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Bridge Road

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The British

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Focal Poyntz

Holly Hill

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The Magazine for Iron Acton

Latteridge Road

Latteridge Lane

Wotton Road

Nibley Lane

Manor Road

Station Road

Engine Common Lane

Bristol Road

Dyers Lane

Park Street

Broad Lane

Lodge Road

Tanhouse Lane

Chilwood Close

Chaingate Lane

Frampton End Road

FOCAL POYNTZ INFORMATION

Your Focal Poyntz Team is:

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228566

Maureen Blake

Roy Hubbard
228356

Stella Taylor
228417

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228247

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The Bradley Family
Carole Dickson
Elizabeth Edwards
Andrew Gowen
John Griffin
Chris Heal
Roy Hubbard
Iron Acton School

Jill Johnson
Sharon Kellett
Ashley Mee
Catherine Neck
Amanda Scott
Sue Shepherd
The Smith Family
Stella Taylor
Laura Walters
Mike Wheeler

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 shows all of the roads and lanes within our parish do you know where they can be found?



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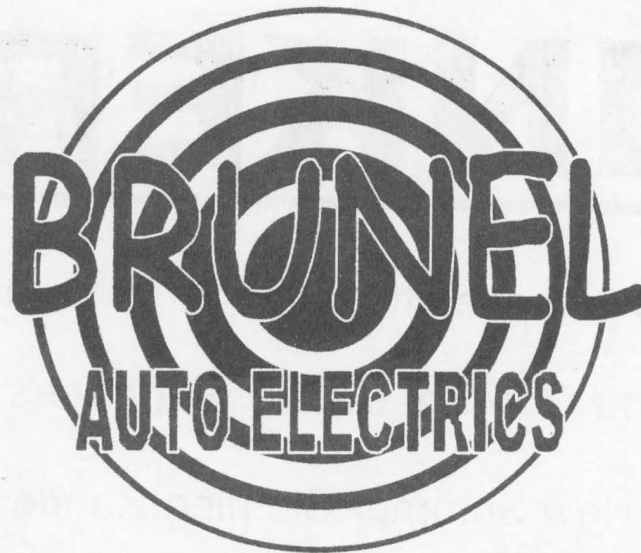
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Summer
2010

Summer

ISSUE No. 83

Summer

Welcome to the summer issue of Focal Poyntz.

So far this year we have experienced a barrage of harsh weather conditions; an exceptionally cold winter led into the driest 6 months of any year since 1929 and, as we go to press, very welcome rain is, at long last, falling We hope this will encourage the gardeners amongst us to take great interest in the enclosed Horticultural Show schedule.

The World Cup, Wimbledon and The Open are fast fading from memory but Iron Acton Cricket Club is still displaying sparkling form.

Our schools and universities are just beginning their summer breaks with many young people facing challenging decisions and new directions.

Whatever is happening in your life, we hope that the remainder of the summer allows you some relaxation and enjoyment before the days start to shorten and autumn looms ever closer.

FRIENDS OF NORTH ROAD SCHOOL

By the time you are reading this we will have broken up for the school summer holidays! Let's hope this glorious weather continues and we have a good summer break.

It was with great sadness we learnt that Mr Handley was moving on from North Road School and left after the Easter break. He was always so supportive of the Friends of the School and came to all the events we organised. He will be greatly missed by both us and the children.

Mrs Jo Williams has now joined us as Head and has already, in the short time she has been at the school, supported the Friends at our meetings and was a great sport at our recent Fashion Show when she modelled for us like a true professional. The Fashion Show went well, despite the fact it was held on the same evening that an England World Cup game was taking place, and was well attended. The children had fun modelling and both parents and staff walked the catwalk in true style!

The School Library was opened by Steve Webb and is now up and running and looking good! Books were kindly donated by families within the school and each of these books has a bookplate which says who donated them.

We had a great Duck Race and, amazingly, didn't lose any ducks - this could be due to the fact that there were more children than ever in the river this year helping grab the ducks. I think they just like getting wet and filling their wellies with water!

Our Year 6 children had a super day at Brean Leisure Park. This trip was funded by The Friends of the School as a treat for them having worked so hard for their Sats. The sun shone all day and the children were exhausted by the end of it (not to mention the parents who went along too). We have our end of year Summer Prom on 16 July when we shall be saying a sad farewell to all of our Year 6 children and to a lot of parents as this will be the last main event of their time at North Road School. Handkerchiefs at the ready!! All of our Year 6 children are off to Brimsham Green School. We wish them all the very best of luck and thank them for all the help they have given us at FOS events.



We will also be saying farewell to one of our longest standing members of the Friends of North Road School - Angela Guest. Angela has been at the school since 1999 and has been involved since day one! Her knowledge has been invaluable and the hours she has put in are immense. She will be greatly missed but don't worry, Angela, I'll be on that phone asking for help before you've even got to the end of the road on your last day!

After a successful Bingo Night we have arranged another evening on 12 November. The last one was such a lovely evening; families got together, had fun and socialised at the same time. Some of the children even had a go at being the bingo caller. Gala Bingo watch out!

By the time you read this our Sports Day and Summer Fair will have taken place (we're holding our breath that the weather holds out). Both take place on 9 July - The Sports Day taking place on the morning and this is then followed by a barbeque and picnic and this then rolls into the Summer Fair.

Our events next term start with a Ladies Night on Friday, 17 September so please put the date into your diary and come along and join us! We also have a Barn Dance booked for Saturday, 5 October - and it would be lovely to see some of you there.

If you would like any further details about any of our events please give me a call on 227419. The Friends of North Road School would like to wish you all a very happy summer!

Heather Tillotson

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

We have continued our varied programme this year with excellent speakers, quirky competitions and a fascinating summer outing.

