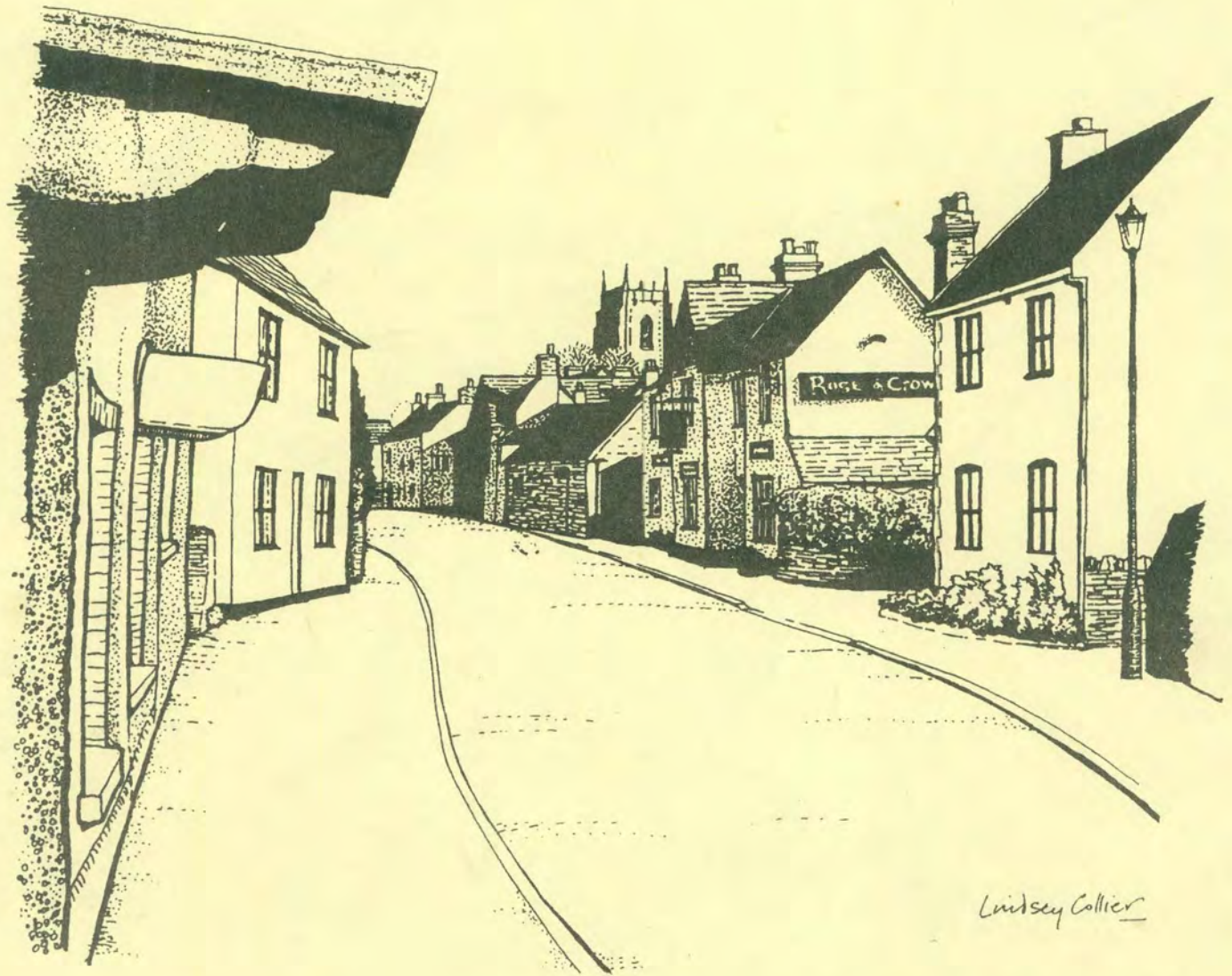


FOCAL POYNTZ



Lindsey Collier

A MAGAZINE FOR IRON ACTON



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FOCAL POYNTZ INFORMATION

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Sue Shepherd
The Smith Family
Stella Taylor
The Walters Family
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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 beautiful cover was created by Lindsey Collier. It graced the front of our magazine a few years ago now and we thought it deserved a further outing

