

Focal Point



A magazine for Iron Acton





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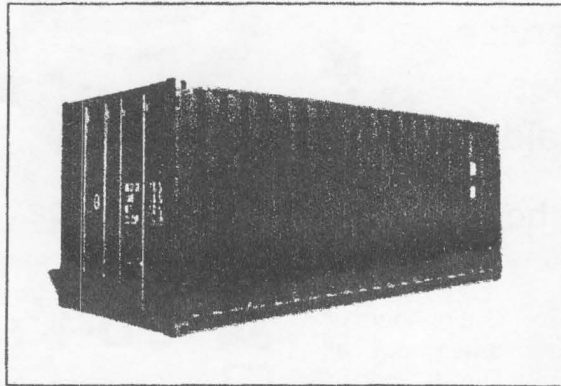
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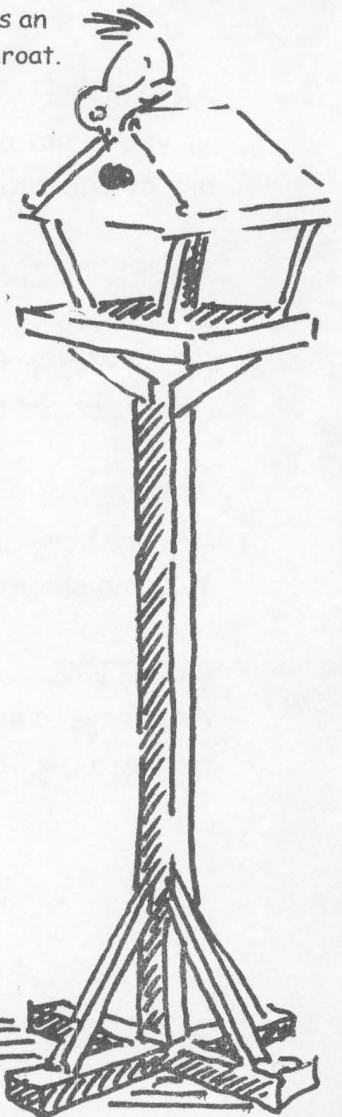
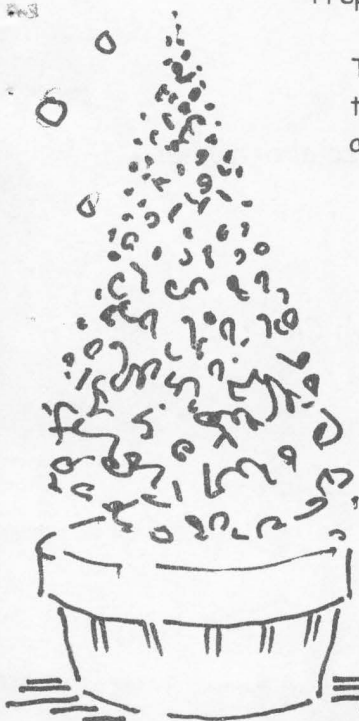
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As Remembrance Sunday approached one could not help but reflect, not only on those who were lost during conflict whilst serving their country, but also on those we have lost who served our community in different ways. In our own individual ways, we pay our respect and give thanks.

At the end of our family holidays, we made a detour to the Canadian War Memorial at Vemy Ridge. It's all very well seeing photographs of the vast war cemeteries and the torrid pictures of the trenches during the First World War but we wanted to show our sons the sort of conditions soldiers had to contend with. Nothing could have prepared us for the quiet respect and calm of Cemetery No 2 where some 3,000 soldiers are laid to rest. We were privileged to be visiting at the same time as another family who had recently discovered the final resting place of a great-grandfather. In his honour they proceeded to play their hand-bells and beautiful mellow tones rang in the air. It was an experience which will stay in my thoughts and still brings a lump to my throat.

I also think of the autumn as a time of preparation. I, for one, am busy preparing the summer fruits for jams and chutneys, preparing the vegetables for freezing and then that final preparation of the year (that always creeps up and takes us by surprise) ... Christmas! We begin preparing lists of chores and tasks, preparing the never-ending Christmas card list and preparing ourselves for the visits of relatives and friends we haven't seen since last Christmas. Preparation - that's the name of the game!

The Editorial Team would like to thank all those who continue to contribute to Focal Poyntz and would like to wish everyone a pleasant Christmas and a prosperous New Year.



FOCAL POYNTZ INFORMATION

Your Focal Poyntz Team is:

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Elizabeth Edward
Andrew Gowen
John Griffin
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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.

Christmas Victorian Evening

When?	Saturday, 20 December 2008
Where?	Starting at the Church and continuing at the Parish Hall
What time?	4pm - 6pm
What can I do?	Come and buy from the stalls; enjoy a festive drink, a bite to eat and some musical entertainment.

In 2007 through the efforts of all those who attended the event and a number of extremely kind donations, the team managed to purchase and display a small array of coloured Christmas light sets along the High Street, in an attempt to add some Christmas cheer to the village.

We have of course grander plans for this festive season. We are hoping, subject to the permission of South Gloucestershire Council (which we have every hope will be straight forward - please assist any councillors reading this!) to fix a number of small but very real Christmas trees on houses, festooned with tasteful white Christmas lights.

Whilst the event itself aims to bolster the finances, there is a new angle on fundraising this year, the first ever (please correct us anyone) Iron Acton calendar. Each month's picture features a different village organisation - and is bound to have someone you know (or are related to) on every page. Please bring your pennies and buy one on the 20 December or pop into either the Lamb Inn or White Hart to snap up what will certainly become a collector's item in years to come!

