



# FOCAL POYNTZ

88



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at Hagarys Mill*

*Spring 2012*



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# SPRING

ISSUE 88

We certainly have a full season of joyous activity to look forward to during the next few months of 2012. As Eric Morecambe once said: the following are all the right events but not necessarily in the right order.

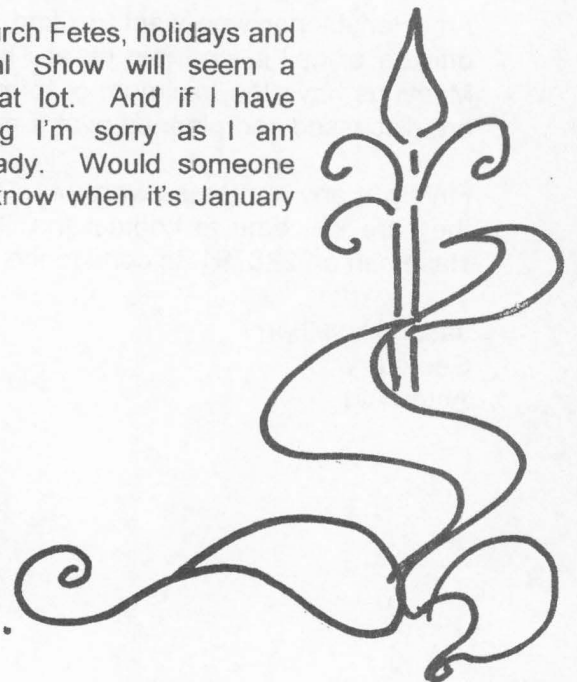
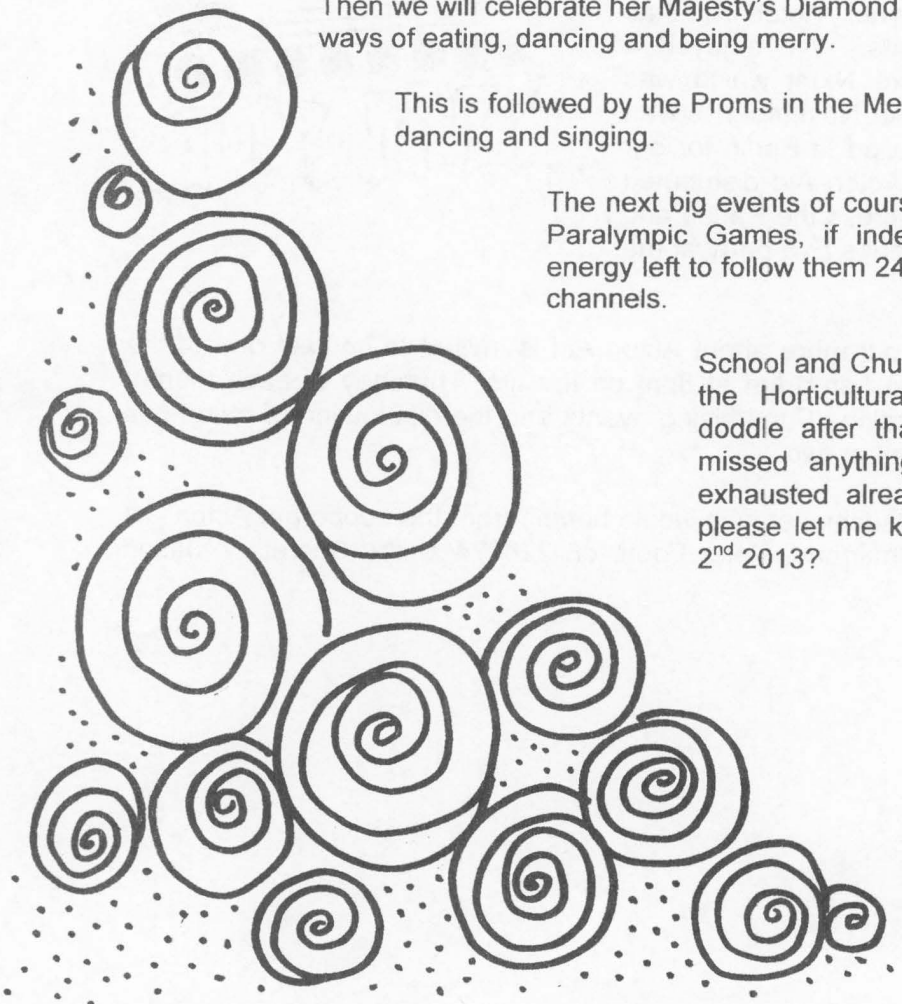
Firstly we find ourselves down on the Village Green for Mayday with its usual spectacular stalls, sideshows, dancing and other physical displays.

Then we will celebrate her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee in all manner of ways of eating, dancing and being merry.

This is followed by the Proms in the Meadow with more eating, dancing and singing.

The next big events of course are the Olympic and Paralympic Games, if indeed we still have any energy left to follow them 24/7 on various television channels.

School and Church Fetes, holidays and the Horticultural Show will seem a doddle after that lot. And if I have missed anything I'm sorry as I am exhausted already. Would someone please let me know when it's January 2<sup>nd</sup> 2013?



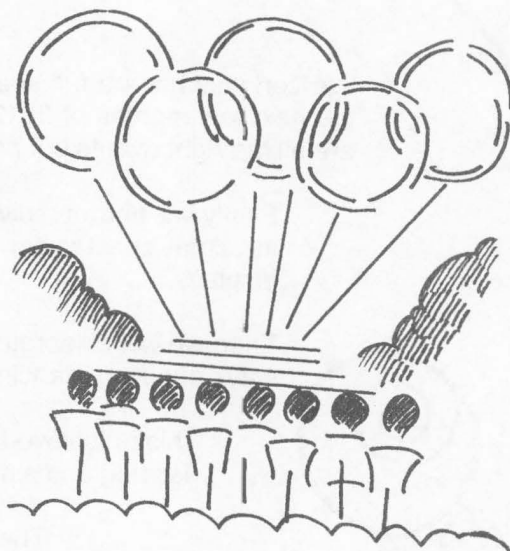
## Acton Aid

Acton Aid Chairman's Dinner took place at the Parish Hall on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February, where Cherry Picked Catering served-up a delicious four-course dinner – our thanks to Conrad Lynton-Jenkins and his team. Out-going Chairman Gareth Wynne-Hughes included a quiz of Acton Aid trivia from the last year in his speech. With perhaps a sign of things to come, incoming Chairman Peter Foote read his speech from a large, inflatable banana! It is sure to be an interesting year in Acton Aid.

