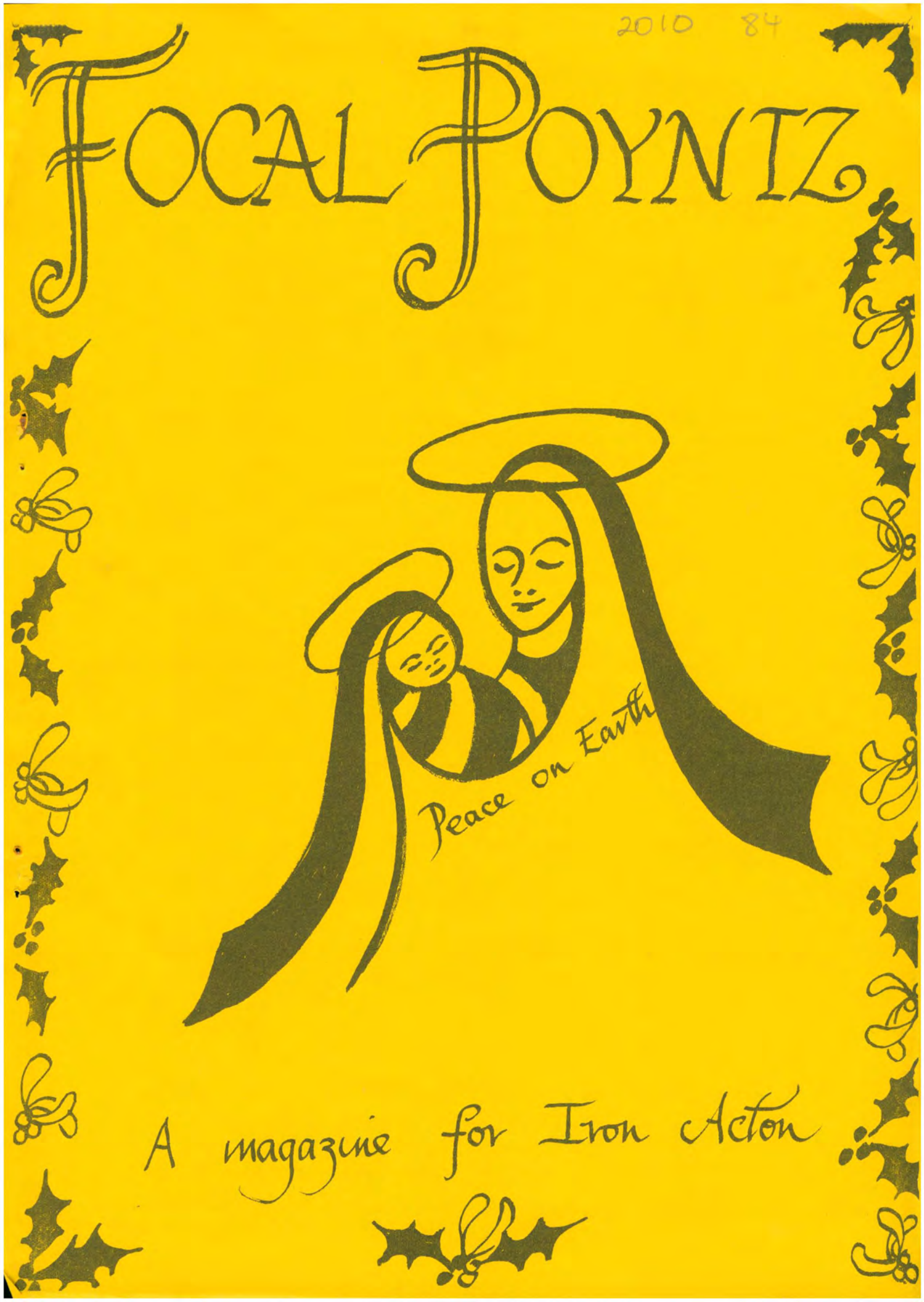


FOCAL POINTS



A magazine for Iron Acton





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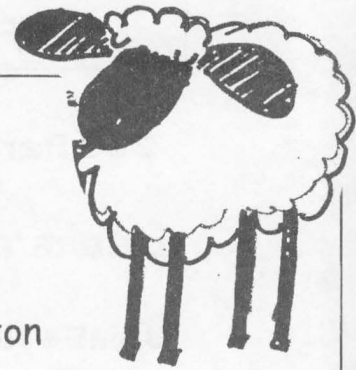
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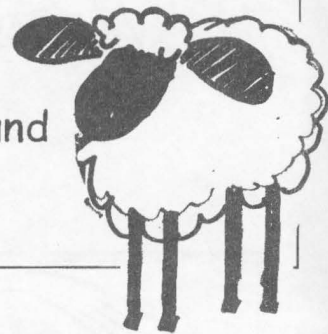
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Winter

ISSUE 84

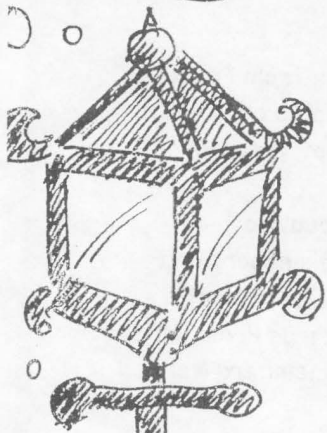
As another year comes to an end (they seem to whiz by so quickly) we would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for supporting Focal Poyntz.

We value the contributions from our village organisations who provide the backbone of the magazine and we are grateful to those people who deliver the magazine to each far flung corner of the parish (and in all weathers). They are our invisible heroes.

We would be lost without Maureen Blake's contribution. We would have a visually boring magazine without her wonderfully expert, quirky, drawings.

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

Finally, we wish everyone a very happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year.



WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Before finishing for the summer break our last speaker was Liz Rowland MBE from The Willow Trust. This is a charity set up in 1989 which takes many physically and mentally challenged children and adults on boat trips along the canal from Saul Junction, near Frampton on Severn. The charity relies solely on donations and hopes that, through speakers such as Liz, people can be encouraged to become a Friend of the Willow Trust at a cost of £15.00 per year. This helps to ensure that a deserving child or adult has a truly special day to remember. Many of us were unaware of this charity that's right on our doorstep.

Several members went on an organised trip in August to Woburn Abbey, the seat of the Dukes of Bedford for almost 400 years. Although the weather could have been kinder it was a thoroughly enjoyable day and, in fact, as there were fewer visitors that day it made looking around the house so much more relaxed.

September brought Peter Coombs to the Parish Hall with a talk entitled Lipstick on a Gorilla. This was actually a very original talk about statues in and around Bristol, how they came to be there and their changing locations at various times. Peter is always an entertaining and knowledgeable speaker about so many topics and no doubt he'll be back some time in the future.

October saw us hold our Annual General Meeting which began with our local representative from Phoenix Trading laying out tables with a plethora of greetings cards and stationery. There was such a choice and so inexpensive, it was a good opportunity to take the plunge and admit that Christmas is not very far off!

Stella read out her Secretary's report, surprising us with the many activities that the group, both as a whole and individually, had undertaken over the past year. Rona then read the President's report and concluded by inviting us all to raise a glass to the memory of our friend, Vivienne Parker, who we lost a year ago and without whom the group may well have folded had she not agreed to take over as President. The current officials all agreed to stand for another year, as did the committee. Other members were also invited to join the committee to bring in some fresh ideas.

Several members had taken part over the last few months in the WI Triathlon and had kept a record of their walking, swimming and cycling miles to send off to the Avon Federation along with a photo of the hardy few. The group with the highest proportion of members taking part in Avon will then be forwarded to be judged for the national competition.

A selection of Teddies for Tragedies made by 2 or 3 members was displayed and just one, made by Liz, selected to represent us at the Group Meeting. At this meeting all the teddies representing the 8 groups in our area will be judged by the members present by the placing of a coin by their favourite. Every teddy, whether a prize winner or not, will be sent off to a child at home or abroad who is in need of cheering up.

By the time you read this we will have held our birthday party (we're 91 now) at the Swan in Nibley and then we look forward to our Christmas party in December. Plans are also underway to make table decorations for sale on our stall at the Victorian Evening in December.

Several members are busily putting together the programme for next year, aiming for the usual varied speakers, some serious, some amusing, but always interesting. If anyone would like to join us and doesn't know anyone who is a member please contact our Secretary, Stella Taylor, on 228417 and she will be pleased to give details and will assure you of a very warm welcome.

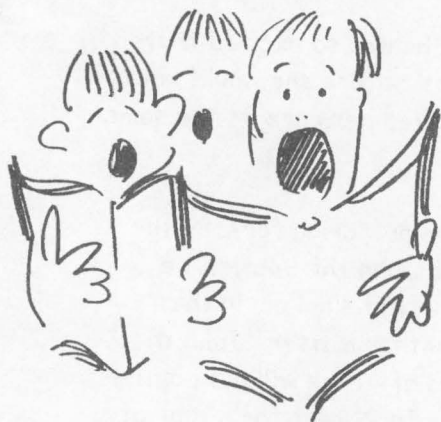
Sylvie Powell



JEAN DICKES

It was with immense sadness that the Focal Poyntz team heard that the lovely Jean Dickes had died. Jean was a member of the FP team for a long time and she and Geoff kindly allowed us, in the days when we had to get together and hand staple all 500 copies, to over-run their house while we walked around and around and around her dining room table gathering up photocopied pages and wearing a groove in the carpet. Her constant good humour and deliciously mischievous sense of humour will long be remembered as will her attempts to rein in the more outrageous gossip that several of us engaged in to beat the monotony and we couldn't wait to see what jigsaw puzzle she and Geoff currently had on the go (it's the only time I've ever seen a completed 5,000 piecer). Jean was kind, good natured, completely reliable and had a wonderful chuckle. She gave back more than she took from village life, was a joy to know and our village will be a sadder place without her.

A VILLAGE CHRISTMAS (FORMERLY CALLED THE VICTORIAN EVENING)



This event was called a Victorian Evening and was known as such since its inception 4 years ago. The problem is that there is now nothing "Victorian" about it and so we thought the name should be changed. Please note that from this year on it will be called a "Village Christmas".

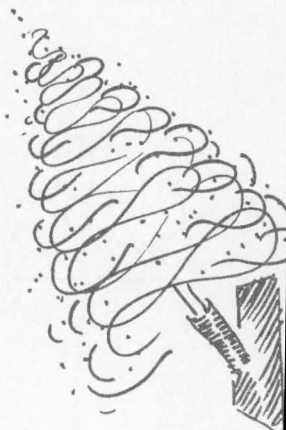
Okay, that having been said, the event will take place on Saturday, 18 December and will start at 4.00 pm in the Church of St James the Less. The children from North Road and Iron Acton Schools will start the event by singing Christmas carols. Everyone will then proceed to the Parish Hall for fun, food and drinks. The event will end at about 6.00 pm.

The last 2 years were extremely cold and those manning the stalls nearly died of hypothermia! From this year on we will have a number of stalls inside the Parish Hall, including Father Christmas. Amongst the attractions this year will be:

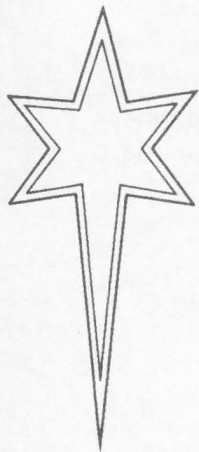
- Food and Drinks: Soup, beef rolls, hot dogs, tea/coffee, mince pies, mulled wine, roasted chestnuts and other things.
- Music: Doddington Parish Band, the Church Choir and Handbell Ringers.
- Donkeys: Children's rides.
- Stalls: Various stalls including children's games, tombola, and children's face painting.
- Father Christmas: With his "elves". This year he will be inside the Hall.
- A Carousel: Children's rides.

