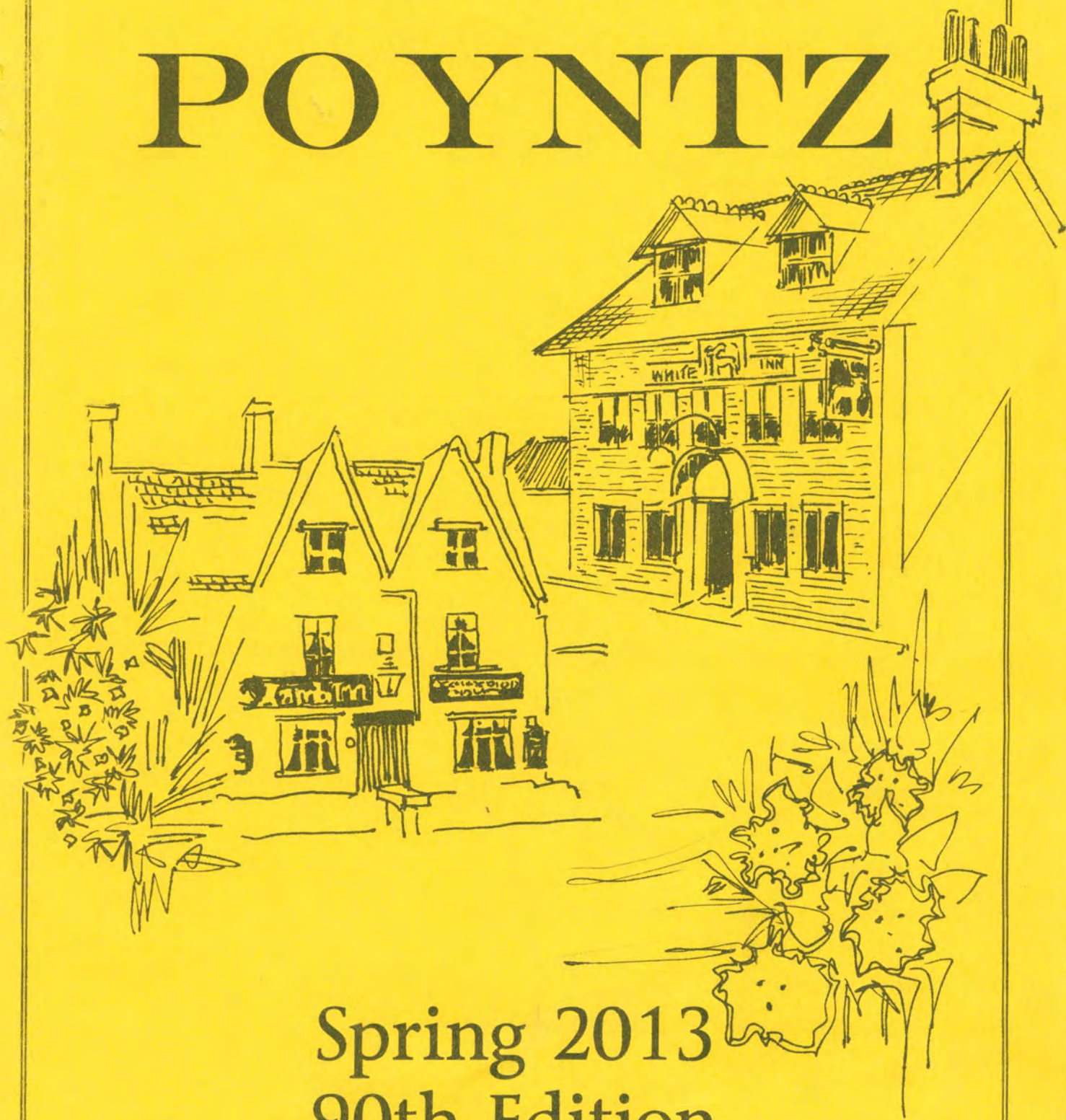


# FOCAL POYNTZ



Spring 2013  
90th Edition

## 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  
Elizabeth Edwards  
Andrew Gowan  
Chris Heal  
Roy Hubbard  
Iron Acton School  
Sharon Kellett  
Ashley Mee  
Jenny Millward

Catherine Neck  
Amanda Scott  
Sue Shepherd  
Stella Taylor  
Laura Walters  
Mike Wheeler  
Hazel Williams  
Barrie Wright

### **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 Maureen Blake

### NEXT ISSUE

JULY 2013

Contribution Deadline      Early June    Tba

Distribution                      End July      Tba

Hopefully!!!!

## Early Days of Focus (now entitled Focal Poyntz)

In the early days, my wife, Jean, did a lot of the typing before the edited version was photocopied. Our living room was used to assemble the pages, this usually being on a Saturday morning. Although Focal Poyntz was a bit smaller then without as much advertising, it still entailed producing 500 copies of ten or eleven sheets. These sheets were stacked on the dining room table in page number order and the editorial team would circulate in ring o' roses fashion picking up a page from each stack. I was at the end of the circle and did the stapling. Charles Wilkins residing in an armchair, pipe in mouth and whisky in hand, would put the copies in batches of 20.

The whole operation, with a coffee break, took a couple of hours. Anyone looking through the window would have thought that there was some sort of black magic taking place and we would have been reported to the Midsomer Murders police. Betty Cook calculated that each person would have walked three miles and John Percy worked out that the carpet would probably last five years.

Much conversation took place and it was a good opportunity to catch up on village gossip. For this we relied heavily on Lynne Blanchard to set the ball rolling and she never disappointed. By the coffee break, Charles, on his third whisky had become completely scandalised by some of Lynn's stories, and he wanted us to meet more frequently. Godfrey Cook's contribution was the awful jokes littering the publication - they were not even up to Bruce Forsyth's standard. It was a great relief when Lynne obtained the current printing arrangements. And yet, we missed those get-togethers and I also remember those who mostly, are no longer with us.

Geoff Dicks

From the Train Driver  
..the word is  
"there will be  
May day Celebrations"  
this Year...



## Sparkling New Years Eve Party

Everyone enjoyed a wonderful evening in the Parish Hall on New Years Eve.

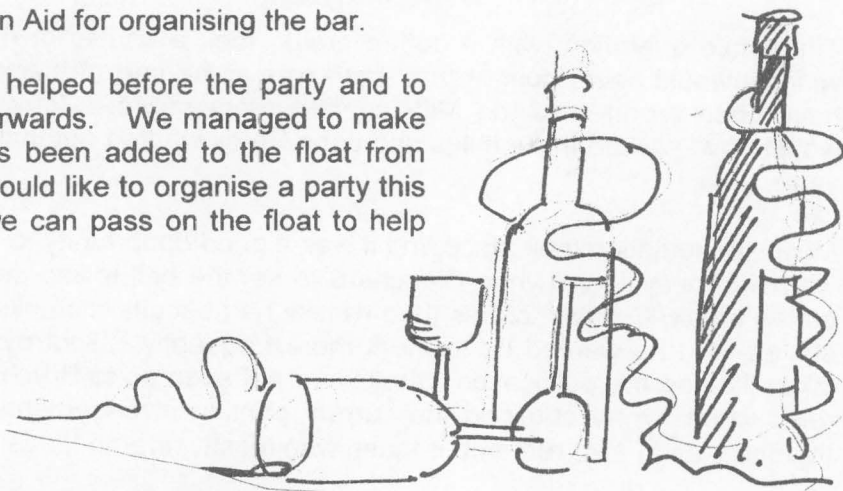
Decorating the hall, preparing the food and children's room was hard work but great fun and the result was brilliant. The hall looked inviting, the food was delicious, the drink flowed, and the disco was fabulous. Many thanks to Sue Harrison and Rachael who ensured that the children had a lovely time in their own party room whilst the adults danced the night away before celebrating the start of the New Year.

Many thanks to Jason and Acton Aid for organising the bar.

Many thanks to everyone who helped before the party and to those who helped clear up afterwards. We managed to make a profit on the night which has been added to the float from previous years 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)



## Happy Fortieth Birthday Focal Poyntz

I joined the 'Focus' team as Betty Cook's apprentice when she was unwell and my duties included taking the copy to the printers in Staple Hill and collecting the finished sheets when they were ready. After that, I joined the editorial team who met on the Saturday morning prior to distribution usually at the Dickes cottage in the High Street. A bit like a secret society, a group of villagers gathered, surveyed the pristine heaps of pages laid out in neat piles, then performed a ritualistic dance around the dining table each picking up pages in strict order until the table was empty. Woe betide anyone who had the wrong number of pages or if any stray pages were left on the table at the end of the exercise.

That was the way the magazine was assembled in those days. It was then hand stapled and packed into parcels for distribution.

Recalling those Saturday mornings from the seventies and eighties brings to mind many names well remembered for their commitment to the village some still with us and some sadly no longer part of our community.

John Percy, Betty Cook, Charles Wilkins, Geoff and Jean Dickes, Lynne Blanchard to name a few who regularly trod the boards around the editorial table! It was not all serious stuff though. We drank coffee, exchanged news and gossip and generally put the world to rights. It seems like a gentler, less sophisticated world devoid of mobile phones, computers and email in a way typical of the functioning of village life at the time.

