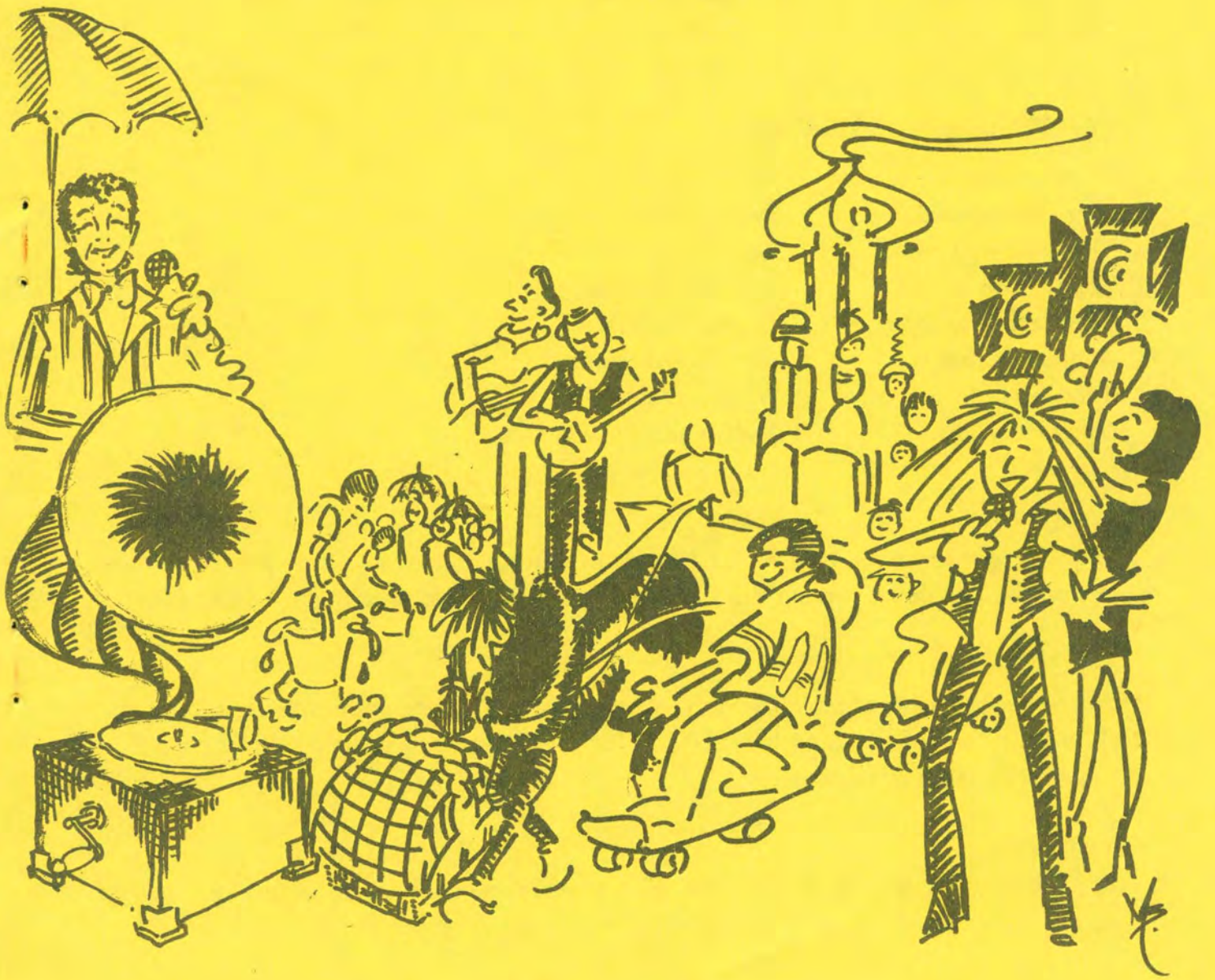


Focal Poyntz



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:

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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.

Summer

Summer

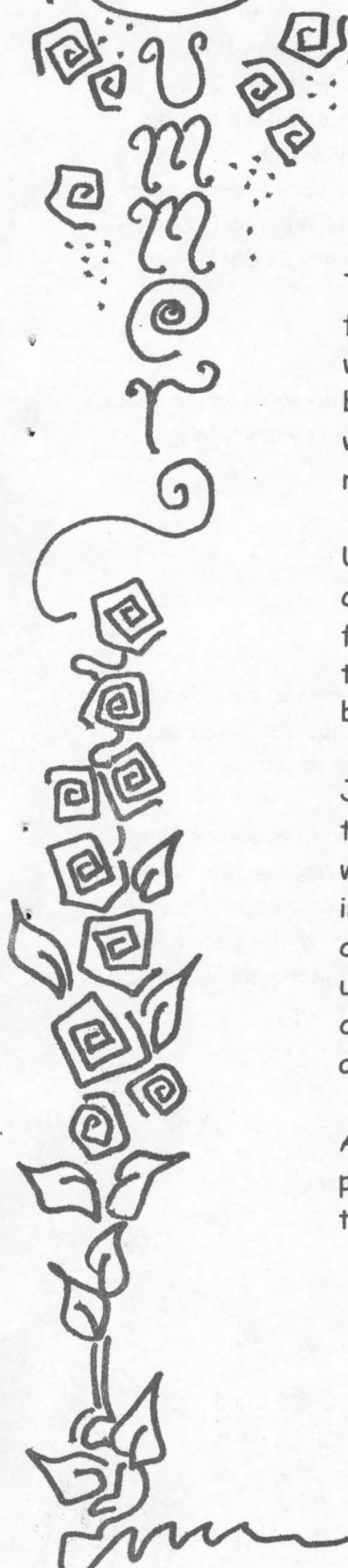
ISSUE No. 68

This editorial was written on the day that London came to a halt for 2 minutes at midday to remember the events of the previous week, our own unfortunate equivalent of 9/11. Yes, tears have been shed at the TV images, but pride has also been felt at the way that our fellow countrymen have behaved with dignity and resoluteness in the face of the unknown.

Until a week ago thoughts about the content of this editorial centred around the joy of being awarded the Olympics, looking forward to the celebrations for the VE/VJ 60th anniversary and the start of the Ashes Series - would we, at long last, manage to beat the Aussies?

Just a few moments was all it took to alter our outlook. Things that perhaps had been taken for granted became more precious, we looked at life a little differently, stories of kindness leached into newspapers that usually choose to increase circulation with cynical and negative items and the stoicism of the Brits in time of uncertainty - drawing tremendous parallels with the blitz and creating invisible lines between the generations - was one of the amazing things that seemed to arise from the smoke.

As we gradually and gently see lives returning to a more settled pattern, we hope all our readers have exactly the sort of summer they want.





IRON ACTON PARISH HALL

May Day

This year's May Day celebrations exceeded all expectations both with the weather and volume of people attending! The actual profits are still being worked out but should be in the region of £4,500 - which will be divided between the 5 charities represented on the organising committee (Iron Acton School, North Road School, Acton Aid, the Parish Hall and the Parochial Church Council). Any parish charity wishing to join our happy crew for May Day 2006 would be made very welcome and should contact the Chair for next year, Chris Wiggins (228696) Our meetings will probably commence in January 2006.

Parish Hall

The Parish Hall Committee meets on the first Wednesday of every month and we would again welcome new members. Please contact me on 228949 or Angela Guest on 228980 if you would like to come along. If you are interested in booking the hall please contact Meryl Cook on 228405.

Tony Pullen / Treasurer - 228949

THE FRIENDS OF IRON ACTON SCHOOL

With the school summer holidays upon us as you read this, we can sit back and relax having survived (we hope) the thrills and spills of the Olympic themed Summer Fayre on 1 July and the Leavers' Disco on 19 July. Thank you to all who helped by buying raffle tickets or coming along to support us.

May Day, which saw us running the bar tent for the first time, is now a distant memory. However the cookery book "Cooking Through the Seasons in Iron Acton" that was launched on the day continues to sell like hot cakes (over 200 copies to date) and no wonder! For those who haven't yet seen a copy it's a fantastic collection of recipes from over 100 local cooks, an interesting pictorial tour of the parish and, not least, a fascinating glimpse into just what is going on in our neighbours' kitchens! More copies can be ordered from the School, Fiona Bourns (228993) or Alison Lovell (228100) at £6 per copy.