The idea of this event was to have a fun "Christmassy" afternoon/evening and to raise money to provide Christmas lighting in and around the village. Following the first year we provided trees, lighting and holders for the houses along the High Street. The next year we did the same for Chilwood Close and this year we have done Park Street and the Green. In total we have provided 71 households with trees, lights and holders and I think it is true to say that everyone is delighted and the village is looking lovely around the Christmas period.

Do come along and join us for what is proving to be a very popular evening.



PREPARING FOR CHRISTMAS



I listened to the car radio on my way home from taking a funeral and heard the presenter announce it was only 79 more shopping days to go until Christmas. "You're having a laugh" I shouted back, "There's much more to happen before that day". So, how much notice do you need to get out there and shop and when you shop for this great day will the time be spent in great joy or anxiety to get the preparation done before the clock strikes twelve on Christmas Eve?

A journey to a given point can be full of anxiety and sometimes through the busyness of our world we miss the vital build up and preparation time. We also seem to live in a 'want now' culture where we find it hard to wait. Take, for example, a journey on holiday with children who cry out from the back seat of the car before leaving the road "Are we there yet?" and when they ask about two hundred and fifty times the same question one realises that one's journey of preparation has been destroyed by the urgency to get to the destination in order that peace might again prevail.

Our son invited his 6 year old Goddaughter to be a bridesmaid at his wedding. She was so excited that every night before she went to bed she asked her parents how many more 'sleeps' before she would wake up to be a bridesmaid. As she had been invited 6 months prior this meant she asked her parents the same question 183 times.

So, are we prepared for Christmas yet? A better question might be what are we preparing for? By the time you read this we will most likely be in the season of Advent and, indeed like John the Baptist, be 'preparing for the way of the Lord'. Whether you are prepared to go for a quick baptismal dip in the River Frome that passes through our village in readiness for the great day is another matter. John the Baptist announced to the people to prepare for God's coming 'the one who comes after me will not baptise with water but by the Spirit of God'. So, let me ask you, what are you preparing for? Is it for a time of rampant secularism where we meet with Santa Claus en-route for the local supermarket, where we say sorry not for our sinful nature but because we have just stood on someone's toes in the rush to see him; or are we preparing for a time when children will have an exciting and imaginative time and when the world will see Christmas as celebrating the time when God stole the show?

As I was shopping at the Mall last Christmas I heard a voice say "Why is Christmas at such a busy time of year?" Clearly someone has missed the point, but let's not dismiss the comment because God chose the busiest time to enter our world, he chose the time of a political census where highways would have been packed with people heading for Bethlehem. He chose Mary whose ordeal was to carry this Godly child whilst sat on a donkey in the dusty conditions of a hot day; and it might be that the words of Donkey in Shrek might echo any child's frustration of a long journey by constantly asking "Are we there yet?" He chose the busiest time when inns were full and the only resting place for a tired pregnant woman was an animal stall and then chose the imperfect time for a delivery where God in humanity came to rest in a feeding trough. You have to admit that God has a good sense of humour.



Then came the visitors: Shepherds from the hillside, having been directed by angels, came down the long winding road; Kings from the east followed a star, came, knelt and paid homage. Others either missed the whole show through lack of preparation and knowledge or, like a jealous King called Herod, sent out troops to find the Godly child and have him killed.

Many over the years have visited this Godly child, from great national leaders to the afflicted souls on the streets of our cities, from those who travel the world to those in captivity in prison, from the well fed to the impoverished, from the healthy to the sick and dying, from good people to bad people.

We, too, through our preparation by prayer will come again and visit this Godly child at Christmas. Many will not find the time to come and will again miss the opportunity of this Godly show. Many will hear the Christmas story being told at a distance and will say "you're having a laugh". Some, as children of God will ask, "Are we there yet?" and find at journey's end the excitement and joy they anticipated having found the wait difficult. A child will place its head on the pillow on Christmas Eve knowing there is only one more sleep to go before they meet and unwrap Jesus.

Reverend Canon David Harrax

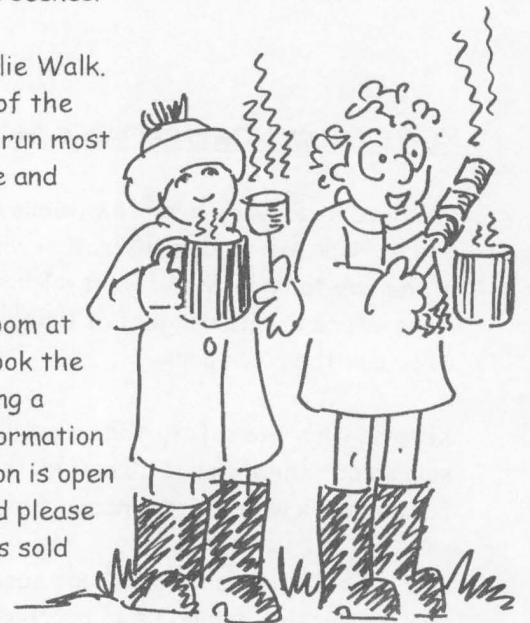
THE FRIENDS OF IRON ACTON SCHOOL

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. Please contact me on 228791 for dates and times.

We recently dusted off our flares and hunted out our platform boots for a 70's disco. For those of us (unfortunately) old enough to remember 70's disco the first time around it was like stepping back over 30 years! The fancy dress costumes were fantastic. My thanks to everyone who helped make the night an occasion to remember - both on the dance floor and behind the scenes!

