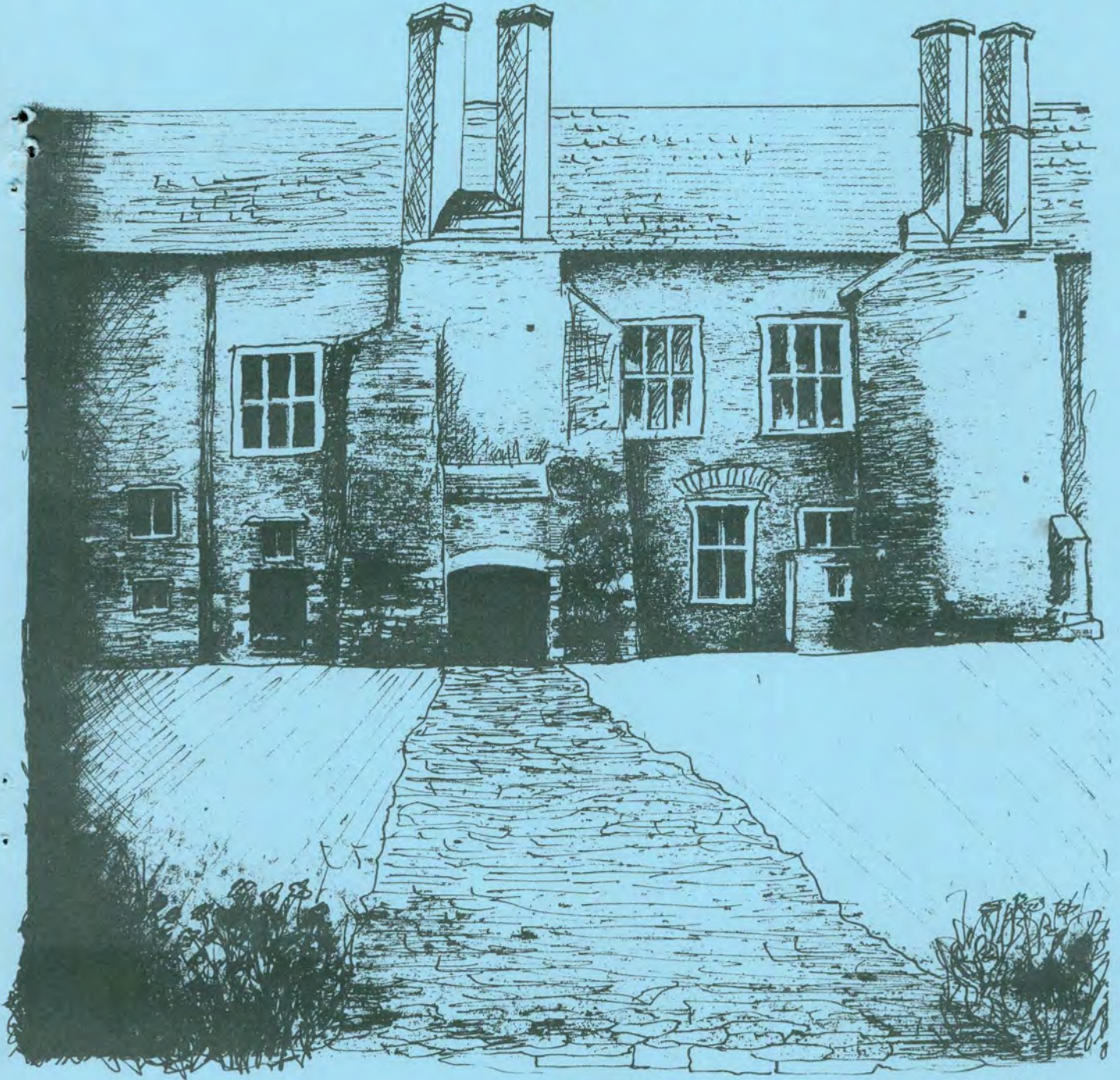


FOCAL POINTZ

SUMMER EDITION : 2012



Acton Court by Eileen Hughes

FOCAL POYNTZ INFORMATION

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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

NEXT ISSUE

CONTRIBUTION DEADLINE 21ST OCTOBER

DISTRIBUTION 24-25 NOVEMBER

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BJW

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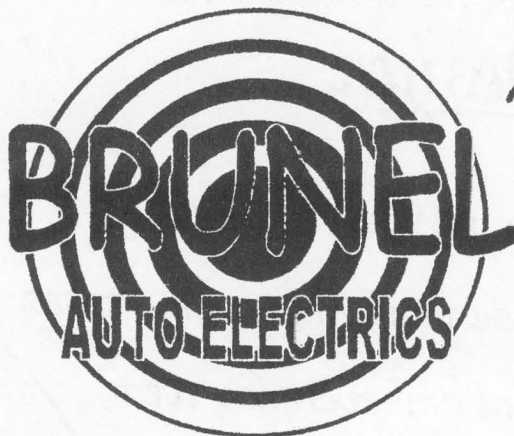
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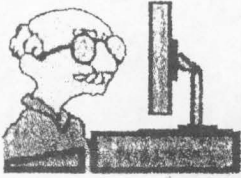
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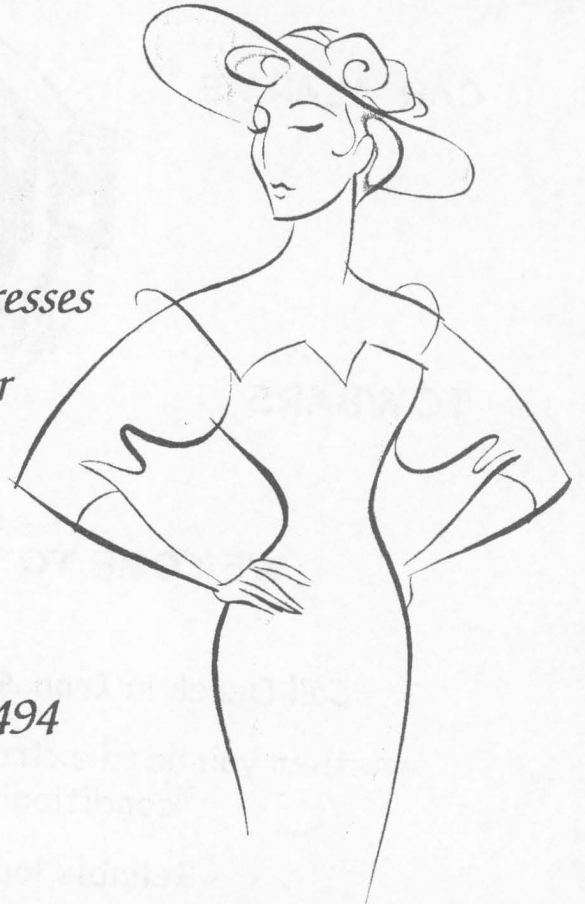
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Telephone Wendy on 01454 228494

Iron Acton K9 Club – Puppy Mania

The last few months have been very busy for our puppy class trainer, Trevor. A number of puppies and handlers have successfully completed The Kennel Club Good Citizens Scheme Puppy Foundation level - Emma Cook with Moe't, Claire Stratford with Floss, Jane Alexander with Ben, Laura Honey with Tali, Mike Law with Buddy, Jenny Armstrong with Pollyana, Rachel Frise with Peppa, Hayley Whittle with Mo and Kate Rhodes with Indie. Well done and tummy rubs all round.