SUMMER

ISSUE NO 80

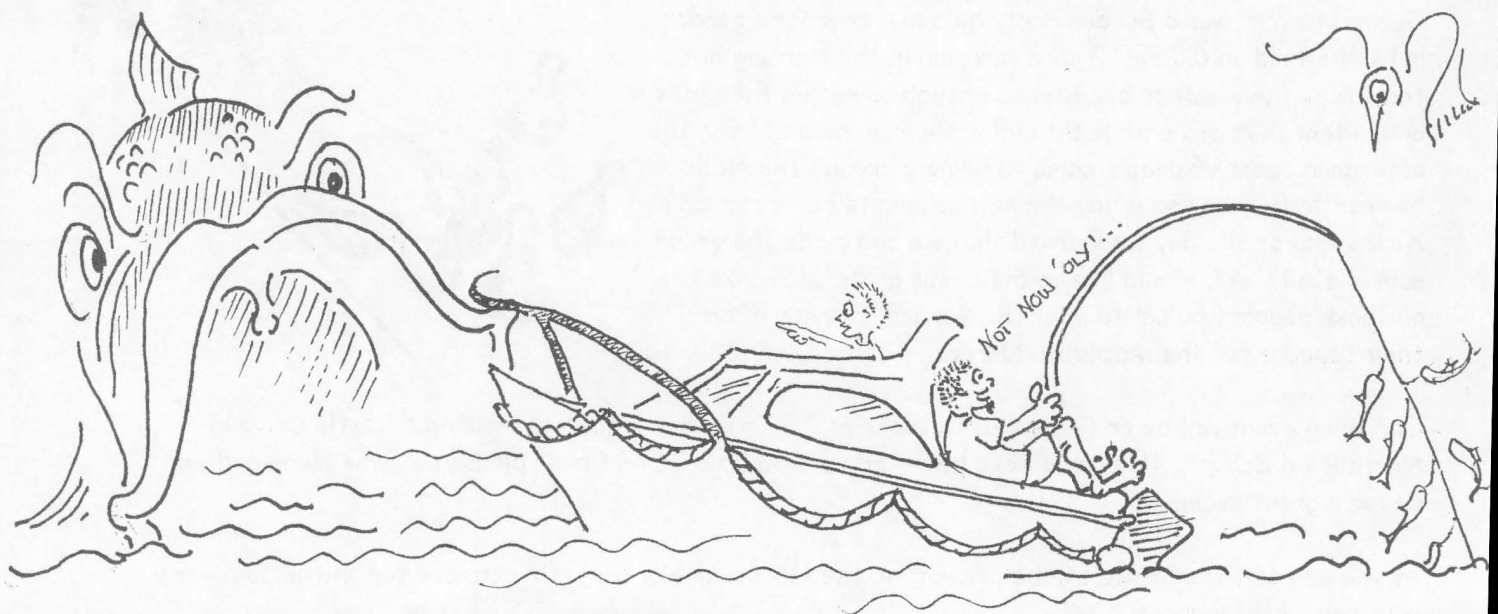
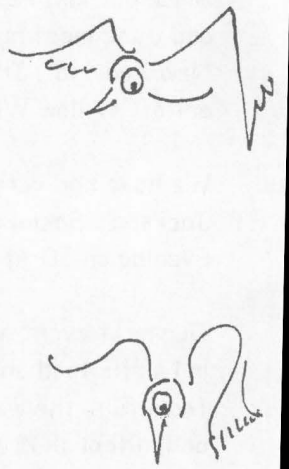


Welcome to the Summer 2009 edition of our magazine.

A sincere apology that this is arriving through your letterbox later than is usual and later than we had hoped - illnesses have not respected our need to produce our magazine at the end of July.

As the Ashes Series draws to an incredibly close finale and the media ponders how many world records Usain Bolt will smash, we hope that everyone enjoys a very special Summer.

We will be back to our normal delivery schedule with the Winter Edition.





HORTICULTURAL SHOW - SATURDAY 5 SEPTEMBER 2009

Last year we all seemed to be complaining about the wet weather and plants rotting in the ground. This year it appears the weather systems have relented and provided gardeners with some lovely warm growing weather, although 30°C at the end of June was a bit much!

As you read this article, all the hard work of vegetable gardening will be bearing fruit! There is nothing quite like the taste of the first freshly picked and cooked runner and broad beans, knowing that you grew it and put all that hard work and nurturing.

If anyone has any queries on how to exhibit any entries, or what the judges are looking for, please feel free to contact me. I have in my possession the Horticultural Show guidelines that detail everything from dressing your onions to making sure your Victoria Sponge is presented properly!

We are pleased to announce an additional photography class entitled 'Iron Acton through the Seasons'. This is a competition we have been asked to host by the Victorian Committee for their 2010 Calendar. As it suggests, the competition is to find 12 pictures that best illustrate the parish of Iron Acton throughout the year. (The winners will need to give their permission for the photographs to be reproduced in the calendar).

As always, if you have any queries, questions or suggestions, please let one of the Committee members know.

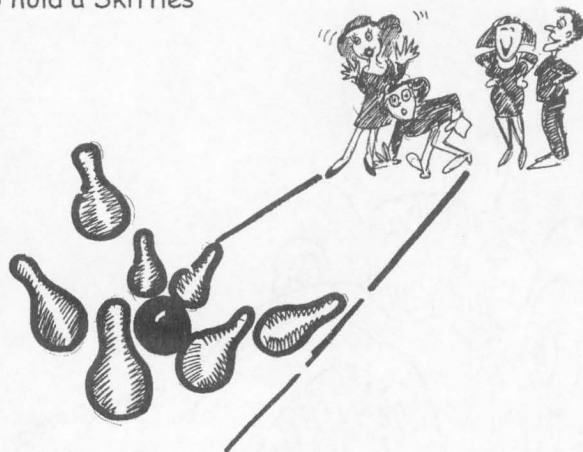
Paula Evans / 228029

NORTH ROAD LADIES CLUB

Since our last report in the spring edition we have enjoyed many social occasions. At our April, May and June meetings the speakers were Mr D Packham who gave a talk and slides on "Travel through New Zealand", Jill Pollock spoke about the "Merits of Aloe Vera" and Norah Kennedy showed us the art of "Willow Weaving" and produced a lovely basket for the raffle.

We have had very successful fund-raising events in aid of the Macmillan Nurses. Jackson's Social Club kindly allowed us to use their premises to hold a Skittles Evening on 30 April. This was a great evening and raised £380.

Our next event was a Garden Party held in a member's garden in North Road on 6 June. There was rain in the morning but thankfully the weather brightened enough to set up the stalls and, although it was a little bit chilly, the rain held off for the afternoon. Lots of people came to browse around the stalls, buy raffle tickets and enjoy the refreshments being served. At the end of the day we learned that we had made the grand sum of £637. We would like to offer our grateful thanks to all those people who called in at the Garden Party to offer their support for the Macmillan Nurses.



Our third event will be on Friday, 16 October at 7.30 pm when we will be holding a Beetle Drive in North Road School. This can always be relied upon to be a lot of fun so please do come along and join us for a great evening.

At the end of the year we will be presenting the Macmillan Nurses with a cheque for the amount we have raised throughout 2009.

