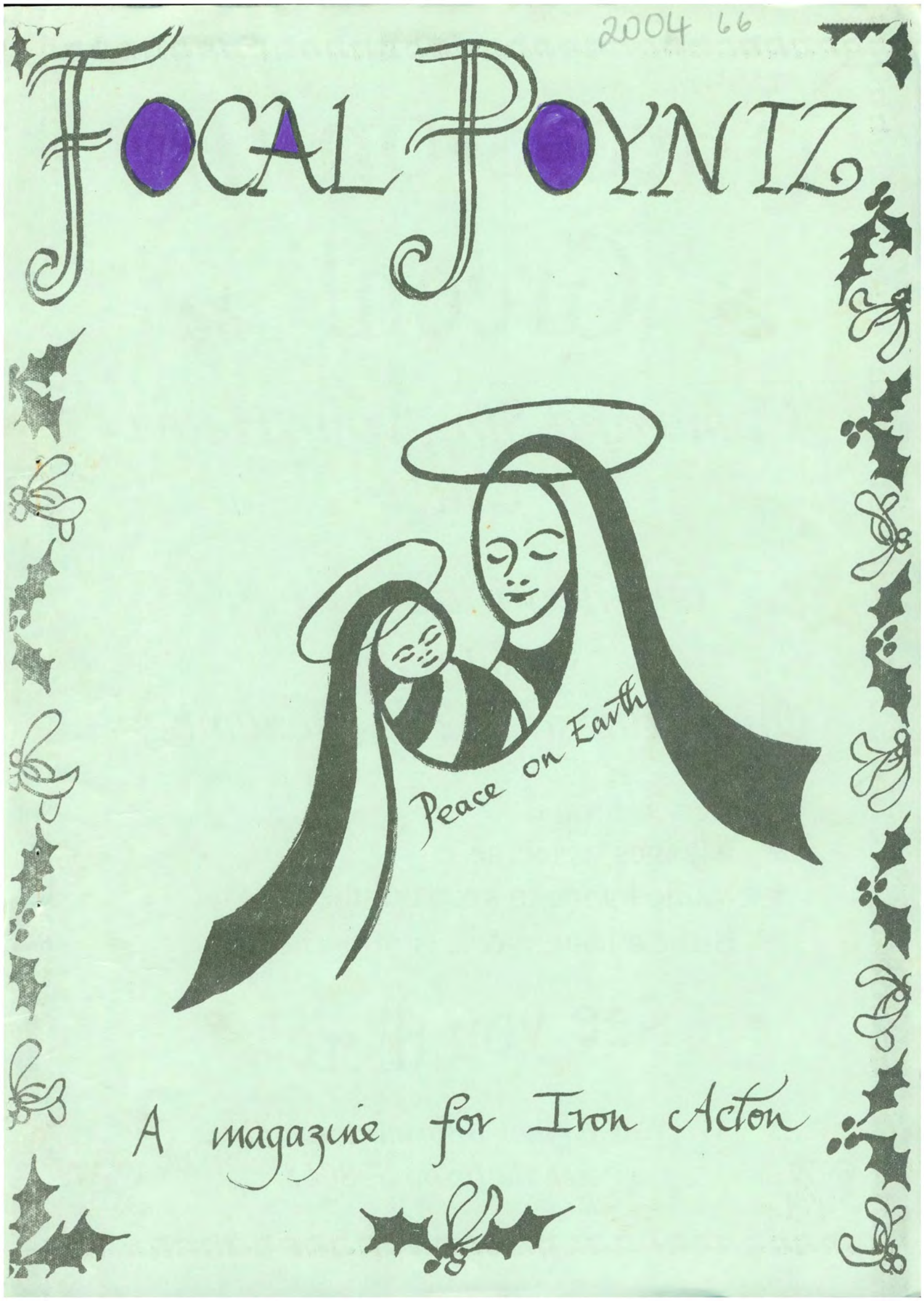



2004 66

FOCAL POINTS



A magazine for Iron Acton





Carols on the Green!



*Come and Sing your Heart
Out!*

On the Village Green

At 7.00pm

On Wednesday 22nd December

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

See you there!

*For further information call
Peter Bellis on 228065*





ISSUE: NO.
66

Summer is now but a distant past, the clocks have been turned back and Autumn is well and truly upon us, but be not afraid, as was once said, Christmas is just around the corner. Ho! Ho! Ho!

You may still be lucky and find the odd card left at the Mall, they have been on sale since mid July, but be of good cheer as Father Christmas is due to make his annual visits to the village during the proper month of December.

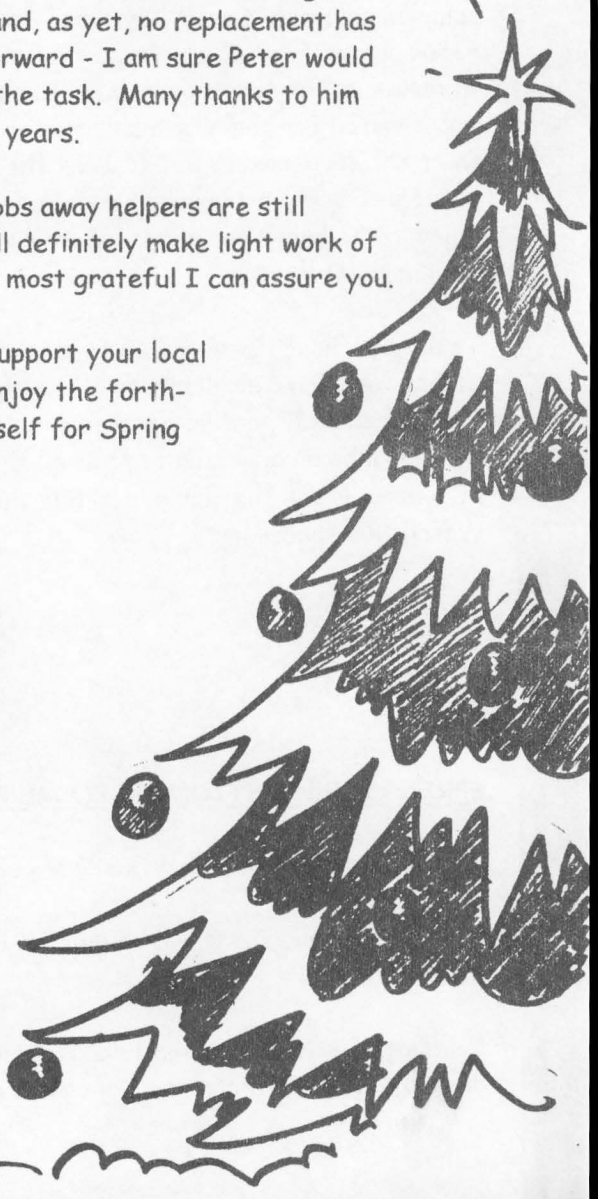
On a sadder note we hear that the local Neighbourhood Watch Scheme is finishing as Peter Wedgewood has decided to hang up his handcuffs and, as yet, no replacement has been found. A chance for a budding volunteer to come forward - I am sure Peter would be only too willing to provide that person with details of the task. Many thanks to him and his team for their hard work and dedication over the years.

Onwards and upwards, as they say, for as 2004 quickly ebbs away helpers are still required to help distribute this magazine; extra hands will definitely make light work of an enjoyable job. The current team would be most grateful I can assure you.

Meanwhile, enjoy this latest issue, support your local fairs and bazaars but, most of all, enjoy the forthcoming festive season and gird yourself for Spring



HOW DOES HE DO THAT THEN?