Last year lots of households in the High Street entered into the spirit of the festive theme by creating 'Christmas windows', the challenge this year is to all households within the parish to create a festive display in their own window - sadly no prizes this year - just make sure yours is better than your neighbours!

Father Christmas has once again agreed to be our special guest.

Snow is guaranteed!!!

Please make this year's event as enjoyable as last and join in anyway you can.

The Team

Past History of The Old Rectory, High Street

We are in the process of researching the history of the Old Rectory and are keen to find any information about the house in times gone by. In particular we are looking for any photos, pictures or memories that villagers might have about the house.

If you are able to help us please phone on 228861.

Many thanks

Peter and Caroline Huish.



North Road School

We were so lucky to have chosen one of the few rain free weeks this summer, to have gone on our week long year 6 residential visit to the PGL Adventure and Study Centre in Torquay, with children from Iron Acton and Rangeworthy Schools. In fact, that's the third year running now, that we've enjoyed Torquay's glorious Riviera sunshine. The children had a wonderful time, trying everything from quad biking, through to archery, fencing, zip wire, canoeing, raft building, aqua sports, to taking the leap of faith onto the high trapeze. Our year 6 children left us to move on to their senior schools in July, which we marked with their special leavers' service and a Prom night at Iron Acton Parish Hall, where each of the leavers was presented with a fabulous leavers' book, which one of our parents had spent all year preparing. Four of our year 6 children also took the starring role as the Fab 4, in our summer concert, The Yellow Submarine, which we held on the school field, followed by a picnic for the parents and a presentation to Mrs Williams, to mark her special retirement as deputy headteacher.

The year 5 children have recently returned from their residential trip to the Robert Jefferies Centre, in Abergavenny, where they had great fun tunnelling and going on a night walk, amongst other activities packed into their two day visit.

Our new appointed deputy head Mrs Hatfield, has started off in her new role, full of energy and enthusiasm and was grateful for the opportunity to go away with the year 5's so early on in the year, so she could really get to know the children. One of her many new roles and responsibilities is to lead our school council, where pupil representatives from each class can voice the opinions and suggestions of their classmates.

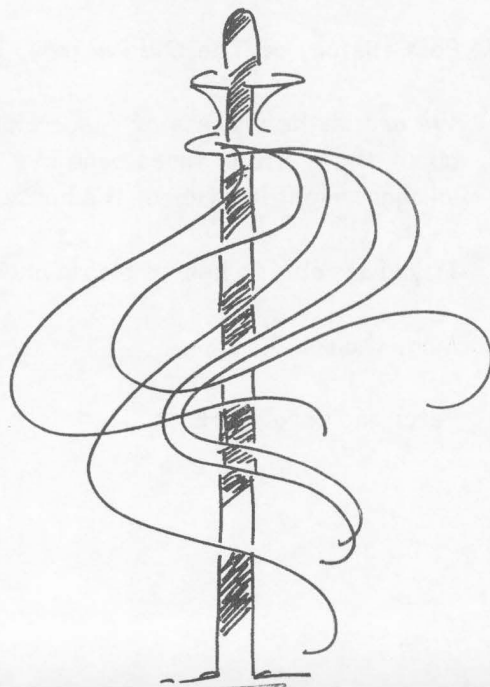
We now have exactly 100 children at North Road and we recently had our whole school photograph taken, by NextGen, which takes pride of place in our new reception lobby.

The Friends of the School have been busy planning all sorts of events this Autumn and I would like once again to express my thanks for their hard work and to the invaluable contribution they make to enhancing the quality of life at school. They bought a brand new staging unit in the summer for the school hall and their next project is to fund a traversing climbing wall in the playground, which the children are very excited about. The Friends have just held a chocoholics afternoon and are planning a ladies evening in school on 13 November, as well as the Christmas Fair and disco.

Our after school clubs are up and running again and are proving increasingly popular. Modern dance and drama, which we subsidise through our extended schools' grant, are fully subscribed and we hope to begin the multi-sports club for the infant children very soon. We also have badminton, netball and hand-bells and the football team is about to play Rangeworthy in the first round of the Small Schools' Cup Tournaments.

We are hoping to make another entry back in the Guinness Book of Records with the Big Sing 08, in an attempt to break the existing 2005 Guinness World Record of 293,978 children all singing simultaneously, by reaching the 1,000,000 children mark. This year's song is 'You Gotta Be', by Desree.

We recently had a South American Live Music Performance in school and our year 3 children are really enjoying their Morris Dancing coaching and our year 4 children have really taken to their new ukulele lessons. Each of the children has



been lent either a bright green or pink ukulele for the whole term. The children are looking forward to two theatre performances that we have booked for this term in school, *The Golden Key*, which has a healthy living theme and *Alice in Wonderland*, performed by the Image Musical Participation Theatre Group.

We are now looking forward to our Harvest Festival Service, where we auction off the produce from the Harvest display after the service and all the money raised goes to the Yate Genieri-Link. We are grateful to have Barbara Flannery from the link, coming to the school very shortly, to tell the children all about the new projects that they have recently funded. It also helps to give the children a sense of how fortunate they are to have the food and enjoy the lives they have.

Mark Handley
Headteacher

Acton Aid

Acton Aid.....A collection of Village People without a Red Indian or Construction Worker!

Amongst all the nights of rain this summer, we were lucky enough to stage our annual Summer Proms during a break in the clouds on a very pleasant evening. Acton Aid would like to thank all those who supported this event and helped us raise money for the Parish and a collection of £709 for the Rainbow Centre.