Recently 8 new puppies joined the club and together with their handlers all are enjoying socialising and working towards the Foundation award. Watch this space.

Other members of the club have also been busy – Kira Roberts with Honey, Zoe Fogg with Meg, Mags Horsfield with Timmy, and Chris Moore with Harry all passed the KCGCDS bronze award.

At silver level, passes were achieved by Mags Horsfield with Dream and Meryl Cook with Remy.

We currently have 4 dogs training for the Gold standard award – these include 3 dogs - Shya, Remy and Dale - who began training with the club as puppies at 12 weeks old. If they pass it will be a fantastic achievement for the trainers, handlers and their dogs to have worked through the full range of awards.

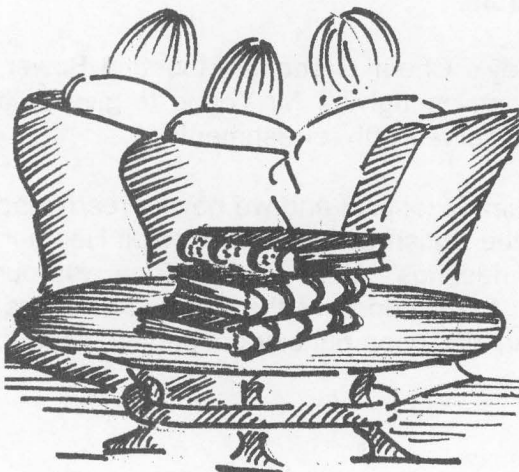
Our Flyball and Agility dogs have had a disappointing few months due to the weather. Our May Day display was postponed as was the BBQ planned as part of the Jubilee celebrations in June. We are all looking forward to more sunny days in August when we hope to arrange another fun day.

If anyone is interested in joining us – whatever the age/standard of handler and dog – please give us a call.

Sue Gadsby 228803, Karen Carnovale 228891, Trevor Carpenter 775501, Helen Case 222732 or Louise Harper-Bill 227224.



Iron Acton Book Group



Now in its seventh year Iron Acton Book Group continues to thrive with a membership of fourteen. We meet at one another's homes every two months and enjoy lively discussions and friendly chatter. The carefully selected reading choice is often something one would never pick up and read which adds an interesting dimension. Of the six books each year one is usually a biography; and any book of a chosen author (so far Hardy, Lawrence, Scott Fitzgerald).

We have received inquiries from others wishing to join the group. Sadly, at present we are unable to accept any more members for two reasons. Firstly, we meet in one another's homes so space and seating would be a problem. Secondly, we feel that a larger group would probably make a unified discussion difficult. However, if we can be of help to anyone who would like to set up Iron Acton Book Group Two we would be delighted to assist.

Please contact either Jill Bradshaw 228626 or Jane Spare 228257

Jane Spare

North Road Ladies Club

Since our last report North Road Ladies Club have had some very interesting speakers.

We had an excellent evening in March listening to Peggy Scott singing and giving a talk with humour about her days playing the Music Halls.



On 2 April Gerry Watkins explained the workings of "Horseworld" and said they welcomed groups of people for a tour followed by refreshments.

At our meeting on 30 April Trish and Barbara came to talk about the Slimbridge Dowsing Group. They explained how they had themselves become interested in joining the Dowsing Group and demonstrated how to use the dowsing sticks. Each member was given a dowsing stick to see if it worked for them. There was a great deal of laughter and some sticks moved round and round, while others remained still.

In May, Kathryn Hart represented Simon Ball who was unable to attend our meetings. She spoke about Simon's Nuffield Scholarship which involved his travels around the world in retail (food). Simons' family run the Tortworth Farm Shop business which now has a Farm Restaurant.

Our annual evening trip was 2 July when we visited Ridley's Cheer Gardens, Mountain Bower, Chippenham. We were very lucky that the rain held off long enough for Mr Young to give us a guided tour of his beautiful gardens and afterwards we were served with refreshments.

Our charity of this year is "The Special Baby Unit", Southmead Hospital and we have already had several fundraising events. We held a skittles evening in the British Legion Hall, Coalpit Heath in April and have had a bring and Buy stall at most of our meetings. Saturday, 30 June was our Garden Party which Helen and Mark kindly let us hold in the grounds of the Codrington Arms, North Road. Unfortunately the rain persisted for most of the afternoon but several people came to support us and we were very happy with the end result.

Our programme until the end of the year is as follows:-

Monday, 3 September	"Celestial Horses" - Travels in Turkestan - slideshow with Gill Suttle
Monday, 1 October	"Secret World Wildlife Rescue" - illustrated talk
Monday, 5 November	Our Birthday Party
Monday, 3 December	AGM, American Supper and Social Evening

Our meetings are held in Iron Acton Parish Hall commencing at 7.30pm. If you feel you would like to join us please come along and you will be made most welcome.

June Rycroft
Club Secretary

Iron Acton Diamond Jubilee Family Day

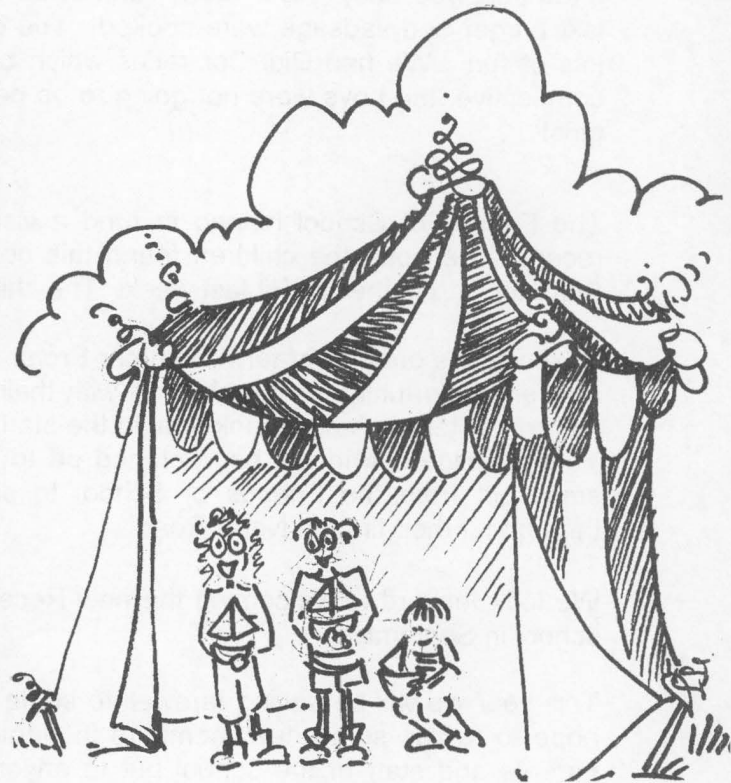
Around 100 children and 150 adults celebrated the Diamond Jubilee in the gardens of Algars Mill on Monday 4 June. The children were treated to a party lunch in the marquee after which they were presented with a souvenir.