HARVEST TIME IN IRON ACTON

As we still consider ourselves a rural parish in spite of the mushrooming industrial estates, nightmare traffic and numerous "open all hours" supermarkets on our doorstep, it is especially satisfying to be able to participate in a good old fashioned Harvest Festival where we really do celebrate the fruits of the earth and the hard labour that goes into their production.

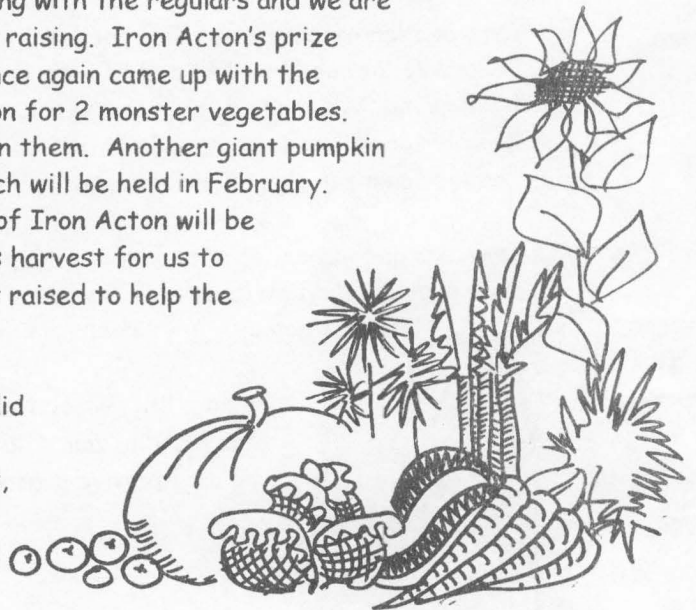
We celebrated harvest on the first weekend in October, kicking off with the Harvest Supper and Barn Dance in the Parish Hall on Saturday. This function, organised jointly by Iron Acton and Frampton Cotterell parishes, was a sell-out with a very de-luxe ploughman's supper and some very energetic dancing which appealed to all ages.

On the Sunday morning the traditional Harvest Service was held in a beautifully decorated church; with shelves and aisles groaning with local produce. This was followed by a breakfast of bacon sandwiches, toast, tea and coffee for the congregation. There was some lively participation by Children's Church and the music was led by our very professional choir.

Harvest wouldn't be harvest without the Monday night Auction at the Rose and Crown. As usual, Allan and Gail provided an excellent venue for a lively and very profitable evening of fund raising. This year the chosen charity supported famine relief in Sudan. Once again funds above our wildest dreams were raised thanks to the generosity of the Rose and Crown's customers. Monday night alone raised £550 from the sale of produce. It is such a joy to share this fun filled evening with the regulars and we are always so grateful for the boost they give to our fund raising. Iron Acton's prize pumpkin growers, Albert Davis and Hayden Rickard, once again came up with the goods and we had a lively Guess the Weight competition for 2 monster vegetables. Afterwards they were auctioned raising £200 between them. Another giant pumpkin was donated for the now traditional Famine Lunch which will be held in February. Once the soup makers get to work the deep freezers of Iron Acton will be called into service to preserve the end product of this harvest for us to enjoy in the New Year and increase further the money raised to help the famine relief effort.

To date we have raised £845 for the charity, a splendid effort for such a small village. Thank you to everyone who helped and spent so generously. And, don't forget, there will be an opportunity to swell the fund further by joining us for the famine lunch in the New Year. Watch this space!!

Hazel Dron



SPRING 2005 EDITION OF FOCAL POYNTZ

The distribution dates for the next edition are the weekend of Saturday, 26 and Sunday, 27 March 2005.

Copies of the magazine will be delivered to our willing band of distributors by, at the latest, Sunday, 20 March.

Deadline for the bulk of articles is Sunday, 13 February (so that Maureen has enough time to complete the drawings) and additional details can be added right up to Monday, 7 March.

NORTH ROAD POST OFFICE AND STORES

We've all seen the reports of Post Office closures, can we please ask all inhabitants of Iron Acton parish to remember that we have a Post Office and Stores and that we should all be using this, especially in the run up to Christmas for all our stamps and mailing. Why not tear out this slip and pin it onto your notice board?

<u>Opening Hours</u>	<u>Post Office</u>	<u>Stores</u>
Monday	9.00 am - 5.30 pm	6.00 am - 5.30 pm
Tuesday	9.00 am - 5.30 pm	6.00 am - 5.30 pm
Wednesday	9.00 am - 5.30 pm	6.00 am - 6.00 pm
Thursday	9.00 am - 5.30 pm	6.00 am - 5.30 pm
Friday	9.00 am - 5.30 pm	6.00 am - 5.30 pm
Saturday	9.00 am - 12.30 pm	6.00 am - 6.00 pm

Closed between 1.00 pm and 2.00 pm and also on Sundays

If you're new to Iron Acton, and live the Bristol rather than Yate side and are unsure where to find the PO, head towards Yate, at the roundabout past Q8 garage turn left, at the first set of traffic lights also turn left - you're now in North Road. The PO is along on your right (just before the school).

FRIENDS OF IRON ACTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

We will be holding our Christmas Bazaar on Saturday, 4 December 2004 in the School Hall from 11.00 am to 1.00 pm. Father Christmas will be paying his usual visit and all the children are welcome to come along and remind him of their ever increasing Christmas lists! There will be plenty of stalls, including our incredibly popular home produce stall of jams, pickles and homemade cakes, as well as activities for the children. Please feel free to pop in and join us for a cup of tea or coffee and a mince pie.

Our fund raising efforts are continuing towards the school's Wildlife Garden. Plans have been drawn up and we are hopeful that planting can start in the Spring. When it is finished it will be a real asset for the school and a great place for the children to learn about nature.

Following a comment made at one of our recent meetings the Friends have been developing the idea of putting together a recipe book. I don't know whether FP readers will remember the recipe book that was put together by Mrs Waker a number of years ago - but some copies are still on Iron Acton parishioners' bookshelves and it makes excellent reading. So far we have gathered a number of recipes that are tried and tested, as well as quick and easy ideas for the busy mum!

We're hoping to have the book ready for sale at May Day 2005 so if any FP readers would like to contribute towards the cook-book please let me have your recipes. You can contact me by e-mail to mark.paula@virgin.net or by post to Gorlan, High Street, Iron Acton.

Paula Evans / Chair



RIVER FROME MYSTERY SOLVED

Our local riparian sleuth has solved a mystery which has been troubling us all summer. Our beautiful tree-lined stream has been running almost dry and then fills up mysteriously.

Our heroine, whom I shall henceforth refer to as Miss Acton-Marple, was not at all impressed by 2 Environment Agency "operatives" who arrived in their usual uniform of green wellies and warm anoraks although they were fully armed with clip-boards and spoke eco-jargon fluently. After walking upstream to Nibley they reported to Miss Acton-Marple that they could find nothing wrong. Dragon-fly larvae, used condoms and Tesco plastics were getting on famously together.

Our sleuth was not satisfied; she recruited 2 assistants and determined to walk the river from its source in Dodington Park, through Old Sodbury and down to Iron Acton. On arrival in Old Sodbury they encountered a riparian resident who reported similar fluctuations in the water level together with greyish silt laden water.

It appeared that some contractors have been employed since early in the year to dredge out the mud from the bottom of the lake in Dodington Park. The work involved diverting the underground source of the Frome from the lake they were dredging; hence the rapid fluctuations in water flow. This task should have been completed in the spring but it dragged on into the driest part of summer.

It seems that the Environment Agency and its local employees had not been told, or the message had not been passed on. "When ignorance is bliss 'tis folly to be wise" would seem to be their motto.

