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Summer 2011
Issue 86

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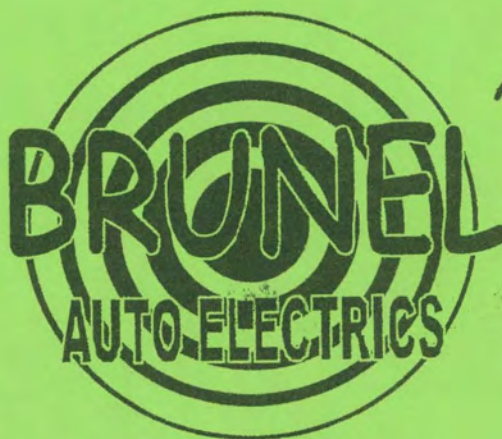
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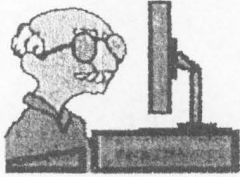
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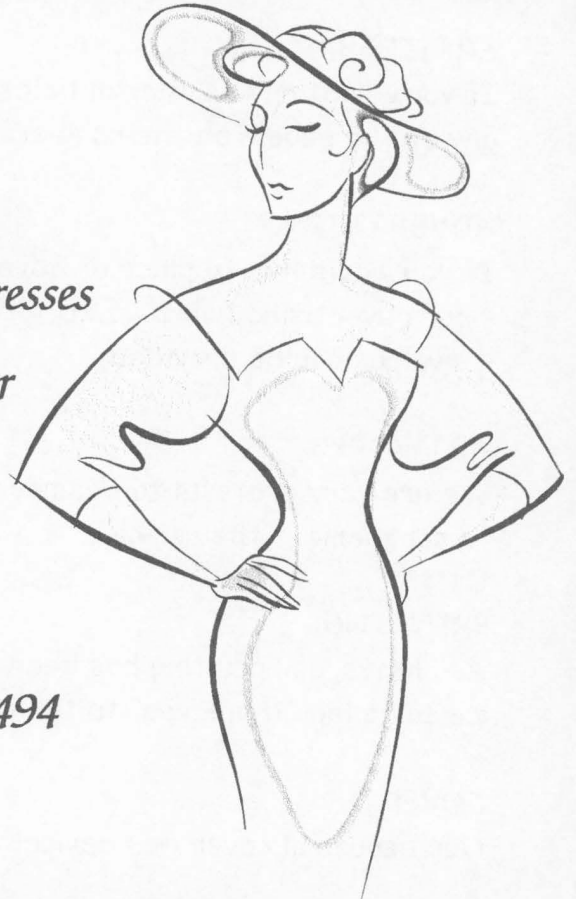
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FOCAL POYNTZ INFORMATION

Your Focal Poyntz Team is:

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The Bradley Family
Carole Dickson
Elizabeth Edwards
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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
- our advertising "whiz" (£20 for a full page and £10 for a half page
- invoices can be provided).

ARTWORK:

We are very grateful to Maureen Blake for some more of her very special drawings to complement the articles.

PRINTING:

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

COVER:

Our beautiful cover was devised by Maureen Blake.

SUMMER

ISSUE NO

86

2011

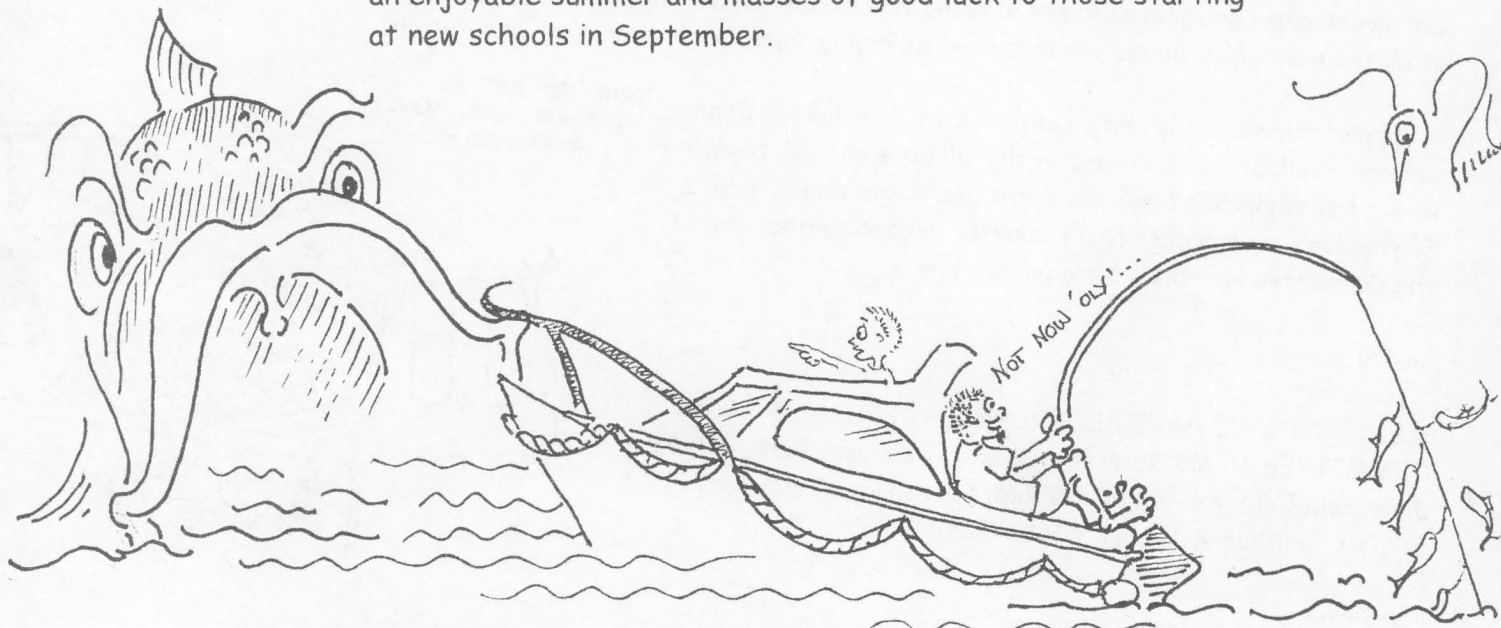
Welcome to Issue 86 of Focal Poyntz.

This time we have articles about 2 very special fund-raisers for cancer charities: The Acton Alliance Team walked around the YOSC non-stop for 24 hours raising funds, awareness and memories of loved ones and, for those of a slightly less energetic persuasion, the Iron Acton Breakfast took place in the Hall and filled those gaps that cornflakes never reach! Well done to everyone involved in both activities.