Our annual evening trip this year is scheduled for Monday, 6 July when we will be boarding the John Rennie narrowboat to cruise from Sydney Wharf to Claverton - by the time you read this we will know if the lovely hot weather we are hoping for on this date has materialised!

Our programme for the remainder of 2009 is as follows:

Monday 7 September	Bernard Tapp will be giving one of his Travel Presentations
Monday 5 September	"Missing, Presumed Emigrated" by Shirley Hodgson
Monday 2 November	Our Birthday Party - venue to be decided
Monday 7 December	AGM, American Supper and Social Evening.

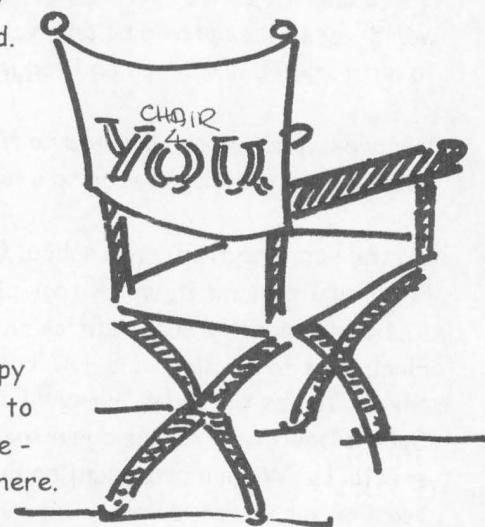
Our meetings are held on the first Monday of the month during the school term in North Road Primary School commencing at 7.30 pm. We are always happy to welcome visitors to any of our meetings.

June Rycroft / Secretary

FRIENDS OF IRON ACTON SCHOOL

As I write this we are sweltering in 30 degrees heat and it seems a long time since a rather cold and wet May Day. However, despite the weather, the day was a great success for all the organisations involved and once again the children's hard work practising their maypole dancing paid off. Despite the tricky conditions they put on a great display of this lovely, traditional custom. Our thanks to Chris and Shelia for their work preparing the children. Thanks also to all the volunteers who manned our stalls. We opted for more traditional pursuits this year - a coconut shy and skittle alley - both of which proved popular with the May Day crowd.

The AGM was held in May when a new committee was formed. We are still short of a Vice Chair and also someone to "shadow" and then take over from our current Treasurer who will be leaving the role this year. Without these vital officer roles we will be unable to form a full committee - which, as a registered charity, we are legally obliged to do. So, if there is any parent out there who feels they could help we would be extremely grateful to hear from them. Please contact our Chair, Pippa Cook, or Secretary, Caroline Haselhan, and we will be only too happy to give you more details! To any other parents who feel they would like to become more involved with the Friends - as little or as much as they like - we welcome all parents to our meetings. It would be lovely to see you there.



One of our big fund-raisers of the school year is the Summer Fair. For the first time in several years the weather was kind to us and we were able to hold the event entirely outside - on the school field, which gave it a real summer fete feel! Thanks to the many people who helped make the evening such a success, particularly to Pippa Cook for all her hard work and to all the parents and children who helped run the many stalls. We raised a magnificent £600.

We are now fast approaching the end of the school year when we shall say farewell to our Year 6 pupils. We will be holding a School Prom which we hope will be a great fun evening for all the children and then at our end of school year church service we will say our final goodbyes. We wish them all the very best in their new schools. Good luck to you all!

When the rest of us return to school in September (together with our new Reception pupils) our thoughts will turn to winter wellie walks and Christmas fayres But all of that is still a long way off for now let's enjoy the sunshine and keep our fingers crossed for the long awaited barbeque summer!

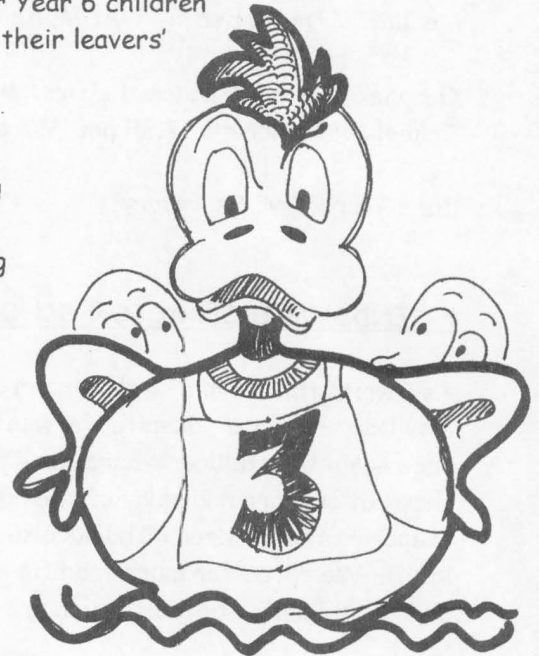
Caroline Haselhan / Secretary

NORTH ROAD SCHOOL

It was lovely to see the Year 6 children having the most amazing time on their week long residential to the PGL Adventure and Study Centre at Harton Hall in Torquay following all their hard work and preparation for their SATS tests. Torquay, once again, lived up to its reputation as the English Riviera; with glorious sunshine every single day. Along with children from Iron Acton and Rangeworthy Schools, they thoroughly enjoyed the challenges of the many activities on the itinerary; including archery, abseiling, quad-biking, canoeing, raft-building, climbing, mountain biking and the giant swing. The final evening disco was possibly the social highlight of the entire week! Our Year 6 children are now looking forward to their 2 transition days at senior school, to their leavers' prom night and to organising another "North Road's Got Talent" event.