Throughout the last year, in addition to raising funds for use in the Parish, Acton Aid has raised £850 for Action for Blind People. Two representatives from the charity joined us for the Chairman's Dinner and gave a speech outlining how that funding will be used in the local community.

Acton Aid is currently busy with a number of events. We have joined with other Parish organisations to make arrangements for May Day and the celebration of the Diamond Jubilee in June. We are also hoping to enjoy a tour and talk at the Cotswold Spring Brewery in the near future.

Proms in the Meadow will take place on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> July. The theme this year will set us up for the London Olympics. The Bristol Millennium Orchestra will be joined by soprano Charlotte Newstead, all-female close harmony singing group Fascinating Rhythm and the Castle School Panache Steel Band. The Kathryn Hurley Dance Academy and the Stapleton School of Dancing will also be appearing. The event will open with a performance by Olivia Cowell from Iron Acton. Tickets will be available at The Lamb Inn.



Since the last edition of Focal Poyntz, Acton Aid has been busy with a number of events. We enjoyed a bumper Firework Display on Bonfire Night which was helped by perfect conditions. Later in November, seven intrepid members of Acton Aid travelled to Berlin for our annual cultural trip. In December, Acton Aid distributed Christmas Hampers to pensioners across the Parish and helped to staff the bar at the New Year's Eve party at the Parish Hall.

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. Fundraising 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, Peter Foote on 228674 or the Secretary, Jason Haselhan on 228791, in confidence.

Jason Haselhan  
Secretary  
Acton Aid

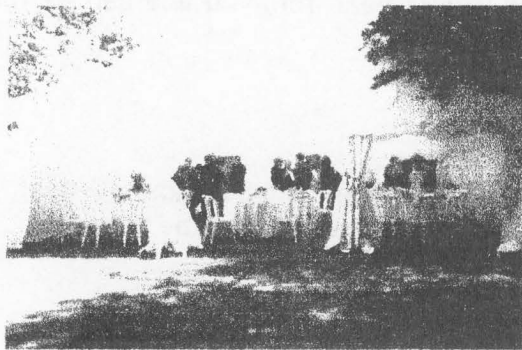


# GRAND JUBILEE BALL

to be held in a marquee in the beautiful gardens of Algars Mill, Iron Acton

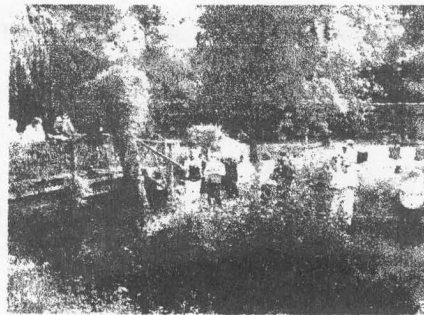
## Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2012

Starts 7 pm, Carriages at Midnight



- ✓ Pimms reception
- ✓ Live Music/Dance Floor
- ✓ 3-Course meal by  
Courad of Cherry  
Picked Catering

- ✓ Bottle of red and white  
wine on each table
- ✓ Licensed bar



Tickets - £45 / person before 21<sup>st</sup> April or £50 / person thereafter  
(tables of 10). Only 150 tickets available so please book early.  
Any surplus funds will be donated to St Peter's Hospice.

Tickets from: Tracey Byrne (228265), Heather Tillotson (227419),  
Fiona Bourns (228993), Sarah Ridler (228453)

Credit & debit cards accepted. Cheques payable to 'Iron Acton Jubilee Ball'  
Dress - Black tie

## **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

Stella Taylor  
Laura Walters  
Mike Wheeler  
Amanda Scott  
Sue Shepherd  
The Smith Family

## **ARTICLES**

If you have any news or articles that you think we would like to receive please contact any of the people on the numbers given above. We would love to hear from you and can we remind you that we would appreciate the article in the body of the email.

## **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 Marilyn Wright

## **NEXT EDITION OF FOCAL POYNTZ**

**Our reminder letters will be sent on 26 May with the deadline for contributions**

**17 June and we hope to distribute on 28/29 July**

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## Diamond Jubilee Family Day



Arrangements are taking shape for a Family Day to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> June. The event will build on the success of last year's celebrations of the Royal Wedding and will take place in the garden at Algars Mill. Organisations within the Parish are working together to ensure a memorable celebration for all. Look out for further details closer to the time.

Jason Haselhan

## Fabulous New Year's Eve Party



Once again everyone enjoyed a wonderful evening at the village New Years Eve party.

Preparing the hall, food and bar was hard work but great fun and the result was brilliant. The hall looked stunning, the food was delicious, the drink flowed, and the disco was great. The children had a lovely time with Sue Harrison & Rachael in their own party room whilst the adults danced the night away before celebrating the start of the New Year.

Many thanks to everyone who helped before the party and to those who helped clear up afterwards. Particular thanks to Adam for his culinary skills, Mike and Karen Carnovale for organising the Black & White Movie quiz and to Lizzie Gadsby and Lydia Tucker for organising the raffle.

We managed to make a small profit on the night so if anyone would like to organise a party this year please let us know and we can pass on the float to help you get off the ground.

Sue Gadsby (228803)  
Jane Conlon (228600)

## May Day on The Green, 7 May 2012

May Day is nearly upon us once again! A newly formed committee (with some old faces and several new) is busy preparing for another hopefully brilliant May Day on the Green. Let's hope the sun shines! If you are interested in helping us in any way, shape or form, please do contact either Mark Frost ([markfrost@sky.com](mailto:markfrost@sky.com)) or Annie King ([king.annie@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:king.annie@tiscali.co.uk)). Meetings are held every three weeks in The Lamb and the aim, like previous years, is to have a well balanced day of events with charity run stalls that don't cost the earth, 'have a go' activities and entertaining ring events.

The day itself will start at 10.30 am and end at 4 pm. After the formal opening, the May Queen, Her King and Their Entourage will journey from The Lamb to The Green. All will be honoured upon arrival. Activities and displays in the central show-ring will then commence including Maypole dancing from Iron Acton School, Country Dancing from North Road School, Dog Obedience, dancing from Kathryn Hurley's School of Dance and much much more. A new event this year is the Tug of War. For those of you game for a laugh and a likely tumble, please put together a team of around 8 adults and submit your Team's name to The Lamb by 16<sup>th</sup> April. On a more genteel note, parents/carers of children at Iron Acton and North Road Schools, please keep an eye out for May Queen/King/Page/Attendant nomination letters. These will be given out at school (if they haven't already been distributed!). Nominees must be aged between 7 and 11 years.



