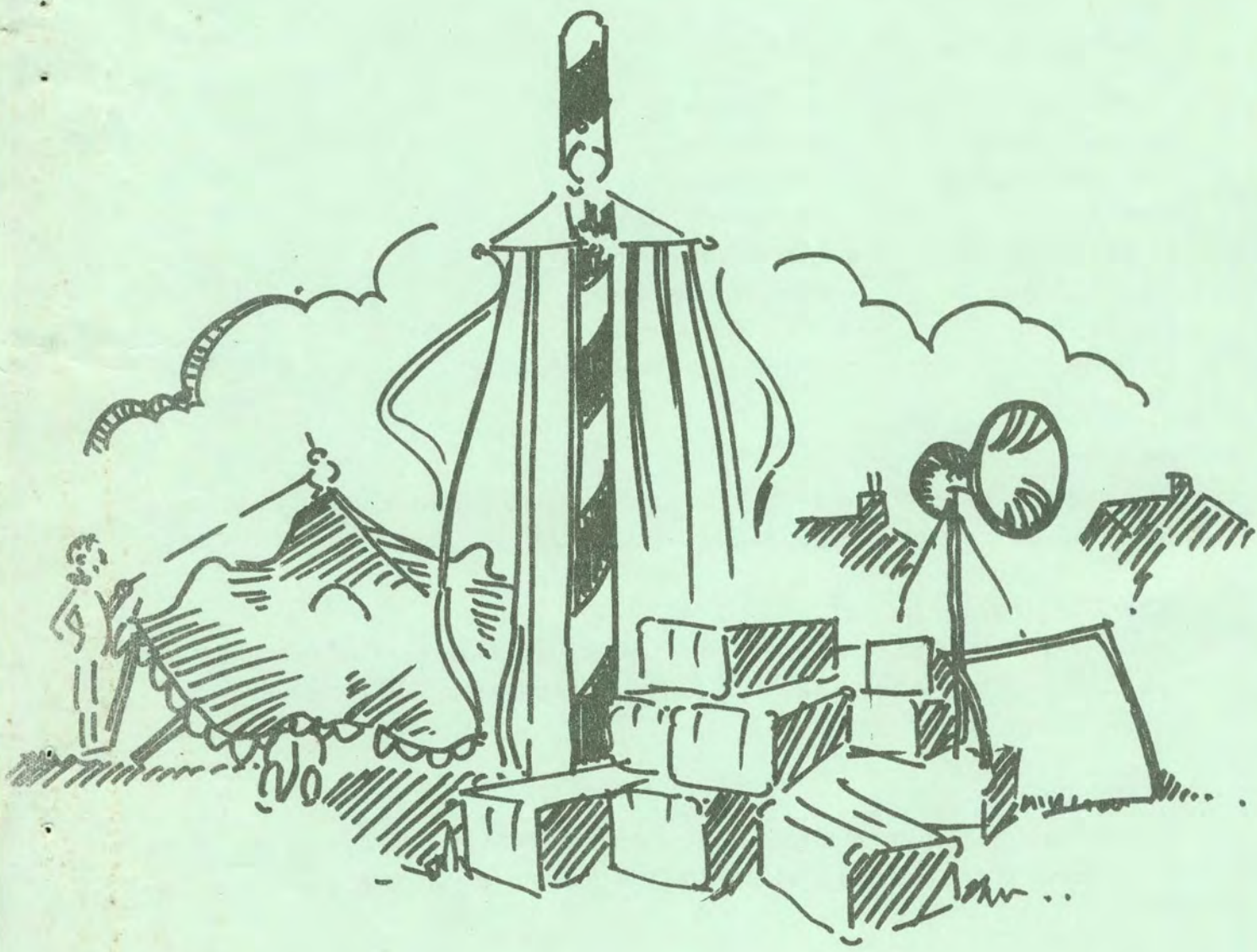


Focal Poyntz



The Magazine for Iron Acton

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:

Sheila 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:

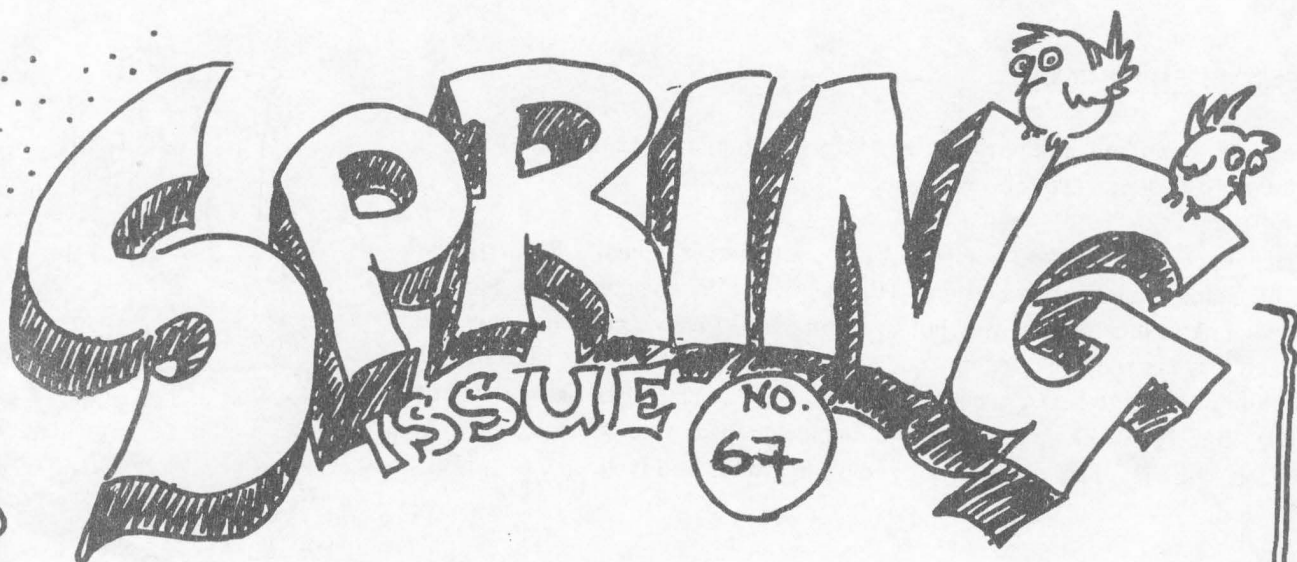
We are very grateful to Maureen Blake for some more of her very special drawings to complement the articles (and also for the drawing on our cover).