Our speakers have included Susan Marshfield, who gave a very amusing talk entitled "Personal Peeps from my Past". Susan has the fortunate knack of being able to make the most simple anecdote funny and interesting. Reflexology was the subject of our talk in April and Anne Leighton, who has a practice in Chipping Sodbury, was our speaker. It was interesting to hear how reflexology, by using manipulation and pressure to areas of the feet, can treat conditions such as stress and insomnia as well as giving pain relief for symptoms of tennis elbow, shoulder ache, etc. We are looking forward to speakers from the Willow Trust and Peter Coombs on the wonderful title "Lipstick on a Gorilla".

Some of the monthly competitions held included taking along photographs of special family occasions from the past and trying to guess which year they were taken. This was not as easy as it appeared although some fashions were easier to pinpoint than others. It was also interesting to see each other, and ourselves, as we were 30, 40 or 50 years ago. None of us had aged a bit of course! Another involved filling a small matchbox with as many different objects as possible. Geraldine was proclaimed the winner with 47 items - which seems quite incredible but shows what can be achieved with a bit of imagination.

Some members went along to Stanshawe's House Residential Home in Yate to conduct a sing-a-long of old time songs with the residents. It was hailed a great success and a return visit has been requested by the home. Next stop Britain's Got Talent"! Others have been busy knitting Teddies for Tragedies and there are some marvellous results. The teddies are sent to children anywhere in the world who need a bit of comfort after a traumatic event in their lives. Anyone with oddments of wool to spare can always hand these on to a WI member so that these individual teddies can be as colourful as possible.

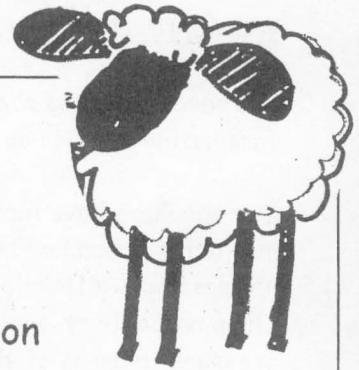
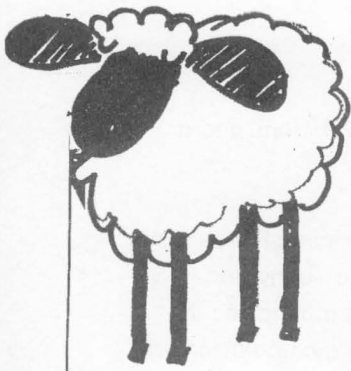
May Day was a great success for the whole village. It was mainly dry all day with some spells of good sunshine so there were plenty of people around all day. There was a lot of interest in our bric-a-brac stall, comparatively little was left at the end of the day and what did remain was dispatched to charity shops.

Our annual trip in June was to Chavenage House near Tetbury. It turned out to be a memorable evening, enjoyed by members and some of their friends and family. Our guide for the evening was the present owner, David Lowsley-Williams, who turned out to be a charming and amusing host. He spent some time showing us around his historic house and, as well as informing us of the interesting history (some parts are thought to date back to the late fourteenth century), he interspersed his talk with some personal anecdotes from more modern times. There is a bedroom slept in by Oliver Cromwell and, needless to say, there are tales galore of ghosts haunting both the main house and the beautiful little church in the grounds. Chavenage is often in demand by film and TV companies and some of its more recent credits include scenes from *Tess of the D'Urbervilles* and *Lark Rise to Candleford*. The house is open to individuals as well as groups throughout the summer months and we would recommend a visit to anyone who has an interest in historic houses.



The year will conclude with the usual birthday and Christmas parties. Thanks to some new members in the past year our average age has dropped so don't feel you're too young, or indeed too old, to join us. Everyone is very welcome so if you feel you'd like to find out more about our group please contact our Secretary, Stella Taylor, on 228417. She will be only too pleased to give details.

Sylvie Powell



Nibley Lamb

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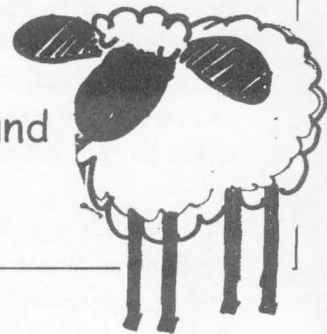
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VILLAGE VICTORIAN EVENING

This will be the fourth year of this event and we are hoping it will be bigger and better.

It will be held on Saturday, 18 December, starting at 4.00 pm in the Church and then going onto the Parish Hall Car Park for food, drinks, carols and lots of things for the children to do.

Make sure you write the date down in your diaries and on your calendars and come and join us for some fun. The winter edition of Focal Poyntz will have more information.

Pam McCoy



BOOK REVIEW: NO AND ME, BY DELPHINE DE VIGAN (BLOOMSBURY PRESS £9.99)

This is a fascinating study of a young girl struggling to make sense of a world which she finds difficult to understand yet attempts to rationalise according to her own demanding expectations of life. The book, originally written in French, offers an insight into the preoccupations of contemporary teenage life in a well to do Parisian neighbourhood and provides an interesting observation of the relationship between a teacher nearing retirement and his pupils.

Lou is an only child who at 13 is precociously advanced academically and, as a result, is in a class 2 years ahead of her age-group. She is a small girl which increases her feeling of inadequacy and inability to relate to her classmates other than Lucas, a streetwise 15 year old who champions her in the efforts to keep up with the social life of the group. Above all, although more than adequate to the task, she dreads having to present a project to the class.

Though her parents are comfortably off she receives no emotional support or understanding from her parents who are still grieving the death of a second child in infancy. The mother is seriously depressed and her father goes through the motions of providing for his wife and daughter with little understanding of the needs of either. It is alarming to realise how much freedom Lou has to conduct her own life and to wander around Paris at will. She is pre-occupied by people watching and it is during one of her evening "observation sessions" at Austerlitz mainline station that she meets No, a young homeless woman with whom Lou strikes up an unlikely friendship. As a result she decides to take the subject of homelessness for her class presentation.