By the time you read this we will have held our annual Winter Wellie Walk. 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 will also be hosting a Family Photography Session on Saturday, 27 November 2010. This will be held in the Function Room at The Lamb and will be run by Tulip Photography - the people who took the fantastic class photos last term. So, if you are interested in having a family photograph taken, please keep your eyes open for more information at school. We will be taking bookings nearer the time. This session is open to anyone so if you have friends who you think would be interested please spread the word. A percentage of the proceeds from photographs sold will be donated to the Friends.



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, 11 December from 11.00 am to 1.00 pm. It is always a wonderfully festive occasion and a great way to get into the Christmas spirit. Please come along and support us!

Our final event of the term will be a Christmas Disco at the Parish Hall on Friday, 17 December from 6.00 pm to 8.00 pm. We will be joined by our resident DJ, Noel Daniels, who always ensures the children have a good time. It should be a great way to finish the school term and get in the mood for the Christmas holidays.

As for 2011, we are busy planning more Friends' events. If you've always fancied a flutter on the races but never had the chance make a note in your diary for Friday, 18 February 2011 when we will be racing pigs - not real ones, of course, but small, pink, fluffy ones!

Caroline Haselhan

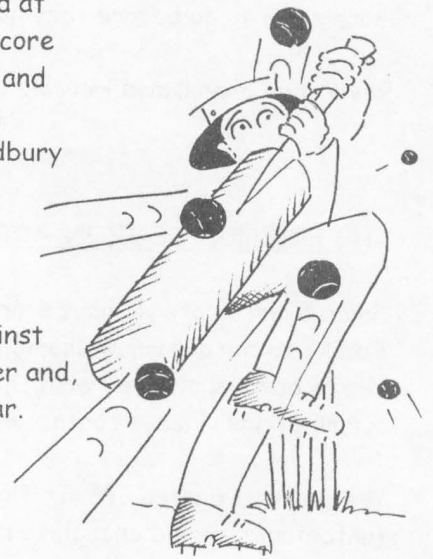
IRON ACTON CRICKET CLUB

Those of you who follow the fortunes of IACC in Focal Poyntz will remember that in the last issue I left you on somewhat of a scalpel-edge with the team boasting a 100% record and a tricky fixture away to Frenchay Hospital coming up. Well, I can now reveal that the 100% record was maintained in great style - which left only 3 games remaining and several players dreaming of that perfect season. The next opponents were the Royal Navy (well 11 of them and mainly from dry land at Abbey Wood) and things didn't look too good when we only managed to score 99 runs off our 20 overs. However, our bowlers pulled out all the stops and restricted the opposition to just 88 runs. Only 2 games to go. We then faced Old Sodbury, against whom we have a fairly good record. Old Sodbury batted first and after about the seventh dropped catch we should have realised it wasn't going to be our day. Our batting also failed to deliver and we had finally lost a match.

We recovered our composure with a win in a close fought final game against Putts Puffers to finish off what must be our most successful season ever and, thanks to that one loss, we can still aspire to doing even better next year.

The indoor season is now well underway and, after just 2 games, yes, we have a 100% record here we go again!

Chris Bradley / Chairman (228559)



NEWS FROM NORTH ROAD SCHOOL

We have had a very busy few weeks back at North Road Primary. At the beginning of term the children had a truck safety demonstration which was organised by one of our mums. Everyone had a chance to sit in the cab to understand what a lorry driver can and can't see. The children really enjoyed it and are now more aware of the dangers of being around a truck. A huge thank you to the Cross Keys pub for allowing us to use their car park.

Keeping with the safety theme we also had a road safety assembly and sale so our children are all now kitted out with appropriate clothing for the dark winter mornings and nights.

Our school book fair was a huge success. We sold plenty of books and the commission helped us to purchase £160 worth of new books for the school library.

The children have also enjoyed visits from local churches to tell them about the different religious beliefs that people have, as well as going to trips @Bristol and to Caerleon in Wales.

We currently have plans for a new school website and are keen to have a community page for our parents. If you have a small business in the local area and would like to be signposted from our website please contact the school office.

The deadline for school applications for Reception 2011 is in January. If you wish to come and visit our school please contact the school office to make an appointment.

Have a relaxing Christmas.

Jo-Marie Williams / Head Teacher



ADVANCE NOTICE OF POSSIBLE ROAD CLOSURE

Can you bear in mind that we believe the committee organising the "Village Christmas" on Saturday, 18 December has applied to South Glos Council for a road closure of the High Street and, if successful as in 2009, will affect the road between the hours of 2.00 pm and 8.00 pm. As this is the last Saturday before Christmas this could have an impact on any deliveries that may need to be made to houses in the High Street or for access by other parishioners.

ST JAMES THE LESS

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Sunday	12 December	4.00 pm	All Age and Christingle Service (collection goes to the Children's Society)
			NB There is no morning service on this day
Sunday	19 December	6.30 pm	Carol Service and Readings by Candlelight
CHRISTMAS EVE			
Friday,	24 December	6.30 pm	Crib Service
CHRISTMAS DAY			
Saturday,	25 December	9.00 am	Family Communion

Please note there are no services on Sunday, 26 December or Wednesday, 29 December.



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.

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

CHURCH CHRISTMAS FAYRE

Saturday, 4 December 2010 at 2.30 pm in Iron Acton Parish Hall

White Elephant - Gifts - Children's Corner - Books
- Raffle - Tombola - Cakes - Refreshments
and not forgetting Father Christmas

Please bring your friends for an enjoyable afternoon!



STOP PRESS FINAL REMINDER! ACTONIANS NOVEMBER PRODUCTION

Have you got your tickets for the Actonians' production of Clochmerle
on Wednesday 24th to Saturday 27 November in the Parish Hall
If not, fear not, contact Ann Aplin on 228243

ST JAMES THE LESS PARENT AND TODDLER GROUP

Toddlers have had a great start to the new term. We invited everyone on the waiting list to join the group and so welcomed 5 new parents and their children. With only a couple of children leaving to start school the numbers of families attending each week remains constantly strong yet manageable.