This is not a nostalgia trip just a reflection of the way life was lived at a slower pace and the most satisfying part of my reflection is the knowledge that the village still functions for the good of the community and focal Poyntz is thriving and serving a new community who value village life.

Hazel Dron

## The Actonians

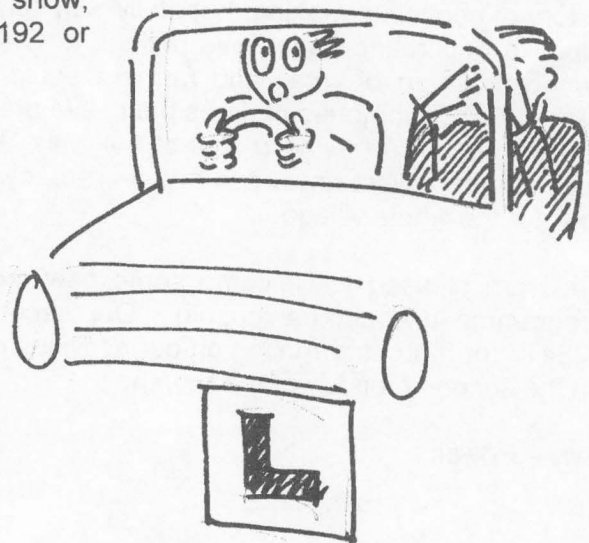
The Actonians have been very busy since the last issue and by the time this goes to print, will have produced another 2 shows and held the annual Actonians' dinner at Redwood Lodge on January 26<sup>th</sup> which was much enjoyed by all who attended.

At present we are in rehearsal for the 'Avon One Act' Festival, on Friday 15 February at Backwell Theatre. Here we will present 'Dr Faustus', originally penned by Christopher Marlowe, and specially adapted by Pat Stimson, who is directing it. As ever Pat has managed to do the costumes at no cost and Ray Bulmer and I have butchered some old flats to make portable screens to transport to Backwell. It is a good thing we have several estate cars between us, so no additional cost there either! We are sandwiched between two youth groups, but heaven knows what they will make of this dark play, with colourful makeup and wonderful costumes ranging from nun's outfits to bright red basques !

Those of you who were lucky enough to see our final dress rehearsal on Wednesday 13 February, will have enjoyed the rehearsed reading of 'No Entry' by our junior group. Our thanks go to Lizzie New for 'kick-starting' our juniors into life once more; unfortunately, her work load has meant she has had to pass the reins for the moment. The group will continue to go from strength to strength, under the able leadership of Sarah Godsell, Di Pardoe and Ann Aplin and we now have a core of about 10 youngsters who will provide the next generation of Actonians to tread the boards. It is vital we nurture this talent, as there is only so long some of us can play the juvenile lead!

Following the success of 'The 39 Steps', which had excellent reviews from all that saw this vibrant show (including the adjudicator from the 'Rose Bowl' awards who is not known for such effusive compliments), we begin rehearsals for our next major production immediately after 'Dr Faustus'. 'Out of Order' a comedy by Ray Cooney will be directed by Bob Allen and the show will be performed from 22 - 25 May 2013; so put the dates in your diary now. If there are any closet actors who would like to play Sarah Godsell's husband, 'Ronnie', a small part for someone who would like to get involved with this hilarious show, please contact Bob Allen on Tel: 01454-325192 or 07581 565230.

Sarah McMahon



## Women's Institute

2012 concluded with our birthday party meal at Tortworth Farm Shop which was a great success. The food and service were excellent and everyone enjoyed the evening. Our Christmas party in the Parish Hall rounded off a good year.

The start of the new year revealed that money given by some members in lieu of sending Christmas cards had yielded £20 and this will be given to the Brace charity, who will be sending a speaker to our meeting in March.

Our first speaker of the year was Erica Hurley, who lives in the village and has published her own books. After her younger son turned into 'Kevin the teenager' and changed personality completely she tried to get him to write down his thoughts and feeling in a journal in which she had provided the prompts and questions. This proved successful and after adding other titles to form a series, she went about getting her books published. The books are called "Something Beginning With Me" and as well as the initial teenage book for both boys and girls, others have been added to reflect certain key events in everyone's lives such as leaving home for the first time, first job, getting married etc. Each journal captures a 'snap-shot' of where you are at a significant point in your life, helping you to look at what's important to you and to set yourself goals to enable you to change the things that are preventing you from moving on. Her books these days are generally sold by local book shops and she attends craft fairs but they are also available on Amazon.

Our second speaker was David Maslen, who is a beekeeper and illustrated his hobby with slides. He has an amazing knowledge of bees in general and enlightened us on how honeybees form their colonies. The worker bees are female and as their name suggests are the ones who do most of the work collecting pollen and keeping the hive clean. The drones are male, mate with the queen and are pretty defunct after that therefore in the autumn, when food becomes more scarce, they are ejected from the hive and inevitably die. This rather harsh course of action works well within the hive and ensures that most of the bees survive through the winter. Last year's wet weather was not good for the bee population or honey production but David still brought along pots of his honey for us to buy which was much appreciated.

As well as the speaker from the Brace charity, we are also looking forward to talks on the history of chocolate making, hopefully with some samples, a hanging basket demonstration and cupcake decorating. We have outings to Oakham Treasures at Portbury, which is a privately owned museum of retail and farming equipment. Those who have visited before say this evokes many memories of times past. We are also planning a visit to the Bristol Blue factory. We will again be having a stall at the May Day event, weather permitting, so we are already beginning to collect unwanted bric-a-brac, toys and books etc and hope for successful day this year for the whole village.

We were pleased to welcome some new members who we hope will enjoy both this year's programme and companionship. Our secretary, Stella Taylor, can be contacted on 01454 228417 for more information on our activities and our meetings which are held in the Parish Hall on the second Monday of the month.

Sylvie Powell

## Iron Acton C of E VC Primary School

This has been a very short but busy half term. Here are just a few things that the children have been doing.

### Bird feeding by Amy and Ethan

Bird feeding is the funniest, coolest job in school. Amy and Ethan do this job on Mondays, Wednesday and Friday. When they run out of food, they go to Iron Acton Garden centre to buy some more. (The best part is going shopping whilst everyone else is working). It does have its downside. Some of the bird feeders are high up out of the reach of the cat. They have trouble reaching these as they are not that tall. Most days you can hear the beautiful singing of the birds.

### Football club by George, Charlie and Alex

Football club is fun, especially when you score and celebrate with your team. It is a great way to learn the game Richard and Billy are the best coaches in the world.

### Swimming by Ellen and Courtney

We go swimming every Monday afternoon. We are learning to do back stroke, front crawl, breaststroke. Butterfly, dolphin kick stream line, star fish and push and glide.

### Josie project by Ellie and Mia

Our teacher Mrs. Lyall had a baby called Poppy. She comes into our class on a Thursday morning every three weeks. We talk about the skills Poppy will need to develop in the future. We all enjoy her visits playing games, singing songs and much, much more. Poppy is very cute. If she cries we sing her favourite lullaby "wind the bobbin up".

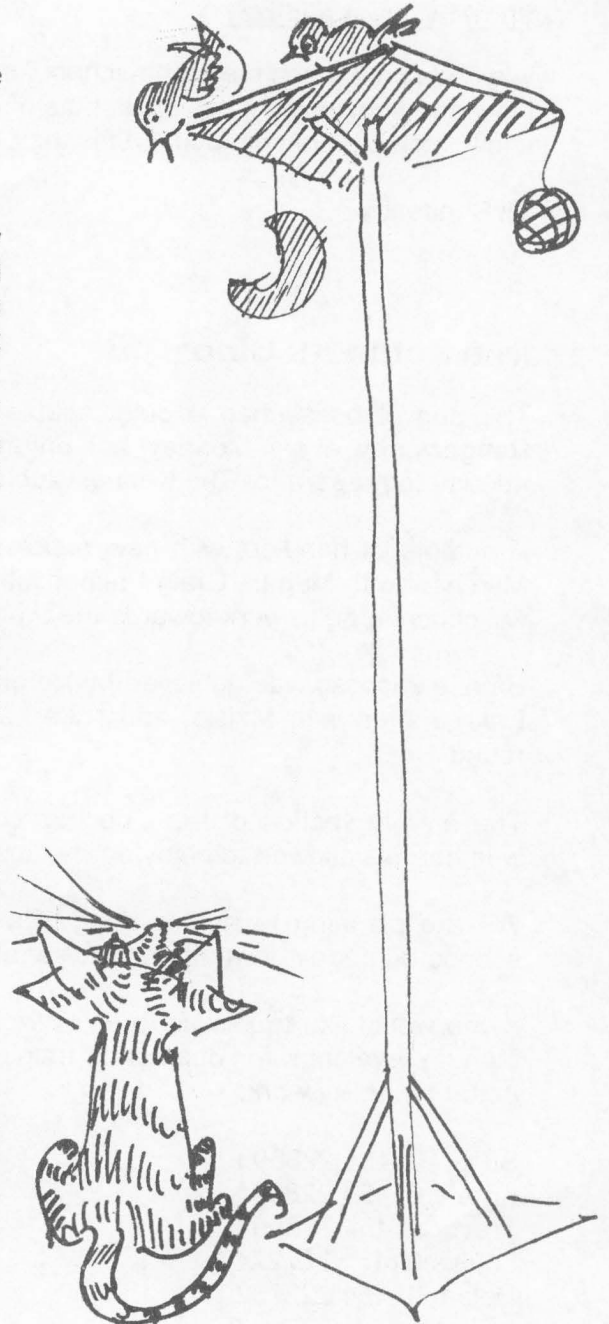
### Brass by Holly

For brass we have a magnificent teacher called Mr Rogers. The four brass instruments are cornets, French horns, baritones and trombones. To start the lessons we warm our mouths up and play a little game. He is teaching us 3 notes: C, D and E. We can now play 2 songs, Hot Cross Buns and what's for tea tonight? Brass is fun - we might be in a concert soon!