PRINTING:

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

SPRING

ISSUE NO. 67



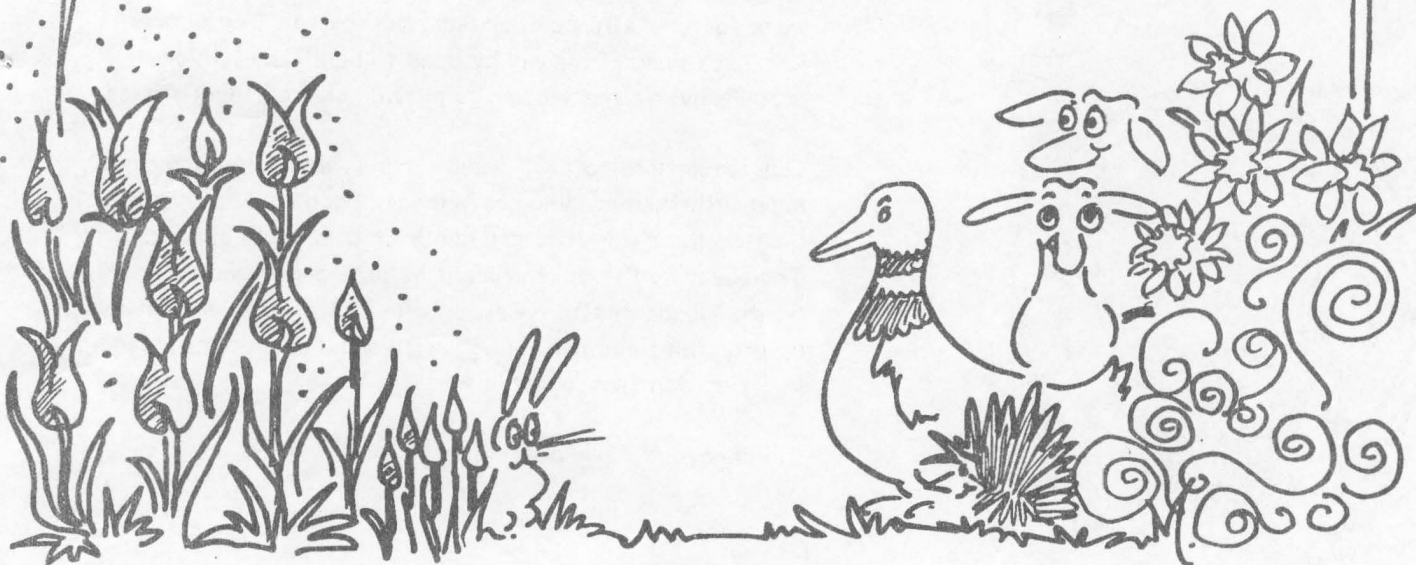
Well, here we are with the first issue of Focal Poyntz for 2005 and time to wish all our readers a happy and peaceful remainder of the year!

Spring is just around the corner but, as this is being written, the threat of snow and frost is heavy, giving some worry about the tender young plants in the greenhouse which, hopefully, will be the start of the new gardening season.

Focal Poyntz also has several new things to offer; we have a new member of the editorial team in Caroline Huish, we have a new Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator - Jack Russell (his first report is included in this issue) and we have a new contributor in Jo Wright who will be doing a gardening page for each issue.

Sadly, we also have to report the loss of our colleague Lionel Alsop who has been a hard working and much loved and respected member of our team for many years and will be very greatly missed.

We have a magazine that is full of organisational reports for you this time - but we have become short of those articles of broad interest. How about hobbies? Is there someone out there who has a particular hobby they would like to tell us about or a holiday experience they're bursting to pass on We would love to hear from you!



PENNY'S FIRST BOOK

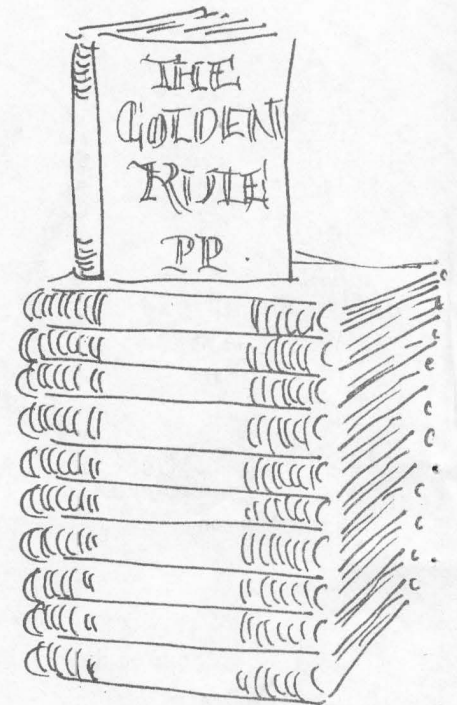
Read any good books about murder, defamation of character, adultery, idolatry, lack of respect or stealing?

Penny Percy has now had her first book published "for real". The title is "The Golden Rule" and it contains 11 plays for children around the age of 10 years and includes plays about immoral lives. Penny's reason for writing these plays is that she has noticed society is not as secure as it used to be with bad language being commonplace and Sunday no longer being a day of rest. She feels the rules in the Bible point the way to a basic code of living a good life. The play deals with people's mistakes and how they could be avoided.

Penny wrote the plays over a 2 year period and, at first, couldn't find a publisher to take them but she felt so strongly, after all her research, that she has self-funded the plays. Apparently America likes children's plays on religion and she hopes there will be a market over there.

THE GOLDEN RULES are, of course, THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

Copies of "The Golden Rule" can be obtained on the Internet from Amazon Books.



IRON ACTON C OF E VC SCHOOL

The staff would like to thank everyone who supported our Christmas celebrations and made them such a success. Also our thanks go to Acton Aid for their generous donation towards completing our library renovation project.

The school council pupils continue to find imaginative ideas for improving the school. This term they are investigating ways of improving playtimes and promoting healthy eating. We are currently trialling a new healthier school meal menu and our younger pupils now enjoy a free piece of fruit every afternoon.



In our conservation area the newly planted saplings are growing well and we are beginning to see the first signs of spring. Although the skies are grey and cloudy we are already looking forward to warmer, sunnier weather. We were fortunate to be awarded £500 by the Skin Cancer Research Fund. This will be used to build some willow arbours over some seating to provide shade at lunchtimes.

Congratulations to Year 5 and 6 pupils who have worked so hard with their cycling proficiency. Each week they have battled their way through floods or cold gusts of wind. Thank you to the brave parent helpers and members of South Gloucestershire Council's Road Safety Team for giving up their time and remaining positive and enthusiastic - often in trying weather conditions.

Jill Bandeaux / Headteacher

LIONEL ALSOP

It is with great sadness that we have to record the death on 15 February of Lionel Alsop, a resident of Iron Acton for many years and a valuable member of the Focal Poyntz Editorial Team. Lionel was our Treasurer and had responsibility for gathering up our advertising fees and ensuring that the magazine stayed solvent. This was done so effectively that when he retired from the team due to illness he left the accounts not only in a pristine state but with the healthy bank balance which allows Focal Poyntz to continue to be delivered free to every household in the parish.

