

# FOCAL POYNIZ



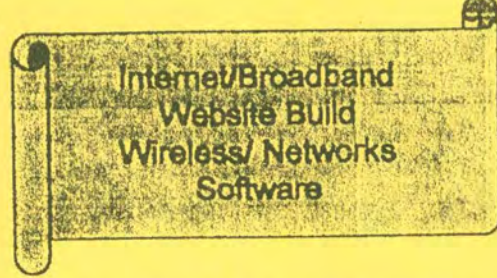
A magazine for Iron Acton





# gm computing

Cornerways Cottage, High Street, Iron Acton, BS37 9UH



GM Computing (GMC) of Iron Acton, is a professional one-man company which provides Hardware and Software Services you can count on. See the GMC Website for full information of our services and facilities

Tel/Fax 01454-228704 Mobile 07769780656  
Website:-<http://www.gmcomputing.millward.org.uk>  
E-mail:-[gmcomputing@millward.org.uk](mailto:gmcomputing@millward.org.uk)

## Dresses by Design

- \* *Dressmaking for your Wedding Day*
- \* *Bespoke bridal, bridesmaid and prom dresses*
- \* *Alterations to bridal and everyday wear*
- \* *Re-styling of vintage dresses*



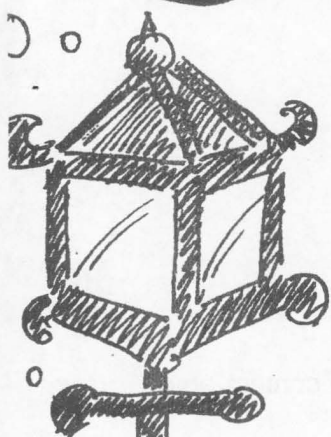
*Telephone Wendy on 01454 228494*

# Winter

ISSUE 87

What a magnificent sight our trees have been this year. It is difficult to remember how they looked in January and February with their dark bare branches reaching up to the sky with no hint of the beauty and colour to come. This makes me think of Christmas and New Year which will soon be here. Christmas with all the colours, trimmings, Christmas trees and celebrations can be compared to Autumn for the trees and New Year is a new beginning, a change to grow all over again. I wonder what awaits us all next year.

With this thought in mind we would like to wish you all first, A VERY COLOURFUL AND HAPPY CHRISTMAS followed by a BOUNTIFUL, COLOURFUL AND HAPPY NEW YEAR.



## **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 - 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 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 drawn by Eileen Hughes

# *Elm Farm Boarding Kennels & Grooming Parlour*

*Small and friendly family run business*

*Luxury accommodation*

*All breeds welcome*

*Day boarding available*



*Cattery Now Open!*

*Inspections welcome by appointment*

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

*Tel: 01454 228374*

*Elm Farm, Bristol Rd, Iron Acton, Bristol, BS37 9TF*

**CAR ALARMS**

**AIR CONDITIONING**



**TOWBARS**

**DIAGNOSTICS**

**MOBILE SERVICE -  
WE COME TO YOUR HOME OR PLACE OF WORK**

Call Derek in Iron Acton - 01454 227221 or 07973 759239

whether you need extra car security, a towbar or you want your air conditioning serviced ready for Summer

Reliable local company, established in 1993

## North Road School

The term has started at its usual quick pace following our very busy summer. The building work went to plan with only a short delay when bats were discovered in the roof. Bat friendly tiles have now been fitted so we are waiting to see if they return. Now the gas works have all been completed we are waiting for it to be connected to the school so we can test the new heating system. I can only apologise for the disruption caused to local residents but I think you will agree that the new roof and bell tower look much better. Staff and children can't wait to be warm this year! Internally we had lots of redecoration to do. This is nearly complete and wouldn't have been possible without donations from local groups. Acton Aid and Iron Acton Parish Council both donated money which enabled us to get the job done quickly. We are all very grateful and would like to send a huge thank you to everyone involved in these groups.

We have had lots of visitors to school this term. St Peter's Hospice talked to the children in assembly about the new shop opening in Yate and worked with school council on possible fundraising ideas.

SARI, support against racist incidents, have also been working with our KS2. They have been looking at what racism is, how it affects people and what we can do about it.

The sports team in South Gloucestershire has also been working with Yrs 1-6 on multi skills. Year 5 and 6 were trained in running the activities, shuttle runs, passing and throwing a ball, jumping and balancing. Under Years 5 and 6s' watchful eye, each class had a go on the six activities; their times and scores were recorded. Later this year the children will have another go to see if they can improve their scores.

Councillor Mike Drew also visited us and explained his role in local Government. The children asked him some very challenging questions especially about proposed building work in the local area.

We have also been fundraising for good causes. We held a Macmillan Coffee Morning for parents and local residents. We put out the old log and admission books and past photos for people to reminisce over. It was lovely to see local people and the children really enjoyed making some of the cakes. We raised £196.26 and a further £66.25 for Jeans for Genes Day. We also had our Harvest assembly last week and raised £115.28 for Seeds for Africa. This money will be spent on providing a family with their own orchard to enable them to be self sufficient.