### Clifton Cathedral carol concert

Class 3 dressed up as angels for the Clifton Cathedral carol concert. It was a world record breaking attempt for the most dressed up Nativity characters. We will soon know if we broke the world record.

But without doubt the highlight for many children was the day the snow came.



## Snow by Olivia and Izzy

We had snow which meant no school for a day. We had fun sledging. My dog ate lots of snow. I love the snow even if it is cold. Lots of children are not as lucky as us - some have never seen snow, others have so much it ruins their lives.

Jill Bendeaux

## **Iron Acton K9 Club**

The dog club has had a quiet couple of months. We have continued to enjoy classes at Rangeworthy every Monday but unfortunately the weather has restricted the outside work needed to prepare for The Kennel Club silver and gold awards.

A number of handlers with new puppies joined to complete their foundation awards – Russell Marchant with Megan, Craig Palmer with Diesel, and Liz Edmonds with Bradley. Hopefully they will continue on to work towards the bronze level award.

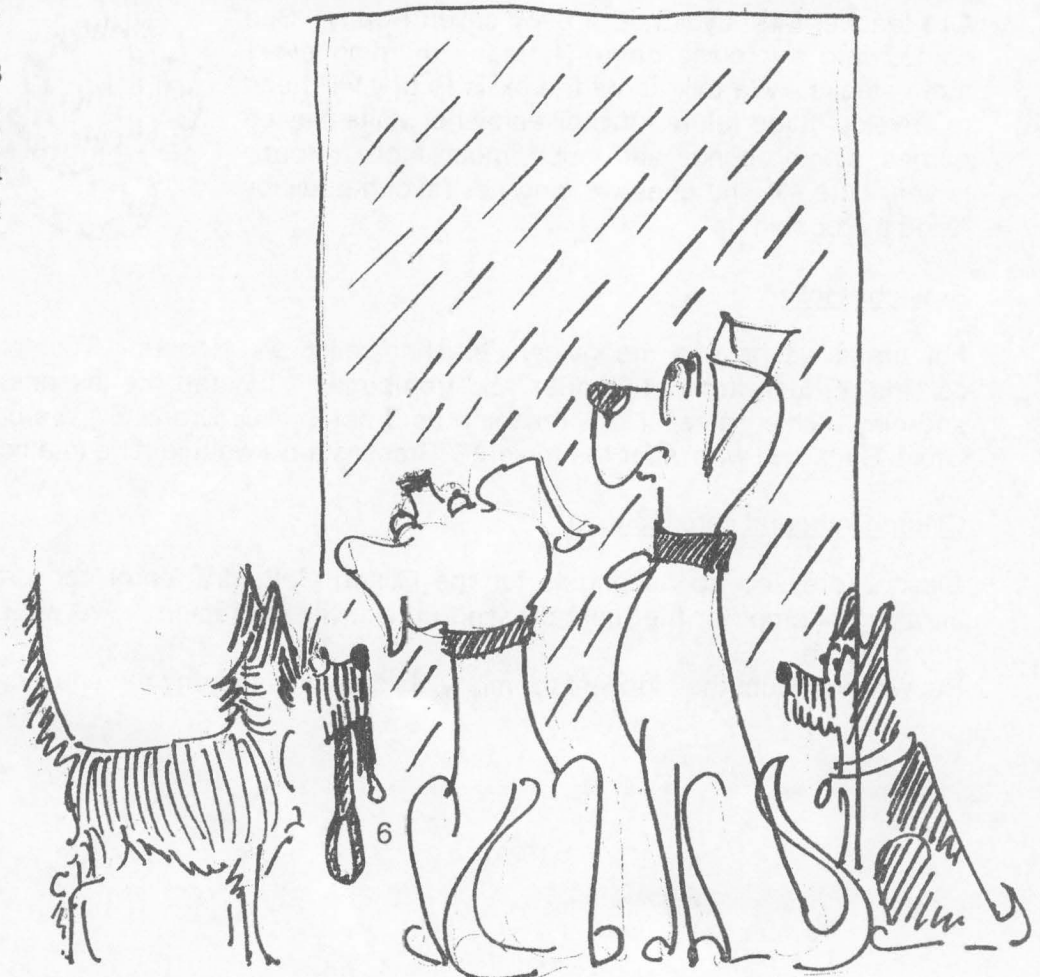
Bronze success was achieved by Veronica Tomkies with Laddie, Louise Harper-Bill with Doris, Emily Patten with Maisie, and Mike Law with Buddy. Well done everyone - tummy rubs all round.

The activity section of the club has continued to meet on Sunday afternoons whenever the weather has allowed to enjoy agility, scurry and gundog training.

We are planning to hold a doggy Easter party to include an Easter bunny/egg hunt and a sponsored doggy downathon to raise funds for improvements to Rangeworthy Hall.

If you would like to join us to enjoy working with your dog please give us a call. We meet on Monday evenings for obedience training at Rangeworthy Hall and Sunday afternoons in Iron Acton for agility work.

Sue 01454 228803  
Karen 01454 228891  
Trevor 01454 775501  
Louise 01451 227224  
Helen 01454 222732





Iron Acton May Day Committee  
C/o The Lamb Inn  
Iron Acton  
01454 228265

Dear parents/Carers

We will again be celebrating May Day on Iron Acton Village Green on Bank Holiday Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2013.

Every year we invite nominations for our May Queen, King, two Attendants and a Page, who will process through the village and then be crowned on the Village Green.

A nomination slip is attached to the bottom of this letter, for you to complete. The criteria for a nomination is that the youngsters have to be aged between 7 and 11 years of age, be resident within the Parish of Iron Acton, or attend either of the two primary schools within the Parish.

If you would like to submit a nomination form please fill in the tear off slip and pop it in an envelope marked "May Queen/King" and drop it into the Lamb Inn or into the School office by Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2013. We need your contact telephone number or email, as we will need a photograph of the successful nominations.

Alternatively you can email me with details to:-

[tracey@byrne.eu.com](mailto:tracey@byrne.eu.com)

Tracey Byrne  
On Behalf of the  
Iron Acton May Day Committee

---

May Day 2013  
May Queen, King Nomination

I would like to nominate.....

Age.....School Attended (if Parish).....

Home Address.....

Contact Number or Email.....

Signed.....Relationship to Nominee.....

## Friends of Iron Acton School

Unbelievably, as I write, it is February half term and we are already half way through the school year! I think it's safe to say that if the second half of the year is as busy as the first half, the Friends will have had another very successful year.

The Autumn Term got off to an enjoyable start with a Race Night, kindly hosted by the White Hart Inn. Friends were also involved with the school Harvest Festival, Yate Fire Station Open Day, a Hallowe'en party at school, our annual Winter Wellie Walk and another successful Bags2School collection. Incidentally, the next collection will be held in May 2013. 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: 01454 228791). We would love to have them and will store or collect them if necessary.

Then with the Christmas period upon us we were busy organising the Christmas Fair and Christmas disco and helping at the school Christmas party. At this year's Fair the children (and some adventurous parents) were able to visit Father Christmas in Narnia – entering his ice grotto through the wardrobe! 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.

Friends events for the rest of this term include a Bingo Night at The Lamb in March - please watch out for posters around the village for further details. And we will also be organising Easter activities for the children, including that annual favourite - the Easter egg hunt!

With some of the funds we have raised recently we have been able to offer each class in the school an amount to spend on items they felt would be useful. Books and new dictionaries were requested and we have been very happy to donate over £700 to pay for these. In addition, we will be replacing the playground picnic bench very soon (as the existing one is starting to show its age) and we have asked the school to consider any other "projects" that we may be able to aid.

This is also the time of year when we plan our AGM. This year's AGM will be held in the school hall on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March at 7:30pm. 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: 01454 228086) or Caroline Haselhan (Tel: 01454 228791).

Finally, I would like to say farewell - as the Secretary of Friends. I shall be stepping down at the AGM, as my time with the school draws rapidly to a close. I would just like to thank the army of supporters (parents, grand-parents, family-friends, teachers and pupils) who make each Friends event possible. I am very glad I was encouraged along to my first Friends committee meeting - almost 10 years ago - and I am very happy to have been able to support the school through Friends. I would like to wish Annie King good luck in her role as Secretary and my best wishes to everyone involved with the Friends - now and in the future.

Caroline Haselhan

Friends of Iron Acton Primary School Secretary



Iron Acton May Day Committee  
C/o The Lamb Inn  
Iron Acton  
01454 228265

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Tracey Byrne  
On Behalf of the  
Iron Acton May Day Committee

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May Day 2013  
May Queen, King Nomination

I would like to nominate.....