Anyway, the story has a happy ending. The river and its millstream are now running full again and what has been happening in the summer of 2004 is not due to global warming. In fact, it's getting distinctly chilly as I write and sign myself

"An Over-Ripe Riparian"

* To save you dashing for a dictionary the OED definition says: adjective: of or on a riverbank, noun: an owner of property on a river bank (it's from the Latin riparius, from ripa, meaning bank).



NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Regrettably, as no one has offered to take over as co-ordinator I will be informing the Staple Hill Administrator that the Village/Latteridge Neighbourhood Watch no longer operates.

NB This could affect some households whose insurance company gives a small discount for belonging to a Neighbourhood Watch.

There is approximately £60 in the kitty and I propose to donate this to the Iron Acton Charities Trust Fund - unless I hear otherwise.

Peter Wedgewood / 228532



CHRISTMAS AT YOUR PARISH CHURCH

SERVICES AT ST JAMES THE LESS - CHRISTMAS 2004

Sunday	12	December	9.00 am 6.00 pm	Said Holy Communion Christmas Carol Service for South Glos Deaf Association (signed)
Sunday	19	December	9.00 am 6.00 pm	Family Communion with Presentation by Children's Church Christmas Carol Service by Candlelight
Christmas Eve Friday,	24	December	5.30 pm *** 11.30 pm	Christingle and Crib Service - <u>note EARLIER time</u> (collection to the Babe Appeal) Midnight Mass
Christmas Day Saturday,	25	December	8.00 am 9.00 am	Holy Communion at St Peters, Frampton Cotterell Family Service - Informal and Short - for the whole family
Boxing Day Sunday,	26	December	10.30 am	Joint Holy Communion with Carols At St Peter's, Frampton Cotterell

Please remember the earlier time for the Christingle and Crib Service 5.30 pm this year!

You will be welcome to join in any of our Christmas services this year as we celebrate the birth of the Jesus, Son of God.

The collection at the Christingle and Crib Service on Christmas Eve will be donated to the Babe Appeal for Children's Hospice South West and there will also be donation plates for the same cause at all of our services.

Sue Rushton / 01454 772112

Why not cut along the dotted line on this page - then you'll have the new service arrangements on one side and all Christmas services on the other

ST JAMES THE LESS

2005 Services - New Monthly Family Communion



The Churchwardens, PCC and I are very anxious to make all members of our families welcome, from the youngest to the oldest, and for us all to worship God together when we can. So we are changing our pattern of services from January to fit in a Family Communion Service once a month as well as our very successful Children's Church.

The children will continue to have their own worship on the fourth Sunday of the month and they will always be welcome at all services but there will also be the more informal service on a separate Sunday (second in the month) when the children will be particularly welcomed in church throughout the service. We will continue to make the vestry available as a bolt-hole for young children who need it, but we hope they will want to stay with us for at least most of the service. The planning for these services will be done by a team of Mums and Grannies working with me to make them as accessible as possible to everyone.

A new pattern of services can be quite confusing - especially to the clergy of course!! It will take a while for us all to get used to them but here are the new arrangements - you could perhaps pin them up on your kitchen notice board:

1 st	Sunday of the Month	9.00 am	Said Holy Communion
2 nd	Sunday of the Month	9.00 am	Family Communion Service
3 rd	Sunday of the Month	9.00 am	Sung Eucharist
4 th	Sunday of the Month	9.00 am	Sung Eucharist with Children's Church
5 th	Sunday of the Month	10.30 am	Joint Service with St Peters (alternating between both churches)

Sound System

We have been trying out a sound reinforcement system in church over recent months and have been delighted with its effect. It helps those who have hearing difficulties to hear the service and, of course, it is also a great asset when children are present and taking part in our services. We think it is important to make our worship accessible to all.

The system we have been trying out is on loan to us from a generous parishioner but we can't keep it for ever so we are very keen to be able to accept his kind offer of a full system of our own, including an induction loop, which he will install for around £1,500 - a bargain!

The Parochial Church Council has been discussing various ways of raising this sum and have already planned some fund-raising events and applications to grant making bodies..... but if anyone else would like to help us, either with some fund-raising, some ideas or even a donation we would be very grateful.

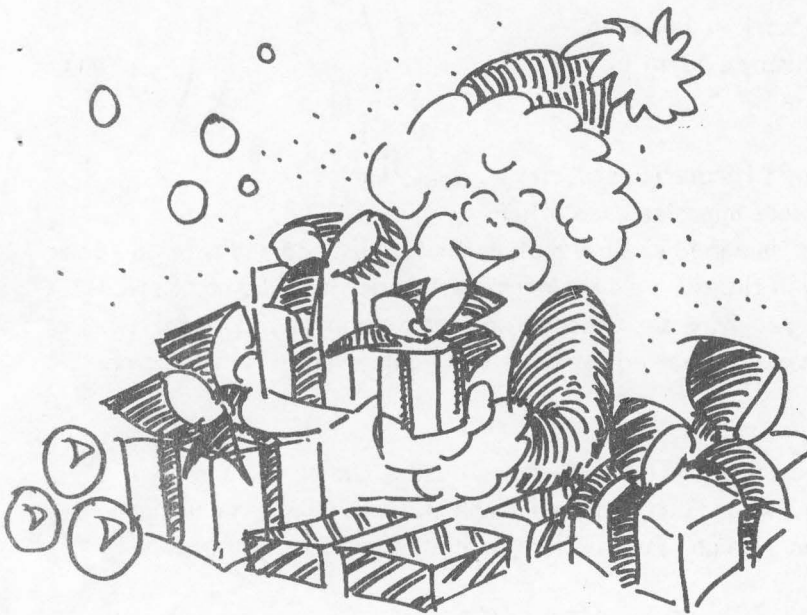
Sue Rushton / 01454 772112

THE FRIENDS OF NORTH ROAD SCHOOL

Our fund-raising over the last school year was a great success with The Friends of North Road School succeeding in fulfilling all of the school's "wish list". They haven't yet told us what's going to be on this year's "wish list" but we are already working hard to raise funds to make sure that all the school's "wishes" come true for this school year. The Friends have already suggested that the bottom garden at the school needs some urgent attention, the old greenhouse (which is falling down) needs replacing and some major bush and tree trimming is also required.

One of our main fund-raisers this year was a Fashion Show which was held on Friday, 15 October in the Parish Hall. The evening was a great success and was very well supported by the parents of the children who were models for the night and also by the local community. There were various stalls and areas selling and selling refreshments including a licensed bar. The children really enjoyed modelling the clothes and

thought it was great fun. The evening was opened by local dance group "Red". The raffle also went well with prizes from the Longleat Safari Park, Taj Mahal, The Codrington Arms, Yate Sports Centre and The Chinese Cuisine. We don't yet have a final figure but we expect it to be in the region of £600 and we hope that this will go towards the purchase of the new greenhouse and shed - plus some gardening equipment if there's sufficient funds left.



We are planning a Christmas Fayre to be held on Friday, 3 December at 2.00 pm in the School Hall. Everyone is welcome to come along.

The school will also be holding their Christmas Disco for pupils at the school on Wednesday, 8 December - a great social event which all the children love.

We're also giving you advance notice of The Duck Race 2005 - this will be held on Saturday, 23 April (St Georges Day!) starting from Templar Bridge in Yate. Ducks can be purchased for just £1.00 and anyone holding the number of the winning duck receives £25.00, with £15.00 going to second place and £5.00 going to third and last place ducks. Ducks can be purchased from the school office and hopefully the Post Office on North Road from about a month before the race. We are also keeping our fingers crossed that we'll also be given the opportunity to sell ducks at Safeway/Morrisons in Yate on the Saturday before the race. The event is great fun and, depending on the weather, there's every likelihood of some of the ducks racing down the river at great speed.