Congratulations, too, to some of our younger residents who not only won the South West Regional Acrobatic Gymnastic Championships but then went on to do brilliantly well at the National Finals - where they came a very creditable third.

Our organisations seem to be involved in myriad activities - and our Cricket Club has surprised us yet again by turning to poetry for part of their article where will we go from here.

As the schools look forward to breaking up, we wish everyone an enjoyable summer and masses of good luck to those starting at new schools in September.



HORTICULTURAL SHOW

The Horticultural Committee looks forward to welcoming you all on Saturday 10 September for the Annual Horticultural Show in the Parish Hall. This will be the 10th anniversary of the resurrected Horticultural Show and we hope it will be one of the best!

Last year's new registration and auction procedure worked well and will be in place again this year.
remind

Registration

- 1 Complete your entry form with the classes you wish to enter and calculate your entry fees. Please Note
- no more than three entries per person per class.
- 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.
- 4 Once in the Hall, the Hall Marshalls will assist you in the placing of red stickers on your exhibits. Basically, if you want to keep your entry after it has been judged, place a red sticker on the Class Ticket. If you are happy for the entry to be auctioned off after the show leave the Class Ticket blank.

Running Order

Entries accepted at the Parish Hall on Saturday 10 September from 9.00 am - 11.00 am.

Registration will close at 11.00 am promptly.

Staging of exhibits continues until 11.30 am when all members of the public will be asked to leave the hall.

Judging commences: 11.30am.

Show open to the public: 2.30pm.

Auction: 3.15pm

Awards presented: 4.00pm, (if any produce still remains the Auction will continue)

So, please come and join us in the afternoon for a cup of tea and slice of homemade cake and take a look at all the wonderful things produced by the highly talented residents of Iron Acton.

A copy of the schedule and an entry form is enclosed. Copies are also available to download on the village web site, together with a list explaining how to present and stage your exhibits. If you don't have access to a computer, please contact one of the Committee members for a paper copy.

Lastly

PLEASE CAN WE HAVE ALL TROPHIES RETURNED TO A COMMITTEE MEMBER (Meryl Cook, Paula Evans, Rona Wright, June Schofield, Ann Aplin, Jill Redfearn or Pam Thornton) BY THE END OF AUGUST - DULY POLISHED!

Paula Evans

HAVE YOU GOT A
CUP OR ROSE BOWL
ANYWHERE?



BREAKFAST IN AID OF ST PETER'S HOSPICE JUNE 2011

We were fortunate again this year to have a warm sunny morning on 11 June for the Village Breakfast. It is difficult to put a number but we estimate over 250 enjoyed the relaxed social atmosphere, eating their choice from bacon, sausage, beans, hash brown, tomatoes, mushrooms and eggs. Freshly brewed tea and coffee was plentiful and a chance to browse the morning papers all led to another successful occasion. As the sun came out tables and chairs were quickly moved onto the grass area outside the hall where parents were able to chat whilst children enjoyed the bouncy castle, played football or had their faces painted.



A warm welcome extended upon arrival was enhanced by the offer of Bucks Fizz served from a table decorated with balloons and flowers. Then, an opportunity to talk to representatives from St Peter's Hospice as they promoted their "Lotto" opportunities.

The "kitchen" staff enjoyed the facilities of the new hall kitchen, making their task more comfortable - apart from the inability of the cookers to keep up with the required heat. The "front of house" team was kept on the constant run as they served hot food, cereals, toast and fruit juice to the non-stop stream of customers. The hall looked lovely with flowers decorating the tables and stage and the raffle ticket sellers did a sterling job.

All this culmination of dedicated team work enabled us to send a total of £1,763 to St Peter's Fundraising Office, with which of course they are delighted.

None of this could happen without hard work from the team who volunteer to help. I hope I have thanked everyone individually however another huge thank you will not go amiss.

Di Heal

ST JAMES THE LESS CHURCH

Services Throughout the Year

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

An All Age (Non-Eucharistic) Service is held at 9.30 am on the 2nd Sunday of each month. Coffee and tea are served after this service and a Fairtrade stall is set up in church for parishioners to purchase goods.

Future All Age Services are as follows:

Sunday	14 August	9.30 am	"Pot Luck"
Sunday	11 September	9.30 am	"Moving On"
Sunday	9 October	9.30 am	Harvest Service followed by Auction and Refreshments
Sunday	13 November	9.30 am	Remembrance Service
Sunday,	11 December	4.00 pm	Christingle Service

Mid-week Holy Communion or Morning Prayer is held on Wednesdays at 11.00 am.

Date for your Diary

Saturday, 10 December, Iron Acton Church Christmas Fayre, 2.30 pm in the Parish Hall



THE STORY OF ONE FAMILY HOUSE AND ONE SPECIAL LADY IN THE HIGH STREET

If you passed on 11 June near the Fursman's house in the High Street you could hear the sound of people and music coming from Marjorie's garden. This place used to be well known in the village years back when it contained a local store that provided many of the needs of everyday life to the people of the village.



Vincent G Fursman, Marjorie's father-in-law, had acquired the General Stores in the High Street in 1911. It really was a general store, selling foods as well as everything else. At one time it was usual for a pig to be reared in the back garden, slaughtered by the local butcher (also retailing in the High Street), cut, cured and sold - all on the premises.

On that evening the Fursmans held a party to celebrate 100 years of the family house in the High Street and the 99th birthday of Marjorie Florence Fursman (which, in fact, was the day before on 10 June). Her interesting life story started parallel to the story of the Fursman's Stores in Iron Acton.

Marjorie Florence Fursman (nee Burcombe) was born in Bristol on 10 June 1912. Her father, Steven Burcombe, died when she was only 3 years old while her sister was being born in the other room. When Marjorie was 17 years old she and her 2 siblings, Leslie and Cathleen, lost their mother, Florence Burcombe, and became orphans.

Life hadn't been easy for Marjorie in the following years but, watching the unimpressive care that her mother received while she was ill, reinforced her early ambition to become a nurse and, at the age of 21, she was accepted onto a 3 year nurse training course at the Bristol Royal Infirmary.

Afterwards Marjorie went on to fulfill a 6 month midwifery course. In 1938, following the completion of that course, Marjorie moved to London where she worked in a Fever Hospital in the East End but the Second World War came along and upset that training. The government took over a large mental hospital at Basingstoke; Park Prewett. There she worked until 1940 when she returned to Bristol to join a neuro-surgical team for the West of England that was based at the BRI. The department transferred about a year later to the Burden Institute at Stapleton where Marjorie eventually became matron.

