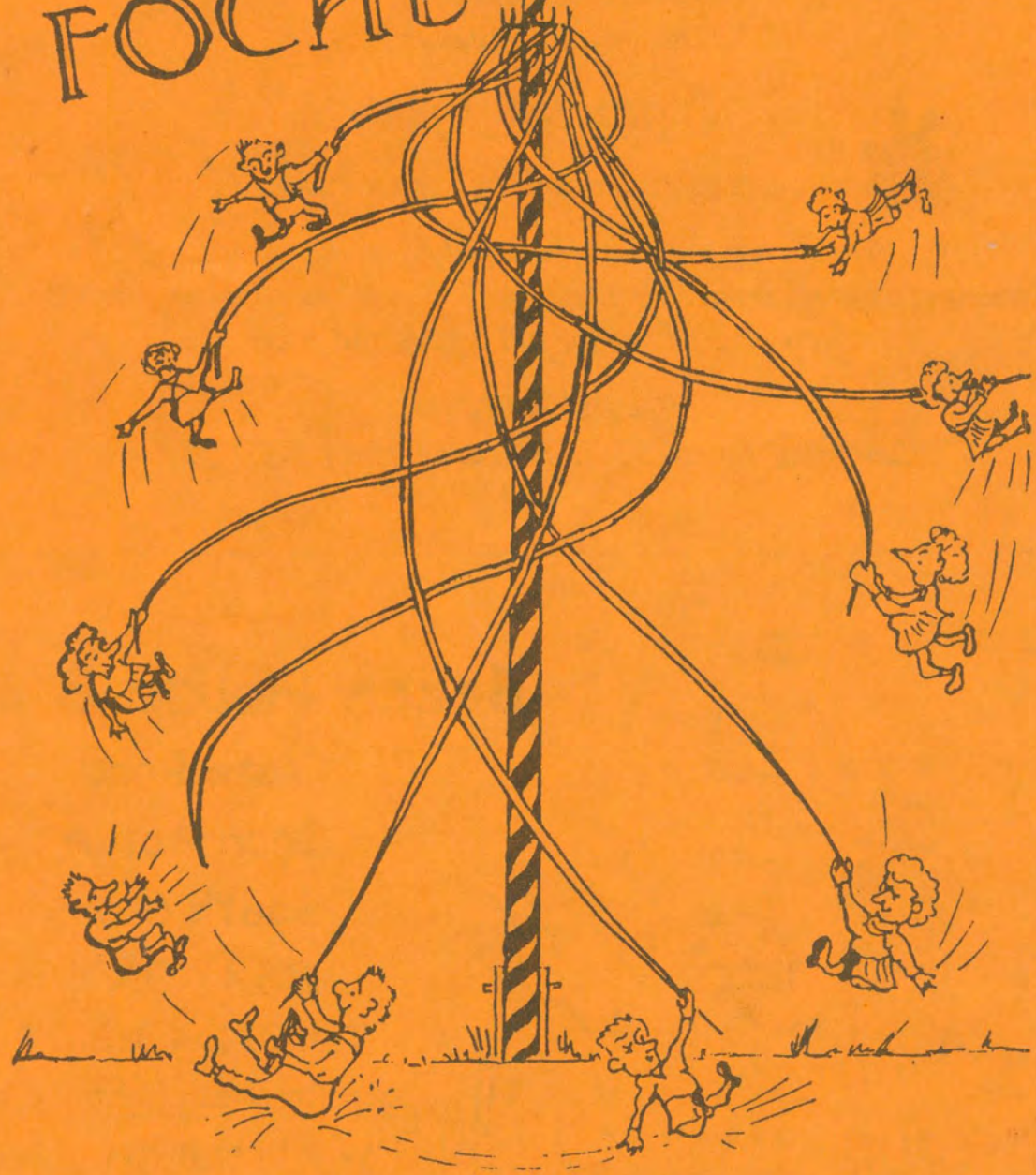


FOCAL POINTZ

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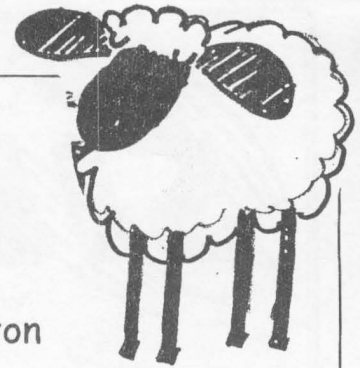
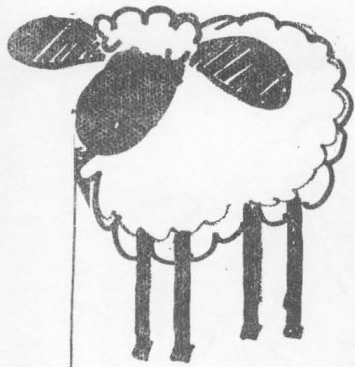
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Nibley Lamb

Does your lamb taste as good as it used to?

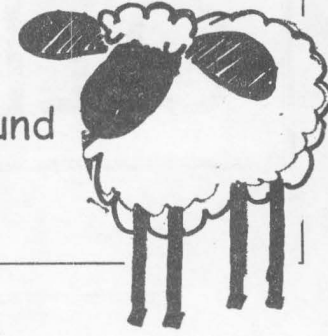
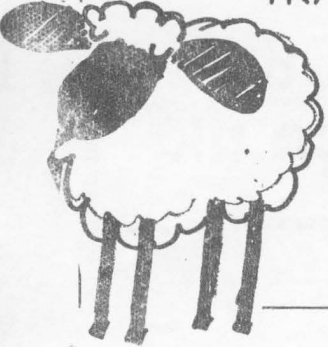
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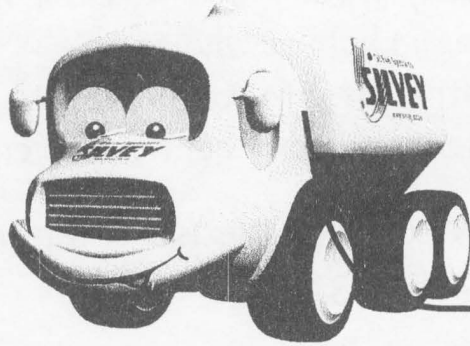
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Jim.gooding@hotmail.co.uk