Finally, for the time being, our annual Plant Sale will take place on Friday, 20 May 2005, from 2.00 pm, in the School Playground and you'll also be able to purchase refreshments while sitting and dreaming of your new plants sitting in your garden in all their splendour.

..... But, before we all get to 2005, the Friends of North Road School would like to wish everyone a very happy Christmas and New Year.

THE ACTONIANS DRAMA GROUP

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

Our next major production will be the pantomime "Cinderella" on 2, 3 and 4 December at 7.30 pm and an additional matinee performance on 4 December at 2.30 pm. We anticipate a production of high jinks and much fun which will provide a little warmth during the depths of winter and add to your preparations for the festive season. Tickets will be available from all group members and from Ann Aplin (contact details are given below).

Last month a small group performed a short melodrama as The Actonians' contribution to the South Glos Festival of Culture. The space in which the performance took place was a large sports hall which made the acoustics very challenging to work in, however the enthusiasm and commitment for the task was very evident in all the players and there was clearly much to enjoy.

There were also 2 Rose Bowl nominations for Robert Pardoe (Best Actor) and Di Pardoe (Best Actress) for their performances opposite each other in "Beyond Reasonable Doubt". This was the first time in Rose Bowl history that a husband and wife had been nominated for these 2 main awards for appearing in the same play. Unfortunately neither Rob nor Di were successful in their nominations but the honour of receiving such recognition from amongst 138 different amateur dramatic groups was enough to make the award evening a greatly enjoyable event at the Weston-Super-Mare Winter Gardens on 10 October.

The Actonians are always keen to welcome new members for both on-stage, back-stage or technical work. We are particularly interested if anyone out there who is a frustrated sound and/or lighting technician who would like to join a friendly and hard working drama group. For further details

Please contact: Ann APLIN (228243) or Steve BIRCH (883300)

Rob and Di Pardoe / Publicity



ACTON AID

Acton Aid continues to stage events to raise money for good causes in the parish. The Summer Proms in the Meadow was a great success and we would like to thank all who turned out to support the evening as well as those whose hard work made the event possible. In addition to funds for the village bonfire and fireworks on 6 November, SCARF (skin cancer research fund) raised over £200 from the bucket collection.

For those of you with 2005 diaries to hand, the event will return, by popular demand, on 16 July 2005 with more entertainment AND amplification!



Our ongoing programme of talks has continued with Capt Pam McCoy giving us a fascinating insight into the Hajj - the annual pilgrimage of Muslims from all over the world to Mecca. Due to the unavailability of The

Lamb this talk was held in the Marshall Rooms but we will return to The Lamb at 8.00 pm on 13 January 2005 for our next talk, when John Zorab will give an insight into life in Armenia.

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 on the first Thursday of each month at 8.00 pm. Meetings have the minimum of formality, with fund raising events and the distribution of resources discussed and planned over a pint or two.

We have recently agreed to allocate monies to both North Road and Iron Acton Schools for library projects, to St James the Less Church towards carpets for the Poyntz Chapel and to the Parish Hall for storage facilities. Before Christmas we will again be distributing our usual gift to pensioners across the parish.

Finally, if any 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

NORTH ROAD LADIES CLUB

Since our last write-up our annual evening outing in July took us on a guided tour of Bristol with Brian Amesbury, partly on foot and partly by coach. It was a very pleasant evening, the weather was very kind to us and we finished our tour with refreshments at The Landogger Trow.

For our September meeting it was suggested that we should have a social evening. We therefore organised a Beetle Drive and Quiz Evening which proved to be a great success with much laughter. The quiz was about song titles containing names of flowers - and we ended up singing the answers.

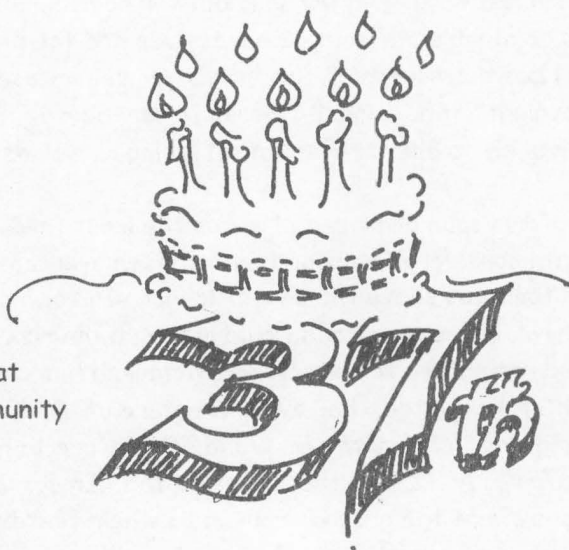
Mrs Anne Bowring came along on 4 October to show slides and talk about "Tyntesfield" (National Trust). Mrs Bowring is a volunteer guide at Tyntesfield and told us about the history of the Gibbs family and gave us an insight into the National Trust's work at Tyntesfield. This was a really absorbing talk and some of us who have not yet visited Tyntesfield felt inspired to book a guided tour. We were very pleased to welcome 2 new members to this meeting. It is a joy to know that not only does our Club continue to thrive but that we are attracting new members.

On Monday, 1 November members we hold our 37th Birthday Celebrations at the Codrington Arms, North Road.

On 6 December Jean Drew will demonstrate Christmas Decorations and Flower Arrangements. This will be followed by the AGM and American Supper.

Visitors, or new members, will receive a warm welcome at any of our meetings which are held in North Road Community Primary School, commencing at 7.30 pm.

June Rycroft / Secretary

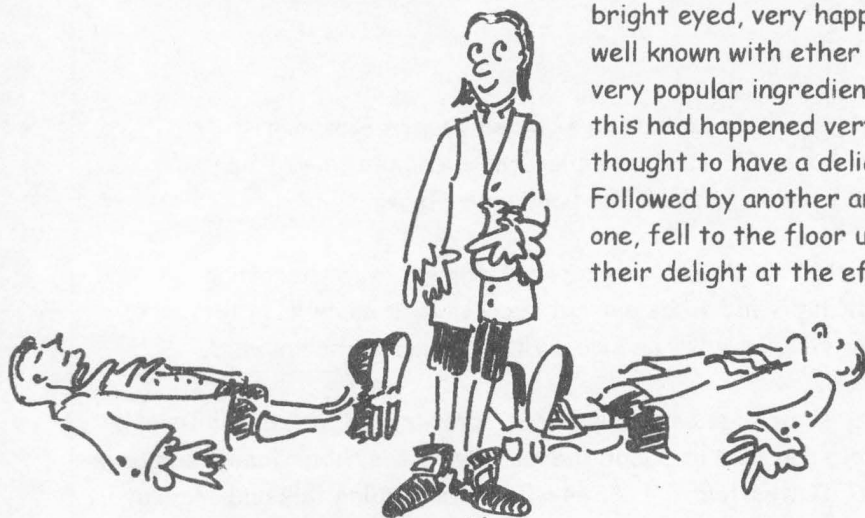


THE HISTORY OF MEDICINE 1 - CHLOROFORM

The name Chloroform will be familiar to many readers of crime fiction since authors delight in having one character or another being rendered instantly unconscious with a pad of the anaesthetic, chloroform.

Chloroform, however, has an interesting history especially in relation to the relief of pain in childbirth. Ether, however, was the first general anaesthetic to be discovered. The first successful demonstration taking place in Boston, USA on 16 October 1846. The news soon reached Great Britain and its use to relieve the pain in surgery rapidly spread. James Young Simpson was Professor of Midwifery at Edinburgh. He was a humane man and, by January 1847, was using ether to relieve the pain of childbirth especially when prolonged labour or instruments were involved. However, from the first time Simpson saw ether used, he was convinced that a better agent would be found. He disliked the persistent smell and the irritation to the lungs that ether caused and started to search for an alternative. He contacted a number of chemists asking them to provide him with various substances for testing. His method of testing was to meet with a few friends and colleagues and for them each to inhale the substances and see what happened.