The Friends of the School have been very busy lately. Our latest fund-raising event was the duck race, where the children loved fishing the ducks out from the local stream. The Friends fully funded our new playground traversing climbing wall (together with an eye-catching mural backdrop), new playground picnic benches and new netball nets. The Friends' sweet stall at the May Day Fayre proved to be a very popular attraction! Their next project will be to buy new cooking facilities for school and to refurbish and restock our library.

Our relatively new Parents' Forum is proving to be a successful platform in which to discuss a whole range of both school related issues and the contemporary hot topics of the wider educational world - as well as providing an invaluable opportunity for parents to put forward new ideas and suggestions.



We are expecting our parents to turn out in force for our Tea Party in the Playground on 10 July, when the children will be showcasing a host of talents; including dance, singing and drama to name but a few.

On the sporting front, the school football team qualified through to the final of the Small Schools Football Tournament, which took place at Tortworth School, after winning all 5 of their league matches but our penalty curse struck once again, for the second year running, after reaching a stalemate in the Final. The footballers are now looking forward to their last match of the season, against Iron Acton, at the St James the Less Summer Fair. We fielded a basketball team at the Spring Festival of Youth Sports Day - where once again the St George's themed Opening Ceremony Parade was quite a colourful spectacle. We are representing France, in the Summer Festival of Youth Sports Day, at YOSC, where a team of our infant children will represent school in the tennis event.

It has proved to be really fruitful to strengthen the links within our small schools network. We have recently hosted 90 children from 9 small schools for another Year 3 Maths Fun Day - which hopefully converted any children with an aversion to mathematics. A group of our gifted and talented poets attended a poetry day, hosted at Iron Acton School and our Year 5 children enjoyed the orienteering day. Our younger country dancers were excited to have taken part in the Festival of Dance Day at Tortworth School and we have another Joint Schools Parliament Day coming up soon.

It has been nice to see the parents coming into school to lunch with their child and, from September, we aim to extend this invitation to local pensioners, which the children will thoroughly enjoy. Mrs Ponting, our school cook, continues to make the most delicious school lunches and we all enjoyed an international themed week.

The children have all now been placed into new "Houses". These have been named after local historical figures: Brunel, Jenner, Tyndale and Cabot and they are all looking forward to competing for their House at sports day, when the new House Cup will be presented to the winning House.

We have just bought a new cup, which we have named the "Mugford Cup" in memory of Chris Mugford, our school secretary, who sadly died last year and who was a talented dancer in her youth. This will be presented to our most improved young dancer at our Leavers' Service - which is now looming even closer, as another busy and rewarding academic year draws to a close.

Mark Handley / HeadTeacher

ACTON AID

The Chairman's Dinner in March was a great success. Our Chairman, Peter Huish, handed over the reins to the new Chairman, Ashley Mee. The Vice-Chairman for the forthcoming year is Jon Aries, with Patrick Murphy and Peter Foot continuing in their respective roles as Treasurer and Secretary.

For those who attended, we are sure that you all enjoyed the annual proms concert which took place on 27 June 2009. Acton Aid thought long and hard about whether to hold the proms in 2009 with some saying that there should be a year off, but with record numbers and record temperatures many say that this year's proms concert was the best yet. It was a lovely, warm summer evening with no need for blankets and coats like last year! The theme "A Night at the Movies" was well received with the orchestra playing well known movie themes, as well as the traditional prom songs in the second half to a wonderful firework display. Once again we enjoyed the professional singing voice of the tenor, Richard Allen. Parishioners also helped with singing and dancing. The stage was flanked with 4 huge gold Oscar statues and there was even a red carpet.

At half time a collection was taking in aid of the Breast Care Unit Support Trust (BUST) based at Frenchay Hospital and a staggering £1,800 was collected. Thank you to all who gave generously.

At the time of writing discussions are currently taking place as to whether this event should be staged again in 2010 - watch this space!

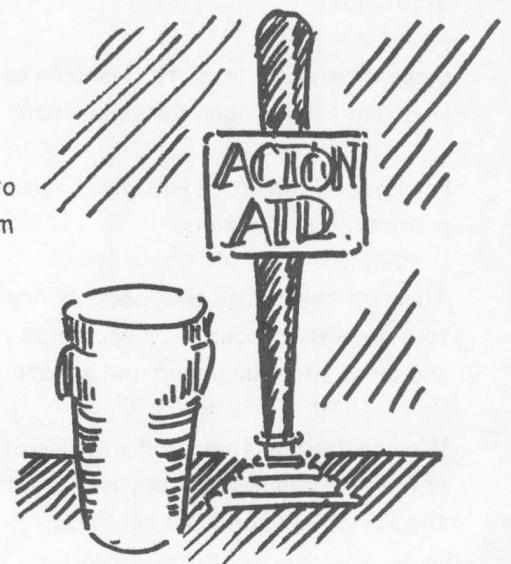
Acton Aid is planning a talk on Iron Acton/Acton Court by a local historian on a date towards the middle/end of September. Please keep an eye out for posters around the village advertising this event.

The second cultural visit abroad is booked for 11-14 October 2009 and Acton Aid will be represented by 7 brave members who have no idea where they are going. This year the destination is a mystery but all will be revealed in time for the winter edition of Focal Poyntz.

Acton Aid continues to support the parish in any way it can. Not only does it seek to enhance the social life of parishioners but it is also happy to financially support good causes. We have recently donated to help Iron Acton School and their robots project. If readers are aware of any parishioners who would benefit from the financial support of Acton Aid they are welcome to contact, in confidence, our Chairman (Ashley Mee on 228540) or our Secretary (Peter Foote on 228674).

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. Fund raising events and the distribution of resources are discussed and planned over a pint or two.

Peter Foote / Secretary (228674)



IRON ACTON CRICKET CLUB

Before I start my report I hear that in the editorial of the last edition of Focal Poyntz my reports were described as "quirky" quite what my quicket reports have to do with a type of keyboard layout is very questionable!