If you would like to run a stall, advertise in the programme or share your ideas, please do get in touch. Until then, here's to a lovely May Day celebration. We look forward to seeing you there.

Annie King  
Secretary to the May Day Committee

## Iron Acton Book Group

In January 2005, following an article in Focal Poyntz, the Iron Acton Book Group was established. The group has been a great success, steadily growing in numbers, until a couple of years ago we had to make the decision to close to any new members. We are limited as the meetings take place in member's homes and there are only so many people who can fit into someone's lounge!! We also discovered on the occasions when all members turned up, that it make it difficult to have a satisfying discussion, with sub groups forming around the room. We are a victim of our own success as sadly over the last 12 months we have had to turn away at least four other Iron Acton residents wishing to join us and suspect that there may be other interested readers in the village.

There is no sign that in the immediate future we will be able to open up our doors to new members. We do however have the experience of setting up and running a Book Group and would be delighted to help others to form another group in the village. We thought that the first step is to find out whether there is sufficient interest to make another group viable. If you are interested then please contact either Jill Bradshaw, 228626 Jill [brads@gmail.com](mailto:brads@gmail.com), Jane Spare on 228257, [jane.spare@btinternet.com](mailto:jane.spare@btinternet.com) to start the ball rolling.



## Poppy Day Collection

I have been awarded the 'Southwold Avon Branch Poppy Cup' as the result of the generosity of residents in the High Street.

From their street alone I collected over £200 and the cup is awarded to the highest amount street collection in this area.

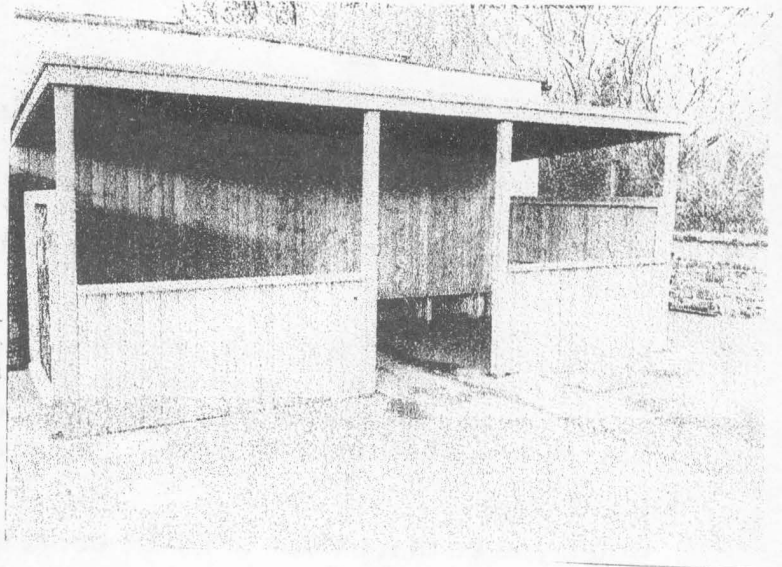
Well done Iron Acton and thank you.

David McCoy

## North Road Primary School

Happy new year from everyone at North Road Primary.

The term started as busily as it had finished. After a great deal of fund raising organised by the Friends of School, we were able to have a new outdoor learning classroom on our playground. This gives the children some shade in the summer and shelter in the winter. The new gazebo has tables and seats which are being used for creative activities at play and lunchtimes as well as a black board and mirror which all the children are enjoying. The far side has some pipes which can be used to race cars, balls and water down, classes will also be able to go outside for lessons in the better weather. Thank you to everyone who has supported one of our school events which helped raise the money for this new exciting learning area.



Brimsham Green Secondary School continues to support our PE curriculum by providing us with young coaches. The children love being taught by experts and are gaining lots of new skills. Last week also saw the children taking part in a Boccia tournament. Boccia is a game in the Paralympics, similar to bowling. The children all had a session on the rules and skills required, followed by a tournament a few days later. Thank you to Mrs Johnson for organising this through our PE links with other local schools.

Ten Year 5 and 6 pupils have started practising for their performance as part of the South Gloucestershire Colston Hall choir. They will be performing in March at the Colston Hall. This opportunity comes up every two years and is a great experience for young singers.

We have invited lots of visitors to assemblies this term. Barnardo's came to tell us about their 2012 care and share appeal. The children all had to be kind and caring at home and at school and design a badge to remind people to be kind. They also raised over £150 for the charity. Next week the Rotary club are coming to tell us about their Polio appeal.

We continue to take the children on lots of trips to enhance their learning. Class 1 went to Slimbridge to see all the different wildlife and Class 3 and 4 went to Cardiff Castle. Class 2 have visited Yate Heritage Centre to look at their toy collection and the Teddy Bear factory at Cribbs Causeway to see how modern day teddy bears are made. The children also celebrated Thinking day by coming to school in their Rainbow, Beaver, Cub or Brownie uniform and singing camp fire songs whilst toasting marshmallows.

As the summer fast approaches we have our residential trips to look forward, our whole school trip to Puzzlewood and our Olympic themed sports day as well as commemorating the Diamond Jubilee.

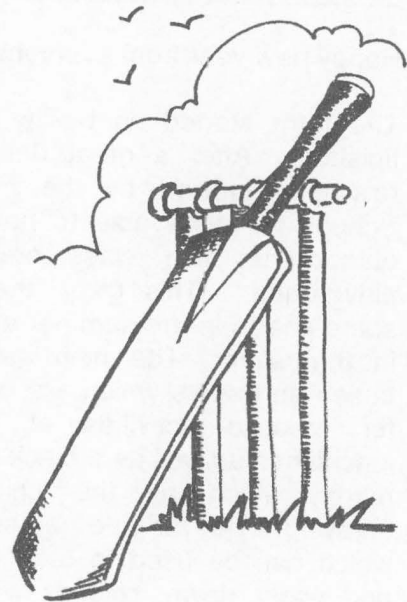
Keep up to date with our news by looking on the website [www.northroadprimaryschool.co.uk](http://www.northroadprimaryschool.co.uk)

Jo Williams  
Head Teacher  
North Road Community Primary

### **Iron Acton Cricket Club**

In the absence of any Winter League this year it seems a long time since we last set boot upon a cricket pitch. With the first fixtures pushing through the ether it seems that the long winter hibernation will soon be over and we can once again resume our friendly battles against local clubs.