Most people will remember Lionel and Sheila taking their regular walks around the village with their beloved collie dog with a cheerful greeting to everyone they passed. Lionel will be sadly missed and we would like to offer our sincere condolences to Sheila and their sons, Mark and Robert on the loss of a much respected and loved member of our community.

Hazel Dron on behalf of the Focal Poyntz Committee

LIVING NEAR LIONEL

The sun is setting, it's not quite dusk yet. The air is hazy with a yellow glow. The smell of embers from bonfires is slowly wisping through the air and up Holly Hill - a summer's day is nearly complete.

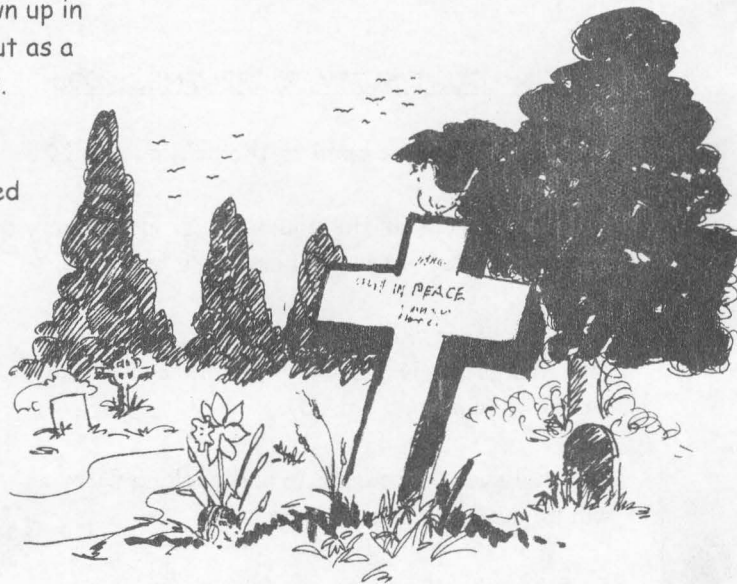
Lionel and Sheila stroll up the road with the wheelbarrow, the fruits of their labours inside, a day's work done outside. The wheelbarrow put down, a hand raised in a wave, an interest in your own day, or month or last year. Either way, Lionel always stopped; he asked, he was interested, he remembered, he completed that day.

To me, Lionel encapsulates everything about looking forward to the Summer. The days becoming longer and lighter. That feeling you get as a child knowing that when you arrive home from school there's plenty of time left to play outside. The blossom on the trees, the spring flowers opening, gardens coming alive with more colours. All of this makes me feel so lucky to have grown up in Iron Acton and to have Lionel not only as a neighbour but as a friend too. Someone so constant in so many of our lives.

We'll all miss him but the fond memories and Lionel's laughter and jovial nature is not conducive to a blackened mourning. I'll remember him with the same fondness and enjoyment you get when eating a home grown new potato with salt and butter on it, or seeing the first snowdrop or having a party surrounded by all your friends, and, as the sun finally sets behind the Church, we'll all remember Lionel in our own way.

As Chris Wiggins said to me at the wake "it's pot luck who your neighbours are - you couldn't get better than Lionel and Sheila".

Juliet Spare - 27 February 2005



THE ACTONIANS

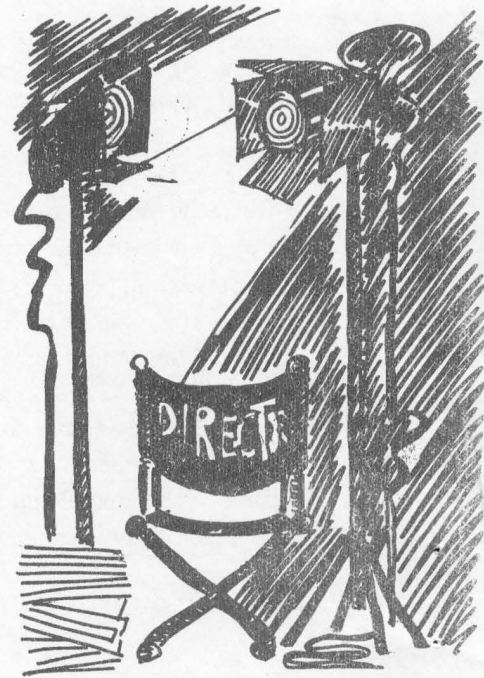
It has been another packed programme for the Actonians in the last few months. Here are a few highlights.

Our next major production will be Ray Cooney's famous comedy "Run for your Wife" from 11-14 May 2005 at 7.30 pm. We anticipate an evening of great fun in this ".... perfect example of British Farce" (Daily Mail). Enjoy the elaborate complications that ensue when John Smith, a London cabbie, tries to maintain the integrity of his "eccentric" life style in the face of 2 policemen, a well meaning friend, a male dressmaker, irate wives and 2 gallons of red paint! Hopefully your appetites are suitably whetted by this prospect! Tickets will be available in due course from all group members and from Ann Aplin (contact details below).

We have also been preparing for both the Avon and the Gloucestershire One Act Festivals. The middle act of "Fallen Angels" by Noel Coward has been chosen as our entry to both these festivals; a very funny account of a dinner party for 2 women who, while anticipating the arrival of an old flame, eat and drink rather more than they might have wished and end up rather the worse for wear. This will have been performed at Backwell Playhouse on 23 February and at Cheltenham Playhouse on 10 March. We all wished good luck to Ann Aplin (director), Di Pardoe, Sarah McMahon and Christine Rogers (actors) and the rest of the back stage crew for these performances.

The Actonians are always keen to welcome new members for both on-stage, back-stage 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



ACTON COURT SUMMER OPENINGS 2005

Acton Court will be open to the public from 14 June to 21 August in 2005.

There are tours of the house and grounds every day at 2.00 pm and 3.30 pm (except Mondays and during special events). It is not necessary to pre-book.

Special events this year will include concerts, film, a costume workshop, hawk and owl evenings, candlelit tours and art days.

The full events programme and booking form will be available in early April.

For group bookings or any other information:

Ring: 01454 228224
E-mail: info@actoncourt.com
Visit our web site: www.actoncourt.com



MAY DAY 2005

The May Day Committee has been working hard to plan this year's event which will take place on Bank Holiday Monday, 2 May. The Procession starts at 10.45 am, with the crowning of the May Queen at 11.00 am opening the events on the Green.

