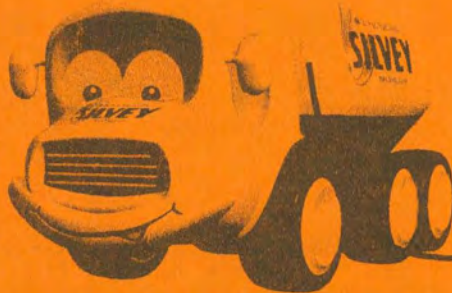
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