At this time of year I always wonder whether we will be able to muster sufficient players to field a team. We usually lose one or two players each year but, so far, this loss has always been made good before the first fixture.



### **Could you be that person to fill the boots this year?**

Apart from one Sunday fixture (against Portishead on the 13<sup>th</sup> May) we play weekday evenings, usually Wednesdays, from the end of April/beginning of May to just before the school holidays start at the end of July. All standards welcome to match all standards in current team!

Chris Bradley, Chairman (228559)

### **Friends of Iron Acton School**

As I write it is February half term – half way through the spring term already – and we've even had a sprinkling of snow on the ground for the children!

The Friends had a very busy time during the second half of the autumn term. Along with our annual winter wellie walk we also organised a table top sale in the school hall and for the first time arranged a Bag2School collection. Although we had plenty of people selling at the table top sale there weren't enough buyers. So we will look into wider advertising for any



future sales of this sort. The Bag2School collection was a bigger success, however, and a further collection will be held in May. If anyone in the wider, Iron Acton community is having a clear out of clothing, bedding, soft toys, shoes, hats, belts or handbags and you would like to donate them to the school for our collection please contact Caroline Haselhan (Tel:228791). We would love to have them and will store or collect them if necessary.

With the Christmas period then upon us we were extremely busy organising the Christmas Fair and Christmas disco and helping at the school Christmas party. The Fair was a great success raising over £500 for the school. And both the Christmas Party and disco were thoroughly enjoyed by the children. Not to be out-socialised by the children, parents from the school also had a very enjoyable pre-Christmas meal at The Lamb. My thanks go to everyone who helped to make all of these occasions a great success. Christmas is such a busy time for everyone and to be able to count on the support of so many parents makes a real difference when organising these events.

We've had a quiet start to the year so far but we kicked off the 2012 Friends events with a Valentine Disco at the Parish Hall at the start of the half term holiday. DJ Noel was in residence for the evening and the children thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

With some of the funds we have raised recently we will be buying a new bench for the school playing field – in commemoration of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. A previous bench (which, incidentally, is still going strong) was donated by Acton Aid to celebrate the Queen's Silver Jubilee in 1977). Let's hope the new bench will prove as resilient!

Following the Easter holiday we will be holding our AGM (date tbc). Because we are a registered charity we are legally obliged to form a full committee. Over the past couple of years we have had a wonderful response to our appeal for volunteers to join the committee. I hope that many of these members will stay on. However, if you are not currently involved with Friends and are interested in joining, we will be sending a letter out to all parents/carers in due course. We understand that for all parents time is precious but any help you can offer – as little or as much as you like – will be very gratefully received.

For more information about becoming involved with the Friends please contact Donna Thomas (Tel: 228086) or Caroline Haselhan (Tel: 228791).

Caroline Haselhan  
Friends of Iron Acton Primary School Secretary

### The Actonians

The pantomime season is now passed and we would wish to give many thanks to all of you who came and supported us in late November/early December. People who came and saw it reported very favourably on the evening and we enjoyed pretty good houses for most of the seven nights that we ran it. Many thanks also to the young people from Kathryn Hurley's Dance School who added youth and energy in their 2 dance numbers to the show. It was great to have them involved and we look forward to future such collaborations.

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 VIII. 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. It is very likely that it will go on to the second round, since it is the only Shakespeare-related production in the festival (which will be on April 14<sup>th</sup> at the Olympus Theatre on The Wise Campus at Filton College).

"Paddington Tank" - to be staged at the end of May (23<sup>rd</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> May) at 19.30 in the Parish Hall - is a new venture being developed by Jim Sinkinson, assisted by Rachel Taylor. It takes the form of a significant update of the Henry IV part 1 story based in 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. Further Information and details will be available forthwith. The Actonian online box office ([www.actonians.co.uk](http://www.actonians.co.uk)) will be open in good time for the purchasing of tickets

For the 2012 The Rose Bowl nominations, ***The Winter's Tale*** had been nominated for three awards!

**Best Shakespeare Production - *The Winters' Tale***  
**Best actress – Michelle Claire-Hudson** for Hermione  
**Best Supporting Actor – Robbie Creer** for Autolycus



Our congratulations go to Robbie Creer and Pat Stimson (who directed the production) who both received the Bristol Blue glass award at the dinner in October. This is ongoing confirmation of the high quality work that is produced by the group and the esteem in which are held in the world of Amateur Drama. Long may it continue!

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, it can now be absolutely confirmed that Lizzie New has started a new "Junior Actonians" group on Wednesday evenings running from 18.00-19.30 hrs at The Parish Hall. A committed group of about 12 young people have so far started. The youngest members are 10 years of age and the upper limit is 18....for all those budding young performers in the village, do come along on a Wednesday evening and try it out!

The hot-off-the-press news is that our production in the autumn is likely to be "The 39 Steps" – currently wooing audiences in the West End. It is a very funny and slick show based on the famous Hitchcock film version of the Buchan novel. It requires four actors and a large team of technical and back stage crew to work through what is a very busy and demanding operation. Watch this space 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 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

### Iron Acton Women's Institute

Last year ended with our birthday and Christmas parties. Some members elected to give money to charity as opposed to sending Christmas cards and a total of £19 was duly sent to the Jessie May Trust. The chance to get through to round 2 of the skittles competition remains an elusive dream after our team was knocked out by Thornbury but once again we had great fun with a very friendly group who seem to have progressed quite well through the competition. Maybe this year !



Liz and Rona helped a charity pack Christmas boxes for sending to underprivileged children in Eastern Europe. Liz in particular had knitted a lot of babies' clothes and was interested in seeing the process of actually getting the items off to their destination. Both said it had been an extremely rewarding experience.

We began this year with a creative evening when our own Cilla Rochford helped us to make greetings cards. It was testimony to her meticulous preparation in providing plenty of the 'twiddly' bits that the results were all pretty good. Cilla kindly donated her fee to a charity called Mary's Meals, which provides a meal a day (usually the only one), for a child in need in schools in the poorest countries of the world, thus ensuring some kind of basic education as well as guaranteed nourishment.