As her friendship with No develops Lou decides to take steps to change No's lifestyle and, with the optimism of youth and the co-operation of Lucas, persuades No to meet her parents and abandon her street life.

This is not a fairytale and although significant changes occur in the lives of all the main characters they are not necessarily what Lou envisaged in her original approach to her project. It is a touching, often disturbing, account of youthful idealism, frustration and coming to terms with adolescence in a setting which is far from normal.

This is a most enjoyable read which stimulates thought about contemporary life through the eyes of young people as well as an interesting insight into attitudes and relationships between the generations in another culture.

Hazel Dron



IRON ACTON CRICKET CLUB

In previous summer reports I have often been able to report one or two victories at the halfway point of the season. This year however I have to report that we are still waiting to be beaten, having won all 5 of the games we have played. This new-found success has been helped greatly by the arrival in town of 3 new players whose names read like the cast of the 1962 film "The Man Who Shot Liberty Valence" (ie James, Stuart and Wayne). Most importantly however they have dramatically reduced the average age of the team and had a significant effect on the 3 weakest areas of recent teams namely fielding, fielding and fielding.

Our next fixture is Frenchay Hospital, against whom we recorded a rare win in our first game of the season. I am therefore expecting this to be something of a needle match. Our Wednesday fixtures finish on 28 July and then we have a single Sunday fixture to look forward to on 22 August at Oldbury. Almost another season over!

Chris Bradley / Chairman (228559)



ST JAMES THE LESS CHURCH

Services Throughout the Year

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. Coffee and tea are served after the service and a Fairtrade stall is set up in church to enable people to purchase Fairtrade goods.

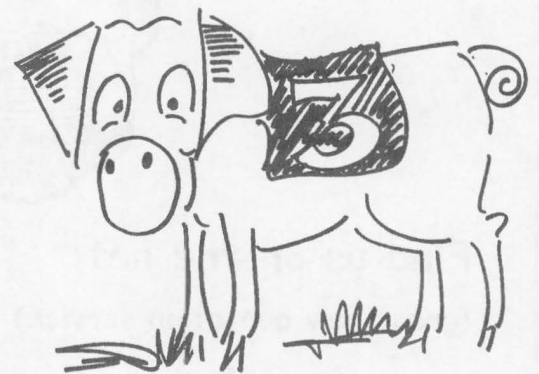
Mid-week Holy Communion Services are held every Wednesday at 11.00 am. Please come along and be part of a growing and welcoming congregation in a very relaxed atmosphere.

Dates for your Diary

Friday	15 October	Pig Race Night 7.30 pm in Iron Acton Parish Hall
Saturday	4 December	Church Christmas Fayre 2.30 pm in Iron Acton Parish Hall

The 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

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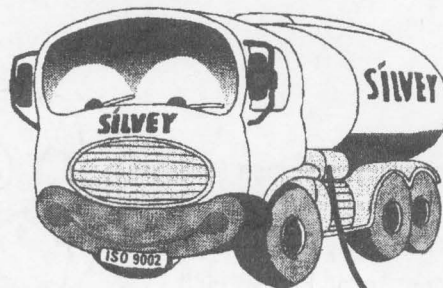


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INCREDIBALL MAY DAY

My sister Rosie and I met up with a few of our friends (Belle, Daisy, Amy, Ziggy and Buffy) from "Iron Acton Incrediballs" on May Day in the Parish Meadow.

The weather didn't start too well, but not as badly as had been predicted. Once our handlers had finished moving around a few bits of equipment the tennis balls came out so we knew we were in for a great time. Now, we all love chasing tennis balls and bringing them back for our owners to throw again, but it's much more fun when they set up a few jumps for us to clear at the same time as fetching balls.

So, we each fetched a few balls on our own - then, even more fun - we got to fetch the balls in a relay. WOW - BRILLIANT. I think we all managed to bring the balls back - it was a bit confusing for a while. Rosie stopped to chat to Tiff behind the box and to someone in the crowd on her way back but, judging from the excited shouting and cheering, the humans seemed to enjoy it as much as we did.

Just when we thought the day couldn't get any better the sun came out and loads of new friends came to join in and have a go. Lots of sniffing and tail wagging later, we got down to the serious business of who could fetch the balls fastest.

I thought Amy, one of my old friends, would turn out to be the fastest - especially as we'd been training hard - but a lady called Caroline and her dog Lucy managed to get the ball in 4.9 seconds. Amazingly good for a beginner. They won a goody bag for being fastest.



Daisy fetched the ball for Tristan in 6.2 seconds and because Tristan's under 16 they got a goody bag for being the quickest dog with a junior handler.

Belle is pretty fast for an old girl and fetched the ball for Alex in 6.3 seconds - goody bag for fastest veteran dog.

New friends Tia and Gypsy fetched 2 balls back for Jan and Brian in 15 seconds and won the prize for fastest relay pair. More goody bags.

We managed to raise enough money to give a donation to the May Day Committee, Bristol Cats and Dogs Home and Hearing Dogs for the Deaf.

We would like to thank the May Day Committee for all their hard work in organising such an INCREDIBALLY fun day - especially for arranging the sun. We're already in training for next year.

Tummy rubs and tail wags all round.

Tara Gadsby

LOST TEDDY BEAR WANTING TO BE REUNITED!

At the May Day celebrations on 3 May, a small, obviously well loved, white teddy bear was handed into the Police. This little bear had the name 'Phoebe' written on the little tag. If anyone knows who this little bear belongs to, please get in touch with PCSO Katie Radnedge who has been taking very good care of this little bear. Katie can be contacted via Avon & Somerset Police on 0845 456 7000. Alternatively contact Paula Evans, via the Parish Council on 01454 228029.



NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY 2010

Just to let everyone know, we will be organising a New Year's Eve Party in the Parish Hall. Book the date in your diary now! Full details will be available nearer the date.

Jane Conlon and Sue Gadsby (228803)

FRIENDS OF IRON ACTON SCHOOL

After such a long, cold winter it's wonderful to be enjoying beautiful summer weather. Our Summer Fair, held at the end of June, certainly benefitted from a lovely evening. For the second year in a row (and I think this may be an Iron Acton School record) we were able to hold the Fair outside on the playing field. It was wonderful to see so many people supporting the event. The children particularly enjoyed the Punch and Judy Show - judging from all the shouting and laughter at that end of the field! Thanks to the many people who helped to make the evening such a success and, in particular, Donna Thomas and Pippa Cook for their hard work and to all the parents and children who ran the many stalls.



Earlier in the year we held our annual Easter Egg Hunt. The children followed clues around the beautiful garden at Dean Lodge and were rewarded with Easter eggs when they had deciphered the clues. Our thanks to Mr and Mrs Bourns for, once again, welcoming 80 pairs of excited feet through their garden.

The Friends were also at work on May Day. We were blessed with unexpectedly good weather on the day and large numbers of people attended the event. Children from the school put on a great display of Maypole dancing. It's always a treat to see this traditional custom revived on the village green and the children work very hard practising for the big day. This year was a swan song for Chris Bellis and Sheila Chapman, who teach the dances to the children, as sadly both will be leaving Iron Acton School at the end of this year as their children move on to secondary school. Our thanks to both of them for all their hard work on behalf of the Friends. Thanks also to all the volunteers who manned our coconut shy and skittles alley and to Tracey and Brendan at The Lamb for the loan of the alley.

Our AGM was held on 19 May and I am VERY happy to report that for the first time in several years we have a full compliment of committee members. Donna Thomas has taken on the role of Chair, Pippa Cook is Vice Chair, Caroline Haselhan is Secretary and Annie King is our new Treasurer. We also welcome committee members Sally Aries, Mandy Drew, Jo Holloway, Mark Kirkham, Sarah Ridler, Jon Sandy, Amanda Scott and Lisa Stiff. It's wonderful that so many people responded to our call for help. My thanks to everyone and I'm sure that the Friends will thrive on the fresh enthusiasm generated by the new committee.

By the time you read this our final event of the school year, the Year 6 Prom, will have taken place on 9 July. This is an opportunity for the Friends to wish all in Year 6 the very best in their new schools. We hope they all enjoyed their special evening and the Friends wish good luck to each of our leavers.

Finally, on behalf of the Friends, I would like to say one final "Thank You" to Sandie Wiggins. Sandy has been a member of the Friends for 11 years and our Treasurer for 8 years. She represents the true spirit of our organisation - always there with a willing hand and a ready smile. She will be sadly missed by everyone who has had the good fortune to work alongside her in the Friends.

Caroline Haselhan

HORTICULTURAL SHOW - SATURDAY 11 SEPTEMBER 2010

Well, at long last the rain has arrived and the gardens and allotments are receiving a well-deserved drink of water. At least for the next couple of days watering duties can be scaled down!

As mentioned in the last edition of Focal Poyntz, registering your entry and the running order for the 2010 Show on Saturday 11 September will be slightly different.

REGISTRATION:

- 1 Complete your entry form with the classes you wish to enter and calculate your entry fees.
- 2 Hand your form and payment in at the Registration Desk. You will be given an Exhibitor Number which is personal to you and is applicable to ALL of your entries - eg Exhibitor No 012.
- 3 Take your Registration Form to the Entries Desk where individual Class Tickets will be written out for each class you have entered. Here you will also be given a supply of little red or green stickers.
- 4 You will need to decide whether you want to keep and retain your entry after it has been judged, or whether you are happy for the entry to be auctioned off. A RED sticker indicates you wish to keep the entry and a GREEN sticker indicates you are happy for the entry to be auctioned. Place the sticker of your choice on the Class Ticket.
- 5 Once you have received your Class Tickets you can then proceed into the Hall and place your exhibits in the relevant classes together with their Class Ticket.

RUNNING ORDER:

- 1 Entries accepted at the Parish Hall on Saturday 11 September 2010 between 9.00 am and 11.00 am. Registration will close at 11.00 am promptly.
- 2 Staging of exhibits will take place between 11.00 am and 11.30 am. After this time all members of the public will be asked to leave the hall.
- 3 Judging commencing at 11.30 am.
- 4 Show open to the public at 2.30 pm.
- 5 Auction at 3.15 pm
- 6 Awards presented following completion of the Auction.

So, let's hope that the weather is kind to all our green-fingered gardeners, artistic inspiration comes to all our flower-arrangers, photographers, needlecraft experts and artists, culinary flare is bestowed upon our bakers, and patience is granted to all those parents!

The Horticultural Committee looks forward to seeing you on Saturday 11 September 2010. Don't forget that you can also download a copy of the Classes and Registration Form from the village web site.

Lastly - PLEASE CAN WE HAVE ALL OF THE TROPHIES BACK BY THE END OF AUGUST - DULY POLISHED!

Trophies can be handed back to any of the Committee Members: Meryl Cook, Rona Wright, June Schofield, Ann Aplin, Jill Redfearn or Pam Thornton.

HAVE YOU GOT A
CUP OR ROSE BOWL
ANYWHERE?



