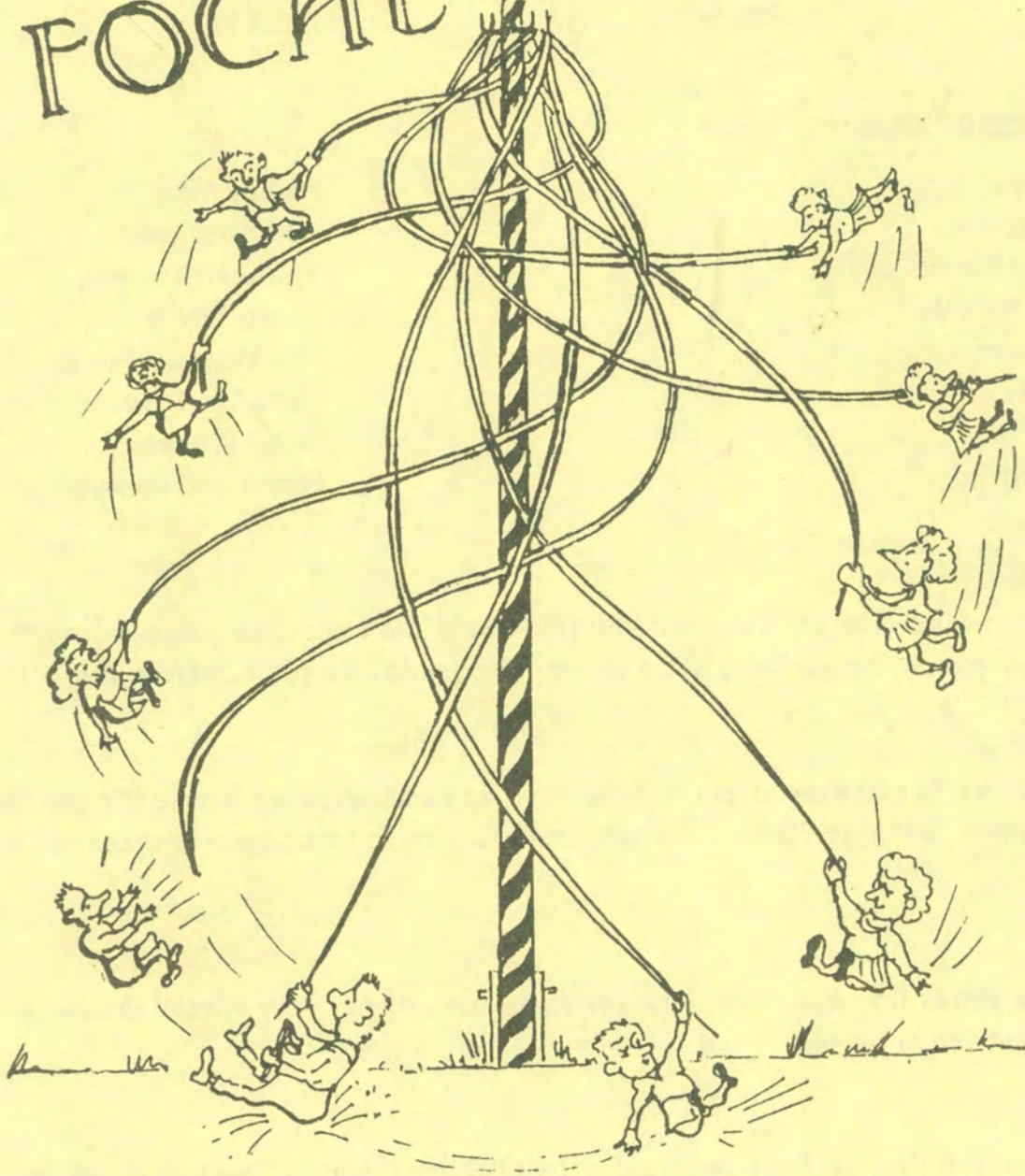


# FOCAL POYNTZ

MAY DAY



## FOCAL POYNTZ INFORMATION

### Your Focal Poyntz Team is:

Lynne Blanchard  
228566

Maureen Blake

Paula Evans  
228419

Stella Taylor  
228417

Barrie Wright  
228247

Rona Wright  
228247

### Deliveries are ably carried out by:

Sheila Alsop  
Lynne Blanchard  
The Bradley Family  
Elizabeth Edwards  
Andrew Gowen  
John Griffin  
Chris Heal  
Roy Hubbard

Ashley Mee  
Sue Shepherd  
The Smith Family  
Stella Taylor  
The Walters Family  
Pete Wedgewood  
Mike Wheeler  
Barrie and Rona Wright

### ARTICLES:

If you've got any news or articles that you think we'd like to receive please contact any of the people on the numbers given above. We would love to hear from you!

### ADVERTISING:

If you would like to place an advert in future issues please contact Barrie Wright (228247) - our advertising "whiz" (£20 for a full page and £10 for a half page - invoices can be provided).

### ARTWORK:

We are very grateful to Maureen Blake for some more of her very special drawings to complement the articles.

### PRINTING:

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

### COVER:

Our cover was drawn quite a few years ago by Pete Redman (who used to be a FP committee member and lived in Latteridge Road). We think it captures the essence of May Day beautifully!

# SPRING

ISSUE NO. 76

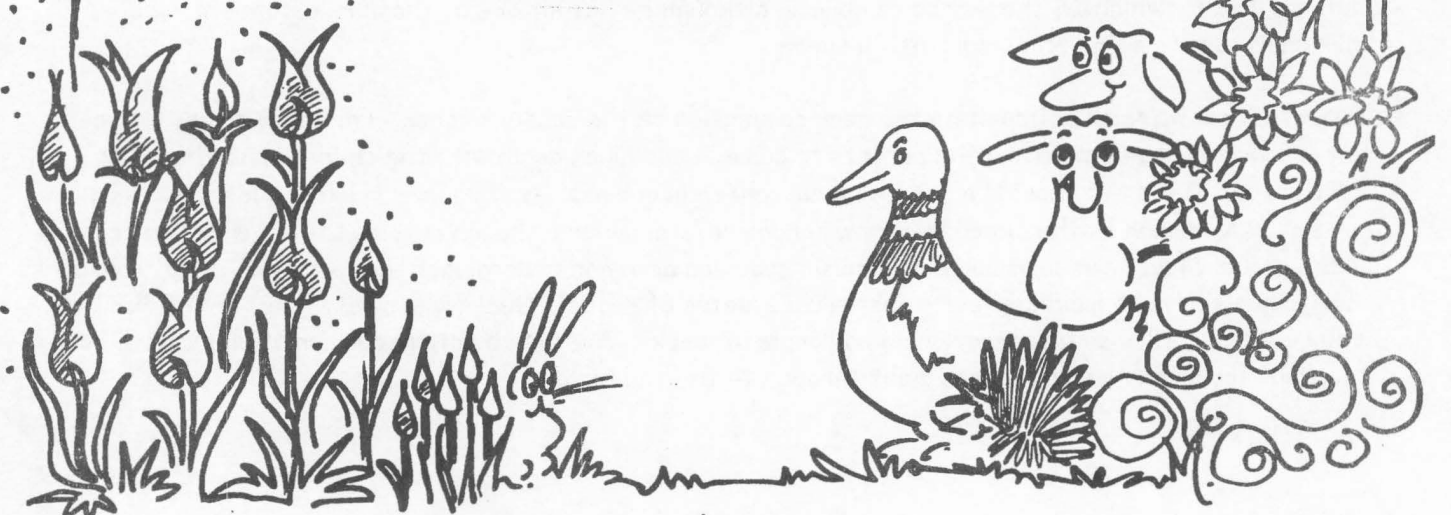


Slowly, almost imperceptibly, new leaves are appearing on trees and in hedgerows around the parish. A sight to gladden the heart with the realisation that the dark days of winter will soon be behind us.