Age..... School Attended (if Parish).....

Home Address.....

Contact Number or Email.....

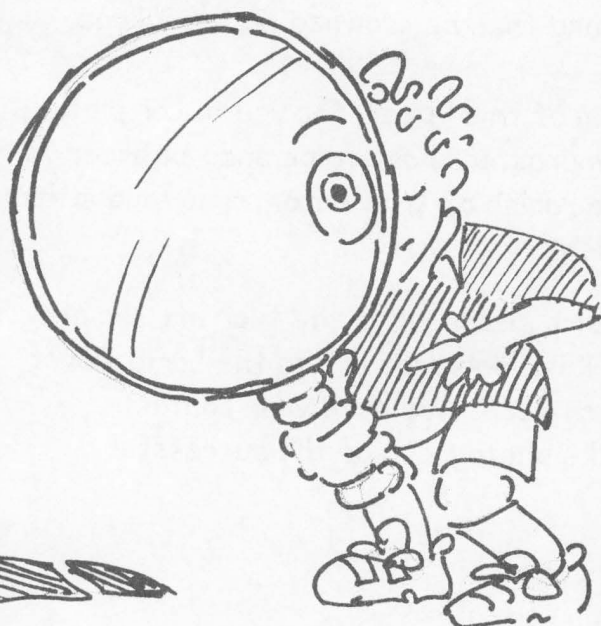
Signed..... Relationship to Nominee.....

## North Road Community Primary School

Spring is here and we are now half way through the academic year. We all enjoyed the snow day and it was lovely to hear all the fun the children had with their families. Our after school clubs are up and running, in fact you may have seen some of our children running past your house on a Monday afternoon. We now have a Cross country club and in the summer some of them will be representing the school at a local championship at Colstons School. We will let you know how we do.

The KS2 children were treated to a Techniquest workshop at the start of the term. Neptune and Jupiter pupils became crime scene detectives and had to work as a team to solve clues and discover who had stolen an antique teddy bear.

They all had a go at exploring fingerprints, footprints, fibres, ink chromatography and UV light to help find the thief. They all had a great time and really got their brains thinking after the break.



Each term the children focus on a skill which will help them become better learners and citizens. This term we are focusing on improving our learning and how children can help themselves become better learners. The whole school has a skill to work towards as well class targets. Display boards can be seen in Mars, Neptune and Jupiter classes, they will show you the skill and who is making progress to achieve it. The skills are chosen by the staff and are addressed in PSHE lessons as well as assemblies and generally around the school. This term we are all working towards remembering to bring our own things to school. We are encouraging all children to achieve this by carrying their own possessions to school and ensure they have all the necessary equipment for their day in school. Hopefully this will help them remember to bring home their sweatshirts, hats, scarves and gloves every day!

Rob Mitchell, a Commonwealth high jumper, came to school and helped the children raise lots of money for us, £400, but also young athletes. Each child was sponsored to complete some exercises. After each child was able to ask Rob some questions, we now have lots of keen high jumpers!

The term is finishing off with our school 'lucky red' disco where we are celebrating Valentine's day and Chinese New Year. All money raised this year is helping refurbish our school toilets and with our successful Christmas Fair which raised over £600, bags2school which raised £102, film night which took £156, selling of our Christmas cards and the athlete event we are well on our way!

The next three terms are filling up fast and with a Thinking Day campfire, swimming gala, ship wrecked themed world book day and our comic relief celebrations we have lots to look forward to.

Jo Williams  
Head Teacher  
North Road Community Primary

## Iron Acton Community Cinema

As many of you will know, we held the first meeting of the Iron Acton Community Cinema in the Village Hall on 15th December 2012. The afternoon showing an Aardman's 'The Pirates' was excellently received by an audience of 45 children and parents who fully appreciated the usual Aardman humour. For the evening, 'Salmon Fishing in The Yemen' showed to over 60, and many of us were pleasantly surprised by the comedy in this essentially British 'feel good' film.

Owing to the positive reaction to the initial meeting, we have arranged another event on March 23rd which will already have taken place before this issue of Focal Poyntz reaches your doormat, but I hope I can predict that this will be equally successful with James Bond's 'Skyfall' as the main attraction and the animated "Brave" for the younger audience.

Whilst Acton Aid has generously sponsored our initial meetings, and covered the loss we made on the first event, our longer term aim is to develop the Community Cinema into a truly village organization, run "by the village/for the village". To do this, we would like to appoint a committee which would organize future events, most probably in the form of a monthly "season" of films starting in the autumn. I would hope that the committee will hold its first meeting in April or May and its first agenda item may well be to come up with a better name for the group!

If you have been to either of the events we have held, you probably have a good idea of what is involved, or if you haven't, and would like to know more, please feel free to give me a call, but in any event, if you would like to be involved in guiding a worthwhile community organization into the future, please give me a call or drop me an e-mail.

Simon Cross

01454 228291

[simon@laburnumhouse.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:simon@laburnumhouse.fsnet.co.uk)



## ST. JAMES THE LESS CHURCH, IRON ACTON.

### EASTER SERVICES:

<b>Palm Sunday, 24<sup>th</sup> March, 2013.</b>	<b>9.00 a.m.</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>
<b>Good Friday, 29<sup>th</sup> March, 2013.</b>	<b>2.00 p.m.</b>	<b>“Stations of the Cross”</b>
<b>Easter Day, 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2013.</b>	<b>9.00 a.m.</b>	<b>Family Communion</b>

### Services throughout the year:

Holy Communion Services are held on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of the month at 9.00 a.m., an “All Age Service” on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday at 9.30 a.m. and Evensong on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday at either 4.00 p.m. or 6.00 p.m. (time to be arranged).

A mid-week Morning Service is held on a Wednesday at 11.00 a.m. Commencing on Wednesday, 5<sup>th</sup> March, Holy Communion will be held on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month and the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays will be Morning Praise.

### **CRAFT & FOOD FAIR**

to be held on SATURDAY, 13<sup>th</sup> APRIL, 2013, 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.

in Iron Acton Parish Hall.

Proceeds in aid of Iron Acton Church Funds.

Stalls still available – contact 01454 228642

### Another date for your diary

**An Iron Acton Garden Trail - Sunday, 23 June 2013**

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

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

## Iron Acton Horticultural Show

*When all at once I saw a crowd, a host, of golden daffodils! Well not quite a 'host' but a few little yellow heads peeping through the grey gloom of winter. The sight of anything yellow in the garden or hedgerow albeit daffodils, primroses, or forsythia, they all shout "spring is on the way".*

So, thoughts turn to the forthcoming growing season and whether the weather will be kind to the horticulturalists. Last year was so dismal and such a trial for anyone wanting to grow their own vegetables and fruit, it was almost a complete write-off. But we must not be disenchanted, stiff upper lip and all that!

This year, the Horticultural Show will be held on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2013 in the Parish Hall and the Horticultural Committee is pleased to detail below a list of classes.

### **General Section:**

Collection of Vegetables  
Collection of Salads  
Collection of Fruits  
Collection of Gourds, Squash & Pumpkins  
Collection of Root Vegetables  
4 Potatoes (any 1 variety)  
3 Carrots (long, tops trimmed to 3 inches)  
3 Carrots (short)  
Most Amusing Looking Vegetable  
3 Onions (from seed, trimmed)  
3 Onions (from sets, trimmed)  
6 Shallots  
6 Runner Beans  
6 French Beans  
The Longest Runner Bean  
2 Peppers (sweet or chilli)  
2 Cabbages (any 1 variety)  
Heaviest Marrow  
3 Courgettes  
2 Cucumbers (frame or greenhouse)  
6 Cherry Tomatoes (on the vine)  
6 Tomatoes  
3 Parsnips  
3 Beetroot

4 Apples (dessert)  
4 Apples (culinary)  
4 Pears (dessert)  
4 Plums (dessert)  
4 Plums (culinary)

3 Spikes Gladiolus (any variety)  
1 Specimen Rose (named)  
3 Spikes Gladiolus (any variety)  
1 Specimen Rose (named)  
3 Reflexed Chrysanthemums  
3 Incurved Chrysanthemums  
6 Dahlias (not over 2½")  
3 Blooms Hydrangeas (any variety)  
6 Sweet Peas  
Tied Bunch of Herbs (out of water)

Vase - "Cottage Garden Collection"  
Shrubs (1 vase 3 different kinds, need not be in flower, overall width not to exceed 18 inches)  
Best Pot House Plant (foliage)  
Best Pot House Plant (flowering)  
Best Pot Grown Pelargonium (pot not to exceed 8 inches in diameter)  
Most Artificial Looking Flower

### **Photography Section:**

The two titles for the two Photography Classes are "At the Seaside" and a photograph of a Town or Street Scene.

Also, in the Junior Section, the class for the Rudman Cup (12-17 year olds) is a photograph entitled "In My Garden"

### Flower Arranging Section:

- "Terracotta Twosome" - Space allowed 46 x 46 cm, height unlimited
- Black and One Colour - Space allowed 50 x 50cm - height unlimited
- "Sing a Song of Sixpence" - a Petite Exhibit – Space allowed 25 x 25 x 24 cm
- "Keep it Simple" - An exhibit using up to 5 flowers only – Space allowed 35 x 35cms (height unlimited)
- "Dig for Victory" – Exhibit can include vegetables/fruit - Space allowed 50cms wide x 65cms deep (height unlimited)

### Children's Section:

For the 2013 Show we are also including in the Children's Section a class for the tallest Sunflower. The Sunflower must be grown by a child, and rather than cutting the Sunflower down, all we ask is that you provide a photograph of the child taken next to the Sunflower, stating the height of the child.