Our Class 2 children have been learning about the Victorians and as part of their project they spent the day living as a Victorian. They all came dressed to school as a Victorian before catching the bus to Yate Heritage Centre. Here they experienced being at a Victorian school before trying their hand at domestic chores, Victorian style. Class 3's topic is Tudors this term and they also came to school dressed as Tudors.



We held a Tudor banquet, practised a Tudor dance and tried writing with quills. Our website will keep you up to date with other things happening in school.

If your child is due to start school in September 2012 your forms are ready to complete on South Gloucestershire's website and your forms are due in on January 15<sup>th</sup> 2012. If you would like to arrange to visit our school please contact the school office on 867788.

Jo Williams  
Head Teacher

### **Christmas Event**

The last 4 years we have put on an event at the Parish Hall to raise money in order to "light up the Village". It has been a fun evening and achieved our aims ..... The Village looks lovely with all the small Christmas trees twinkling in the evenings.

We decided to do something different this year.

On Sunday, 11<sup>th</sup> December, in the afternoon and following the Christingle Service, we have the Doddington Brass Band playing carols outside the church. There will be mulled wine, mince pies and jam tarts. Maybe it will snow!!

We will have a large Christmas tree, lit up outside the church, and other lighting for safety.

Look out for further notices around the Village.

Please come and join us.

Pam McCoy

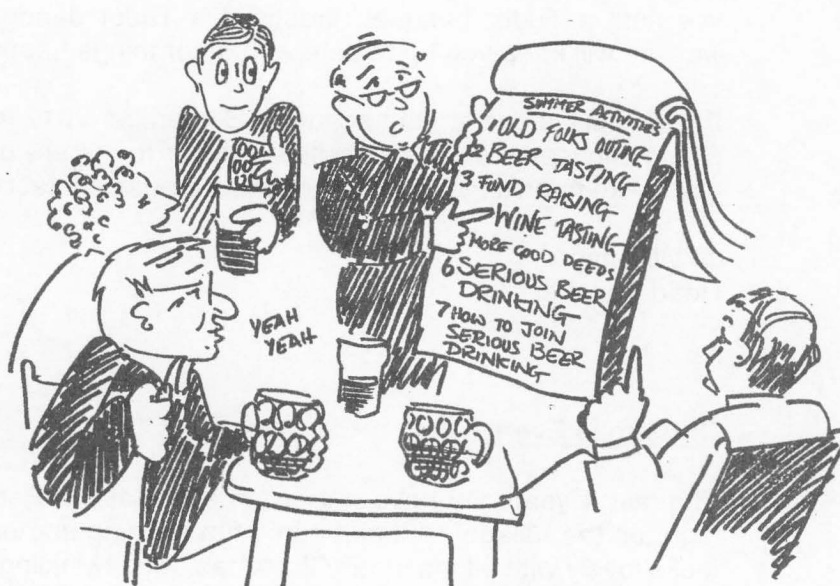
### **Acton Aid**

Acton Aid has had a busy summer this year with new and established events.

Proms in the Meadow was held early in July. This year's event saw the introduction of a new stage set-up that would have looked equally at home at Glastonbury festival. Iron Acton's very own Olivia Cowell opened the evening with a captivating set, followed by the Thornbury Swing Band. The Bristol Millennium Orchestra then took us on a Trip Around the World with the aid of soprano Charlotte Newstead. Once again, the Kathryn Hurley Dance Academy and the Stapleton School of Dance performed with the orchestra. During the half time interval a bucket collection was held which raised £800 for the Chairman's charity, Action for Blind People. After the interval the City of Bristol Pipes and Drums band marched onto the stage to give a rousing performance.

At the beginning of September, members and friends of Acton Aid enjoyed a late summer social in the garden at Algars Mill. While the grown-ups enjoyed a picnic and a chat, the children enjoyed pony rides, boat trips, tractor rides and races.

Later in September Acton Aid added a new event to the calendar with the Last of the Summer Wine festival. A selection of locally produced beers and wines were served up, along with a hog roast, in the garden of the Parish Hall. Punters were entertained by the Dixie Belles and some even participated in the tug-of-war, eventually won by Dyers Straits. Barrow-loads of apples were pressed for cider - if all goes well the 2011 vintage will be available at next year's festival.



At the time of writing we are busy making preparations for the Bonfire Night firework display on the Parish Meadow which takes place on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> November. Later in November the annual cultural visit will take place. This year seven members of Acton Aid will spend a long weekend in Berlin. In December we will be distributing Christmas boxes to parishioners across the parish.

Since the last edition of Focal Poyntz Acton Aid has welcomed Simon King as a new member. We also celebrated the birth of a future member as Finlay was born to Gareth and Holly Wynne-Hughes.

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 8pm 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, in confidence.

Jason Haselhan  
Secretary  
Acton Aid

### **North Road Ladies Club**

Our speaker in September was Bernard Tapp, who gave a really interesting talk and slides on his visit to "The Annapurna Sanctuary", Nepal. There were some breathtaking moments seeing slides of the group of trekkers climbing steps up the mountainside with a sheer drop only a few inches away.

