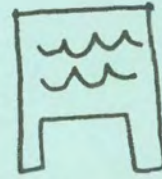
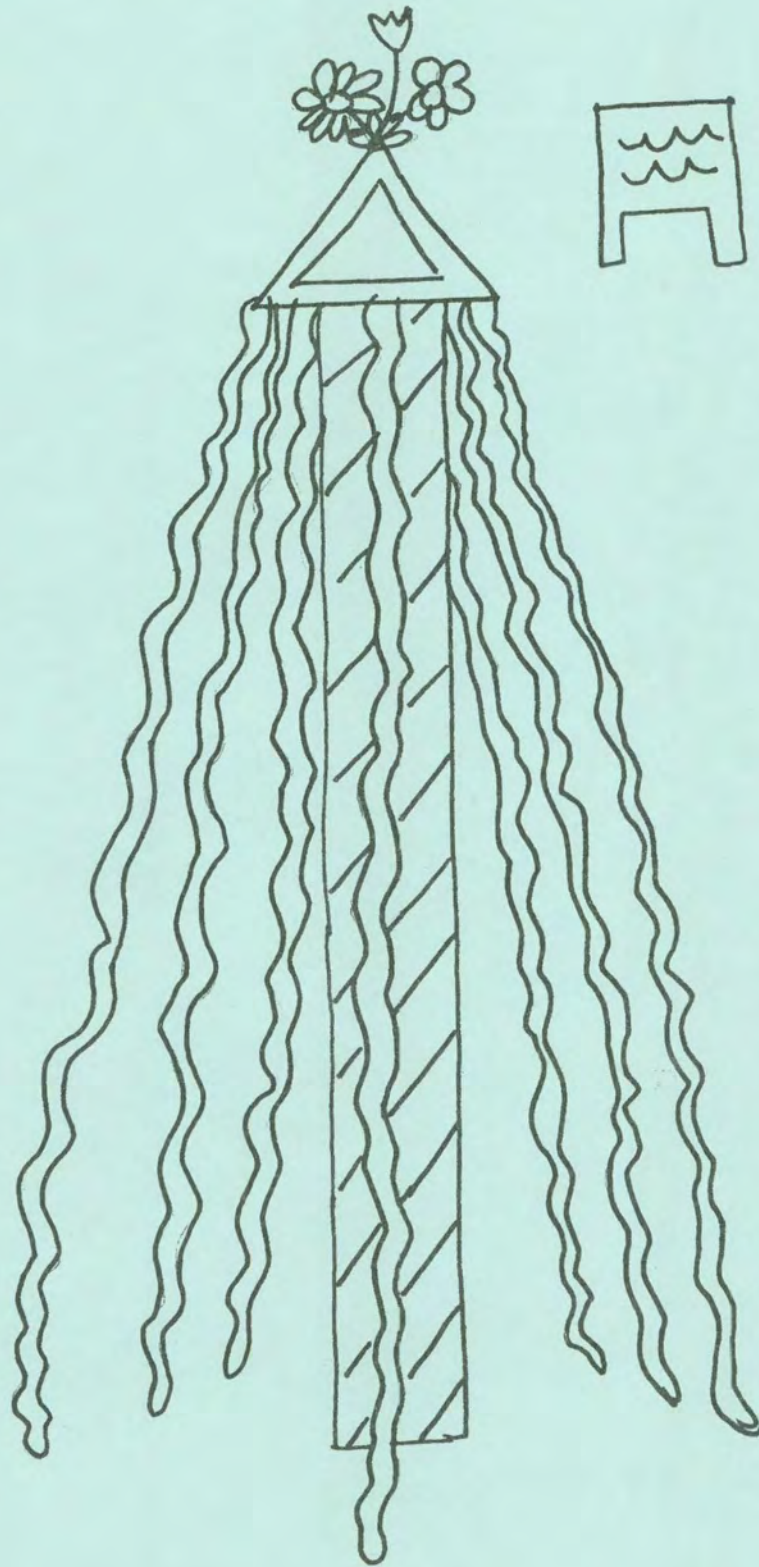


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Autumn Issue 2013

A Magazine for Iron Acton

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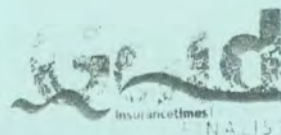
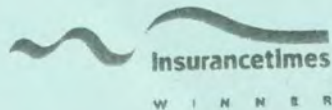
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## **FOCAL POYNTZ INFORMATION**