#### Up to & Including 4 Years

- A Decorated Gingerbread Person  
(Homemade or shop bought Gingerbread Person)
- A Printed Picture (eg, using a potato, sponge, hand etc)
- A Decorated Pebble

#### Ages 5, 6 and 7 Years

- 6 Decorated Fairy Cakes  
(Homemade or shop bought cakes)
- A Miniature Garden in a recycled container
- A Vegetable Animal
- A Painting of an Castle
- A Lego Model (not kit - own design)

#### Ages 8, 9, 10 and 11 Years

- 3 Decorated Gingerbread Family Members
- A Model of a Playable Instrument
- A Woodland Collage
- An Example of Handwriting – First Verse of "The Owl and the Pussycat" by Edward Lear  
(Please indicate your age on the front of exhibit)
- A Homemade Birthday Party Invitation





The Committee has also made a slight adjustment to the Homecraft Section for the gentlemen of the Parish. Instead of the Victoria Sponge we are asking our men-folk to try their hand at a fruit cake. The recipe will be provided so that every entrant will be on an equal footing!

### Homecraft Section:

6 Chicken Eggs  
1 Pot of Plum Jam (any variety of Plum)  
1 Pot of Jelly (any variety)  
1 Pot of Marmalade  
1 Jar of Fruit Curd  
1 Jar of Chutney (Flavour of your choice)  
1 Jar Pickled Onions  
A Quiche  
Chocolate Brownies (4 pieces)  
Plate of 6 Jam Tarts (any flavour)  
6 Cheese Scones

A Victoria Sponge  
A Lemon Drizzle Cake  
A Loaf of Bread (any variety)  
A Cake containing a type of Vegetable  
MEN ONLY - Fruit Cake - Recipe will be provided in the 2013 Schedule  
A Knitted or Crocheted Article  
An Applique Decorated Cushion Cover  
A Kit Tapestry/Cross Stitch  
A Draught Excluder

### Art & Craft Section:

A Handmade Fashion Accessory (made from recycled material)  
A Hand-Made Greetings Card (any size)  
A Painting, Sketch or Drawing; Framed or Unframed, Any Subject  
A Decorated Notepad/Book Cover

The full 2013 Schedule, including tips on how to display your exhibit to its best advantage can be found on the Iron Acton Village web site and will be distributed to the Parish in the summer.

Iron Acton Horticultural Show

## Iron Acton Book Group

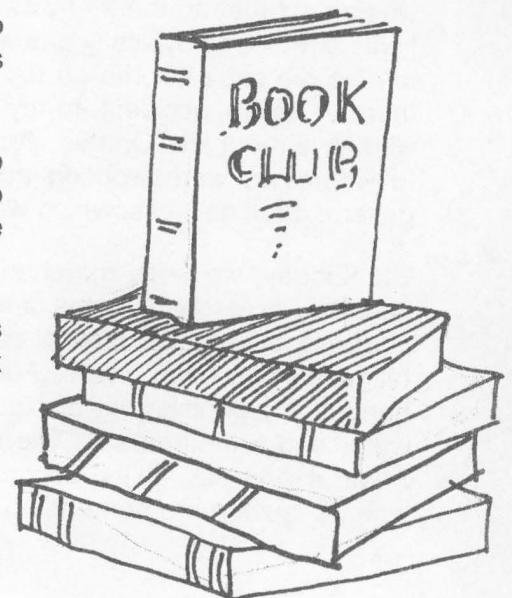
Book Group has been running for eight years. Its success is reflected in a constant membership of fourteen members, the majority being the same fourteen people. One of the group moved away at the end of 2012 and we welcome Caroline Haselhan as a new member.

The group feels that they need to keep the membership to no larger than fourteen. We meet in one another's homes and it is felt that more people would make group discussion difficult.

However, we would be happy to set up a "sister" group (no males have yet asked to join!). So, if there is anyone who would like to be part of a book group let us know and we will be glad to help.

Below is the list of the six books we have selected to read this year; and the original suggestions made by members of book group.

Jane Spare



### **List of Chosen Books for 2013**

Frenchman's Creek by Daphne Du Maurier  
Half Blood Blues by Esi Edugyan  
Any biography  
Pure by Andrew Miller  
A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens  
Skipping Christmas by John Grisham

### **List of Other Suggested Books 2013**

Life by Keith Richards  
My Animals and Other Family by Clare Balding  
The Secret Race: Inside The Hidden World Of The Tour de France: Doping Cover Ups and Winning At All Costs by Tyler Hamilton and Daniel Coyle  
The Sugar Girls by Duncan Barrett and Nuala Calvi  
The Mitford Girls: the Biography of an Extraordinary Family by Mary S Lovell  
Two Brothers by Howard Jakobson  
Cloud Atlas by David Mitchell  
Gillespie and I by Julian Barnes  
Americanah by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie - due out 11 April 2013  
Death Comes to Pemberley by P D James  
The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry by Rachel Joyce  
Life of Pi by Yann Martel

### **Excerpts from How I Started My National Service 1960-1962**

#### **Part 3**

Although it was Saturday there was still an inspection of the billet at 0800 followed by a visit to the Medical Centre to check on our vaccinations. The rest of the day was spent outdoors in glorious sunshine, blancoing everything that needed it. This took the rest of the morning and the afternoon. It was at these moments when there was time to think and I felt I was dreaming all this. How could I be here, scrubbing and blancoing bullet pouches getting ready for combat, when last month I was a scientist about to climb the academic ladder.

The normal recruitment age at this time was 17. With deferment, the entry age could be as much as 25, which I was. Therefore, being up to 8 years older than my new companions, I was an old man to them. I was the one who the NCOs had to break down and consequently I was stretched physically and mentally from morning to bedtime. One way of doing this was to give me extra chores on top of the bulling which we all had to do. Another ploy was for there to be an 'accident' to my kit, eg throwing items across the square, tipping up my bed with its laid-out kit. On this afternoon, the platoon sergeant (Sgt) walked around the building to where we were working and 'accidentally' trod on my beautifully clean best belt and gaiters. I felt helpless, which was all part of the psychology.

On Sunday, we were marched to the camp chapel for morning service, conducted by the padre. For a change, the afternoon was spent on more blancoing, bulling of boots and polishing brasses. I was already well behind on my kit preparation because of the extra fatigues I had been given. For allowing my trousers to fall down on the second day, I was handed the punishment of cleaning the stone staircase in our billet using a bucket of cold water and a toothbrush. The result was 'unsatisfactory;' and I had to repeat this cleaning. Again it was still 'shitty' according to the corporal and I had to do it again the next night, when a much more demeaning fatigue awaited me.

A spirit of comradeship is quickly fostered in these conditions and my companions came to my aid. I shall never forget a 17 year old Mancunian, who helped bull my boots and ironed my shirts. He had served time for 'grievous bodily harm' and became my 'minder' and threatened the NCOs who were hounding me. Only a handful of us had A and O levels and he could hardly read or write. In return for his helping me, I repaid him by writing letters, to his dictation, to his mother and girlfriend, who he had left with a 'bun in the oven' (he said). Although we knew he was tough, he kept going sick in the hope that he would be discharged. He was back-squadded (he was to join the next intake, due to lack of training) and I doubted if this worked out for him. I never saw him again.

To be continued

Geoff Dickes

## St James the Less Toddler Group

The Toddler Group had a lovely Christmas party where the children made festive table decorations courtesy of Jo Wright, we had a visit from Father Christmas and songs with Sarah from Jazzy Jamboree. As you can imagine, it was a very busy morning but lots of fun was had by all!

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the mums and grandparents for donating such lovely gifts for our 'Secret Santa for Mums and Dads' stall at the Christmas Fayre which seemed to be a big hit with the children.

Coming up this half term we have an Easter Egg Hunt and more from Jazzy Jamboree. Later in the Summer we will be having a Garden Party, hopefully at Organic Blooms in Latteridge, which we hope will be well attended as we will be saying a fond farewell to many of the regular mothers and children.