Throughout the afternoon there were a number of attractions for them. The Diamond Jubilee Pageant was recreated as children decorated their own boats and raced them on the River Frome. The Young Actonians took to the stage in the marquee with a performance all about the Queen's reign. There were party games and dancing with a disco. In the garden there was face-painting, a treasure hunt and a play area for the little ones. Grown-ups were able to enjoy a bar and hog roast! The day concluded with a procession through the village to the Church for a brief service.

The event was made possible by the generous support of the following organisations in the parish of Iron Acton: Acton Aid, Actonians and Young Actonians, Book Group, Diamond Jubilee Ball Committee, Friends of Iron Acton Primary School, Friends of North Road Primary School, Iron Acton Primary School, K9 Club, The Lamb Inn, North Road Primary School, Parochial Church Council, Parish Council, St James the Less Parent and Toddler Group, Village Christmas Committee, Women's Institute.

The Diamond Jubilee Family Day Committee would like to thank Marilyn and John Wright for hosting the event in their beautiful gardens.

Jason Haselhan
On behalf of the Diamond Jubilee Family Day Committee



Friends of North Road School

Let's hope by the time we're all reading this issue of Focal Poyntz the rain will have subsided and the sunshine will have made an appearance!

This term seems have flown by and the end of another academic year is only a week or so away.

The Duck Race that was planned for March eventually took place at the end of May once the level of the River had gone down and it was safe to do. Lots of fun was had and more much needed funds were raised. We only lost one duck this year which is now en route somewhere down the River Frome!

What a shame May Day was cancelled due to the weather, but congratulations to Imogen Mirfin from Year 5 who was due to be an attendant to the May Queen. Lets hope next year's weather is better and we can take part again in May Day.

We held our Summer Fair in June and were very fortunate with the weather, no rain which meant the afternoon was busy. The BBQ worked flat out until the last burger and sausage were cooked! The children had lots of fun. We had Didi Car races which became very competitive, the boys were not going to be beaten by the girls!!

The Friends of School helped to fund a visit from the Life Skills Bus which came into school recently, we hope the children found this beneficial. We also helped to fund the whole school Summer Trip to the Big Pit last week. The children came back with lots of stories to tell!

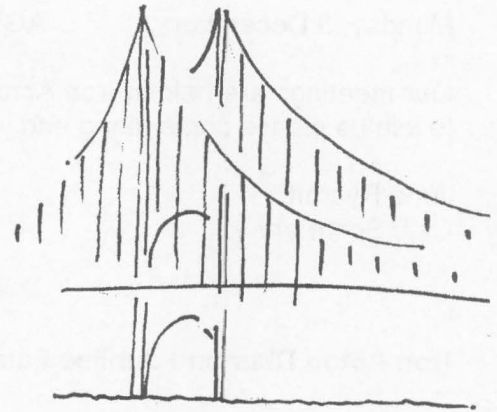
Next week is our end of term Summer Prom. This event is for the whole school and families. It is a lovely opportunity for the children with their families and staff to have a knees up, to celebrate the end of term! A big 'thank you' to the staff who run the bar for us. We also say farewell to our Year 6 children who will be venturing off to pastures new. Each child will be presented with a small gift from the Friends of School to say Thank You to them for supporting our events throughout their time at North Road.

We look forward to welcoming the new Reception class and their families who will be joining the school in September.

This year we will be saying farewell to some of the Friends of School Committee members. We hope to recruit some new members in September. The Friends of School is open to not only parents and staff of the school but to anyone within the community so if you are interested in joining the committee please do contact the school office on 01454 867788.

Wishing you all a very happy and hopefully hot Summer!

Heather Tillotson
Friends of North Road School

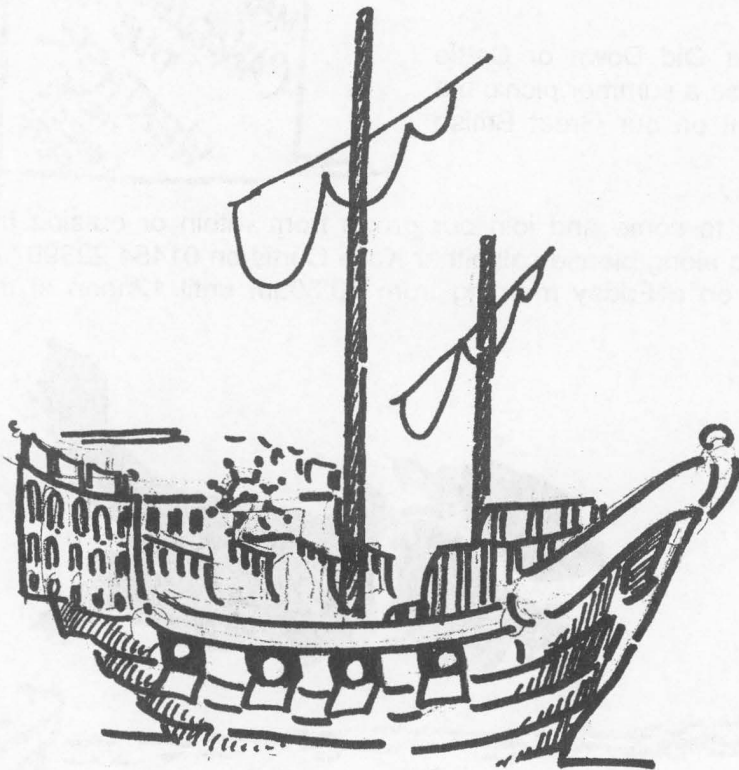


Acton Aid

At the time of writing Acton Aid are busy making the final arrangements for this year's Proms in the Meadow. We are looking forward to welcoming back Charlotte Newstead and Olivia Cowell who joined the Bristol Millennium Orchestra, Kathryn Hurley Dance Academy and Stapleton School of Dance on last year's programme. The Castle School Panache Steel Band and Fascinating Rhythm will perform for the first time at the event this year.