Happiness, too, with the brilliant news that the sword of closure will not yet descend upon North Road Post Office. Common sense seems to play little part in the thought processes of senior Post Office decision makers and it was truly horrible to contemplate the loss of such a unique atmosphere and the disappearance of a vital link for the gathering and passing on of news as people waited to be served by the inimitable "Baron Hardup" behind the PO counter. Theresa, John, Lyn, Victoria and Charmaine we are so pleased we'll still be able to visit!

In this edition of FP you'll see, in response to our many pleas for items, an article on Sir Edmund Hillary and this will be balanced in our summer edition by an article on the climbing of Kilimanjaro by one of our parishioners. They both make fascinating reading and it's good to know that different decades produce individuals who will strive to push themselves to the limits of their endurance.

We are also printing an open letter to all of us following a spate of vandalism around the parish. At the very least can we all keep an eye open and if we see vandalism actually taking place that we don't turn away but contact the police and if we see things that have already happened that we let one of our parish councillors or the clerk know? It seems very sad that £1,000 has been spent putting good the damage - money that could have been put to much better use and, because there isn't a bottomless pot, £1,000 will be lost to other good causes.



## HORTICULTURAN SHOW

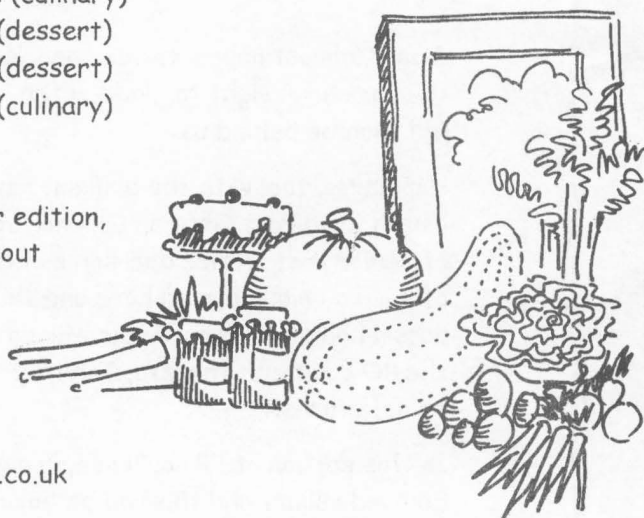
The date for the show this year will be **Saturday 6 September 2008**. Let's hope that the weather will be kind to Iron Acton's gardeners! To help you with the difficult decision of what to plant, please find listed below the classes for the General Section of the show.

Collection of Vegetables	2 Marrows
Collection of Salads	Heaviest Marrow
Collection of Fruits	3 Courgettes
Collection of Gourds, Squash & Pumpkins	2 Cucumbers (frame or greenhouse)
4 Potatoes (any 1 variety)	6 Cherry Tomatoes (on the vine)
3 Carrots (long)	6 Tomatoes
3 Carrots (short)	3 Parsnips
3 Onions (from seed, trimmed)	3 Beetroot
3 Onions (from sets, trimmed)	3 Blanch Leeks
6 Shallots	4 Apples (dessert)
6 Runner Beans	4 Apples (culinary)
6 French Beans	4 Pears (dessert)
The Longest Runner Bean	4 Plums (dessert)
2 Peppers	4 Plums (culinary)
2 Cabbages (any 1 variety)	

As always, a full programme will be issued with the summer edition, together with an entry form. If you have any questions about this years' show on how to present or what the judges are looking for, please do not hesitate to give me a ring.

Happy planting!

Paula Evans / 228029 / email:- paula@y-gorlan.wanadoo.co.uk



## VIEW FROM NORTH ROAD SCHOOL

I see my birthday falls on the spring Focal Poyntz distribution weekend so I'm hoping I just might be away then at Centre Parcs. Having only ever been to Longleat for the day before, I'm very much looking forward to the luxury of a 2 day stay and I have to say even that's expensive enough, though undoubtedly worth it! As I write this, my brother and his wife are packing to go away to Australia for a month for his birthday treat - which IS the way to celebrate, although he has hit one of those milestones so he does have an excuse to be a little indulgent this year.

Back at school we're all anticipating the near completion of the school kitchen. It's really taking shape now and we will soon be inviting the parents to come in and lunch again with the children once it's all up and running. The staff should very soon be ensconced in our new staff room - which, I guess, can't really come quickly enough as the old one has now sprung several leaks; although repairs to that will soon be underway as it has been earmarked as a music coaching area and general multi-purpose workshop room (we small schools have to maximise every last square metre of space). Our new security gates and office lobby entrance will also be operational in a couple of weeks. SW Construction, our contractors, have been excellent from the planning stages right through to the end build.

All the children came out of school very excited today as we had all enjoyed a performance of Tom's Midnight Garden, given by the Image Musical Participation Theatre Company. The whole school really enjoyed singing along and they also take out a group of the children beforehand and give them a quick half-hour rehearsal before coming back as extras in the play - which gives them a real taste for the performing arts.

Even though our thoughts are now firmly fixed on the coming spring and those, much looked forward to, lighter evenings I have to say that we had a very busy and exciting run to the Christmas holiday. The children thoroughly enjoyed their Christmas disco and parties and the parents thoroughly enjoyed the children's Christmas performance. The Friends of the School worked hard to organise a very successful and exceptionally busy Christmas Fayre. The Friends are now busy planning for various forthcoming events. These include May Day (of course), a John Lewis Fashion Evening on 7 March at Iron Acton Parish Hall and a sponsored swim in April. As ever, the school is the beneficiary of all this much appreciated fund raising and the Friends have just agreed to pay for brand new staging for our school hall.

The school "travel plan steering group" has also been very active and we will be having another of our very popular bike breakfasts when the children also have the opportunity to have their bikes checked over by Pat from Bikestation. We will be having another family bike ride day, too, later in the spring.

We're all very proud of our school football team as they have just won the South Gloucestershire Small Schools Football Tournament and the team now qualifies through to the South West Regional Finals (which are being held on 1 March at Ilchester). The winner of this will then get to play at Wembley Stadium. Now there's an incentive! The team is also playing Bowsland Green School, at home, in the quarter finals of the Small Schools' Knockout Football Tournament later this week.