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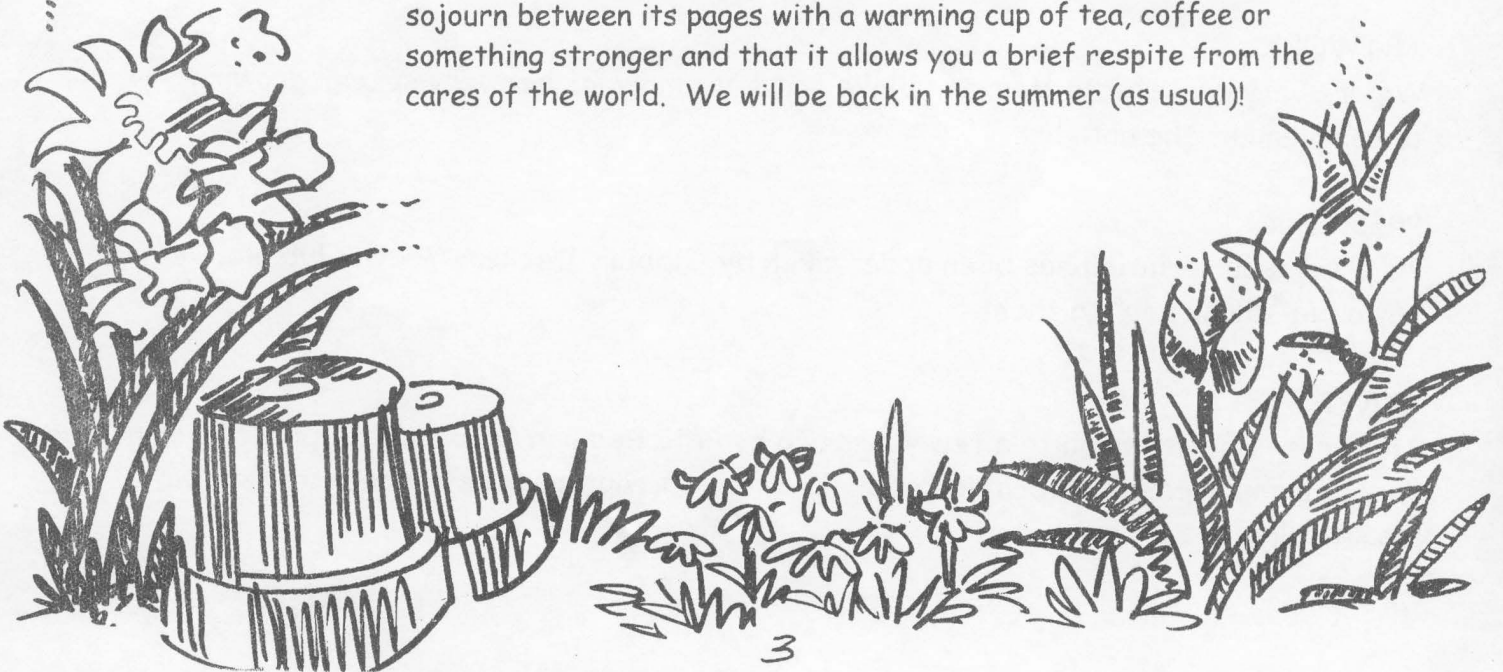
SPRING

ISSUE NO. 79

2009

Spring, and our editorial usually makes reference to life bursting forth from the slumbers of winter. However this year the term "green shoots" has taken on a more sombre and disturbing connotation. The speed and ease with which the solid and certain becomes unstable or destroyed is deeply unsettling and we suspect the way in which each individual reading this now looks at the world has changed irrevocably.

So, perhaps, it is nice to know that the inevitability and total lack of spontaneity with which Focal Poyntz appears with monotonous regularity, with a gentle plop through your letterbox or onto your door mat, will bring a little piece of normality to your world. The Focal Poyntz team is still the same, although some would say this is unfortunate, and Focal Poyntz is still the same with our usual wonderful drawings, usual contributors who have to be gently nuzzled into production by Barrie Wright but who still manage to bail us out each time and the usual quirky nature of Chris' cricket reports. We hope you enjoy your sojourn between its pages with a warming cup of tea, coffee or something stronger and that it allows you a brief respite from the cares of the world. We will be back in the summer (as usual)!



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:

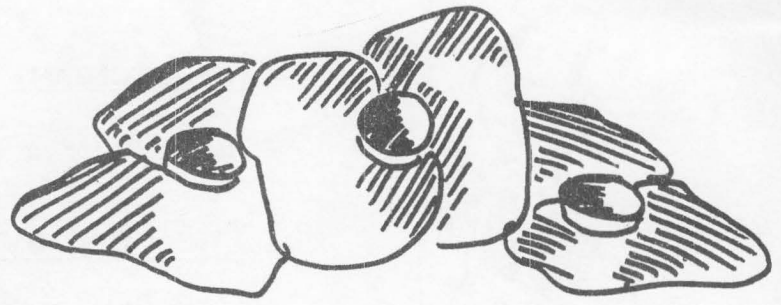
As always, our printing has been undertaken by Oldbury Deckers Youth Club and we say a big "thank you" to them.

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!

POPPY APPEAL 2008

2008 was the last year that the Poppy Appeal for the Iron Acton area was co-ordinated by David White, who died not long after the end of the appeal.. David had spent 15 years as a Poppy Appeal Organiser and it had been his decision to retire at the end of the 2009 Appeal, sadly, this was not to be. His total dedication and commitment were greatly appreciated by the Royal British Legion and we send our sincere condolences to Rose and their family.



The appeal in the Iron Acton area has so far raised a total of £2,853.75. Local businesses donated £1,893.71, the house-to-house collection raised £477.63 (with David McCoy's collecting tin contributing £226.51 of the house-to-house total) and a further £482.41 was added from donations from David's funeral.

A Memorial Concert in memory of Dave will be held at Patchway Community School on Sunday, 15 March, starting at 3.00 pm - the money raised from this concert will also be donated to the Poppy Appeal.

Could I also take this opportunity to introduce myself to you? My name is Sue Greenwell and I am the new Appeal Organiser for this area. I live in Yate and I am in the process of learning the ins and outs of this voluntary role. With the help of Rose White I am organising a concert which will be held on 28 November in a bid to raise further funds for the Royal British Legion. If you feel you could either support or help with this event, your contribution, be it large or small, would be so greatly appreciated. Further details will be provided in the next edition of Focal Poyntz - but please put the date in your diary now.

I have had the pleasure of meeting all those who helped David with the counting of the Poppy Appeal money and I hope that you will be able to give your support to this year's appeal.