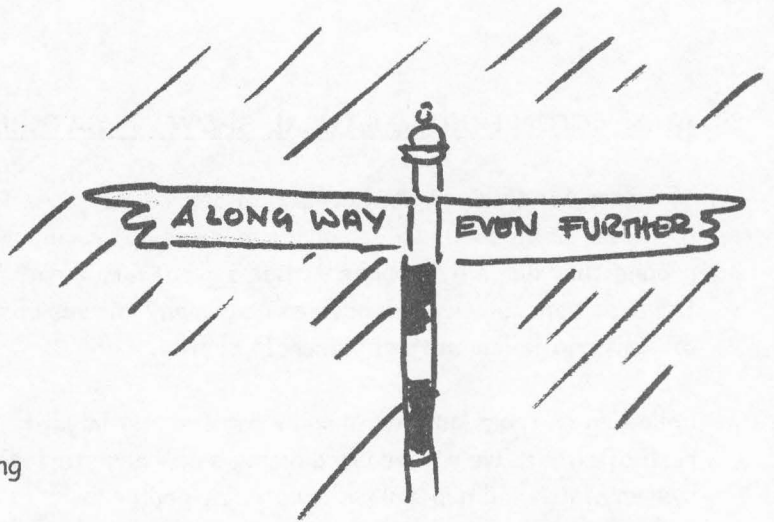
We look forward to a Barn Dance and Pig Roast (surely you remember the last one - lipsmackingly delicious) in September and an Auction of Promises in the New Year. These will be social events to be seen at and will be jolly good fun so please keep an eye open for the flyers nearer the time with dates and details. Everyone is welcome and, as they say, this village knows how to party so don't be left out! There are ambitious plans afoot at school for additional ICT facilities and the Friends wish to support these plans so fundraising is, as usual, a top priority. Have a great summer!

Fiona Bourns / 228993



PARISH TEAM PEAKS 3 TIMES!

Didn't the boys do well? We always knew that Iron Acton men are a superior bunch - they keep reminding us after all - but it's impossible not to be impressed by the feat of endurance, skill and stamina demonstrated recently. On the weekend of 2-3 July an Iron Acton based team successfully completed the gruelling "Three Peaks Challenge", coming second to a considerably more experienced team during that weekend's attempt at the challenge.



The 10 man team trained from January to reach the level of fitness and team work required to climb Ben Nevis, Scafell Pyke and Snowdon within 24 hours and was one of only 3 teams of the 20 taking part to achieve the target of climbing all 3 peaks within 24 hours - to say nothing of the logistics involved in reaching the 3 sites within the time available.

On Friday, 1 July Wiggy's Walkers packed their minibus and were waved off by friends and family on the 11 hour journey to Fort William. At 4.00 pm on Saturday, 2 July Andy Cowell, Richard Evans, Jason Haselhan, David Hatherell, Chris Herbert, Ashley Mee, Paul Scapens and Andy Tillotson set off to tackle Ben Nevis. At 1,343m Ben Nevis is the highest peak in the UK. Though the weather stayed dry, the top of the mountain was in cloud so the walkers weren't rewarded with a view. Nevertheless, they were happy to see the summit cairn.

Less than 4½ hours after setting off the walkers arrived back at the minibus. Chris Wiggins and Haydn Rickard were there to serve pasta and refreshments before driving to Scafell Pike. The drivers encountered atrocious conditions on the way but delivered the walkers safely to the foot of Scafell at sunrise. At 978m Scafell Pike is the lowest of the 3 peaks but with some treacherous ground to cover it is possible the toughest. After another 4½ hours of walking, the team was ready to set off for Snowdonia.

By the time the team arrived at the foot of Snowdon injury and fatigue were starting to take their toll. However, the walkers made the 9 mile return journey to the 1,064m summit of Snowdon in a little over 4¼ hours. At the foot of the mountain the team celebrated completing the Three Peaks Challenge in 23 hours and 24 minutes and was surprised to receive a visit from Andy Cowell's children, Olivia and Louis.

In the process they had raised £6,000 for the Mitchemp Trust. The trust was established in 1992 by Major Richard Mitchell and explorer David Hempleman-Adams and is a youth development charity working with vulnerable children. It provides adventure camps, involving exciting outdoor activities that enable children to succeed and achieve. Through these the trust aims to improve the children's confidence, self esteem and ability to take responsibility for themselves.

Congratulations to all who took part in this very worthwhile project. It was a terrific achievement and we wait with baited breath to hear of their next exploit Everest perhaps?

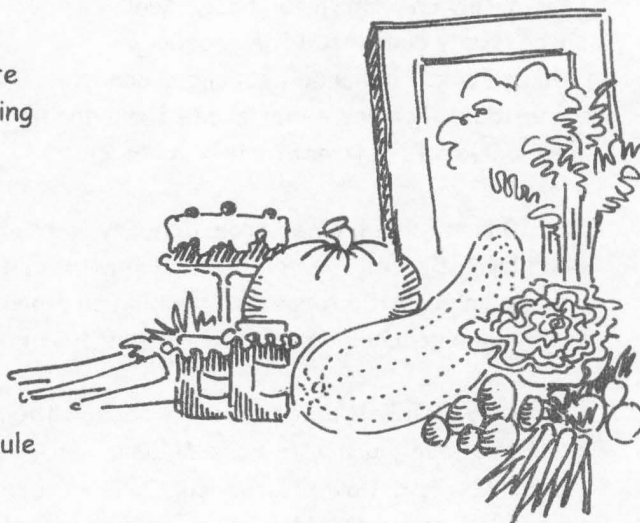
IRON ACTON HORTICULTURAL SHOW - SATURDAY, 3 SEPTEMBER 2005

The date for this year's Show is fast approaching! As I write this article we are having an unusually hot spell, so no doubt all you gardeners are out furiously watering your young plants, etc. Walking around the village it's apparent that a great number of fruit trees and bushes have a good crop on them, so hopefully we will have a great many entries in the fruit section, as well as a splendid display of jams and jellies in the homecraft section.

Following on from last year's show and the last minute rush of entries we will be introducing a new registering system which will hopefully alleviate any problems.

On behalf of the Committee I would just like to say that the Iron Acton Horticultural Show would not be the success that it has become if it wasn't for the enthusiasm of the whole Parish who fully enter into the spirit of the show.

We look forward to receiving your entries - a schedule is included in each copy of Focal Poyntz but please contact me for further copies.



Paula Evans / on behalf of the Iron Acton Horticultural Show Committee - 228029

NORTH ROAD SCHOOL

It is with great sadness that I write this, my final contribution to Focal Poyntz. In my 17 years as Head of North Road School I have lived in Bristol but always regarded this area as my "real home"!

I have so many happy memories of Iron Acton: the wonderful May Day celebrations on the green, playing brass instruments in the church's Christmas Carol Service, producing and mounting paintings for the Horticultural Show, bringing pupils to an Actonians performance, North Road Ladies Club and, Lastly, trying to get money from Bob Sheppard, Lynne Blanchard and, formerly, Norman Carter to support our pupils in their many activities! (not to mention after the rats incident!), I thank you all who live within the area of Focal Poyntz for your support and friendship over these years.

The school will have a new Headteacher in September. Mark Handley, currently in St Mary's, Yate, who will lead the school to bigger and better things! I know you will give him the same support you have shown me.

Glenys Anderson / Headteacher

ST JAMES THE LESS PARENT AND TODDLER GROUP

A Tribute

Our group is having a difficult time as we all try to come to terms with the sudden and tragic loss of our dearest friend Melanie Newman. Ironically she would have been the very person to help us cope with our sorrow.

I have never met a braver, more positive, funny and lovely person as Mel who, despite being so ill, kept chuckling and caring about what really mattered in life. Mel cared passionately for her family, friends, home and this village. She never indulged in self-pity.

As a result of these qualities we have been left an everlasting legacy by Mel; to get the most out of life that we possibly can and to treasure every single moment - just as she did. She filled our group with her invincible spirit and that will never die.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Andy, Olivia and Louis.

We all feel sure that Mel will have the kettle on and be ready for a good natter when we all meet again.

God bless you Mel

Lisa Hatherall



BRISTOL SPEAKERS CLUB - A PASTIME WITH A DIFFERENCE

It is a friendly group of men and women who meet regularly to practise standing up and speaking in front of an audience.

Participating in public speaking is an ideal way to boost personal confidence and enhance communication and persuasiveness skills. The emphasis is on 'having a go' with like minded people in a friendly and non threatening environment.

Typically at a club meeting we make short prepared speeches and then have an impromptu speaking session. This is where everyone has a go at 'thinking on their feet'.

There is no doubt that the formula of having a go, watching and learning from others and receiving constructive feedback really pays off.

The Club meets on alternate Monday evenings at 7:30pm at BAWA Health and Leisure Centre in Southmead Road, Filton, Bristol.

Our next season (September-April) starts on Monday 12 September 2005 and anyone who is interested can come along, without obligation, as a visitor and sample what we do. People can join at anytime during the season.

For more information call Keith Rogers 01454 414737 or Eddie Harding 0117 950 7402.



Iron Acton Neighbourhood Watch Newsletter

Anyone home?

Opportunist thieves commit most burglaries, so with a few simple measures you can help deter thieves from targeting your house.