Your Focal Poyntz Team is:

Maureen Blake

Roy Hubbard  
228356

Stella Taylor  
228417

Barrie Wright  
228247

Rona Wright  
228247

### **Deliveries are ably carried out by:**

Sheila Alsop  
Carole Dickson  
Andrew Gowen  
Chris Heal  
Iron Acton School  
Sharon Kellett  
Catherine Neck  
Sue Shepperd  
Stella Taylor  
Mike Wheeler  
Barrie Wright

The Bradley Family  
Elizabeth Edwards  
John Griffin  
Roy Hubbard  
Jill Johnson  
Ashley Mee  
Amanda Scott  
The Smith Family  
Laura Walters  
Hazel Williams

### **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 (and Co) for their 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 the pupils of Iron Acton School

**NEXT ISSUE**

**SPRING 2014**

Contribution Deadline Week Commencing 10 February 2014

Distribution

Week Commencing 24 March 2014

THINK  
**CHRISTMAS PRESENTS**

THINK  
**ORIGINAL & UNIQUE BEAUTIFUL WOOD**

THINK  
**LOCAL & CONVENIENT**

THINK  
**TURNED WOODEN GIFTS**

**FOR EVERY OCCASION**

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



fruit bowls

salad bowls

bud vases

twig vases

herb cutters

salt and pepper grinders

table lamps

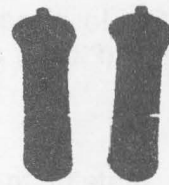
mushrooms

platters

lazy susan table centres

cheese boards

candle sticks



furniture repairs and restoration

special commissions welcomed

Contact Barrie, Eynsford Cottage, Wotton Road, Iron Acton  
01454 228247



Thank you to those who responded to our Survey in the last edition concerning the future direction of the magazine. The result of the Survey will be found on a later page.

As we are taking a look at ourselves I think it timely to note our current situation. We deliver some 530 copies of the magazine (hopefully this includes every household in the Parish,) free of charge, three times a year.

Our only source of income is from our Advertisers, and we Thank Them for their continued support. Our only expenditure is the printing and this we have done at a very good rate by Oldbury Deckers Youth Club and again we thank them for this.

Our advertising rates are £10.00 per half page and £20.00 full page and this has remained unchanged for twenty years. We presently have just enough Advertisers to cover our present printing costs which is in the region of £180.00 to £200.00 per issue. Any new Advertisers would of course be welcome.

Any change to our format i.e. colour, photographs, size, paper or binding would considerably increase our costs.

The Focal Poyntz's Team would like to Thank our Distributors, Contributors, Advertisers, Printers and especially our Readers for their continuing support and

**WISH YOU ALL A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND A PEACEFUL 2014.**

We aim to have the next issue on doorsteps by the last week in March with Contribution deadline the second week of February and the Summer issue out at the end of July with a deadline of the first week of June.

## FRIENDS OF IRON ACTON SCHOOL

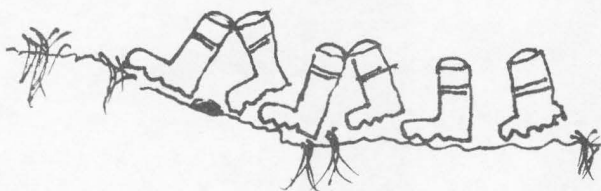
The last Academic year was pretty full with Friends' related activities and it ended with true gusto in July with the Year 6 Prom. The outgoing Year 6 pupils all looked amazing and they partied along with the rest of the school to DJ Noel well into the evening. Particularly great limbo dancing was noted by Master Louis Cowell and Miss Jessica Hatherall. We hope you all return to next year's Prom for a rematch. By now I'm sure everyone is all settled into their new schools and, on behalf of Friends, we wish you all good health and happiness for the future. Next year's Prom is already booked and we envisage an equally as exciting event.

Also at the end of the Summer Term, Friends held their annual Summer Fair in the grounds of the School. Sadly the weather let us down a bit which kept people away but thank you to everyone who helped on the day and who supported our efforts. A particular thank you goes to Avon Fire and Rescue Service. The crew and truck were brilliantly received and a real highlight of the evening.

As I write this piece for Focal Poyntz, Friends are busily preparing for the upcoming School Harvest Festival Auction and the much awaited Halloween Party. Historically, this party has been well received by the schoolchildren and their siblings and we hope this year will be no exception. Lots of games and activities are planned alongside a Fancy Dress competition and a Pre-carved Pumpkin competition. We look forward to seeing everyone's costumes and can't wait to see the pumpkins. The creations are always amazing. There are clearly some parents and carers out there with Blue Peter badges and some nifty ideas.

