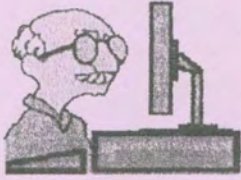


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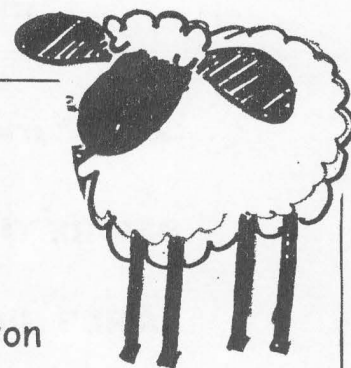
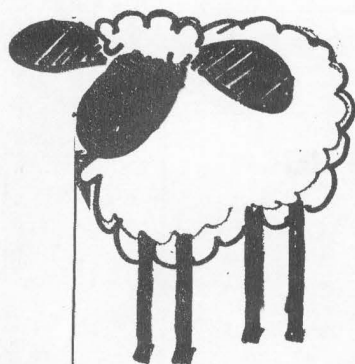
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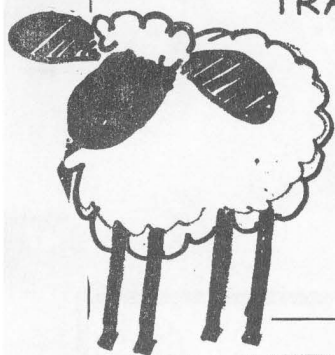
If not, try our locally produced lamb and mutton available in half or wholes, ready to go straight into your freezer.

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# WINTER

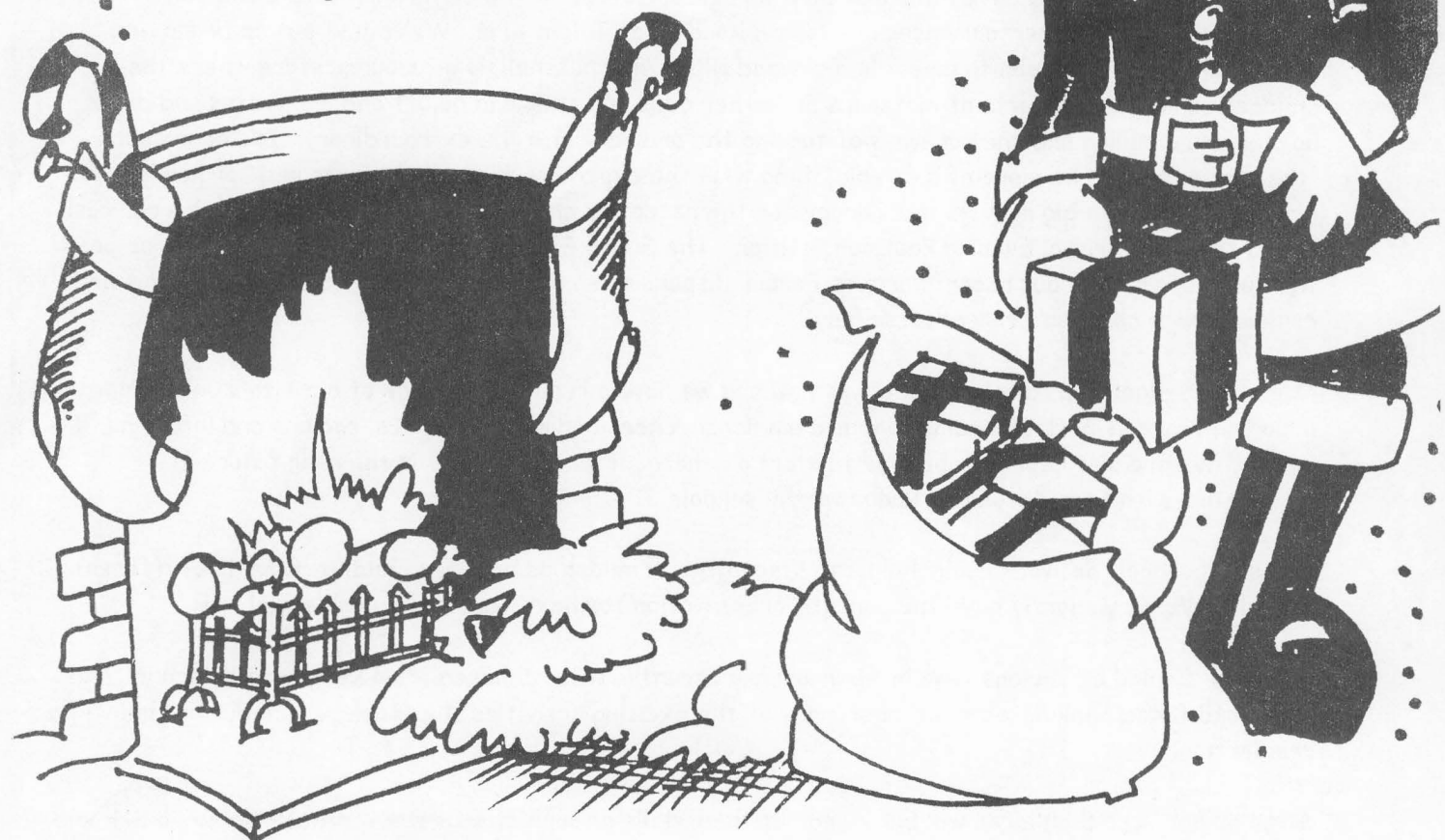
81  
2008

It's surprising (and somewhat alarming) to realise we are rapidly approaching the end of the first decade of the new millennium. Was it really 10 years ago we worried about the effect on all things electrical and computerised as we changed a "19" to a "20"? Time has just flown by.

We are grateful to everyone for their continued support of Focal Poyntz.

We like to think that we still reflect the values and opinions of Iron Acton residents so please, please continue to let us have your contributions so we produce a magazine that appeals to all interests and age groups in our community.

Meanwhile, enjoy this latest issue, support your local fayres and bazaars but, most of all, find happiness in the forthcoming festive season.



## NORTH ROAD SCHOOL

It was great to see the children on the first day back after the summer holidays looking all bright eyed and bushy tailed and with batteries completely recharged. The Year 5's, particularly, couldn't wait to return because they were only back a week before they went off on their 3 day residential visit to Abergavenny, where they enjoyed the most beautiful Indian Summer spell of weather.