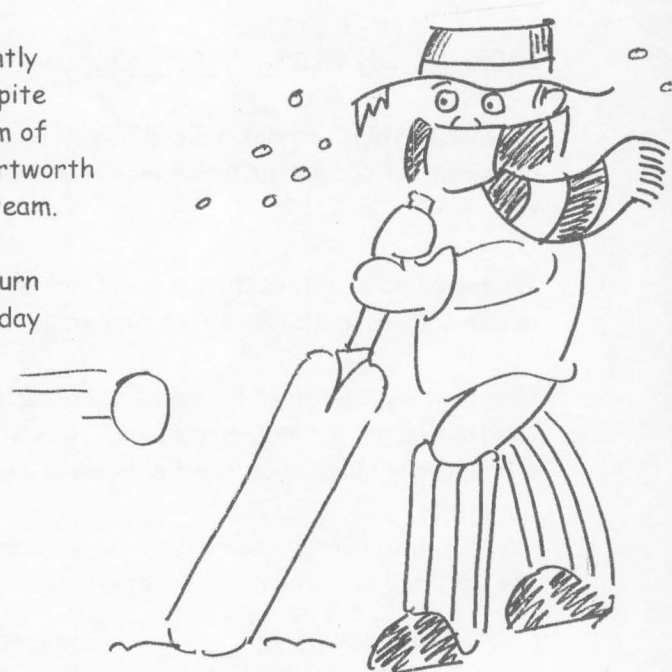
If you would like to contact me, over anything in this article, please ring me on 01454 311544 or e-mail me on don.sueg@blueyonder.co.uk.

Sue Greenwell / Poppy Appeal Organiser Iron Acton Area

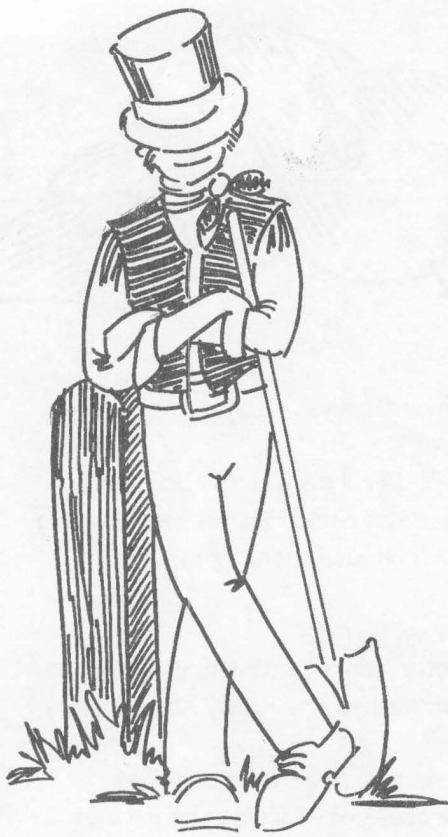
IRON ACTON CRICKET CLUB

With 2 games to go in the Winter Indoor League we currently lie in second place, having won 3 and lost just the one. Despite pronouncements by the Bank of England, interest in this form of game remains high and the crunch match will be against Tortworth in March when we hope each player will be a credit to the team.

With snow lying thickly on the ground, thoughts naturally turn to the summer season. We will again be playing on Wednesday evenings from the beginning of May to the end of July and would love to encourage any villager to join in the fund. Games last just over a couple of hours (a bit longer than an England Test second innings) and you have the opportunity to personally score more runs in a single match than the whole of the England team can muster in one innings.



Chris Bradley / Chairman / 228559



THE ACTONIANS

The details for our spring production are:

The Playboy of the Western World

By John Millington Synge

Directed by Jim Sinkinson and Co-Directed by Di Pardoe

**Wednesday 20th, Thursday 21st,
Friday 22nd, Saturday 23rd May 2009**

At 8.00 pm in Iron Acton Parish Hall

**Tickets £6 per person - no concessions
Obtainable from 01454 776779**

This play caused riots during its opening week at Dublin's Abbey Theatre in 1907. It was said to lampoon the rural Irish as being primitive and parochial and Synge was accused of being anti-Catholic, anti-women and promoting patricide. Arther Griffith, of Sinn Fein, called it "a vile and inhuman story told in the foulest language we have ever listened to from a public platform".

The play has no moral or grand themes but it is very funny, quite sad and is beautifully written. Synge's language is rhythmical and lyrical and yet realistic and it brilliantly reveals a glimpse of humanity naked in its absurdity and flaws and heroism. 101 years on, it is now regarded as one of the great masterpieces of twentieth century Irish literature.

The play is set on the edge of a drab village on the north west coast of County Mayo. The action all takes place in Michael Flaherty's bar, run by his daughter Pegeen Mike. It tells the story of Christy Mahon, a young man on the run, claiming to have killed his father. Playboy, in the sense of the title of the play, refers to someone with the gift of the gab or a tall-story teller.

Bob Allen

IRON ACTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

As I write this I cannot believe it is February already - Christmas seems so far away. Several people have commented on the Christmas tree lights in front of the school. Thank you Mr Aires for organising this.

We have had an interesting e-mail from Mr Ellis from Florida. He used to live in the school house and told us some amusing stories of his time at Iron Acton.

Now that we have over 80 pupils at the school we are bursting at the seams. We are working with the local authority to find more room. I was interested to hear from one of our parents that we used to have a temporary building on the field - does anyone else remember this or better still have a photograph?

Thank you to everyone who responded to my plea for Governors. We are now full and have one person on the waiting list - which is a great situation to be in.

We are still looking for 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 to everyone who sent in their telephone directories for the Yellow Woods competition. We collected over 100 and even though we didn't win it was still a lot of fun and the children enjoyed finding out about recycling.

Jill Bendeaux / Head Teacher



MAY DAY CELEBRATIONS 2009 - MONDAY, 4 MAY

We hope you've all got Monday, 4 May etched into your diaries and that as many of you as possible will turn out to support the numerous village organisations and individuals who have worked hard to make our celebrations such a success and to give the village a wonderfully enjoyable day.

The festivities begins at 10.45 am when the procession leaves the car park of the Lamb Inn. The route will then go around Chilwood Close, travel down the High Street as far as the White Hart and then turn onto the Village Green - where the opening ceremony with the crowning of the May Queen will take place at approximately 11.00 am.