On the musical front the whole school enjoyed a Flamenco Live Performance just before Christmas, which was quite a spectacle. Our older children attended a wonderful Christmas Carol Concert at Clifton Cathedral. Two of our classes are thoroughly enjoying Samba workshops that are now running in school and the choir is busy preparing for the Yate and Sodbury Bi-annual Colston Hall Music Festival in March. Our infant children are also busy rehearsing for their local schools' music concert "All that Jazz". We were also delighted to hear that we have been successful with our latest bid to the Rosemary Bugden Charitable Trust and we will now spend that award money on new keyboards and xylophones.

Finally, we are soon hosting a math's fun day for Year 3 children from all the local small schools and our Year 5 children are looking forward to the next Small Schools' Junior Parliament Day in early summer. We are also delighted that the Year 6 children of Iron Acton School are joining us, and Rangeworthy School, for our Year 6 week long residential visit in June to the PGL Adventure and Study Centre in Torquay.

Mark Handley / Headteacher

Postscript: The football team played really well in their quarter final match against Bowsland Green School but were narrowly beaten by 7 goals to 6.



## VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS EVENING ON 22 DECEMBER

I think it is true to say that the evening was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended and also by those who organised and helped set up the event. Fortunately it did not rain although it was somewhat chilly.

The total money raised was just short of £1,000 which was excellent and will go towards Christmas lighting in the village.

The idea came out of an Acton Aid meeting last June, when it was thought that Chipping Sodbury was no longer holding their Victorian Christmas do. Chris Wiggins set about getting a group of people together to organise it. The group included members from Acton Aid, parents of children from Iron Acton and North Road schools, members of the PCC, members of The Actonians, the WI and people who are well known for always mucking in and coming up with good ideas. The first meeting was in July and it went on from there. Ideas were put forward, people were tasked to investigate and follow up. Some excellent work went on, plans were formulated over the following months and it culminated on Saturday 22 December.

Saturday morning we began setting out the stalls and gazebos, etc, in the Parish Hall car park. There was a bit of a panic when someone asked "who has got the chestnuts?" They had been forgotten. Chris Wiggins dashed off with a load of cash to buy a sackful and fortunately he found some, at vast expense. Think we will remember next time.

The event started in the church with David Harrex saying a few words then children from North Road and Iron Acton schools put on a Nativity play and didn't they do well!!! With only 2 rehearsals they were excellent. Well done. The choir sang and the handbell ringers played on.

From the Church, people walked to the Parish Hall car park. Along the road house owners had decorated their windows with themes of Christmas and there was a competition to guess the carol. Some people had made a huge effort and the windows looked great. A round of applause for all the window decorators. Several houses along the High Street were decorated with coloured lights.

Father Christmas was in his grotto in the porch of Paul and Mary Townsend complete with snow and elf helpers. The Doddington brass band played carols outside the old Rose and Crown.

Stalls were set up in the car park of the Parish Hall. The stalls included roasted chestnuts, hot dogs, mulled wine, beer, gingerbread men, soup, teas, sweets, tree of hope and many other things. There was a snow machine which was much enjoyed by children, young and old. The mulled wine ran out. I think over 28 litres was consumed. Good eh!

The event lasted just 2 hours but was great fun. The committee would like to thank all those who made generous donations, and everyone who helped. It was a tremendous effort and people were extremely generous with their time and especially with their money and goods.

THANK YOU, EVERYONE.

It is intended to hold the event again this year. Hopefully it will be bigger and better, whilst retaining its charm of being uncommercial. If anyone has any ideas and would like to join in you will be most welcome. We intend to meet on the first Wednesday of every month.

If anyone is interested please contact

..... Chris Wiggins 228696 ..... Rachel Weldrake 228674

... Rob Taylor 227227 .....Pamela McCoy 228874

Pam McCoy

4



## An open letter to all residents of Iron Acton .....

Dear Fellow Resident

### Do You Care?

Last summer in the immediate village of Iron Acton we suffered a significant amount of vandalism. Some of this was to Parish Council property – which belongs to all of us – and some to private property. The Parish Council had to spend approximately £1,000 of your money repairing the damage.

During the February school holiday there were more instances of vandalism in the Parish Meadow and we also had reports of sustained instances of vandalism against selected allotments.

For most of these incidents there is no proof indicating who caused the damage. However many residents have fairly firm ideas about who the core protagonists are. These ideas are linked to sightings of uncontrolled children who are almost always behaving in an anti-social manner.

So, do you care? We can ignore the damage and its cost and put up with a shabby, unpeaceful village .... we can repair the damage, ignore the behaviour and pay more in the precept than we need to .... Or, we can try to do something to reverse the trend.

Speaking on behalf of the Parish Council, and the virtually dormant Neighbourhood Watch, I think there are 2 approaches we can try that might work ..... but it requires support from concerned residents.

Firstly, please inform the Police or the Police Community Support Officers whenever you see something that is not socially acceptable, particularly if criminal damage is involved. The more people who are prepared to make these reports, especially if they can be backed up with photos of the people involved, then the more this behaviour will be discouraged.

Secondly, with the 2 week school holiday approaching in April, how about stepping forward to be part of an organised rota to actually be present in the places that will otherwise be damaged at this time? The more people who volunteer, the less strain there will be. On the other hand, if no-one is bothered the "usual suspects" will be free to roam the village unseen and amuse themselves by smashing up more items.

If anyone has any complimentary or better ideas then please let either me (228065) or Paula Evans, the Parish Clerk, (228029) know or how about contacting either of us to say "YES, I care, and I'm willing to do a little bit to help".

Thank you for reading this.

*Peter*

Peter Bellis  
(on behalf of Iron Acton Parish Council and Iron Acton Neighbourhood Watch)\_

## SIR EDMUND PERCIVAL HILLARY KG ONZ KBE 1919-2008

Very few mere mortals are allowed to move amongst the footsteps of the gods but, when they do, they transcend to a level above the likes of you and me. And so it was on that otherwise ordinary day of the 29<sup>th</sup> of May 1953 that Hillary and his climbing partner, Tenzing Norgay, became the first known human beings to set foot astride the roof of the world.

On this British expedition, led by Colonel John Hunt, there were 11 designated climbers, one expedition doctor, one physiologist, one cameraman and one correspondent from The Times. Only 5 of the climbers, the doctor and the Times journalist remain alive, the other souls have either died on the mountains they loved so much or of natural causes.

Just as a light aside, the Times correspondent, James Morris, was born locally at Clevedon and before he went to Sandhurst was a junior reporter with the Bristol Western News. He married in 1949 and had 5 children, one of which died aged 2 months, but went on to have a sex change in 1972 and became Jan Morris of the Times and the Guardian, as well as becoming a distinguished novelist and historian. Alan Wicker, a very good friend of the family, once said, before meeting Jan for the first time, he did not know whether to shake hands or kiss her on the cheek. In all seriousness, though, both partners are still happily married, in fact further investigation of the profiled lives of anyone mentioned in this article is well worth a visit via Google, to appreciate what extremely interesting lives these out of the ordinary persons lived compared with those of today. Different times I suppose, harder times I know and exciting times of which I have no doubt.

To continue, we must remember that, to use of a certain age, 1953 seems not so long ago but, of course, Hillary, who was only 33 years old at the time still died at an age of 88 years; for we are looking back at over half a century ago.. We should, therefore, try and put things into perspective so that we might appreciate, somewhat, just how basic life was back then and therefore how great the eventual success was to go down in the annals of history.