At our October meeting two of our members, Sue Williams and Ann Johnson, demonstrated Basic Flower Arranging. We were then each given a small container with oasis to try our hands at arranging a small flower display, using greenery and flowers which had been provided.



There was quite a selection of designs and shapes but everyone enjoyed the challenge and at the end of the evening went proudly home with their flower arrangement.



Our Ladies Club Birthday Party this year will be held on Monday, 7<sup>th</sup> November at the Zulu Restaurant in Bristol.

Monday, 5<sup>th</sup> December brings us to our AGM, American Supper and Social Evening. At this meeting we will be presenting a representative from the County Air Ambulance Trust with a cheque for the amount we have raised from our fund-raising throughout the year.

Our meetings are held on the first Monday of the month at 7.30pm in Iron Acton Parish Hall. We are a very friendly club and always welcome new members. Our first meeting next year is on Monday, 2<sup>nd</sup> January.

June Rycroft  
Club Secretary

### University of the Third Age

#### ***Did You Know***

We have a Yate and Sodbury Group, of 700 members, offering 36 groups covering a wide variety of topics from Latin through to a Walking Group with more new ones being organised at the present time.

There is no upper or lower age limit to U3A

Have a look at the website for more details <http://u3asites.org.uk/yate-sodbury>

For more information please contact one of the Membership Secretaries, Rose White on 01454 228005 and her email address is: [davandro@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:davandro@tiscali.co.uk)

### The Christmas Angel

When four of Santa's elves got sick and the trainee elves did not produce the toys as fast as the regular ones, Santa delegated all responsibility to Mrs Santa, as he was beginning to feel the pressure of being behind schedule. And when Mrs Clause informed Santa that her mother was coming to visit, well the stress proved too much so he locked himself away in his study watching re-runs of Only Fools and Horses on the television.



So, Mrs Clause rolled her sleeves up and got on with the tasks in hand. She went to harness the reindeer only to find that three of them were about to give birth and two had jumped the fence and were out, heaven knows where!

Then as she began to load the sleigh one of the boards cracked and the toy bag fell to the ground and scattered the toys.

So, frustrated Mrs Clause went into the house for a fortifying gin and tonic only to discover that the elves had hidden the key to the drinks cabinet. In her frustration she accidentally dropped her glass which broke into hundreds of little pieces all over the kitchen floor. So she went to get the broom only to find that the mice had eaten the straw end!

Just then the doorbell rang, and irritable Mrs Clause trudged to the door. She opened the door and there was a little angel with a great big Christmas tree. The little angel said very cheerfully "Merry Christmas Mrs Clause. Isn't this a lovely time of year? I have a beautiful tree for you, where would you like me to put it?"

And so began the tradition of the little angel on top of the Christmas tree!

### **Iron Acton K9 Club Bank Holiday BBQ**

Members of Iron Acton K9 club met in the village on August Bank Holiday Sunday to enjoy a sunny afternoon of fun and games followed by a BBQ. The gazebos were put up in lovely sunshine, the courses were set out in lovely sunshine, the dogs and handlers arrived and so did the rain and wind. The gazebos didn't provide much shelter from the pouring rain but it did eventually ease enough for the fun to begin.

The first event, flyball, was keenly contested by some very quick dogs and was won by Louise Harper Bill and her Labrador Daisy. The sun came out for the agility event which needs both speed and accuracy by both dog and handler and was won by Karen Carnovale and her Labrador Shya.

The third event, a doggy egg and spoon race, made more interesting by the wet and slippery conditions, was won by Alice Gadsby and her Labrador Tara. The fastest down event was won by Mags Horsfield and her Sheltie Tara but only after a lot of "discussion" between the judges and handlers. The fastest recall event promised to be chaotic with handlers calling their dogs from the other side of the field. Eventually they were all reunited with their correct owner - the fastest by a whisker was Tony Powell with his Spaniel Toby. The final event was a gun dog scurry where the dog has to clear piles of straw bales to collect a dummy and return to its owner. Much to the embarrassment of all the gun dogs present this event was won by Paul Hampson with his Staffordshire Bull Terrier Lexie.

Lexie is an exceptionally quick dog who tries very hard to please Paul. She worked hard all afternoon and was eventually confirmed as the club's Supreme Champion for best over all the events.

Alice with Tara were runners up and Karen and Shya placed third. All the winners were presented with rosettes and certificates by our very able and patient judges, Trevor and Chris Carpenter.

Finally the BBQ was lit and hot dogs of a different sort were enjoyed by all to complete a lovely fun day.

If anyone would like more details of either our obedience classes or flyball/agility please ring Sue Gadsby on 01454 228803 or Karen Carnovale on 01454 228891.

Tummy rubs all round.



### Iron Acton C of E VC Primary School

Some of you may have noticed a few changes to the appearance of the school. For space and security reasons we have moved the school office to the front of the school. Many people have commented how wonderful it is to see the old front door back in use.

Beside the door is our new whole school mosaic made by the pupils to celebrate everything the school means to them.