The celebrations will basically follow the same format as last year (the "if it ain't broke why try and fix it" theory!). We have been putting feelers out to try and get some extra attractions to come along on the day and make it a little more interesting. We had so many lovely comments about the brass band playing at the beginning of the day that we have again asked them to come along and serenade us. Later on in the afternoon we have a couple of bands playing as well. There will be plenty of children's rides and entertainment along with the good old burger stall and beer tent! So, all we have to do now is start getting interested in the long range weather forecast, hopefully it will be a little better than last year!

Obviously the May Day celebrations could not start without a May Queen and attendants. The lucky young ladies should be

- * Aged between 7 and 11 years
- and
- * Resident within the parish
- or
- * Attend either of the 2 primary schools within the parish

If you would like to submit a nomination, please can you complete the tear off slip below, pop it into an envelope marked "May Queen nomination" and drop it into the Lamb Inn.

Closing date for May Queen nominations is Friday, 8 April 2005

We need to have a contact telephone number as we will need a photograph of the successful nominations.



May Day 2005 - Nomination for May Queen and Attendants

Form to be returned to the Lamb Inn by Friday, 8 April 2005 (mark envelope May Queen Nomination)

I would like to nominate:

Age:

School Attended (if in the parish):

Address:

Contact telephone number:

Signed:

Relationship to nominee:

HORTICULTURAL SHOW 2005

Advance notice for all gardeners, flower arrangers, preserve makers and crafty people in the parish, the 2005 Horticultural Show will be taking place on Saturday, 3 September 2005 in the Parish Hall.

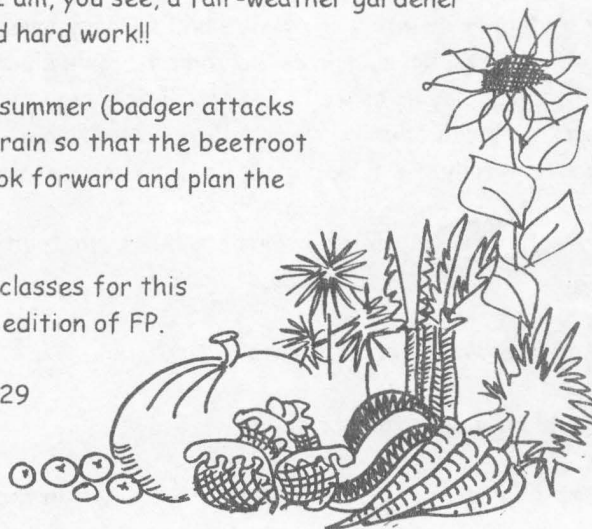
As I type this article for FP, it's hard to imagine the weather improving sufficiently to get out in the garden, let alone take the long, lonely walk to the allotment to see how it has fared over the Winter.

Apologies to all the dedicated allotment holders but I am, you see, a fair-weather gardener and rely on my husband, Mark, to do all the digging and hard work!!

Following the trials and traumas of allotment life last summer (badger attacks on the sweet corn, rabbits taking the carrots, lack of rain so that the beetroot refused to germinate) I think it is quite exciting to look forward and plan the planting of your allotment or garden.

The Horticultural Committee is close to finalising the classes for this year's show and we will be publishing it in the Summer edition of FP.

Paula Evans / Horticultural Show Committee - 228029



THE FRIENDS OF NORTH ROAD SCHOOL

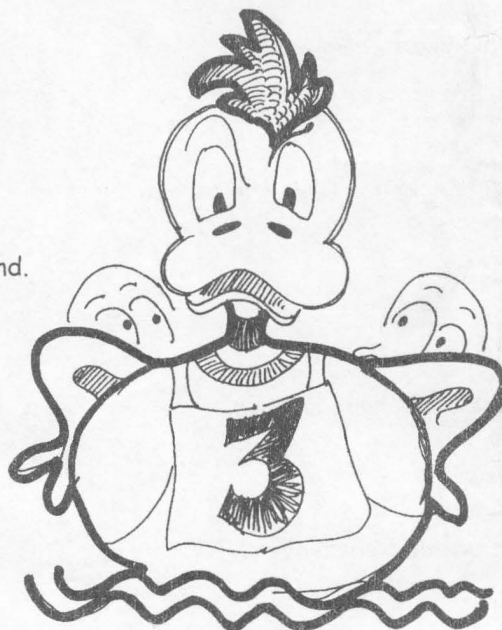
Our recent fundraising has gone well. The Fashion Show, held in October, was well supported. Iron Acton Hall was packed to bursting point with local people supporting the event and everyone involved had a great time. We are currently focusing our fundraising towards buying a greenhouse, shed and equipment for the bottom garden in the school. The old ones were falling down and had become unsafe so they have been removed and we hope soon to purchase the new ones. We are also regularly helping the school to purchase much needed equipment which their funding no longer stretches to.

The annual Duck Race will take place on Saturday, 23 April - 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 in North Road from about a month before the race. The event is great fun and, depending on the weather, some of the ducks race down the river at great speed.

The school will again be taking part in the Iron Acton May Day celebrations on the Village Green on Monday, 2 May. We hope to run a stall with crafts for the children to do on the day which they can take home with them. Last year's event was great fun for all involved (just a shame that the weather wasn't a little kinder to us). We will be advertising this locally and hope to get lots of people from the North Road area to attend.

Our annual Plant Sale (which is held in the school playground) is scheduled for Friday, 20 May from 2.00 pm - when some lovely, locally grown plants can be bought. There will also be an opportunity to purchase refreshments.

Julie Robinson / Secretary - 850210



Focal Poyntz
April—July 2005

'All my hurts my
 garden spade can heal'

Ralph Waldo Emerson
 (1803-1882)



Going Potty with Jo Wright



**A rose by any other
 name...**

Botanical names may be baffling at times, but with a little knowledge about their meaning, they can be quite useful

<i>alba</i>	white
<i>nigra</i>	black
<i>caeruleus</i>	blue
<i>canescens</i>	greyish
<i>rubra</i>	red
<i>aureus</i>	golden
<i>flavus</i>	yellow
<i>purpureus</i>	purple
<i>argenteus</i>	silver
<i>aurantiacum</i>	orange

The Garden Calendar

April

Start hardening off bedding plants and veg transplants

Sow hardy annuals in situ

Sow vegetable crops: carrot, lettuce, marrow, onion sets

Feed spring cabbage, sow Winter greens

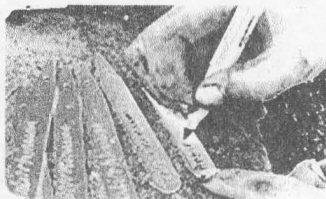
Plant second early and main-crop potatoes

Plant out transplants of pesa, leeks, cauliflower, broad bean and lettuce if weather is mild, or protected by a cloche