The Annual Bonfire and Firework Display will have taken place in the Parish Meadows on 1 November.

Acton Aid has a fine history of hosting talks by people with interesting tales to tell. If you have an interesting story to tell; maybe about your hobby, an exotic holiday, local history, photographs, etc we would be glad to provide a room in the village along with wine and nibbles for people to come and hear the interesting tales of fellow parishioners free of charge.

In September five members of Acton Aid went to Prague taking with them English children's books to deliver to an inner city infants school whose pupils are taught English three days a week. Whilst in Prague, the party toured its beautiful sights and churches and tried some traditional dumplings along with its fine beers.

At the end of September a good time was had by all those who attended the German Night. The Welsh Oompah band performed a range of tunes from Delilah to Das Birdie Song all in an oompah style. Some people dressed in traditional costume and many men came armed with their steins. There was a plentiful supply of food and drink.

Before Christmas we will be distributing our usual gift to pensioners across the Parish. These usually consist of a chocolate log, mince pies, some other delicacies and a half bottle of Port.

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 8pm on the first Thursday of each month. Meetings have the minimum of formality. Fundraising events and the distribution of resources are 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, Peter Huish on 228861 or, our Secretary Peter Foote, on 228674.

Time to Say Thank You

50 years people say, yes 50 years I reply, no it doesn't seem that long but hang on when I think of the places we've lived and visited, people we've met, things we've done. A son and a daughter yes it does take time.

I have been asked "what is the secret" to quote one person he said "I cannot imagine living and being with one person that long" but it's simple really you can't imagine being anywhere else or with anyone else if your life is busy and interesting with quite a few ups and downs you just don't have time to think about it anyway. Well Barrie and I have made it and it certainly is awesome.

"Thank You" to Chris, Jayne, Joanna, Jamie and of course Chelsea, Izzy and Amy and to all the other people who helped them with our Golden Wedding Party and to all the friends who shared it with us and the many Good Wishes we received which all helped to make this a very memorable occasion for us.

THANK YOU ALL VERY MUCH

Rona and Barrie

The Friends of North Road School

Everybody has settled back into school extremely well. All the children in Reception class are having a great time and are enjoying being full-time members of the school.

The School Prom in July was a huge success and a great evening was had for all those who attended.

We will be holding a **Ladies Evening** on Thursday, 13 November and tickets will be available from the School Office. All are welcome and we are looking forward to seeing you for an enjoyable evening.

This year the Friends will be raising money for a Traversing Wall in the school playground. We know that the children would really benefit from the added activity at playtimes.

Our **School Christmas Fair** will be held on Friday, 5 December. The stalls will open at 2pm and Father Christmas will be in attendance as well as stalls selling tea, coffee, cakes and gifts.

If you would like any further information please contact the School Office on 01454 867788.

Nicola Gray
Acting Secretary



St James the Less Church

An "All Age Service" (non-Eucharistic) is held on the 2nd Sunday of each month commencing at 10.00am.

Other Sunday Services in the month are Holy Communion at 9.00am and Wednesday Services are Holy Communion at 11.00am.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Sunday, 14 December	10.00am	"All Age Christingle Service"
Sunday, 21 December	9.00am	Holy Communion Service
" " "	6.30pm	Lessons and Carols by Candlelight
Wednesday, 24 December	6.30pm	Crib Service
" " "	11.30pm	Midnight Mass
Christmas Day, 25 December	9.30am	Family Communion Service



Pew Runners

We are in the throes of making pew runners for our church and are looking for volunteers to help embroider tapestry tops for these runners.

The rectangle tops are to measure 12" x 24" and can be worked in cross stitch, half cross stitch, or any stitch preferred. Fabric will be provided.

If anyone feels they can spare some time to embroider a pew runner top would they kindly contact Penny Wheeler (228544), or a message can be given to any of our PCC members.

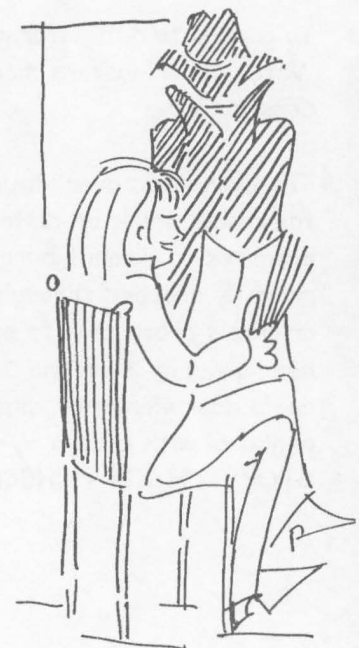
The **Marshall Rooms** are available for hiring for private meetings etc. For bookings please contact Mrs Sally Aries on 228037.

New Production from the Actonians

The next play from the Actonians at the Parish Hall is Audience with Murder. It is a modern-day thriller full of unexpected twists. It moves from a play reading, through a murder mystery to a terrifying climax. It is full of humour, albeit a touch on the black side, but also contains adult themes and modern language that may offend, so it may not be suitable for some members of the family! It is very difficult to describe what happens without giving the game away so the only way to find out more is to come along to the Parish Hall on the 27, 28 or 29 November!

Tickets are available now, from members of the group or the Box Office 07896 258926, so we look forward to seeing as many of our loyal supporters and new friends as possible.

Simon Carney



Friends of Iron Acton School

Autumn term is always a busy one for the Friends of Iron Acton School especially as we draw nearer to that magical time of year.