We went to Torquay in early August for a week, based on the theory that in the last 4 years that we've taken our Year 6 children there that we had not seen even a single drop of rain but, of course, the heavens opened and the sea mist came in one day. Think I'll stick to the English Riviera in June in the future.

The new academic year is now well under way and we're looking forward to another busy term.



The Friends of the School have already been busy planning their forthcoming schedule of events. The children can start to look forward to our Christmas Fair (which will take place on Friday, 4 December) at 3 pm and the Christmas Family Disco. They have arranged an indoor games evening and also a sponsored splash at the Leisure Centre. This year the Friends are hoping to raise lots of money towards an ambitious project to refurbish and replenish the school library and make it a real focal point of the School Hall.

We have our Harvest Festival to come first, before we even start thinking of the countdown to Christmas. Once again, all the money raised from our harvest sale will go towards helping the villagers of Genieri in the Gambia. As North Road School dates back to the 1850's our log books make fascinating reading, showing just how much time the children of yesteryear took off school at this time of year to gather in the harvest.

We are currently taking part in an outdoor learning and play project and aim to develop the playground to promote creative play. We have just built an outdoor stage on the playground where the children can practise all their mini-performances and North Road's Got Talent acts. We've just put up brand new basketball nets and we aim to invest in a playpod which, in a nutshell, is a resource store where the children can access all sorts of materials and other odds and ends and go off and make dens and dress up and find a million and one fun ways of turning the ordinary into the extraordinary. It's based upon "the empty box can be more of a fun plaything than the expensive present that was in it" principle. We have also erected a big rain shelter canopy for the reception children - which was paid for with our cash award from the Bristol Evening Post competition. The South Gloucestershire Play Adviser has also been the guest speaker at our recent Parents' Forum, dispensing some well researched advice about how we can encourage children's risk adverse play.

Our after school clubs are well underway now and we have a really good range of activities on offer; including football, netball, badminton, modern dance, cheerleading, gymnastics, cooking and infant multi-sports. We are also hoping to be able to start a general after school club in the near future in conjunction with Iron Acton and Rangeworthy schools.

Our small schools network really helps to strengthen friendships between children from the different schools. We very shortly have the parents' presentation for next June's PGL residential visit.

Our Year 5's had a fabulous time in Abergavenny recently, with children from Rangeworthy school, and gorge and tunnel walking were amongst many of the exciting activities they took part in during their 3 day residential.

Some of our Year 5 children will be trying out their skills of sophistry at the forthcoming Small Schools Junior Parliament and North Road has, just this week, hosted the Small Schools Netball Tournament.



Our Reception children have settled in very well and have found their feet remarkably quickly. It's lovely to see the older children playing with them and helping them at lunchtimes and already next year's prospective reception parents are looking around school, whilst our Year 6 parents are looking at their children's prospective senior schools.

We still have the North Road Toddler Group every Thursday afternoon in the School Hall. Please contact the school if you would like to find out more.

We've booked for the Image Musical Participation Theatre Company to visit school and give a performance of the Jungle Book and, soon after, the whole school is going to the Bristol Old Vic Theatre. We'll end the autumn term after the Christmas performances and parties with our "traditional" North Road's Got Talent. One day I'll pick up my guitar again and join the performers instead of playing the role of a nicer Simon Cowell. Ear plugs at the ready!

Mark Handley / Headteacher

### CHRISTMAS VICTORIAN EVENING

Saturday, 19 December - 4 pm to 6 pm

Starting at St James the Less and then moving to the area around the Parish Hall

Special guest ..... Father Christmas ..... Snow guaranteed !

Returning by popular demand for a third year, all parishioners, friends and families are warmly invited to get together to enter the festive spirit.

The event starts with an informal nativity-based service in the Church involving children from both North Road and Iron Acton Schools and a real life donkey!

After the service the action moves along the High Street to the car park of the Parish Hall and the surrounding area, where you can buy some last minute gifts and treats from the craft stalls and enjoy a festive drink and a bite to eat. Musical entertainment will be provided by the Dodington Brass Band, the Church Choir and a Hand-Bell Ringing Ensemble. The younger crowd will enjoy playing in the "snow" and trying their luck on a number of side stalls.

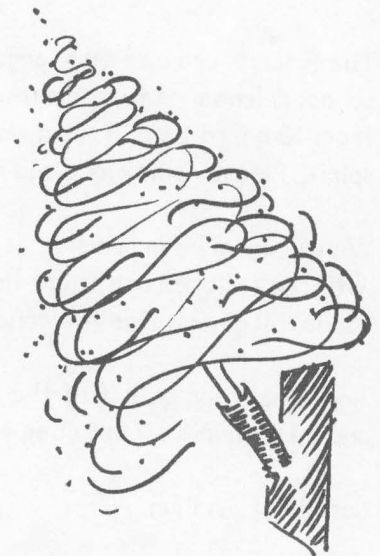
In addition, photos of village scenes submitted for the recent Horticultural Show competition are being used to produce another Iron Acton Calendar for 2010. This will be on sale in the Lamb from mid-November and also available on the Victorian Evening.

Thanks to the money raised in previous years and a number of extremely generous donations, we plan to increase the number of Christmas trees and lights on houses in the village. This year efforts will concentrate on Chilwood Close, with the intention to include the Green and North Road in future years. Feedback on the trees decorating the High Street last year was very favourable.

This year we encourage households in the High Street to enter into the festive spirit by creating "Christmas windows" with a pantomime theme. Details will be posted separately and the best display will win a bottle of bubbly.

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

The Victorian Evening Team





## FRIENDS OF IRON ACTON SCHOOL

Since I last wrote we have started our new school year. So, on behalf of the Friends of Iron Acton School, I'd like to say a warm welcome to all our new children and parents. If you are new to the school and would like to become involved with the Friends - as little or as much as you like - it would be lovely to see you at our meetings. Notices are (usually) posted up at school prior to each meeting.

We have a number of fun-packed events planned during the Autumn Term.