On the Green you will find a miscellany of stalls run by village organisations, individuals and small traders and the popular rides will also be returning - all waiting to entice you. The arena events already booked will include the ever popular North Road School Country Dancing, Iron Acton School Maypole Dancing, dog obedience demonstration and Tai Kwando demonstration (we were going to put dog obedience and Tai Kwando demonstrations but thought you might be upset to find that it wasn't the dogs who were doing the marshall art!). All of these will be supported by a glorious Silver Band and manic Morris Dancers in other words, something to amuse and delight even the most hard hearted individual.

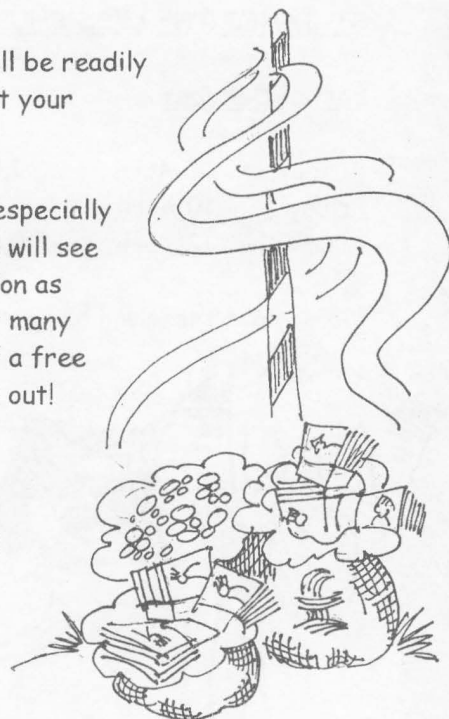
The steam train will also be making a welcome return with a slight change this year in that we hope to be traversing along a new, longer route no more information now you'll need to come along and see for yourselves ... life's no fun when you're provided with all the answers!

Then, just when you think you can keep going no longer, human rocket fuel will be readily available, in many forms, from the various refreshment stalls and you get your "second wind" and carry on well into late afternoon.

Finally, we've taken on board some of the comments about the programme - especially the ones about the lack of straightness of typing on the page! This year you will see a completely revamped booklet with lots of fascinating snippets of information as well, of course, as a programme of events for the day and, yes, we know that many of you love the idea of a lucky programme so each copy will include details of a free prize draw with no further purchases necessary make sure you don't miss out!

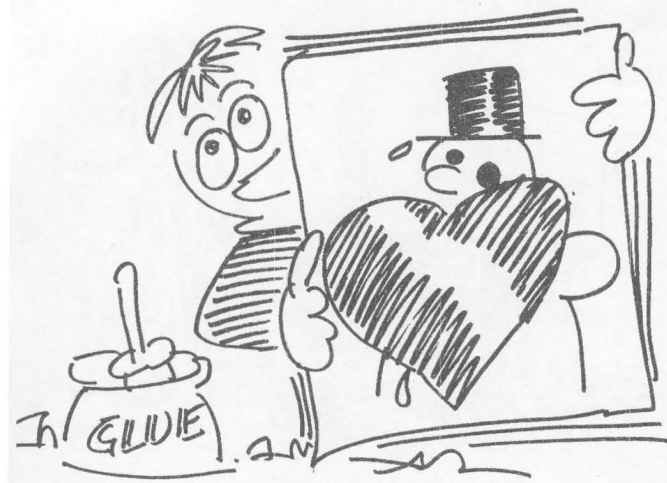
That's about it for now, except to say **We look forward to seeing you on May Day for fun and frolics in the age-old May Day tradition.**

Pete Bellis / Chairman



ST JAMES THE LESS PARENT AND TODDLER GROUP

We have settled back in after the Christmas break and are meeting more or less regularly with brief interludes forced by the wintry weather, coughs, colds and power cuts! So far this term the children have enjoyed making snowy scenes and Valentine's Day cards among other sticky and painty projects. We had to cancel one session because of a power failure but some of us managed to meet up instead at a soft-play centre where mums and children all had a lot of fun. We also had to take a day off because of the snow - to the great excitement of little kids and big kids alike!



Over the last term our group has grown to bursting point in the Marshall Room and the din of excited children can be quite deafening at times. For this reason and because of safety concerns we have, regrettably, begun a waiting list (which we had hoped to avoid). We are likely to have plenty of spaces again for the Autumn Term as a lot of our children will be starting school. However, if you can't wait that long and would like to join a toddler group there are 2 others in the area: North Road Toddler Group meets on Thursday afternoons (the contact is Karen on 227179) and we are very pleased to welcome a new group, the Rangeworthy Baby and Toddler Group, which meets on Tuesdays from 1.00 pm to 3.00 pm in Rangeworthy Memorial Hall (the contact is Emma on 228116).

Our St James Group meets at 10.30 am on Fridays, in term time only, in the Marshall Room behind the church. We start with a craft activity, then plenty of free play for the children after tea and biscuits, finishing by 12.30 pm. 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. As we've explained, we currently do not have any spaces at the moment but if you would like more information or you would like to join our waiting list please call Sally on 228037 or Mel on 228701.

Finally, a very big thank you to all of those who donated jam jars for our Victorian Evening Seasonal Preserves and Sweets Stall, and to all of those who came along on the night to support the event.

Sally Aries

ST JAMES THE LESS CHURCH

Easter Services

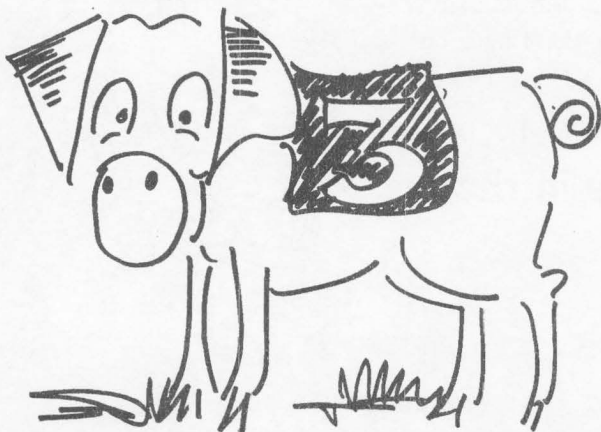
Sunday,	5 April	9.00 am	Palm Sunday Service
Friday	10 April	2.00 pm	Good Friday Stations of the Cross
Sunday	12 April	9.00 am	Easter Day Holy Communion Service

Please note there will be no All Age Service during April

Fund Raising Events - Dates for your Diary

Friday	24 April	A "Pig Racing Evening" in the Parish Hall
Saturday	4 July	Church Summer Fete, in the Old Rectory Gardens, starting at 2.00 pm

The Marshall Room is available for hire for meetings, etc.
For bookings please contact Mrs Sally Aries on 228037



VICTORIAN EVENING

We have all celebrated the festive season for another year - New Year's resolutions have already been broken, no-one wants to see another mince pie or drink any more mulled wine and, yes, the Victorian Evening Committee is already making plans for Christmas 2009!