In 1941 Marjorie was part of the team to perform the first lobotomy operation in England (brain surgery used in the treatment of intractable mental disorders) which was reported at the time in the local papers.

In 1946 the department was moving to Frenchay Hospital and Marjorie was offered the job of Theatre Sister. Unhappily for the NHS, but happily for Iron Acton and particularly for Mr George (Bunny) Fursman, she decided on a change of career and marriage. It started with them running a shop at Stapleton and after Vincent Fursman died in 1966 they moved to Iron Acton to take over Fursman's Stores. Both of them worked in the shop.

Bunny carried on his father's tradition cooking and curing his own ham and maturing the cheese for the shop. Marjorie supplied the women of the village with drapery, from cotton to sewing items, which were placed in little drawers. In those days many customers used to save money on Christmas Club Cards and sometimes they might ask to have little debts "put on the book" and pay them off gradually. Later on Marjorie worked for many years at the Brooke Clinics (for family planning) in Bristol, while also Helping in the shop and running a home.



The opening of Tesco in nearby Yate affected many small businesses in the area and it gradually put paid to the viability of a village store and Bunny, reluctantly, closed his shop in 14 February 1984 when he retired.

Bunny passed away in 1997 and Marjorie then lived on her own in their house from that time. She insisted on being independent and tried to live life to its best. Shortly after her 90th birthday she was able to fulfill one of her dreams and fly over the Cotswolds (thanks to an unusual birthday present) when she went on a flight in a glider. She was quoted in a local paper describing it as a "wonderful day and thoroughly enjoyable".

Marjorie enjoyed her lovely garden, her little vegetable plot and cooking or baking as much as she could. She used to prepare crab apple jam and put it in jars to be given to friends. She liked to be helpful in every way she could so you could find her knitting clothes for premature babies or knitting breasts for UWE midwifery students to assist their studies. Marjorie would always enjoy the company of family and friends and she had also been helpful and comforting whenever they needed a sympathetic ear.

Marjorie left a son, Patrick, a grandson, Ben and a great-grandson, Barr. Her funeral took place on 5 July at Westerleigh Crematorium and was attended by many people. Her friends and neighbours say she has been an inspiration as well as a friend. She will be missed by many.

NORTH ROAD LADIES CLUB

Since our last report North Road Ladies Club has had some very interesting speakers. Mr D Packham showed slides of his journey in America on a Greyhound Coach and told us of the various incidents which occurred throughout his journey. Zoe Drew, who went over to Russia to help in the orphanages, came to speak about everyday life in Russia and "Do they really bury their heads?" was the title of Paul Cook's talk. This was a very humorous talk about his Ostrich farm and was a most entertaining evening.



In June Mark Wilkins came to tell us about the County Air Ambulance Trust. We were very pleased to be introduced to Mr Wilkins as it is the County Air Ambulance Trust that our Ladies Club has chosen for their 2011 charity. We have already held a bring and buy cake stall, a skittles evening and a garden party - each one of these events has been very enjoyable and successful. In December we will be presenting the County Air Ambulance Trust with a cheque for the amount we have raised from our fund-raising throughout the year.

Our Ladies Club annual evening took place on Monday 4 July. This year the destination we chose was Dewstoke Gardens and we then enjoyed refreshments at Dewstoke Golf Club.

Our programme from September until the end of the year is as follows:

Monday	5 September	Talk and Slides by Bernard Tapp
Monday	3 October	Basic Flower Arranging by Sue Williams
Monday	7 November	Ladies Club Birthday Party - venue to be decided
Monday	5 December	AGM, American Supper and Social Evening

Our meetings are held in Iron Acton Parish Hall, commencing at 7.30 pm. If anyone feels they would like to join our Ladies Club please come along as a visitor - you will be made most welcome.

June Rycroft / Secretary (228668)

ACTON AID

By the time the summer issue of Focal Poyntz is distributed this year's Proms in the Meadow will have taken place. At the time of writing, Acton Aid is busy making the final arrangements and we'll soon start preparations for Proms in the Meadow 2012!

August looks like it might be a quiet month for Acton Aid but September will more than make up for it. First of all we hold our summer social event then, shortly after, we are planning to add another event to the calendar - the Last of the Summer Wine Festival. This will be a beer and wine festival with entertainment for the whole family. Look out for more details nearer the time. This year the annual cultural visit slips from October to November when we will be visiting Berlin.



Since the last edition of Focal Poyntz Acton Aid has been busy with a number of events. First up was the Beatles Night back in March. This was a new event in the calendar for Acton Aid. The Complete Beatles rolled back the years and played a couple of sets in the Parish Hall - before the end of the evening Beatlemania had well and truly set in.

In April 18 Acton Aid members went on a stag night on the eve of the Royal Wedding. This started and finished at The Lamb with a stomach-churning trip to the Frampton Balti in-between. A strong constitution was required. Acton Aid was involved in organising the village celebration of the Royal Wedding and funded the souvenirs children were able to decorate on the day itself.

As usual Acton Aid served up all manner of treats from the Barbeque on May Day. It was another good day for the barbeque - business was brisk all day long from the bacon and eggs at breakfast to the sausages and burgers at lunchtime and beyond.

Since the spring issue we have welcomed Andy Ridler as a new member.

Any parishioner who wants to find out more about Acton Aid is invited to contact one of the officers or call in and join us at the Lamb Inn at 8 pm on the first Thursday of each month. Meetings have the minimum of formality. Fund-raising events and the distribution of resources are discussed and planned over a pint or two.

Finally, if any reader is aware of a parishioner who would benefit from the support of Acton Aid they are welcome to contact the Chairman (Gareth Wynne-Hughes (on 228248) or the Secretary (Jason Haselhan on 228791).

Jason Haselhan / Secretary (228791)

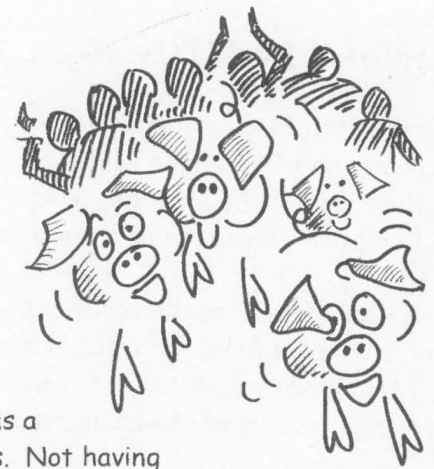
THE FOUR STAGES OF LIFE

- 1 You believe in Santa Claus
- 2 You don't believe in Santa Claus
- 3 You are Santa Claus
- 4 You look like Santa Claus

FRIENDS OF NORTH ROAD SCHOOL

Let's hope that as you read this the rain clouds have gone and we are all enjoying lots of sunshine!