On 4 November 1847, after a weary day's labour, Simpson with 2 friends and 2 assistants sat down to their somewhat hazardous work in Simpson's dining room in his house at 52 Queen Street, Edinburgh. They inhaled several substances without much effect. There was, however, one substance that had seemed so unlikely that it had been set aside on a lumber table. It was searched for and recovered from beneath a heap of waste paper. It happened to be a small bottle of chloroform. The tumblers of the experimenters were refilled and they started to inhale. Immediately an unwonted hilarity seized the party. They became



... He works then!!!...

bright eyed, very happy and very loquacious. These effects were well known with ether to the extent that "ether frolics" were a very popular ingredient at many parties. But, with chloroform, this had happened very quickly and the new substance was thought to have a delicious aroma. Soon, there was a crash. Followed by another and another as the experimenters, one by one, fell to the floor unconscious. As they awoke, they expressed their delight at the effect and tried it several more times that night, including Dr Simpson's niece who, bravely taking her turn, as she fell asleep, cried "I'm an angel! Oh, I'm an angel!" They all realised a discovery had been made which was better than ether. The next morning, a chemist was asked to produce more chloroform.

Simpson lost no time in trying it out for painful labour. He very soon presented his discovery to a medical audience at which he said, "I have never had the pleasure of watching over a series of better and more rapid recoveries whilst I have now seen an immense amount of maternal pain and agony saved by its employment". And I most conscientiously believe that the proud mission of the physician is distinctly two-fold; namely to alleviate human suffering as well as to preserve human life.

Chloroform soon displaced ether as the most favoured anaesthetic. Its use in obstetrics spread, although not until considerable opposition had been overcome. Simpson was attacked from 2 main sources for using chloroform to relieve the pain of labour. His own profession attacked him on the grounds that it was unnatural, unnecessary and would increase the risks of childbearing. How could a mother love her child if she did not suffer for it? Others attacked him on theological grounds. Simpson responded in kind. In a pamphlet, he quoted, "For every creature of God is good, and nothing to be refused if it be received with thanksgiving." (1 Timothy iv. 4) and "Therefore to him that knoweth to do good and doeth it not, to him it is sin." (James iv. 17). To those who quoted, "In sorrow thou shalt bring forth children." (Genesis 3. 16), Simpson swept the ground from under their feet by reference to the original Hebrew text. He pointed out that the word translated as "sorrow" really means labour, toil or physical exertion. Long and acrimonious were the controversies but Simpson eventually won.

By the middle of 1848, the use of chloroform during labour was well established and then further support for the practice came from an unexpected source. In 1850 a Dr John Snow was, at that time, the leading anaesthetist in London. Discreet enquiries were made of him, on behalf of Queen Victoria, about chloroform. Three years later, Snow was summoned to Her Majesty during the birth of Prince Leopold. This was Her Majesty's eighth confinement and, by now, she knew what was what. Many in the medical establishment thought that there was no need for chloroform in normal labour and were appalled that the Sovereign appeared to have been advised to take chloroform - not least because if it went well - every woman of quality would wish to do the same but Queen Victoria was a very determined woman and was almost certainly supported by her husband, Prince Albert. If she was recommended not to take chloroform it is very easy to imagine Her Majesty saying to her advisors "Thank you gentlemen for your opinions, *We* are having this baby and *We* are having chloroform". The matter would have been closed. Snow went ahead and administered chloroform in doses small enough to relieve pain but not to produce unconsciousness. This was a technique that subsequently became known as "chloroform à la reine" A note in the diary of Snow's biographer states that the queen expressed herself as greatly relieved by the administration. Indeed, she had chloroform again at the birth of her next and ninth child, Princess Beatrice. The only written reference to chloroform made by Queen Victoria herself was in a letter to Princess Augusta, the mother of the Prince Frederick who married her eldest daughter, also called Victoria. She said "Vicky appears to feel quite as well and to recover herself just as quickly as I did. What a blessing she had chloroform".

Chloroform continued to be used for the next 130 years but, eventually, the occasional unexpected death led to its being abandoned in favour of ether which was safer. The writer watched chloroform being administered once while a student but never used it himself but started his anaesthetic career when ether was still the anaesthetic of choice. Simpson's house in Edinburgh is still there and the dining room where the discovery was made is now known as "The Discovery Room" and has some of Simpson's original furniture.

John Zorab



BOOK GROUP

I am aware that there are a number of people in Iron Acton who are interested in forming a Book Group. The aim being to meet on a regular basis and discuss books chosen in turn by the group's members. We want the group to be a relaxed fun activity.

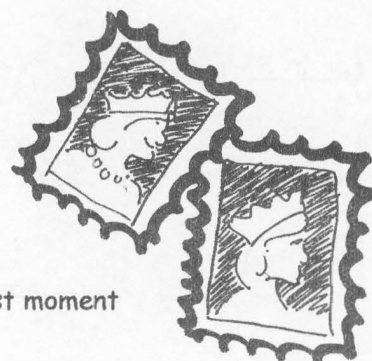
If you are interested please contact me and I'll arrange a meeting in the New Year to discuss how we can set one up. All are welcome; male and female, young and old, as a mixed group tends to select a more varied book list and to promote more lively discussion at the meetings - which is what a Book Group is all about? Give it a try, join us and see.

Jill Bradshaw / 228626

RECOMMENDED LAST POSTING DATES FOR THE UK

2 nd Class	Saturday, 18 December
1 st Class	Tuesday, 21 December

..... Although the advice, as always, is don't leave everything until the last moment



IRON ACTON HORTICULTURAL SHOW

First of all I would like to say a very big "Thank You" to everyone who took part in the Horticultural Show on Saturday, 4 September. To say we were overwhelmed was a little bit of an understatement - apologies for the queues you may have experienced in getting your entry into the Hall on time. We hope to have a new signing in procedure for 2005.

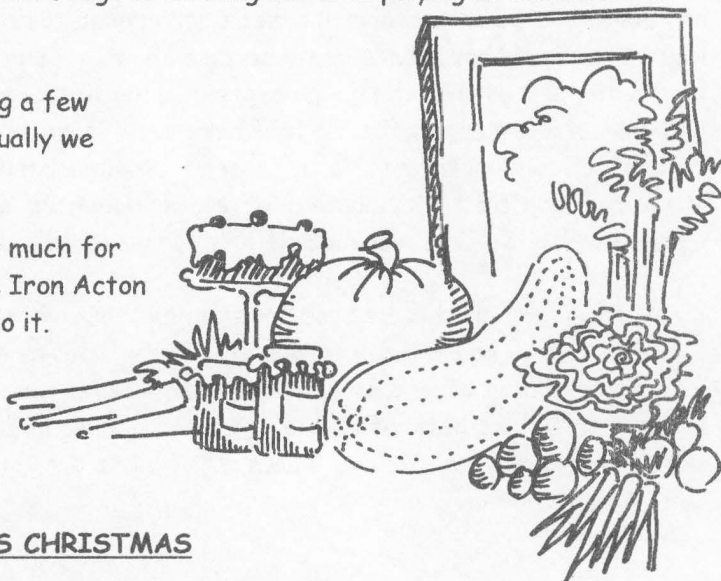
It was wonderful to see the Hall so full of your produce and to think that so many people had made such an effort. I know some folks will say that it is only a small village show, but boy is the competition fierce!