Before I go on, Friends' would like to say a massive thank you to the following people. Firstly to Caroline Haselhan who served on the Committee for a number of years as Secretary and stepped down only when her daughter left the school in July for pastures new. Caroline was that veritable cog that kept Friends in order and in tow. We miss her greatly. Secondly, to Donna Thomas who stepped down as Chair back in September. We are indebted to Donna for her enthusiasm, determination to make events work and sheer brilliance at bringing ideas to the forefront. Finally, to Sally Aries who recently stepped down to concentrate on her other School commitments. We will miss Sally's intrepid IT and photography skills and her motivation to 'get things done' for the benefit of the children.

When people step down, inevitably and thankfully new people join and we gladly welcome our new members to Friends – Lucy, Polly, Ann, Katie, Karen, Jo and Nicola. It was a delight to see so many new faces at our first meeting in September and we look forward to taking Friends forward with fresh input and motivation. We hope to see even more new faces at our next meeting and at our Christmas Social, the details of which are yet to be confirmed.



By the time this article is read, the schoolchildren will have participated in the School's annual sponsored Wellie Walk.

This year we have chosen a Bonfire Night theme given the date of the event and the children will have to complete several tasks as they work their way around the course. After the Walk, Friends will reward everyone with a warming hot chocolate and marshmallows and all sponsorship money will be ploughed back into the school for the benefit of the children and their learning.

Another upcoming important fundraising event planned is 'Wallace and Gromit's Big Bake' on 2<sup>nd</sup> December. Those schoolchildren interested will bake at home under parental/carer supervision. They will then sell their wares at School to raise money for this most special cause. More information about this activity can be found on the Wallace and Gromit Appeal website.

On Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December, Friends will be holding its Christmas Fair in the School Hall. Whilst this is a School event, all parishioners are welcome. Indeed, it would be lovely to see as many people as possible and, don't forget, a Special Visitor may drop in for a short while with a sack filled with goodies. The Fair will be advertised around the village from the middle of November so keep a look out for the details and do come along.

And finally, the last day of term we will be holding our annual School Christmas Disco in the Parish Hall with DJ Noel once again leading the entertainment. This is a ticketed event and all children must be accompanied by a responsible adult. The Hall is booked, the decorations are on order and the evening promises to be just fantastic. Tickets will be available in early December from a member of the Friends' Committee – details via the School Website.

If you have any questions about our upcoming events or would like to become more actively involved with Friends, do please speak to any member of the Committee (again see the School Website for information) or email [anniekinghome@gmail.com](mailto:anniekinghome@gmail.com). We would love to hear from you.

Wishing the readers of Focal Poyntz a Very Merry Christmas and a truly happy New Year.

Annie King  
Friends' Secretary

## **Iron Acton Parish Council**

### **Parish Meadows**

The Acton Aid project to add an Adventure Tunnel to the children's play area has been completed, with grass seed sown over the mound which is beginning to green up. The perimeter path foundations are in place with the trail awaiting further works.

I have been pleased to receive compliments from parishioners who regularly use the Meadows, including the many who attended The Prom. It is always good to see parents and children enjoying the play area making the improvements worthwhile.

As always, we are open to help and suggestions from any parishioner so please get in touch if you have a comment to make.

Chris Heal (228498)  
Chairman of Parish Meadow Committee

### **Allotments**

Early in 2012, and with the encouragement of the Parish Council, the Iron Acton Allotment Association was formed, with the overall aim of helping the Parish Council to maintain and improve the standard of the more than 40 allotments at Nibley Lane and Station Road.

An interim Committee was formed, a Constitution drawn up and a good relationship with the Parish Council established. The Allotment Association's first AGM was held on 12<sup>th</sup> October in the Marshall Rooms.

There is general agreement that the last 6 months has seen a vast improvement in both allotment gardens, with virtually all plots under cultivation. Despite a late start to the season, there has been an abundance of crops.

Looking to the future, the intention is to continue to harness the enthusiasm of all allotment holders, with specific plans to:

- Provide equipment and storage for the upkeep of communal areas
- Make provision for the exchange of plants and ideas
- Offer a seed purchase and garden provision service

There is currently a long waiting list for an allotment, but parishioners have priority and so if you are keen to get digging, please contact the Clerk, Donna Beal.