The first thing a burglar wants to know is whether there is anyone home. You can make this more difficult by:

- Leave lights and /or a radio on whilst you are out using a timer switch if you are away for a few days.
- Open your curtains, take in newspapers, milk & post before you leave the house in the morning.
- Ask your neighbours or a friend to keep an eye on your house if you are going away-maybe ask them to come in and draw the curtains, switch on lights and make the house looked lived in.
- Cancel the papers if you go away.
- Remove all valuables from view of the windows.

Around a third of all burglaries get in via a back window. Visible locks may deter some thieves as it means they have to break the glass and risk attention. You can keep them out by:

- Fitting key operated locks to all downstairs windows and easily accessible upstairs windows, such as those above a flat roof or a drainpipe.
- If you are replacing windows, consider laminated glass.
- Do **NOT** leave windows open during the summer months when you are out.

If your doors are not secure then neither is your home. Secure your doors by: Fitting a good lock to all your doors.

- A five-lever mortice lock is recommended
- Patio doors should have special locks fitted to the top and bottom (ask for advice at your local DIY store)
- Glass panels on doors are particularly vulnerable and should be replaced with laminated glass
- Make sure doors and frames are in a good and strong condition
- If you are thinking of buying PVC or metal framed doors/windows, make sure they come with good built in locks and a fitted chain, as these can be expensive to add afterwards.

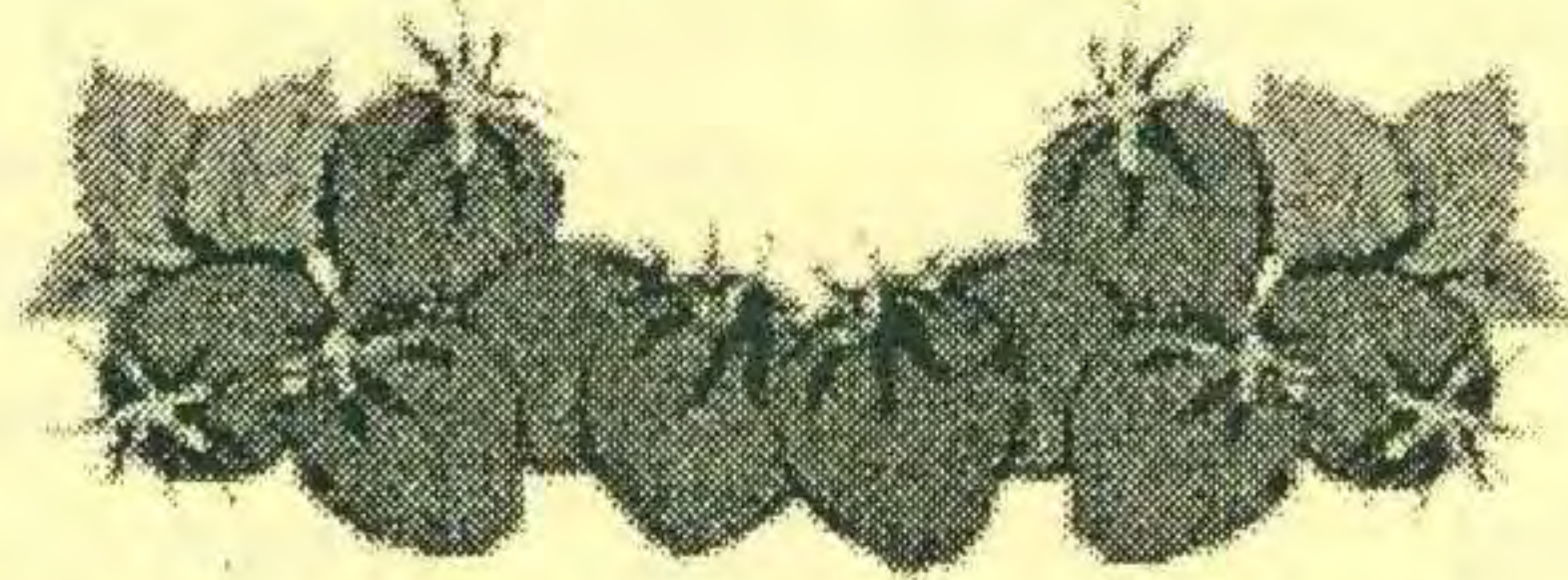
Crimestoppers works for you, your family and your community. Call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111. Just tell us what you know, not who you are.

The beat manager, Lee Bainbridge has recently returned from maternity leave. She hopes to be meeting up with some of you soon. Lee is working part-time hours so if not around to contact, leave a message at the station. Tel: 0845 4567000

Designed by Lucy Hatherell, Aged 9



*IRON
ACTON*

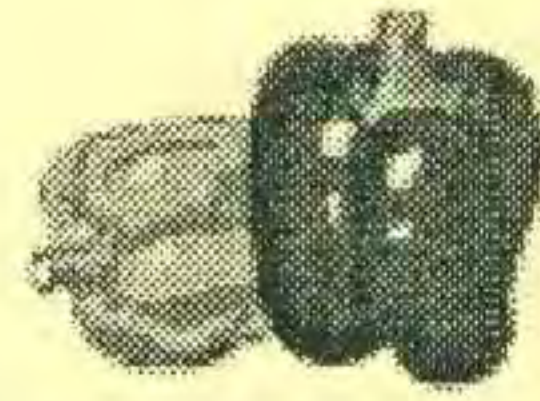


*HORTICULTURAL
SHOW 2005*

AUCTION AFTER

WELCOME TO THE SHOW

PLEASE ENJOY YOUR DAY



Iron Acton Horticultural Show

Saturday 3rd September 2005

Entries 9.00am – 11.00am

Exhibition Opens – 2.30pm

Welcome to the 2005 Show! Please let us know if you have any suggestions for further classes, new ideas are always welcome.

Allotment Trophy - The Best Collection of Vegetables grown on an Allotment.

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

GENERAL SECTION

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| 1. Collection of Vegetables | 23. 3 Blanch Leeks |
| 2. Collection of Salads | 24. 4 Apples (Dessert) |
| 3. Collection of Fruits | 25. 4 Apples (Culinary) |
| 4. 4 Potatoes (any 1 variety) | 26. 4 Pears (Dessert) |
| 5. 3 Carrots (Long) | 27. 4 Plums (Dessert) |
| 6. 3 Carrots (Short) | 28. 4 Plums (Culinary) |
| 7. 3 Onions (from seed, trimmed) | |
| 8. 3 Onions (from sets, trimmed) | 29. 6 Roses (Assorted) |
| 9. 6 Shallots | 30. 1 Specimen Rose (Named) |
| 10. 6 Runner Beans | 31. 3 Reflexed Chrysanthemums |
| 11. 6 French Beans | 32. 3 Incurved Chrysanthemums |
| 12. The Longest Runner Bean | 33. 6 Dahlias (not over 2 ½ ") |
| 13. 2 Peppers | 34. 3 Cactus Dahlias |
| 14. 2 Cabbages (any 1 variety) | 35. 6 Decorative Dahlias |
| 15. 2 Marrows | 36. 6 Sweet Peas |
| 16. Heaviest Marrow | 37. Vase - "Cottage Garden Collection" |
| 17. 3 Courgettes | 38. Vase of Flowers (5-10 Stems) |
| 18. 2 Cucumbers (Frame or Greenhouse) | 39. Best Pot House Plant (Foliage) |
| 19. 6 Cherry Tomatoes (on the vine) | 40. Best Pot House Plant (Flowering) |
| 20. 6 Tomatoes | 41. Bunch of Herbs |
| 21. 3 Parsnips | 42. Largest Sunflower Head |
| 22. 3 Beetroot | |

HOME CRAFT SECTION

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| 43. 6 Chicken Eggs | 56. A Loaf of Bread |
| 44. 6 Eggs (any other variety) | 57. A Deep Fruit Pie |
| 45. 1 Pot of Jam | 58. A Painting, Sketch or Drawing; Framed or Unframed, Any Subject |
| 46. 1 Pot of Jelly | 59. A Knitted or Crocheted Article |
| 47. 1 Pot of Marmalade | 60. A Patchwork Item |
| 48. 1 Jar of Honey | 61. A Kit Tapestry/Cross Stitch |
| 49. 1 Jar of Chutney | 62. An Original Tapestry/Cross Stitch |
| 50. 1 Jar Pickled Onions | |
| 51. Victoria Sponge (3 eggs) | |
| 52. A Quiche | |
| 53. Gingerbread | |
| 54. Plate of 6 Biscuits | |
| 55. 6 Plain Scones | |

CRAFT SECTION

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

FLOWER ARRANGING (ROSE BOWL TO WINNER)

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

PHOTOGRAPHY SECTION (Unframed, simply mounted on card)