The General Section Judge commented that we had far more entries than the Chipping Sodbury Horticultural Show and the Home Produce Section Judge is thinking about employing an assistant - so well done Iron Acton!

We are still refining some of the classes, adding a few new sections, etc, so please bear with us, eventually we will have everything finely tuned.

Once again, I would like to thank you all so very much for the time and effort you put into supporting the Iron Acton Horticultural Show. Without you, we couldn't do it.

Paula Evans



ENJOY THE MAGIC AT WESTONBIRT THIS CHRISTMAS

The Enchanted Wood

On Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights throughout December (and on Wednesday, 22 and Thursday, 24 December) the Arboretum is transformed into a magical Christmas experience, enjoy an atmospheric walk through an Illuminated trail which allows you to see the trees in a different light! Mulled wine and mince pies will be available in the Courtyard Café. Adults £5, children up to 15 yrs free, family tickets £10, concessions £4.

Father Christmas in his Grotto

On Saturday, 4 December Father Christmas and his helpers will arrive at 2.00 pm and you can then come and visit them every Friday, Saturday and Sunday (and on Wednesday, 22 and Thursday, 24) in December from 2.00 pm to 7.00 pm. Cost £3.50 per child.

Christmas Craft Fair

Friday, 10 to Sunday, 12 December when over 50 of the country's finest crafts people will be at the Arboretum setting traditional handmade items which make perfect Christmas gifts.

Christmas Trees and Decorations

A wide range of pines, spruces and firs will be available from 1-24 December and also a range of wreaths, decorations and tree stands. Sales area open Mon-Thurs 10.00 am to 5.00 pm and Fri-Sun 10.00 am to 6.00 pm

Forest Shop

Look out for an exciting range of Christmas gifts and decorations. Everything from mind boggling wooden puzzles to hand painted ceramics.

And when it's all over

Tree Recycling

Enjoy a New Year walk and bring your Christmas tree for recycling!



What's on in Iron Acton?!

Dear Parishioner

Over the years I have often heard people in Iron Acton saying how they hadn't heard about what was going on in the Parish.

We have a fantastic community life with something for everyone whether it is a raucous party or amateur dramatics, an evening lecture or a special church service. There are many organisations active in village life and they want to tell you what they are up to - the only problem is that to leaflet drop the whole parish is both expensive and time consuming.

The solution?

E-mail! At a guess 75% of households (and growing) have access to e-mail either at work or home so at the press of a button the majority of the parish could be informed of a forthcoming event - no printing, no tramping round the village, no not bothering with properties on the by-pass - easy.

If you have access to e-mail and you would like to get village information that way please indicate which organisations you would like to hear from and return the completed form to me at the address as overleaf. Your details will not be passed to anyone other than the organisations you indicate below and all of the organisations using this information will offer an "opt out" so if the service is no longer required it will be easy to stop.

Yours sincerely

David Hatherell
Acton Aid

I would like to hear from the following Iron Acton voluntary organisations by e-mail:

Acton Aid	<input type="checkbox"/>	Name
Actonians Drama Group	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Cricket Club	<input type="checkbox"/>	Address
Focal Poyntz	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Friends of Iron Acton School	<input type="checkbox"/>
Friends of North Road School	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Horticultural Show Committee	<input type="checkbox"/>	E-Mail
May Day Committee	<input type="checkbox"/>	
North Road Ladies	<input type="checkbox"/>	Signed
Parent and Toddler Group	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Parish Council	<input type="checkbox"/>	Date:
Parish Hall Committee	<input type="checkbox"/>	
St James the Less Church	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Women's Institute	<input type="checkbox"/>	
All of the Above!	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Fold 1

Fold 2

Fold 3

David Hatherell
The Old Saddlers
High Street
Iron Acton
BRISTOL
BS37 9UH

Fold 4 – tuck
into 3rd fold

IRON ACTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

It gives me great pleasure to write my first article for Focal Poyntz and to have the opportunity to say thank you for the warm welcome expressed in the last magazine.

My association with the community is just beginning. I was fortunate to be invited to your May Day celebrations where I was amazed to discover how many different organisations are linked to the village. I was impressed by the fact that the rain did not seem to dampen people's enthusiasm or energy levels. It was also an opportunity to find out more about your ideas for the school. Since my appointment in September, I have met many people from the local community and look forward to developing even closer links with local groups, especially the local church and Abacus playgroup. Having read Focal Poyntz I realise that there are many more groups to meet. If you belong to one of these groups and there is any way in which I, or any member of the school, can support you (or you can help us) please contact the school.

As I sit here writing this article I find it hard to believe that I have only been at Iron Acton School for 5 weeks. There is such a warm friendly team of staff, parents, friends and governors here that it already feels like home. As a new head teacher I receive a continual stream of visitors, who always remark at length on how lucky I am to work in such an idyllic, peaceful school setting. Sometimes I feel like pointing out how much money and hard work it takes to maintain an old building like this but, on the whole, I agree with them.

The school's team spirit was shown to good effect when a team of staff, parents and friends entered the Badminton Horseless Trials on Sunday, 4 October. They were cheered on by a crowd of pupils, staff, governors, friends and relations. Although the team didn't win they braved the cold and wet and finished with smiles on their faces

I was not the only new adult face to join the school in September; we also welcomed 2 additional teaching assistants and some new pupils. After some minor fluctuations our school numbers have settled at 63. Our new Reception pupils are settling in well and charm everyone with their broad smiles and never ending energy levels.

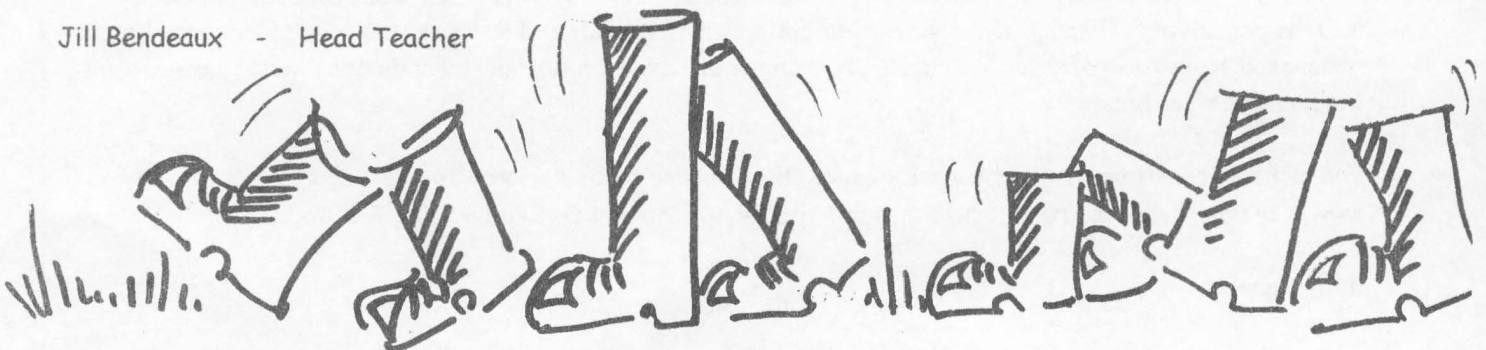
We have recently established a school council consisting of 7 pupils. During their weekly meetings they come up with lots of practical and imaginative ideas for improving the school, including requesting a green recycling bin for cardboard, devising a playtime friendship scheme, choosing the colours for repainting the outside doors and investigating the cost of sponsoring a child in Africa.

We are marking the end of this first term with some fun activities. Pupils are busy collecting sponsors for the annual "Winter Wellie Walk". After challenging themselves to walk laps around the field they will be treated to warm chocolate and marshmallows.