After Proms in the Meadow, Acton Aid will take a bit of a breather in August before returning in September with the Iron Acton Beer Festival 2012. Last year's inaugural beer and wine festival was a great success and this year's event will build on the same formula.

Arrangements for the annual Cultural Trip are at an early stage with skiing in the French Alps under investigation.



Since the last edition of Focal Poyntz, Acton Aid enjoyed a Tour and Talk at the Cotswold Spring Brewery in April. Master Brewer Nik (the hat) Milo gave us an insight into what it takes to make great beer while John Worlock kept us all topped-up. Of course May Day was cancelled this year so Acton Aid did not get the chance to keep everyone fed from the barbeque. In June Acton Aid were involved in the arrangements for the Family Day to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee in Iron Acton. Over the last few months Acton Aid have been contributing to plans to improve the children's play area in the Parish Meadows. With backing from the Parish Council we expect to begin construction of a Pirate Ship soon!

Since the Spring issue of Focal Poyntz we have welcomed Dominic Walters as a new member.

Any Parishioner who wants to find out more about Acton Aid is invited to contact one of the officers or call in and join us at The Lamb Inn at 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, Peter Foote on 228674 or the Secretary, Jason Haselhan on 228791, in confidence.

Jason Haselhan
Secretary
Acton Aid

St James the Less Parent and Toddler Group

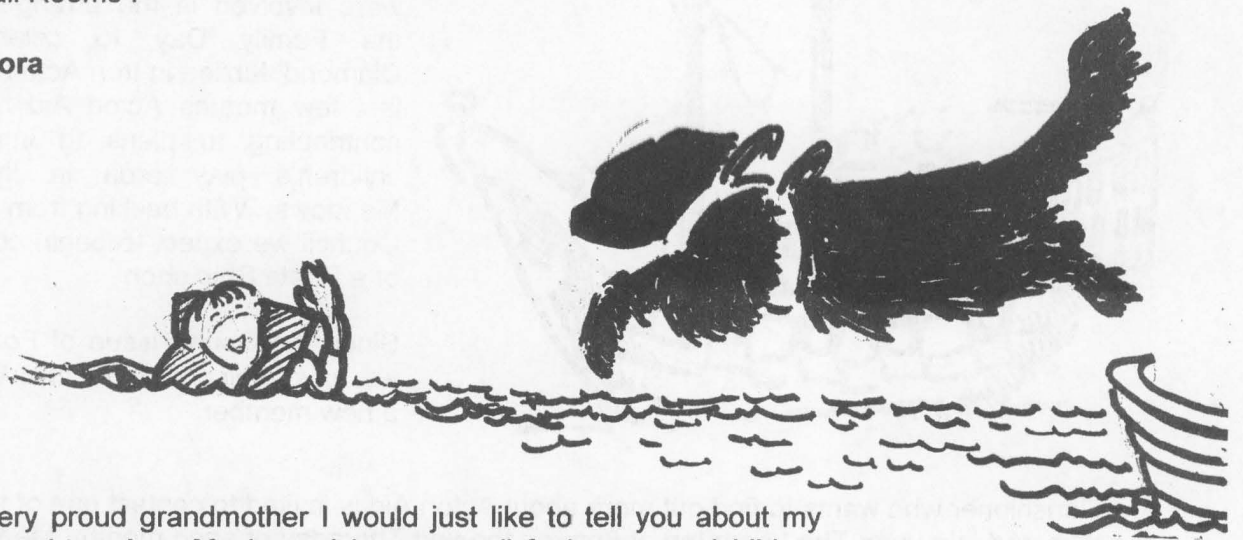
As another school year comes to an end we say goodbye to 3 toddlers who will all be starting at Iron Acton Primary in September and we wish them the very best for their future. I would also like to say a big thank you to their mums: Heather, Rachel and Georgina who have played a big part in the running and success of the toddler group over the past few years and we have enjoyed their company (and cakes!) immensely, so good luck ladies and stay in touch.

This year our Toddler Group were looking forward to running a stall at the May Day celebrations in the village and I would like to take the opportunity to thank everyone who kindly donated many lovely toys and books for the stall, unfortunately the event was cancelled due to the rain so we are now planning to sell the toys at the Church Fete.

We are hoping to have a trip to either Old Down or Cattle Country before the end of term and maybe a summer picnic but this, of course, is very much dependant on our Great British summer!!

We are always looking for new people to come and join our group from within or outside the village, so if you are interested in coming along please call either Katie Curtis on 01454 228997 or Ann Mora on 01454 228994 - we run on a Friday morning from 10.30am until 12noon at the Marshall Rooms .

Ann Mora



As a very proud grandmother I would just like to tell you about my granddaughter, Amy Maciver. I know we all feel our grandchildren are very special but Amy did something last Saturday, 14 July which to me was amazing.

Amy wanted to help raise money for the Bristol Children's Hospital Oncology ward where her big sister Izzy was treated. So when she saw a poster in the hospital asking for volunteers to be rescued by a Newfoundland dog she really wanted to sign up I was very concerned!

She had to go to Portishead Marina with her Mum and was taken into the middle of the Marina by boat where she proceeded to jump into the water and was rescued by a Newfoundland dog, she was so small she could not reach the harness provided on the dogs back for people to hold she had to hold onto the dog's hair.

After the first supervised jump Jayne, her Mum, was told she could jump in on her own if she wished but Amy must have an assistant with her as she is only seven and small, however they had not counted on Amy who quickly said I want to do it by myself and promptly jumped in. The dog who was on the boat saw her and barked loudly, wagged his tail as the boat was quickly turned round and the call "JUMP" came he rescued Amy who loved it.

I was so proud of her the organisers said it was the best jump of the day but to me it was so special I wanted to share it with you. Amy and her Mum raised £600 for the TOL'S Appeal which is named after a little boy named Tolemy, or Tol who is seven and was diagnosed with leukaemia in August 2010 and is part of an organisation who raise money for charities by using their Newfoundland dogs to rescue people in the water.

The money Amy and Jayne have raised will go directly to the Oncology ward, Bristol Children's Hospital.

Rona Wright

North Road Community Primary School

The summer term is upon us already, although with all the rain we have had it doesn't really feel like summer.

Back in March we celebrated World Book Day. As usual the children came dressed as their favourite fictional book character and the children's costumes did not disappoint! We all shared a book called "The Queens's Knickers" during assembly. In the story she has a different pair of knickers for every occasion- ones with holly on for Christmas, although these are a bit prickly, confetti ones for weddings and so on. Each child designed a pair of knickers for the Queen to wear for a special event. A selection were sent to Buckingham Palace and to our amazement we received a reply back! The letter is now pride of place in our main school corridor and the knickers can be seen in the school library area.