It's been another busy term at North Road. We had a successful Duck Race just after Easter and managed not to lose any ducks along the River Frome. Plenty of wellies filled with water and lots of wet children - a good time was had by all!



We had our first ever Pig Race Night in May and had a fun evening. It was a family night so the hall was filled with children, parents and grandparents. Not having done one before we were unsure how it would go but the children had a great evening cheering on their chosen pigs while the adults relaxed with a drink from the bar. We raised £420 - which delighted us and we are planning another race for sometime in the Autumn Term. A huge thanks go to Yate Rotary Club who came in with the pigs and organised the races for us.

We thoroughly enjoyed taking part in the St James the Less Church Fete on Saturday. The weather was good and it was lovely to see lots of families from North Road School at the event. It was a good day also for the children of North Road School; Jessica Goodliffe won the model making competition and the football team won 5:2.

Our own Summer Fair takes place later this week and we are all busily planning and hoping that it will be good BBQ weather and everyone will enjoy the afternoon.

Looking ahead into next term the Friends of the School diary is already looking busy. We have, back by popular demand, another bingo evening! This has been booked for 23 September. If you fancy coming along it would be lovely to see you, do give me a call nearer the time for tickets. The following event planned is a Beetle Drive on 14 October. This, again, is an event we've never tried before but we're willing to give most things a try! We'll let you know how it goes. The final event planned so far is a Retro Night. This will be an adult evening, a chance for the parents to get together and have a good old boogie on the dance floor. A few of us from North Road came along to a 70's night held by Iron Acton Friends of School some time back and we really enjoyed it so thought we'd have a go ourselves. It would be lovely to see some of you from Iron Acton School if you would like to join us as it would be a good opportunity for us all to get to know each other and socialise. The final date for this event hasn't been set yet but as soon as it is we will let you know. Start planning ahead and rummaging through your wardrobes to see which outfits from the past you can dust off!

We have another Bags to School booked for 6 October so if you want to have a clear out and are happy to donate any old clothes, bedding, etc, do call me and I can arrange to collect it from you.

May I wish you, on behalf of the Friends of North Road School, a very happy and sunny summer holiday!

Heather Tillotson (227419)

5 POINTS OF USELESS INFORMATION

- * You burn more calories sleeping than you do watching television.
- * Venus is the only planet that rotates clockwise.
- * Donkeys kill more people annually than plane crashes.
- * It's possible to lead a cow upstairs but not downstairs
- * Months that begin on a Sunday will always have a "Friday the 13th".

BRISTOL RELAY FOR LIFE - 2 AND 3 JULY 2011

Earlier this year it became obvious that the organizers of Bristol's Race for Life had not consulted those of us from Iron Acton who normally take part! As a result they had inconveniently clashed their date with the Proms in the Meadow. This led to something of a dilemma - should we quietly forget about our fundraising this year or think of something else to do?

A year off was on the cards until someone (I'll name no names here!) mentioned another Cancer Research event called Relay for Life. We investigated further and found that the event was handily located at the Yate Outdoor Sports Centre and had thoughtfully managed to avoid any other Iron Acton event. Encouraged by what we had read we registered our team and Acton Alliance was born!

Relay for life is a 24 hour event and requires at least one member of each team to be walking throughout the 24 hours. With a dawning realization that some of us were not as fit as we'd like to be it quickly became obvious that the more team members we had the less walking we would have to do. Initially we had 4 or 5 team members but, to my surprise, as word of our challenge spread, we were approached again and again by people who wanted to take part. In the end we had 10 adults and 9 children registered to our team.

The idea of Relay for Life is not just to raise sponsorship for the event itself but to raise funds throughout the year and we got off to a flying start when Lisa Hatherall organized a coffee morning on our behalf. It was a lovely morning with coffee, cakes, games, a raffle and a book sale and it was brilliantly supported by so many people. Lisa raised £315 for our team - a wonderful start.

Our next fund-raising event was a Strawberry Tea organized by Jayne MacIver and held in Rona and Barrie Wright's garden. The afternoon of the tea was warm and bright and, as school finished, the garden was swamped by hungry schoolchildren and their parents joining other friends and supporters.

So many supported us that a fantastic £415 was raised.



As a result of this fundraising and each team member's own sponsorship we had already raised over £1300 as the day of the Relay approached.

Saturday, 2 July dawned dry and bright, with the prospect of warm weather for the whole weekend. In good spirits we arrived early at the YOSC to set up "base camp" in the centre of the 400m sports track. It was soon obvious that many of the other teams were old hands at the event as their team camps had a military organization which, I think it's fair to say, ours lacked!

At midday the event started with everyone walking the first lap - led by cancer survivors. In the bright sunshine and with music playing there was a fun, carnival atmosphere which lasted throughout the day. At various times there were themed laps and team laps. Our team lap was accompanied by our team song "bring me sunshine" and a fair imitation of the classic Morecombe and Wise dance. Throughout Saturday afternoon we were also running a soft toy tombola stall to raise more money for our team. It was only at the end of the afternoon that we realized a large proportion of the soft toys had been won back by the younger Acton Alliance team members!

Having mentioned them I would now like to say a few more words about our junior team members - they were brilliant! Every one of them walked their socks off - quite literally in some cases as the weekend was extremely hot. All entered into the spirit of the event with enthusiasm and enjoyment. The organisers had provided everyone taking part with a long piece of string and at the start/finish line there was a large bucket full of beads. As each lap was completed a bead was added to the string to keep a tally of the number of laps walked. This simple idea really attracted the children and their number of beads grew much faster than the adults!

During the evening we were joined by our families and enjoyed a team BBQ and a glass or two of wine (a necessary sleep aid for those of us due to camp out overnight! Then, as it started to get dark, the Candles of Hope were lit alongside the track. These were candles that had been dedicated to loved ones. This was an extremely moving part of the event and it was a time to reflect on why we were all there, to remember lost ones and those still fighting their battle with cancer. On the embankment above the track the candles spelt out one word - HOPE.

Gradually darkness descended and there were fewer people on the track. The resident DJ turned off his amp and the team night owls started their laps. The rest of us tried to sleep. A clear evening turned into a clear night and the temperature fell dramatically. It was a chill, dewy night and by 4.30 am we were all glad to see the sunrise - despite the lack of sleep.

However the glorious morning sunshine soon warmed us and as fresh team members with fresh legs arrived we set about the final hours. A combination of miles already walked, lack of sleep and the heat meant that the walking was tougher than the previous day but the last few hours passed quickly until, just before midday, we all gathered at the start line for the final lap of the event and then it was all over.