Plant out and stake sweet peas

You can sow grass seed from April onwards, providing temperatures are above 6°C

Hard prune shrubs - hardy fuchsia, buddleia, cornus, willow, evergreen hedges



July

Dead head and groom flowering plants in beds, tubs and baskets

Start taking semi-ripe cuttings of shrubs and alpinas

Lift bulbs and store in a dry cool place

Start to Summer prune cherries, plums, apples and pears



May

Start feeding plants with a top dressing or liquid feed

Stake herbaceous perennials

May is the best time of year to plant water lilies and other aquatic plants

All tender plants can be planted out in beds, tubs or baskets, from mid May when the danger of frost is over

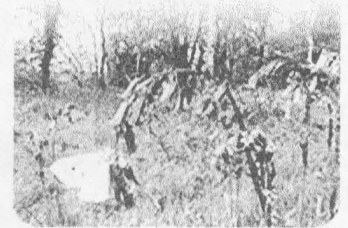
Continue to successionaly sow vegetables: lettuce, spinach, peas etc.

Stake peas, earth up early potatoes

Sow dwarf French beans and runner beans outside

Plant tomatoes in unheated greenhouses

Thin out raspberry canes - leaving 6 strong canes/plant



June

Monitor for pests and diseases and treat where necessary

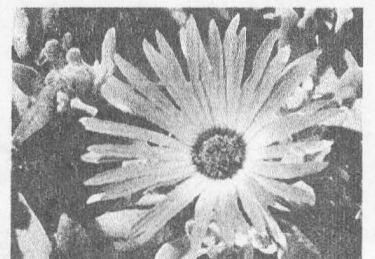
Continue feeding plants every 7-14 days

You can start sowing perennials and biennials from June, out doors - Canterbury bells, verbascum, wall flower, sweet William, bellis, poppy, lupins, aquilegia, hollyhock etc.

Plant out runner beans, tomatoes, aubergines, peppers etc.

Prune shrubs that flowered in May/June

Summer prune gooseberries and red and white currants



'Keeping good company'

These combinations have the support of at least one scientific study

To benefit... Grow...

- Cabbage Tomatoes
- Carrot Onions
- Cucumber Broccoli
- Aubergine Marigold
- Potatoes Tansy
- Corn Beans
- Tomatoes Dandelion!!



ACTON AID

Outgoing Chairman Paul Townsend reflected on a most successful year for Acton Aid when speaking at the Annual Dinner. Once again, The Lamb proved a successful venue, providing delicious food, fine wine and excellent service.

Since the last issue we have organised another bonfire and firework display for the village, enjoyed a fascinating talk by Dr John Zorab on his trips to explore family roots in Armenia, and partied hard at a post Christmas bash in the Parish Hall.

New Chairman, John Wright, is already planning an eventful programme and we would ask you to put 16 July and 5 November in your diaries. The July date is our second Annual Proms in the Meadow - where we plan to build on the popularity of the 2004 event. The BBC Returner's Orchestra and fireworks have been booked and your support has allowed us to invest in amplification! Tickets will be available from Committee Members and The Lamb - watch out for the posters.

Other diary dates for both old and new supporters of our programme of talks are 13 May and 9 June. Both are scheduled for the Parish Hall with an 8.00 pm start. The May talk is an interactive and illustrated study of "The Geology of Wine". There will be ample opportunity to sample wines from far flung corners of the globe, with a small entrance fee to cover costs. In June Paul Townsend will talk on his recent experiences in Uganda where he spent time carrying out surgery and training local surgeons. There will be a collection at the end of the evening - the proceeds of which Paul will take to Uganda on his return in July.

Acton Aid always welcomes new members, who are invited to join us at 8.00 pm on the first Thursday of the month at The Lamb.

Finally, if anyone is aware of a parishioner who would benefit from our support, please contact (in confidence) John Wright on 228373 or Ashley Mee on 228540.

Ashley Mee / Secretary - 228540



ST JAMES THE LESS

On the weekend of the **25 and 26 June 2005** we look forward to holding a **Flower and Crafts Festival** in St James the Less. The church tower will be open and teas will be available. On the Saturday afternoon there will also be a Garden Party in the grounds of The Old Rectory at the invitation of Mr and Mrs Huish. We look forward to opening up our lovely old church to the many visitors who have enjoyed an afternoon visiting our well tended gardens and relishing sumptuous afternoon teas in previous years. Do put the date in your diary

Hazel Dron / 228509



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



NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

The animals pictured are Meerkats. What's so special about them is their natural instinct to work as teams to keep themselves and their young safe. They take turns to go on look-out duty and by being alert warn others in the group of anything that might be suspicious or threatening. As Sir David Attenborough put it, their strength is their unity:

"This is the team where it's one for all and all for one."



As well as making the neighbourhood a better place to live and work in, tackling local problems and concerns will help people to feel less nervous about crime - especially those who are elderly or vulnerable for other reasons.

Each local scheme is run by a local co-ordinator. They act as a link between them, the local police and council, other Watches and community groups. The link goes in both directions. As well as reporting suspicious activities or seeking help and advice from the police, the co-ordinator will hear from them about incidents likely to affect the neighbourhood. These could be about burglars operating in the area, reports of bogus door-to-door 'salesmen', car thieves at work, or local drug dealing, for instance.

I have participated in the Avon and Somerset Police Ringmaster scheme and receive information about any crimes/suspicious incidents that have occurred in our area. If you would like to receive any information via e-mail , I will be happy to forward them onto you. Your e-mail address will only be held by me and not given to any others, nor will you receive any junk mail.

Please fill in, tear off & return to me at home and I will add you to the Ringmaster list.

Name:

Address:
.....
.....

E mail:



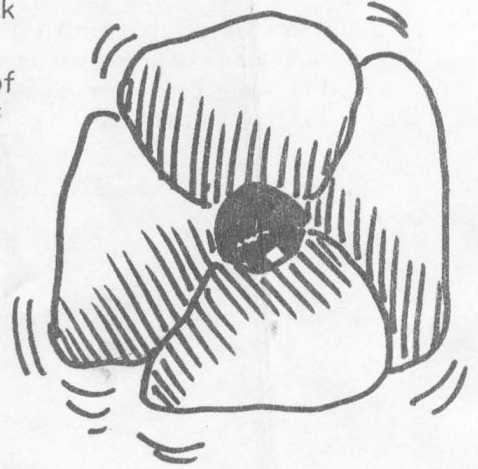
Your new Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator for Iron Acton is:-

❖ Mr "Jack" Russell
❖ Keelson, High Street, Iron Acton.
☎ Tel- 01454 228115. (Not 24 Hrs ...please!!)

POPPY APPEAL 2004

Again the time has come when I must thank you all on behalf of the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal for your generosity.