Our first event is the ever-popular Winter Wellie Walk which, this year, is scheduled for Friday, 6 November. The children raise money through sponsorship by completing laps of the school playing field. Some enthusiastic pupils have been known to run most of the way! All the children are then rewarded with hot chocolate and marshmallows on their return to school.

The Friends are also busy organising a number of Christmas events. One of our main events of the school calendar is the Christmas Fair. This will be held in the School Hall on Saturday, 12 December from 10 am to 1 pm. It is a wonderfully festive occasion and a great way to get into the Christmas spirit! Please come along and support us.

We will again be organising design-your-own Christmas cards. These are always a great favourite with the children and there have been some lovely designs in the past. Proceeds raised by these cards will go towards the school.

And, finally, on behalf of the Friends may I take this opportunity to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. See you in 2010!

Caroline Haselhan

## NORTH ROAD POST OFFICE AND STORES

Within our own parish we have an absolute jewel in North Road. Can we all remember we have our very own post office and stores that needs to be protected at all costs and can we please use it - especially in the run up to Christmas - to purchase all of our stamps, send parcels and post cards

<u>Opening Hours</u>	<u>Post Office</u>	<u>Stores</u>
Monday	9.00 am to 5.30 pm	6.00 am to 5.30 pm
Tuesday	9.00 am to 5.30 pm	6.00 am to 5.30 pm
Wednesday	9.00 am to 5.30 pm	6.00 am to 6.00 pm
Thursday	9.00 am to 5.30 pm	6.00 am to 5.30 pm
Friday	9.00 am to 5.30 pm	6.00 am to 5.30 pm
Saturday	9.00 am to 12.30 pm	6.00 am to 6.00 pm

The Post Office Counter is closed between 1.00 pm and 2.00 pm each day.

*If you're new to Iron Acton and live the Bristol rather than the Yate side and are unsure where to find the PO, head towards Yate, at the roundabout past the Texaco garage turn left, at the first set of traffic lights also turn left - you're now in North Road. The PO is along on your right hand side gently (and suitably) nestled between the Cross Keys and North Road School.*

Why not tear out this slip and pin it onto your notice board?



## ST JAMES THE LESS CHURCH

### Christmas Services

Sunday,	13 December	4.00 pm	All Age and Christingle Service - the collection from this service is given to the Children's Society
			(Please note there won't be a morning service on the 13 <sup>th</sup> )
Sunday,	20 December	9.00 am	Holy Communion
		6.30 pm	Carol Service and Readings
CHRISTMAS EVE			
Thursday,	24 December	6.30 pm	Crib Service
CHRISTMAS DAY			
Friday,	25 December	9.30 am	Family Holy Communion

### Services Throughout the Year

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

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

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

The Marshall Room is available for hiring for private meetings, etc - please contact Mrs Sally Aries on 228037.

Try our new web site for Community News and Events ..... [www.ironactonparish.info](http://www.ironactonparish.info)

## Christmas Fayre

(in aid of church funds)

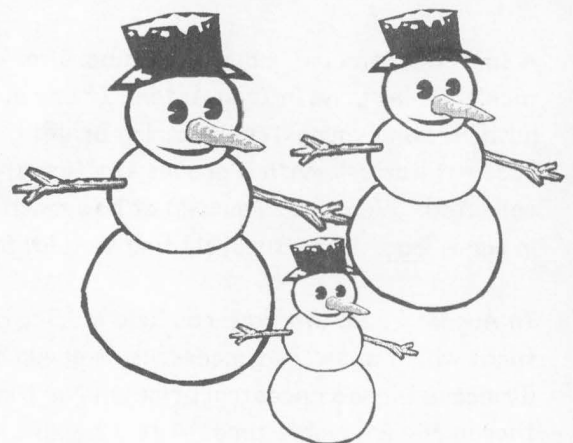
Saturday, 5 December 2009

At 2.30 pm

Iron Acton Parish Hall

Gifts, Children's Corner, Books, Raffle, Tombola, Cakes,  
White Elephant, Home Produce and Refreshments

Come and see Father Christmas!



## WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

It's hard to believe we're at the end of another year. As usual we have enjoyed a varied programme of speakers this year, some of whom have been our own members. Ros Abbott, a member of a neighbouring WI, instructed us on the making of greeting cards. Wendy Parker, another WI member, was adopted as a small child and gave an interesting talk on her family history and search for her roots.

Our own Rona Wright spoke to us about her voluntary work with the Pets as Therapy (PATS) charity and was accompanied by Essie, her PAT dog. Rona and Essie have become regular visitors to the Barbara Russell Children's Unit at Frenchay Hospital where they have obviously become very popular amongst the youngsters they visit.

We welcomed other WI members in the area to join us for a talk from Osgrow, a company that specialises in meats from all over the world; including ostrich, bison, crocodile, springbok (for rugby players presumably), rattlesnake and wildebeest. There are even a few insects thrown in. Paul Cook of Osgrow kept us thoroughly entertained telling us about his business of keeping ostriches at his farm at Cribbs Causeway. We were given the opportunity to buy some ostrich steaks so there were possibly a few unusual Sunday lunches served in July.

Our September meeting was a lot of fun. Some ladies from Stockwood WI came along with their indoor curling equipment and we held a mini tournament. As the game progressed a light-hearted competitiveness evolved and, as unlikely as it seems, even some attempts to "knobble" opposing teams! There were gold medals for the winning team and everyone agreed it had been very enjoyable.

Apart from our monthly meetings there was a lot of activity in other areas. Our bric-a-brac stall on May Day was very popular and successful. Although the weather could have been kinder, there was a large turn out and as usual a wonderful atmosphere.

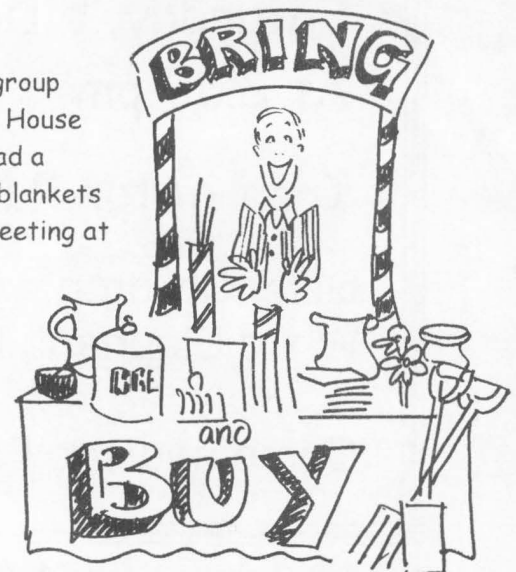
This year's WI resolution discussed an "SOS for Honeybees". The resolution is seeking to urge government to increase funding for research into bee health, their worth being not just the production of honey but the fact that they pollinate 90% of wild plants.