For instance, we were only 8 years on from the victory over Japan, the last of 'rationing' in England had only finished earlier that year, most of the Englishmen had been public schoolboys and had become army officers during the Second World War; for that is the way that things were in those days. The equipment used was still relatively basic, especially the footwear, clothing and climbing gear, even the oxygen apparatus was not a lot more sophisticated than that of Mallory and Irvine. There was also the added pressure of time slots for, back then, only one expedition per year was permitted by the Nepalese Government.

Pre-1948 the 7 attempts on Chomolungma had been made from Tibet but after the Chinese invasion of that country all future expeditions to Sagarmartha had to start from Nepal in the south. Failure in 1953 would have meant waiting until about 1957/8 as other nations had already pre-booked their share of the mountain. Today we see that people walk to the summit fairly easily, ski downhill from the top, climb as married couples and all such other novel ideas, most however leaving tons of rubbish behind irreverently on what to the Tibetans and Nepalese is a very sacred place.

Hillary was apparently a very simple minded man, from a simple country background but, like many a Kiwi of his day, tough of both mind and body. He developed naturally an inner mental and physical strength that was to put him in good stead for his favourite hobby of mountaineering later in life. He lived a relatively obscure existence as an Auckland beekeeper but his unprecedented feat brought fame which was foreign not him, however, he went on to lead various expeditions to Antarctica and to the South Pole as well as numerous trips to the mountains and people of Nepal. He was the first man to have stood at both Poles and to have climbed the world's highest mountain.



But as time went by he became more involved with the welfare of the Nepalese and greatly contributed to the general development of their society; building clinics, hospitals and 17 schools. His wife was also very involved in his projects and his life was devastated when back in 1975 she and their daughter were tragically killed in a plane crash on their way to meet Sir Edmund. Against all odds he continued his good works both in Nepal and back in New Zealand where he finally retired to his bee farm in 1977.



Decorations were showered on all those involved with the expedition, both Hillary and Hunt were knighted that same year, as would have Tenzing but for the rumoured intervention of the Indian Prime Minister, Nehru, so he was awarded the *George Medal* instead.

But one should not forget the fantastic contributions made by each member of the team which resulted in the final glory for 2 individuals. In fact, it was *George Lowe* who, with help, selflessly spent the best part of 2 weeks cutting steps in the snow and ice up to an altitude of 28,000 feet so that the final chosen climbers would be able to concentrate on the assault of the summit without having to expend unnecessary energy.

It was actually 3 days earlier that *Bourdillon* and *Evans* got within 300 feet of the summit but had to turn back after estimating that they only had enough oxygen to make the return descent. They could have been the first men to reach the summit but sensibly and regretfully had to make that fateful decision to turn back.

*John Hunt* went on to become a Knight of the Garter in 1979 for his contribution to public services and for similar reasons *Edmund Hillary* received his in 1995.

I was honoured and privileged to have been invited to the memorial service of Lord Hunt, when the Military Knights of Windsor parade the banner of the deceased after which the Dean of the Chapel places it on the altar for the remainder of the ceremony. It was after this service that I was reunited with *Lady Joy* and her daughter *Susan*. Also there at the service was *George Lowe* who, after the *Greenland* trip, actually married *Susan* about 2 years later. However, by the time of the service they were unfortunately divorced but were both there to respect a true gentleman, father and very good friend.

And so it will be with *Sir Edmund Hillary*, his demise will lead to the appointment of another Knight of the Garter, ensuring that apart from members of the Royal Family there are no more than 24 knights holding such rank at any time.

In conclusion, I would submit that certain men and women throughout the ages stand out above all others as having devoted the whole of their lives to the service of others without little or no thought of themselves. Long may that forever be so that there are always role models to be admired from afar.

Roy Hubbard

## FRIENDS OF IRON ACTON SCHOOL

It has been a very busy time since my last report with the autumn and Christmas festivities.

The Harvest Auction held at the school was well supported and money raised was given to various charities decided by the school council - with the help of ideas from parents and children.

All the children yet again enjoyed the annual Wellie Walk, as they marched around the school field in the somewhat cold but dry afternoon, raising funds for the school. After their successful expedition they were warmed up by mugs of hot chocolate.

Now, a HUGE thank you to everyone who came and supported the Christmas Bazaar on 1 December. Despite the appalling weather (heavy winds, hail and torrential rain) the school hall was packed with parents, grandparents, children and other visitors - all trying to be the best at the marble game, choosing presents from the gift stall, decorating the gingerbread men and baubles, etc.

The result was an outstanding profit of £750 - our best ever. Well done everyone!!

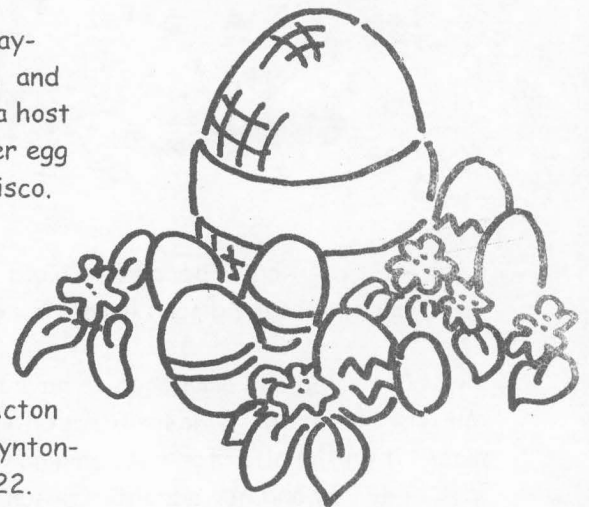
There were a lot of entries for the Christmas Quiz - which was just a bit of fun but still managed to raise £28. Well done to Sadie Jay and Joseph Hatherell - the 2 winners. We have also run a couple of cake stalls, one in November and the other in January, which raised £175.

The main focus for us this year is to raise money towards new play-ground equipment - tractor tyres, climbing apparatus, etc, etc .... and an outdoor classroom. To help achieve this goal we are lining up a host of events. These include an Easter Fayre, children's disco, Easter egg competitions, Summer Fayre, Summer Prom and an "adult only" disco.

Thank you again to everyone who supports us throughout the year - it is much appreciated by the Friends, the school and, most importantly, the children.

If anyone would like any information about the Friends of Iron Acton School or any of our events please feel free to contact Tracey Lynton-Jenkins, Sandie Wiggins or Lisa Hatherall at the school on 228322.

Tracey Lynton-Jenkins / Secretary



## MOBILE LIBRARY SERVICE

*We've been asked to include the following piece by Neil Weston who is the Librarian for the South Glos Mobile Library and are obviously happy to do so.*

The Mobile Library is a free, fortnightly service providing books, talking books and DVDs. You can join on board or use an existing South Gloucestershire library card. There is a lift for ease of access for disabled people.

The Library stops are as follows:

The White Hart Inn	3.15 pm to 3.30 pm
The Lamb Inn	3.35 pm to 3.50 pm

The Library visits the village on alternate Tuesdays. The next dates from this edition of Focal Poyntz are: 25 March, 8 April, 22 April ..... and then every 2 weeks thereafter.