Last year was the second time that we have held this event and we hope an enjoyable time was had by all. From the funds raised to date and the kind donations given we have spent £2,800 funding the event, lighting up the parish and, this year, we will be making a charitable donation to the Ugandan Appeal.

In terms of lighting, last year we started in the High Street and also placed one Christmas tree on the Village Green and another on Chilwood Green. Unfortunately the tree on the Village Green was vandalised and was far from a success. We are currently working on something a bit different for the Village Green this year which will hopefully be vandal proof! In sharp contrast, the tree in Chilwood Close was a resounding success. The tree was fully embraced by the local residents and their children who looked after it and even took the time and trouble to decorate it.

In the High Street we offered householders the opportunity to have a tree bracket attached to the front of their houses or to have a free-standing tree in their front gardens. The committee supplied and fitted the brackets and also supplied the Christmas trees and white fairy lights. The take up was very good and we wish to thank all those pioneering parishioners who will hopefully by their actions encourage others in the High Street to participate this year. Most agree that the High Street looked very pretty this year.

Over the forthcoming years the committee would like to light up other areas of the parish. In 2009 we hope to extend the programme to the houses around Chilwood Green and in 2010 we would like to include the houses around the Village Green. We would like to roll out our plans quicker than this but at the end of the day it all comes down to funds. The total cost of a bracket (£35), a Christmas tree (£10) and one set of fairy lights (£25) is £70.

It would be very helpful if those parishioners living around Chilwood Green who are interested in having a Christmas tree bracket could contact a member of the committee. We would like to have a complete list of the houses taking part agreed in the first half of the year so that the brackets can be fitted in the warmer summer months (if we get any!). Also, if any other parishioners in the High Street want to become involved this year in lighting up their houses then please contact a member of the committee.

The calendar of Iron Acton parish organisations was a great success. We intend to create another calendar for 2010 but perhaps this time with views of the parish. We may even hold a competition and the winning 12 photographs will feature in the calendar so get snapping now!

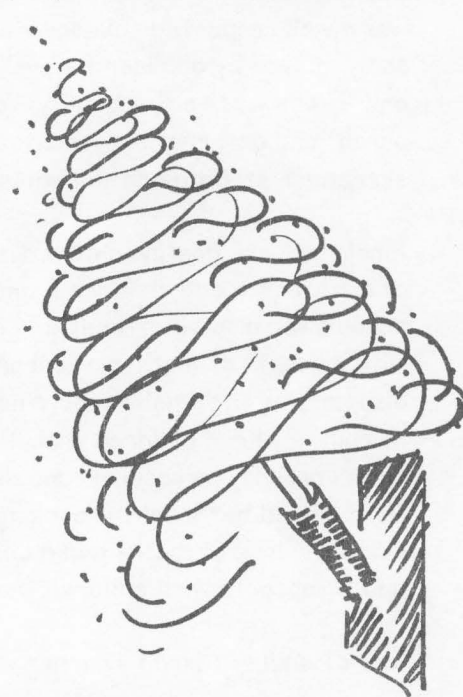
The decorated Christmas windows in the High Street looked very pretty again this year and added to the festive cheer. The feedback we have received from last year is that people prefer to have a theme to work to so we are working on a theme for this year.

As you will appreciate there are very many people over and above our committee members who help with this event and the lighting up of the High Street and the trees. The committee wishes to thank you all and hopes that we can continue to rely on your support in future years.

Your committee members are:

Ann Aplin	228243	Rob Taylor	227227
Jon Aries	228037	Heather Tillotson	227419
Tracey Byrne	228265	Rachel Weldrake	228674
Pam McCoy	228874	Chris Wiggins	880941
Ashlee Mee	228540	Rona Wright	228247

Rachel Weldrake



NORTH ROAD SCHOOL

After all the excitement of Christmas at school, with the parties, concerts, disco and fayre, the children have settled back well, ready for the busy spring term ahead.

We are now running more after school clubs than ever; including football, badminton, ICT, infant multi-sports, modern dance, drama, infant playrangers, junior playrangers and the mad science club is back again soon. We have also revived the lunchtime chess club too. The football team has progressed through to the quarter finals of the Small Schools Cup Tournament, where they play Cadbury Heath School. Continuing on a sporting theme, by the time you read this we will have entered a team at the South Gloucestershire Swimming Gala in early February.

The children are looking forward to a new traversing climbing wall that we are installing in the playground - this is being funded by the Friends of the School. We are arranging for an artist to come into school first, to work with the children, to paint a large Alpine mural as our large climbing wall backdrop. The Friends also recently funded a brand new staging system which we first put to good use at the Christmas concerts. They are now busy organising a Valentine's disco and a fashion show, Kidz on the Catwalk, on 23 February (which has already attracted a large number of budding young models).

We held our first parents forum this term which was an excellent opportunity to canvas parents' views and opinions regarding all areas of school life and to hear suggestions of how we can best promote the school and to keep moving forward. We also hope to arrange for keynote speakers from the field of education to come into school to give presentations to parents too.

Always looking for ways of providing the children with enrichment opportunities, one class will begin vocal coaching training in February, we have had a visit from the Sparks Team (who run fire safety workshops) and recently the children thoroughly enjoyed handling an exotic array of animals when Zoolab visited to run workshops for all the classes. The older children will be visiting Brimsham Green School to work on a design and technology project. We celebrated the Chinese New Year with a dragon dance at a special assembly for parents. We were delighted at the news that we have been awarded £1000 in the Evening Post's Cash Awards for Schools and we are looking to use the award to buy an outdoor shelter for our reception play area. Our Year 5 and 6 children have now been trained as mediators and are enjoying their responsibilities, helping to resolve any friendship issues or playground conflict.

We were all very saddened by the death of Chris Mugford, our School Secretary, in October. Chris had been with us for just less than 2 years and hit the ground running from day one. She was a well respected colleague, who was much loved by the children and she is very sadly missed by all. Her funeral, at Westerleigh Crematorium, was standing room only - such was her popularity - and was attended by all members of staff and parent and governor representatives. Mandy Anstice, our newly appointed secretary, started at the beginning of January.