In February we had a presentation from two local serving magistrates which was informative, interesting and fun. We engaged in some role play whereby a woman accused of shoplifting was questioned by both defence and prosecution counsel and evidence given by a store detective. The rest of the group had to decide on the guilt or innocence of the hapless Jenny M and members were very much evenly split as the case had been so cleverly scripted with many different aspects to consider. On the request of the speakers a donation was made to Victim Support.

Before the end of March we will have taken part in the WI Olympic Torch relay. The idea is that the 'torch' is carried and handed on from one group to another in as many varied ways as possible. At the time of writing the plan is that we receive the torch from Coalpit Heath WI in a vintage car and hand it on to Chipping Sodbury via horseback (thanks to Catherine)!

Our book club is currently flourishing with members meeting in the White Hart and we are introducing a produce stall at meetings whereby members can bring in anything they would like to sell on. This is likely to be particularly popular in the summer when there is a glut of home grown fruit and veg. We are again planning to have a bric-a-brac stall on May Day and contribute in some way to the village Queen's Jubilee celebrations.

Talks coming up to look forward to include speakers from Paul's Place, a local charity which supports physically disabled adults, training animals for film sets and the Willow Tree Trust. There will also be jewellery and flower arranging workshops and a Beetle Drive with North Road Ladies as our guests. A trip to the cinema at Cromhall is planned in July and we are currently mulling over suggestions for the film of choice.

Our secretary is Stella Taylor who can be contacted on 01454 228417 and will be pleased to give details of our meetings to anyone who would like to join us.

Sylvie Powell

### North Road Ladies Club

At our December 2011 meeting we were pleased to present the 'County Air Ambulance Trust' with a cheque for £1,080.00 which had been raised by holding fund-raising events throughout last year.



For our 2012 Charity our members have chosen 'The Special Baby Unit' and once again we will be holding 'Bring and Buy' stalls at our monthly meetings and a Skittles Evening in April.

We had a very good attendance at our first meeting of 2012 which John Bartlett gave a talk, illustrated by slides, on 'A History of Parnalls'. This was very enjoyable, especially as quite a few of our members had recollections of relations who worked at Parnalls during and just after the World War II.

At our February meeting Jan had our full attention as she demonstrated different ways of decorating cup-cakes using butter icing and fondant icing. The decorated cup-cakes were put in our raffle, which we were all eager to win.

Our programme until May is as follows:

- Monday 5 March - 'This Is My Life' by Peggy Scott (A talk given with humour and song)
- Monday, 2 April - 'Horse world' - an illustrated talk
- Monday, 30 April - 'Slimbridge Dowsing Group' - talk by Trish Mills and friend
- Monday, 28 May - A talk by Simon Ball on his travels round the world

Our meetings are held in Iron Acton Parish hall commencing at 7.30pm. If you feel you would be interested in joining us please come along as a visitor. We are a very friendly club and you will be made most welcome.

June Rycroft  
Club Secretary

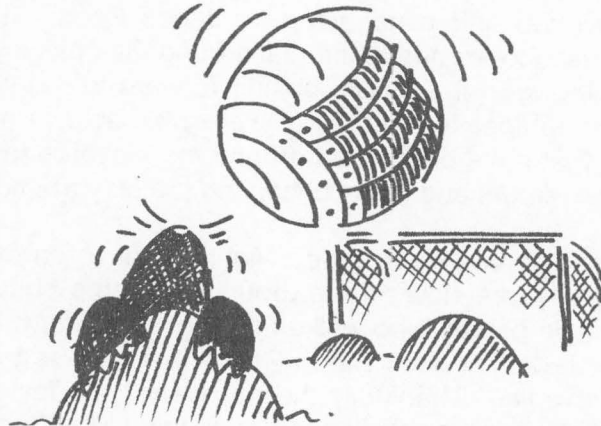
## Iron Acton C of E VC Primary School

I always enjoy the calmness of Spring term after the frantic rush of Christmas.

Our Christmas celebrations were made extra special this year when Miss Brooks gave birth to Poppy on 21 December - although I think some of the children were secretly hoping she would be born on Christmas Day. We can't wait to see her in school once she has had her injections. Mrs Rogers and Mrs Watkins are doing an excellent job holding the fort until she returns in September.

A Christmas highlight was the talent show organised by the pupils. Forty children entertained the rest of the school with singing, dancing, piano playing, karate, joke telling and a version of Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer complete with Makaton sign language.

Our football team have just played their first match of the year against Wick School. Both sides played well (and avoided most of the mole holes), showing superb sportsmanship. Wick scored an extra goal in the second half to win 2-1. We wish them the best of luck as they go into the next round of the Small School Cup.



As part of the wider opportunities music provision, year 4 and 5 have been experiencing singing from different cultures exploring voice, pitch and rhythm. This week the whole school were treated to a very enjoyable musical celebration of singing, drumming and accordion playing.

Class 3 were delighted when staff from Brimsham Green School came into school to teach them French. The pupils had great fun singing, dancing and finding out about life in France. The youngest pupils were keen to impress them with their Eiffel Tower model.

We have recently had a focus on safeguarding. Whilst staff and Governors have been tackling the mountains of paper work - the pupils have experienced the more enjoyable side. Various groups of pupils prepared short presentations for Parents/Carers to explain the different areas of safety being worked on in school (Smiles, fire safety, road safety and e-safety). Year 6 spent an exciting and informative morning at the Life-skills centre in Bristol exploring risks and how to manage them.

On a sad note, we have been the target of two overnight thefts during which large amount of lead have been stolen from the roof. I do feel it is a very sad reflection of our times when thieves target schools and churches, leaving unsafe roofs and huge repair bills.

I am sitting here surrounded by plates of beautifully decorate cup cakes ready for the Valentine Day competitions. I am glad I am not the judge!

Half term already, where has the time gone?

Jill Bendeaux

## Friends of North Road School

A rather belated Happy New Year!

Christmas seems in the dim and distant past, but just a quick mention to say we had a very busy and successful Christmas Fair with lots of outside traders. We were delighted to have raised £650 so a big thank you to everyone that supported us at the Fair!

Hopefully as you are reading this the weather will be warming up and the sun shining for us. Spring is always such a lovely time with all the flowers peeping through the soil.