## ST JAMES THE LESS CHURCH, IRON ACTON

An "All Age Service" (Non-Eucharistic) is held on the second Sunday of each month commencing at 10.00 am.

The Annual Parish and Annual Parochial Church Council Meetings for St James the Less Church will take place on Wednesday, 30 April 2008, commencing at 7.30 pm in the Marshall Room.

### Church Fund-raising Events for your Diaries

Thursday Evening,	1 May	Antiques Roadshow to take place in the Church
Saturday Evening,	June	BBQ - exact date to be decided in Avenue House Garden (High Street)
Saturday Afternoon,	5 July	Church Summer Fayre, In The Old Rectory Gardens, (High Street)

June Rycroft / PCC Secretary

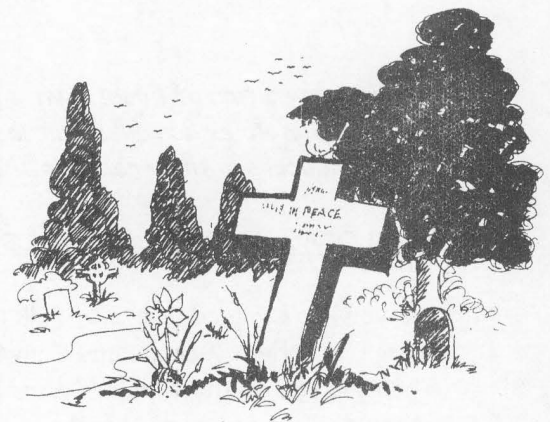


## MARGARET WOODMAN

Sadly Margaret passed away during one night in early February aged 87 after coping for about 3 years with the aftermath of a blood clot on the brain. She came to the village some 30 years ago, having spent a busy life working in the travel business and serving as a Magistrate. Tragically her husband died quite soon after settling into Two Wheels but, undaunted, she soon became very involved in the village and in local affairs. Within the village she joined the (as it was then called) Village Hall Management Committee, eventually becoming the Chairman. She also served as a member of the PCC. She was also a staunch member of the Conservative Party and ran a local branch carrying out canvassing and telling during elections. On many occasions she provided a power supply to Village Day and on numerous occasions her sitting room was used as a base for setting up the tombola.

She was such a determined and capable lady; attending Church and going to the Chipping Sodbury Music Society monthly concerts and always managing to persuade her many friends to help her out in this respect. With 3 friends from outside the village she continued to be a member of a foursome for bridge. She was fortunate enough to have life-long friends who lived in Shropshire who took her back to their home 2 or 3 times a year.

This remarkable lady, with a wry sense of humour and her indomitable character, will be sadly missed by her family, friends and acquaintances.



Peter Wedgewood

## IRON ACTON SCHOOL

Firstly a huge "thank you" to Focal Poyntz. In my last newsletter I asked if anyone was interested in becoming a Foundation Governor. I am delighted to say that 2 people came forward. We look forward to welcoming them to our governing body.

The Pupils enjoyed the Victorian Christmas in the village and had great fun making the paintings and joining in the church Nativity. Thank you to everyone in the village for organising this wonderful event.

As I write this report the pupils are all enjoying our annual Book Week. It is an opportunity to buy books, find out about various authors and carry out lots of activities with a literacy focus. The first highlight of the week is the story time evening when pupils come back to school dressed in their nightclothes ready to hear a story read by a parent or helper and have some refreshments. The second highlight is dressing up day. This year the theme will be "come dressed as an adjective" - which has been an interesting challenge! The day always includes much hilarity and confusion as we try and guess the costumes.

Our travel plan is making good progress. We hope to order the covered waiting area, wellie racks and bicycle shelters soon. We will also be organising a new walk to school scheme so expect to see many more pupils walking or cycling to school.

To support our healthy school work one of our teachers, Mrs Benarous, has set up a weekly after school gardening club with pupils and parents. As well as carrying out weekly growing tasks they have ambitious plans to set up a raised garden in the field. They would be grateful for any offers of help: digging, weeding, planning ideas or donations of spare equipment.

Over the next few years we hope to develop our outdoor area as a wildlife area and a fun place for pupils to be. Our first project will be in February with the installation of 20 lorry tyres to form a safe jumping area. If you have any views or exciting ideas for developing the school field please let us know.

Thank you to everyone in the village for their continuing support.

Jill Bendeaux / Headteacher



*In the last edition of Focal Poyntz Lynne put in a small item about purchasing Local Choice milk at Tesco Stores. Jon Aries has asked us to put the following more detailed report into this edition as one of the 3 local producers in this area is in the next parish to Iron Acton!*

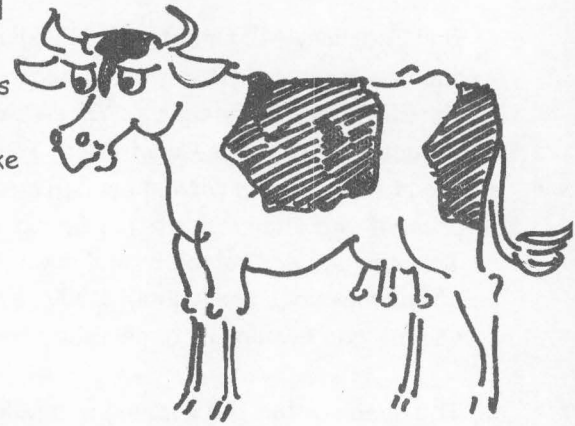
### BUY LOCAL MILK - SUPPORT LOCAL FARMERS

Did you know you can now buy milk in Tesco at Yate and Thornbury that has been produced very close to home? Brothers Richard and Tom Cornock keep a herd of cows at New House Farm in Tytherington. Theirs is one of three dairy farms in South Gloucestershire taking part in the Local Choice Scheme - the other two are at Lower Morton and Littleton.

The intention is to allow shoppers to buy milk produced in the area where they live and to support smaller family farms which might otherwise struggle to balance the books. It comes as a response to feedback from customers concerned about sustainable living, food miles and supporting our local economy, who told the supermarket they wanted to buy food that is genuinely local to their area.

As Richard Cornock says: "It's nice to be able to link our farm with the local community, with something that so many people use every day. People can put the milk on their cornflakes in the morning and drive past the cows that produced it on the way to work".

One benefit of the scheme is that dairy farmers will be able to share knowledge with Tesco and understand consumer trends. They will also be able to take part in local marketing initiatives, such as sampling in the stores. LocalChoice is sold along standard milk and is currently selling at a slightly higher price. The farmers are paid more than they would be for standard milk. So if you choose to buy LocalChoice milk you'll be directly supporting the dairy farming community in this area. The Cornock's have been farming in Tytherington since the 1840s and, with the help of local shoppers, they'll be there for a while yet. If you'd like more information about New House Farm or LocalChoice milk you can e-mail Richard Cornock at [funkyfarmer@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:funkyfarmer@blueyonder.co.uk).



Jon Aries

### ACTON AID

The annual Bonfire and Firework Display went off with a bang on 3 November 2007. Thank you to all those who attended and supported this event.

Acton Aid was pleased to support the Christmas Victorian Evening, which we are sure you will agree was a great success - especially as it was the first time this event had been held.