The June outing to the Clifton Suspension Bridge was a great success and the tour guide proved extremely interesting and knowledgeable. There was a film shown of the bridge's history and he was able to tell us about some lesser-known facts, such as who did and who didn't survive leaping from the bridge!

A small but intrepid group of members took part in the WI Keep Britain Tidy campaign and decided to tackle Nibley Lane in Iron Acton. If anyone spotted a group of mature ladies (plus a couple of roped in husbands and youngsters) wearing bright green plastic tabards and carrying equally bright green rubbish bags - it was us! With 2 groups starting at opposite ends of the lane, a total of 11 sacks of rubbish were collected. We were surprised at how much was collected by so few in such a short time in just one lane in our village. Unfortunately there's a lot of rubbish out there!

In August Elizabeth Edwards held a Bring and Buy Sale at her home for group funds which was very successful. A group of 6 members went to Althorp House (Princess Diana's ancestral home) in Northamptonshire for the day and had a thoroughly enjoyable time. A few members had been busy knitting baby blankets and Jenny Millward's was chosen to represent the group at the autumn meeting at Hawkesbury Upton.

Plans are taking shape for our 90<sup>th</sup> birthday party in November and we have chosen the topic we would like Chris Harris, the actor, to speak on. The overwhelming vote went to "How to make a fool of yourself and get away with it!" Can't think why.





With Christmas looming ever nearer a few evenings are being set aside to make some Christmas decorations, which were so popular last year when sold at our stall at the Victorian Evening in December.

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

## THE ACTONIANS

This has been another busy year for the group. Our spring production "Playboy of the Western World" was nominated for 2 awards in the Rose Bowl drama competition. The show received a Best Production nomination and one of the main actresses, Michelle Clare-Hudson, received a Best Actress nomination. Unfortunately, as we go to press, we have no knowledge if the Actonians have won any prizes.

Two fund-raisers were well attended. The Blues Brothers' Tribute Act and Chris Harris' 'Arris's Music 'All helped to swell the Parish Hall Refurbishment Fund by over £1,200. Our thanks to all those who came and supported our guest artists. You may be pleased to know that the Blues Brothers will be back .... watch this space!

As well as the next show we are planning our One-Act Festival entry and the spring production - details will appear in the next edition. We will also be hosting a Quiz Evening in the spring - this is always a popular choice for an entertaining evening.

We have a new contact number! In order to provide a better contact for show information and bookings we have established an Actonians Hot Line .... please call 07807 547238.

## Autumn Production

Curtains ..... by Stephen Bill.

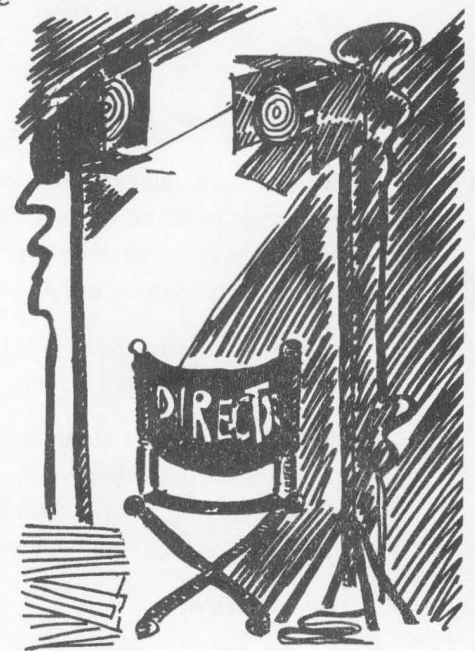
On Thursday 26<sup>th</sup>, Friday 27<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> November  
at 7.30 pm  
in the Parish Hall.

This triple-award winning play is Ida's story. It is her 86<sup>th</sup> birthday - a milestone the pain-racked old lady would rather not have reached. Her family has gathered to cheerfully celebrate and patronise her with a birthday tea. Into their midst comes the prodigal daughter, Susan, returning after a 25 year absence. She discovers that her mother is now given to only brief moments of lucidity and no longer remembers her!

This is a play that deals with euthanasia under ordinary and painful circumstances and how the family manages with pacts, rivalries, antagonism, inadequacies and English morals at their hilarious, moving and provoking worst. It engages the heart, the mind and above all the conscience.

Bob Allen / Secretary

**STOP PRESS!** We've just heard! Congratulations to Michelle Clare-Hudson who was successful in the Best Actress category of the Rose Bowl awards.





### ACTON AID

By the time you are reading this article we will have held our annual Bonfire and Fireworks display in the Parish Meadow on 7 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.

Recently 9 members of Acton Aid went on a mystery tour to Krakow on a cultural trip visiting its impressive castle and churches. We also tried some traditional food along with its fine beers.

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 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.

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, Ashley Mee on 228540 or our Secretary, Peter Foote on 228674.

Peter Foote / Secretary

### FRIENDS OF NORTH ROAD SCHOOL

By the time you read this article we will have had our second meeting this school term. Plans are in place for the school Christmas Fair, which will take place on Friday, 4 December at 3 pm ..... all welcome. This is one of our major events of the school year and an enjoyable occasion for the children, families and friends.

We have already held a coffee afternoon to meet new parents to the school and held our annual sponsored swim - which was a fun evening for all those involved.

The main project this year that the Friends will be supporting for the School is a re-vamp of the library. A steering group has been set up and they have held their first meeting. We will be looking at updating the furniture and soft furnishings and, of course, replenishing as many books as possible.