- | |
|--|
| 71. Photograph entitled "Hello!" |
| 72. Photograph encompassing Reflection |

CHILDREN'S SECTION

Pre-School

- | |
|------------------------------|
| 73. 6 Decorated Fairy Cakes |
| 74. A Painting (any subject) |

Ages 4, 5 and 6 Years

- | |
|----------------------------------|
| 75. 6 Decorated Fairy Cakes |
| 76. A Miniature Garden |
| 77. A Vegetable Animal |
| 78. A Painting of a "My Holiday" |
| 79. A Junk Model |

Ages 7, 8, 9 and 10 Years

- | |
|---|
| 80. 6 Decorated Fairy Cakes |
| 81. A Miniature Garden |
| 82. A Scarecrow |
| 83. A Painting of "My Hero" |
| 84. A Computer Poster Advertising Next Year's <u>Horticultural Show</u> |

Ages 11, 12, 13 and 14 Years

- | |
|--|
| 85. A Cartoon Strip (any medium, including computer generated) |
| 86. A Computer Poster Advertising Next Year's <u>Village Day</u> |
| 87. A Photograph entitled "Fun & Games" |

We hope you enjoy the Iron Acton 2005 Horticultural Show

Thank You For Your Continued Support

AWARDS

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

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

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

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

Rules

1. Entry fees for all Classes:

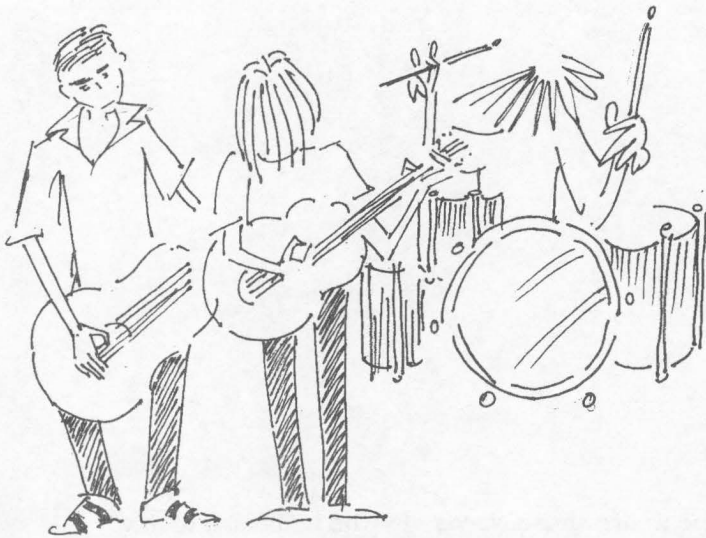
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|------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| 20p first entry | 15p all others | |
| 16 Years & Under | 10p first entry | 5p all others |
2. Points are awarded as follows:

| | | | |
|--------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Classes 1, 2 and 3 | 1 st - 8 points | 2 nd - 6 points | 3 rd - 4 points |
| Classes 4 - 70 | 1 st - 3 points | 2 nd - 2 points | 3 rd - 1 point |
3. Prize money as follows:

| | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| Allotment and | | | |
| Classes 1, 2 and 3 | 1 st - £1.50 | 2 nd - £1.00 | 3 rd - 50p |
| All Other Classes | 1 st - 70p | 2 nd 50p | 3 rd - 30p |
4. It is understood that all entries have been made or grown by the Exhibitor and have not be exhibited in any other show.
5. The Judges reserve the right to inspect the garden or allotment of any Exhibitor.
6. Any complaints must be made to a member of the Committee by 4.00pm.
7. Doors will be open at 9.00am on Saturday 3rd September 2005 and all entries must be made before 11.00am. **Non-perishable entries can also be accepted on Friday 2nd September 2005 at the Parish Hall between 4.30pm and 6.30pm.**
8. Staging must be completed by 11.30am prompt when the Hall will be cleared for judging.
9. In Classes with 3 or less entries the Judges reserve the right to withhold any 1 or 2 prizes.
10. The Judges' decision will be final.
11. Entries from all sections may be donated for sale at the Auction to be held after the Show, and gifts of any kind will be gratefully received.
12. Awards will be presented at 3.30pm and exhibits may be removed immediately afterwards. Any items remaining will be auctioned at 4.00pm approximately.

Entry Forms and Enquiries to:-

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



ACTON AID

Acton Aid continues to stage events to raise money for good causes in the parish, as well as breaking all records on the May Day burger stall! By the time this issue drops through your letterbox we will have held the second Summer Proms in the Meadow - this time with amplification for those in the gazebo circle! Our Chairman, John Wright, has been keen to extend our services to the youth of the parish during his year in office and we are particularly pleased to be able to provide facilities for young local bands to perform after the Proms. If there are any suggestions of more things we can do for this age group please contact John.

Our on-going programme of talks has continued with Paul Townsend giving us a fascinating insight into training Ugandan doctors in reconstructive surgery. He visited Uganda for a second time in late June and was able to take over £250 received in donations towards medical supplies.

The next talk for your diary is on 8 September when Tim Spare will entertain us with his experiences in the Solomon Islands. Talks are now being held in the Committee Room of the Parish Hall and commence at 8.00 pm. While your diaries are at hand, Bonfire and Fireworks will take place on Saturday, 5 November - look out for tickets from the middle of October.

Any parishioner who wants to find out more about Acton Aid is invited to contact one of the officers or call in and join us at the Lamb at 8.00 pm on the first Thursday of each month. Meetings have the minimum of formality, with fundraising events and the distribution of resources discussed and planned over a pint or two.

Finally, if readers are aware of any parishioners who would benefit from the support of Acton Aid they are welcome to contact, in confidence, our Chairman (John Wright) on 228373 or Secretary (Ashley Mee) on 228540.

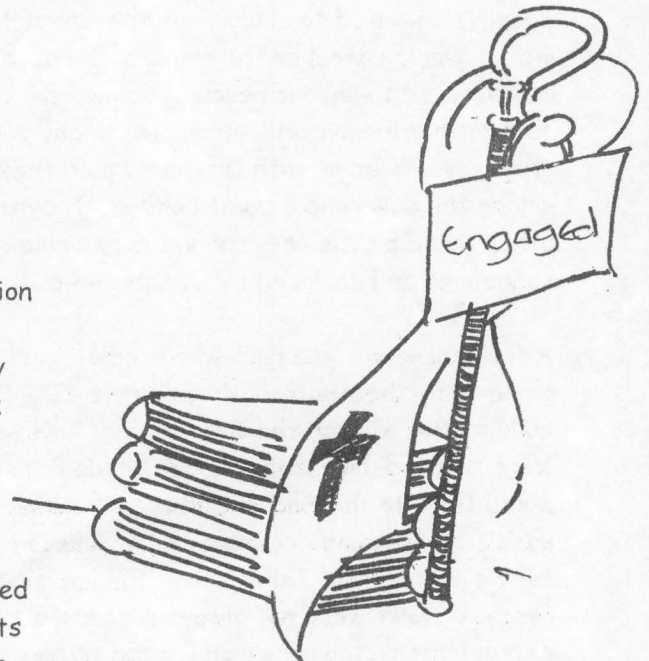
Ashley Mee / Secretary - 228540

FLUSHED WITH SUCCESS

Earlier in the year an interesting and unusual event took place at St Peter's in Frampton Cotterell. For several months construction work had been going on at the church and in mid April all was revealed. At the west end of the church a social and hospitality area together with toilet facilities had been created. The work was carried out to a very high standard and, in keeping with its situation, was a very tasteful conversion.

On Sunday, 17 April Bishop Mike came to Frampton Cotterell to lead a service of thanksgiving and dedication of the newly created facilities. Although the service itself was dignified, in view of its subject there were a great many allusions to being "flushed with success" and other similarly amusing comments throughout the evening.

There were also a few suggestions about the most appropriate way of inaugurating the new facilities.



It was a very pleasant evening and generous hospitality was enjoyed by guests with plenty of opportunity to inspect the new facilities. I wonder why on the way home I was suddenly reminded of an old French film called "Clochmerle". Does anyone else remember it?

THE HISTORY OF MEDICINE II

THE ROYAL HUMANE SOCIETY

*Death may usurp on nature many hours,
And yet the fire life kindle again
The over press'd spirits. I heard
Of an Egyptian, that had nine hours lien dead,
Who was by good appliances recovered.*

Shakespeare. Pericles, Act III Scene II

Shakespeare put his finger on the button in 1609 when he wrote these words. By the beginning of the 18th century the phenomenon of "apparent death" had become widely recognised, particularly in those who were thought to have drowned. Once it was realised that those who were apparently dead from drowning could sometimes be revived, efforts were made in several countries to establish some form of organisation to deal with the problem. In the Netherlands, with its many canals, drowning was a not infrequent cause of death so it is not altogether surprising that the Amsterdam Society for rescuing the drowned was the first such organisation, being established on 26 October 1767.