Without the support of people like you the Legion would probably not exist. I am well aware that many people think of Remembrance Day as a time to look back on shocking events which happened a long time ago and are now confined to the history books. Sadly, this is not so. You only have to think about the service personnel normally based in the west at Yeovilton, on Salisbury Plain and, more recently and closer to us at, RAF Lyneham - all of them leaving families behind, some of whom will, one day, need the help of the British Legion.



I am pleased to inform you of your contribution for the year 2004:

Total money received in 2003:	£1,552.98
Total money received in 2004:	£1,838.53
Increase in 2004 (over 2003) of:	£285.55
This represents an increase of:	8.4%

In addition to the 2004 total given above, a further £700.00 was raised through a concert performed at the Territorial Centre in Whiteladies Road by the BBC Returner's Orchestra.

Your help really is appreciated and I would like to say a special thank you to those who give up their spare time to assist me. Next year it will only need an increase of £170.00 to reach a grand total of £2,000.00.

Thanks again.

Dave White

ST JAMES THE LESS PARENT AND TODDLER GROUP

Despite the quiet spell between Christmas and the Spring, Friday mornings in the Marshall Rooms are anything but quite!! Our group of parents and toddlers continues to thrive and we have much pleasure in welcoming some new members - baby Sascha, baby Oliver and his mum Rachel, Mandy and Bethany and Lucy and Francesca. We hope that they will soon feel very much at home.

We shall soon be making Mothering Sunday posies for all the ladies who attend church on 6 March and, of course, Easter means a party (any excuse!) and hopefully then Summer will be on its way.

Whilst we currently have a waiting list we will be able to take on new members in September (if not before) so, if you have a pre-school child of any age, why not give our friendly group a try?

Telephone:	Lisa Hatherell	228725
	Amanda Scott	228301



NEW VILLAGE RAINBOWS AND BROWNIE PACKS

Calling all little girls

Hello, my name is Louise McClury and I am starting Rainbow and Brownie Packs in the village.

By the time you read this the first meeting (on Tuesday, 22 February) will have been held in the Marshall Rooms.

<u>Meeting Times</u>	<u>Rainbows</u>	5-7 years	4.00 pm to 5.00 pm
	<u>Brownies</u>	7-11 years	5.30 pm to 7.00 pm

So far I have had a good response to Rainbows, but we still need more Brownies.

If you are interested please give me a call:

My home number is 228510
My mobile number is 07791 446184

I look forward to hearing from you and will be happy to provide any information you require.

Louise McClury



FRAMPTON DENTAL PRACTICE

288 Park Lane - Frampton Cotterell



Full range of both NHS
and private treatment
Denplan Patients
Full emergency cover
Ground floor surgery

ORTHODONTIST &
HYGIENIST

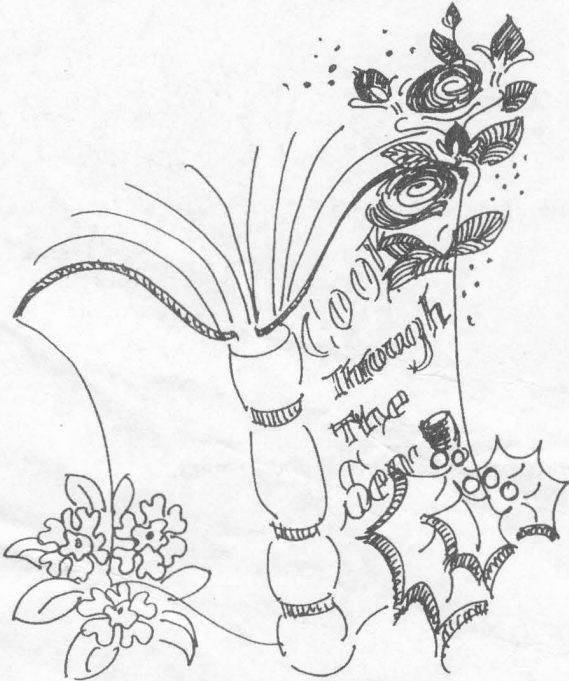
NEW NHS PATIENTS
MOST WELCOME

Tel: 01454 774655

FRIENDS OF IRON ACTON C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL

I would like to say a really big "thank you" to everyone who came along to our Christmas Bazaar (it seems so long ago now!). We had great support from parents and children alike and the atmosphere in the school hall was buzzing with excitement, anticipating the arrival of Father Christmas. Again, thank you to one and all.

As I mentioned in the last edition of FP, our fundraising towards the school wildlife garden is gathering pace and work has already started. Come the Spring we will start to see the garden taking form.



Plans for the cookery book are also well in hand. The book is going to be called "Cooking through the Seasons in Iron Acton" and will contain recipes for starters, main courses and puddings, as well as biscuits, cakes, jams and chutneys. The book will go on sale at the May Day Celebrations.

However, if you have any last minute recipes that you would like to contribute, please contact:

Caroline Huish	228861
Fiona Bourns	228993
Alison Lovell	228100

Paula Evans / Chair - 228029

IRON ACTON CRICKET CLUB

Whilst most of us in the club are having a well earned (?) rest during the closed season, revelling in the performances of our national team in South Africa (well at least in the Tests), this is the time when our well-established Fixtures Secretary is at his busiest. With ever-changing demands from the members regarding number of matches, days of matches, types of opposition and so forth the fixtures list has a different look every year.

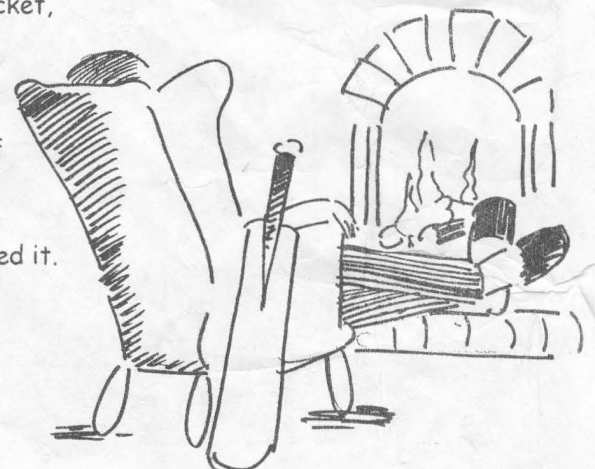
This year is no exception, with the first match on 11 May against new opposition. A team by the name, or rather acronym, of ILSST - presumably its full acronym being ILSSTCC. Matches against nearby Old Sodbury and then one of our oldest fixtures, Bill Owen's XI, follow on successive Wednesdays.