This level of support has allowed us to fund extra activities for our children. We have committed to arranging a music session at least once every half term from the ever popular Sarah at Jazzy Jamboree and we are also looking to introduce activities during the school holidays for our toddlers and their older siblings. Whilst on that subject thanks to everyone who helped and joined us for our summer get together at the Village Hall. It was lovely to catch up with all the mums and see all the children enjoying the sunshine.



Toddlers is now run by the whole group rather than a couple of individuals. We have been operating in this way for over a year and the approach seems to be working well with good friendships developing between the mums as well as the children. Dividing the responsibilities has helped to share the workload which has benefitted the children as we have had the time to produce more creative crafts such as planting bulbs, making masks, cake decorating and painting. We also ensure that we have time for group singing at the end of every session.

Next on the list is to arrange our Christmas party and to find a volunteer to act as Father Christmas. We also plan to arrange a well earned night out for the mums!

If you are interested in joining this friendly toddler group please contact either Katie Curtis (228997) or Ann Mora (228994). We meet from 10.30 am to midday each Friday morning in the Marshall Room.

Ann Mora

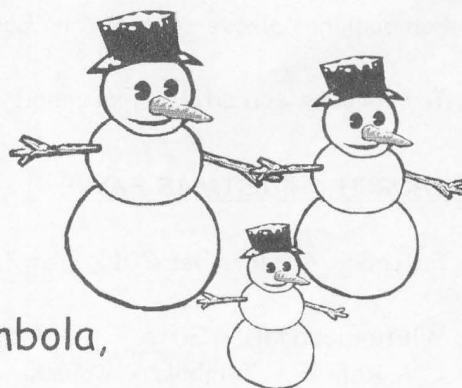
Christmas Fayre
(in aid of church funds)

Saturday, 4 December 2010 at 2.30 pm

Iron Acton Parish Hall

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

Come and see Father Christmas!



NORTH ROAD LADIES CLUB

On 5 July our members enjoyed a beautiful sunny evening for their Mystery Coach Tour which took us through the Forest of Dean/Wye Valley area stopping at Symonds Yat for a ploughman's supper. It was a really lovely evening.

In September Bernard Tapp came along to our meeting to give a talk, illustrated by slides, of his visit to colourful Rajasthan.

In October Mike and Sue Coles showed us a short film on the history of Norfolk lavender farming, where it is grown and the steam distillation process to produce the pure lavender oil. They also gave us some useful tips on caring for our own lavender plants and we were able to purchase items from the large selection of lavender products on display.

We also held a Beetle Drive in October (Friday 8th). This was our third and final event for our 2010 charity "Help for Heroes". This was well supported and was a very enjoyable and successful evening. We are very pleased to say that our 3 events (skittles evening, garden party and beetle drive) have enabled the grand amount of £1,684.07 to be donated to "Help for Heroes - support for our wounded".

North Road Ladies Club would like to thank all those people who came along to give their support to these fundraising events and made them such a success.

On 1 November we celebrate our 43rd birthday with a party in Iron Acton Parish Hall. The meal will be provided by outside caterers.

On Monday, 6 December we hold our AGM and this will be followed by an American Supper and Social Evening.

Our meetings are held in North Road Primary School (term time only) and commence at 7.30 pm. Visitors are always welcome to come along and join us.

Our first meeting in 2011 will be on Monday, 10 January.

June Rycroft / Club Secretary



Iron Acton School Christmas Fair



Saturday, 11 December
11.00 am to 1.00 pm

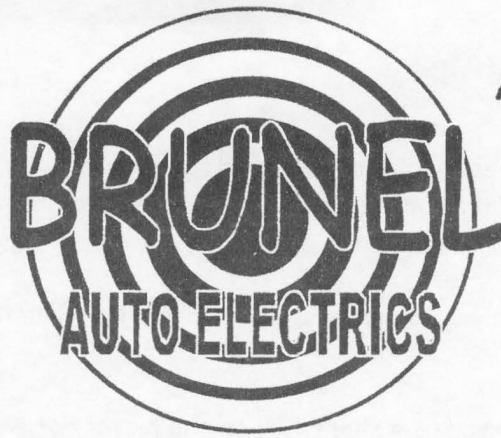


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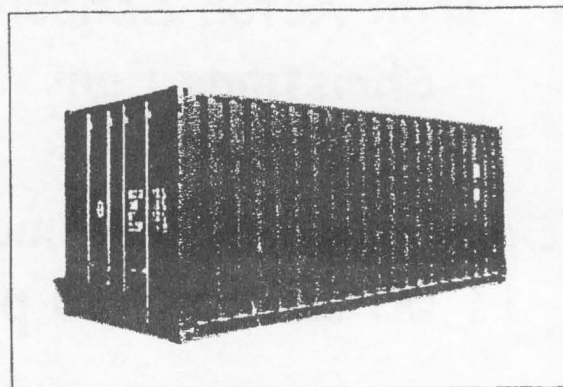
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Can help many conditions including:

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It is a very relaxing treatment

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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.

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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!

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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



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Lots of wonderful benefits for you & your baby.
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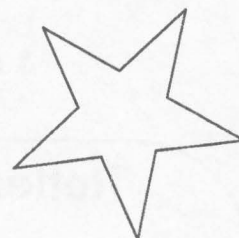
NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY

IRON ACTON VILLAGE HALL FROM 7.30 pm TO 12.30 am

A night for the stars Come dressed to impress (with a prize for the most glamorous couple).

For the adults

- * Disco
- * Bar
- * Buffet
- * Cocktails



For the kids

- * Lucky dip
- * Games
- * DVD's
- * Snacks and drinks
- * Quiet corner

Limited tickets available on a 'first come' basis.