Finally, we are hosting a gifted and talented maths fun day at school soon and children from Iron Acton and Rangeworthy schools will also be attending. This will engage the children with all sorts of mathematical practical challenges. We are also hosting the small schools' network, Year 3 maths fun morning - where children from 9 small schools, working in mixed groups, carousel around different practical workshops. Both should be thought provoking and help to give the children a lifelong love of maths and a chance to meet new friends and co-operate with children from other schools.

Mark Handley / Head Teacher



Breakfast in the Parish Hall

In Aid of St Peter's Hospice

On Saturday, 20 June 2009

8.00 am thro' to 11.00 am

Full English Continental
..... and featuring a Children's Special

For further details and tickets please contact:

Di Heal on 228498

Or e-mail on di@healfamily.plus.com

The Actonians Drama Group

Presents Guest Artistes

"Not the Blues Brothers" Tribute Night

Friday, 17th and Saturday, 18th April at 7.30 pm

Cheese and Pate Ploughman's included

Bar available serving real local ale

Tickets £10 per person (tables of 6)

**Tickets available from any member of the Actonians or Parish Hall Committee
or call 01454 325192**

All proceeds towards The Parish Hall Building Fund

Not Jake and not Elwood They're on a mission! ...

**They're re-awakening the legend of The Blues Brothers by bringing their unique and explosive
tribute double act to the people.**

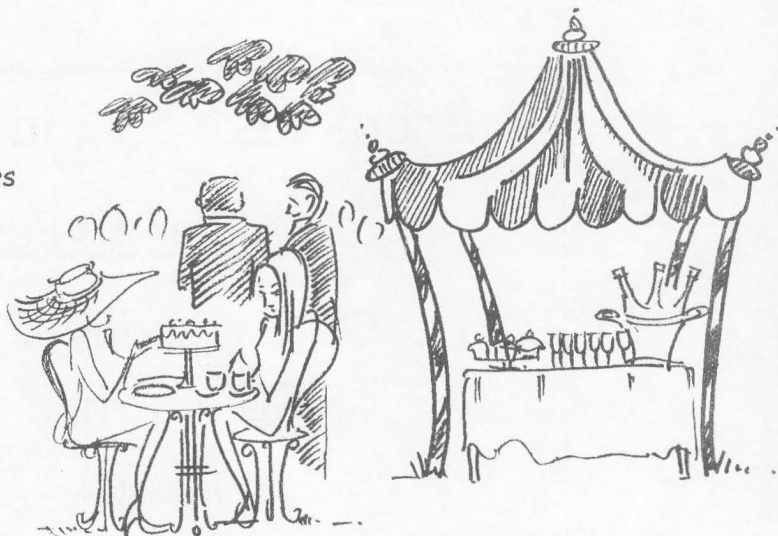
**These boys are armed with a fully-loaded set list, an arsenal of dynamite comedy and a secret stash of
surprises, all backed by the sound of red-hot Rhythm & Blues**

**Driven by the spirit of the original Jake & Elwood and powered by a massive back-catalogue of Blues & Soul
masterpieces, this unique and infectious tribute duo faithfully revisit the seminal anthems of The Blues
Brothers, including (of course): "Eveybody Needs Somebody, Soul Man, Gimme Some Lovin and Rawhide - but
they also take the legacy to the next level, putting their own twist on a mix of 8-track classics and previously
uncharted musical territory! It's one big foot-stompin', hand-clappin', whip-crackin' heart-stoppin',
eye poppin', horn-blowin', bass-kickin', all singin', all dancin', all rockin', all rollin', Blues Brothers Tribute Party
..... and everyone's invited!**

NORTH ROAD LADIES CLUB

The weather on the January evening of our first meeting in 2009 was bitterly cold and icy under foot but, in spite of these conditions, 22 members were able to make their way to our meeting.

Mr Downe gave a talk, illustrated by beautiful slides, on Alpine Plants in the Wild and Cultivation - most of the photographs having been taken on the mountains in Switzerland, America and Canada, which made for a delightful evening.



We were saddened to learn that Margaret Woodman had died in January. Margaret had been a member of our Ladies Club for many years and during her illness was cared for by the Macmillan Nurses. With Margaret in mind, our members agreed that our charity fund-raising during 2009 will be for the Macmillan Nurses. To raise money we will be holding a skittles evening, garden party and beetle drive during the year.

Our Garden Party will be held in a member's garden at 348 North Road
On Saturday, 6 June from 2.30 pm to 4.30 pm

You are invited to join us at this event and give your support for the Macmillan Nurses

Our 2 February meeting coincided with the heavy snowfall and our speaker had to cancel due to the road conditions. However 16 members assembled in readiness to present one of our 2008 Charity cheques to a representative from Frome House Residential Home. A quiz was arranged at short notice, followed by a welcome cup of tea or coffee and quite a lot of chatter.

Our other 2008 Charity cheque will be received by a representative from the Jessie May Trust at our next meeting on 2 March. This will be followed by a demonstration by Jean Drew on Basic Flower Arranging.

Our programme for April, May and June is as follows:

Monday	20 April	Travel Through New Zealand - a talk and slides by Mr D Packham
Monday	11 May	The Merits of Aloe Vera - Jill Pollock
Monday	1 June	Willow Weaving - Norah Kennedy

Our meetings are held at 7.30 pm in North Road Primary School. If you feel you would be interested in joining us please come along as a visitor. We are a friendly club and you will be made most welcome.

June Rycroft / Secretary

FOCAL POYNTZ DISTRIBUTION DATES FOR THE REMAINDER OF 2009

Just a little bit of advance notice that the summer edition of Focal Poyntz should be distributed, at the latest, by the first weekend in August (1st and 2nd).

Our winter edition, containing news of all the Christmas events, should be distributed, at the latest, By 14/15 November.

ACTON AID

This year our Annual Proms Concert is being held on Saturday, 27 June. This year's theme is "A Night at the Movies". The orchestra will be playing well known pieces from films throughout the years. The tenor, Richard Allen, will again be performing. We really are hoping that this year's event will be our best yet and hope you can attend to make it so. We encourage everyone to come along dressed as a movie star, although any Russell Crowe look-alikes may have to put up with the attention of my wife all night!! Tickets will be available on May Day at our burger stall and also from the Lamb. Anybody with any contacts re potential stage design depicting the silver screen please contact the secretary.

Before Christmas we distributed our usual food parcel to pensioners across the parish. Our distribution list is in serious need of an update so if you or anyone you know in the parish of pensionable age did not receive a parcel last year please let the secretary know.