What an experience! At times intensely emotional, but always in wonderful company and with the knowledge that what we were doing really matters. Our team total of £1300 (with some sponsorship still to come) is way beyond my expectation when we first thought "how about doing Relay for Life this year?" In all, the Bristol Relay for Life will have raised over £28,000 for Cancer Research UK.

I can't finish without some words of thanks - to so many people. Firstly, my grateful thanks go to everyone who has put their hand in their pocket or purse to support us over the last few months. Thanks also to everyone who came and not only encouraged us at the relay but even joined us on many of our laps. My thanks also go to our back-up team of spouses who put up tents, fed and watered us and looked after the children we abandoned for 24 hours!

But the final thanks go to my fantastic team-mates without whom none of this would have happened: Jill Bendeaux, Pippa Cook, Olivia Cowell, Rosie Haselhan, Nikki, Ollie and George Johnson, Jayne, Chelsea, Izzy and Amy MacIver, Natalie McPartland, Sarah & Rellie Ridler, Amanda & Lissy Scott, Heather Tillotson and Sandie Wiggins.

Caroline Haselham

90TH ANNIVERSARY CONCERT - THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

The concert was held at the Town Hall in Chipping Sodbury on Friday, 20 May and I am pleased to report that the evening went very well.

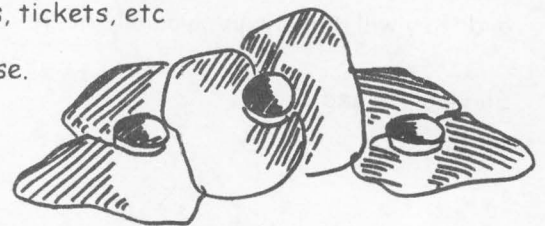
An audience of around 140 was entertained by the Avon Fire and Rescue Band who skillfully played a varied and popular selection of music ranging from The Dam Busters March to songs from the shows. Also appearing were children from Colston's School in Bristol - 2 singers and a corps of drums. The children were a real credit to their school and showed exceptional talent.

There were some wonderful raffle prizes donated by local companies and also national organisations.

Thanks are due to all the "back room" people involved in making the night such a success; the people who volunteered their help to sell raffle tickets, programmes and to take money for tickets, the standard bearers from Yate, Badminton and Stoke Gifford who paraded the standards at the start and the end of the show and to my husband for all the design work for the posters, tickets, etc

To date the amount raised is £1,418.46 - but this is expected to rise.

Sue Greenwell / Poppy Appeal Organiser



ROYAL WEDDING

The Royal Wedding was celebrated in style in Iron Acton on 29 April. The celebrations were held in the beer garden of the Lamb. It seemed there were hundreds of people enjoying the occasion - even the happy couple made an appearance, albeit in cardboard cut-out form. They took pride of place next to the wedding cake and cup cake display.



Despite a worrying forecast the weather stayed dry and we even saw the sun at times - only the breeze made a nuisance of itself.

Around 130 children, some in royal fancy dress, were treated to a "street party" lunch. Either side of lunch the children were entertained with a bouncy castle, inflatable subbuteo and the opportunity to decorate their own souvenir of the day.

Later in the day we enjoyed one of Brendan's delicious hog roasts and a performance from the Zen Hussies provided the perfect soundtrack for the occasion. They were followed by Dave Bate who, after his set, handed the mic over to the children for a number of impromptu performances.

Several organisations in Iron Acton contributed time and fund raising to keep costs as low as possible (the event was not run for profit or as a fund-raiser): Acton Aid, Actonians, Book Club, Friends of North Road Primary School, Friends of Iron Acton Primary School, Iron Acton Primary School, North Road Primary School, Parent and Toddler Group, Parish Hall Committee, Parish Council, Parochial Church Council, Women's Institute and, of course, Tracey, Brendan, Hannah and the staff at the Lamb. Thanks to all those involved.

Jason Haselhan

SOUTH WEST ACROBATIC GYMNASTIC CHAMPIONS.

My name is Shannon and I do acrobatic gymnastics at King Edmunds Gym Club. This year Tiana (my sister), Millie Theobald and I were selected to compete in the South West Championships and, because we came first, we were then asked to go on and represent the South West at the National Finals where we came third. Not long ago we travelled to Northern Spain where we came first in the 11-16 trio category

and when we came off the floor it was just like we had a fan club because there were loads of people following us. The Spanish people kept wanted to take our photographs and they wanted us to write our names on paper. On the Sunday after the competition we had a water fight and then we went to Burger King. It's not all about hard work - you do, sometimes, get some nice treats! Oh, I forgot to say that this was our first every time abroad and it was great.

If anyone is interested in joining the club please contact

the Sports Shed on 01454 320622

and they will happily give you all the information you need.

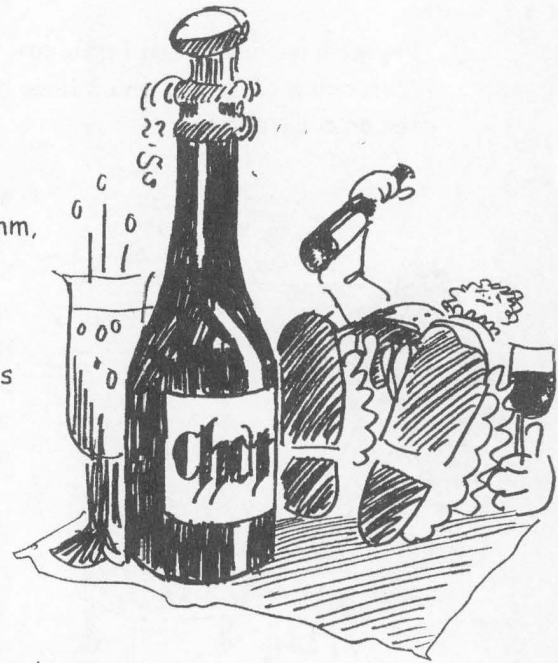


Shannon - aged 12

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

It's hard to believe we're halfway through the year already. We've had some interesting speakers, including Peter and Carol Coombs, from South Gloucestershire Wine Circle, who introduced us to the world of wine tasting. Best of all, they brought along some excellent and very affordable wines for us to try. It was as well we dealt with business matters first as we went home exceptionally happy that evening! Mike Rowland, who spent 31 years as a police officer, was a very entertaining speaker with a talk entitled a Fair Cop which chronicled his early years in Devon and his subsequent deployment as a young constable in Bath. His anecdotes of community policing were hilarious at times as well as poignant. We had some good tips on photography from David Gamm, who accompanied his talk with many of his amazing photographs. There were yet more interesting photographs from Bernard Tapp during his talk on the Land of the Midnight Sun. Bernard is an ex-head teacher who went on a lone trip to Scandinavia for 3 months after being widowed.