As usual we have continued to fundraise for local good causes and charities. We raised £64 for the polio campaign led by the Rotary Club, this will provide vaccination for 320 children. In return the Rotary Club, who were very impressed with our children have donated 25% of the cost of the Lifebus. This is a bus that visits schools and teaches pupils about healthy lifestyles and life choices.

We all took part in the sport relief mile, even some of the local residents joined in the fun. In total we raised £98! We are planning to host our Macmillan coffee morning on Friday 28 September from 9:00-11:30am. Everyone is invited to come along, we will even have homemade cakes, made by the children!

We have had lots of trips and visits to enhance our learning. Class 4 had a brilliant time at the Lifeskills Centre in Bristol. Our school visits every other year and the children get to experience and deal with potentially difficult or dangerous situations, whilst in a safe environment. Two of our Year 3 pupils also took part in a science day at Horton Primary School; they made lava lamps and parachutes. Some Year 5 pupils attended an art day at Brimsham Green School as well as a book club to vote on the Kate Greenaway award. Class 1 visited Westonbirt and Class 3 visited Cardiff Castle. Later on this term we will be taking all the children to visit the Big Pit in Blaenavon, Wales. The children will be able to go underground and experience life as a miner as well as historic detectives. Our Year 6 camp was very successful and as usual we went with Rangewothy and Iron Acton schools. Our Year 5 camp had to be postponed due to the field we were camping in being underwater! Hopefully when we go later in the term we will have some sunshine!

We have just been awarded the coveted Bristol Standard Award for Quality and Effectiveness of Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Provision. Staff, Governors and Parents have worked together to ensure the highest quality of practice across ten disciplines, which include Supporting Play, Learning and Development, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion as well as Leadership, Management and Staffing. During this time the team developed an extensive portfolio showcasing our provision which was moderated by a team of early year's advisory teachers. The school has gained the distinction of being awarded the Bristol Standard on its first submission and is also one of the first in South Glos!

Earlier this term we held a language week. The children had a great time finding out about the cultures of France, Spain, Italy and Germany. They tried lots of different foods, donated by Tesco, Morrison's and Lidl's - some more popular than others!

We celebrated the Jubilee in style, everyone came dressed as a King, Queen, Prince or Princess. We had a street party lunch in the hall and FOS presented every child with a commemorative mug. Photos of this event, as well as many other can be seen on our school website www.northroadprimaryschool.co.uk. You can also find out our dates for visits if your child is due to start school in September 2013.

Have a good summer.

Jo Williams
Head Teacher
North Road Community Primary

Extracts From How I Started National Service - 1960 - 1962

National Service. The proximity of it was brought home to me in the summer of 1951. Two of my friends had been called up and told to report to the Gloucester's Barracks. I was invited to see them off and we all went in a van. At the depot my friends were loaded, with others, in the back of a truck; into the unknown, two years service to King and Country ahead of them. One of my friends was to experience real action against the Mau Mau in Kenya.

National Service - how could I avoid it? Studious, mollycoddled, academic rather than practical, would I last five minutes in the Forces? Employment categories given exemption from National Service included coalmining, agriculture, fishing and the police but I was in none of these. If you were in prison or were a genuine conscientious objector you didn't have to go. At this time, I was studying, part-time at the Bristol Merchant Venture's Technical College. Because of this I obtained deferment and this continued provided I passed all the exams. This was a tremendous incentive! In those days there was no changing courses in mid-stream or taking a gap year out. Time went by and I passed the annual exams up to High National Certificate, which was the normal limit of deferment.

However, I was advised by the Deferment Board to continue studying since National Service was about to come to an end. Unfortunately, it was to continue for a further 4 years. I managed to pass more exams, but in the summer of 1959 I was summoned to attend a pre-service medical. I was within a year from the very final qualification it was possible to attain and there would be no way I could pick up the threads again after a two year gap. Having passed the medical, I appealed against being drafted and went before a Service Tribunal (three magistrates) who granted an extension of nine months to get the qualification; this ended what was effectively a nine year part time course.

Again I was summoned for a medical. Was there a chance I might fail the medical? I had worn spectacles since I was two and had undergone an eye operation - could I make this count? I received many pearls of wisdom on how to fail the medical, faking flat-footedness, eating masses of beetroot to colour the urine, pretending to be colour blind. I was duly passed A1.

The final was an interview with a retired army colonel whose function was to allot each recruit to the most suitable army outfit (the Navy having been dropped for National Service and the RAF only taking those who had been in the ATC at school. To follow my civilian career of analytical chemistry I asked to go into the Royal Army Service Corps. The second choice had to be from the infantry, artillery, tanks or commandos. The colonel said "in the war, what mob was your father in?" "Artillery" I answered. "That's your second choice then" he replied. That is how I came to be put into the Royal Army Ordnance Corps.

In July 1960 I said farewell to my wife on Temple Meads Station, Bristol and travelled to Hilsea, Portsmouth to join No 3 Training Battalion RAOC.

At Portsmouth Station, I was herded, with other raw recruits, into the back of a three ton lorry for dispatch to the Camp at Hilsea Barracks. These were grey stone, austere Victorian buildings and could easily have been taken to be a prison. I and my new companions, carrying our suitcases, were marched by a corporal to the NAAFI where we were given a cup of tea and two biscuits. We filled in numerous forms including one which stated that we would not divulge any state secrets. We were then marched to the camp barber. The day before I had had my hair cut very short by my regular barber and I thought I'd be okay. I had the temerity to point this out but the barber said "call that short laddie" and proceeded to remove nearly all the hair I had. To be continued

Geoff Dickes

Iron Acton Parish Council

I would like to introduce myself as Iron Acton Parish Council's new Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer, my name is Donna Beal and I live in Yate. I can be contacted by email or post at any time and I will endeavour to be contactable by phone between the hours of 9am-3pm Monday, Wednesday and Friday. My contact details are:

Mrs Donna Beal
8 Kingscote
Yate
Bristol
BS37 8YB

Tel Number 01454 325706

email: clerk@ironactonparishcouncil.com

My official start date was 9/5/12. Prior to my start date I have spent a considerable amount of time during various days of the week familiarising myself with the help of Bob Sheppard of what the job entails and what is required. During the week prior to my start date and to date I have visited the Church Yard, Parish Meadows and Village Green. I also attended the meeting at Engine Common regarding the proposed development for Engine Common with Mr Sheppard.

As Iron Acton is relatively new to me, over the next few months I will be familiarising myself with the Parish. During this time I will be meeting as many parishioners as I see and concentrating on getting to know the people whom I will be in contact with ie allotment holders and the two primary school head teachers.