I am always amazed at how quickly everything changes over the Autumn term. One minute our new Reception pupils are waiting nervously on their first day, within a few weeks they are confidently taking part in the Harvest celebrations: singing and performing in front of a hall full of people.



Our ex pupils are all settling in well into their various secondary schools. We enjoy hearing their tales of new friends and new challenges.

After a very successful summer, Growing Club is beginning to wind down for the winter. Flowers have been picked and arranged, fruits and vegetables have been tasted, cooked and surplus sold. Only certificates and photographs remind of our success at Iron Acton Horticultural Show (especially in the carrots section!).

Year 5 was lucky to have one of the hottest weeks of the year for their residential camp. They joined pupils from Rangeworthy School for a weekend at the Robert Jeffrey Centre at Abergavenny. They had a wonderful time and came back with exciting tales of jumping down waterfalls, long walks and night walk through a tunnel.

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

Richard Cornock invited a group of pupils to his farm in Tytherington to plant wild flower seeds on one of his hay meadows. The group will return in future years to monitor the progress of the seeds. They will also be planting wild flower seeds on our field as a comparison. Look out for our life size scarecrows on both sites.

Jill Bendeaux

### St James The Less Church, Iron Acton

#### CHRISTMAS SERVICES

- Sunday, 11<sup>th</sup> December 2011    **4.00pm**    "All Age and Christingle Service"  
Collections from this Service to go to the Children's Society.
- Sunday, 18<sup>th</sup> December 2011    **6.30pm**    Carol Service and Readings by Candlelight.
- Saturday, 24<sup>th</sup> December 2011    **6.30pm**    Crib Service
- Christmas Day  
Sunday, 25<sup>th</sup> December 2011    **9.30am**    Family Eucharist

#### Services Throughout the Year

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

An "All Age Service" (Non-Eucharistic) is held at 9.30am on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month.

Coffee and tea is served after the Service and a Fairtrade stall is set up in church for parishioners to purchase Fairtrade goods.

"All Age Services" for November and December are as follows:

- Sunday, 13<sup>th</sup> November 2011    9.30am    Remembrance Service
- Sunday, 11<sup>th</sup> December 2011    4.00pm    Christingle Service

Mid-week Holy Communion or Morning Prayer is held on a Wednesday at 11.00am



**CHURCH CHRISTMAS FAYRE** Saturday, 10<sup>th</sup> December 2011 at 2.30pm  
in Iron Acton Parish Hall

**White Elephant Stall, Gifts, Children's Corner, Books, Raffle, Tombola, Cakes, Refreshments and Father Christmas. In aid of Church Funds.**

**Please bring your friends for an enjoyable afternoon.**

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

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

**Friends of North Road School**

I can't believe the time has come around for this issue of Focal Poyntz! It seems only a matter of weeks since we were wishing everyone a good Summer, and now we're thinking ahead to, dare I say it, Christmas!

Life back at North Road has started well this term. It's been lovely to see all the Reception children settle in so well and so quickly. It's good to meet new parents to replace those that left us at the end of last Summer. We are hoping to rope a few into joining our committee and give us lots of new ideas! We have heard that all the year 6's that left in July have all settled well into their new schools in around the area.

For the Friends of School, we started back with our first meeting in September and have been planning and preparing for this terms events. Last week we held our Family Bingo Evening, which as always is popular with the children who always want a chance at being the Bingo Caller! They're getting quite adept at the lingo, watch out Gala Bingo! The evening raised just under £200 which we were please with, as it really is a fun evening rather than a big profit maker.

Along with the Staff at North Road we hosted a Macmillan Coffee Morning in September. Everyone produced a huge spread of cakes, I'm sure the staff had a competition amongst themselves on who could produce the biggest and best! There were some left once the coffee morning had come to an end, but they soon were sold to parents in the playground at pick up time! It was a real joy to meet so many of the locals who took time to come in, have a cuppa and cake and look through the School history books. They were also able to share many stories of life at North Road School in previous years. All in all a really enjoyable morning and more importantly we raised money for such a worthwhile charity.



With Christmas fast approaching the children have been designing Christmas cards which we will have produced. This is always a good way to raise funds and friends and family love to receive such a personal Christmas card. We are also doing Tea Towels this year, a great stocking filler for the Grandparents! The Friends of School have just funded the cost of coaches and tickets for the children to go off to the Pantomime at the end of November.

North Road School was represented at Iron Acton School Quiz night and a thoroughly enjoyable evening it was! We look forward to another social evening in the near future!

We are looking forward to joining in the Bonfire and Fireworks Evening that is organised by Acton Aid, the children are busily making a Guy to put on top of the fire! Seems such a shame to see him go up in flames! As I write this he has pride of place in Class 2 sitting like a Lord in the corner of the classroom! Plans for the Christmas Fair are coming along. The Fair is on November 25<sup>th</sup> at 2pm, do come along. Good old Father Christmas will be making his annual appearance. This year we are going to have to ask him not to chat to the children for too long as last year the queue was enormous!