The scandal of club members' expenses has been completely overshadowed this year by the standard of cricket on the field of play. We have played 9 games so far and have won 4 matches in total; including 3 out of the last 4. This may not sound a lot but, believe me, the last time we did this well the Tories were in power!

With a squad of only about 15 players (we used to have about 40 on the books and it was still difficult) we have only occasionally struggled to find a team. It was therefore pleasing when a couple of new members joined the team in a recent match against Coaley. It was also pleasing that one of them significantly reduced the average age of the team. A special mention must be made of both their contributions to a glorious victory that night and especially the tight bowling in the last over.

With all these recent victories, morale is very high at the moment - as witnessed by the mass of white that descends on the Lamb Inn on a Wednesday evening. Sadly there are only 5 more fixtures left to play this season though, when a local team asked if we'd be interested in a Sunday fixture, within 3 hours of sending out an e-mail I had received 8 replies; so we might just squeeze a couple more in!

Last year's winter indoor league was, perhaps predictably, again won by Tortworth but, on our current form, we've high hopes for the next year!

Chris Bradley / Chairman (228559)

IRON ACTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

I know I say it every year - but I really can't believe another year is nearly over. Year 6 had glorious sunshine for their residential visit with North Road and Rangeworthy and had a fantastic week. They have just returned from 2 days at secondary school and seem to have grown up already - we will miss them all.

The new Reception children have already visited school and we look forward to seeing them all in September.

Class 2 recently went to Caerleon as part of their Roman topic and the whole school is looking forward to a trip to St Fagan's Museum near Cardiff.

Pat Lacey from Yate History Society has visited school to talk to different classes about homes in the past and local Romans.

Through the Sough Gloucestershire Festival of Sport our 4 and 5 year old pupils played a football tournament and our 9-10 year olds entered the athletic festival. They all took part with great enthusiasm and good sportsmanship and we are very proud of them.

We continue to take part in a variety of joint projects organised with other local small schools; including the dance day, poetry day and a pottery day. Over 100 9 and 10 year olds enjoyed an orienteering day in the Parish Hall and School Field.

The Growing Club goes from strength to strength. This year we have benefited from 3 raised beds and a greenhouse which has allowed us to grow a wider variety of produce. The pupils have already harvested and tasted home grown potatoes and lettuces.

Following my plea for pond experts in the last edition of Focal Poyntz, I am now delighted to say a very knowledgeable parent has offered her services. She has already talked to staff and will be working with groups of pupils in September to really make the best possible use out of this wonderful resource. She is part of a very enthusiastic working party that has ambitious plans to develop the outdoor learning environment.

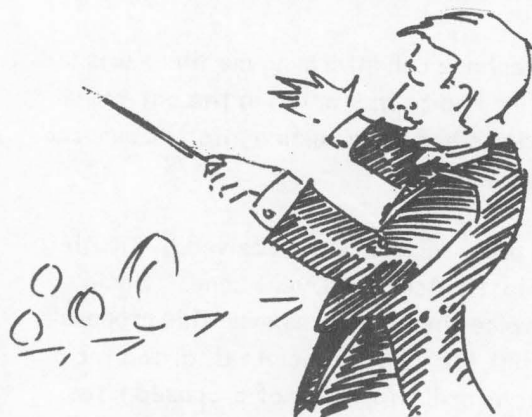


I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone in the village for their help and support for another year.

Jill Bendeaux / Head Teacher

IRON ACTON POPPY APPEAL

This will be my first year as the Poppy Appeal Organiser but I am confident, that with the help of the residents of Iron Acton and the surrounding area, that it will continue to be a success. Although November is still some way off the ordering of poppies, crosses and wreaths has already begun.



There is also the concert (mentioned in the last issue of Focal Poyntz) to be staged at Chipping Sodbury Town Hall on Saturday, 28 November at 7.30 pm.

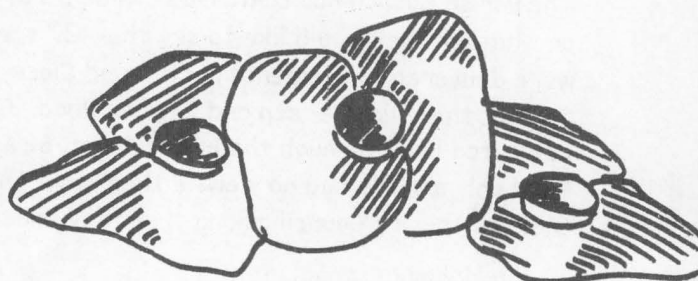
It has been quite a challenge to organise but the response from local councils and businesses has been fantastic and I have, to date, received donations towards the cost of staging the concert from Chipping Sodbury Town Council, Westerleigh Parish Council and Hanson Quarries.

The concert will feature the Bristol Millennium Orchestra (who so ably performed at the Proms in the Meadow) and they will be joined by the Chipping Sodbury School Choir. The concert will be opened by Steve Webb MP. There will also be a raffle held during the course of the evening.

Posters and fliers will be appearing nearer to the date of the concert with details of how to obtain tickets. Tickets will go on sale at the beginning of October. Our hope is that people will feel able to support this event in order to boost the amount raised in aid of the Poppy Appeal 2009.

I would genuinely welcome any offers of help on the night of the concert and I can either be contacted by telephone on 01454 311544 or by e-mail on don.sueg@blueyonder.co.uk

Sue Greenwell / Poppy Appeal Organiser (311544)



PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

Annual Parish Meeting:- The Annual Parish Meeting was held on Friday 8 May 2009 at North Road School. Unfortunately this was very poorly attended with only 2 parishioners present. The Chairman reported on the Parish Council's activities over the past 12 months. The Annual Accounts for 2008/2009 were presented and approved. The Parish Council was thanked for their 'frugal' management of parish funds.