It is great to welcome new faces to our committee and to have the commitment of so many parents helping out at various events. Now that the new reception children have settled into school life, we hope to get to know the new parents too (some have already braved a meeting or two!) As they will tell you it was 'scary' at first (like starting school) but once you've been a few times it's a 'breeze!' And as the old saying goes 'many hands make light work' so there really is no great pressure on any one person.



We started our work by helping to organise the Harvest Auction with the money raised going to a charity of the children's choice. November had us stomping around the school field with the children for the much loved 'Wellie Walk' - the favourite part for the children is undoubtedly the hot chocolate and marshmallow afterwards.

For the adults we ran a Pampered Chef evening where some people even had a go at cooking themselves - move over Gordon!

We are hoping to run a Christmas Disco for the children at the end of term and of course our main fundraiser of the term, our Christmas Fayre where hopefully we may even have a visit from that jolly old elf in red! Meanwhile the children will be making their own Christmas cards to raise even more money. So watch out for some stunning designs on your shelves this Christmas.

May the friends take this opportunity to wish everyone a peace-filled, joyful Christmas and a Very Happy New Year.

Neighbourhood Watch

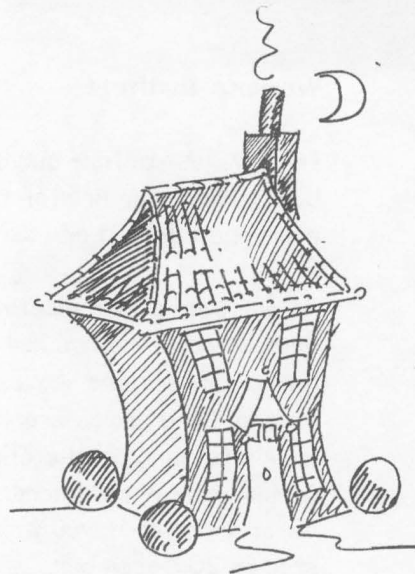
Interest in joining/rejoining the Iron Acton Neighbourhood Watch Scheme has been disappointing with only a handful of residents making contact. I can only continue to encourage residents to support the scheme as we are stronger together as a community.

To gain up to date information I attend the Safer and Stronger Community Group, the Annual Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators meeting and receive monthly crime details and newsletters from Avon and Somerset Constabulary.

The main issue over the summer has been distraction burglaries. A Distraction Burglary is a crime where a falsehood, trick or distraction is used on an occupant of a dwelling to gain, or try to gain, access to the premises to commit burglary (Home Office). As you would be aware from the Wessex Water leaflet that recently dropped through your letter box, more than half of bogus caller crimes committed are carried out by criminals pretending to be from a water company. To help tackle bogus caller crime the following advice has been given by Avon and Somerset Police Neighbourhood Watch. Always keep the front and back door locked, use a door viewer or window to see who the caller is, fit and use a door chain/bar when answering the door, only deal with callers by appointment, set up a password with utility companies. A way to remember this is - **STOP - CHAIN - CHECK.**

In addition now that the nights are drawing in it is important that our homes look occupied at all times. Lights on timers and the radio on, preferably tuned to a talk channel, are useful measures to take to deter potential burglars.

Another current issue is fly tipping. South Gloucestershire Council Fly Tipping Strategy has been put out for consultation and problem areas are being identified for cameras to be installed to try and catch persistent offenders. It must be noted that Avon and Somerset Police have been successful in identifying fly tippers and there have been successful prosecutions. The Police believe in a robust approach to this matter to catch and deter offenders. Our community will look cleaner and a better place as a result.



If you are suspicious about a caller or someone you think may be fly tipping then contact the Police on 0845 4567000. In an emergency, do not delay, dial 999.

To evaluate the contribution Neighbourhood Watch members make to the policing of our area, any call to the Police should be 'tagged' NHW.

Bridget Thompson - Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator

Horticultural Show

Iron Acton Horticultural Show took place on Saturday, 6 September 2008 in the Parish Hall, and yet again exhibitors pulled out all the stops despite the atrocious growing weather. Although the number of exhibits was a little down on last year, the quality was exceptional. The General Section judge (who also judges the Yate show) commented that Iron Acton had far more exhibits than Yate!

At 9am the Parish Hall was a bare room, but by 11am it had bloomed and flourished and the Children's Section was a cacophony of colours and shapes. Anticipation filled the air!

The Parish Hall took on an air of silence as the judging commenced at 11.30am and gradually the result slips were completed and the points awarded. Certain classes caused the judges a great deal of deliberation, and on more than one occasion the judging rules were consulted. Finally at 1pm all the results were in and the Competition Cups could be allocated.

At 2.30pm exhibitors streamed into the Hall eager to see how their exhibit had been judged. Parishioners and members of the public also came along to enjoy the displays. Jill Bendeaux, Iron Acton Primary School's Headteacher did a sterling job presenting the Competition Cups, which was followed by the auction. The Committee's thanks go to David Hatherell for his brilliant auctioneering skills, which raised well over £100 towards the running of the Horticultural Show.

I would like to pass on my thanks to all the people who helped organise, set-up and run the show, as well as the numerous pairs of hands that materialised when help was needed.

Paula Evans - On behalf of Iron Acton Horticultural Committee



Women's Institute

In July, just before our annual break for the summer (I think we had one) some members enjoyed a boat trip from Bristol Docks, cruising the river. Everyone took their own picnic and much to everyone's delight and surprise, the evening stayed dry.