Paula Evans

NORTH ROAD LADIES CLUB

Since our report in the last issue of Focal Poyntz we have had some really interesting speakers. In March Don Everett spoke about Container Plants for Summer. He showed some lovely slides of hanging baskets and gave instructions on how to fill them. There was a display of spring plants and a vast selection of summer bulbs - which we were eager to purchase. In April John Parsons came along with Photographic Images Set to Music and at our May meeting Ruth Baker Walton gave a presentation of her beautiful paintings entitled Wildlife Art. Lorraine Sherdold brought a large selection of quilts to our June meeting. The talk was called Quilting - Trip Around the World and Lorraine described all the different styles of quilting from various parts of the world.



We hold an evening trip instead of a meeting in July and this year we will be going on a Mystery Tour, which includes a stop for refreshments. Let's hope the weather holds!

Our Charity for 2010 is Help for Heroes and 2 of our planned fund raising events have already taken place. The Skittles Evening on 7 May was a very enjoyable occasion and raised £452.00 and on 12 June we were blessed with brilliant sunshine for our Garden Party which was attended by a large number of people. The Garden Party raised the magnificent sum of £935.17 and North Road Ladies Club would like to offer a very big "thank you" to all those people who came along to support Help for Heroes.

We have one more event for our charity this year and this will be a Beetle Drive on Friday, 8 October at 7.30 pm at North Road Primary School. This is a "fun" evening, enjoyed by all ages. Tickets will cost £5 (which includes refreshments). Please come along!

Our programme for the remainder of 2010 is:

Monday	6 September	Talk and slides by Bernard Tapp
Monday	4 October	Norfolk Lavender - Mike and Sue Coles
Friday	8 October	<u>Beetle Drive in aid of Help for Heroes</u>
Monday	1 November	Birthday Party - venue to be decided
Monday	6 December	AGM and American Supper - a social evening

Our meetings are held in North Road Primary School and commence at 7.30 pm. Please come along and join us if you are interested in any of the above evenings. Visitors are always made most welcome.

June Rycroft / Secretary



NEXT EDITION OF FOCAL POYNTZ

The winter edition of Focal Poyntz should be delivered to houses around the parish on or before the weekend of 27/28 November 2010.

IRON ACTON C OF E VC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Here I am writing this on Midsummer's Day and some helpful person has just commented that it will be Christmas in 6 months time!

As another school year comes to a close it does seem as if time is rushing by. The school is a hive of activity as we get ready for the Summer Fair, sports day, the whole school trip and many other summer activities.

The new Reception children have visited the school twice and are already making themselves at home. Unusually it is all girls this year - what has happened to all the boys in the village!!

Our Year 6 pupils are busy visiting their secondary schools. They recently went to Torquay for a week's residential visit with pupils and staff from North Road and Rangeworthy schools. It was a great week where the pupils faced a variety of physical and problem solving challenges. They proved themselves to be enthusiastic, well behaved and good team players.

May Day was a real highlight for us this year with 2 pupils making a very beautiful and regal queen and attendant. Our dancers were trained by Chris Bellis and many people commented that this was one of their best performances. A group of 9 year olds performed a brass band fanfare for the crowning. This was a community project organised by a pupil from a local secondary school as part of her Gold Arts Mark Project.

The brass band will be performing again at the Small School Dance Day at Tortworth School. Class 2 pupils have been learning a variety of country dances to perform. We have all decided that Maypole dancing is not as easy as it looks.

The summer term has had a sporting theme with different aged pupils competing in multi-skills, boccia, football and hockey tournaments and festivals. As part of a national sporting initiative leading up to the Olympics in 2012 we were very fortunate to have a visit from Christian Malcolm. He is one of Britain's best sprinters and he raced against Usain Bolt at the last Olympics. He was a very charming man and spent all afternoon with the pupils signing autographs and having his picture taken. The children were then put through their paces on a variety of sporting challenges.

Two members of staff and I recently spent 4 days in Sweden looking at how schools there use and develop the outdoor learning environment. This is part of a 2 year project with schools in the Netherlands, Crete, Hungary and Sweden.

Our Growing Club continues to thrive and has benefitted from 3 more raised beds. Already we have harvested broad beans and potatoes and the hanging basket are very colourful.

During the summer holidays we will be carrying our 2 outdoor projects. A working party of parents and grandparents will be creating play mounds and a spiral garden in the school field. The wall at the bottom of the hill will also be repaired.



We are grateful for the help and support we have received from the village during the year.

Jill Bendeaux / Head Teacher

THE ACTONIANS

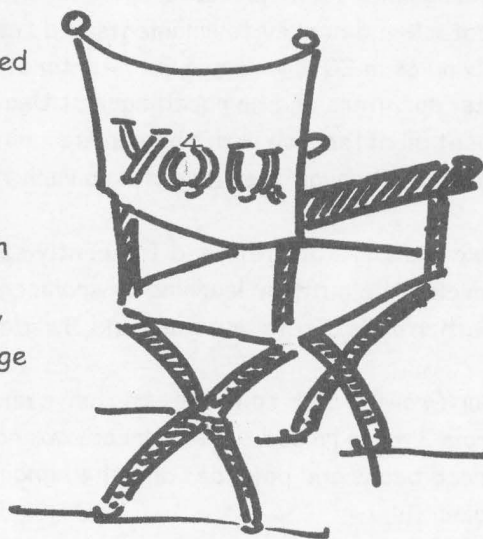
In this report I am hoping to offer readers a review of the Actonians' Year (we have just had our AGM) and to highlight some of the things that we need to think about and, finally, a personal perspective on why the group matters.

We have had 2 major productions this year: "Curtains", directed by Andy Fisher in November 2009 and "The Cemetery Club", directed by June Cross (her first major production for the group) in May 2010, with its complex set arrangement which called for much ingenuity on behalf of the set builders. It was a funny and moving piece. The One-Act was "The Bear", directed by Di and Robert Pardoe. Jim Sinkinson received the best supporting actor award at the Avon Festival and so we were delighted with that. So, all in all, another largely successful year with regard to the main function of the group, which is to produce plays of interest and quality.