The cakes members provided for the children's party at the Lamb to celebrate the Royal Wedding were much appreciated and the whole event was a roaring success. May Day was an unusually sunny day - blustery but at least dry. Our bric-a-brac stall was again very popular, particularly amongst children and grannies buying for grandchildren as there was such a good array of children's toys and games.



There is currently a country wide project to make pennants to give to all the competing athletes in the 2012 Olympics. Liz Flay has been inspired and showed us the results of her endeavours, 15 in all at the time. Our group was asked to provide buttonholes for the Group Meeting at Old Sodbury and Stella and Rona did a sterling job which was greatly appreciated by the Old Sodbury Committee.

We held our own Bring and Buy and American Supper for our June meeting - which was a nice change and gave us more time to chat amongst ourselves whilst enjoying food and wine. July will also be a sociable occasion as we are taking an evening cruise on The Matthew. Family and friends will be joining us and included is a fish and chip supper. If the weather is kind to us it's sure to be a memorable occasion.

We'll be back in September with decisions to make about our birthday party venue.

Our Secretary, Stella Taylor, can be contacted on 228417 if anyone would like further details of our meetings which are held on the second Monday evening of the month in the Parish Hall.

Sylvie Powell

THE NEXT EDITION OF FOCAL POYNTZ

Fingers crossed and everything going to plan the next edition of Focal Poyntz will plop on your doormat, at the latest, by the last weekend in November.

THOUGHTS FOR THE DAY

Time may be a great healer but it's a lousy beautician.

Wisdom comes with age but sometimes age comes alone

NORTH ROAD SCHOOL

We can't believe summer is here already. We have the usual summer fun planned; sports day, picnics, summer fair and, of course, we're saying goodbye to our Year 6 pupils to whom we wish lots of luck as they embark on their new educational adventures.

This term we have been fortunate to send our children on lots of trips. Class 1 has been to Westonbirt, Classes 2 and 3 have been to @Bristol and Class 4 has visited Bristol Zoo - photos can be seen on our website.



As usual, our Year 6 pupils (along with those from Rangeworthy and Iron Acton schools) enjoyed their residential visit to Liddington in Swindon. They experienced canoeing, mountain biking, abseiling and orienteering. Much fun was had by all. The Year 5 pupils also had their own camp to the Redwood to the estate for the day and experienced pond dipping, shelter building, campfires and natural art workshops. At 2 pm everyone apart from the Year 5 pupils and some staff left the site and our first job was to erect our tents - which would be our accommodation for the night. After several attempts and some bent tent pegs we played some games before our BBQ dinner was ready (having spent all day outside we were ravenous). Washing up was shared amongst the children, much to their horror, and after this was completed we went for a moonlight walk in the woods where we saw some deer grazing, bats and owls.

The dawn chorus and the sheep in the field behind us woke everyone at 4 am and by 7 am we were ready for our bacon sandwiches. After that we took down the tents and built rafts to float on the lake. Some were more successful than others but lots of new skills were learnt. We returned after lunch, tired but with glowing faces and all full of our adventures. We will certainly return next year.

Our new heating system is starting to take shape with trenches in place and our new boiler house in position. The gas is being brought up North road during July and August and I would like to apologise for any inconvenience it may cause. Everyone is really looking forward to being warm in the coming winter months. The new roof will also be started during August and, before then, we will be removing the equipment from the school into storage for the summer. Although it is a lot of hard work it will be worth it and we are very grateful to South Glos for carrying out the repairs.

Please keep an eye on our website for photos of our events and current school news.

Jo Williams / Head Teacher

USEFUL EXPRESSIONS FOR THOSE "HIGH STRESS" DAYS!

- * You! Off my planet!
- * I like cats too let's exchange recipes
- * How do I set a laser printer to stun?
- * I'm not tense just terribly, terribly alert.
- * When I want your opinion I'll give it to you!
- * Earth is full, go home.
- * This isn't an office it's hell with fluorescent lighting.

IRON ACTON CRICKET CLUB

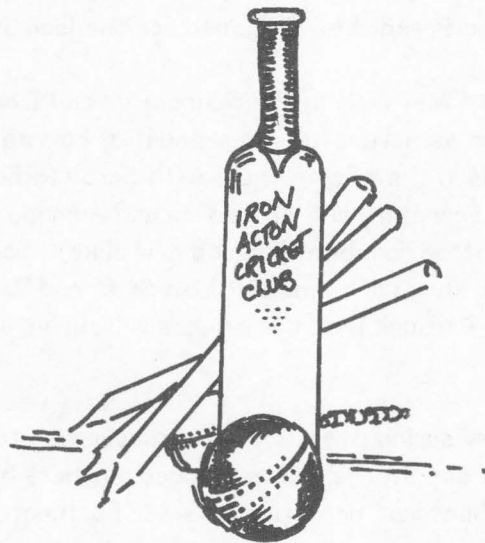
Having taken up employment in another country our victorious captain (you may recall that in 2010 we managed to reach the penultimate fixture of the season before recording our first and only loss) reluctantly had to resign his post. The poisoned chalice of attempting to follow-on from the previous season's success was taken on by one of our newest and youngest members, Wayne. With a fresh approach Wayne decided to take all the pressure off the team by not waiting until the end of the season to record our first loss. Thus it was our second game that saw our first, and to date only, defeat of 2011 at home to Old Sodbury (the same team that defeated us last year) and in several weeks time we play Old Sodbury at their ground so let's hope we break their spell.

Last time I managed to insult all the bowlers in the team - just about everyone apart from myself - so this time I've restricted the insults to just 3 long-standing village cricketers whose names have undoubtedly appeared in this magazine in the past but to avoid any super injections (especially relevant to the 2nd player) I have left the names blank for you to fill in by using your rhyming skill and judgement! Anyone getting all 3 names correct can have free admission to all our 2012 home games.

Like Warne bowling to Gatting
The stumps BE KAPUT
But who's that batting
Surely it's nct -----

How's that? We all sing
The ball's go- him WHERE?
But who's that fielding
Surely it's nct --- -----

The batsmen are strolling
The off side's being PEPPERED
But who's that bowling
Surely it's nct ---- -----



As usual, we are always looking for new players and so, if you're interested in playing a few friendly games, mainly on Wednesday evenings in summer and Thursday evenings in Winter, please don't hesitate to contact me on the number below.