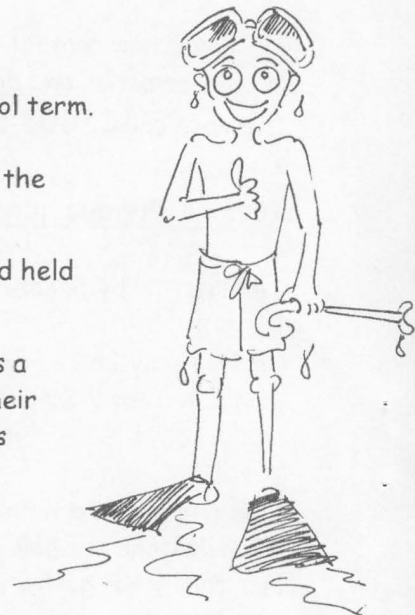
Gordon Gray

### PRINTING REQUIREMENTS

If any village organisation ever needs printing could the Focal Poyntz committee strongly recommend you contact Oldbury Deckers Youth Club and their leader, the wonderful Andy Gazzard!

They are incredibly efficient and also very calm and patient and are cheaper than any other printing concern around. Based in Oldbury on Severn - just 20 minutes from Iron Acton (and that's with keeping to the speed limits), they provide a very professional service at very charitable prices!

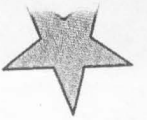
Andy can be contacted on (01454) 412153







# New Year's Eve Party to Remember



All parishioners are invited to celebrate the New Year



Iron Acton Parish Hall, Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> December 2009  
7.30pm until we toast 2010

Hog Roast and buffet provided, Bar available, Fabulous Disco  
Supervised children's play area

Tickets - £10.00 per adult, £5.00 per child, (under 5's free)

Tickets available from:



Dee Porter Smith - The Green - 228 570  
Caroline Huish - The High Street - 228 861  
Lisa Stiff - Chill Wood Estate - 227 274  
Heather Tillotson - North Road - 227419



## NORTH ROAD LADIES CLUB

The hot weather we enjoyed in June unfortunately did not hold for our evening trip on 6 July. We were able to board the John Rennie narrowboat in the dry but there was a fair amount of rain as we cruised along from Sydney Wharf to Claverton. However our spirits were not dampened and we thoroughly enjoyed the cruise, especially the cream teas served on board.

In September Bernard Tapp came along to give another of his entertaining travel presentations. This time the talk and slides were about "Timbukto - City of Mysteries". The speaker for our October meeting was Shirley Hodgson. The title of her talk was "Missing - Presumed Emigrated?". This was the story of British home children sent to Canada from 1870 to 1912, with particular emphasis on children from Bristol.

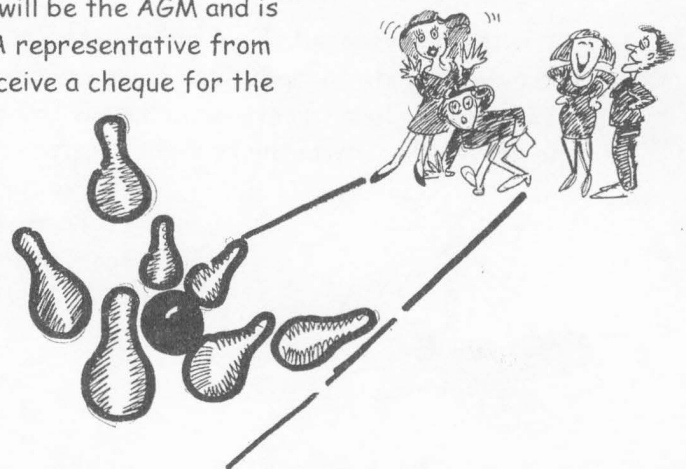
We will be holding a Beetle Drive in North Road Primary School on Friday evening, 16 October in aid of the Macmillan nurses.

On 2 November we will be celebrating our Club's birthday with a skittles evening at the Buthay in Wickwar and on 2 December a group of members and friends will be going to see the Lord of the Dance at Bristol Hippodrome.

7 December will be our last club meeting in 2009. This will be the AGM and is followed by a social evening with an American Supper. A representative from the Macmillan Nurses Charity will be coming along to receive a cheque for the amount we have raised throughout 2009.

Our meetings are held once a month (term time only) at 7.30 pm in North Road School. The date of our first meeting in 2010 is Monday, 4 January. If anyone feels they would like to come to any of our meetings they will be most welcome - we are a friendly club.

June Rycroft / Secretary



## HORTICULTURAL SHOW - SATURDAY 5 SEPTEMBER 2009

Once again, Iron Acton pulled out all the stops and made the show yet another triumph. Without your participation the Horticultural Show would not be the success that it has become! The Committee would also like to thank Mrs Fursman who did a sterling job in presenting the trophies. We would also like to thank the numerous 'helping hands' behind the scenes.

All of the entries in Class 72 for the Victorian Committee calendar have now been handed over to the Victorian Committee for them to make a decision. The winning entrants will be notified in due course.

This year we had some 450 individual entries, 50% more than 2008! There were 2 entries in the Scarecrow class, both winning first prize.

The Horticultural Committee received a query over the presentation of the Golden Jubilee Cup. The Golden Jubilee Cup was donated to the Horticultural Show by the Golden Jubilee Committee back in 2002 and is presented to the family who contribute the most entries to the show but not necessarily winning ones. The family who won this year entered a total of 48 entries across the whole show.

The Committee has received a number of suggestions for next year's show, including alterations to the timing of the auction and length of time visitors are able to browse. We have had some good suggestions for different classes, so look out for next year's schedule, which should be with you in spring 2010!

For your diaries - the date of the 2010 show will be Saturday 11 September.

Paula Evans on behalf of the Horticultural Committee

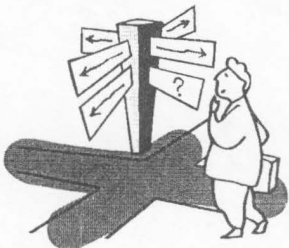


## FOCAL POYNTZ ..... HELP REQUIRED!

For more years than any of the FP Committee cares to remember, Pete Wedgewood has delivered our magazine around the Green and Park Street. With his departure to pastures new we are wondering if there is any community minded soul who could spare some time, 3 times a year, to help out?

We timed how long it took one of the current FP team (who is not renowned for being particularly fit) to deliver the summer edition along Pete's route. From the time the first one was posted through a letterbox to when the last one was posted through a letterbox was ..... 22 minutes !