Other activities in which we have engaged over the year are: Last year's summer social programme (which was enjoyed by all); Chris 'Arris' Music 'all (October 2009) - 2 nights of music hall history and fun which added a little to the coffers and which, alongside the receipts from the Blues Brothers, enabled us to deliver a reasonably sized cheque to the Parish Hall Committee for the developments at the Parish Hall; the now seemingly annual trip to Chris Harris' Bath Pantomime was also a highlight for many, Separate Tables, a play reading over about 4 Wednesdays, provided much interest and food for thought for those involved; the Christmas/New Year meal at Tortworth Court enjoyed, am reliably informed, by all who attended; the now familiar outings to the 2 Shakespeare at the Tobacco Factory productions which were, as always, immensely enjoyable with a Midsummer Night's Dream being particularly wonderful (The Wall will live long in the memory); our contribution to May Day, which went very well despite the hurdles that emerged and which must be overcome when we come to do this again; Finally, earlier this month, we enjoyed a great trip to the Watermill Theatre (a wonderful, if warm, idyll just outside Newbury) to see a jolly hockey sticks, energetic and fun production of "Daisy, pulls it off" with lunch thrown in.

In addition to all this we have also seen the refurbishment of the Hall, which has seen an improvement in the facilities and has certainly created a much better bar area and a much more user friendly kitchen.

Things to think about for next year and beyond: We are clearly still producing high quality and, on occasions, award winning work as a group but the Committee recognises that there is a need to encourage growth in membership so that we can retain that high quality. The demise of the Junior Section has removed the most obvious entry to the company for young players. Ideas for how we might reconnect with and encourage engagement of new members of all ages would be appreciated and it is not just playing members that are needed our backstage expertise is held in few hands. It is important that this expertise is handed on and that we grow and develop new set builders, lighting and sound experts in order that the tasks can be shared around.



Finally then, to conclude this report just a reminder of why I am committed to this group and the work we do. The team effort, the pleasure of relating to a group of people with whom it is great to spend time, the joy of collaborating with others on a challenging task, the hard work rewarded by the pleasure given to friends, family and other loyal members of the audience, the learning that occurs from the voyage of discovery in unpacking and exploring drama, character and story, the insight and encouragement of a director who understands what they are asking us to do and finds the right balance between fun and hard work, that mutual commitment to the creative process which makes the best productions utterly enjoyable and live long in the memory. That is why I do this and why this group matters to me! I hope this might act as an encouragement to join us on a Wednesday evening at Iron Acton Parish Hall. Our next production is "Clochmerle" directed by Ann Aplin. Readings will take place in August. Do come along!

Rob Pardoe

WORKSHOP AND OPEN AUDITIONS FOR
THE ACTONIANS' PRODUCTION OF CLOCHMERLE

Wednesday, 25 August - Iron Acton Parish Hall - 7.30 pm

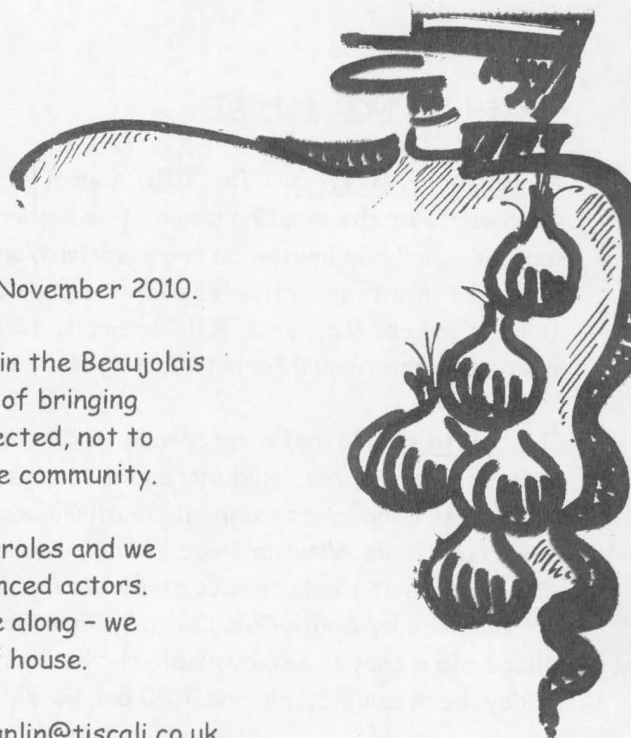
I am directing "Clochmerle" from Wednesday, 24 to Saturday, 27 November 2010.

This adaptation of Gabriel Cehevalier's famous French novel is set in the Beaujolais region of France in 1922 where the Republican Mayor has the idea of bringing Clochmerle up to date by building an urinal! The results are unexpected, not to say explosive, as it outrages the more conservative members of the community.

This comedy has a 'cast of thousands' - in other words good cameo roles and we Actonians are a friendly lot who welcome both novices and experienced actors. If you feel like putting your foot into the dramatic waters do come along - we also welcome those who would prefer to help backstage or front of house.

For further information please call me on 228243 or e-mail on annaplin@tiscali.co.uk.

Ann Aplin



ST JAMES THE LESS PARENT AND TODDLER GROUP

This term has brought about a great deal of change for St James the Less Parent and Toddler Group. Other commitments meant that it was proving too time consuming for just a few people to run so it has been turned into a co-operative. Responsibilities have been divided up and willingly taken on by all members, with the overall aim that each task will have more time devoted to it. Hopefully this will enable us to engage in more social activities and help the children enjoy an abundance of new activities during our sessions.

At present our group is at full capacity. However if you would like to join our waiting list then please ring Natalie on 227397 - we would love to hear from you! We meet every Friday during term time in the Marshall Room (behind the Church) at 10.30 am.