The Friends of School were able to hand over a cheque to the school for £5,000 at the beginning of this year. This money has funded a lovely new Gazebo/Outdoor Classroom which was designed and constructed by Janes Pond. It has replaced the rather dilapidated and leaking gazebo we had in the playground. It looks lovely and the children have already had lots of fun playing in it and are looking forward to the weather getting warmer so they can use it more for outdoor lessons. We were also able to use the money to buy outdoor games and puzzles that have been fitted around the playground. The Friends of School are very proud of this achievement and it has enhanced the playground for the children.

February saw our Retro Disco Night! What a fun evening that was, we had a few worries as ticket sales were slow off the ground but come Friday 3rd February we saw a range of outfits, every single person who walked through the door had fancy dressed, we had the 60s, 70s and 80s covered. The Red Baron Roadshow gave a great show and the music kept us all on our feet all evening! Thankfully the bar wasn't too far away to keep us refreshed! We're already thinking of when we can fit another evening like this into our calendar!

March will see our Annual Duck Race. This annual event is one the children always look forward to, any excuse for getting into the river and filling their wellies with water! We'll let you know how we got on in the next issue of Focal Poyntz.

We wish you all a very Happy Easter, don't eat too much chocolate eggs!

Heather Tillotson  
Friends of North Road School

## Iron Acton K9 Club – Good Citizen Awards

Iron Acton K9 Club meets in Rangeworthy Village Hall on Monday evenings to enjoy socialising with friends and to train together.

The Club runs classes for handlers and dogs at all levels and ages from puppies and dogs who have done no previous training (starters) to dogs with previous obedience competition experience.

The Club incorporates "The Kennel Club Good Citizen Scheme" recommendations within it's training and recently we have had a number of successes at Bronze and Silver GCDS levels.





Mags Horsfield with her Sheltie, Dream, have passed both their puppy foundation and bronze award. Tony Powell and his spaniel Toby added a pass at bronze level to their earlier puppy foundation award. Jill Buxton and her Manchester Terrier Lottie together with Meryl Cook and her Labrador Remy have also reached their bronze award. All are now working hard to take the silver test in the near future.

The club has also helped a number of dogs and handlers to pass their silver award- Karen Carnovale and her Labrador Shya, Jackie Glanville with Dale (Collie), Veronica Tomkies with Dexter (Whippet), and Rob Mirams with Dexter (Whippet). All are now working to achieve gold standard. The gold test involves road walking and outdoors' obedience so we need lighter evenings and better weather to help encourage us.

In addition to obedience work club members enjoy agility and flyball training in the village. We also arrange social events and are hoping to arrange a display at the Village May Day.

If you would like more information please give us a ring.

Karen Carnovale 01454 228891  
Sue Gadsby 01454 228803

### St James the Less Parent and Toddler Group



The toddlers' group is thriving at the moment with many regulars attending most weeks giving both the children and the parents a chance to get to know one another. Since September we have been busy with various activities as usual: Jo Wright has been bringing horticultural fun to the group with various crafts such as growing cress and hyacinths, Lisa Hatherell has been putting her own unique spin on the end of session sing-a-long (which I think the adults are enjoying as much as the kids!) and a big thanks to Father Christmas for coming again to our Christmas party.

I would also like to thank everyone who baked cookies and cakes for the stall at the Village Christmas Fayre, we sold everything!

In January one of our toddlers, Flynn, celebrated his 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday and we turned the Friday session into a birthday party for him, which was a great success with Sarah from Jazzy Jamboree providing the entertainment. We are now planning ahead to summer, we are involved in the arrangements for the Diamond Jubilee Family Day to be held in the village on the Bank Holiday Monday 4<sup>th</sup> June and we are planning a summer picnic and trip for the children. In the more immediate future we will be having an Easter Egg hunt around the church on the last day of the current term. If you would like to come along to toddlers to join in the fun, we meet every Friday from 10.30am to 12.15pm at the Marshall Rooms, High Street, please contact Ann on 01454 228994 or Katie 01454 228997.

Ann Mora

## St James The Less Church, Iron Acton

### Easter Services:

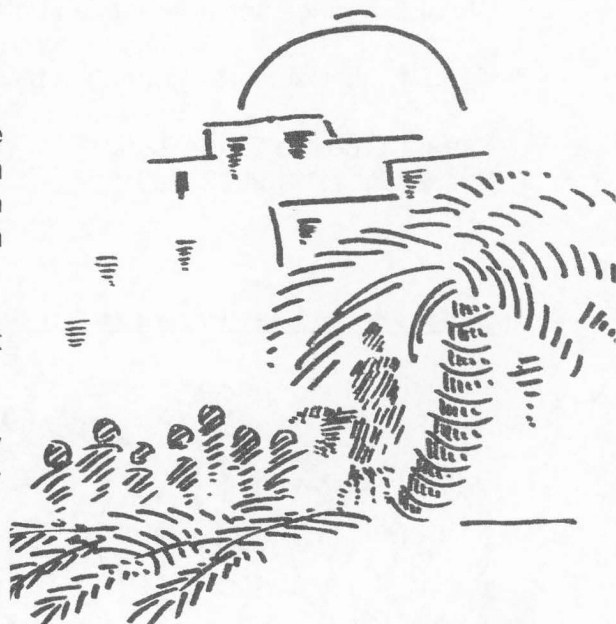
Sunday, 1 April	Palm Sunday	9.00am	Holy Communion
Friday, 6 April	Good Friday	2.00 pm	Stations of the Cross
Sunday, 8 April	Easter Day	9.30am	'All Age Service' Holy Communion

### Services Throughout the Year

Holy Communion or Morning Prayer Services are held at **9.00am** on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday when there are 5 Sundays in the month. Therefore, the last Sunday of each month will always be **Evensong at 6pm**.

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

Mid-week Morning Prayer is held on a Wednesday at **11.00am**. There will be no mid-week Holy Communion until further notice.



### Dates For Your Diary

**Friday, 20 April 2012**    **A Musical Evening with Julie Thursday**  
(popular music from the 50s to the present)  
Tickets - Adults £6.00    Children £2.00 (to include refreshments and a glass of wine or soft drink)  
To be held in St James the Less Church commencing at 7.30pm  
In aid of Church Funds

**Saturday, 7 July 2012**    **Church Summer Fete to be held at 2.00pm in the gardens of the Old Rectory, High Street, Iron Acton**

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

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

This is a letter addressed to the village received from a well remembered friend Mrs Joy Waker.

Dear Friends in the Parish of St James the Less

Although I keep in touch with several people especially at Christmas I have been told that some others have kindly been asking "Where is Mrs Waker now and what are the family doing?", so here is a quick update.