Since our last article the Toddler Group has seen a steady increase in attendance and recent weeks have been quite busy so if you would like to join could you please call us first as we do need to monitor numbers, at least until the weather brightens up and we can use the garden! Please call either Katie Curtis 01454 228997 or Ann Mora on 01454 228994 if you are interested in joining.  
Katie Curtis



## Iron Acton Parish Council

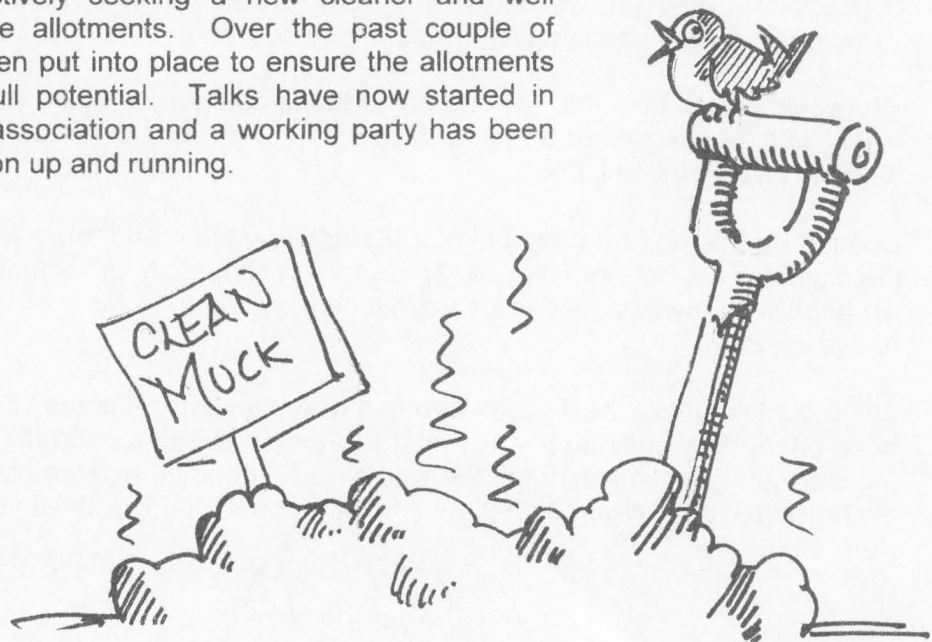
The annual Parish Meeting will be held on 16 May in Iron Acton Parish hall commencing at 7.30pm. All parishioners are invited. At this meeting, the Parish Council will present the annual accounts for approval as well as a report of activities for the previous twelve months.

### **Parish Meadow**

The formed Parish Meadow Committee that has been tasked with developing a schedule of maintenance for the Meadow, as well as looking into grant opportunities are working hard to get the plans formulated into action and work within the meadows has and will continue to flourish. 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 Parish Council website and will be treated in the same way as a normal Parish Council meetings, giving parishioners the opportunity to put across their views and suggestions.

### **Allotments**

The Parish Council is actively seeking a new cleaner and well managed approach for the allotments. Over the past couple of months measures have been put into place to ensure the allotments are being used to their full potential. Talks have now started in formulating an allotments association and a working party has been agreed to get the association up and running.



### **Severe Weather**

During the winter Iron Acton was subject to some severe weather causing some localised flooding. The Parish Council monitored the situation and advised where necessary, warning signs were put out advising of the dangers of the flood water.

### **Clerk**

The appointed clerk has recently moved and therefore contact details have changed.

Donna Beal, 33 Hatherley, Yate, Bristol BS37 4LT

Telephone number 501134

Email address - [ironactonparishcouncil@hotmail.com](mailto:ironactonparishcouncil@hotmail.com)

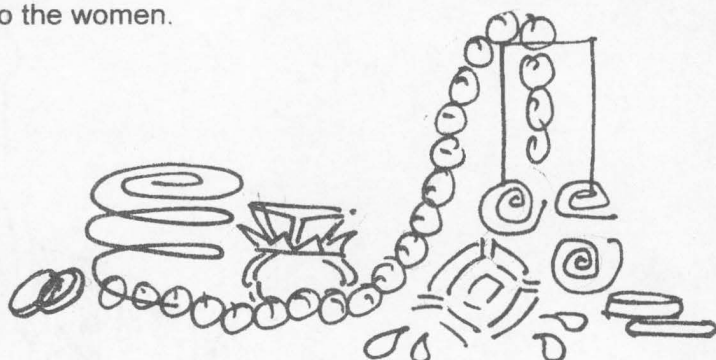
## North Road Ladies Club

At our meeting in December 2012 North Road Ladies Club were delighted to be able to present a cheque for £780 to "The Special Baby Unit" at Southmead Hospital. This amount had been raised by various fundraising events throughout 2012.

Our chosen Charity for 2013 will be Meningitis UK and we will be holding our usual Skittles Evening, Garden Party and Bring and Buy stalls to raise funds for Meningitis UK. Our Garden Party will be held on Saturday afternoon, 15 June 2013 in the garden of 344 North Road, Yate. Please make a note of this date in your diary and come along to support our charity event.

Our first meeting of 2013 was very well attended. Our speaker for the evening was Susan Marshfield who had us all laughing from start to finish with her talk entitled "Thank You Doctor".

In February, Pat and Heather came along to tell us about "One25 Group" - "Step Away From The Streets" "One25 Group" reaches out to vulnerable women on the streets of Bristol, supporting them to break free from violence, poverty and addiction. There is a drop-in centre and a van goes out at night offering nutritious food and drinks to the women.



March, April and June meetings are as follow:-

- Monday, 4 March "Jewellery Making" with Ruki Clark
- Monday, 15 April "The Great Whales - Remarkable Evolution and Adaptation by Rodney Veazey
- No meeting in May
- Monday, 3 June "Women on the Home Front" by Larry Bohana

We hold our meetings in Iron Acton Parish Hall, commencing at 7.30pm. Visitors and anyone interested in wishing to join the North Road Ladies Club will be made most welcome.

June Rycroft  
Club Secretary

## Acton Aid

Acton Aid finished last year with a number of events. Bonfire Night in November was thankfully dry but still sodden underfoot. The bonfire was a bit smaller than past occasions as we were not able to use heavy equipment on the meadow. However, the fireworks, tasteful flashing novelties and catering made a fine winter's evening of fun.

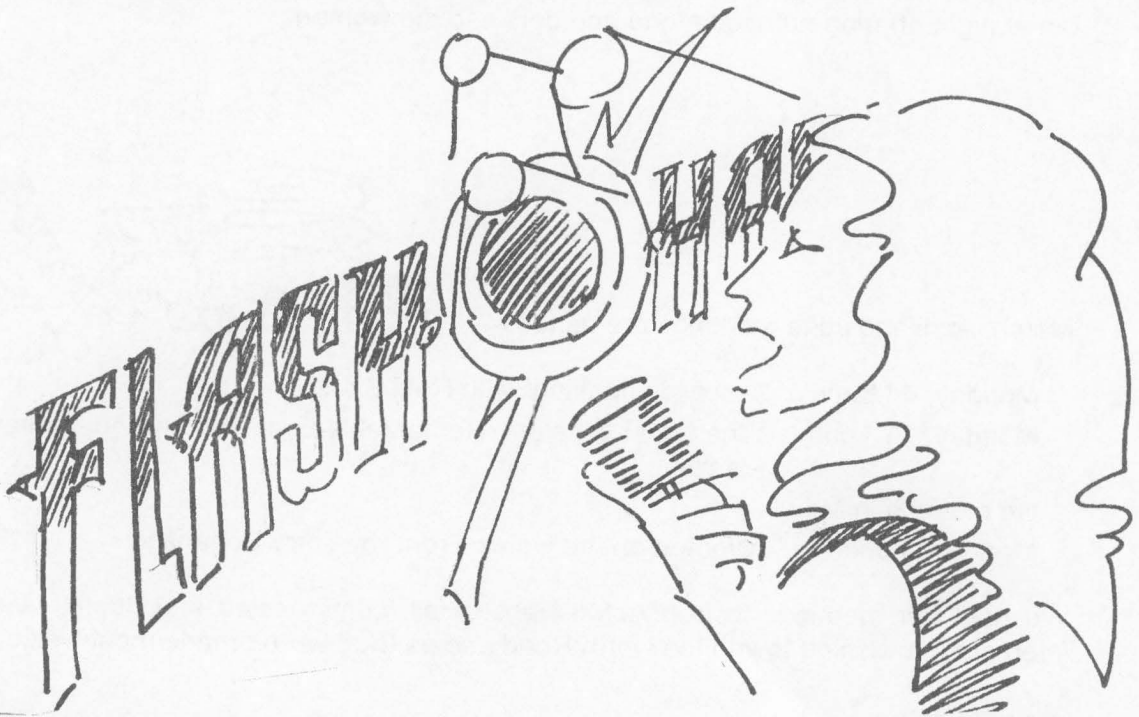
We also supported the first Iron Acton Community Cinema 'film festival'. This was a great success and there appears to be enough interest to take things further. Indeed, please put Saturday, 23 March in the diary when the next blockbuster showing will be held at the Parish Hall.

In December, we provided a little festival cheer by distributing Christmas boxes across the Parish.

February saw Peter Foote stand down as Chairman at the annual dinner. Our new Chairman, Jason Haselhan has the privilege and the task of presiding over our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year.

Planning is already underway for several events in the Spring and Summer ahead. We will be helping arrange and be participating in May Day on the Green. We are looking forward to being busy on the barbeques again - rest assured dear reader, Acton Aid burgers are of the highest quality and are definitely Beef as opposed to anything else!

We will be presenting Proms in the Meadow for the 9<sup>th</sup> year on Saturday, 13 July - again with the support of the Bristol Millennium Orchestra and a mixture of local musical talent, including Iron Acton's very own community choir. As we now plan to take the opportunity to use that equipment on the preceding Friday, night (12<sup>th</sup>) by presenting **Mash in the Meadow** - a concert of folk, blues, rock and soul music. We have been able to secure some fabulous acts and hope the event will allow us to provide a different but equally entertaining evening for the community. The Mash in the Meadows will feature at least two leading bands.