Adults:	£13.00
Children (under 14)	£3.00
Family (2 adults/2 kids)	£30.00



Contacts are:

Jane Conlon on 228600
Sue Gadsby on 228803
Jackie Tucker on 228044



LAST POSTING DATES FOR CHRISTMAS 2010

<u>2nd Class</u>	Saturday, 18 December
<u>1st Class</u>	Tuesday, 21 December

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.

IRON ACTON PARISH COUNCIL

PARISH MEADOW

Acton Aid has approached the Parish Council with a proposal for a community project involving a number of parish organisations to build a structure on the Meadow which can be used by parishioners and parish organisations for outside events and shelter from the sun and rain. At their meeting in October the Parish Council gave permission for Acton Aid to build their proposed multi-functional open structure on the Parish Meadow. Permission is required by the Parish Council in accordance with bye law number 7. The proposed structure will be 4m wide by 10m deep and 3m high rising to 4.5m at the apex. Should the need arise, this structure will also be capable of being extended a further 4m on each side using removable posts and canvas roofing. It is anticipated that the construction costs for this community project will be borne by Acton Aid and once completed ownership, management and related responsibilities will be handed over to the Parish Council. A copy of the proposed design can be viewed on the Parish Council web site (www.ironactonparishcouncil.com).

PLAY AREA

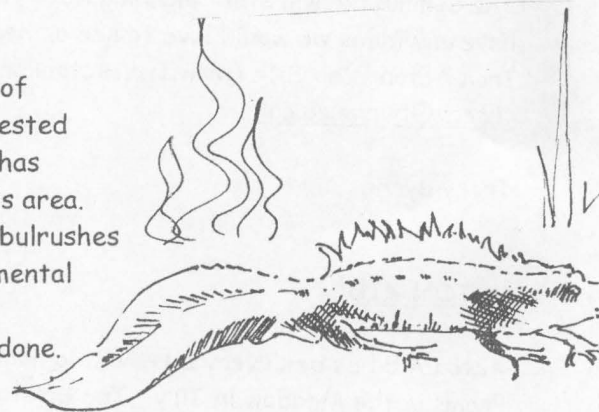
The slide in the play area was removed in early September and a climbing rope net installed in its place. This was because the slide had been damaged beyond repair. The cost of this replacement was £720!

NORTH ROAD

Concerned residents approached the Parish Council about surveying that was being carried out on land between North Road and Mission Road. The Parish Council contacted Sydney Freed Holdings who were carrying out this work, and were informed that a topographical survey was being undertaken. Parishioners may remember that this land was identified as potential building land back in 2003/2004. Sydney Freed Holdings assured the Parish Council that aim of the topographical survey was to see if any changes had taken place. Should anything further arise, the Parish Council will keep you informed.

DYERS POND

The Parish Council will be undertaking the annual clearance of one third of Dyers Pond during November. As there are crested newts (a protected species) in the Pond, the Parish Council has to be very careful when undertaking any type of work in this area. The contractor who undertakes this work will also thin the bulrushes and remove the dead tree to the rear. As the last environmental survey of the Pond was carried out nearly 10 years ago the Parish Council is investigating costs for a new survey to be done.



PARISHIONER EMAIL INFORMATION LIST

In the last edition of Focal Poyntz the Parish Council informed parishioners that the clerk was in the process of setting up an Emailing Information List. Only 6 parishioners expressed an interest in joining. If you are interested in joining, please contact the clerk by email on clerk@ironactonparishcouncil.com with your details. Obviously your details will be kept confidential. The aim is not to bombard recipients with day to day details, but to inform parishioners of important activities affecting Iron Acton Parish.

Paula Evans / Clerk (228029)

Friends of North Road School

Christmas Fayre

Friday, 3 December 2010

2.00 pm - 4.00 pm in the School Hall

Everyone Welcome!



MAY DAY 2010

The weather was kinder to us this May Day the very cold day the previous year before the horribly wet day in 2008 but, for all the bad weather, it never ceases to amaze me the huge turnout, the generosity and the overwhelming feeling of community spirit.



The Committee consists of various parish organisations: Parish Hall, WI, North Road School, Iron Acton School, Actonians, Victorian Evening and the Church all having an equal share of the profits.

The format for the day stays relatively the same each year, with a few minor tweaks and adjustments and this year saw the Fly Ball in the Parish Meadow - which was a great success. I'm not sure who had more fun; the dogs or the owners. Signage then directed visitors on through the meadow and into the Parish Hall for the art display.

We also had music this year to round off the event. Fred Wedlock had been booked to play but the sudden, sad death of Fred led the way for another popular local group to stand in - Chantilly Lace, and this also proved a great success.

I would like to thank everyone who helps and supports this event; I could name you all but I know I will offend someone by missing them out!

The Committee will start planning next year's May Day in January and if you would like to be involved or have any ideas we would love to see or hear from you. The date for this meeting will be advertised on the Iron Acton Web Site (www.IronActonParish.info) or you can contact the committee via me on tracey@byrne.eu.com.

Tracy Byrne

ACTON AID

Acton Aid has been very busy with a number of events since the last edition of Focal Poyntz. First up was Proms in the Meadow in July. The Bristol Millennium Orchestra was joined by 3 young local singers to perform a programme of the music of dance. Striking performances from the Kathryn Hurley Dance Academy and the Stapleton School of Dance emphasised the theme. Dave Bate and the Thornbury Swing Band were on hand to kick-off the evening. The collection during the interval raised over £1,200 for the Chairman's Charity, The Julian Trust. Planning is already under way for Proms in the Meadow 2011!

In August, members and friends of Acton Aid enjoyed a summer social in the garden at Algars Mill. The weather had been poor in the run up to the event but on the day itself we were able to relax in the sunshine and enjoy the company and the German Night was held in the Parish Hall in September. A select crowd was treated to a bierkeller atmosphere and Cardiff's finest Bavarian Umpah Band!