### **Western Power Distribution**

A phone call by the clerk was made to Western Power distribution and a long conversation held with the contact centre. The Parish Council advised that they had received complaints into the amount of power cuts which had taken place lately within the parish and requested information into this. Following the reports it was advised that there had been 10 power cuts in the last 3 months. These were caused by the high volt 11000 line which brings power into Iron Acton on an automated line of which affects 465 houses. The main cause of the problem is usually trees tripping the line. A free service is offered to keep the trees 6ft clear of the lines. The last trim was recorded for April 2013. I have requested that this is again looked at due to the rapid growth of trees, bushes and shrubs recently. I was advised that when the fault develops it is changed to a secondary line on an automated trip switch but this can cause dips in the power. A report will be logged from my call and passed onto the local area manager and a request to have this looked into and reports gathered from the engineers that attended. I have requested that any information found to be passed onto me. I was also advised that if any parishioners who are affected know of any over hanging trees etc close to the main power line to contact them direct to report tel no: 0800 365 900.

### **Meetings**

The Parish Council usually meets on the third Monday of each month, except for August. Meetings are held on a rotational basis between the Marshall Rooms in the High Street, North Road School Hall and the Parish Hall. All meetings commence at 7.30pm and parishioners are welcome to attend to raise any matters of concern under Public Participation at the beginning of each meeting.

Agendas for forthcoming meetings are posted on the Notice Boards (located in the High Street and North Road) giving three clear days before the next meeting and on the website. An item may be added to forthcoming meeting agenda for formal decision. However, it is advisable to speak with one of your Parish Councillors, or the Clerk beforehand. The best way to understand what is happening in your parish is to come along to Parish Council meetings.

Parish Council minutes are posted to the web site as expeditiously as possible following their approval. This means that they will always be one month in arrears. Parish Council minutes only become a legal document when they have been approved by the Councillors and signed by the Chairman.

Donna Beal  
Clerk – Iron Acton Parish Council  
Tel:- 01454 501134  
Email:- [ironactonparishcouncil@hotmail.com](mailto:ironactonparishcouncil@hotmail.com)  
Web Site:- [www.ironactonparishcouncil.com](http://www.ironactonparishcouncil.com)



## Iron Acton K9 Club

### **Fabulous Doggy Fun Day**

Iron Acton K9 Club recently held it's 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Fun Day and BBQ in the village. The show ring was ready, obstacle course set up, agility course in place and flyball jumps at the ready – fortunately this year the weather was kind to us and lots of our four legged friends brought their owners to join the fun.



The show classes were keenly contested and Liz Davies, our judge, had a tough afternoon. The handsomest dog was won by Oscar with Dot, prettiest bitch by Lexie with Paul, most appealing eyes by Toby with Tony, best veteran by Red with Mike, best adult by Benji with Jackie, best junior by Harry, best brace by Shya & Remy with Karen, waggiest tail by Cloud with Gill, dog the judge would most like to take home by Ozzie with Carol. Ozzie and Carol were also awarded the prize for overall Show Champion.

In the activity classes the Obstacle course, which was a new event this year and proved to be a lot of fun for dogs and handlers, was won by Shya with Karen Carnovale. Next came the Gundog Scurry won by Remy with Meryl Cook. Despite some keen competition, Shya and Karen, who had obviously been in serious training, went on to win both the Agility competition and Flyball competition which meant they were awarded the prize for overall Activity Champion.

Well done to all our winners and many thanks to Liz for judging the show classes and obstacle course. Also thanks to Dave Morgan, Martin Gadsby and Mike Carnovale for trying to keep us all in order during the activity events.

We continue to hold obedience classes on Monday evenings in Rangeworthy Hall and agility classes on Sunday afternoons in Iron Acton. For details please give us a call:

Sue 07706092597  
Karen 01454228891

## Extracts From How I Started National Service 1960 -1962

Day Nine - After this morning's muster parade we were marched to the armoury for the first time to collect our rifles. These were Lee-Enfield rifles and there were three detachable parts - magazine, bolt and bayonet. These vital pieces were always removed for storage in one's locker, the inactivated wooden remainder being kept in a stack alongside one's bed.

The days continued with drill exercises, dental check-ups, a talk about spending our 15 shillings per week wisely, muster parades, boxing in the gym, rifle drills, PE, rugby - one day was almost the same as the next. On Sundays we were allowed a certain amount of freedom (within the camp) but were expected to be seen bulling our kit every time the NCOs approached!