I was sorry to hear that May Day had been cancelled as this would have been an ideal opportunity for me to meet parishioners.

During my time spent with the Parish Council so far, I have been catching up with the bookwork mainly the accounts and bank reconciliation which has now balanced to the penny. I will be monitoring closely and keeping everyone informed with the progress of the proposed housing developments for both Engine Common and Brimsham Park.

St James the Less Church, Iron Acton

Moving On And Growing

During this time of vacancy following David's move to Yatton I think it's very important to keep moving forward as a church community.



We all miss David very much but a church is not just about one person. He has shown us many different ways to move closer to God in our worship and given us the courage to speak out and take a more active part in our worship.

The Wednesday service has developed in surprising ways and whilst we will still try to reintroduce a Eucharist Service at some point we would welcome anyone who would like thirty minutes out of a busy day to reflect, learn or just listen to the varied thoughts and prayers we share at 11 o'clock every Wednesday morning.

We are not a High church and our services are developing as we have ideas from the congregation and the parish. We still aim to have Communion on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month, an All Age Service on the 2nd Sunday and Evensong on the fourth. We would especially welcome more people to come and help us sing on the fourth Sunday evening as we are all a bit rusty! A "Songs of Praise" style service has also been suggested at some time.

It is important in other ways to keep the congregation lively as our giving declines proportionately to numbers but the outgoings remain the same. We must continue to be able to pay our way or the Diocese could think that we are not viable.

It has been quite exciting having various different clergy and lay people leading our services as they all bring something new to us and it keeps us on our toes and stops us becoming complacent in our worship. We are very grateful to Derek, Wully and Joanne for their support over the last few months and look forward to their continuing presence in our midst.

Please give us a try and let us know what you think.

The final decision as to our future rests with Bishop Mike so let's give him a vibrant, growing church to look at!

Carol Groom
Churchwarden

Dates For Your Diary:

Saturday, 15 September 2012 A Craft and Food Fayre in Iron Acton Parish Hall 10am - 4pm

Saturday, 8 December 2012 Church Christmas Fayre in Iron Acton Parish Hall 2.30pm

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

Try our web site for Community News and Events www.ironactonparish.info

CRAFT AND FOOD EXIBITION AND SALE

15 September 2012

10 am - 4pm

Exhibits include:

Crusty Bakery

Local Pork Butcher

Greek Deli

Honey Stall

Jam Stall

Cupcakes

Organic Bloom Flowers

Jewellery Stall

Bags

Woodturning

Walking Sticks

Painting

Church Stall

Great opportunity to start early on those Christmas presents and give a boost to St James The Less Church Funds.

Tables still available Contract Annette Bishop 01454 228642

Iron Acton C of E VC Primary School

What a shame May Day was cancelled. Luckily the Maypole dancers were able to demonstrate their dancing skills at our special Jubilee tea party. Our Jubilee King, Queen and attendants looked very regal as they led the precession of children down the High Street to the village green. Thanks to Friends each child received a commemorative coin and a decorated cup cake. Friends also presented the school with a beautiful Jubilee bench which overlooks the spiral garden.



Our dancers were in action again last week as they performed at the Small School Dance Day at Tortworth School. This is a very enjoyable afternoon where children from up to 10 local small schools join in four dances and perform one of their own choice.

A year ago a small group of pupils were to Richard Cornock's farm to plant wild flower seeds. Back in school they planted similar wild flower seeds in different locations on the school site to monitor their growth. It is very interesting to see how differently the seeds have grown in the various sites.

Everyone has their fingers crossed that it will be dry of our two school trips. The older pupils are very excited as they head off to explore London: The Natural History Museum, St Paul's Cathedral, Tate Britain and all the sights in between. The younger children will be disguised as pirates following a Pirate trail around Bristol harbour and the M Shed.

Pupils have enjoyed several sporting enrichment sessions. Our tag rugby team entered the Tag Rugby Festival and played with enthusiasm and good team spirit. Our tennis players will be playing Filton on Saturday. The Year 1 Football Team won their tournament receiving a cup which was almost as big as them in addition to a new kit. The football team go from strength to strength under the leadership of Richard Wiggins and Billy East. Young people today come in for a lot of criticism so it is great to see two young local lads giving their time freely to encourage and train others. The team are looking forward to the match at the annual Church Fete.

Year 6 pupils had a wonderful time at PGL camp with North Road School. It stayed fairly dry and everyone enjoyed trying different activities especially the Giant swing and zip wire.

Our new Reception pupils have now joined us for a Mad Hatter's tea party and also stayed for lunch - we hope they will be very happy here.

I cannot believe it is July already and there are just fourteen working days left. That will pass by in a flash with school trips, Sport's day, Open afternoon, the Year 6 Prom, special lunches, award ceremonies and finally the Leaver's Service. We will be sad to say "Goodbye" to Miss Brewer, Miss Cole and Mrs Bellis who are moving on to exciting new opportunities. However, we are also looking forward to welcoming Miss Brooks back from maternity leave and to Miss Allen, joining us as our new Class 1 teacher.

I would like to thank everyone in the village who has helped the school during the year through supporting our fundraisers, joining our special events, donating vouchers, sending in plants or indeed helped in any other way. A special thank you to members of the church who have freely given their time to run a weekly "Open the Book" service for our youngest children. As a small school we are always thankful for the support we get from the village.

Jill Bendeaux

Iron Acton Women's Institute

On a thankfully dry day in mid March a small group of ladies, accompanied by one on horseback, could be seen walking from Iron Acton to Chipping Sodbury, complete with banner (made by Liz) and 'Olympic Torch'. Although resembling a latter day suffragette march, this was in fact our WI handing over the Avon WI Olympic torch to Chipping Sodbury's morning group.

Catherine cut a dashing figure on Reggie, a borrowed horse, and caused quite a stir when we arrived around midday in the centre of town. By then Reggie had had enough and made a fairly hasty retreat home but other members stayed and had coffee with the next torch recipients.

It was a pity May Day celebrations had to be cancelled due to the weather. As we had collected quite a lot of bric-a-brac for our stall, it was a shame not to use it so we are to have a stall at the school fete in July.

We had a fun evening when we ran a Beetle Drive and invited North Road Ladies along. Jan had provided the paperwork and the illustration of how your beetle was supposed to look when you drew the body, head, legs etc, depending on the number you threw on the die. Needless to say, the funniest part of the evening was seeing the amazingly mutant beetles that appeared on the score sheets! The evening was a good opportunity to chat with other members during the games when the table order was reshuffled and afterwards whilst enjoying tea and cake.