Our Harvest Festivities included a special lunch, afternoon service and the ever popular auction. Sadly, at this service, we said goodbye to Mrs Gainey who is one of our School Meals Supervisory Assistants. She has worked at the school for a number of years - we will all miss her and wish her every happiness for the future.

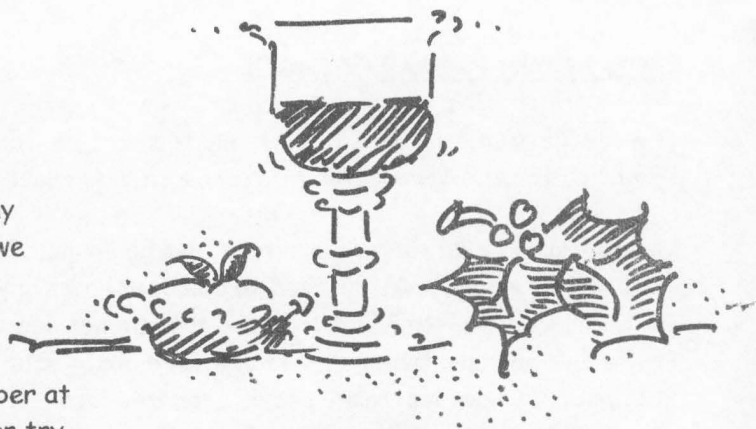
Finally I would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff and governors for their endless help, patience and support during this transition time. The whole school owes a special thank you to Mrs Kemp for leading the school so well during the summer term.

Jill Bendeaux - Head Teacher



IRON ACTON WI

We will be celebrating in our own inimitable style on Monday, 8 November when we hold our Birthday Party at the Globe at Frampton Cotterell (where we hear that Wes and Freda Bond's son is the chef and doing amazing things with a spatula).

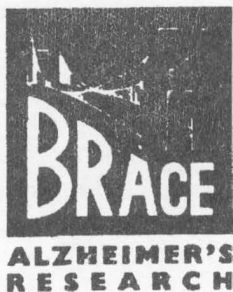


Our Annual Escape Attempt takes place in December at the AGM when President, Secretary and Treasurer try to escape the shackles of office this is followed by a feast of mulled wine, mince pies and all sorts of other goodies and the annual swapping of presents when Geraldine will tell anyone who's listening (the mulled wine tends to kick in quite quickly) what's in their particular parcel (the description never bearing any resemblance to the reality but she tries, bless her, she's really trying!!).

We then start our new year in January with speakers arranged on subjects as diverse as encaustic art (I'll tell you more when we've done it and I know), visits to the Holy Land, hysterics with Susan Marshfield, flower arranging and much more.

Our meetings take place on the 2nd Monday of the month, at 7.30 pm, usually in the Hall - why not come along and see what you think? Come for a "taster month" - this way you'll get the flavour of what's going on at local, county and national levels with the WI (3 for the price of 1 Even better than Boots' 3 for the price of 2 can't be bad!).

Lynne Blanchard - maybe not the President for much longer (??) / 228566



BRACE

BRACE (Bristol Research into Alzheimer's and Care of the Elderly) is one of very few charities solely dedicated to supporting dementia research and although it is generally considered to be a regional charity the work it supports and the resultant findings bring benefits to dementia sufferers throughout the UK and internationally.

The support given to BRACE by their 3000 active supporters in the South West and throughout the UK has helped research teams in Bristol to make considerable contributions to the worldwide knowledge of dementia and its treatment as well as providing a Memory Disorders Clinic that is at the forefront of outpatient assessment and diagnosis of the many conditions that result in dementia.

Established in 1987, BRACE helps to finance the work of Professor Gordon Wilcock and his team at the University of Bristol. The current studies, carried out at 3 hospitals in the Bristol area, include the development of more accurate methods of diagnosis, evaluating the effect of treatments and genetic research into why some people develop the disease and others do not.

At present, funds dedicated to the research of dementia are very small compared to other diseases such as cancer but, through the fundraising activities of BRACE and its members, over £3m has been generated towards Professor Wilcock's programme of research but more funds are needed if the vital work is to be continued.

For more information about the work of BRACE or how to help us, log on to the website at www.alzheimers-brace.org or contact me at the BRACE Appeal Office on 0117 975 4831

THANK YOU

If the kind person who picked up my daughter's glasses in Iron Acton on 21/22 August and left them in Church is reading this we would both like to say a very big "Thank You"! You saved us both a lot of money and we are truly grateful.

Carol Groom / Churchwarden

IRON ACTON PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council was pleased to hear that the planning for Normead in Mission Road has finally been resolved with the consent for 6 dwellings and the re-siting of the existing house. This is an application that the Parish Council supported as Concrete Garden Products will now cease to operate - we think this will meet with the approval of local residents as there should be less traffic and noise in what was only a narrow lane. We also wish Bob White and his family a very happy retirement.

Regarding the bus shelter in Station Road, we received one letter from a parishioner objecting to the demolition on the basis that it had been erected with private money for "the shelter of people in Iron Acton" by Miss Joan Isemonger.

As it seems that the main person responsible for the problem has now left the village it was decided to monitor the situation further as Mrs Taylor is happy to resume her cleaning role.

Many parishioners have been expressing concern about dog fouling in the village and play areas around the Green. The Parish Council is happy to pass on any information they are given to the local Dog Warden (who has the power to enforce the byelaws and take action against the owners). If this still doesn't solve the problem then serious consideration will be given to making the play areas dog free zones - as was suggested at our Annual Parish Meeting by concerned parents.



The bund (protective small bank and furrow) along the bypass has progressed well and it is hoped that all works will be finished by the end of the year and that it will go some way to keeping our verges free of travellers and the dumping of rubbish. These works received only 2 letters of objection but wide support from around the village and South Gloucestershire Council.

Speeding and traffic congestion still remains a major issue - both in and around the village with injury related accidents being reported on the bypass, North Road and Wotton Road during the year. We have had a further consultation document from South Gloucestershire Council which includes Wotton Road in its speed limit review. A letter was received by the Clerk from a parishioner following the concerns mentioned in our Summer 2004 Focal Poyntz report who stated that speeding in the parish is "not a problem". I find this view amazing as it is contradicted by both schools, local ramblers, cycling groups, horse riders and parents. The police have also stated that motorists in this area still continue to be fined and, in some cases, banned from driving altogether.

Bob Sheppard - Chairman / 228515

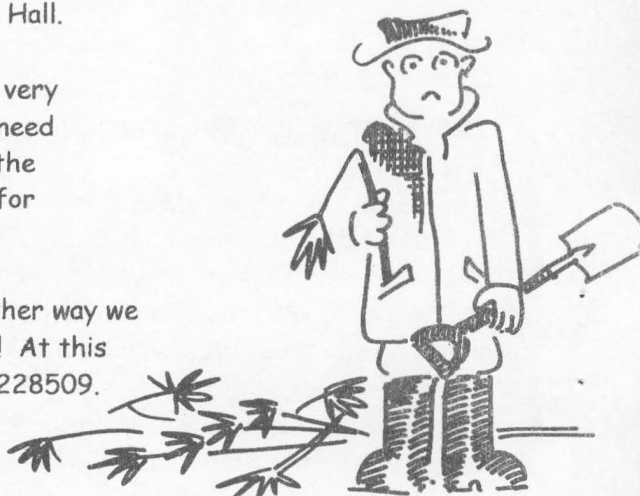
THE GARDEN TRAIL 2004

After a break of 2 years the Iron Acton Garden Trail was revived this year and, in spite of appalling weather on the day, proved once again the popularity of "garden watching" in this country. Although 2 gardens in the village, Elizabeth Parker's and Pam & David McCoy's, had been open the previous week in support of the National Gardens Scheme, the faithful fans of Iron Acton gardens turned out again in spite of squally showers and chilly wind. Fourteen gardens opened on Sunday, 20 June and their stalwart owners manned the gate and politely answered their soaked yet enthusiastic visitors' questions. It was very pleasing to have the garden of the Old Rectory on the itinerary this year, the first time this extensive garden has been accessible to the public for many years. The church tower was open to the public for most of the day although weather conditions rendered the ascent somewhat hazardous. As usual, a willing band of helpers provided cakes and tea (and sympathy) for the weather beaten visitors in the Parish Hall.