We were also given lessons in letter writing. We were then instructed to write a letter home telling our mothers how much we were enjoying army life. In an interview by Colonel Carstairs to analyse my chances of passing the Officer Selection Board - he didn't think I had much of a chance unless I changed my attitude!

Day Thirty Five - During the usual muster parade there was a noticeable easing up of the shouting and bawling, the NCOs were becoming more friendly! It was the first day on the square when none of us were "picked up" for anything. Following the foot and rifle drill we were marched to the camp cinema to be shown how to assemble and disassemble a Bren gun.

Day Thirty Six - the usual trio came into the billet from the normal 'rubbishing' of the billet and kit lay-out, but all we got were helpful comments from the NCOs and praise from Lt. Handley. We were actually rewarded with a 20 minute NAAFI break.

Day Thirty Seven - After lunch, in our best clobber, we were assembled for squad and platoon photographs outside the billet.

The Passing Out Parade went off without incident and, after being dismissed we were allowed to seek out our relatives who had been watching the big show. I found my wife and mother sitting at a table adorned with tea, cakes and salmon and cucumber sandwiches. (How come cup cakes were there fifty years before they were invented? They were both shocked by my appearance, but a greater surprise was in store. They weren't hungry and I was invited to "tuck in" - I was (and am) a slow eater, preferring to talk my way through meals. I polished off the lot on the table in under a minute - the look on their faces was one I shall never forget.

As platoon commander, Lt. Handley's PR function was to circulate and obtain proud parental views. He asked my wife "Has he changed?" Diplomatically, she pointed out how pale and emaciated I looked and with close-cropped hair looked like a convict. He just smiled.

Thus ended the worst 37 days of my life. Despite my appearance, I have never been fitter before or since. I went home for a weekend's leave wondering what the Army had in store for me next.

Geoff Dickes

### **St James The Less Toddler Group**

After so many left to start school in September we thought The Toddler Group may be rather quiet this term but we are so pleased to say that this is certainly not the case as we have welcomed many new mums and their toddlers! We hope everyone is enjoying our Friday mornings in the Marshall Room where the mums have a chat over tea and cake while the little ones play and make new friends.

The children have had lots of fun with the crafts this term including planting daffodil bulbs with Jo from Organic Blooms and making a collage of a tractor for the church Harvest Festival. They have also loved singing time with Lisa. Thank you Lisa for popping back in to see us and capturing the children's attention with your fun and animated songs. We hope to see you again soon!

We are now looking forward to Christmas. Our party will be on 13th December when we will have a festive musical treat from Sarah at Jazzy Jamboree and hopefully a visit from Father Christmas!

If you are interested in joining this friendly Toddler Group please contact Katie Curtis (228997) or Ann Mora (228994).

Katie and Ann

## **Focal Poyntz Survey**

Thank you everyone who kindly took the trouble to give us their personal views on what they thought of our Parish Magazine; whether it should be scrapped, altered in any way from its current format or if we should consider merging with one of the more modern looking booklets.

Unfortunately, out of 530 deliveries only 17 replied and so our findings cannot really be taken as a true representation of what our readers may think or wish to say.

However, it would appear that people, generally, would like us to continue its production on a local basis but with some improvements, perhaps introducing colour onto the pages and even the odd photograph or two.

We really do need additional individual contributions to make Focal Poyntz more interesting than it is now. Articles from all the various Organisations are essential to keep people informed, at least as far as the production timings will allow, but funny or serious stories, poems, experiences, etc would be most welcome to brighten up our magazine.

What is really needed is someone who is au fait with desk top publishing, who could either guide us along the road of improvement, or better still someone who could take over the presentation side of things to take us forward. We would be ecstatic if that person could get in touch with one of the members of the Committee so that we could talk over costings, feasibility of production and so on.

As for those who would be, or maybe, willing to help out on either the editorial front or to be part of the distribution team we will be in touch as soon as we have got this edition put to bed. We thank you for that too.

The Editorial Team

## **Yate Minor Injuries Unit – Do You Know Who We Are and What We Do?**

I'm sure many of you have heard about or even visited Yate Minor Injuries Unit as a patient. If you have had the misfortune to suffer an injury and have availed yourself of our services, I do hope we treated you well and you were satisfied with the outcome.

I would like to take this opportunity to advise the Parish as to what we 'do' at Yate MIU. Firstly, we are not a GP Surgery therefore any 'illness' related complaints and anything not remotely an injury should not present to our doors. Please don't be offended if you are advised to see your GP. We run a specific service and are trying to minimise inappropriate attendances.