Chris Bradley / Chairman (228559)

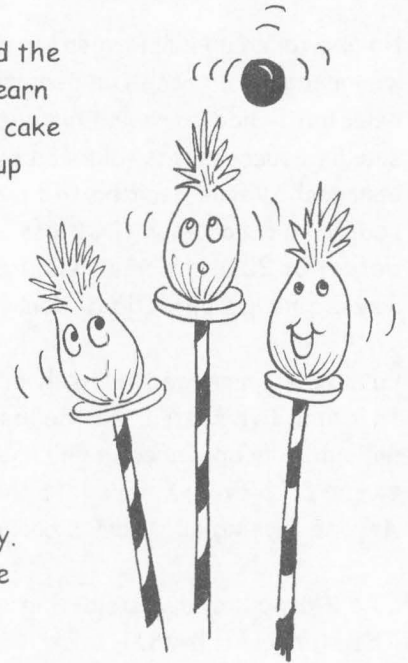
PARISHIONER INFORMATION

Iron Acton Charitable Fund - You may not be aware that a charitable fund has been in operation since 1856. The main aspiration of this fund was, and still is, to assist Iron Acton parishioners financially in times of need. At the moment we are all experiencing both difficult and challenging times, and unfortunately some of our parishioners may be more vulnerable than others. If you are aware of anyone who could be assisted by the fund please ring 01454 228515 for further details. All enquiries will be treated in the strictest confidence. (NB: this fund is not operated or administered by the Parish Council).

FRIENDS OF IRON ACTON SCHOOL

Earlier in the year we held our annual Easter Egg Hunt. This year we used the school playing field and the children had to follow and decipher clues to earn their Easter eggs. The egg hunt was followed by an Easter tea party and cake sale - all were a great success. My thanks to Amanda Scott for thinking up the egg hunt clues and to everyone who baked and purchased the cakes.

The Friends were also at work on May Day running the coconut shy and skittle alley. The weather was great - so great that the coconuts began to split in the heat! If it's as sunny again next year we'll have to get a palm tree to keep them in the shade. What with the disintegrating coconuts and a large number of hard-hitting and extremely accurate customers we found that we had slightly underestimated how many coconuts would be needed for the whole day! As a result we finished earlier than we would have liked, nevertheless it was a very successful day. My thanks go to all the volunteers who manned the coconut shy and skittle alley and to Tracey and Brendan at The Lamb for the loan of the alley.



Our AGM was held on 4 May 2011 in the School Hall and I am happy to report that for a second year we have a full complement of committee members.

Donna Thomas remains in the role of Chair, with Sarah Ridler as our new Vice-Chair, Caroline Haselhan as Secretary and Annie King and Amanda Scott as Joint-Treasurers. I would also like to welcome committee members (old and new alike): Sally Aries, Mandy Drew, Bev Jones, Lyn Kay, Mark Kirkham, Jon Sandy, Claire Simpson, Lisa Stiff and Rachel Taylor. It's wonderful so many people have volunteered and I'm sure that the Friends will thrive on the fresh enthusiasm generated by the new committee.

After such a lovely dry spring it was a little disappointing to be confronted with the prospect of heavy rain for our Summer Fair. In the end we hedged our bets by running some of the stalls in the school hall and some of the "messier" activities outside. Fortunately, as it turned out, we had the benefit of a large marquee on the playground - which at least meant the outside stallholders stayed reasonably dry!

Despite the weather it was wonderful to see so many people supporting the event. My sincere thanks to everyone who turned out in the rain and spent their money. Thank you also to the many people who helped to make the evening a success. Particularly Donna Thomas and Pippa Cook for all their hard work and to all the parents and children who helped run the many stalls.

The result of this fundraising means we have been able to purchase new play equipment for the school playing field. This was requested on behalf of the school by the School Council some time ago and we are very happy that finally we have been able to oblige them!

We plan to be at the St James the Less Church Fete on 25 June - we will be panning for gold and hopefully displaying our new banner. Then our final event of the school year is the Year 6 Prom on 15 July - this is a final chance for the Friends to wish all in Year 6 the very best in their new schools. We wish them all lots and lots of good luck.

Finally, on behalf of the friends, I would like to say one final thank you to Pippa Cook. During her time as a member of the Friends she has been both Vice-Chair and Chair. There are dozens of jobs that go on behind the scenes when preparing for a Friends' event and Pippa has always ensured that they all got done. We hope you enjoy your thoroughly deserved "retirement"!

Caroline Haselhan / Secretary (228791)

THE ACTONIANS

In this report I intend to celebrate the successes of the past year and highlight the achievements made and identify the events for the year to come.

Our first major production of the year was *The Winter's Tale* performed at the end of May: a challenging piece which did not attract particularly large houses but those who did attend enjoyed it and reported very favourable on the production, in particular in that it made sense to everyone whether they knew the story or not.

The One-Act production of *A Fool of Creation* by Norman Holland for the Avon One-Act Festival in February also brought some success. It was a real delight to be awarded the Ruth Perret Award for Costume Design (gifted by the Apollo Players in memory of Ruth who sadly died last year and was known to many in the group). She will be greatly missed but to be the inaugural holders of the trophy given in her name will always be special. Congratulations to Alan Cross (for whom this was his Actonian directorial debut) and the cast and crew for all their hard work.



On the social side there was a break with recent tradition with the pantomime visit to Weston (rather than Bath) to see *Cinderella* which was much enjoyed by those who went. We have enjoyed another splendid season of Shakespeare at the Tobacco Factory with a fantastic *Richard II* and a gloriously chaotic and fast paced *Comedy of Errors*. Thanks to Ann Aplin, as always, for taking the trouble to make this happen. The summer activities programme was missed last year and is to be restored to its rightful place, although slightly reduced to fit in around the Paddington Tank/Henry IV workshops. The New Year meal was relocated to Redwood Lodge and provided an excellent and an enjoyable time for all who attended and will, no doubt, be repeated next year.

The Pantomime, *Turn Again Whittington*, will be coming to a stage near you in November and we are looking forward to involving a large cast and a fair number of the young people from the village in this. Please watch this space for dates and times!

Paddington Tank, to be staged next May, is a new venture being developed by Jim Sinkinson and his team, who have already done a considerable amount of preparatory work for this, including ensuring that it has the RSC Open Stages branding. We will no doubt understand more about what this means as the development process for this starts in a couple of weeks' time.