I am living happily in the very friendly Dorset village of Sixpenny Handley and keep very busy with a wide range of tasks and interests. Here in the village I am treasurer of the thriving WI, arrange the church cleaning rota, (it will probably surprise those who know me well to learn that I now help with the flowers too), clean brass in 3 churches but there is nothing quite as splendid as the candelabra at St James the Less, and I make even more jams and marmalades than I did at Iron Acton.

My garden provides me with both work and pleasure and in the fine weather I often go over to Ann's house about 2 miles away to help with their huge garden. Their home is deeply tucked away in the countryside, so quiet and peaceful that when I am working there the deer often creep out from the woods and hedgerows to see what I am doing.

We have a good range of shops in the village and a doctors' surgery and a fairly good daytime bus service to Salisbury and Weymouth, with a once a week bus to Bournemouth. The journey to Weymouth takes nearly 2 hours but passes through some lovely countryside and the ancient town of Dorchester. Visitors are always surprised and delighted to find that the route also goes round the royal Corps of Signals Camp. The gates are unlocked for the bus to go through. It and the passengers are inspected by a soldier who then rides shotgun on the bus until it is time to unlock the gate to let us out. One American lady thought it was so exciting that she began taking photographs. She narrowly escaped being arrested. The soldier consulted higher authority and after some time it was decided to delete her photos and let her continue.

When I go to Weymouth I usually try to meet up with George and Jenny Riddle and we exchange any news we have gleaned from Iron Acton.

Many people say that Dorset is 50 years behind the times. Those of us who live here say "Long may it continue to be so". We have no motorways and no really fast roads, just plenty of narrow twisting ones instead. In most of the villages you get a police caution if you go even slightly over 20 mph.

Just over a year ago Peter, Lucy, Sam and Molly moved to Compton Abbas near Shaftesbury which is only about 25 minutes drive from here but all on above mentioned very winding roads with a couple of incredibly steep hills thrown in and where you never know when deer are going to wander across from one wooded hillside to the other.

Sam and Molly are thoroughly enjoying their new schools and Sam pursues his interest in swimming, running, hockey and cricket both for school and local clubs.

Ann's and Toby's boys are now tall young men. No babysitting needed as it was when I first moved here, instead they now look after me. Ben is a rugby playing archaeologist, Martin is ready Biochemistry at Oxford University - where he has taken up rowing and Jonathan is just applying to universities for engineering.

David and Sallyann with their children Michael, James and Megan live in Buckinghamshire not far from where Tony and I started our married life. Even little Megan, now 3, is at school. How the time flies. They come back to Iron Acton more frequently than any of us in order to visit Sallyann's parents so you are quite likely to see them from time to time.

They always try to come to the May Day celebrations and were delighted to be able to attend the Christingle Service on one of their day visits.

A big thank you to all who write to me and good wishes to everyone.

from

Joy Waker and all the family.

### Iron Acton Parish Council

#### **Annual Parish Meeting**

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2012 in Iron Acton Parish Hall commencing at 8.00pm. All parishioners are invited. At this meeting, the Parish Council will present the annual accounts for approval as well as a report of activities for the previous twelve months.

#### **Cardboard Recycling Bags**

There are still a few green cardboard recycling bags left. On the subject of recycling, some parishioners mentioned that their white plastic recycling bags are beginning to disintegrate. If anyone needs a new bag they should contact South Gloucestershire Council directly and speak with the Streetcare Department on 01454 868000, who will provide a new bag.



#### **Core Strategy**

Regarding South Gloucestershire Council's Core Strategy document, the Parish Council responded in detail as follows:-

- The appraisal carried out by South Gloucestershire Council of the Engine Common area recognised that every aspect in the assessment proved to have a "**major negative effect**" on the area, community, landscape, infrastructure, wildlife, general wellbeing and health of inhabitants.
- Any development in the Engine Common area, apart from being outside the currently defined development boundary, would not be connected to the village of Iron Acton or to Yate, due to the intervening mainline railway and primary distributor route. The current North Road/Iron Acton Way traffic light junction is already at full capacity during rush hours and frequently backs up to the village of Iron Acton.

- The current drainage and sewerage system in the Engine Common area is full to capacity and additional facilities will need to be installed before any further houses are built in the North Yate area.
- Any large housing development would swamp the existing, unique rural character of the Engine Common area within the parish of Iron Acton.
- The Parish Council is aware that there is an on-line petition to protect the rural aspects of Engine Common. This petition has been instigated by local Engine Common residents and has been signed by over 250 people who live in, or use the area. This petition is supported by the local MP Steve Webb, and has received media coverage.
- The Parish Council fully supports South Gloucestershire Council's preferred approach to support communities in the preparation of parish and neighbourhood plans, as per the Localism Act.

### **Land off Broad Lane**

The Parish Council has received notification of a planning application to develop the land to the side of the Fox Pub on Broad Lane. Originally, planning permission had been granted on this site to build two new office blocks. The new development will consist of 14 two, three and four bed roomed houses on the site with associated parking. The developer, Newland Homes has contacted local residents to ask their opinions and presented their plans at the Parish Council's January meeting. Broadly speaking the Parish Council is supportive of this application.

### **Parish Meadow**

The Parish Council has formed a Parish Meadow Committee that has been tasked with developing a schedule of maintenance for the Meadow, as well as looking into grant opportunities. The Parish Meadow Committee consists of Councillors Bob Sheppard, Lynne Blanchard, Chris Heal, Andy Tillotson and Peter Huish. Dates and agendas of their meetings will be published on the parish notice boards and the Parish Council website, and will be treated in the same way as a normal Parish Council meeting, giving parishioners the opportunity to put across their views and suggestions.

### **Vacancy**

The Parish Council is seeking a new Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer to replace Mrs Evans who has recently resigned. Advertisements will be placed on the parish notice boards, the Parish Council website, as well as the local press. If anyone is interested in applying for the position, please contact Mr Bob Sheppard on 01454 228515

Paula Evans (Mrs)  
 Clerk - Iron Acton Parish Council  
 "Gorlan"  
 High Street  
 Iron Acton  
 BRISTOL BS37 9UH  
 Tel:- 01454 228029  
 Mobile:- 07880 923 109

## Focal Poyntz Article

### Horticultural Show - 2012

The 2012 Horticultural Show will be held on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2012 in Iron Acton Parish Hall. Below is a list of classes for the Show which will hopefully provide our 'green-fingered' parishioners with some inspiration.