**Flash Harry** are one of Bristol's leading bands. Some say they have secret powers that lift your spirits and move your feet! Flash Harry are masters of their craft. From fast flowing Irish Jigs to Rock and soulful Blues. Their music puts a smile on your face, sweat on your brow and stomp in your feet. Flash Harry are: Pete Watson, fiddle, mandolin, vocals; Roger Slade, guitar, ukulele, vocals; Chris Mitchell, Bass, vocals; John Furlong, drums; Vicky Burke, Saxophone, whistle.

Also confirmed is soul-singing sensation **Lizzie Deane and her fabulous band 'South Source'**. Whilst receiving fantastic widespread reviews, Lizzie has just become the first artist ever to be given a weekly residency at Jools Holland's London venue, Boisdale of Canary Wharf. Soul, Funk and Blues songstress Lizzie Deane has a deep soulful voice that emulates the sweet melodic and raw belting gospel vocals associated with classic divas. Her warm, infectious persona and captivating performance style draw comparisons to the likes of Aretha Franklin, Dusty Springfield, Amy Winehouse, Janis Joplin, Lisa Stansfield and Joss Stone.

Lizzie puts her unique stamp on the renowned soul classics and contemporises her musical influences that include James Brown, Etta James, Stevie Wonder, The Jacksons and Otis Reading. Lizzie Deane has performed and toured with many highly-acclaimed artists on stage, TV and radio. Classically trained her voice has evolved from a classical soprano into the powerful, soulful instrument she now possesses, enabling her to work with many of the respected artists that have inspired her.

Gates for the Mash in the Meadow will open at 6.30pm with the music starting at 7.15pm. You can sample the music from the bands' websites:

<http://www.myspace.com/flashharryband>

<http://www.lizziedeane.com>

*Acton Aid is proud to present*

# MASH IN THE MEADOW

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> July, 7.15pm

An evening of Folk & Blues, feat. Flash Harry, Lizzie Deane and others (full line up to be confirmed). Tickets from The Lamb and online nearer the time.



Membership remains in good order and we welcomed Ralph Mora to the ranks in January. 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 are informal and fundraising events and the distribution of resources are discussed and planned over a few pints.

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, Jason Haselhan on 228791 or the Secretary Jon Aries on 2287037, in confidence.

Jon Aries  
Secretary  
Acton Aid

## Did you know there's a new bus route serving Iron Acton?

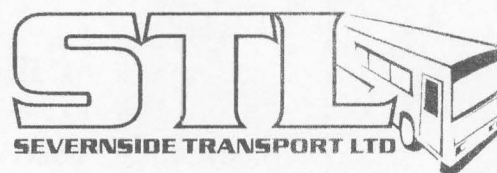
The **222** service runs from Longwell Green / Kingswood to Chipping Sodbury via Yate, Frampton Cotterell, Coalpit Heath, Emersons Green and Kingswood. Residents in Iron Acton can request that the bus picks them up from the village.

If you would like to travel on the 222 you need to ring 01454 868368 at least 2 hours before you wish to travel.

The bus is run by Severnside Transport Ltd with funding from South Gloucestershire Council and is currently in a trial period to see if there is enough demand.

STL is the commercial arm of the charity Four Towns and Vale Link with all profits going back into the charity to support travel for the elderly, disabled or otherwise transport disadvantaged in the community.

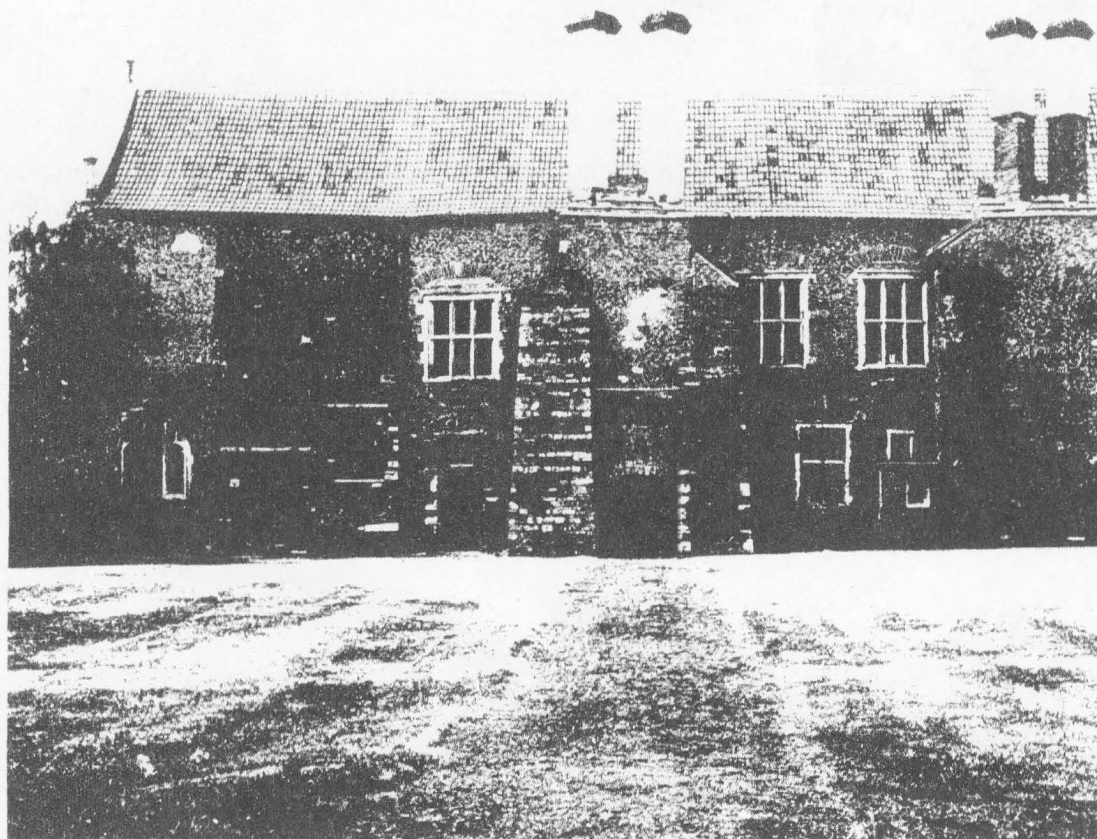
Visit [www.severnsidetransport.co.uk](http://www.severnsidetransport.co.uk) or [www.4tt.org.uk](http://www.4tt.org.uk)



**ACTON COURT** will be open to the public from 3 July - 11 August 2013: closed Mon & Tues;  
Tour times: 2pm & 3:30pm Weds - Sun (concert 11 August no tours)

The Garden will be open for NGS Weekend 15 - 16 June. 11am - 5pm. Nic Jones, Acton Court gardener, The Hawk and Owl Trust and Lettys Parkyn, 16th century herb gardener will be on site to talk with visitors.

For Group Bookings and any other information, ring 01454 228224 or visit [www.actoncourt.com](http://www.actoncourt.com)