Parish Meadows, Play Area:- I am extremely saddened to report that on 3 April a deposit of human excrement was discovered in the little house underneath the slide. This meant the play area had to be closed overnight for South Gloucestershire Council Emergency Cleansing people to attend to thoroughly disinfect this piece of equipment. The incident was also reported to the Police. Someone also thought it would be a good idea to remove the nuts from the bolts holding the slide together. All of this vandalism costs money to repair and make good, which is paid for by the Parish Council out of parish funds.

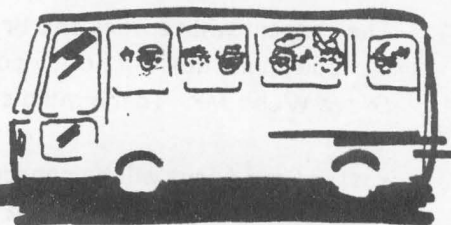
Vandalism & Anti-Social Behaviour:- The Parish Council had received numerous complaints regarding vandalism and anti-social behaviour. A small group of children was causing a nuisance by playing 'Knock Knock Ginger' on doors in the High Street. I actually witnessed this group of children knocking on one of the houses and running away to hide behind the Parish Hall. The children were confronted and told to stop this silly game. This was not the first time they had been confronted. Further a number of cars parked on the High Street were scratched, and their wing mirrors broken.

Following these incidents I met with our new Beat Officer, PC Ian Matthews, to discuss what could be done to try and alleviate the recent spell of vandalism and anti-social behaviour. PC Matthews suggested the Police erect a couple of signs stating that anti-social behaviour was being monitored (the big yellow signs you saw, one by the Church and one by the Parish Hall). I know some residents objected to these signs being in place but I believe the signs helped as I have had no further reports of vandalism or anti-social behaviour within the village.

Chilwood Woodlands:- On the evening of 26 May I received a telephone call informing me there was a fire in Chilwood. I visited the area and discovered that a camp fire had been started in the bottom part of the woodland. Unfortunately the logs that had been used to sit on had been pushed into the fire and were smouldering. The embers were extinguished by kicking soil over it.

Gypsy & Traveller Site:- As you will all have read in the press, a proposal had been received by South Gloucestershire Council to consider a Gypsy & Traveller pitch at Little Acres on Dyers Lane. Some 12 residents attended the Parish Council meeting on 15 June to voice their concerns over this proposal. However, shortly after this meeting, notification was received that the land had been withdrawn from consideration. Although not in our Parish, the Tanhouse Lane site is still on the list of proposed sites.

X27 Bus Service:- South Gloucestershire Council has informed the Parish Council they are distributing questionnaires (via the Royal Mail) to all residents of the parish regarding the X27 Bus Service. If you complete this questionnaire and return it to South Gloucestershire you will be entitled to a free ticket. If you have not received such a questionnaire, you can download a copy of it from the South Gloucestershire web site (www.southglos.gov.uk/x27 and follow the links). If you do not have access to a computer the Clerk has copies of this questionnaire.



The Parish Council has canvassed residents of the High Street and surrounding roads to ask their views on whether they would like to see the X27 service back through the High Street. 180 questionnaires were delivered to residents in Chilwood Close, Algars Drive, Nibley Lane, Holly Hill, High Street, Park Street, the Village Green and Station Road. Of the 53 responses received 72% wanted to see the X27 re-routed back through the High Street, 62% wanted to see a connection to continuing along Station Road only and 8% had no views either way. Therefore the Parish Council has written to South Gloucestershire Council asking that they undertake a Traffic Management review of the High Street.

Footpaths & Rights of Way:- We are extremely lucky to have a considerable network of footpaths that criss-cross the Parish and a great many people enjoy walking these routes. The Parish Council would like to remind all landowners who have footpaths/rights of way across their land that it is their responsibility to ensure that overhanging vegetation, including hedges and branches are cut back and keep all rights of way free from obstruction including barbed wire, locked gates and machinery. Temporary electric fencing must be insulated with piping or have a safe handle and hook. Landowners are also responsible for ensuring they comply with regulations relating to reinstatement of paths after ploughing and not allow any crop (other than grass) to grow on a right of way.

Age Concern 'Stepping Out' Campaign:- Age Concern would like to inform you of their new nail cutting service for the over 50's. Age Concern has been aware for some time of the need for an accessible nail cutting service for older people. Following a national campaign it became evident that older people are not served well by the Health Service. Age Concern South Gloucestershire has taken the decision to start their own nail cutting service, called 'Stepping Out'. They have been offered the services of a qualified practitioner who will run nail cutting clinics at various venues. The Parish Council has suggested the Marshall Rooms as a possible venue. Treatment is by appointment only and clients will need to ring 01454 858750 to book an appointment. Currently, the charge for this service is £10 per visit to cover costs.

And Finally:- The Parish Council has been busy developing a dedicated Parish Council Web site - ironactonparishcouncil.com. This is in the process of being populated and tested to check for any little bugs or problems. Fingers crossed, it should be up and running by the end of August.

As always, if you have any issues relating to parish matters please contact one of your councillors or the Clerk.

Paula Evans / Clerk / 228029

GET OUT IN THE FRESH AIR, MAKE NEW FRIENDS AND GET FIT!

Who are we?

South Gloucestershire Council's Walking to Health project has been running for 6 years and covers: Kingswood, Yate, Filton, Patchway, the Stokes, Thornbury and many rural areas as well!



What do we offer?

A *low risk, low impact* activity, available to people of all ages and abilities. Our led health walks range from *0.5miles* to *4miles* across the district including local parks, green and open spaces. We also provide *buggy walks* for parents with young children.

Volunteers Wanted!!!