Acton Aid's ongoing programme of talks has continued with Ashley Mee repeating (by popular demand) his fascinating talk on his climb up Mount Kilimanjaro. Keep a look out for details of future talks which will be advertised on flyers posted around the village and kindly delivered with your newspapers by Dave and Pat Taylor.

Acton Aid has, so far, met twice already this year and is busy planning a full programme of events. The first of these is the Proms in the Meadow which will take place on Saturday, 19 July - so put the date in your diary now and buy tickets early to avoid disappointment!

The Chairman's Dinner took place in the Parish Hall on 8 February 2008. A great time was had by all. This event heralded the end of David McCoy's reign as Chairman and welcomed in our new Chairman, Peter Huish. Our Vice Chairman for this year is Ashley Mee and Peter Foote continues in his role as secretary.



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 Inn at 8 pm on the first Thursday of each month. Meetings have the minimum of formality with fund raising events and the distribution of resources discussed and planned over a pint or two. Acton Aid has managed to recruit some new members over the last few months and hopes that this trend will continue.

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, Peter Huish (on 228861) or our Secretary, Peter Foote (on 228674).

Peter Foote / Secretary / 228674

## NORTH ROAD LADIES CLUB

Our New Year started with 50 members and friends going by coach to see Mamma Mia at the Bristol Hippodrome and what a wonderful evening it was.

Our February (4<sup>th</sup>) meeting was well attended and we welcomed one new member. The evening began with the presentation of our 2007 charity cheque to Yate Opportunities Group which is based in Cranleigh Court Road, Yate and is a pre-school group for children with special needs. We were delighted to present the Chairman of this Group with a cheque for £333. This amount was raised by holding a Bring and Buy Stall at each of our meetings throughout 2007, a raffle at our birthday party and a bingo evening at a member's house.



The speaker for the evening was Mike Rowland who gave a talk, illustrated with slides, on "Spinning a Yarn - The Cotswolds". Mike was very entertaining with "give and take" jokes throughout the evening.

Monday	21 April	Your Daily Bread - talk by Trevor Herbert.
Monday,	12 May	Weston Super Mare - talk by Phil Lomax
Monday,	2 June	Body Shop Products - talk by Jill Broad
Monday,	14 July	Evening Coach Trip to Chavenage House, Tetbury

Our meetings are held at North Road Community Primary School, commencing at 7.30 pm. Visitors will be given a warm reception to any of our meetings and, of course, we always welcome new members.

June Rycroft / Secretary

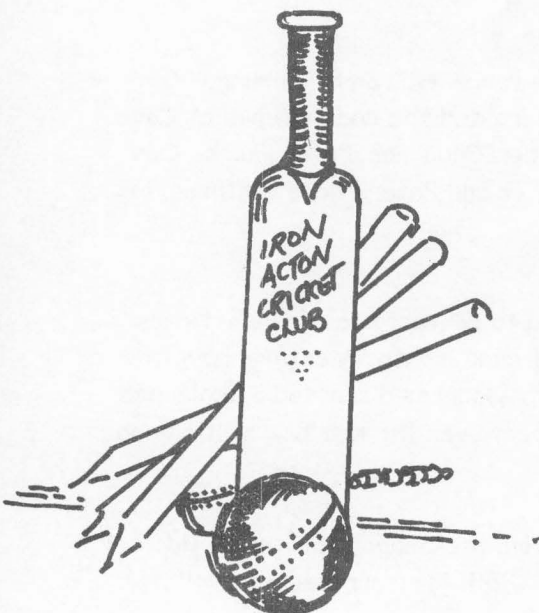
## IRON ACTON CRICKET CLUB

As I write this article the second half of the indoor winter league programme has just started and I'm pleased to report that IACC has won 3 out of the 4 matches played. With only 2 matches remaining, an unaccustomed enthusiasm for so late in the season has descended on the team. You'll have to wait a few more months until the summer edition to find out how we fared in these 2 final matches.

Talking of summer, we can only hope that 2008 will not be a repeat of 2007 when the vast majority of fixtures were called off due to the weather. The usual Wednesday night friendly fixtures against local village teams have been assembled and so all that is now required is a bit of decent weather and, of course, a team ..... so.....

If anyone reading this is interested in turning out on one or more Wednesday evenings for a friendly game of cricket then give me a ring on the number below. No experience required.

Chris Bradley / 228559



## THE ACTONIANS

Sometimes the Actonians and Focal Poyntz get out of step! Some of the events described below will be done and dusted by the time you read about them but a good way of keeping in touch with what we are doing is to visit our web site at [www.actonians.co.uk](http://www.actonians.co.uk). Ray Bulmer keeps this regularly up-dated in an amusing and lively way.

At the time of writing we are rehearsing 2 one-act plays; "A Kind of Alaska" by Harold Pinter and "Hell and High Water" a comedy by local playwright Leonard Morley. We are taking the first over to Backwell Playhouse for the Avon One Act Drama Festival and then performing them both in the Parish Hall at a Supper Evening on Friday, 14 and Saturday, 15 March.

There is often a certain amount of overlap and our production of *Midsummer's Night's Dream* will be underway for performance in the grounds of the Parish Hall on Thursday, 19 to Saturday, 21 June.

Some of you will be aware that, as the person responsible for ticket sales, I had a great deal of trouble fulfilling all the requests for pantomime tickets - so book early for "The Dream! Iron Acton is delightfully laid back so we found "out of town" bookings were early whilst locals left it to the last minute.

One date of ours that chimes well with this issue is our **Spring Quiz Night** at the Parish Hall on **Friday, 11 April at 8.00 pm**. Further details from Bob Allen on 01454 325192 and, no, you don't have to be a "luvvie" or a "thespian" to enter ..... so come along and enjoy yourselves with us!

Ann Aplin / 228243



## NEW CONCESSIONARY NATIONAL TRAVELCARD FOR SOUTH GLOS RESIDENTS

In April 2008 the over 60's and eligible disabled users will be able to apply for a new Concessionary National Travelcard - this will replace the present Diamond Travelcard.

The new Concessionary National Travelcard entitles the holder to concessionary travel on local buses throughout England. This also means:-

- ◆ Free travel in the former Avon area from 9.00am Monday to Friday, weekends and bank holidays.
- ◆ Free travel in England (outside the former Avon area, but does not apply to services within Wales) beginning at the later time of 9.30am until 11.00pm, Monday to Friday, weekends and bank holidays.

South Gloucestershire residents who are Concessionary National Travelcard holders will also be entitled to the following benefits, once they have registered with each scheme:-

- ◆ Shopmobility and Dial-a-Ride free of charge.
- ◆ Reduced cost of South Gloucestershire Social car scheme.

Information pamphlets and limited application forms are available from Paula Evans, Parish Clerk, tel 228029.

## IRON ACTON PARISH COUNCIL

I thought readers might be interested to know about just a few things that the Parish Council has done during the course of 2007.

Councillors considered some 75 planning applications, 6 involved work to trees within the Conservation Area. That works out at approximately 7 per meeting. The Parish Council supervised the installation of the new play equipment following a presentation from the children of Iron Acton Primary School. We have also refurbished the tennis courts and nets.