With matches arranged on most Wednesdays between May and July there will be plenty of opportunities for existing and prospective new members to have a game. If you're new to the village, or are waiting for the right moment to join, and are interested in a friendly game of cricket, then please contact me on the number below or look out for us on May Day when we hope to provide some hands-on activities.

The indoor cricket league is coming to an end with only a couple of games yet to be played. I'm not certain whether we are still in contention but, with the unbounded scoring system, anything is possible. Anyway, I'm sure all those who've taken part have enjoyed it.

Looking forward to the new season

Chris Bradley / Chairman - 228559



IRON ACTON PARISH COUNCIL

As Spring approaches rapidly our focus is on things that we will be doing. The maypole on the green will be painted and given a new top in time for May Day and we will soon have a new gate fitted to the Park Street entrance to the Parish Meadows.

We have an ongoing, long-term programme of maintenance for Coach Pool which means that we will be arranging for another area of the pond to be cleaned of reeds and other plants in the coming months. This work is done under the guidance of conservation experts which is why only part of the pond is cleaned at a time.

We continue to walk and check footpaths within the Parish working together with South Gloucestershire Rights of Way as well as landowners to ensure paths are accessible and sorting out problems as they arise. Some stiles will be replaced by us with the landowner's consent and with assistance from South Gloucestershire Council although responsibility for stiles is actually down to the landowner.

All of your Parish Councillors are here to serve **you** the people of the parish and we are happy to hear from you and express your views including making representation to South Gloucestershire Council where appropriate.

Iron Acton Parish Councillors

Bob Shepherd	Chairman	228515
Peter Wedgewood	Vice Chairman	228532
Bob Lomas		228327
Peter Bellis		228065
Ann Aplin		228243
Paula Evans		228029
Dave Taylor		228714
Rona Wright		228247
Hazel Dron		228509
Rachel Weldrake	Clerk	228674

Rachel Weldrake / Clerk - 228674



★
★
Iron Acton Parish Council
★
★
Annual Parish Meeting
★
★
Friday, 22 April 2005
★
★
8.00 pm
★
★
North Road School
★
★



PLANT AND BOOK SALE

Saturday, 23 April 2005

At 2.00 pm

The Car Park of the
Coddington Arms in North Road

In Aid of Iron Acton Church Funds

NORTH ROAD LADIES CLUB

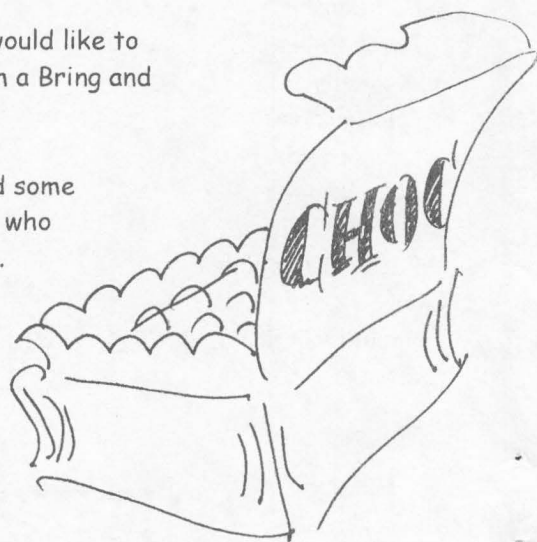
Our membership continues to increase. This year we have welcomed 2 new members, bringing our total club membership to 40.

Our January meeting was a very full evening. The Club Charity for 2004 was Paul's Place at Coalpit Heath and we were very pleased to have raised £220.10. Kath Aldom, on behalf of Paul's Place, came along to receive this donation. She explained how Paul's Place had originated and how it enhances life for physically handicapped adults.

Members discussed a charity for 2005 and everyone decided that we would like to continue to support Paul's Place. As last year, money will be raised from a Bring and Buy stall at our monthly meetings.

Then followed a talk and film on "Life on Lundy Island", which contained some wonderful underwater shots. This film was shown by Mr Alan Mildren, who also went on to tell us about Basking Sharks seen off the Cornish coast.

For our February meeting we should have had a talk on Thornton's Chocolates and the History of Chocolate. Unfortunately, however, the lady's car broke down on the way to our Club. This was a disappointment to our members but we managed to organise a couple of games of bingo so all was not lost.



Our programme for the next 5 months is as follows:

Monday	7	March	Wild Flowers in the Cotswolds - a talk and slides by Mr K Taylor
Monday,	11	April	The Role of the Board of Prison Visitors - a talk by Mr David McCoy
Wednesday,	20	April	Coach Trip to see "Chicago" at the Bristol Hippodrome
Monday,	9	May	God's Got a Plan for your Life - a talk by Mrs Carol Fellowes
Monday,	6	June	Evening Visit to where Mrs N Chandler-Paterson breeds Llamas
Monday,	4	July	Annual Evening Trip - A Stroll Around Painswick

Our meetings are held in North Road Community Primary School commencing at 7.30 pm. Visitors or new members will be made most welcome at any of our meetings.

June Rycroft / Secretary - 228668

IRON ACTON WI

The year began with a subject that verged on mental torture The History of Fry's Chocolate Factory - all those good intentions begun with New Year resolutions to lose weight, stop eating chocolate and all things nice and there we were with pictures of bars of "Fry's chocolate cream" and Fry's Turkish delight" whizzing before our dazed eyes. Our speaker, Peter Goodchild, is an old friend of our's now - he's shown us some superb pictures of Bristol during the Blitz (fascinating for those who lived through those fearful times and also for the younger ones who luckily had only heard about it through anecdotes). Originally Fry's covered a large portion of the centre of Bristol - where the Odeon Cinema was right across by the Pithay until it moved to its current home at Keynsham. Many memories were brought rapidly to the surface and it was remarkable how many of our ladies could remember friends and family who had worked at Fry's.



February saw us practicing "Encaustic Art" - sounds painful, but all you need is a block of wax and a travel iron. You put the wax on the base of the hot iron, rub it across glossy paper and produce (if you're our demonstrator) wonderful works of art that are then made into greetings cards and, suppose you don't like what you've done, you rub the iron across it again and it lifts off and you can start once more. Lots of people were brave enough to have a go on the evening and produced some really beautiful images - it's easy if you are artistic but you really don't need to have any artistic skills at all because it's easy to produce something that's almost surreal (ie a bit blurred round the edges and nothing definite). The only warning was that you don't iron the wax on in the same way as you'd do your loved one's shirt - good ironers don't make good encaustic artists (another excuse, if one was needed, not to do the ironing!!) - and you can't use the same iron to do the ironing and the art (it makes too much mess on the clothes).