We are always looking for fun, friendly and sociable people to become a volunteer walk leader, which involves guiding the walkers around a pre-described route. (Full training is provided). If you have some spare free time and this sounds like something you would like to do then please contact us.

Find out more!

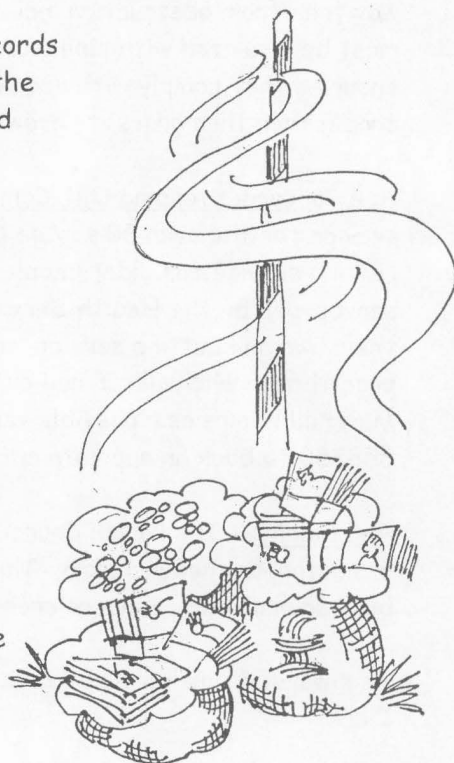
For more info, or to receive a free copy of our walk programme call **01454 868006** or email us at foodandhealth@southglos.gov.uk. The programme and newsletter can be downloaded from www.southglos.gov.uk/walkingtohealth.

IRON ACTON MAY DAY CELEBRATIONS

What? May Day? Shouldn't we be thinking about the Horticultural Show at the beginning of September?

Well, at the time of writing, we've just had the "hottest June since records began" and fresh in my mind is the fantastic May Day we had (despite the chilly and occasionally "moist" weather). - This year the event benefited from a much more open and "together" layout, with the railway running down Park Street towards the Art Club in the Parish Hall, more car parking spaces along the bypass with well organised marshalling, as well as the regular favourites in terms of stalls and arena attractions and some new items here and there (King Edmunds Gym Club with their circus arts were out of this world!). Add to this good food, good drink and a mix of music and there's every reason to keep a good crowd entertained all day long!

In the face of a much talked about "down-turn" or whatever you want to call it, the day turned out well for all the parish organisations who contributed to the running of May Day and benefit from the profits. We raised over £4,800 - which means that, after using monies carried forward from last year and leaving some to invest in next year, we were able to share out £700 to St James the Less PCC, Iron Acton School, North Road School, Iron Acton Parish Hall, Acton Aid, the Actonians, the WI and the Victorian Evening.



I'd like to thank everyone, both on the committee and not, who helped to make our May Day the great success it was. For next year we are going to start planning earlier and to try to work "smarter not harder". We're always looking for fresh input so, if you'd like to get involved, please join us at the Lamb on Wednesday, 16 September 2009 - note the welcoming venue!

Pete Bellis
(Outgoing!) Chairman

THE NEXT EDITION OF FOCAL POYNTZ

We honestly hope to be back on track with the next edition - which should be distributed around the parish on 21/22 November - both with timing and with full representation from our organisations.

Is there anyone out there who might feel able to produce a front cover for us - we're okay for our Christmas edition but would really like something for next year's summer one it has to be something relevant to the parish and you've got a whole year to put your thinking caps on if we could really get a dream cover it would be something from the North Road side of our parish as we've never had this and it would just be brilliant!

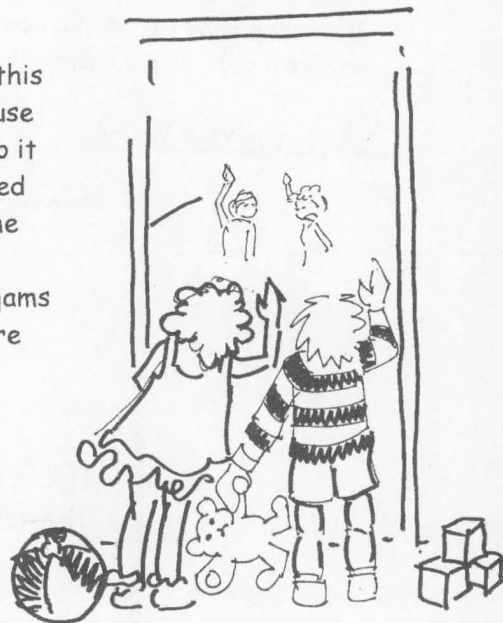
In the same way we've been sadly lacking in the one-off articles on any whimsical or topical subject (it can be humorous or serious) ... again, just get in touch with one of the FP Committee.

ST JAMES THE LESS PARENT AND TODDLER GROUP

With mixed feelings, it is time for many of the mums to move on from the Toddler Group as their children are now getting ready for school (most of the children are really looking forward to this, I'm not so sure about the mums). Among the movers on are Sally and me, having "run" the group for the last few years (I say "run" because we try to work as a co-operative, a method I know the new "leaders" would very much like to reinforce). We would like to thank all the mums who have made this such a nice group to belong to, especially Natalie and Anna who have agreed to take over as leading members so the group can continue next year.

The group is still flourishing and at full capacity in the Marshall Room this term. With the summer sun upon us, the group has been making more use of the outdoor space for sand play, slides and general toddling about so it has not been quite so chaotic indoors. For craft activities, we've planted sunflower seeds and made some lovely summery shakers, as well as some not-so-summery spiders' webs (to which the children added some very scary spiders!). We are all madly putting the finishing touches to the jams and chutneys for the Church Summer Fair in July - perhaps, while you're reading this, you're tucking into a nice cream tea or hot dog with some of our produce!