So, we are open Mondays to Fridays from 0830 hours until 1930 hours. Saturdays and Sundays we are open from 1000 hours until 1400 hours though it is advisable to attend early at the weekend as the doors close if we are inundated with patients.

Presenting complaints that we can see and treat are;

- Minor head injuries with or without loss of consciousness
- Minor joint injuries such as ankle/wrist/knee/shoulder strains, sprains, dislocations and fractures
- Minor back injuries
- Minor facial injuries
- Wounds
- Minor eye injuries and eye complaints
- Bites – insect/animal/human (!)
- Burns
- Nosebleeds
- Foreign bodies
- Essentially any minor injury that has been sustained within the last 2 weeks

If your complaint occurred over 2 weeks' ago or is longstanding, we would advise you to see your GP.

There is a misconception that if someone has a fracture, we cannot plaster or manage the injury. This is not the case. As would happen in any Emergency Department, we can diagnose fractures, initiate management and commence the appropriate follow-up. We are able to refer onwards and we have direct access to a variety of ongoing care providers.

Notably, our X-ray facilities are weekdays only from 0900 hours generally until 1700 hours.

We are a small but strong clinical team at Yate MIU consisting of 5 Emergency Nurse Practitioners (ENPs), 2 Nurses and 1 Health Care Assistant. We come from a variety of backgrounds but the Emergency Care setting predominates. Our Lead Practitioner is a Paediatric Specialist.

So, if you have an injury that you feel meets the above criteria, do come and see us and give us your feedback afterwards. If you have any queries our phone number is 01454 315355 – ask for the Minor Injuries Team.

Annie King  
Emergency Nurse Practitioner  
Yate Minor Injuries Unit

### **Iron Acton C of E VC Primary School**

A huge welcome to everyone who has joined our Reception Class and other classes in the school. We welcome Miss Thomas who is teaching Class 2 whilst Mrs Lyall is on maternity leave. We hope everyone will all be really happy here.

During our church inspection we were asked to make sure that our Christian values are clear to everyone. We now have six new display boards in our entrance hall. Photographs of the children celebrate our values of: hope, compassion justice, friendship, truthfulness and trust.

Now the pupils would like to share some of the exciting things that have happened so far this term.

### **Gardening Club by Jenny**

This year we did even better in the Horticultural Show we won three 1st prizes, three 2nd and three 3rd prizes. This year was very different as we had lots of sun and almost no rain. We had to do a lot of watering this year! The best things we grew were the flowers, the sunflowers, the squash and the runner beans.

### **Boccia and New Age Curling by Year 3 and 4**

We have been learning how to play these games with Mr Griggs and Mrs Jones. Two teams entered a competition at Yate International Academy. The Boccia Team came 3rd and the New Age Curling Team came 4th. Everyone worked well as a team. It was really exciting. Alaula came to cheer us on. That was really nice and she kept our spirits up. She kept us going when times were tough.

### **Year 5 residential trip to the Robert Jeffrey Centre at Abergavenny with pupils from Rangeworthy School by Courtney**

At Year 5 camp we were sliding down the river - we had a race. We stood under a waterfall and crawled underneath it.

On the first day of the camp we played games, walked along a train track and saw some rabbits. We went in a dark tunnel - it was scary. It leaked and we got wet. At the end of the camp we went to the Big Pit. We wore helmets with a light on the top. Rangeworthy School came as well. If they go to the same Secondary School as us, we will already have some friends we know.

### **Tea party for the Elderly**

On Sunday 6th October we hosted a tea party for the elderly. Eight ladies and one gentleman visited us with their drivers. We played bingo, pass the parcel and beetle drive. Then they had a fabulous tea with cakes, scones, sausage rolls and sandwiches. After that we sang them some Harvest songs. They were very interesting people. One lady was in the Land Army, another was evacuated to Yate. The gentleman liked our school garden. He told us that he grew all of his own vegetables. One lady used to be a pupil at Iron Acton. She told us lots of funny stories about the school and about all the shops that used to be in Iron Acton.

### **London Trip**

On Wednesday 16th October, Years 5 and 6 had an amazing (if tiring) day in London. We left school at 7 am and did not get home to nearly 10 pm.

Mr Kemp led us on an action pack day visiting The British Museum, Westminster Abbey and the Science Museum. We also walked past the Houses of Parliament, 10 Downing Street, Horse Guards Parade, Trafalgar Square and the Albert Hall. Travelling on an underground was quite an experience!