In March we'd hoped to have a demonstration on Thai Cookery but after pursuing the speaker for months and not being able to track him down we found out that he's stopped doing cookery as too many village halls weren't covered under insurance. I suppose the thought of 20 women going mad with woks would be enough to turn the Hall Committee Chairman a "whiter shade of pale" so, instead, our speaker's going to talk about being "on safari" - the mind boggles how

he reached the second topic from the first but no doubt we'll find out soon. All proceeds from his talks go towards building a well in Africa so he can help some of the people who gave him such a delightful stay.

In April we shall be in hysterics when Susan Marshfield tells us about her holidays afloat - she's the nearest thing I've ever found in the WI to Patricia Routledge (aka Hyacinth Bucket) and having been on the receiving end of many of her talks before I know that I'll be gasping for breath because she makes you laugh so much that you don't have time to breath and reaching for a copious supply of tissues as the eyes stream too!

Lynne Blanchard / President - 228566

CRIME PREVENTION ADVICE

Bogus Callers

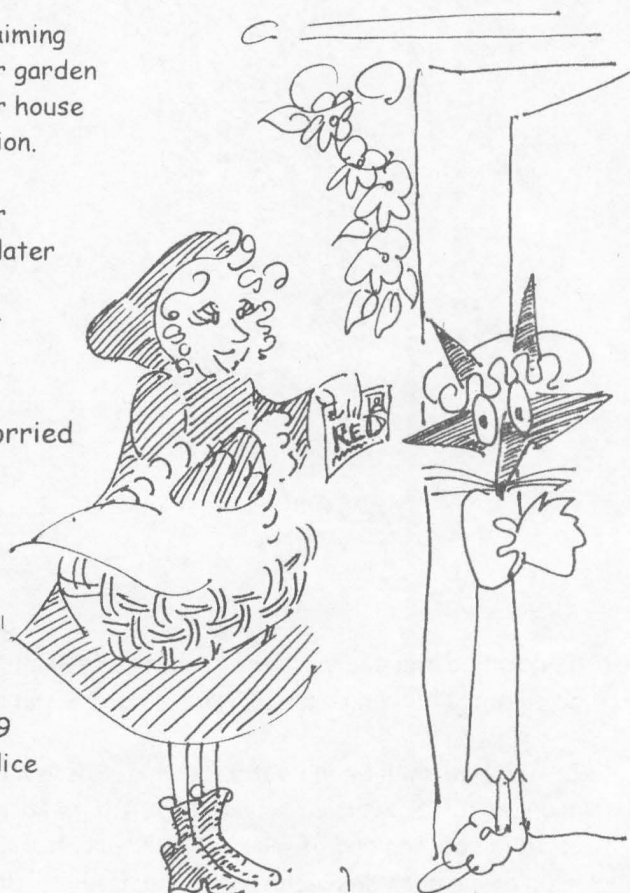
Not all burglars break into homes - some will try to trick or con their way in. They are known as bogus callers and will pretend to be on official business from respectable concerns such as the utility companies (gas, electricity and water) or the council. They may claim to be tradesmen or workmen calling to carry out urgent repairs.

Bogus callers often succeed because they sound believable, so don't be fooled. Make sure in your own mind that they are whom they claim to be by following these simple steps:

- * Think before you open the door - use your chain and spy hole or look out of the window to see if you recognise them.
- * Ask callers for proof of identity. Genuine tradesmen should carry an identification card with their photograph. Check this carefully. If you are unsure telephone the company the caller claims to represent.
- * Utility companies now offer a password identification system. Any caller from one of these companies should be able to give a pre-arranged password as additional proof of identity.
- * Beware of callers who attempt to distract you by claiming that they have seen something untoward in your rear garden or somewhere which may encourage you to leave your house - they may have an accomplice awaiting this distraction.
- * If you are not convinced of the identity of the caller **DON'T LET THEM IN**. Ask the caller to come back later and arrange for a friend, relative or neighbour to be present on their return and ask the caller to contact this person

Treat every stranger with caution. If you are still worried dial 999 immediately and ask for the police.

- * In an emergency dial 999 and ask for the police.
- * The Avon and Somerset Police non-emergency number is 0845 456 7000.
- * The Beat Manager for Iron Acton parish is WPC 1269 Lee Bainbridge (who is based at Chipping Sodbury Police Station).



... it's only me granny ...

Dresses by Design

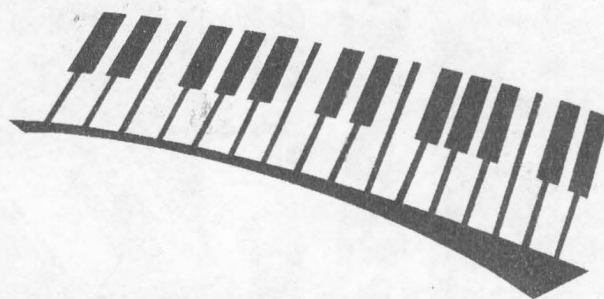
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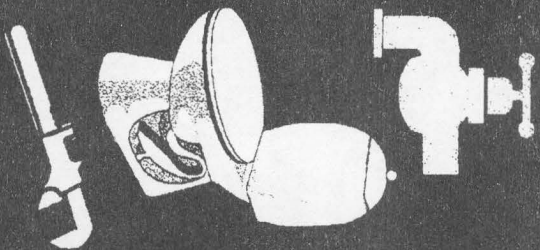
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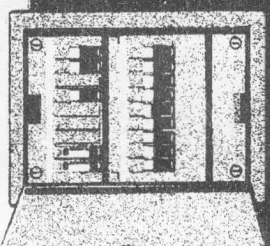
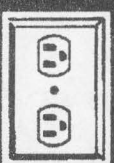
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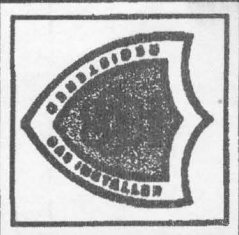


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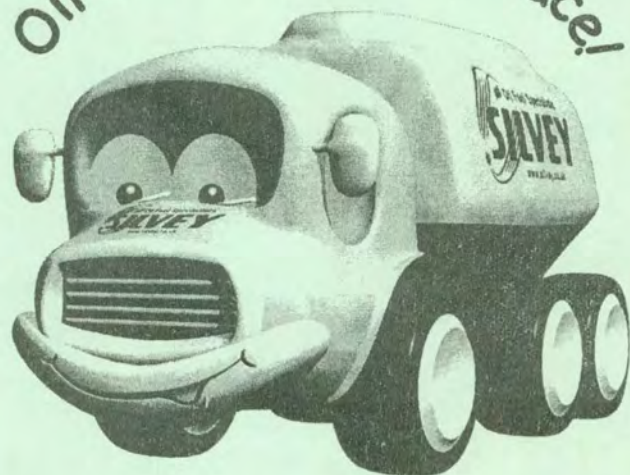


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