Meanwhile, other major cities soon began to follow suit. These included Hamburg, Milan, Paris, St Petersburg, Venice and others. For instance, in 1768 the magistrates in Milan and Venice issued orders for the treatment of drowned persons. London was not far behind and, on 18 April 1774, at a meeting in the Chapter Coffee House in St Paul's Churchyard, Dr William Hawes and Dr Thomas Cogan each invited 16 of their friends to assist in founding a similar society for London. Initially known as "The Institution for affording immediate relief to persons apparently dead from Drowning", 2 years later it was re-named the Humane Society. In 1783 King George III became its patron and in 1787 it acquired the royal prefix and became the Royal Humane Society, the name by which it is known today.

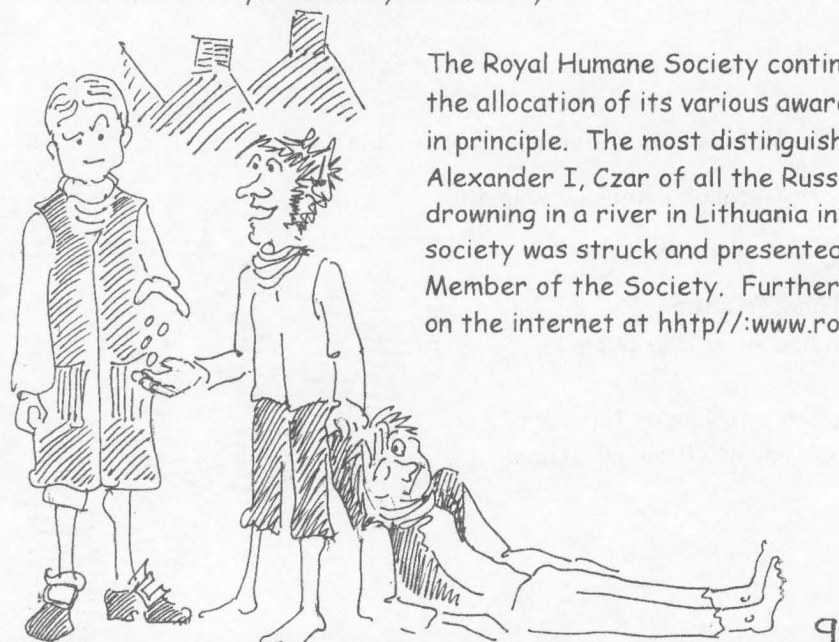
From the beginning the society wanted to promote the new but controversial techniques of resuscitation. Equally, it wanted to discourage the use of those methods thought to be harmful such as rolling the victim over a barrel or the giving of tobacco enemas. Mouth to mouth resuscitation came later. Money was offered to anyone rescuing someone from the brink of death. A handsome reward of 4 guineas was paid to the rescuer and one guinea to any publican allowing a drowned person's body to be treated on his premises. To begin with Dr Hawes paid these rewards from his own pocket but a scam soon developed among the down and outs of London. They worked in pairs. One would pretend to be rescued and the other would be the rescuer and they would share the proceeds. So the financial rewards were soon abandoned and replaced by medals and certificates.

A farmhouse in Hyde Park was used at first where the rescued could be revived. This stood on land donated by their patron, King George III. In 1835 a special "Receiving House" for those rescued was built on the edge of the Serpentine. This was damaged by enemy action during the war and the ruins were finally demolished in 1954. Hyde Park was originally chosen because tens of thousands of Londoners would flock to the Serpentine to go bathing in the summer and for ice-skating in the winter. Many were unable to swim and drownings were common in the summer as the non-swimmers got out of their depth. In the winter many fell through the ice and although the society employed "ice men" to try to effect rescues, these were not always successful although a number of ingenious devices were employed to extract the victims from an icy and watery grave. Those who had drowned, whether from bathing or from falling through the ice, would be taken into the "Receiving House" where attempts would be made to revive them, using the methods advocated by the society.

Other branches of the society were set up throughout the country, mainly in ports and coastal towns. However the Serpentine was not the only place in London where drowning occurred and the services of the society and its employees were often called upon to save those who had attempted suicide by jumping into the River Thames. If saved, each potential suicide would be presented with a bible. The scale of the society's activities was considerable. In the period 1774 to 1998 2,336 silver medals and 11,230 bronze medals had been awarded. One custom that has now lapsed was an occasional grand dinner at which there would be a procession of those persons saved during the year from drowning. This was primarily a fund-raising affair and it was doubtless hoped that seeing those whose lives had been saved parading round the hall would loosen pockets and purses. In the society's offices there is a nice photograph showing such a dinner at the Freemasons Hall.

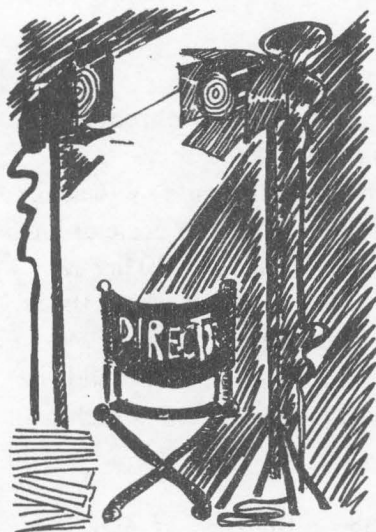
The Royal Humane Society has kept meticulous records ever since its foundation in the form of Annual Reports and minutes of its committee meetings. It may, therefore, be of interest to reproduce the verbatim account of the first successful rescue recorded in the Annual Report of 1774:

On 12 July 1774, the year in which the Society was founded, Thomas, the son of John Joseph, a child aged about 14 months, dwelling by the iron foundry near the Falcon Stairs, wandering from its mother and other women who were drinking tea together in a chandler's shop, got into a back kitchen and fell through a trap, the door of which was carelessly left open, into an aqueduct communicating with the River Thames. The women heard it fall and ran to the place but could not perceive the child. Their screams brought a shoemaker who lived in an adjacent house to the place, but he was fearful of jumping in lest he should fall upon the child. Thomas Vincent, a waterman, who was amongst the crowd brought together by the cries of the distressed mother, being informed of the event, ran round by several houses and climbing over the walls of the aqueduct, waded up to the place to the height of his chest in the water, proceeding cautiously and feeling for the infant with his feet as he advanced, for he imagined that the returning tide might have carried it to a distance from the place: nor was he altogether deceived as he felt the child about 10' from the opening. He took it up and gave it to the women through the hole through which it had fallen. From 7 to 10 minutes must have elapsed from the falling-in of the child to the time it was taken out. The women, upon the strictest examination, affirmed that the child was to all appearance dead, its eyes were fixed, it lay breathless and void either of motion or pulse. They shook and beat it on its back for some little time and laying it upon a counter in the shop rubbed its belly and chest with dry salt, the friction was scarcely continued 3 minutes before the child began to gasp and give other signs of returning life, which increased till they were enabled to pour some salt and water down its throat. This excited a vomiting by which the child threw up a considerable quantity of water and mud from its stomach and, in a few minutes more, it was restored to the joyful arms of its mother. In the course of the evening it had 2 or 3 convulsive fits but these were of short duration and returned no more. The person who had taken the child out of the water ran for Mr Boyce, one of the Medial Assistants to this Society: he not being at home, his journeyman went to the house but he found the child pretty well recovered. The waterman had the reward promised by the society."



The Royal Humane Society continues its work although the criteria for the allocation of its various awards have changed in detail although not in principle. The most distinguished personage to receive an award was Alexander I, Czar of all the Russias, who saved a Polish peasant from drowning in a river in Lithuania in 1815. A special gold medal of the society was struck and presented to him and he was made an Honorary Member of the Society. Further details about the society can be found on the internet at <http://www.royalhumane.org/history>.

John Zorab



THE ACTONIANS

Our May production, the Ray Cooney comedy, "Run for your Wife" was both a creative and financial success and seemed to be enjoyed by all those in the audience, on-stage and backstage.

We'd like to give you advance notice of our next production so you can mark the dates in your diaries. This will take place from 1-3 December (inclusive) and will be Chekov's "The Cherry Orchard". Further details will appear in the Winter issue but by then we hope you will have purchased your tickets!

As always, we would warmly welcome anyone who is interested in joining us for both on-stage, back stage and technical work. If you would like to come and be a part of a friendly and hard working drama group please contact Ann Aplin (228343) or Steve Birch (883300)

Barrie Wright

NORTH ROAD LADIES CLUB

At our March meeting Keith Taylor gave a talk and showed us some beautiful slides of "Wild Flowers in the Cotswolds". He told us of various walks we could take to see these wild flowers and also showed slides of different butterflies and insects to watch out for.