At our September meeting one of our members kindly brought along lots of flowers and foliage and demonstrated how to make a corsage. Following Geraldine's lead, the rest of us attempted to master wiring flowers and leaves with varying degrees of success. Geraldine also gave us some ideas for making Christmas decorations using pinecones, foliage and ribbon and also Christmas fairies and angels to hang on the Christmas tree which we hope to reproduce to sell at the Victorian Event in December. A few members are meeting over several evenings in the coming weeks to make these decorations so if you would like to see the results of these industrious workshops, do visit the WI stall on 20 December.

We became the Calendar Girls when we gathered on one lovely, sunny, mid September afternoon to pose in Parker's Garden Centre for the calendar that is being organised by the Victorian Committee to sell on 20 December. We represent August so the weather was perfect but just to allay the fears of parishioners of a more nervous disposition, togs were kept well and truly on!

We welcomed two new members in October when the speaker was Edward Shaw from Bart Spices of Bristol. As well as briefing us on the history of the company and its links with many good causes, including the Penny Brohn Cancer Care charity, Edward gave us some interesting information about peppercorns and his visits to India and other far-flung countries to source them. He kindly left every member with an organic Fairtrade cotton bag containing a Bart Five Pepper peppermill so expect to smell some spicy aromas as you stroll around the village in the coming months!

During this same evening there was competition to see who could make the most appealing piece of jewellery from autumn berries and seeds. Imagination ran riot with some amazing brooches, necklaces, bracelets and earrings being produced and Edward was put on the spot by being asked to choose the best.

We have decided on a more energetic Birthday Party this November so as well as just eating, we will be playing skittles at The Swan, Tytherinton. We will spend the last meeting of the year in December with a slightly more relaxed evening enjoying our Christmas Party.

The programme for next year is taking shape nicely and as 2009 is Iron Acton WI's 90th Birthday, there should be a few extra surprises as well.

Meetings are held on the second Monday of the month in Iron Acton Parish Hall and new members are always made very welcome. Anyone who would like details of future meetings can contact our secretary, Stella Taylor - 228417.

Sylvie Powell



Iron Acton Primary School

We welcome the new Reception pupils and Miss Brewer to Class 1. We hope they all will be very happy at the school.

In the summer term our boiler finally stopped working leaving us with no heating or hot water. Over the holidays a new one has been installed and partly working. There have been several hiccups but we hope everything will be sorted before the days start turning colder.

We continue to work closely with other local small schools. During the summer term year 4 joined in an excellent drama day based on the story of Hercules. This term each school is learning a different Morris dance to share with the rest of the group.

As a small village school we are always grateful for the support we get from the village.

One highlight this term has been the harvest loaf which Mr Aplin won at the church auction and then donated to the school. The children's faces when Revered Harrex brought it in were a picture - I don't think they have ever seen such a large loaf. They ate it for lunch and thoroughly enjoyed it.

Two local people are now coming in to school each week to hear pupils reading. This help is invaluable and the children look forward to it.

Our Growing Club goes from strength to strength. The club successfully grew potatoes, beetroot and some very vibrant hanging baskets. We would like to thank Mr John Sandy who has kindly built some raised beds for us which will enable us to grow many more things. We are currently collecting Morrisons' "Lets Grow" vouchers to buy equipment for our gardening club. Thank you to all the anonymous villagers who drop off envelopes of vouchers to support our collections. They are all put to good use. If we aren't collecting them we pass them on to other local schools. We would also like to thank Jill Redfearn who regularly visits to give us money from her plant sales. We use this to purchase new reading books.

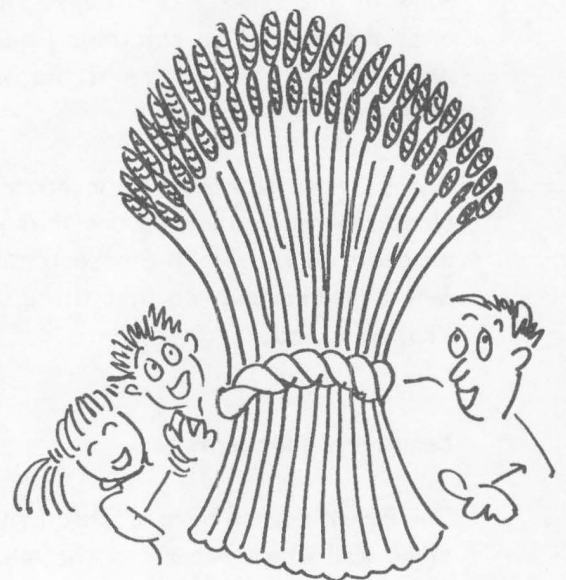
As a church school it is important that we have a strong spiritual and religious focus. Last year Rona Wright and Sandra Sparkes joined us as Foundation Governors but there is still one vacancy. If you are interested in supporting our school in this role please let me, Rona, Sandra or David Harrex know.

We are collecting old yellow pages for the Yellow Woods recycling competition. The winner is the school that collects the most directories per pupil. We would be grateful for any old directories you may have at home.

If you have any spare time we are always looking for extra pairs of hands. Our pond is now well established but sadly not the wildlife haven we were hoping for. Is there anyone out there who knows about ponds and can give us some advice or would be prepared to come and give short talks to the pupils about ponds/pond life?

Thank you for all your support.

Jill Bendeaux
Headteacher



Iron Acton Parish Council

As Parish Clerk, I find myself in the privileged position of having access to numerous and interesting historical parish records, and have spent many hours reading through them.