1. Collection of Vegetables
2. Collection of Salads
3. Collection of Fruits
4. Collection of Gourds, Squash & Pumpkins
5. 4 Potatoes (any 1 variety)
6. 3 Carrots (long)
7. 3 Carrots (short)
8. 'Kinkiest' Carrot
9. 3 Onions (from seed, trimmed)
10. 3 Onions (from sets, trimmed)
11. 6 Shallots
12. 6 Runner Beans
13. 6 French Beans
14. The Longest Runner Bean
15. 2 Peppers
16. 2 Cabbages (any 1 variety)
17. 2 Marrows
18. Heaviest Marrow
19. 3 Courgettes
20. 2 Cucumbers (frame or greenhouse)
21. 6 Cherry Tomatoes (on the vine)
22. 6 Tomatoes
23. 3 Parsnips
24. 3 Beetroot
25. 4 Apples (dessert)
26. 4 Apples (culinary)
27. 4 Pears (dessert)
28. 4 Plums (dessert)
29. 4 Plums (culinary)

As a reminder, the titles for the Photography Cup are "Iron Acton at Night", and "Flora and Forna" (which can include plants, animals, flowers, birds, insects, both domestic and wild).

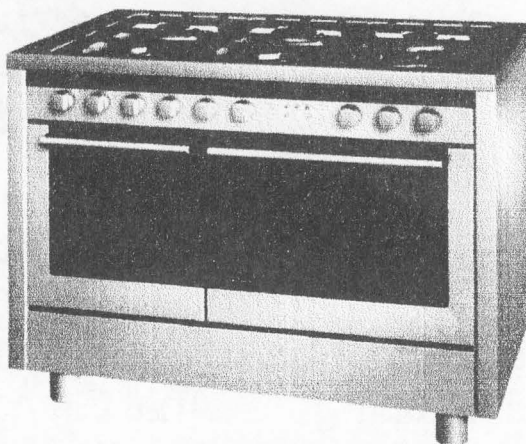
Iron Acton Horticultural Committee

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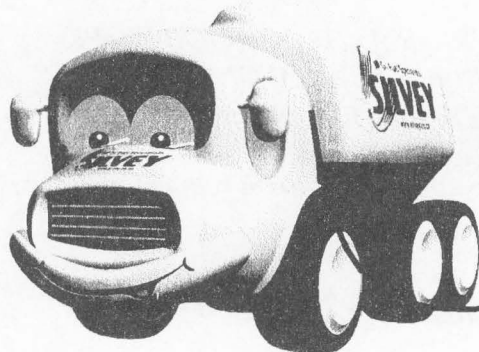
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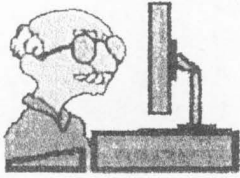
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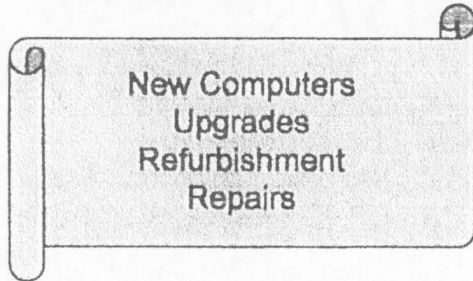
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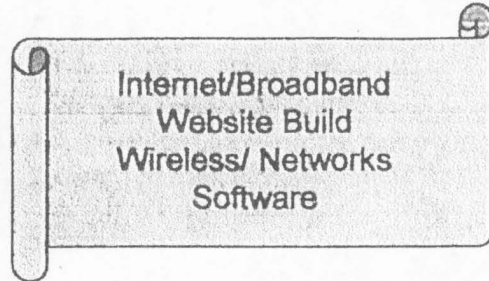


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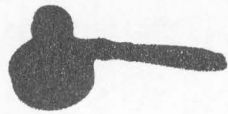


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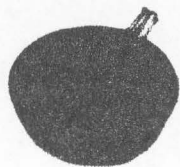
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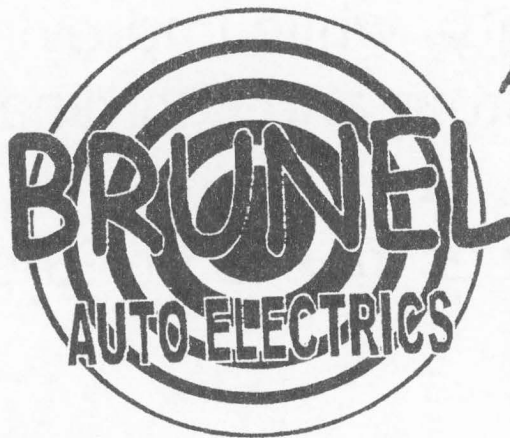
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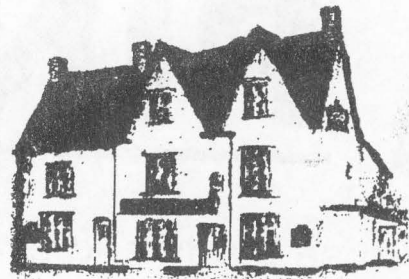
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### Diamond Jubilee Family Day



Arrangements are taking shape for a Family Day to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> June. The event will build on the success of last year's celebrations of the Royal Wedding and will take place in the garden at Algars Mill. Organisations within the Parish are working together to ensure a memorable celebration for all. Look out for further details closer to the time.

Jason Haselhan

### Fabulous New Year's Eve Party



Once again everyone enjoyed a wonderful evening at the village New Years Eve party.

Preparing the hall, food and bar was hard work but great fun and the result was brilliant. The hall looked stunning, the food was delicious, the drink flowed, and the disco was great. The children had a lovely time with Sue Harrison & Rachael in their own party room whilst the adults danced the night away before celebrating the start of the New Year.

Many thanks to everyone who helped before the party and to those who helped clear up afterwards. Particular thanks to Adam for his culinary skills, Mike and Karen Carnovale for organising the Black & White Movie quiz and to Lizzie Gadsby and Lydia Tucker for organising the raffle.

We managed to make a small profit on the night so if anyone would like to organise a party this year please let us know and we can pass on the float to help you get off the ground.

Sue Gadsby (228803)  
Jane Conlon (228600)

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