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

As the end of the summer term approaches we, as always, find ourselves searching for our hankies in readiness to wave goodbye to the children who are leaving us to start their school career. Unusually, this year we find ourselves only bidding farewell to one child. She and her grandparents will however be sorely missed by us all and we would like to take this opportunity to wish her well.

Those of you who entered into the spirit of things may have seen some of us at the Church Fayre on 3 July when Kate had a selection of her beautiful and very reasonably priced range of greetings cards on display and some of our other members volunteered their time to man the bouncy castle.

Natalie McPartland



PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

Annual Parish Meeting:- The 2010 Annual Parish Meeting was held in the Parish Hall on Tuesday 11 May. Attendance at the meeting was a little higher than 2009 with some 14 parishioners in attendance. The Parish Council had invited all organisations/groups within the parish to attend the meeting in order to give an insight into their activities over the previous year. Written reports were greatly received from the St James the Less Mother & Toddler Group, Neighbourhood Watch and Iron Acton Primary School. The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting will be posted in draft format on the Parish Council web site.

The Eighties:- No, not a reference to the time when mobile phones were the size of bricks, shoulder-pads reigned and you could buy a pint for less than £2! The Eighties are new bus services operated by Wessex Connect throughout South Gloucestershire. Particular to Iron Acton is the 88 Service which runs from Wickwar Road in Chipping Sodbury through Yate and on to Iron Acton High Street, also stopping at the Lamb bus stops. It has now been operational since the beginning of April and is subsidised by South Glos Council. Timetables have been distributed to most of the houses in the village and a copy is also available on the Parish Council web site. The buses operate from Monday to Friday, between 8.00 am and 7.00 pm, hourly at 5 minutes past the hour.

Play Area:- Unfortunately there has been another spate of vandalism in the play area. The slide is now completely broken. The Parish Council is seeking competitive prices from a number of play equipment specialists in order to repair this piece of equipment.

North Road:- The Parish Council was contacted recently in connection with speeding along North Road and in particular within the 30 mph zone. The Parish Council has spoken to the Police and South Glos Council about this and a red flashing speeding sign will be installed along North Road presently.

Broad Lane:- You may have read in the Gazette recently (issue 1 July) about the planning permission for office accommodation (next to The Fox pub) being granted by South Glos Council. The Parish Council objected strongly to this application citing excessive traffic movements along the Broad Lane/North Road junction and the traffic lights with Iron Acton Way. This area is a walking route for pupils attending both North Road Primary School and Brimsham Green School. Councillor Gawler and Councillor Sheppard attended the South Gloucestershire Planning Committee meeting on 10 June where this application was discussed and spoke at length on behalf of the Parish. However our objections to this application were overruled and permission was granted. The office accommodation is not one, but 2 buildings that will hold a total of some 200 staff (approx. 100 in each) and each building will have a separate entrance. Although alterations to the North Road/Broad Lane junction are planned in conjunction with this application, one can only imagine the chaos that potentially 400 extra traffic movements will cause.

Latteridge Hill:- The Parish Council recently attended a meeting with South Glos Council engineers and local residents in connection with the landslip and traffic lights on Latteridge Hill. South Glos had notified the Parish Council of their intention to carry out works during July to remedy the landslip. The Parish Council pointed out to South Glos that these works were being planned during the busy harvest period for local farmers and would cause considerable disruption. The Council acknowledged this and these works will be deferred until the beginning of September.

Plastic Recycling:- The Parish Council has been informed by South Glos Council that kerb-side collection of plastic bottles will soon be in place and that weekly food waste collection will be implemented. These changes will probably mean a small increase in the number of receptacles used.



Web Site:- The Parish Council web site (www.ironactonparishcouncil.com) has now been up and running for nearly 6 months and provides general information on matters relating to the parish. The agenda for forthcoming meetings and approved minutes of previous meetings are available in PDF format. The web site is a complimentary tool to the activities of the Parish Council and as always all official documents relating to the Parish Council can be viewed by any member of the parish upon request through the Clerk. I would point out that the only officially legal documents are those held by the Clerk. The web site is updated as frequently as is practically possible.

Emailing Information List:- Disseminating information to the parish can be quite difficult and I have heard comments from parishioners along the lines of 'I didn't know that was happening' or 'I didn't know anything about that'. Therefore the Parish Council decided that it might be helpful to parishioners who are on-line to set up an 'Emailing Information List'. Information on things such as events, planning issues, anti-social behaviour, highways issues, road closures, etc can then be passed on to parishioners via the electronic super highway! Parishioners are invited to join by sending a short email to the Clerk (clerk@ironactonparishcouncil.com) asking to be included on the list and also stating whether or not you wish your email address to be kept anonymous.

Safer, Stronger Community Group Meeting:- The next meeting is on 28 September at 7.30 pm in the Parish Hall.

Paula Evans / Clerk

SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE SENIOR CITIZENS' FORUM

The South Glos Senior Citizens' Forum currently comprises over 4,400 members, all actively interested in having their concerns and opinions heard.

A newsletter is published 4 times a year and contains current information and news which allows members unable to attend Forum meetings to keep in touch. Meetings are held regularly throughout the area, at venues accessible to wheelchair users and hearing impaired members. Community transport is organized whenever possible from home to meeting place. Speakers on subjects of particular interest, often suggested by the members, are invited. Question time is always lively.

The management committee also organizes a number of information days annually. These run from 10 am to 4 pm, involve 4 or 5 expert speakers on topical subjects and include free lunch and refreshments. Their popularity is such that over-subscription is frequent.

South Glos Council recognizes the Forum's importance in the community with an annual grant and the provision of an office in the Kingswood Civic Centre. Management committee members maintain links with relevant council policy making by representation on some key committees, and similarly with Health and other public services.