So, is there anyone out there who could spare 30 minutes, 3 times a year, at the end of March, July and November, to carry out deliveries ..... or maybe we can copy the Latteridge area where we have 4 families who help us out - which means just one delivery every 15 months .... and it's not essential for the deliverer to live in the relevant area.



Lynne Blanchard, who arranges the distribution around the parish would love to hear from anyone who's having a kind moment as they read this! She can be contacted on 228566 ... go on, ring now !!



## I'M GOING HOME ..... I'VE DONE MY TIME .....

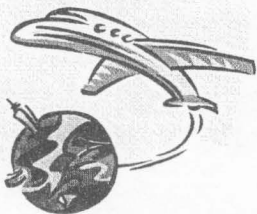
The clock had hung on the wall of my Uncle Son's sitting room for as long as I could remember. It had always been there, tucked into the recess of an alcove next to the fireplace. An uninteresting clock, quite dull, with a badly hand painted face, there was nothing exceptional about it at all. I don't ever remember it striking the hour, I couldn't even tell you whether it chimed or not.

At this point, I must tell you that I am not very fond of "ticking " clocks. I know some people find them very soothing and relaxing, hearing the gentle sound of a mellow "tick ..... tock ..... tick ..... tock". All I can think of is "oops, there goes another second of my life". However, I'm not completely prejudiced against them, I even bought a beautiful long case wall clock (with Westminster chimes!) for my husband's 40<sup>th</sup> birthday.



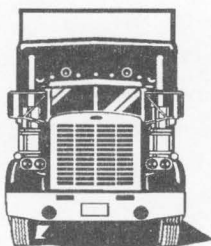
Unfortunately, in March this year my uncle passed away leaving his estate to his 3 remaining siblings and a favourite nephew, Graham, who now lives in the USA. I don't know about you, but I find that it's usually at these melancholy times that little stories about family history start to come out?

My mother told me such a story about this unassuming clock. She can remember that, as a little girl (my mother is now 80) this clock hung on the wall of Apricot Cottage in Harwick and was the property of my Great Uncle Albert. Where Uncle Albert had got it from will remain shrouded in the mists of time. Albert had been very fond of Graham and had promised that when he died the clock would be Graham's. However, best laid plans and all that, the clock ended up hanging on Uncle Son's sitting room wall.



Anyway, my mother received a telephone call from Graham who said that he would like to buy the clock out of the estate. The clock had been described by the estate valuer as "a Victorian walnut marquetry inlaid wall clock with mercury compensating pendulum". The deal being done we now had the problem of shipping this clock to the States. Eventually we found a courier who would be prepared to ship it and finally the clock was on its way.

The power of the internet is an amazing thing and we were able to track its progress from Bristol to East Midlands Airport, to Connecticut and finally to the town of Franklin. I phoned my mother and told her that the clock had been delivered to the UPS depot in Franklin at 4.00 am (local time) and that it was most likely the clock would be delivered to Graham that day.



That evening, my mother received a telephone call from Graham to say that the clock had arrived safely and nothing was broken. Then he said "you do realise that the clock has come home?" My mother had no idea what Graham was talking about. Evidently Graham had unpacked the clock to make sure everything was okay. As he lifted the clock face he noticed some engraving marks and the word looked familiar to him. Needing his glasses to read the word, he was utterly shocked to see "Franklin, Connecticut" engraved on the reverse of the clock face.

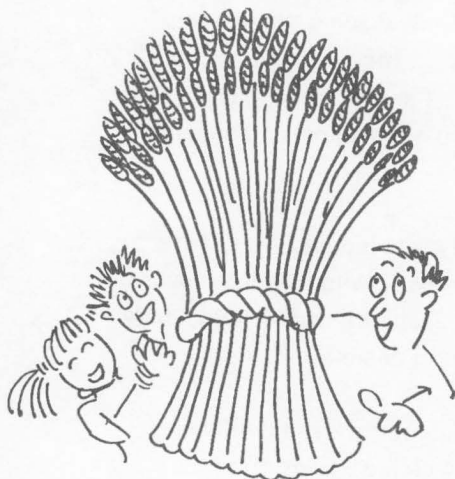
After some research, it transpires that Graham lives 2 miles away from the foundry that originally made this clock. How the clock made its way from Connecticut to Apricot Cottage in Hardwick is probably something we will never know.

..... but talk about spooky!

## IRON ACTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

A warm welcome to the new pupils in Reception and to Mrs Burchell our new teacher in Class 2. We hope you will all be very happy here.

The term began with a flying start when the Growing Club won 3 certificates at the Horticultural Show. The club meets weekly after school and had a successful summer growing beans, potatoes, peppers, onions, carrots, beetroot and lettuce.



In October we had our Harvest Festival. Classes acted out a mice drama and told everyone about bread making and the Jewish festival of Sukkoth. The ever popular auction and sale raised £140. The School Council decided that this money would be sent to 4 charities: Maria (a girl we sponsor in Uganda), CLIC, Help the Aged and the RNLI.

This term will have an international flavour as we welcome Beatrice, our modern foreign language assistant. She will be coming into school each week to help pupils with their French language and teaching them about French traditions, food and culture. In November we will be welcoming visitors from Sweden, the Netherlands, Hungary and Crete as we launch a 2 year international project.

The term also has a strong musical theme. All Year 4 pupils are having weekly brass lessons this term. This project is funded by South Gloucestershire's Music Service to get more pupils interested in playing an instrument. On Friday Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 enjoyed a vibrant African drumming workshop.

We continue to enjoy joint projects with local small schools. The netball team competed in a small school tournament at North Road School. Four pupils from each small school met at a Small School Parliament at UWE. They joined 2 workshops debating e-safety and learning in a paperless society. They listened to key note speeches about making a difference, hearing about the work of the university, the life of a parish councillor and a county councillor. Pupils in Year 6 are really looking forward to joining pupils from North Road and Rangeworthy at their residential trip to Torquay in June.

Jill Bendeaux / Headteacher

## NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH



Neighbourhood Watch has now been re-established in Iron Acton. However, interest still remains limited. Members have now received Neighbourhood Watch window stickers, property marking kits and are kept up to date with current crime information.