There was an interesting talk in March from Susan Weaver of "Paul's Place," a local charity based in Coalpit Heath and founded in the mid 1990s by Kath Aldom. Through her work at the Headway Centre at Frenchay Hospital and inspired by Paul Willmott, who sadly died a few months later, Paul's Place was launched as a haven for physically handicapped adults where they can interact with each other and the volunteers. The choice of activities is varied, playing games, learning computer skills or just choosing to sit and read. New activities and outings are constantly being discussed and introduced and basically it is down to club members what they would like to do. It was inspiring to hear that so much can be achieved by the selfless commitment of the volunteers at Paul's Place.

Inspiration of a different kind came from two of our practical evenings. Geraldine and Alex showed us that even without flowers, attractive table arrangements can be made using a variety of common greenery. Members had raided gardens (hopefully their own) and hedgerows and the resulting greenery, when shared out, produced some interesting results. At another meeting we made jewellery with the help of Ruki Clarke, who makes a large selection of jewellery and sells it at local craft fairs. She provided a plethora of different coloured beads and showed us how to make a pair of earrings. To her credit, everyone managed to produce very commendable results.

Our trip in July was to a Cromhall cinema with a difference. Bob Wood has converted his barn from stable and pig pens to the most charming little cinema you could imagine. From the time you enter, with an old ABC sign above the doorway, it is like stepping back in time. The foyer walls are covered with posters from a bygone era and over the years Bob has managed to salvage many original lights, seats and fittings from cinemas being demolished. The actual screening room seats 19 plus a couple of extras if needed and as well as our film of choice (we elected to see *The Artist*, a winner of many Oscars this year), we saw Gaumont News, trailers of two old films and a Tom and Jerry cartoon.



There was a short intermission during the main feature during which ice-cream was served, after which the film was concluded. Bob was a charming and informative host and as it was his 80th birthday that day, we presented him with a gift and card and a rendition of 'Happy Birthday' for which he seemed truly appreciative. Once again, our team of programme organisers have given us a very different and memorable outing.

Although we have no meeting in the summer, we are going to Geraldine's in August and with some good luck weather-wise, hope to have a bring and buy evening in her garden.

We'll be back in the Parish Hall in September and would welcome new members. 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

Friends of Iron Acton School

Since I last wrote the Friends of Iron Acton School have been very busy. At the end of the spring term we held our annual Easter Egg Hunt - in glorious sunshine! The hunt took place on the school playing field and the children had to follow and decipher clues to earn their Easter eggs. There was also an afternoon of Easter activities followed by an Easter Tea Party which was a great success. My thanks to everyone who helped and baked and bought the cakes.

Our AGM was held on 18 April 2012 in the School Hall and I am happy to report that once again we have a full complement of committee members. Donna Thomas remains in the role of Chair, with Sarah Ridler as Vice-Chair, Caroline Haselhan as Secretary and Amanda Scott as Treasurer. I would also like to welcome committee members (new and old alike) Sally Aries, Sue Daniels, Mandy Drew, Michelle Fuller, Bev Jones, Annie King, Mark Kirkham, Vickie Parker and Jon Sandy. It's wonderful that so many people have volunteered and I'm sure that the Friends will continue to thrive.

Like so many, we were disappointed when the weather intervened to cause the cancellation of May Day on the Green. And so we were extremely happy to be able to provide refreshments for the school's Diamond Jubilee Tea Party held on the Green a few weeks later. This gave the children the opportunity to perform their maypole dances for families and friends and also for the May Day King and Queen and their attendants finally to be crowned. The Friends gave out Diamond Jubilee coins to each of the children. We hope this will be a special souvenir for them to keep and a reminder of a special day.



Friends have also donated a new bench and table to the school in commemoration of the Queen's Jubilee. It has been placed on the school playing field near the spiral garden and looks great. We hope that the weather will improve before the end of term and the school will get to make full use of it!

Still to come this term are the Year 6 Prom and the Summer Fair. The Prom on Friday 6 July at the Parish Hall is a chance for the Friends to wish all in Year 6 the very best in their new schools. We hope you enjoy your special evening. Good luck to all of you!

Our final event of the school year will be the Summer Fair on Friday 13 July 5-7pm. We are hoping for better weather than last year and hopefully we'll be able to run the event on the school field. There will be refreshments, BBQ and lots of other fun stalls. We look forward to seeing everyone there as we round off the school year.

We wish everyone a relaxing and happy summer!

Caroline Haselhan
Secretary

The Actonians

So, the year just gone has seen three largely home grown scripts, indeed four when you include Lizzie New's inaugural juniors' production, which is an astonishing achievement for an amateur company!

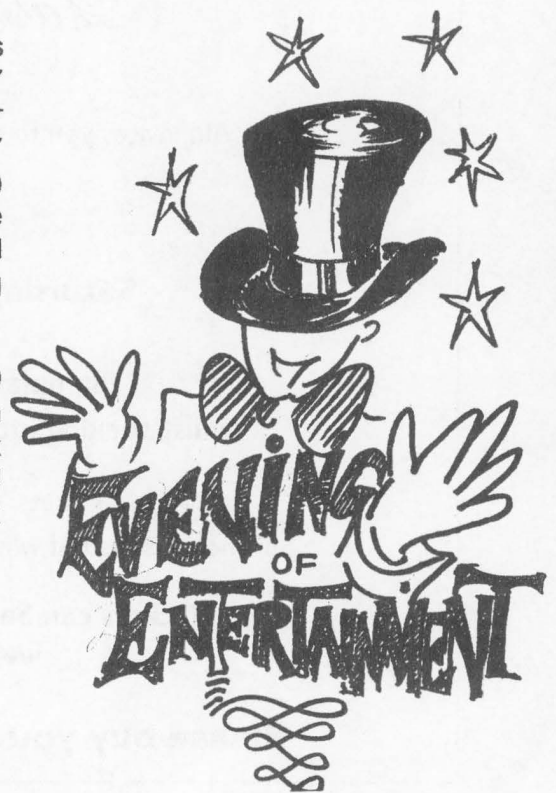
In February, Ann Aplin produced a one act for the festival season inspired by the seven ages of man speech, called "The Seven Ages of Woman"! This production again defied the odds since throughout the process 2 people had to drop out at various stages but despite all that it progressed through to Round 3 (slightly fortuitously, I think Ann would admit!) and provided a nomination for best support for Andy in Round 1. Well done to all concerned.

Our most recent production, Paddington Tank, was the other main home grown piece of the year. Jim Sinkinson has written and directed a fine update of King Henry IV and the eventual production was very well received by a limited (in number) but fully engaged paying audience. In early July, the group had the privilege of taking a small 20 minute selection of the play to perform at The Sherman Theatre in Cardiff as part of the RSC "Open Stages" initiative. It was great to get the chance to act on a fully professional stage and this was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Finally, in terms of productions, the Junior Actonians: relaunched this year - which is such good news for us as a group - provided a fine contribution to the village's Jubilee Celebrations with Lizzie's potted history of the life and times of Elizabeth II. A well balanced, humorous and thought provoking piece, performed in a challenging out-door environment (a sound-absorbing marquee!). Some very fine performances bode really well for our future if we can continue to encourage and enthuse the young people to stay involved. Huge thanks are due to Lizzie, who has worked wonders with the group.