David McCoy came along to our club in April to speak about his role on the Board of Prison Visitors. This was a most enlightening talk, after which our members were keen to ask questions. Also in April 45 members with husbands and friends went by coach to an evening performance of "Chicago" at the Bristol Hippodrome. This was a wonderful musical and a great evening out.

In May Mrs Carol Fellowes told us her life story and called her talk "God's got a plan for your life".

On 6 June the weather was very kind to us when we made an evening visit to see a herd of llamas in Winterbourne owned by Norma Chandler-Paterson. We had expected just a few but there were, in fact, 26 llamas in various paddocks. Norma gave us a most interesting guided tour and later showed us samples of sweaters, scarves, etc, which had been woven or knitted from the llamas' wool. Our evening finished with a social gathering for refreshments at The Globe, Frampton Cotterell.

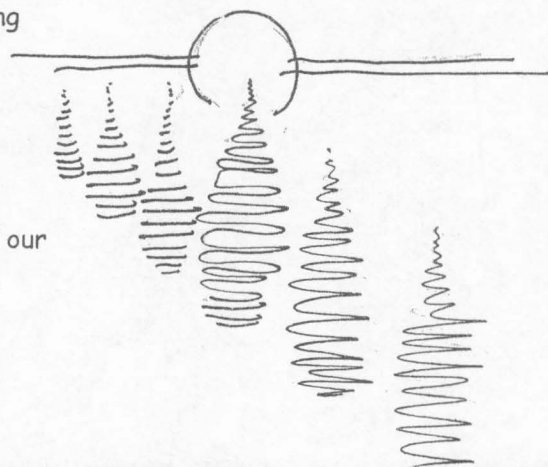
We will be hoping for a lovely summer's evening on 4 July when we take a "Stroll around Painswick" with our guide, Howard Beard. After the guided tour we will be visiting The Falcon in Painswick for refreshments.

We do not hold a meeting in August but our programme from September is as follows:

- Monday, 5 Sept "Aust Ferry" - talk by Tim and Steve Ryan illustrated by old ciné film
- Monday, 3 Oct "Roman Site at Hall End Farm" - talk by Andrew Young
- Monday, 7 Nov Our 38th Birthday Party - to be arranged
- Monday, 5 Dec "Christmas Steps, Origins and Traditions"
- by David Brace, our AGM and American Supper

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

June Rycroft / Secretary



ST JAMES THE LESS, IRON ACTON

The church is having a busy summer this year with several special events as well as our usual weekly activities. It is especially pleasing to be able to report that our special services for children are thriving and are usually well attended. The children themselves are becoming more and more involved in welcoming the congregation, reading, taking the collection and leading the prayers. It is such a pleasure to see them growing in confidence and enjoying their part in the service. It is also good to see more children becoming involved in these activities. Family Communion is held on the first Sunday of every month and there is Children's Church on every 3rd Sunday.

Sunday, 3 July was a very special day for the parishes of Iron Acton and Frampton Cotterell. Most of all it was a special day for our curate, Jane Tailby, who on that day was ordained priest at Bristol Cathedral. Revd Sue and several members of both congregations went to the service which was conducted with great dignity by Bishop Mike. It was a very happy occasion with glorious music and an inspiring sermon. As the newly ordained priests and deacons emerged to be greeted by their families and friends the sun shone and Bristol was looking at its best. Although Jane has been part of our church community as Reader and Curate for some time, it is now a great pleasure to be able to welcome her as one of our priests.



OPEN CHURCH WEEKEND

On the weekend of 25-26 June the church was open to visitors with extensive floral decorations, a collection of historical photographs, conducted tours and trips up the tower - always very popular with visitors and parishioners alike. Fortunately the weather was fine with excellent visibility and the whole of Iron Acton was looking at its best from a great height. Visitors were invited to take tea and relax in the grounds of The Old Rectory where books, plants and cakes were all on sale. Under the banner "Make Poverty History" a fine selection of Fairtrade goods from third world countries was offered for sale. The whole weekend was most enjoyable and a very worthwhile fundraising effort at over £500.

THE CHURCHYARD

As many of you will have noticed, the Churchyard is looking very neat and tidy - this has been achieved through a lot of time and effort and we've received many compliments from our visitors.

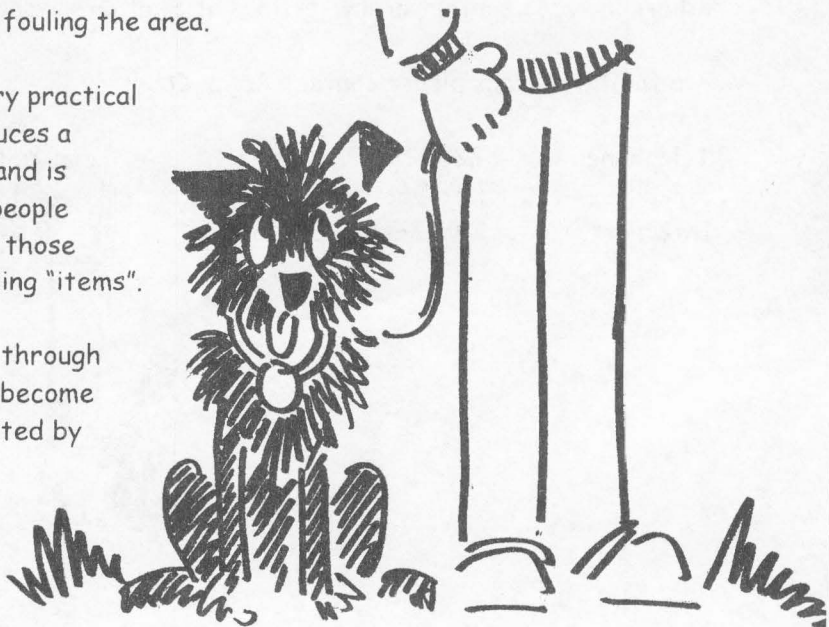
However, we have an increasing problem with dogs fouling the area.

This not only causes visual offence but creates very practical problems for our grass cutting contractor, it produces a potential danger to any children who use the area and is particularly unpleasant for guests at weddings or people attending funerals. Neither is it a joyous task for those of us who have to go around clearing up the offending "items".

This is a polite plea to ask all dog owners who walk through the churchyard to keep their dogs on leads and to become more responsible and collect any excrement deposited by their pets.

Your co-operation will really be appreciated!

Mike Wheeler / Churchwarden



ACTON COURT

EVENTS FROM THE END OF JULY TO COMPLETION OF 2005 SEASON

Henry's Film Club - A Man for All Seasons

Saturday, 30 July (7.30 pm) and Sunday, 31 July (3.00 pm) Combined membership and entrance £5:

Sir Thomas More finds himself torn between loyalty to King Henry VIII and his Catholic faith in this 1966 British production directed by Fred Zinnemann. Paul Scofield as Thomas More is magnificent, and well supported by a star studded cast. This beautiful film deservedly won 6 Oscars plus Best British Film. Where better to see this tale of Tudor politics but at Acton Court. 16 mm film.

Dressing the Queen

Sunday, 7 August, Performances at 11 am, 2 pm and 4 pm. Tickets £8 with concessions £6

Queen Elizabeth I's image was carefully constructed throughout her life and was most fascinating in the 1590's. This event shows how the Queen was dressed from her underwear to her jewel-encrusted exterior. As Elizabeth enrobes, she and her dresser share anecdotes about the servants and courtiers who helped maintain her public persona. An event for all lovers of fashion.

Performers: Jane Malcolm Davies and Caroline Johnson

Candlelit Tours with Lady Joan

Saturday 13, Tuesday 16 and Friday, 19 August, all at 8 pm. Tickets £8 with concessions £6

Lady Joan Poyntz, the wife of Sir Nicholas Poyntz, invites you to visit her home and share memories of her family and those they knew through the momentous reigns of 4 Tudor monarchs, from Henry VIII to Elizabeth I. This theatrical tour offers a rare opportunity to experience Acton Court by night.