Then, follows the Christmas Discos for the children, although I'm sure the staff love it just as much!

Well, it just takes for us to wish all of Focal Poyntz readers a very Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year!

Heather Tillotson

### Iron Acton Women's Institute

In July we had our annual outing which this year took the form of a sail around Bristol Harbour on the Matthew with a stop for fish and chips served on board. We were fortunate that it happened to coincide with a beautiful evening and the sun was still shining as we set sail. Friends and family joined us on this amazing replica of John Cabot's original ship.

We had no meeting in August and unfortunately due to ill health the Magistrate's presentation was unable to go ahead in September. Although a quiz and a few games had been organised, in fact the evening ended up as a general catch up with members sharing news and 'gossip' of the intervening summer months.

October's speaker was Julian Withers from the Jessie May Trust, a charity set up in 1996, covering Bristol, South Gloucestershire and North Somerset and named after a baby girl who died in 1994 of spinal muscular atrophy. The aim of the charity is to provide specialist nursing care for children not expected to live beyond the age of 19, to enable carers to enjoy some quality time with their other children and family members. They also run special events like holiday sessions and a Christmas party. A new campaign is to be launched over the next five years to hopefully raise enough money to extend the service provided to existing and new families. Members were moved by the dedication of the Jessie May Trust, whose motto is "Making every day precious".



Our AGM was held, existing Officers and Committee members were prepared to serve for another year and were duly voted in. Our secretary read a report of our past year's activities and various meetings and other groups' birthday parties and events attended by members. A programme of speakers for next year has been drafted and again, the ladies who organise this, have done a great job and there should be a good variation of talks, opportunities to participate in craftwork, a games evening and of course the summer outing.

Coming up, a team of members is going to attempt to win a game of skittles against another WI group and make it through to round 2! Our birthday party in November is at the Swan at Nibley and December will hail the Christmas party.

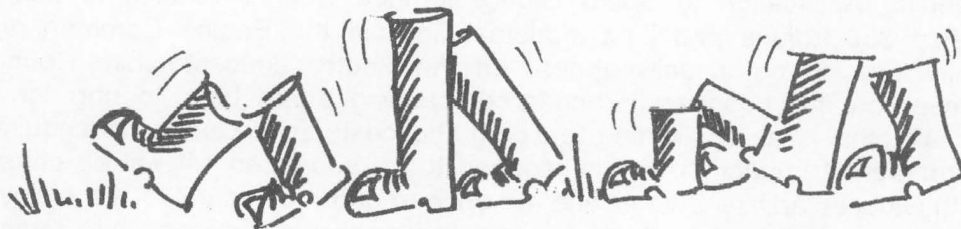
Two new members joined us this year and anybody else who thinks they might be interested can contact our secretary Stella Taylor on 01454 228417 for information on our forthcoming programme. We meet on the second Monday of the month in Iron Acton Parish Hall.

Sylvie Powell

### Friends of Iron Acton School

As I write we are already well into the Autumn Term with the half term break fast approaching and the Friends have been busy, as usual. A lovely Harvest Festival service at school was followed by a very successful auction and sale of produce. The money raised at Harvest Festival has been given to the school and will be donated to a charity chosen by the School Council.

Last Saturday evening the Friends organised a Quiz Night. It is some years since we attempted anything of this kind and we were uncertain of the response we would get. However, the evening proved to be a great success. With a mixture of teams of parents, teachers and villagers the competition was fierce but good-natured. I'd like to thank the winning team who very generously donated their prize money straight back to the school. And as for the losers - perhaps they should remain nameless - but we hope you enjoyed your booby prizes! My thanks to everyone who help make the night such fun.



After half term we will be holding our annual Winter Wellie Walk which this year will be held on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> November. The children raise money through sponsorship by completing laps of the school playing field. Some enthusiastic pupils have been known to run most of the way! All the children are then rewarded with hot chocolate and marshmallows on their return to school. By the way, if any pupils or parents have suggestions for varying the walk in some way next year - for example, a 3-legged wellie walk or decorating wellies - we'd be very happy to hear your suggestions.

On Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> November the Friends will be holding a Table Top Sale in the school hall (10am - 12md). It's a great opportunity to empty out your cupboards - before they fill up again at Christmas! Tables cost £5 each and the Friends will be providing refreshments. If anyone is interested in having a table please contact Donna Thomas (01454 228086) or Caroline Haselhan (01454 228791) or any Friends' members via the school.

The Friends will also be trying out a new fundraising idea in November. In conjunction with a company called Bag2School we will be issuing every school family with a collection bag during the week of 7<sup>th</sup> November. If you have any clothing, bedding, soft toys, shoes, hats, belts or handbags that you no longer want we would love to have them! The amount we raise will depend on the total weight of the things we collect - so the more the merrier. Although this is the first time that we have tried this type of fundraising I know other local schools have found it very successful. If anyone outside school would like to donate to the collection please contact Donna Thomas (01454 228086) or Caroline Haselhan (012454 228791) or any Friends' members via the school as we will have plenty of spare bags. Please note - all bags must be returned to school on the morning of Friday, 25<sup>th</sup> November.