We have maintained the two areas of allotments, cleared away some 14 tonnes of rubbish from the cemetery/Nibley Lane allotments, and rebuilt stone walls that were vandalised. Unfortunately, we have had to spend 5% of the annual budget on repairing vandalism that had occurred around the Parish.

On an environmental note, we have cleared away a third of the reeds and bull rushes in Dyers Pond to allow the rest of the pond to flourish.

**Parish Meadow.** Things have been very quiet in the Parish Meadow over the winter. However, with the very wet weather we experienced, the ground was extremely soft with surface water in some places.

**Tennis Courts.** I previously reported that the Parish Council had replaced the tennis nets and a set of posts. Unfortunately one of these has already been vandalised and so has been taken away for repair. This will be reinstalled when the weather has improved.

**Play Equipment.** The play equipment appears to be a great hit with the younger parishioners. From my office window I frequently see the local children walking down towards the meadows. The Parish Council is also in the process of securing the picnic tables to stop them walking or, indeed, performing handstands with the assistance of a few pairs of idle hands.

**Chilwood Woodland.** We had a very successful meeting with the Police, South Gloucestershire Council, the Environment Agency and some concerned residents regarding various responsibilities including secure access to the area. Everyone has now gone away with actions and we will be meeting again to make sure that those actions have been fulfilled.

Basically, the Environment Agency is responsible for the security of the gates, and the track that runs through the fields going down to the Tubbs Bottom dam, which was laid as access for the Agency. South Gloucestershire Council is responsible for the narrow strip of verge where the quad-bikes are gaining entry. They have devised a scheme to build up the verge/bund and replant on top. This will hopefully make access to the area more difficult when this work is completed.

The Parish Council had wished to fence off the area in front of the woodlands, erecting fencing and a gate/stile on top of the dam. However we are unable to do this as the Environment Agency requires vehicular access to the area at all times. The Parish Council is also in the process of erecting signs around the area telling people that there is a £2,000 fine for anyone found damaging the trees. This is in accordance with South Gloucestershire's Tree Preservation Order. The signs also state that no bicycles or motorised vehicles are allowed in the woodland and that camping and the lighting of fires is prohibited. I would reiterate that no vehicles of any description are allowed along the Frome Valley Walkway.



**Neighbourhood Watch.** Just a reminder that the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme is still looking for a Co-Ordinator. If you are interested, please contact me.

**PCSO.** We have built up a good relationship with, and are in regular contact with the Anti-Social Behaviour Unit of Avon and Somerset Police. Our allocated PCSO pays regular visits to the village and frequently pops in for a chat. We are therefore able to inform him of problems with anti-social behaviour, which he is able to keep an eye on.

I would like to remind parishioners that Parish Council meetings usually take place on the third Monday of each month (apart from August when we take a break), commencing at 7.30pm. Future dates are posted on the notice boards in the High Street and North Road. Our meetings begin with a public participation section which parishioners are invited to attend and voice any concerns or observations.

As ever, if you see anything that you feel should be brought to the attention of the Parish Council, please let me know.

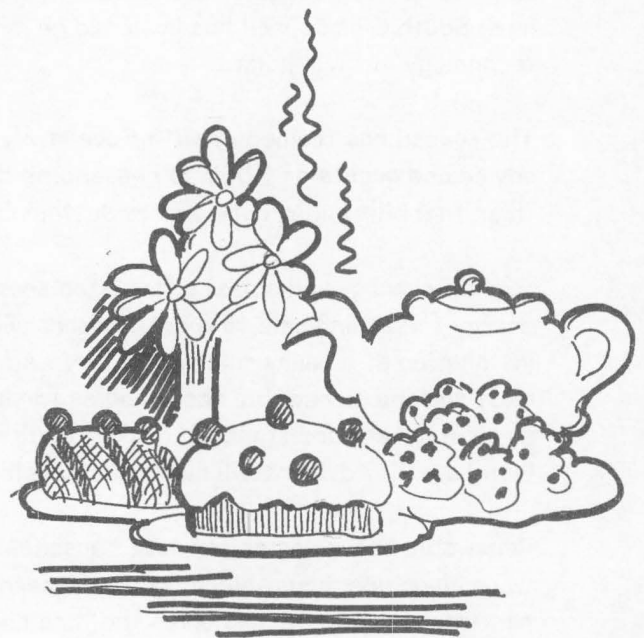
Paula Evans / 228029 / paula@y-gorlan.wanadoo.co.uk

### ST JAMES' PARENT AND TODDLER GROUP

Now that the big children have started school, it's a joy to see the little ones (some of them just learning to talk) making friends with each other and the even-littler ones finding their first steps. The children have been busy over the winter with Christmas craft projects (you may have seen our display of trees in the Church and a Jingle Bells window in the High Street). The mums have also been raising funds for the Church (with our stall at the Christmas Fair) and the Christmas Lights Fund (perhaps you visited our old-fashioned sweets stall at the Victorian Evening), together with a successful coffee and cake morning to raise funds for the Toddler Group. A big thank-you to all of you who participated in any of these events; we hope soon to sort through the toy cupboard and buy some new toys and furniture for the group with our well-gotten gains!

If you're a Mum (or Dad, Gran, Gramps, etc) with a baby or pre-school child why not give our group a try? We all live in or around Iron Acton and Rangeworthy and still have a couple of places left if you wish to join. We meet at 10.30 am on Fridays, in term time only, in the Marshall Room behind the Church, starting with a craft activity for the children, followed by coffee and biscuits (fruit and biscuits for the kids) and finish at midday after a mad dash to tidy all the toys away with a few songs. If you are interested please don't hesitate to call either me (Mel Tofts) on 228701 or Sally Aries on 228037.

**Finally ..... a plea ..... If you're reading this article and are in the process of decluttering and have any toys for 3-5 year olds that you'd be able to donate to the group, we'd love to hear from you - please contact us!**



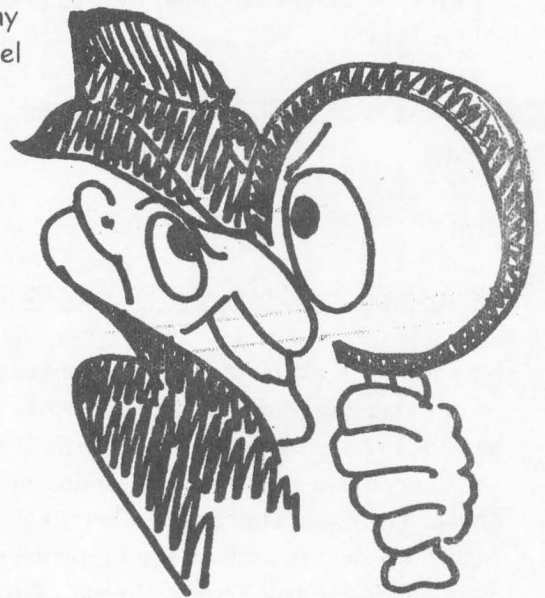
## POLICE REPORT

In recent weeks we have seen 2 thefts from vehicles in the village. The items taken range from CDs, satellite navigation systems, mobile phones and tools. Anything of value and easily sellable by the thieves have been targeted. There isn't a crime wave in the area, however in and around Filton theft from vehicles has increased. Please be mindful that, although you live in a pleasant village, remove all valuables from your vehicles or hide them out of sight and always double check you have locked your vehicle. Villages can make good targets for thieves as security can become a bit lapsed as people feel safe. If you have seen anything suspicious please contact one of the beat team on one of the numbers below.