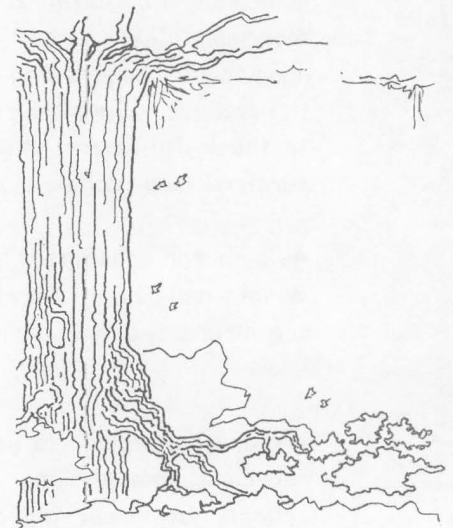
One of the more interesting, although some would say slightly macabre, of my duties is the upkeep of the burial records for the Parish Cemetery (not to be confused with the churchyard). In this age of electronic records, I am endeavouring to transfer all the burial details to a spreadsheet that will be kept in conjunction with the written records.

I had reason to visit the bank, which holds most of the Parish Council's deeds, and was amazed to find official documents and deeds dating back to the late 1700s. The land that is now the cemetery, allotments, Chilwood Close and Algars Drive was originally called 'Church Fields' and has been donated through various families down through the years, until at the turn of the last century it was bequeathed to the Parish Council. Following the grounds' consecration, the first interment was that of Mary Ann Townsend and took place on 4 January 1908.

During some recent tidying out of files, I came across a Deed of Conveyance dated 11 December 1978, for the Parish Meadows and Play Area. The land, amounting to some 4.4 acres, was purchased for £10,500 from John Seymour Williams, Eve Seymour Williams and Charles Boucher. This land had originally been owned by James Rudman, who passed away in 1956.

Parish Meadows

The Parish Council will be carrying out maintenance and clearing works to the boundaries of the Parish Meadows and Play Area. Unfortunately, over time the brambles and nettles have encroached to nearly seven or eight feet in certain areas. By the time you read this article, most of the clearing work will hopefully have been done. Our intention is to clear back all the brambles and nettles and replant with bulbs and seeds, as well as crown lift some of the trees. It is hoped that this work will enhance the area and make it an enjoyable place to visit. The Parish Council also hope that the nature of the work will attract some form of grant monies.



Again I have to report an increase in the amount of dog fouling in the Parish Meadows. Please, please, please can you ensure that you clean up after your dog! The Parish Council have reported incidents to the South Gloucestershire Dog Warden, who will be making contact with the culprits. May I also remind you that there is a large notice in the Meadows that states 'All Dogs Must Be Kept on a Lead'.

Cemetery/Allotments

The Parish Council have arranged for clearance and maintenance works to be carried out on the dry stone wall which separates the allotments and cemetery. The wall is in a considerable state of

disrepair, with stones having been taken from parts of the wall. This work will be carried out by a team from Leyhill Prison, who will be supervised at all times. The working party carry out a great deal of work for other parishes and come highly recommended.

Proposed New Homes - Engine Common Area

You will all be aware that the Government is proposing that a significant amount of new houses need to be provided nationwide, with South Gloucestershire required to build some 32,000 new houses over the next 20 years. The Secretary of State's proposal is for 1,000 of these to be built in the Brimsham Green/Engine Common area. Your Parish Council is opposed to this proposal and numerous meetings have taken place between South Gloucestershire Council representatives, Engine Common residents and Parish Councillors. The deadline for the Parish Council's response to this proposal is 24 October, directly to the Government.

Wessex Water - New Pumping Station

The Parish Council recently received a planning application from Wessex Water for a new water pumping station on Hoovers Lane (next to Iron Acton Forge). This pumping station is being proposed to help alleviate flooding problems further upstream during periods of heavy rainfall. The Parish Council met with Wessex Water, on site, on 7 October, and were reassured by them that the generator would only come into use when the electricity power supply was interrupted. The generator would be tested once a week, during working hours, for one hour at a time, just to make sure that it worked. The noise level was likened to that of an idling lorry engine. In connection with the sewage, Wessex Water stated that this type of discharge happens all across the country, and is only allowed as long as it meets Environment Agency Standards, which are extremely low. Wessex Water also reassured the Parish Council that the existing hedge would be enhanced with an additional planting scheme to help with absorbing the noise levels.

Yate, Sodbury and District Community Transport Limited

I have been contacted by Yate, Sodbury and District Community Transport, who operate out of 390 North Road. They are promoting their new evening and weekend Ring and Ride Service and some Day Trips. A poster is printed in this edition of Focal Poyntz, for your information. You can use their service for doctor and dentist appointments, shopping, hospital visits or even visiting family and friends, although you have to be registered with them in order to use their services. Their annual registration fee is £5, or if you are a Diamond Travelcard holder the service is free. I have a number of registration forms, so if you need one, please give me a ring.

As always, if you have any queries, please contact me.

Paula Evans
Clerk
Tel 228029
Mobile 07880 923109

May Day

Although at the time of writing it feels a long way off it is a great opportunity to update you on this year's event and get everyone thinking about how to make next year's event even better!

Financially, we made a profit of £6,000 this year which is divided equally between the organisations represented on the organising committee - that is the PCC, Iron Acton Parish Hall, Acton Aid, Actonians, Friends of Iron Acton C of E VC School and Friends of North Road School. This is probably the most we have made and is the result of lots of hard work, sponsorship and, of course, the goodwill of everyone who attends.