Plans are being made for our second cultural visit abroad later this year. Last year we went to Prague and this year we hope to go to Split in Croatia.

In March we will be having the Chairman's Dinner in the Parish Hall. This event will herald the end of Peter Huish's reign as Chairman and welcome in our new Chairman, Ashley Mee. Our Vice-Chairman for this year is Jon Aries 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 8.00 pm on the first Thursday of each month. Meetings have the minimum of formality. Fund raising 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 financially they are welcome to contact, in confidence, the Chairman (Ashley Mee on 228540) or the Secretary (Peter Foote on 228674).

Peter Foote / Secretary



IRON ACTON PARISH HALL

South Gloucestershire Council has now given planning consent for the kitchen extension. We are now in the process of obtaining Building Regulations approval. If all goes well the work should start in the early summer. We do not expect any restrictions to bookings, etc, for the Hall whilst the building work is in progress.

I am pleased to announce that Celeste Roylance has agreed to succeed Helen Crowe as our Treasurer.

Finally, a reminder that if you're interested in booking all or part of the Hall then call Meryl Cook on 228405.

Barry Dewhurst / Secretary

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

Annual Parish Meeting:- The Iron Acton Annual Parish Meeting, will be held on Friday, 8 May 2009 in North Road School Hall commencing at 8.00pm. All Parishioners are invited to attend. It will be an opportunity for you to listen to what the Parish Council has been doing, view the parish accounts, and put questions to your Councillors and South Gloucestershire representatives.

Allotments:- Unfortunately there was a spate of vandalism at the Nibley Lane allotments just before Christmas. Seven allotment sheds were broken into and a poly-tunnel slashed. Although nothing appeared to have been taken, this caused considerable inconvenience and upset to the allotment holders. This vandalism was reported to the Police.

Parish Meadows:- Everyone will be well aware of the prolonged periods of wet weather we have had over recent months. During the weekend before Christmas a stretch of the Parish Meadow and Play Area was flooded! I have lived in Iron Acton for 15 years and I have never known such an event.

The planting of the border areas has now commenced so keep an eye out for all the colourful spring bulbs popping their heads up. If any parishioners have any spare native bulbs, shrubs, plants or trees that they would like to donate towards the planting up of the Parish Meadows, please let me know. Or indeed, if you would like to help or assist in any way with the planting, extra pairs of hands are always welcome. The Parish Council is applying to South Gloucestershire Council for an environmental grant to help offset some of our expenditure. Potentially we could receive back some 80% of the cost for the works but we need to demonstrate that this project has involved the community in some way.

During the recent snow, it was a pleasure to see so many people using the Parish Meadow. However, it was extremely disappointing to discover (when rolling the snow to make snowmen) that there are still dog owners who refuse to clear up after their pets. It is bad enough when children get dog mess on their shoes but the distress caused when they get the stuff on their hands is far greater and poses a much higher health risk. Please, please remember to clear up after your dog - there is a bin in the Parish Meadow, please use it!

On the subject of dog mess, it is apparent that despite the installation of a dog bin by the footpath at the Wotton Road traffic light some dog owners are still allowing their dogs to foul the footpath. I have been in touch with the Dog Warden, who will monitor the situation.

Play Area:- I was recently asked to complete a questionnaire from South Gloucestershire Council in connection with 'Playfinder' funding. This is a new central government initiative that plans to expand play facilities for older children (10-15 years). As Iron Acton already has a play area specifically for toddlers through to children of 11 years the Parish Council is hopeful that we will be able to tap into this grant fund and provide some sort of activity frame or equipment for the growing population of younger teenagers in the parish. If any of our younger parishioners have any ideas of what they would like to see in the Parish Meadow please send me an email, a text or pop an old fashioned note through my door!

Hoover's Lane Pumping Station:- Planning permission has been granted by South Gloucestershire Council for a new pumping station situated in Hoover's Lane (the field by the ford, opposite Iron Acton Forge). This pumping station will help alleviate any flooding potential during periods of excessive rain. The applicant, Wessex Water, will be enhancing the planting of the hedge to the front and side of the field, which will help to absorb any noise. Wessex Water has assured South Gloucestershire Council and the Parish Council that the noise level of the pumping station will be the same as that of an idling lorry. The pumping station will only be switched on when required (during periods of excessive rain), and tested once a week for an hour.

Did you Know? From 10 January 2009 you have been able to book an appointment on line to register a birth, death, or give notice for marriage or civil partnership. Visit www.southglos.gov.uk/registration and use the link provided on the birth, death, marriage or civil partnership pages. To give a notice of marriage or civil partnership you must be resident in South Gloucestershire. Further information can be obtained from South Gloucestershire Register Office, Poole Court, Poole Court Drive, Yate, BS37 5P, tel 01454 863140, or email registrationservice@southglos.gov.uk.

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

Paula Evans / Clerk / 228029

HORTICULTURAL SHOW 2009

The Horticultural Show will be held on Saturday, September 2009 in the Parish Hall. Your support last year was first-rate, so let's hope we can match the number of entries and even possibly exceed them!

Detailed below is the list of vegetables and fruit classes for the General Section, to give you head-start and 'food' for thought.

- | | | | |
|----|---|----|---------------------|
| 1 | Collection of Vegetables | 25 | 4 Apples (dessert) |
| 2 | Collection of Salads | 26 | 4 Apples (culinary) |
| 3 | Collection of Fruits | 27 | 4 Pears (dessert) |
| 4 | Collection of Gourds, Squash & Pumpkins | 28 | 4 Plums (dessert) |
| 5 | 4 Potatoes (any 1 variety) | 29 | 4 Plums (culinary) |
| 6 | 3 Carrots (long) | 25 | 4 Apples (dessert) |
| 7 | 3 Carrots (short) | 26 | 4 Apples (culinary) |
| 8 | 3 Onions (from seed, trimmed) | 27 | 4 Pears (dessert) |
| 9 | 3 Onions (from sets, trimmed) | | |
| 10 | 6 Shallots | | |
| 11 | 6 Runner Beans | | |
| 12 | 6 French Beans | | |
| 13 | The Longest Runner Bean | | |
| 14 | 2 Peppers | | |
| 15 | 2 Cabbages (any 1 variety) | | |
| 16 | 2 Marrows | | |
| 17 | Heaviest Marrow | | |
| 18 | 3 Courgettes | | |
| 19 | 2 Cucumbers (frame or greenhouse) | | |
| 20 | 6 Cherry Tomatoes (on the vine) | | |
| 21 | 6 Tomatoes | | |
| 22 | 3 Parsnips | | |
| 23 | 3 Beetroot | | |
| 24 | 3 Blanch Leeks | | |

A full schedule will be in the summer edition.