The Friends are also busy organising our 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, 3<sup>rd</sup> December 11am - 1pm. 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 Saturday, 17<sup>th</sup> December 6pm - 8pm. It should be a great way to start the Christmas holidays.

Finally, on behalf of the Friends may I take this opportunity to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year. See you in 2012.

Caroline Haselhan

### **Iron Acton Parish Council**

**Engine Common** - Bloor Homes and Sydney Freed Holdings have submitted a Screening Application to South Gloucestershire Council relating to their proposal to develop 350 homes and light industrial units in the Engine Common area. Screen Applications do not usually appear on the South Gloucestershire Council's website; however on this occasion it appeared, causing alarm bells to ring for parishioners. Basically, this is an application to South Gloucestershire Council to enquire whether an Environmental Impact Survey is required to be submitted. It will be considered within South Gloucestershire Council and not open to public comment. This is why parishioners who commented on this Screening Application could not see their comments on the website. This was not a planning application, but please rest assured that the Parish Council is notified weekly of updates regarding applications submitted and on the South Gloucestershire website.

**Parish Meadow** - Parish Councillors have formed a working party to investigate grant funding from outside sources in order to facilitate works around the Meadow, as well as prepare a maintenance and works schedule. If any parishioners have any interesting ideas about how the Parish Meadow could be enhanced, please contact the Clerk.



**Iron Acton Village Green** - in the middle of October the Parish Council was alerted to the fact that contractors were on the Village Green with digging equipment ready to dig a trench across the green to facilitate a new electricity supply to a new development. The Parish Council requested that the contractors remove themselves and their equipment from the green. Permission had not been sought from the Parish Council by the contractor or the developer. Therefore the contractor and developers' only option was to run the new supply along the road around the Village Green. This caused a great deal of disruption for residents.

**North Road** - the bus shelter on North Road, just along from the Codrington Arms is in need of some work. Visually, there appears to be some subsidence or heave of the foundations. The shelter may need pulling down and rebuilding, which will be expensive.

**Traffic Management Review** - a map has been prepared by South Gloucestershire Council following the Parish Council's comments. The map highlights areas where 'No Waiting at Any Time' restrictions are considered pertinent, for amongst other things, road safety. The procedure now is that this map will be considered with South Gloucestershire Council, then back to the Parish Council, and then out to residents living in the relevant areas for consultation. The areas currently under discussion include the junction of Nibley Lane with the High Street/Wotton Road; the junction of Park Street and the High Street; the Village Green; and Latteridge Road traffic lights.

**Cardboard Recycling Bags** - the Clerk has a limited supply of cardboard recycling bags. If any Parishioner would like one, then please give the Clerk a ring. Delivery can be arranged.

**Walking to Health** - South Gloucestershire Council started a project in 2002 with the aim of helping residents to do more physical activity through community-based, led walks, free of charge and would cater for a range of abilities. Over the past 9 years more than 1,000 people have participated. South Gloucestershire Council have now issued their latest list of led walks - 41 in total starting on Tuesday, 1<sup>st</sup> November through to Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> February. The distances of the walks range from three quarters of a mile to over four miles. A full list has been put on the Parish Council's website under Latest News and Information. The walks of particular interest to Iron Acton Parish are:

Frome Valley and Algars Mill - 3 miles - Monday, 28<sup>th</sup> November - starting off at St Peter's Church, Church Road, Frampton Cotterell

Engine Common - 3.25 miles - Friday, 13<sup>th</sup> January 2012 - starting off from outside the Codrington Arms, North Road

Iron Acton Village - 3.5 miles - Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> January 2012 - starting off from the corner of Church Road and Frampton End Road

Tubbs Bottom - 4 miles - Tuesday, 28<sup>th</sup> February 2012 - starting off from the corner of Church Road and Frampton End Road.

Paula Evans

Clerk - Iron Acton Parish Council

Telephone 01454 228029

Email [clerk@ironactonparishcouncil.com](mailto:clerk@ironactonparishcouncil.com)

Website [www.ironactonparishcouncil.com](http://www.ironactonparishcouncil.com)

## The Actonians

The pantomime season is nearly on us... "Oh no it isn't!"... "Oh yes it is!" I hear you cry! Dates, times and ticketing details can be seen below. The online ticketing process is relatively straightforward and should be your first "port of call" for tickets, but there is a phone number for any who have difficulty with that. In addition to the Actonian regulars, young dancers from Kathryn Hurley's School of Dancing are already eagerly working on their contributions. All in all, it is a production which involves a good number of people from the village and around, and should be an excellent opportunity to practice your groans at familiar jokes and slapstick antics alongside the boos and hisses for the evil King Rat. Make this the family event that kicks off your preparations for this Christmas season!



ACTONIAN'S DRAMA GROUP

# Turn Again Whittington

By Godfrey Laundry

(Thurs, Fri, Sat) November 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>

(Weds, Thurs, Fri, Sat) 30<sup>th</sup>, December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>

Commences 7:30pm at Iron Acton Parish Hall, High Street, Iron Acton.