The annual cultural visit took place in October. This year's destination, a closely guarded secret, was Barcelona. Unfortunately the rain didn't stay mainly on the plain but that didn't dampen our intrepid explorers' spirits!

We are busy making preparations for the Bonfire Night Firework Display on the Parish Meadow on Saturday, 6 November. Later in November we will be volunteering again at the Julian Trust Night Shelter and in December we will be distributing Christmas boxes to pensioners across the parish.

Since the last edition of Focal Poyntz Acton Aid has enjoyed a boom in membership. We welcomed Martin Gadsby, John Worlock and Rob Pardoe as new members. We also celebrated the birth of a future member as Joseph was born to Rob and Rachel Taylor.

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 too.



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

Jason Haselhan / Secretary (228791)

IRON ACTON C OF E VC PRIMARY SCHOOL

The year is rushing on. Last time I wrote it was Mid Summer's Day and here we are celebrating our annual Harvest Festival and talking about Christmas!

Our Reception pupils are all settling in well and are now full time. I am delighted to hear that all of our ex-pupils are settling in well at their secondary schools

The highlight of Class 3's term was their memorable day in London visiting many sites including the Science Museum and Downing Street.

Staff have just returned from a visit to Hungary. They took a time-line made by pupils showing how Iron Acton has changed.

The school sounds very melodic at the moment as Year 5 play their brass band instruments and Class 2 learn samba drumming.

We continue to develop the field as an exciting learning environment. Over the summer a working party built 2 play mounds in the field. The children have thoroughly enjoyed running all over them. The next project will be to make a spiral garden. Members of the School Council recently met with members of the Friends hoping to persuade them to buy some new play equipment.



The Growing Club goes from strength to strength and they were delighted to win several certificates at Iron Acton Horticultural Show. Our pumpkins are enormous - even Cinderella would be proud of them.

Unfortunately, Miss Brewer chose the wettest day of the year for her Environmental Day. Most of the activities had to be postponed due to the horrendous weather. However the pupils still had great fun buying local produce from the Farm Shop and then turning it into a smoothie using a specially adapted bicycle.

Finally, a staff change, Mrs Burchell has decided to move back to Guernsey to be with her family. After half-term we will be joined by Miss Cole in Year 2.

Jill Bendeaux / Head Teacher

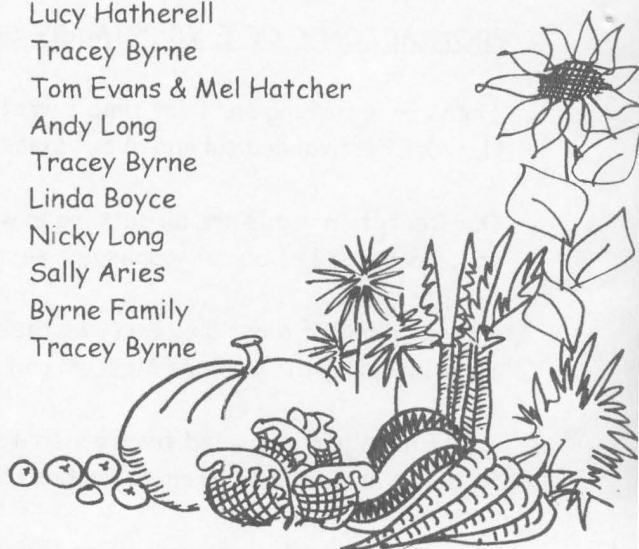
HORTICULTURAL SHOW 2010

Well done Iron Acton! Yet again the parish joined in and made another successful show. We were a little down on entries this year with just under 400 exhibits, however the quality more than made up for the shortfall. Particular mention must be made about the extremely artistic displays in the Allotment Cup section, as well as the wonderfully colourful flower arrangements. The Children's Section was really well supported with some very clever and interesting models.

This year the Committee decided to hold the auction before the presentation of the cups. This was an unashamed excuse to keep everyone in the hall to bid on items in the auction. The Horticultural Show is a self-funded event and it is the money raised from the auction, entry fees and teas and coffees that keeps us going. We are extremely lucky that the Parish Hall is donated free of charge for the day for this parish event. The Horticultural Committee was delighted with the amount of money raised during the day - £160 proceeds from the auction, £50 from the teas/coffees and homemade cakes, and £15 profit from the entry fees. Thank you for your generosity. For those of you who were unable to come to the Show, the cups were awarded as follows:-

Pre-School Cup
Junior Cup (Ages 5, 6 and 7)
Parker Shield (Ages 8, 9 and 10)
Rudman Cup (Ages 12, 13 and 14)
Allotment Trophy
Red Ribbon Cup (Best Exhibit in Show)
Hall Committee Rose Bowl (Highest Points, Gen Section)
Gorden Powell Cup (Second Highest Points, Gen Section)
Flower Arranging Rose Bowl
Acton Aid Cup (Homecraft Section)
Photography Cup
Golden Jubilee Cup (Family contributing most entries)
St. James the Less Cup
(Highest Points, All Sections by an Iron Acton Resident)

Alice Grubb & Bethany Clarke
Alicia Scott
Chelsie Maciver & Jessica Hatherell
Lucy Hatherell
Tracey Byrne
Tom Evans & Mel Hatcher
Andy Long
Tracey Byrne
Linda Boyce
Nicky Long
Sally Aries
Byrne Family
Tracey Byrne



When is a Victoria Sponge not a Victoria Sponge? Well, according to the WI rules of baking a Victoria Sponge should be made using the 'creaming method', pale golden brown in colour, lightly sprinkled with caster sugar on top, with no cooling rack marks on the top surface and only filled with raspberry jam - no cream - anything else is just a plain and simple cream sponge.

It may seem ridiculous to some, but certain rules and regulations have to be followed when judging entries in a show. Everyone then knows where they stand and how exhibits should be displayed. For future reference, if anyone wants to know anything about entering the 2011 Show, please ask one of the Committee Members who have access to the extremely long list of do's and don'ts.