The forum is affiliated to the National Pensioners' Convention, which has direct links with the government of the day.

Membership is warmly invited. Application forms are available from either the membership secretary (Sheila Monks) on 0117 961 0356, by writing to South Glos Senior Citizens Forum, c/o Civic Centre, Kingswood, Bristol, BS15 9TR, or on request at a number of libraries.

Audrey Lees - Publicity Officer

ACTON AID

By the time the summer issue of Focal Poyntz is distributed this year's Proms in the Meadow will have taken place but, at the time of writing, Acton Aid is busy making the final arrangements. In fact, we'll soon start preparations for Proms in the Meadow 2011!

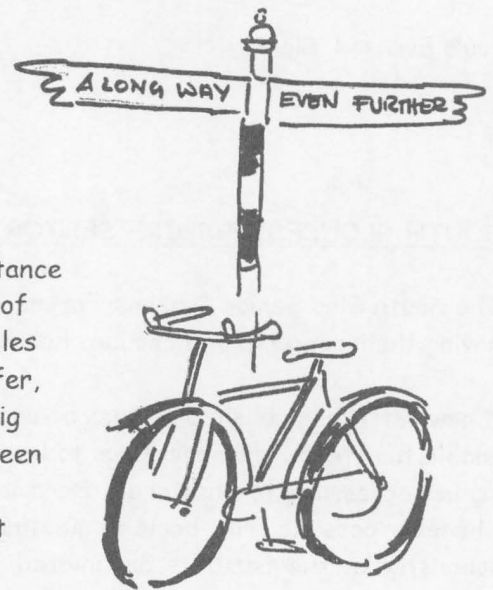
Acton Aid's schedule of events for the year continue in August with a summer social, in September with German Night (sure to be a big hit following events at the World Cup!) and in October with the annual Cultural Visit to an, as yet, undisclosed location).

Since the last edition of Focal Poyntz, Acton Aid has been busy with a number of events. The Chairman's Dinner back in February was a great success, with thanks due to Cherry Picked Catering.

In April a number of Acton Aid members volunteered at the Julian Trust Night Shelter. The Julian Trust, which is Acton Aid's charity for the year, provides the only "no questions asked" night shelter for homeless people living on the streets of Bristol. Acton Aid prepared a chicken casserole (though some members were slightly off-message with the recipe) and a bread and butter pudding (medium rare) and served up seventy odd portions. Feedback from the guests of the Night Shelter was encouraging and we will be volunteering again in the near future.

Continuing the culinary theme, Acton Aid served-up all manner of treats from the barbeque at May Day. Business was brisk all day long; from the bacon and eggs at breakfast to the sausages and burgers at lunchtime and beyond.

In June Acton Aid took on the physical challenge of cycling the distance from Iron Acton to the Eiffel Tower in Paris, all from the comfort of the Lamb Inn. Four teams of riders took turns to cover the 408 miles in just less than 24 hours. In addition to watching the cyclists suffer, spectators benefitted from a barbeque, Beaujolais breakfast and pig roast. The event raised over £2,000 - which was split equally between the Julian Trust and Help for Heroes. Thanks are due to Tracey, Brendan and the staff of the Lamb Inn for their invaluable support to this event.



Since the spring issue of Focal Poyntz we welcomed Tony Harris as a new member and we also celebrated the birth of a future member as Theo Stanley Foote was born to Peter Foote and Rachel Weldrake in April. We wish Rob and Rachel Taylor well for the imminent arrival of their new baby!



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 on the first Thursday of each month at 8.00 pm. Meetings have the minimum of formality. Fund raising events and the distribution of resources are discussed and planned over a pint or two.

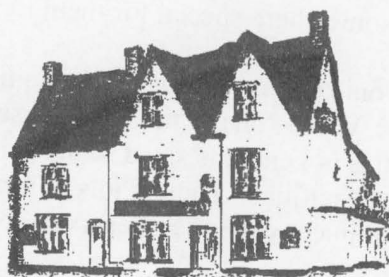
Finally, if any reader is aware of a parishioner who would benefit from the support of Acton Aid they are welcome to contact, in confidence, the Chairman, Jon Aries, on 228037 or the Secretary, Jason Haselhan, on 228791.

Jason Haselhan - Secretary

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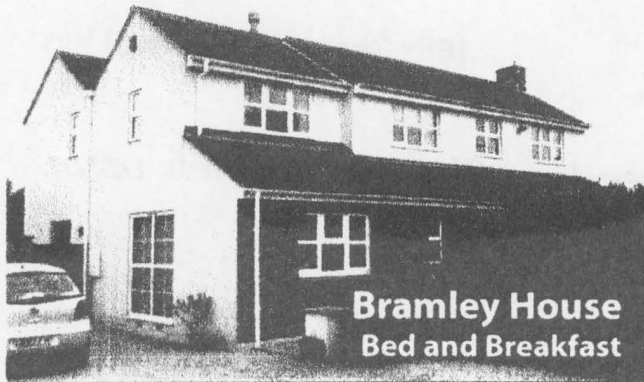
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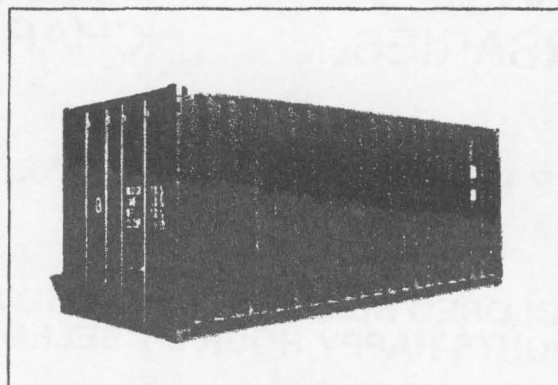
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