Lady Joan Poyntz - Brenda Page

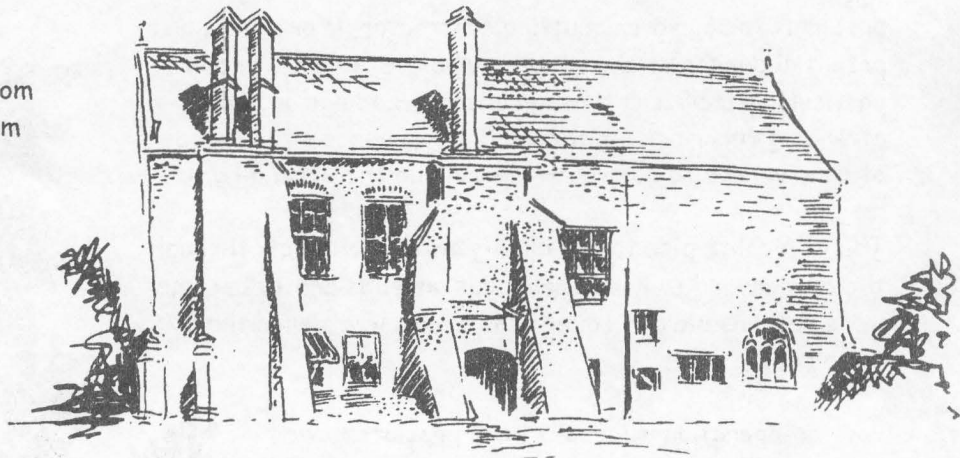
Opus Anglicanum: The Merrie Tales of Master Skelton

Sunday, 21 August, 3.00 pm, tickets £12 with concessions £10

Five unaccompanied male voices present a themed sequence of music for English poetry's most outrageous and colourful character, Henry VIII's childhood teacher, self-proclaimed "Adonis" and notorious Rector of Diss, the Rabelaisian John Skelton. The music of John Tavener, William Cornysh, John Browne and others includes contemporary settings of Skelton's verse from the Tudor Court songbooks.

For further details please contact Acton Court:

Telephone: 228224
E-mail: info@actoncourt.com
Internet: www.actoncourt.com



IRON ACTON CRICKET CLUB

We are already halfway through our fixtures and we have managed an astonishing 100% record - not one of our matches has been cancelled due to the weather or for not being able to raise a team. In terms of results however we started with a 100% record Which we kept for one match, but since then we have won only one of the next 6 games. Those who closely follow the fortunes of IACC will therefore realise that we are having a good season!

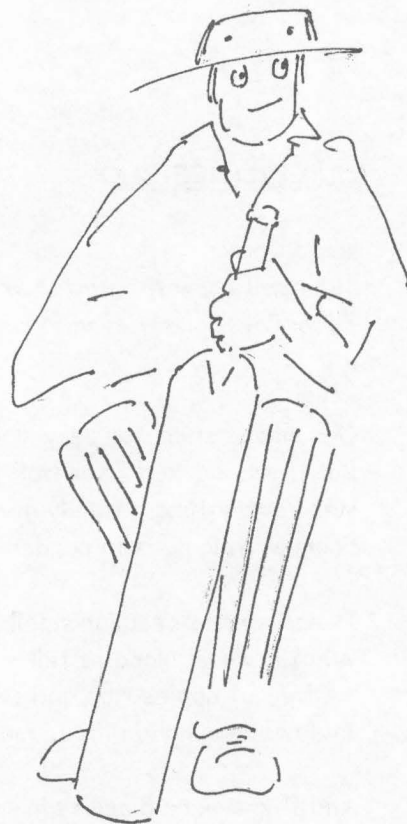
Team spirit appears to be high this year with competition for places and large numbers retiring to The Lamb Inn for post-match analysis - most of which seems to revolve around the generosity of our umpires (possibly confirmed by the fact that one poor individual has been given out lbw in 3 successive matches - and by 3 different umpires I should add).

Despite it being the middle of June when I'm writing this we've only had one match where a couple of extra layers of clothing were not essential. Only 4 more matches remain so we will be hoping for a little bit more sun and, of course, another win or two would be a great bonus.

Finally, if you have been patiently waiting to find out what ILSST stood for (one of our new opponents as mentioned in my last article), I'm afraid I can't shed any further light as they've now changed their name to RNTN - no more obvious, but I did discover this stood for Royal Navy Thursday Nighters, presumably because that's how long the celebrations last after a victory on a Wednesday night!

Don't hesitate to ring me if you fancy a game of cricket - the summer season may be practically over for us by the time you read this but soon we turn to indoors for the winter season.

Chris Bradley / Chairman - 228559



FRIENDS OF NORTH ROAD SCHOOL

Firstly we would like to say a fond farewell to Mrs Glenys Anderson, the Headteacher of North Road School who leaves us after many years at North Road. Her shoes will be very difficult to fill as she has done such a great job at the school over the last 17 Years and is well respected by both children and parents alike and we also want to take this opportunity to welcome Mr Handley who will take over the post of Headteacher in September - we wish him well. Mr Handley is local to Yate and has been a senior teacher at St Mary's School in Yate for a number of years.



We are planning to hold a Ladies' Evening in the School Hall on Thursday, 13 October. 6.30 pm for a 7.00 pm start. We held a similar event in October 2003 which was well supported by the local community and enjoyed by all who attended. There will be stalls and these will hopefully include a hairdresser, beautician, Chocoholics, Virgin Vie and many more. Posters will be displayed outside the school nearer to the date with further details.

Julie Robinson

OUR VILLAGE SHOP

We don't know the writer of the following contribution. It was collected by a villager and submitted to Focal Poyntz as it evoked memories of Iron Acton when we, too, had shops.

Our village shop was very small
But it was backed from wall to wall
With everything a family needs
From writing pads to garden seeds.

It had a most peculiar smell
What it was? Hard to tell,
A whiff of apples ripe and sweet
And cabbages and potted meat.

And there were biscuits in square tins,
Beside a row of storage bins,
In which were sugar, beans and rice
And lollipops and sugar mice.

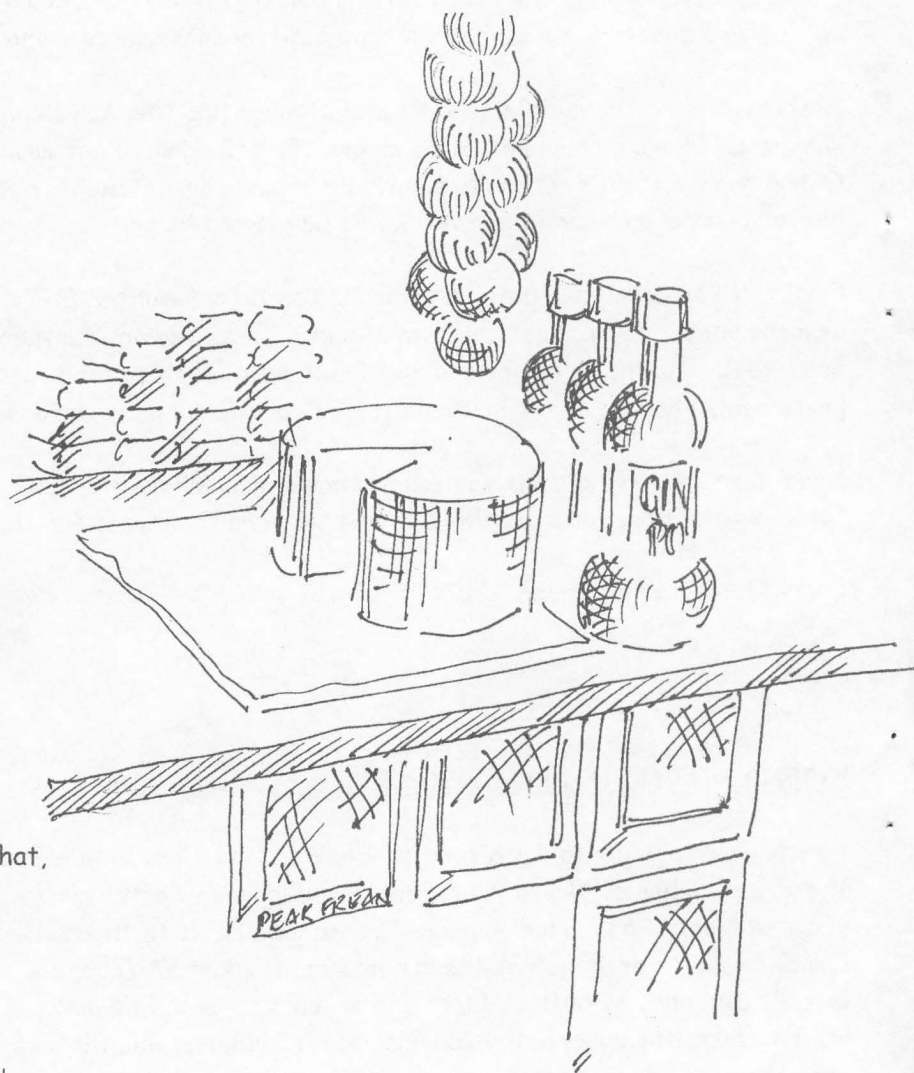
And on the wooden counter top,
There stood a crate of ginger pop,
And Cheddar cheese and butter too,
As well as ink and pots of glue.

With onions hanging down in ropes
And washing boards and toilet soaps
And buckets, brooms and table mats
Beside a pile of woolly hats.

The little shop was quite complete,
The centre of the village street,
Where friends could meet and have a chat,
While buying bacon, eggs and fat.