There is another opportunity to catch this performance as part of the "Evenings of Entertainment" at the end of July (27 and 28 July) at the Parish Hall at 20.00 hrs. The tickets for this are available from our normal box office number (07807 547238) or from members of the group. The tickets (£10) include a ploughman's supper as well as an evening of home grown entertainment provided by members of Actonians and some guests from the village too. Please do come along and support the Juniors and the other performers.

Our next major production in the late autumn will 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!



I am standing down as chair of the group after 3 years and that role is now being taken on by Sarah Godsell who will, I am sure, continue to take the group forward. 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. The Junior Actonians meet from 18.00-19.30 and the Actonians from 19.30-22.00. 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

Baby Sitting

My name is Elizabeth Gadsby, I am 16 years old and live in Iron Acton.

I have previous experience as a baby sitter and am looking for more work for the next two years whilst I study for my A Levels.

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Iron Acton Beer Festival 2012

'Last of the Summer Wine'

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Parish Hall Gardens

Saturday 8th September 2012, 4.00 – 9.30 pm

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whilst tucking into a succulent hog roast and listening to live music

Tickets: **£6 if bought by 10th August, £7 thereafter**
(includes festival wine or beer glass and first drink). Accompanied children free

Tickets can be purchased via the Lamb Inn, Iron Acton or online at
www.ironactonvillage.info/beer_festival

Please buy your tickets early as numbers will be limited

Focal Poyntz Article

Horticultural Show - 2012

The 2012 Horticultural Show will be held on Saturday 8th 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

WHAT SHALL WE DO ON A RAINY SATURDAY EVENING IN JUNE....?

The Jubilee Ball Committee would like to thank everyone who supported them at the Ball at Algars Mill. We very much enjoyed organizing the event and were delighted that it was attended by so many from the village with their family and friends.

Tracey and Brendan very generously sponsored the reception and wine and also donated other funds raised at The Lamb. In addition, we received donations from local businesses and individuals. especially Jo Wright of Organic Blooms and from the Family Fun Day. We would like to thank you all for the part you played.

The result was a wonderful evening. While the rain beat down outside, denying us an opportunity to enjoy the garden, which as a result of John and Marilyn's hard work and planning, looked fantastic, (another huge thank you!) nothing could dampen the fun and excitement inside. Over 160 people tucked into a scrumptious meal catered by Conrad, danced to a great band, the Eskys, and enjoyed the company of friends and neighbours in a beautifully decorated marquee bursting with bunting and patriotic fervour. An evening to remember!

Our initial intention was to hold a special, non-profit making and memorable Village Event to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, but thanks to the support we received, and the generosity of the people at the Ball, we were able to donate the fantastic sum of £1,118 to St. Peter's Hospice. To have raised such a wonderful amount for such a worthwhile Charity, particularly when the Chairman lives in our village, was a great bonus. A big thank you to you all.

The Committee (all ladies!) have had lots of fun over the past few months organizing the event and are now trying to think of an excuse to continue meeting at the Pub!



Iron Acton Beer Festival 2012

'Last of the Summer Wine'

Saturday 8th September 2012

4pm – 9.30pm

Parish Hall Gardens

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Exclusive wines
Local cider
Hog roast
Live music
Traditional games

Tickets: £6 if bought by 10th August, £7 thereafter
Includes festival wine or beer glass and first drink.
Accompanied children free

Tickets can be purchased at the Lamb Inn, Iron Acton
or online at www.ironactonvillage.info/beer_festival



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**Acton Aid raises money and provides practical assistance to
the parish and parishioners of Iron Acton.**

**If you are an individual or group within the parish who would like our help,
or know someone or an organisation that could benefit
please contact us in confidence.**

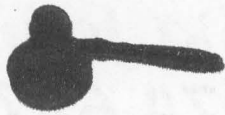
Peter Foote (Chairman) 01454 228674

Jason Haselhan (Secretary) 01454 228791

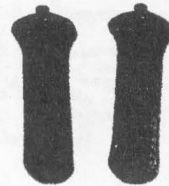
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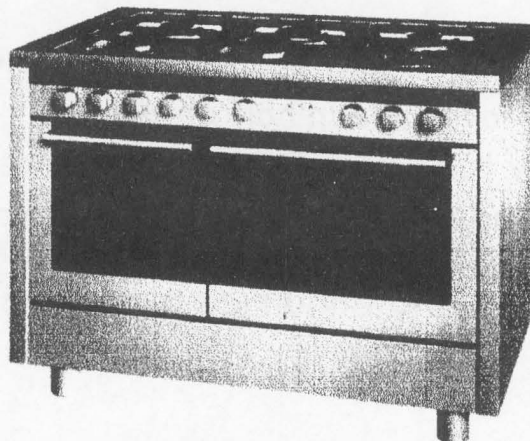
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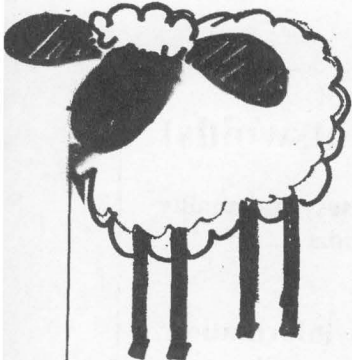
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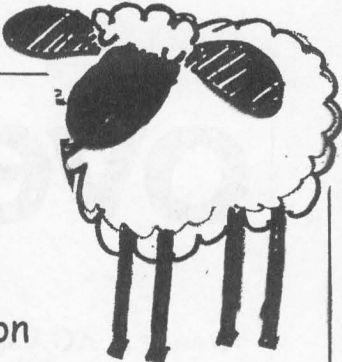
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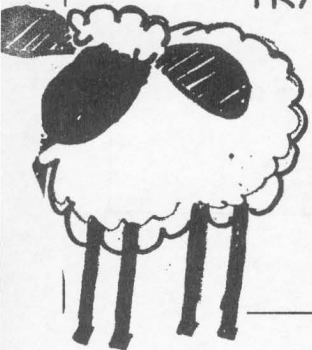


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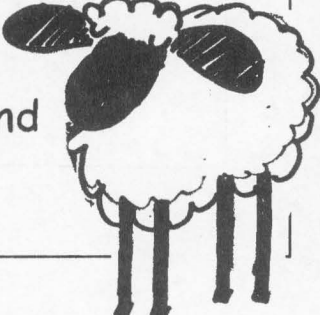
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