Our next step is to identify locations and apply for Neighbourhood Watch signage to be displayed throughout the parish.

If you are interested in joining please contact Bridget Bennett on 227354 or Carole Dickson on 227141, the Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators.

Bridget Bennett and Carole Dickson



## ST JAMES THE LESS PARENT AND TODDLER GROUP

Anna and I would like to thank our now departed leaders Mel and Sally for all of the hard work that they put into running the St James the Less Parent and Toddler Group for the last couple of years. They will be much missed and will, I think, be a tough act to follow!

We are pleased to report that all of the children who departed at the beginning of the summer are now beginning to find their feet in their new surroundings at either North Road or Iron Acton Schools. Their departure hasn't made our group shrink at all however as, due to the recent "baby boom" in the village, we find ourselves with not only several, very welcome, new members .... but also a waiting list to join our cosy group! With the average age of our young members dropping from 4 years to around 18 months we have found that the dynamics of the group have already altered. Our ambitious craft activities have, at least temporarily, been shelved and replaced by more baby-friendly play-doh, colouring and jigsaw puzzles! I fear that the church display boards may suffer as a result and offer our apologies in advance!

As previously mentioned, our group is currently full. However if you would like to join our waiting list please contact Anna (07801 101796) or Natalie (227397) - we would love to hear from you. We meet every Friday during term time at 10.30 am in the Marshall Room (behind the church).

If you are keen to meet other parents as soon as possible you might like to contact one of the other excellent local groups: North Road Toddler Group meets on Thursday afternoons at North Road School (contact Karen on 227179) and Rangeworthy Baby and Toddler Group meets on Tuesday afternoons in Rangeworthy Memorial Hall (contact Emma on 228116).

In the meantime, you may run into us manning the bouncy castle at the Church Fayre on 5 December or spot us behind the sweets and treats stall at the Victorian Evening on 19 December.

Anna Webster (07801 101796) and Natalie McPartland (227397)



## CHRISTMAS RECYCLING

### USED CHRISTMAS CARDS

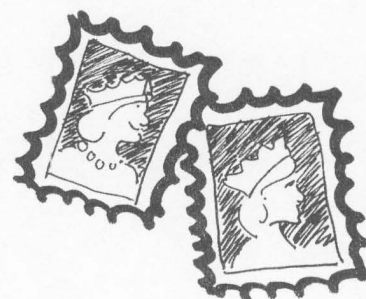
During January 2010 Tesco (including selected Express Stores), W H Smith, T K Maxx and Marks and Spencer will be collecting used Christmas cards on behalf of the Woodland Trust. Look out for the large green and white cardboard containers!

In January 2009 the Trust recycled 59 million cards and the money raised allowed the Trust to plant 14,000 trees throughout the 1,000 woodlands that they own.

### USED STAMPS

The annual reminder that if anyone wants to give used postage stamps to Lynne Blanchard (Rose Cottage, Latteridge Road, Iron Acton, 228566) she is happy to collect them and then forward to Oxfam.

Can you just remember that you need to cut around the stamps leaving at least half an inch of envelope around the edge of the stamp.



### CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING

Please remember to recycle your Christmas trees. They can be taken to any of South Glos Council's Sort It Centres at Yate, Thornbury, Mangotsfield and Little Stoke. Alternatively, we think that Westernbirt Arboretum may also offer this facility.

## IRON ACTON PARISH COUNCIL

### BONFIRES

Over the past couple of weeks, the Parish Council has received a number of complaints regarding the lighting of bonfires and the resultant smoke that is causing a nuisance. The Environmental Protection Act 1990 allows a local authority (namely South Gloucestershire Council) to take offenders to court should their bonfires cause a nuisance to neighbours (ie have an unreasonable effect on the enjoyment of their home or garden).

Although there are no byelaws in place that prohibit the lighting of bonfires, South Gloucestershire Council suggest a number of commonsense do's and don'ts that should be followed:-

**DO NOT BURN** damp grass clippings, oily rags, rubber, plastic, damp garden waste or other materials which would create heavy smoke or toxic fumes.

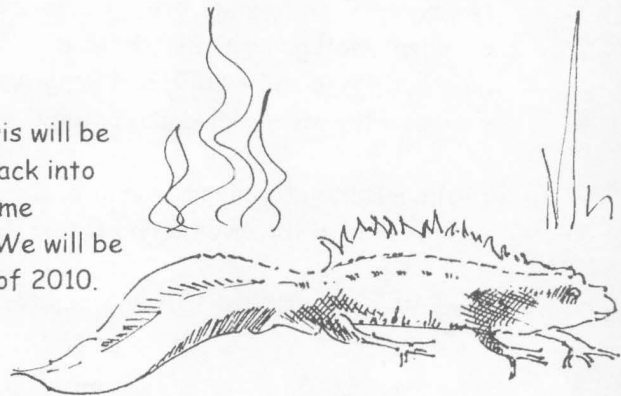
**DO NOT** light a bonfire when your neighbours have washing drying or are out enjoying their gardens or have windows wide open.

**DO NOT** light bonfires one hour before dusk or leave them burning overnight.

**DO** advise your nearest neighbours before you light a bonfire.

### DYERS POND

One third of the pond will be cleared in late autumn. The debris will be pulled to one side for 2-3 days to allow any inhabitants to go back into the pond, and then the debris will be taken away. Also, it is some 10 years since an aquatic survey was undertaken of the pond. We will be asking an aquatic specialist to carry out a survey in the spring of 2010.



### PARISH MEADOWS

There were a couple of little incidents in the Parish Meadows over the summer holidays. The stream was blocked up in 2 separate places and the large bough of the Poplar tree (behind the tennis courts) was removed. Unfortunately it looks as though the tree is diseased and may well have to be felled altogether.

### NORTH ROAD TELEPHONE KIOSK

The Parish Council has received an invitation from BT to 'adopt' the North Road kiosk for £1.00. However, the Parish Council has declined this offer and pointed out to BT that the kiosk is still used by residents to make telephone calls.

As always, if you have any queries or questions regarding Parish matters, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Paula Evans - Clerk (228029)

### NEXT EDITION OF FOCAL POYNTZ

The Spring 2010 issue should be distributed to homes around the parish on or just before the weekend of Saturday/Sunday 27 and 28 March 2010.