Looking back at this year's event we were delighted so many people attended but this gave new problems with parking and the feeling that the event was very crowded at times so I think these will be key issues for next year's committee. Also, advertising is one of the key earners facilitated through our programme. We are very lucky to have some loyal advertisers who support us year after year but we always end up putting the programme together in a last minute panic, with a hundred other jobs, so next year we want someone on the committee whose sole responsibility it will be to edit and produce the programme giving our advertisers better value for money and hopefully something people on the day will want to buy.

Looking forward, our new Chairman, Peter Bellis, will no doubt be organising the first meeting for the 2009 event in January and we are always keen to recruit any new helpers so, whether you are affiliated to one of the beneficiary organisations or not, if you want to get involved please get in contact and we'll let you know when the first meeting is. If you fancy yourself as a future editor of Vogue, Hello or Focal Poyntz, the May Day programme could be the project you need to get noticed?!

David Hatherell
davidh@silvey.co.uk

St James Parent and Toddler Group

With the Autumn term here, we have started our regular Friday meetings again having waved goodbye to just two of last term's children to the Reception Classes at North Road and Iron Acton; in addition two of our mums have just had new babies (congratulations Jane and Rachell!) and are taking a little 'maternity leave' from us to put their feet up (we hope). Over the summer, we usually try to get together in the park on a few occasions, but the weather wasn't very helpful this year. Instead, we booked the village hall for one morning and the children (and their older brothers and sisters plus friends) had a great time on the bouncy castle, or on their bikes (or just chatting). We also had a great time at the Church Summer Fete, despite really rather appalling weather; you may have seen some of us there selling preserves (thanks to Natalie in particular, who ran the stall for the whole event, surpassing all with her sales repartee, made the bread and helped make the jams); this proved to be a very successful fundraising venture (the proceeds were shared between the Toddler Group and the Church).

We have also made some new friends with Marianne and her children, who recently moved into the village. After just two weeks, Marianne offered to set up on the following Friday and also organized a great craft activity which the children really enjoyed, so a big thanks to Marianne for being so dynamic! So far this term the children have enjoyed making a collage of fruit and veg photos which we put up in the Church for Harvest Festival, some beautiful (and in some cases very spotty) ladybirds thanks to Marianne, and some lovely autumn tree pictures.



Finally, a plea for jam jars - especially small ones, with or without lids. Mustard pots, baby food jars and the likes are also perfect; glass ramekins (the sort you get with expensive puddings from the supermarket) would also be useful! We are planning to make more preserves, many with old fashioned seasonal and festive recipes, for our stall at the Victorian Evening on Saturday, 20 December. So any jars would be gratefully received, and we hope you will come along to sample our produce that evening.

We meet at 10.30 on Fridays in term time in the Marshall Rooms behind the Church, starting with a craft activity, then plenty of free play for the children after tea and biscuits, finishing by 12.30. If you're a Mum (or Dad, Gran or Gramps etc) with a baby or pre-school child (or perhaps several!) our group could be just right for you. Our group has been running for over a decade now, so every mum there knows what it is like to be a new face and we all do our best to make you feel welcome. We take it in turns to set up each week (opening the room and choosing the toys) and all try to help clear away at the end. We have a few spaces at the moment so if you would like more information, please do not hesitate to call either Sally (228037) or Mel (228701).

Finally, a plea for jam jars - especially small ones, with or without lids. Mustard pots, baby food jars and the likes are also perfect; glass ramekins (the sort you get with expensive puddings from the supermarket) would also be useful! We are planning to make more preserves, many with old fashioned seasonal and festive recipes, for our stall at the Victorian Evening on Saturday, 20 December. So any jars would be gratefully received, and we hope you will come along to sample our produce that evening.

Sally Aries
Secretary

North Road Ladies Club

The attendance at our September meeting was lower than usual due to a large number of members away on holiday, however we were happy to welcome a visitor to this meeting. We all had a thoroughly enjoyable evening listening to our speaker, Don Everitt, describing "Spring in your Garden, illustrated by some beautiful Spring flower slides. Don brought along a selection of bulbs and plants which we were eager to purchase in the hope of a colourful display in our gardens next Spring.

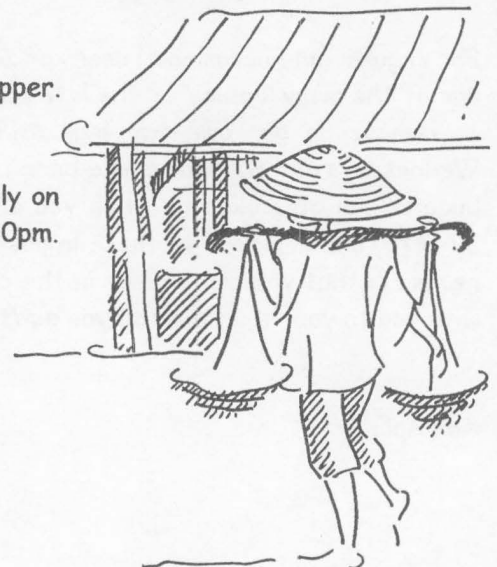
"Life in Malaysia" was the subject of Jim Kane's talk at our October meeting. He told us how, in 1966, he and group of colleagues from ICI went over to work in Malaysia and were there for 1 year 9 months. Jim's wife and two young children accompanied him and it was interesting to see slides of where they lived, the shops from which they bought their groceries and clothes and the Malaysians' way of life 42 years ago.

By the time this Winter edition is distributed we will have celebrated our birthday party at The Codrington Arms, North Road, with Pat Ollerenshaw as our after dinner speaker.

The 5 December meeting will consist of our AGM and an American Supper. This will be followed by a Beetle Drive in aid of our 2008 charity.