Tickets - £7 Adult / £5 Child - available from Members,

by phone on **07807547238**, or at

**[www.actonians.co.uk](http://www.actonians.co.uk)**

Our One-Act festival entry is another Shakespeare-related production developed by Ann Aplin called "The Seven Ages of Women". It has a cast of 5 women who are gathered together in The Bard's Bar with one man as the waiter. It provides an opportunity to switch from modern dialogue into Shakespeare's and play Lady Capulet, Nurse, Juliet, Desdemona, Emilia, Katherine, Bianca, Beatrice, Cleopatra, Charmian, the Duchess of York and Katherine of Aragon - while the chap plays Lord Capulet, Baptista Minola, Benedict, Bolingbroke and Henry V111. It sounds an intriguing mix of styles and characters and again, like Paddington Tank, is tagged with the RSC Open Stages logo to celebrate 50 years of the RSC.

"Paddington Tank" - to be staged next May - is a new venture being developed by Jim Sinkinson, assisted by Rachel Taylor and a team of actors from the group who are currently working on aspects of character and story together. It takes the form of a significant update of the Henry 1V Part 1 story based on boardroom battles and family feuds. We have already benefited from a couple of workshops provided through the good offices of the RSC and it is looking to be both an exciting and innovative project for the group to be involved in. The production will run next May in the Parish Hall. Watch this space for further details.

The 2012 Rose Bowl nominations have been received and **The Winter's Tale** has been nominated for three awards!

**Best Shakespeare Production** - The Winter's Tale

**Best Actress** - **Michelle Claire-Hudson** for Hermione

**Best Supporting Actor** - **Robbie Creer** for Autolycus

Our congratulations go to Michelle and Robbie for their well-deserved nominations and in particular to Pat who provided the vision and direction. The Awards dinner takes place on the 16<sup>th</sup> October, so results will be known after then. Watch out for further news in the next Focal Poyntz.

Actonians used to have a Junior (Secondary School) section which met on a Wednesday evening in the Hall prior to the main rehearsal, but the lack of available adult leadership led to its demise a few years ago. However, whisper it in hushed tones (you heard it here first), it is hoped that this can be re-launched in the not-too-distant-future! Watch this space and keep your ear to the ground around the village for further news.

We are clearly still producing high quality and, on occasions, award winning work as a group but there is an ongoing need to encourage growth in the 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 needed...our back stage expertise is held in few hands. It is important that that expertise is handed on and that we grow and develop new set builders, lighting and sound experts in order that the tasks can be shared around. Please do pop along on a Wednesday evening at the Parish Hall and make yourself 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!

Robert Pardoe  
Chair: Actonians' Drama Group

## Horticultural Show

A big, big thanks once again to everyone who took the time to enter this year's show. Despite the concerns expressed by quite a few gardeners that 'everything was going over' and they wouldn't have much to show, the number of entries was slightly up on last year.

During the Show we were approached by a gentleman from New Zealand who complimented the Committee for putting on such a professional show! We don't know whether this gentleman was just passing through or whether he was a relative of someone living in the parish, but nevertheless it was uplifting to receive such comments.



### **The Trophies for the 2011 Show were awarded as follows:**

Allotment Trophy (Vegetables Grown on an Allotment)	Mr Jim Seymour
Red Ribbon Cup (Best Exhibit in General Section)	Mr Jim Seymour
Hall Committee Rose Bowl (Highest Points - General Section)	Mr Jim Seymour
Gordon Powell Cup (Second Highest Points - General Section)	Mr Tom Evans
Flower Arranging Rose Bowl	Mrs Linda Boyce
Acton Aid Cup (Homecraft)	Mrs Ann Aplin
Photography Cup	Mrs Sally Aries
Pre-School Cup	Miss Bethany Clarke
Junior Cup (Ages 5-7 years)	Miss Tilly Aries
Parker Shield (Ages 8-11 years)	Miss Jessica Hatherell
Rudman Cup (Ages 12-17 years)	Mr Joseph Hatherell
St James the Less Cup (Highest Points Iron Acton Resident)	Mr Tom Evans
Golden Jubilee Cup (Most Entries by a Family)	The Clarke Family

Date for your Diary - the 2012 Horticultural Show will be held on Saturday, 8<sup>th</sup> September.

Advance Notice - for 2012 the two photography classes will be "Iron Acton by Night" and "Flora and Fauna".

The Horticultural Committee are also pleased to announce that Lucy Hatherell has volunteered to join the Committee. Lucy will bring some fresh ideas to the Committee, particularly in the Children's Section of the Show. If any of our younger residents have any ideas for classes, then please let us know.

Paula Evans  
On behalf of the Horticultural Committee  
Telephone: 01454 228419

BODY CONTROL  
**PILATES**

**Pilates Classes beginning on  
Wednesday, January 11  
at the Village Hall, Iron Acton**

All abilities and ages welcome,  
whether you have specific health  
reasons for choosing pilates, or simply  
wish to increase your strength and  
flexibility, while improving your  
posture and coordination

Six classes @ £45 or £8 per class

Please contact Liz Nichols on  
01454 414751 or Mob 07780677277  
Email: [lizjnichols@hotmail.com](mailto:lizjnichols@hotmail.com)

Looking forward to meeting you!