## 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 Edward  
Andrew Gowen  
John Griffin  
Chris Heal  
Roy Hubbard

Ashley Mee  
Sue Shepherd  
The Smith Family  
Stella Taylor  
The Walters Family  
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, new, never been seen before cover was drawn by Marilyn Wright. We are very grateful to her.



**Now Available at**  
**THE GAZELEY CLINIC**  
**High Street, IRON ACTON**

**With Christine Lamont**

**Complementary Therapist  
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## Reflexology

Using specific massage and pressure techniques on your feet, this aims to treat the whole person - Body, Mind & Spirit, to induce a sense of Balance and Harmony, and stimulate your body's own natural healing process.



**Can help many conditions including:**

Stress related conditions, Insomnia  
Hormonal problems, Fatigue,  
Arthritis pains, .....

*It is a very relaxing treatment*

## Reiki

A 'hands-on' therapy given while fully clothed, sending healing energy, to be used where your body needs it most.



No pressure or manipulation is used.

It can benefit physical & emotional problems enhancing your body's own healing process, and reducing the time it takes to feel better.

*It leaves a feeling of peace, relaxation, security and well-being.*

## Indian Head Massage

**A Powerful Stress Reliever,**  
**leaving you with feelings of**  
**Relaxation and Well-Being.**



**It can relieve:**

- Headaches and eyestrain
- Neck & shoulder stiffness
- Sinus problems
- Mental fatigue, promoting clear thinking
- Emotional stress and anxiety
- It can also improve hair growth and condition

**Most of all it feels really good!**

**Why not give it a try?**

## Hopi Ear Candles

**To relieve Ear, Nose, & Sinus problems.**  
A lit 'candle' is held in each ear, and allowed to burn down. The warm herbal vapour soothes & gives relief. This is followed by a relaxing face massage

**Can help:**

- Excessive ear wax
- Glue ear
- Sinusitis / Rhinitis
- Tinnitus (ear noises)
- 'Popping' ears ....



**Soothing and Relaxing**

*A gentle alternative to ear syringing*

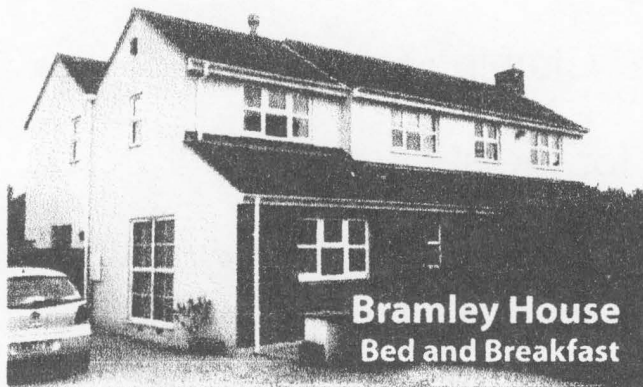


**Baby Massage Classes - held locally, or in your own home.**  
**Lots of wonderful benefits for you & your baby.**  
**Gift Vouchers available.**

Are you planning a special event, or just family and friends visiting for a while? Do you want somewhere special for them to stay?

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Come and see us if you want to check us out and you will get a very friendly welcome from Teresa and Alan Dunn at:



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Tourist Office Approved

Tel: 01454 228093

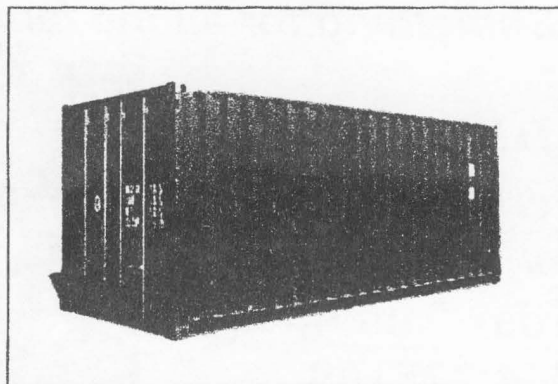
e-mail:

teresa@dunn1938.freeserve.co.uk

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5 LARGE EN-SUITE BEDROOMS**

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**WEDDINGS  
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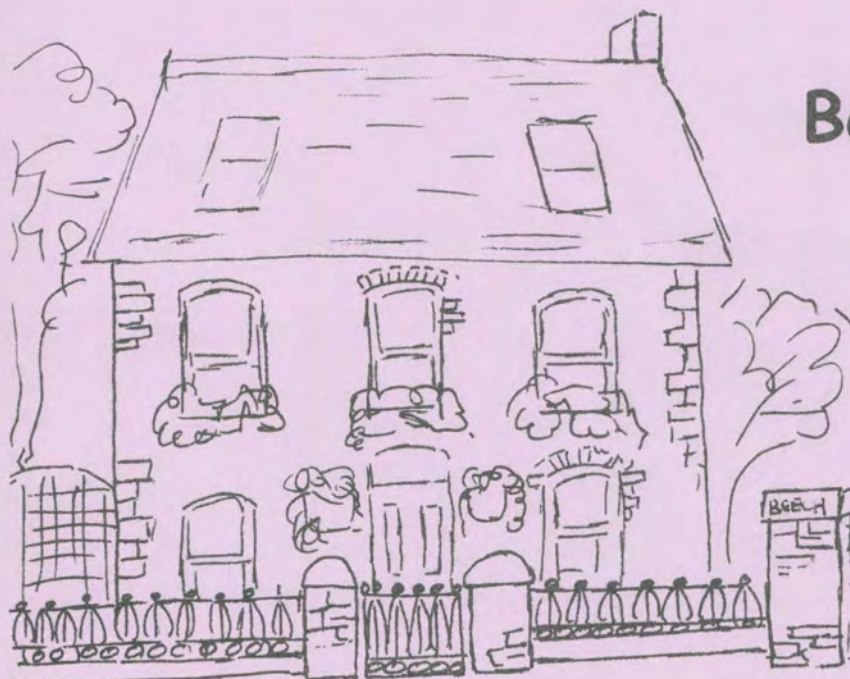
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*Inspections welcome by appointment*

*We are now able to offer a full grooming service including clipping, hand-stripping, thinning out, nail clipping, wash & blow dry. Phone for full details and prices.*

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South Glos.

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