It is a day we will never forget.

Jill Bendeaux.

## Iron Acton Women's Institute

After the summer break it was good to start the September meeting with a demonstration on decorating cupcakes, even though the theme was Christmas! Jane & Gill run their own business and brought along all the equipment necessary for us to ice and decorate the ready made cupcakes. With templates of snowflakes and holly leaves and tuition on making mini Christmas stockings in icing, we all had a go on our own cupcake. The instruction must have been good as everyone managed to produce very professional looking results. Jane and Gill kindly donated the cakes they decorated to our raffle that evening.

The following month was also a practical demonstration, allowing us to try our skills at glasswork. Jackie Shipley had brought along many pieces of beautifully coloured glasswork including candle holders, lamps and Christmas tree angels which we were able to purchase. Most members had a try of cutting a piece of glass, smoothing the sharp edges and edging the piece with copper foil before finally soldering it. Some found the alien equipment a bit daunting but most found it satisfying to try yet another skill.

The WI project this year was knitting hats for Oxfam. Several members made up hats in various glorious colours and one was nominated to represent us at the group meeting.

Geraldine and Elizabeth went to the Avon WI AGM at Weston-super-Mare where they waited with bated breath to hear whether they could bring back some good news on our nominee for a special WI award. Liz Flay's name had been put forward some weeks previously for all the practical hard work she puts in whenever there is a request for making baby bonnets for premature babies at Southmead, scarves for fishermen, making up shoe boxes of toys and hand-knitted items to send to needy children abroad at Christmas or the most recent hats for Oxfam. She doesn't just make one or two, she makes dozens and all beautifully crafted. She had also made us a banner last year with which we marched to Chipping Sodbury, accompanied by Reggie the horse, when we passed on the WI Olympic flame. Although Liz didn't win the overall prize, she did receive a certificate and was surprised but delighted to have been nominated.

We are currently looking forward to our birthday meal at The Globe in Frampton Cotterell followed by the Christmas party with the usual Secret Santa and American supper.

The team have been hard at work to produce next year's programme of events. These include talks from Avon Riding for the Disabled, training animals for film and TV, Guide Dogs for the Blind and more, as well as demonstrations and the chance to join in with basket weaving, art and flower arranging. The trip in June is to a house and gardens in Wales and a walk and picnic are planned in July.

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

## Horticultural Show

Well, what a show this year! A big thank you to everyone who took the time and trouble to grow, bake and make entries – you did us proud.

There were an unbelievable number of entries in the Homecraft section that surpassed all other years. We actually had to find extra tables in order to accommodate the number of entries. It would appear that 'The Great British Bake-Off' bug has hit Iron Acton! Yet again there were compliments from the judges at the number and quality of entries across all sections.

The Horticultural Committee would again like to pass on their extremely grateful thanks to all the helpers behind the scenes. You are too numerous to mention, but without your help and the extra pairs of hands the show wouldn't be the success that it is today. Particular thanks to David Hatherell, our annual auctioneer who readily deserved his pint afterwards at the Beer Festival!

The trophies for the 2013 Show were awarded as follows:-

Allotment Trophy (Vegetables grown on an allotment) - Mr Jim Seymour  
Red Ribbon Cup (Best Exhibit in General Section) - Mr Jim Seymour  
Hall Committee Rose Bowl (Highest Points – General Section) - Mr Jim Seymour  
Gordon Powell Cup (Second Highest Points – General Section) - The Grubb Family  
Flower Arranging Rose Bowl - Mrs Linda Boyce  
Acton Aid Cup (Homecraft) - Ms Gilly Otlet  
Photography Cup - Mrs Sally Aries  
Pre-School Cup - Iris Parker  
Junior Cup (Ages 5-7 years) - Jago Frise & Megan Broom  
Parker Shield (Ages 8-11 years) - Alicia Scott  
St James the Less Cup (Highest Points Iron Acton Resident) - Ms Gilly Otlet  
Golden Jubilee Cup (Most Entries by a Family) - The Stoneman Family

All of the above entries together with all of the individual class winners have been posted to the village web site.

Iron Acton Horticultural Committee

## Acton Aid

Acton Aid continued the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary year with some enjoyable Autumn events.