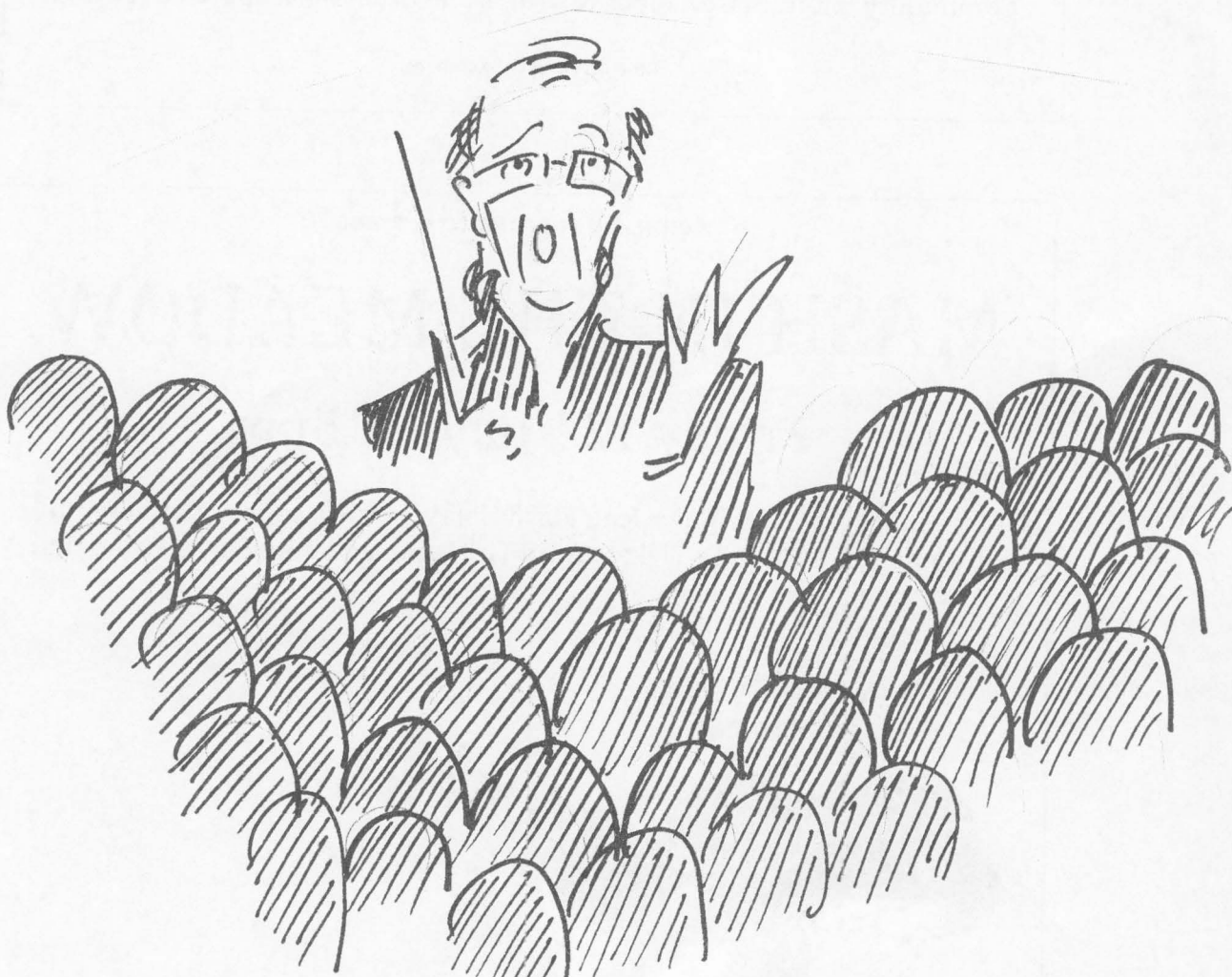
## Iron Acton Community Choir

Tuesday 22nd January...a cold and snowy day...not an auspicious start for a new community group. Who would want to come out on a rotten night like this to join in a new choir? I had been hoping that about 20 people would turn up to give it a go, but I was revising that figure downwards every hour that passed.

However, wonders will never cease...by the time 8.30 came round we had 40+ people at the inaugural choir practice and we have continued with similar support ever since. There are now actually just short of 50 members (and a waiting list for new members!) and we have had 3 great rehearsals where we have worked hard as well as having a lot of fun along the way. We are looking forward to the ultimate aim of singing at "Proms In the Meadow" in July. What happens after that will be depend on how every body feels, but the hope will be that we will look for further opportunities to sing.

Acton Aid have kindly agreed to underwrite the costs of the choir to provide initial security, but we are already pretty much self-sustaining which is wonderful; I have been thoroughly delighted with both the interest and the commitment shown by all those who have come along and am equally thrilled by the musical potential shown...watch this space for more news!...and great thanks to all those choir members who have brought such energy and enthusiasm to Tuesday evening rehearsals...long may it continue!

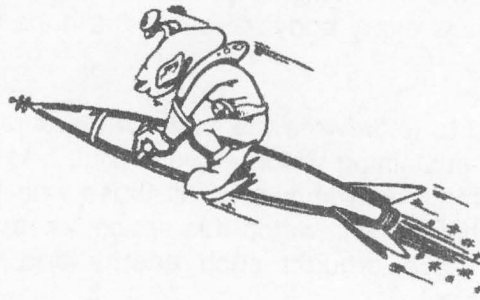
Robert Pardoe:  
Iron Acton Community Choir Conductor



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# PROMS IN THE MEADOW

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> July



Join Bristol Millennium Orchestra, Fascinating Rhythm, Iron Acton Community Choir, Bristol Pipes & Drums and others in a Space adventure

[Line up subject to change]

*Acton Aid is proud to present*

# MASH IN THE MEADOW

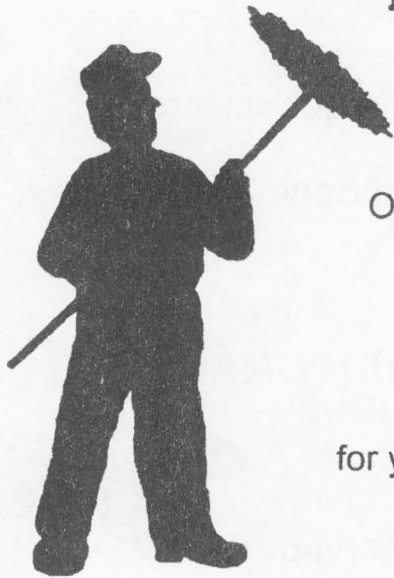
Friday 12<sup>th</sup> July, 7.15pm

An evening of Folk & Blues, feat. Flash Harry, Lizzie Deane and others (full line up to be confirmed). Tickets from The Lamb and online nearer the time.



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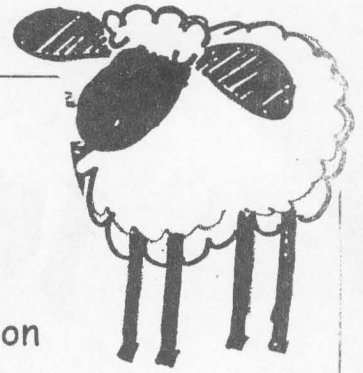
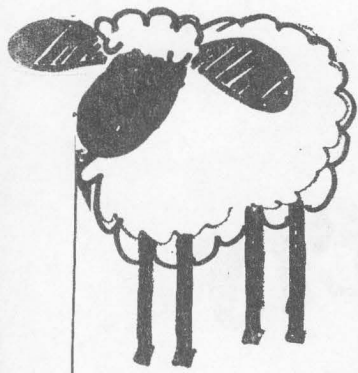


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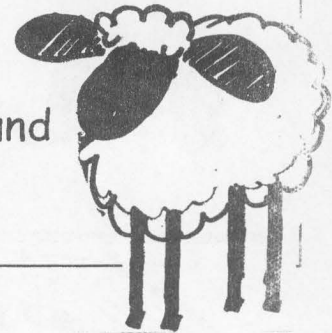
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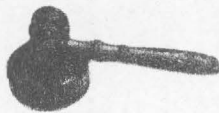
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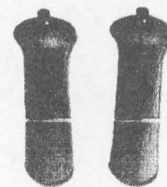
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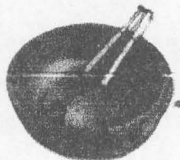
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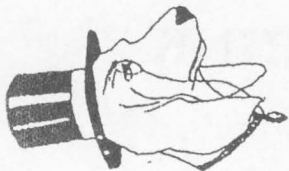


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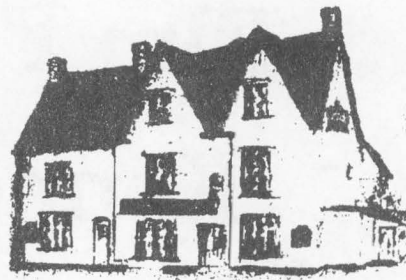
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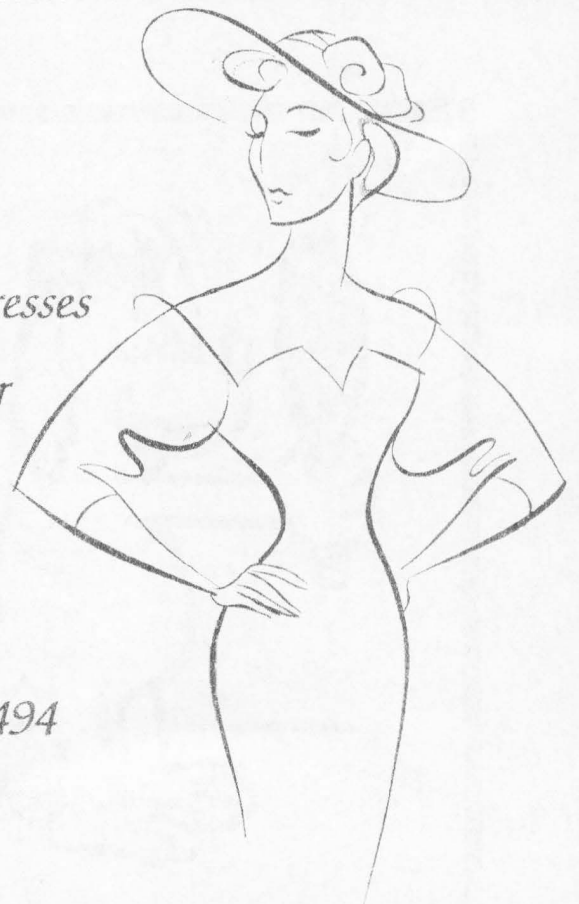
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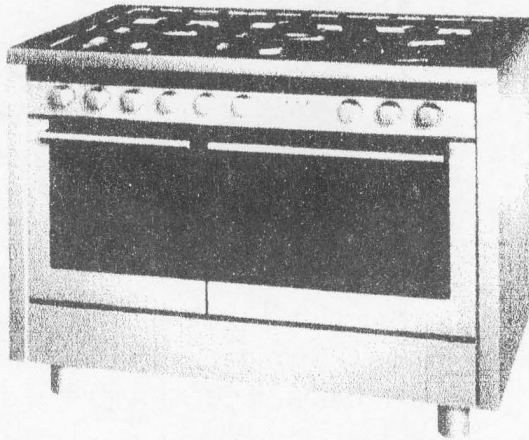


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