The Beat Team is setting up a beat surgery from a mobile police unit. This will be placed in the car park of the White Hart Inn. The point of the beat surgeries is to allow local people to come and speak with your local neighbourhood beat team face to face and discuss any issues you may have or just to have an informal chat. Please feel free to come along and meet the team if you have not already. We will try to bring pens, pencils, badges, etc.

The following dates have been arranged:

Thursday,	20 March	1100-1200
Wednesday	23 April	1400-1500
Tuesday	20 May	1000-1100
Friday	13 June	1300-1400



## SF FUTUREENERGY

In an effort to reduce domestic carbon dioxide emissions and save householders money on their fuel bills, South Gos Council has launched an initiative to encourage residents to install renewable energy technology in their homes.

The council has teamed up with Severn Wye Energy Agency to launch SG Futureenergy, which will provide advice and grants of £500 to households that want to install renewable technologies to save money on their fuel bills and create a more sustainable home.

SG Futureenergy will act as a "one stop shop" for people interested in finding out more about renewable energy for their home. Expert advisors will provide advice and support, from the initial enquiry to actual installation of a renewable technology. Advice is free and impartial and advisors can help identify the most suitable renewable technologies for homes, help with finding a reliable installer who has signed up to a customer care standard as part of the SG Futureenergy scheme and a grant of up to £500 towards installation. Advisors will also make people aware of any other grants they may be eligible to apply for.

Renewable technologies can save households money on their fuel bills and reduce carbon emissions by using clean, inexhaustible sources of energy and provide a healthier environment to live in. Some of the renewable energy technologies that are eligible for the scheme's grant include: solar hot water, solar photovoltaic (PV), ground source heat pumps, small scale wind, biomass, and small scale hydro.

Contact details are: telephone 01594 544119 (open Mondays to Fridays, from 9am until 5pm), e-mail on [renewables@swea.co.uk](mailto:renewables@swea.co.uk) or visit the website at [www.southglos.gov.uk/climatechange](http://www.southglos.gov.uk/climatechange).

*Iron Acton May Day Committee*



Dear Parents/Carers

We will again be celebrating May Day on Iron Acton Village Green on Bank Holiday Monday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2008.

Every year we invite nominations for our May Queen and her two Attendants, who will process through the village and then be crowned on the Village Green. The crowning of the May Queen commences the day of celebrations.

A nomination slip is attached to the bottom of this letter, for you to complete. The criteria for a nomination is that the young lady has to be aged between 7 and 11 years of age, be resident within the Parish of Iron Acton, or attend either of the two primary schools within the Parish.

If you would like to submit a nomination form please fill in the tear off slip below and pop it in an envelope marked "May Queen/Attendant Nomination" and hand it to one of the Committee Members by Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2008. (For the North Road Area – Heather Tillotson, and for the Village – Fiona Bourns). We need to have your contact telephone number, as we will need a photograph of the successful nominations.

Iron Acton May Day Committee

---

**MAY DAY 2008**

**MAY QUEEN AND ATTENDANT NOMINATION**

I would like to nominate .....

Age ..... School Attended (if in Parish) .....

Home Address .....

Contact Telephone Number .....

Signed ..... Relationship to Nominee .....

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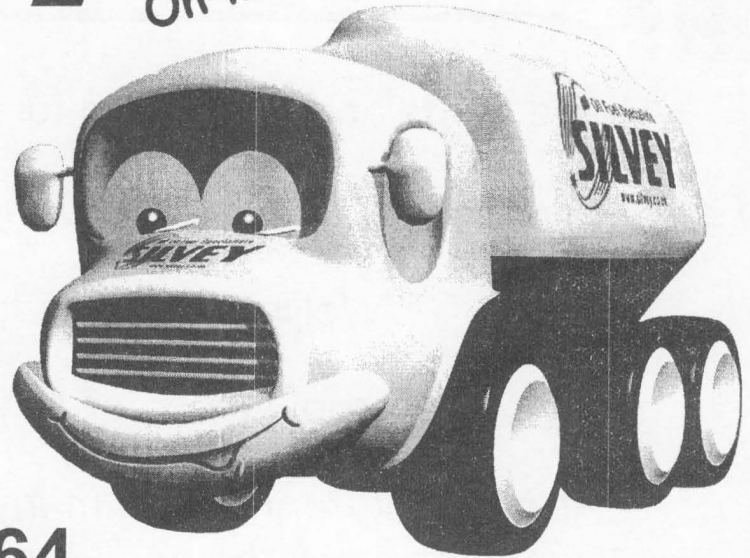
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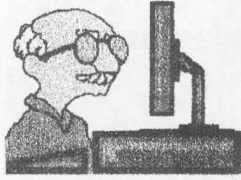
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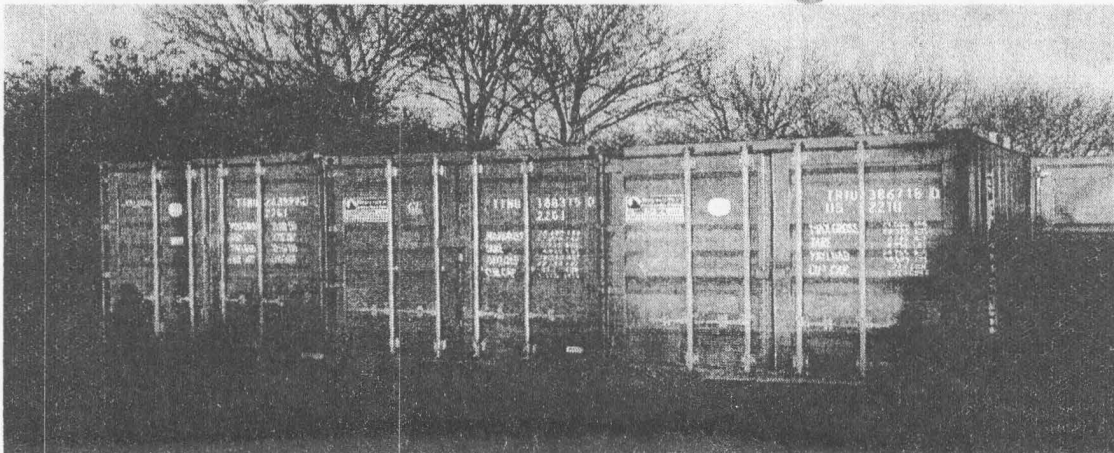
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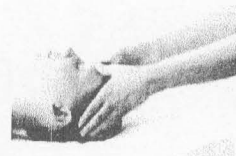
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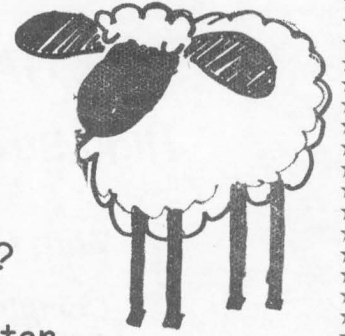


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