**Claude & Co.**

*Painters and decorators*

FOR ANY INTERIOR AND EXTERIOR WORK  
A FRIENDLY SERVICE AT REASONABLE RATES  
IN YOUR LOCAL AREA

*References are available on request*

*Claude Jovino: 07907 497888*



# "SHORT, BARK 'N' SIDES"

*Dog Grooming Service*

*Nicola Johnson*  
**07974 687020**



- Local firm
- Friendly staff
- Quality fuels
- Superb service
- Great prices
- Enough said!



Don't get caught short, contact Silveys and get your tank filled with

# OIL!

Out of hours or  
emergency call  
David:  
01454 228725



**0845 664 4664**  
**www.silvey.co.uk**



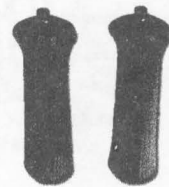
# TURNED WOODEN GIFTS

FOR EVERY OCCASION

From the inexpensive to the expensive,  
from mostly native timbers by a local craftsman



fruit bowls  
salad bowls  
bud vases  
twig vases



herb cutters  
salt and pepper grinders  
table lamps  
mushrooms  
platters



lazy susan table centres  
cheese boards  
candle sticks



furniture repairs and restoration  
special commissions welcomed

Contact Barrie, Eynsford Cottage, Wotton Road, Iron Acton

01454 228247

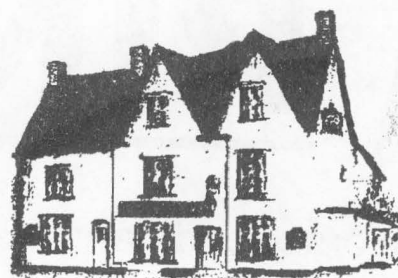
[bjw.ironacton@gmail.com](mailto:bjw.ironacton@gmail.com)



# ***The Lamb Inn***

Iron Acton Village, South Glos.

Telephone 01454 228265



- A Genuine Free House -

16th Century Historical Inn

*A warm welcome from Brendan , Tracey and their team.*

**COMFORTABLE INN ACCOMMODATION  
5 LARGE EN-SUITE BEDROOMS**

---

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

**WEDDINGS  
ANNIVERSARIES**

**CONFERENCES  
CHARITY EVENTS**

**ROOM INCLUDES  
BAR, DANCE FLOOR, MUSIC SYSTEM, DISCO LIGHTS**

**LARGE ENCLOSED BEER GARDEN - BBQ and PATIO AREA  
FRIDAY NIGHTS HAPPY HOUR 5-7 SELECTED DRINKS £1**

**OPEN ALL DAY FOR FOOD AND DRINK**



# **PINKERS**



Horse feeds and everything for horse lovers & owners

*For Footwear and Country Clothing at prices you can afford.*

New Summer Clothing Range

Kit yourself out for the show season

*All types of Pet Foods - many well known brands.  
If we don't stock the one you use we will endeavour  
to get it for you.*

Working dog mix 15kg only £7.99

Complete dried cat food 15kg £12.50

20kg Wild Bird Food £14.50

Poultry feeds and equipment

Huge Selection of Gifts Ideas now in

***Something for all the family!***



## ***PINKERS SADDLERY***

*Game Farm, Latteridge Lane,*

*Iron Acton, Bristol, BS37 9TY*

**Monday to Saturday 9am till 5pm**

**Telephone: 01454 228109**





## Nibley Lamb

Does your lamb taste as good as it used to?

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

Bagged and labelled to meet your own particular requirements.

For orders and enquiries please telephone  
01454 312921

TRADITIONAL BREEDS - REARED TRADITIONALLY  
- £3.00 per pound

Lamb Burgers now available at £3.00 per pound  
LAMB MINCE £2.75 PER POUND



## J G CARPENTRY

Property Maintenance & General Building

- Internal & External Doors • Flooring
- Skirting Boards • Kitchens • Paving
- Fascia & Guttering • Decking • Fencing
- General DIY and Decorating • Extensions

*No job too small - Full Public Liability Insurance*

For a free no obligation quote contact Jim on:

Home: 01454 851032    Mobile: 07738934875

Jim.gooding@hotmail.co.uk

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

**With Christine Lamont**  
**Complementary Therapist**  
**& Baby Massage Instructor**

**£5 off**  
**1<sup>st</sup> treatment**  
**with this Advert !**

**Tel: 07929 309522**  
**www.relax-ology.me.uk**

### Reflexology

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



**Can help many conditions including:**

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

*It is a very relaxing treatment*

### Reiki

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



No pressure or manipulation is used.

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

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

### Indian Head Massage

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



**It can relieve:**

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

*Most of all it feels really good!*

*Why not give it a try?*

### Hopi Ear Candles

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

**Can help:**

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



**Soothing and Relaxing**

*A gentle alternative to ear syringing*



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