Our meetings are held in North Road Community Primary School, usually on the first Monday of the month (term time only), commencing at 7.30pm. Visitors are always very welcome at any of our meetings.

June Rycroft
Secretary

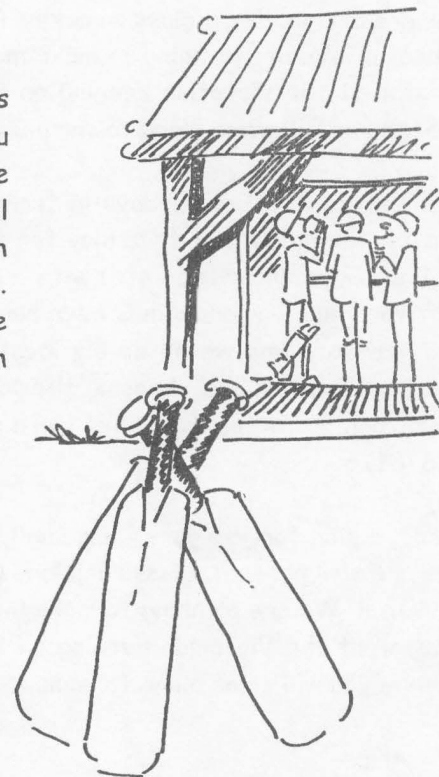


Iron Acton Cricket Club

Whilst writing this article during the latest of late Indian summers following what seems to have been the dullest summer on record you might be surprised to know that only two of our fixtures were cancelled and then, only one due to the weather. In a year when a spell of dry weather was as likely as a non-British cycling gold medal we seem to have been very lucky to have played as many games as we did. Although the vast majority of results did not go in our favour we participated in some very enjoyable games and there was a great team spirit - especially in the bar afterwards.

The winter indoor season has now started and we began our campaign with a victory against Oldbury-on-Severn. We now look forward, boosted by newcomer Mark, to playing Frenchay and Tortworth.

Chris Bradley
Chairman (228559)



Looking for a Book?

By the time this issue appears many regular library users will know that Yate Library closed for rebuilding on 28 October. This is supported by Lottery funding and will result (in about a year's time) in a larger, more attractive space with the facility for many more community uses.

Meanwhile the library (as from 3 November) is housed in South Parade Yate Shopping Centre - obviously on a much smaller scale but with the same opening hours. Chipping Sodbury Library (which has recently been refurbished) is open for longer (9.30am - 5pm with lunch time closing 12.30 - 1.30pm) from Tuesday to Saturday. Computer space will be much more limited and those wanting to book time on a computer might do well to try Winterbourne Library which is very well provided.

The Mobile Library will continue to make its fortnightly stops in the village on alternate Tuesdays. No gain without pain but hopefully Yate and its surroundings will have a splendid library worthy of the 21st Century.

For regular (and occasional) users of Shopmobility which has been housed in the library - the service, that was one of the many 'babies' of the late Sue Gawler, will be found in North Parade. Most of us feel that we prefer to manage on our own two legs as long as we can but this service - currently operating on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Saturdays is a boon for some people all of the time and for other people occasionally. These buggies can be picked up when you arrive in Yate, or booked over the phone (Tel 01454 868718 or 07999 574474) and are free to those in possession of a South Gloucestershire bus pass. What many people do not realise is that you can be met in the car park or off a bus with a buggy by volunteers who will also walk back with you to your transport so you don't have to carry shopping.

Ann Aplin

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The next edition of Focal Poyntz will be distributed towards the
end of March 2009

Yate, Sodbury and District Community Transport Limited

Thank you for joining the Ring and Ride service.
Please can you fill in the registration form and return it to us at

Yate, Sodbury and District Community Transport Limited
The Yard
390 North Road
Yate
BS37 7LW

If you **do not** have a Diamond Travel Card there is a £5 registration fee, however if you do have a travel card then registration is free.

If you would like a Diamond Travel Card call South Gloucestershire Council on 01454 864864.

You can book up to two days in advance on the Ring and Ride on **0845 2410985**. You can book up to three days in advance if it's a medical appointment.

The Booking line is open Monday to Friday 09.30am until 2.00pm. We do have an answer phone for enquiries and cancellations but booking requests will not be accommodated if left on the answer phone

We are not licensed to take same day bookings. The transport must be booked at least a day before the day of travel.

Passengers are asked to be ready ten minutes before their booking time, and allow ten minutes after the booking time in case the driver is late.

Passengers are also restricted to three shopping bags each due to space available on the bus. If you would like to use a shopping trolley please advise us before travelling

Also please let us know before travelling if you have a new wheelchair or any other accessibility needs.

Our **Voluntary Car Scheme** is also available for journeys to hospitals or medical appointments – these can be booked anytime. Mileage charged at 40p per mile return (payable on the day) or 25p per mile return (payable on the day) for bus pass holders.

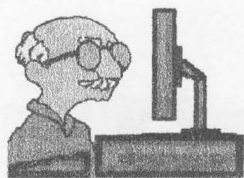
We also arrange **day trips** – you can find a list of destinations and dates displayed on the buses.

We also can provide **Evening and Weekend transport!** We operate **7 days a week**, Saturdays; 9am-5pm, Sundays; 10am-5pm. On the evenings we have buses from 6.30pm-10.30pm.

We do not operate on bank holidays.

Kelly, Karly or Fi will call you when they have received your registration form to let you know that you are registered.

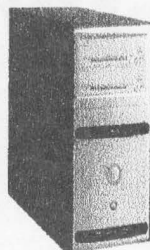
Thank you.
Yate, Sodbury and District Community Transport.



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