But now the shop has closed for good,
We go to town to buy our food.
From supermarket, big and grand,
Where food is frozen, dried and canned.

But memories we still hold dear,
Of little shops of yester-year.



IRON ACTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

The year has flown by so quickly, I can't believe we are starting to think about 2006 already! This term is very busy, full of exciting events such as Sports Day, Athletics Festival and Summer Fayre. As an end of year treat the science co-ordinator is organising a science week with fun activities such as a visit from the Life Skills Bus and Explorer Dome. The highlight of the year will be our whole school trip to the seaside and aquarium at Weston-Super-Mare.



Our ICT co-ordinator has recently rewritten the school website. It's updated weekly - why not visit it to find out what's happening in school? The address is www.ironacton-pri.sgloucs.sch.uk

As I write this article the warm sunny weather is here and the conservation area looks idyllic. The whole area is progressing well: the play equipment is freshly washed, the willow structure is beginning to show signs of green and plans for digging the pond are well underway.

The Year 6 pupils are currently enjoying their residential visit in the Forest of Dean and will soon be going to their new schools on induction days. They have been a very responsible, caring group and we shall miss them all.

We are looking forward to meeting the new Reception children and their parents in the next few weeks and hope they will be very happy at the school.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone in the village for their help and support this year.

Jill Bandeaux / Headteacher

SIXTIES EVENING IN THE HALL

An evening of sixties music featuring local band "BakTrax" is planned for Saturday evening, 22 October in the Parish Hall. The event is being held jointly with Acton Aid to raise money for local charities.

BakTrax guitarist and singer Martyn Johnson, who lives on The Green, is delighted to have the opportunity to help Acton Aid. Although the band has been playing together in its present line up for several years, 3 of the band played together over 30 years ago when they were at school, "We've never really grown up and we still love the thrill of playing together" Martyn tells us.

Last year the band organised a highly successful charity evening in Hanham Folk Centre and raised over £2,100 for Radio Bristol's Babe Appeal.

The band's repertoire covers a wide selection of music from the sixties and includes songs from the Beatles, Rolling Stones, Chuck Berry, The Kinks and song medleys from the Searchers, Troggs and Billy J Kramer.



We hope that the local community will support the event and help raise money for local charities. Tickets costing in the region of £5 will be available from a variety of local sources and a bar will be available.

IRON ACTON WI

We've had another varied group of speakers coming to talk to us over the last few months. In April a representative from the Avon Wildlife Trust came to encourage us to garden for wildlife and to talk about the work of the trust and what benefits could be obtained by becoming a member. In June we laughed until the tears streamed listening to Susan Marshfield telling stories about her holidays afloat and then in July alcohol was very much in the thoughts when a tour of Bristol followed the history of the wine merchants and their trade (stopping, so I hear tell, to imbibe a glass or two on the way).

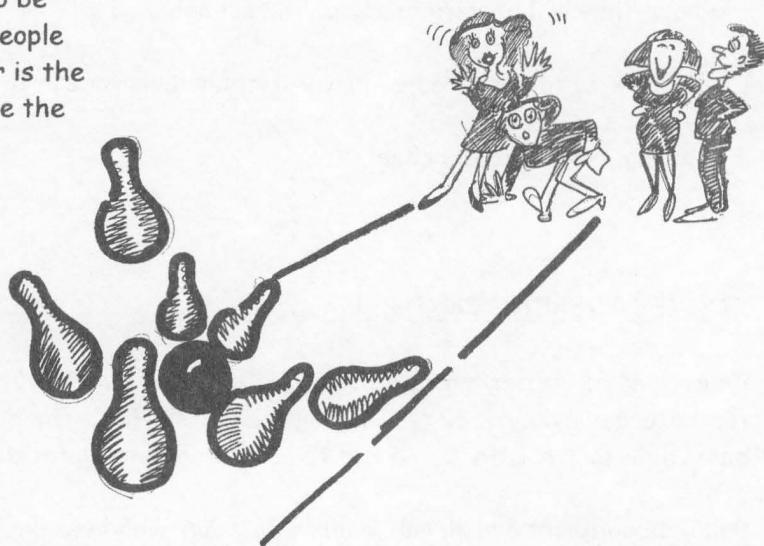
An opportunity for the alcohol seep out of the system in August when we don't have a meeting and then back with an evening of quizzes and gossip in September, October sees us trying our hand at some Christmas arrangements - no, we're not organised at all ... It's just that it takes us so long to do anything crafty that we have to start waaaaaaaaaaaaaay in advance of most perfectly sane, dextrous people. We have a birthday party to look forward to in November and the final meeting sees the annual committee members attempt to escape when we have our AGM and mulled wine and mince pies.

Immediately you belong to a village WI you automatically join a county federation and the national body. Several of our ladies have recently enjoyed a trip to Monet's Garden and Versailles that was organised by the county committee. Nationally, institutes are entitled to attend the annual meeting. This year it was held at the Albert Hall where 2 of the speakers were Bill Bryson and Jane Fonda.

Socially, we hope to have a friendly skittles match against Coalpit Heath WI in September and any of us who aren't on holiday at the beginning of August will be gathering at Anna's home for an informal coffee evening and bring and buy to raise money for charity - this started as a one off 3 years ago for the Stroke Association and now seems to be turning into an annual event with different people offering the use of their homes and whoever is the hostess gets to choose the charity to receive the money raised.

The usual, but very warm sentiment, that if anyone would like to test the water and come to one of our WI meetings is cordially extended - second Mondays, usually in the Hall and starting at 7.30 pm

Lynne Blanchard / President - 228566



ICE - In Case of Emergency Campaign Using Mobiles

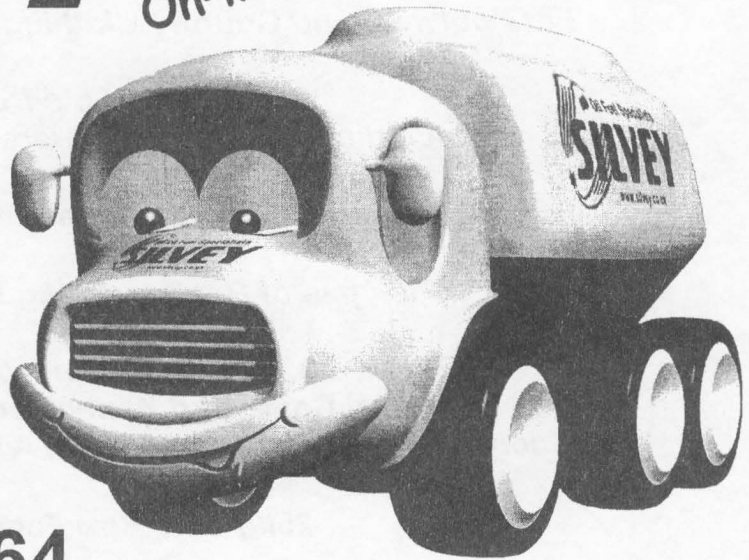
Following the bombings in London on 7 July a major issue was difficulty in contacting relatives. Even though mobile phones were carried no-one knew who to contact and so the East Anglian Ambulance Service has launched, with the support of Falklands war hero Simon Weston, a national "In Case of Emergency" or ICE campaign.

The idea is that you store the word ICE in your mobile phone address book and against it enter the number of the person you would want contacted in an emergency. Should such an emergency arise, ambulance and hospital staff or the police would be able to contact the designated person. If you want to add more than one contact just use ICE1, ICE2, etc. The great thing about this is that it's so simple to do!



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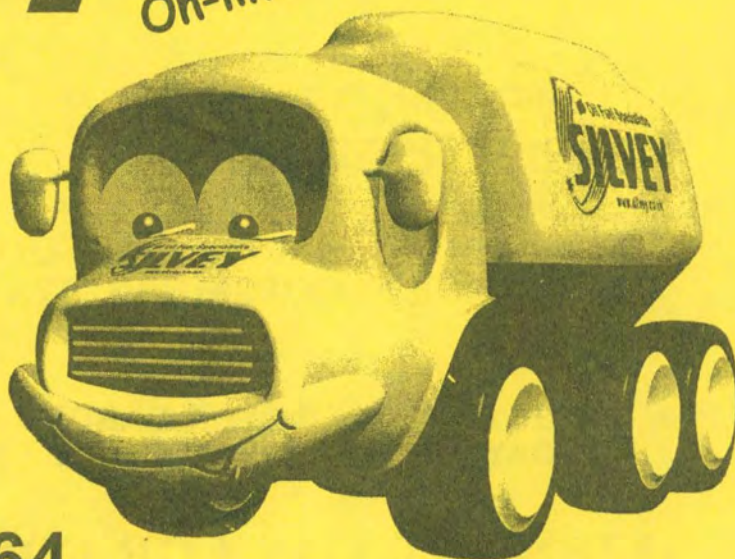
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