If anyone has any queries or questions, or would indeed like to lend a helping hand, the ladies of the Horticultural Committee would be delighted to welcome you.

Paula Evans / 228029



WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

The start of a new year is always a time to reflect on the previous one and 2008 proved to be very positive for the WI. At the AGM in November existing committee members were happy to continue for another year and were duly elected. Stella, our Secretary, gave a resume of what had occurred during the year and it was surprising to hear how much had been achieved. As well as a varied range of speakers we also went on a much enjoyed boat trip.

Away from the regular meetings our ladies arranged additional fund-raising walks and a donation was made to St Peter's Hospice and 68 baby bonnets have also been knitted for the Special Care Baby Unit.

Most of us were able to attend the November birthday party at the Swan at Tytherington - where we enjoyed a good game of skittles and a meal in a basket. The evening also doubled as an aerobic workout for some as those skittles certainly took a pounding and needed continual resetting!

December was party time and the committee provided a variety of food and mulled wine. There was a competition to make a Christmas table decoration and, with festive music playing in the background and the fun of guessing what might be in some of the Secret Santa packages, the year's meetings ended on a happy and companionable note. Our stall at the Victorian Evening was very successful and all the Christmas decorations made in the weeks preceding the event were sold.

We welcomed another new member to our first meeting of 2009. Unfortunately, the booked speaker was unable to attend so it fell upon one of our members to step into the breach. Yvonne very kindly agreed to tell us about her interest in bookmarks and she gave us a potted history of some of the earliest examples through to their increased use and popularity during the twentieth century. She brought along some of her personal family bookmarks, some dating back 70 years or so, and all her craft materials as well, allowing the rest of us to have a go at making our own. Who knows, just maybe some of these will reappear much later in this century?

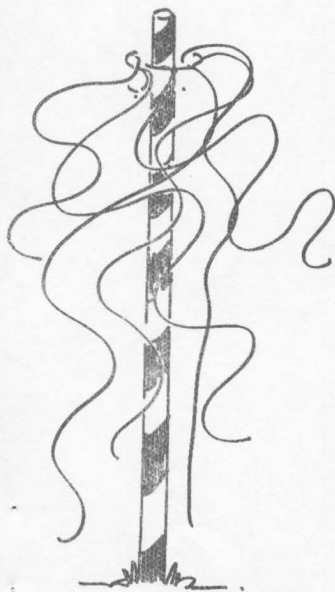
There is a varied programme arranged for our meetings this year and forthcoming topics include a talk on family history, creating cards and pets as therapy. There will also be a few more of the competitions to challenge members' creativity that proved so popular last year. We will be running a stall on May Day and details of our 90th birthday party in November have already been discussed so 2009 is shaping up to be busy and exciting.

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, on 228417.

Sylvie Powell



FRIENDS OF IRON ACTON SCHOOL



Hopefully by the time you read this spring will be well and truly in the air after such a cold winter. However I think all the children and most of the parents appreciated the chance to experience the thrills of real snow again. I bet there are some brilliant snow photos out there!

Fortunately the snow stayed away for our Valentines Disco in February - which was well supported and a great fun evening for all the children. A huge thank you to the willing volunteers who quietly went about setting up the hall, arranging refreshments and selling tickets. Without their efforts no fund-raising could take place, which is vital in our little school.

As May Day approaches the children will have been practising hard for their spotlight under the Maypole and the school will have also helped towards making the day a success, both by their stall and 3 very gallant volunteers who sit on the May Day Committee. This has involved meetings and helping organise the whole day itself. We are really grateful to Hayley, Sheila and Fiona for representing us and, hopefully, as a consequence, securing the school a nice pot of money.

Our thoughts will now turn to our annual Summer Fayre and Leavers Disco for the Year 6 children.

We welcome all parents to come to our meetings and to get involved as little or as much as they like - every little helps. Happy May Day to all, let's hope the sun shines!

Lisa Hatherall

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

You will be pleased to hear that Neighbourhood Watch in Iron Acton has now got off the ground and is working well keeping members informed of crime alerts so that they can help prevent crime affecting us in our community. Our next step is to provide the village with new signs, members with security pens/stickers and arrange a meeting whereby a Crime Reduction Officer from our local station will attend.



At the last Annual Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators Meeting that we attended, which was chaired by the Chief Superintendent from the South Gloucestershire Police District, it was evident that crime prevention measures are taken into account in building, planning and development and that crimes per year comparing 06/07 with 08/09 had reduced by 676. In addition to looking for volunteers to help with speedwatch, car crime, community safety and community team support there is also the Ride Along Scheme whereby you can go on the beat with a Neighbourhood Watch team and patrol with a response team.

The main message however was that criminals were less likely to commit crime in an active Neighbourhood Watch area because they were more likely to be seen and reported. If you are interested in becoming a member of the scheme we can be contacted on the number below.

Bridget Thompson and Carole Dickson / NW Co-ordinators / 227354

Iron Acton Parish Council

Annual Parish Meeting

Friday, 8 May 2009

8.00 pm

North Road School Hall

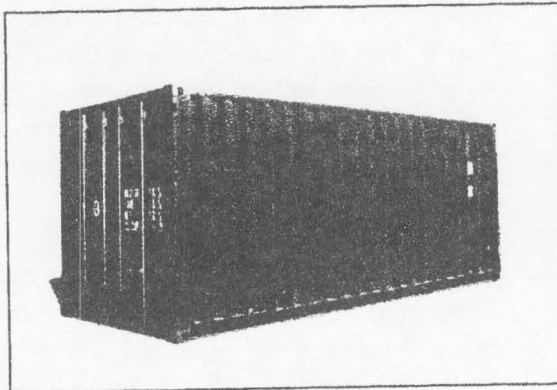
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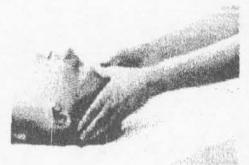
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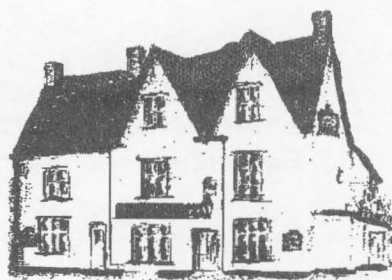


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