We have limited capacity in the Marshall Room so, for safety reasons, we run a waiting list for those wishing to join. Places are already filling up fast for the Autumn 2009 term so if you think you might like to join in the future please contact Natalie (227397) or Anna (0780 1101796) for further information.



There are 2 other lovely Toddler and Baby Groups in the area; North Road Toddler Group meets on Thursday afternoons (contact Karen on 227179) and Rangeworthy Baby and Toddler Group meets on Tuesdays from 1-3 pm in Rangeworthy Memorial Hall (contact Emma on 228116).

The St James Group meets on Fridays in term time at 10.30 am in the Marshall Room behind the Church. We start with a craft activity, then 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, choosing the toys, organising the craft and arranging the snacks for children and adults) and to clear away at the end, although we all try to lend a hand to the setters-up each week.

Sally Aries and Mel Tofts

Victorian Evening 2009

Advance notice for your diaries

Saturday, 19 December 2009

4.00 pm to 6.00 pm

Full details in the next edition!



ST JAMES THE LESS CHURCH

Services

Holy Communion Services are held on the 1st, 3rd and 4th Sundays of each month at 9.00 am.

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

Mid-week Holy Communion Service is held every Wednesday at 11.00 am - please come along and be a part of a growing and welcoming congregation in a very relaxed atmosphere.

Dates for Your Diaries

All Age Harvest Service

Sunday, 11 October 2009
10.00 am

This Service will be followed by refreshments and the sale of any produce that has been brought to decorate the church

Everyone Welcome!

Church Christmas Fayre

Saturday, 5 December 2009
2.30 pm

Iron Acton Parish Hall

Everyone Welcome!

Marshall Room

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

Try our new web site for Community News and Events - www.ironactonparish.info.

June Rycroft / PCC Secretary

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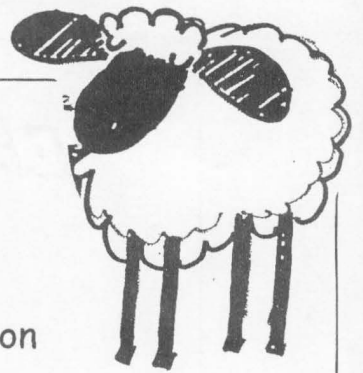
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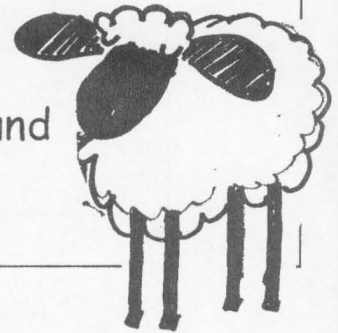
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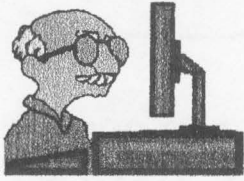
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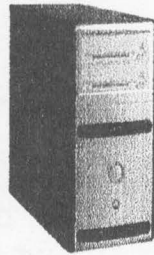
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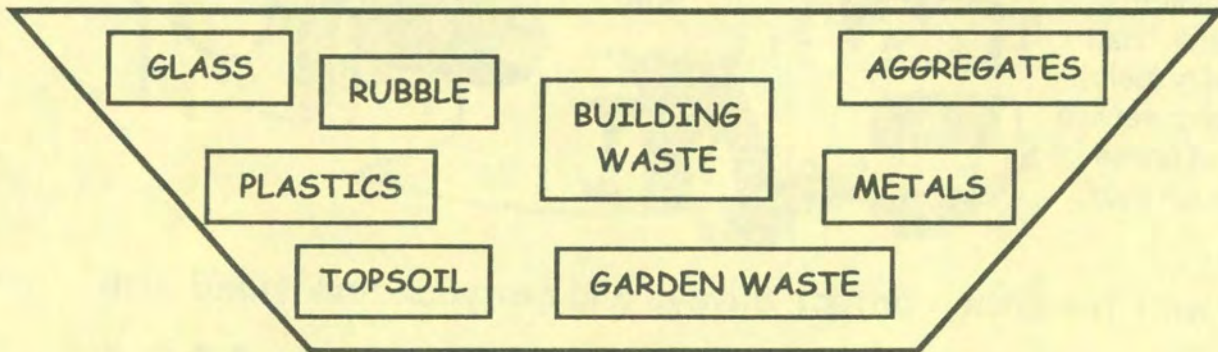
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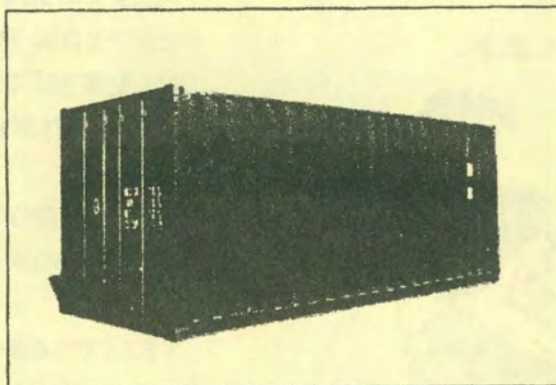
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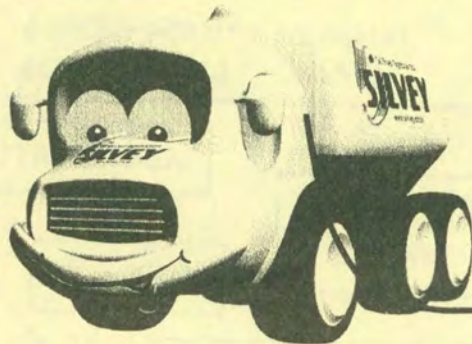
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