Advance date for your diaries - the 2011 show, which will be 10th anniversary of the newly resurrected Horticultural Show, will be on Saturday, 10 September.

Paula Evans on behalf of Iron Acton Horticultural Committee



The next edition of Focal Poyntz (Spring 2011) Should be delivered to houses the weekend of Saturday/Sunday 26/27 March.

FRIENDS OF NORTH ROAD SCHOOL

As you read this edition of Focal Poyntz Christmas will just be around the corner, the children will be getting excited and we'll all be rushing around doing Christmas shopping!

The September term started well and it was lovely to see the full class of Reception children who have all settled well into school life. Our first Friends of the School meeting took place in September and it was all very encouraging to have great turnouts of parents, some of whom were new to the school this term. Thankfully all the positions on the committee were filled so we can now get on with organising more fundraisers! We have just funded the New Reading Scheme for each classroom and are now looking into funding and updating the Maths Scheme. The Library is looking good and we spent a day last week cataloguing all the books to make it easier for the children to find the book they're looking for! Mrs Williams kept us going with cups of tea and biscuits. We have also funded the coaches to take the children to their Christmas pantomime in December. We have been asked to fund some fencing in the Key Stage 1 area so they can have some more "outdoor" sessions during the day and we are looking into the costing of this. It's important that the children can spend some of their day outdoors and, as many of you know, we are very limited on outdoor space so we need to make the best use of what we have.

We had a successful Ladies Evening in September with the School Hall full of relaxed and pampered ladies. We plan to hold the event again next year so look out for the date. Next came the Barn Dance - again a great family night with everyone joining in - either on the dance floor or supporting the bar sales and some managed both.

By the time you read this we will have celebrated our Harvest Festival and this year, as a school, we are supporting "Buying Seeds for Africa".

After a very popular Family Bingo Night last term we have another evening booked for 12 November. This time we'll all be a little more familiar with the bingo lingo after the last evening and no doubt the children will be queuing up to have a go at being the caller!

We are busy planning the Christmas Fair which takes place on Friday 3 December. Father Christmas has been booked and we're looking forward to seeing him that afternoon! The children are going to be busy making gifts to sell alongside the Friends of School stalls. Please do come along and have a browse and a cuppa and take this chance to get a few stocking fillers! The time of the Fair is 2.00 pm to 4.00 pm.

The ever popular Christmas Disco is booked for 15 December. The children love dressing up in their party gear and the teachers have a chance to strut their stuff on the dance floor!

We are looking forward to taking part in the Village Christmas Evening on 18 December and the Friends will be celebrating the end of term and having our annual Christmas Night Out at the Kendleshire on 16 December - an evening we're all looking forward to.

May we take this opportunity to wish all Focal Poyntz readers a very happy Christmas and prosperous New Year.

Heather Tillotson



Your local Safer Stronger Community Group needs you!

South Gloucestershire's 20 Safer Stronger Community Groups are all about working together to improve your local community. The groups also enable you to have your say about the services that your community needs and receives.

These groups have been set up as part of the South Gloucestershire Council's Community Engagement initiative and the Neighbourhood Policing Model. Their members include people who live and work in the area and representatives from South Gloucestershire Council, the local Police, Avon Fire & Rescue, Health Authority, the Town & Parish Council and other local organisations. The aim is to:

- * work together to ensure local communities are safe and pleasant places to live, work and play
- * give local people a greater voice and influence over local decisions and the service provider priorities.
- * support actions and initiatives that meet local needs

The next meeting for the group to which Iron Acton belongs is on Wednesday, 26 January 2011 at 7.30 pm in St Saviours Church Hall, Beesmore Road, Coalpit Heath. This meeting will also include a short presentation on the 2011 Census.

For further information please visit, <http://groups.southglos.gov.uk> . Here you will be able to become a member of your local e-group, view agendas and minutes from meetings and gain access to more information about the issues and projects in your area. Alternatively, you can contact your Safer Stronger Communities Officer on 01454 864625.



CHRISTMAS RECYCLING

Used Stamps

Here's the annual reminder that if anyone wants to give used postage stamps to Lynne Blanchard (Rose Cottage, Latteridge Road, Iron Acton) she is happy to relieve you of them and forward them 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.



Used Christmas Cards

During January 2011 Tesco, W H Smith, T K Maxx and M&S will be collecting used Christmas cards on behalf of the Woodland Trust. Look out for the large green and white containers.

Christmas Tree Re-cycling

These can be recycled at any of the South Glos Council Sort it Centres and, alternatively, we think that Westonbirt Arboretum is also offering this facility.

FOCAL POYNTZ INFORMATION

Your Focal Poyntz Team is:

Lynne Blanchard
228566

Maureen Blake

Roy Hubbard
228356

Stella Taylor
228417

Barrie Wright
228247

Rona Wright
228247

Deliveries are ably carried out by:

Sheila Alsop
Lynne Blanchard
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.

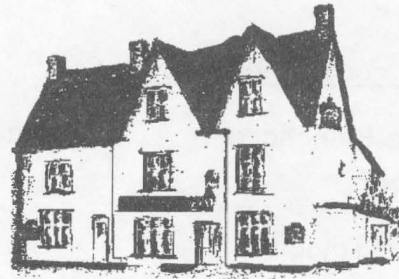
COVER:

Our special Christmas cover has been designed for us by Eileen Hughes.

The Lamb Inn

Iron Acton Village, South Glos.

Telephone 01454 228265



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16th Century Historical Inn

A warm welcome from Brendan , Tracey and their team.

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5 LARGE EN-SUITE BEDROOMS**

**LARGE FUNCTION ROOM AVAILABLE
THE PERFECT VENUE FOR**

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Iron Acton

South Glos.

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bandb@beech-house.biz

www.beech-house.biz



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