We are clearly still producing high quality and, on occasions, award winning work as a group but there is an on-going need to encourage growth in membership so that we can retain that high quality. 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 who are needed our backstage expertise is held in few hands. It is important that that expertise is handed on and that we grow and develop new set builders and lighting and sound experts in order that the tasks can be shared around. Please do pop along on a Wednesday evening at the Parish Hall and make yourselves known to members there. We are regularly told that we are a very warm and welcoming group why don't you come and find out?

Rob Pardoe / Chair

IRON ACTON PARISH COUNCIL

New Councillors - The Local Council Elections took place on 5 May 2011, with Pat and Dave Hockey (Frampton Cotterell Ward) and Howard Gawler (Ladden Brook Ward) being re-elected as our representatives on South Gloucestershire Council. The 2 Parish Council wards were uncontested, in that there were no more names put forward than there were seats available. In fact one seat remained vacant immediately following the election for the East Ward. This has now been filled through co-opting a willing applicant! The new line-up of Iron Acton Parish Councilors is as follows:-

East Ward

Bob Sheppard (Chairman)
Bob Lomas
Howard Gawler
Andy Tillotson

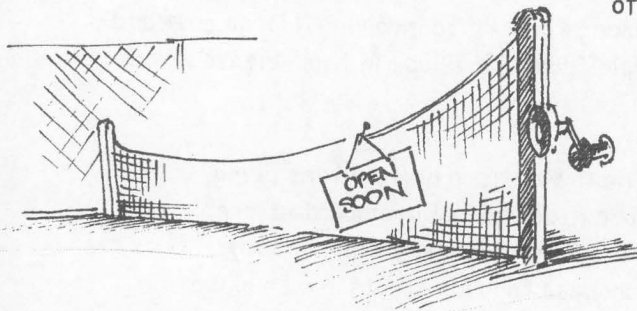
Iron Acton Ward

Peter Bellis (Vice Chairman)
Lynne Blanchard
Chris Heal
Dave Taylor
Peter Huish

Latteridge - The Parish Council was approached at the end of March by a company called AEE who were proposing to develop approximately 14-15 hectares of farm land in the Latteridge area for a solar farm. The solar farm would generate enough electricity for 780 standard homes, and AEE wished to hold a public exhibition and give a short presentation to the Parish Council prior to their official planning application. Generous subsidies had been available via the Government for sustainable energy projects, however at short notice these subsidies were withdrawn. Subsequently AEE cancelled their public exhibition.

North Road - A new mains gas supply will be installed along a section of North Road from the North Road/ Iron Acton Way junction to North Road Primary School to facilitate the new heating system (which is part of the refurbishment work currently being undertaken) Additional work includes completely new electrics and a new roof.

Nibley Lane - Following numerous complaints about speeding traffic and the suggested increase in the number of cars using Nibley Lane, South Gloucestershire Council will be installing a speed advisory sign at the entrance to the lane. This sign will be in situ for approximately one month prior to the start of the school summer holidays.



Parish Meadow - The Parish Council has undertaken some extensive clearance works in the Meadow over the past couple of months. The tennis courts have been swept and weeded and the bushes behind the courts have been cut back. The stream has also been cleared of debris and one of the tall Alder trees has been dead-wooded.

Footpaths - Numerous footpaths criss-cross the parish, and are frequently walked by parishioners. Should anyone walking a public footpath come across any problems with things such as obstructions, overgrown weeds or brambles, please contact the Clerk. Alternatively you can also speak to the South Gloucestershire Council Public Rights of Way team on 01454 863646, or email rightsofway@southglos.gov.uk.

Village Green - As a rural parish we are fortunate to have a great deal of open space for recreational use and enjoyment. None more important than the two village greens within the village and at Latteridge. Village Greens are protected by law, and as custodians the Parish Council is legally bound to ensure they remain open and unhindered for all to enjoy. The parking of cars on the village green (even with just two wheels), driving across the Green and the placing of refuse skips is in breach of section 12 of the Enclosures Act of 1857 and section 29 of the Commons Act 1876. The Byelaws for the Village Green (dated 1949) also state that "a person

shall not on the ground willfully obstruct, disturb, interrupt, or annoy any other person in the proper use of the ground". What about May Day, we hear some of you saying? The fact is that village greens were created and encouraged for just this type of event! The Parish Council's hands are tied in that we are obliged to uphold legislation regarding Village Greens and duty bound to ensure that the integrity of the Green is maintained. The Parish Council has erected three additional 'no parking' signs as a first step to protect the Green and will be monitoring the situation.

Traffic Management Review - Parishioners will remember that back in 2009 the X27 bus service was withdrawn from running through the High Street because of 'inappropriate parking' of cars. Subsequently the Parish Council canvassed residents of the village (Chilwood Close, Algars Drive, Nibley Lane, village side of Wotton Road, High Street, Park Street, Village Green and Station Road) to see whether a Traffic Management Review of the area was in order. The majority of responses received thought this would be a good idea to try and solve this issue. South Glos Council has now supplied the Parish Council with their preliminary findings and suggested solutions and these will be discussed at future Parish Council meetings following a site meeting with South Gloucestershire Council Highways Engineers.

Paula Evans / Clerk (228029 or E-mail: clerk@ironactonparishcouncil.com)

ST JAMES THE LESS PARENT AND TODDLER GROUP

Our Toddler Group numbers have been boosted over the last few months by some new members, so a warm welcome to you all.

We are by no means full so if there are any parents and toddlers in the village who would like to join us for friendship, a chat, tea, cakes, free play and crafts please feel free to come and join us any Friday morning at the Marshall Room behind the church in the High Street.

During the spring term we welcomed the Sure Start Team who ran a Messy Play session for the children - this was a huge success and we can't wait to see what they have planned for the next visit!! The children have been kept busy making cardboard snakes, decorating fairy cakes, painting and modelling with good old play dough! As usual, Sarah from Jazzy Jamboree joined us for an excellent singing session.

We are planning lots of outside play for the summer months, getting out our sand table and inflating the bouncy castle weather permitting!!

Before the summer break we wave goodbye to our eldest children as they start in the Reception Classes at Iron Acton and North Road Schools - we wish them lots of luck and hope they enjoyed their time with us.

If you are interested in joining this friendly Toddler Group please contact Katie Curtis (228997) or Ann Mora (228994). We meet every Friday from 10.30 am until 12.00 pm in the Marshall Room.


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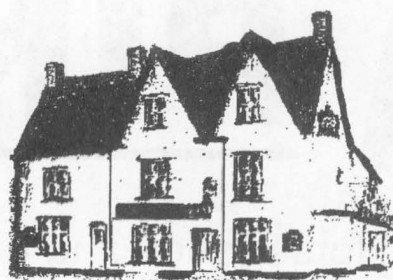
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