Next year a Flower and Crafts Festival is planned. This will be a very demanding undertaking and the committee formed to plan it will need all the help available to make this a success. We cannot control the weather but we shall do our best to make the weekend selected for the festival a very memorable one.

If you feel you can help in advising, planning or assisting in any other way we should be very pleased to hear from you - the earlier the better! At this stage, please contact Carole Groom on 228712 or Hazel Dron on 228509.

Hazel Dron



FINALLY, WHEN CHRISTMAS IS ALL OVER, THE FP GUIDE TO RECYCLING

When you're left surrounded by all the debris of Christmas, but you want to do your bit for the environment or help organisations raise money, what do you do?

Stamps

As always, if anyone wants to give used postage stamps to Lynne Blanchard (Rose Cottage, Latteridge Road) she is happy to forward them to Oxfam or you can take them to Oxfam shops in Yate or Thornbury.

Can you just remember to cur around the stamps leaving at least half an inch of envelope around the stamp?

Christmas Cards

Take used Christmas cards to any Tesco Store or any W H Smith High Street Store across the UK. They are collecting them on behalf of the Woodland Trust. All stores should have containers where you deposit the cards. These are then recycled and in 2003 43.5 million cards were collected in this way - they're hoping to do even better this time.

This scheme is only available from 5 January to 1 February.

Christmas Trees

- * Take them to Westonbirt Arboretum
- * Take them to a Sita "Sort It" Site at
 - Collett Way, Great Western Business Park, Yate
 - Station Road, Little Stoke
 - Carson's Road, Mangotsfield

Further details can be obtained from the websites for South Gloucestershire Council and the Woodland Trust or by telephoning Westonbirt Arboretum.

ST JAMES THE LESS PARENT AND TODDLER GROUP

Having missed the deadline for the last edition of Focal Poyntz I apologise if some of this information may be a little old - please blame a busy mother of 3 with a scrambled brain! However, our Friday morning get-togethers definitely help unscramble our brains at the end of a busy week. A few cups of tea and choccy biscuits later and we all feel much better - and the children love it too!

September saw our new term start and we welcomed some new faces to our group - hello to Sarah and baby Ellie and Izabel McIver. We also said goodbye to some old faces who have left for bigger and better things - Olivia, Elena, Charlie and Chelsea all took the gigantic leap together and started school. We miss you all but are glad to hear that you are settling in well and becoming school children rather than the tots that you were.

The largest gap has been left following the departure of Chris Bellis. Chris was co-founder of the group and has quietly and efficiently led us through all the ups and downs of life with small children over the last 6 years (she is also a mother of 3 but not half as scatty as me!!). Thank you Chris for everything and good luck with your first steps into life after toddlers.

Thankfully we have managed to recruit some willing new helpers so that the group does not collapse under my enthusiastic but disorganised leadership. We are already reaping the benefits of Amanda's marvellous computer skills, producing newsletters and typing up this article for me. Kelly is taking us into the world of healthy eating by occasionally replacing our biscuits with a lovely selection of chopped fruit. My daughter, however, creates a scene and demands a chocolate biscuit - as do all the mums!!

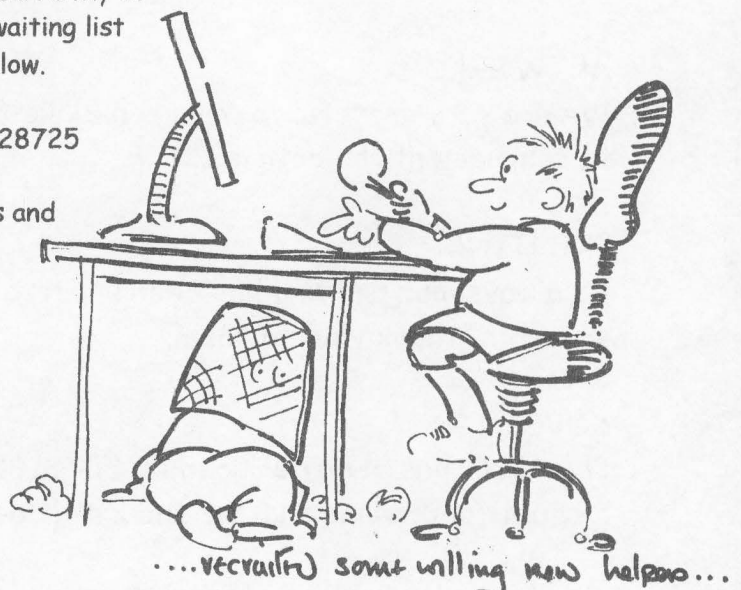
We are planning a party for the children on 10 December and hope a certain gentleman all dressed in red will visit us - delighting the mums and terrifying some of the children!!! We will also be having our mums night out with, no doubt, a few sore heads the next day.

Due to the size of the Marshall Room our group is currently at its maximum level but if you would like to join our waiting list please do not hesitate to call us on the numbers below.

Amanda Scott - 228301 Lisa Hatherall - 228725

In the meantime, we wish you all a merry Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Lisa Hatherall



FOCAL POYNTZ INFORMATION

Your Focal Poyntz Team is:

Lynne Blanchard
228566

Maureen Blake

Hazel Dron
228509

Caroline Hewish
228861

Roy Hubbard
228356

Barrie & Rona Wright
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:

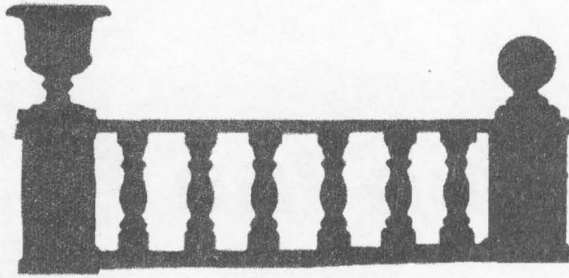
As always, our printing has been undertaken by Oldbury Deckers Youth Club and we say a big "thank you" to them.

COVER:

Our cover has been designed by Eileen Hughes - we have used it before but it's such a beautiful drawing that we thought it deserved to appear again.

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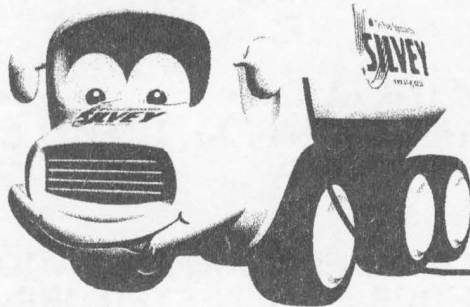
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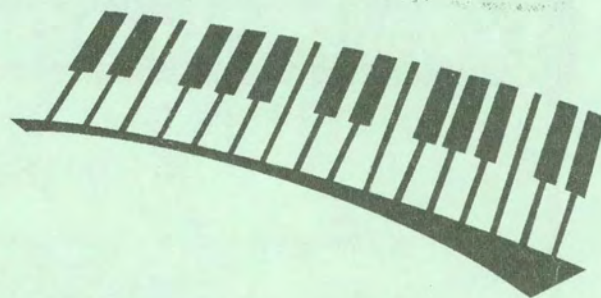
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