Firstly, we followed the Horticultural show with our 3<sup>rd</sup> Beer Festival in the Parish Hall gardens. Drinkers were treated to a selection of fine wines, artisan ciders and real ales from Gloucestershire's craft brewers and further flung breweries from the Lions nations. Musical entertainment was supplied by Lee McCrory and The Roaring Trowmen sea shanty band. This year saw a new competition introduced in the form of a traditional yard of ale race. The fastest time to consume the 2½ pints was 32 seconds! We also saw an intrepid yard of coca cola drunk in an awesome 7½ minutes. Burp! Following numerous requests on the night and taking advantage of the year's bumper apple crop members plan to make our very own Cider for sale at next year's event.

Secondly, we arranged the annual Bonfire Night party on the parish meadows. Luckily we avoided the worst of the showers and the wind wasn't as bad as forecast. We had a good turnout and everyone agreed the firework display (22 thunder clapping minutes) were as good, if not better than usual.

Some members took part in a social Go Karting race in October. All participants had much fun, although it is fair to say that Sebastian Vettel has nothing to fear.

Continuing the racing theme a small party of members also visited Galway Races in Ireland last month for this year's cultural trip.

Before Christmas members will be delivering parcels to the elderly. While we can't offer a 999 emergency service we would offer anyone who receives a parcel the facility to call their delivery person in the case of an urgent event that no family or friends can assist with during any severe weather.

Looking to 2014, plans are already being made for another bonanza Mash & Proms in the Meadow. Please pencil in the slightly earlier than usual dates of Friday 27<sup>th</sup> & Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> June. We will be marking the centenary of the start of World War 1 at the Proms and are looking to recognise anyone in the Parish who has served in the Armed Forces. If you have served or you would like to recognise someone in the Parish that has, then please contact Peter Huish on 228861 or email [peter@huishs.com](mailto:peter@huishs.com).

Readers are encouraged to follow Acton Aid on Twitter @Acton\_Aid. Followers receive early event notification and information including the opportunity to buy discounted tickets for events such as the Mash and Proms.

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 fund raising 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 228037, in confidence.

Jon Aries  
Secretary, Acton Aid

### Mulled Wine Mince Pies and More



**Christingle** - Sunday, 8 December at 4pm at St James The Less, Iron Acton

Following on from last year we will be hosting a social gathering after the Christingle Service which generally lasts about 45 minutes - 1 hour.

There will be mulled wine and mince pies, carols with hand bells (featuring the amazing Iron Acton Clangers!), biscuits and soft drinks for the children and a general, congenial hour.

Hopefully the weather will be good, and we shall be able to hold the event outside the church where the new Christmas tree will be brightly lit.

Please come along and join us with your families and friends.

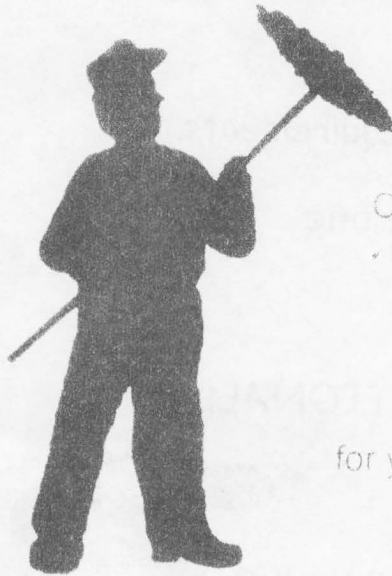
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Pam McCoy



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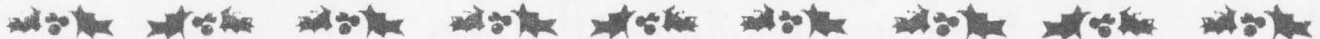
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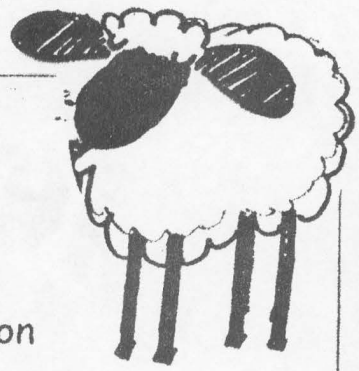


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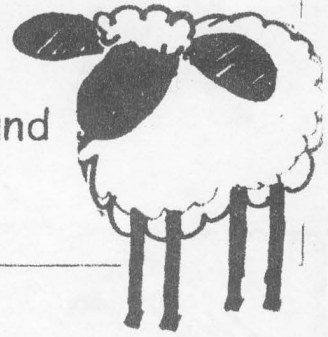
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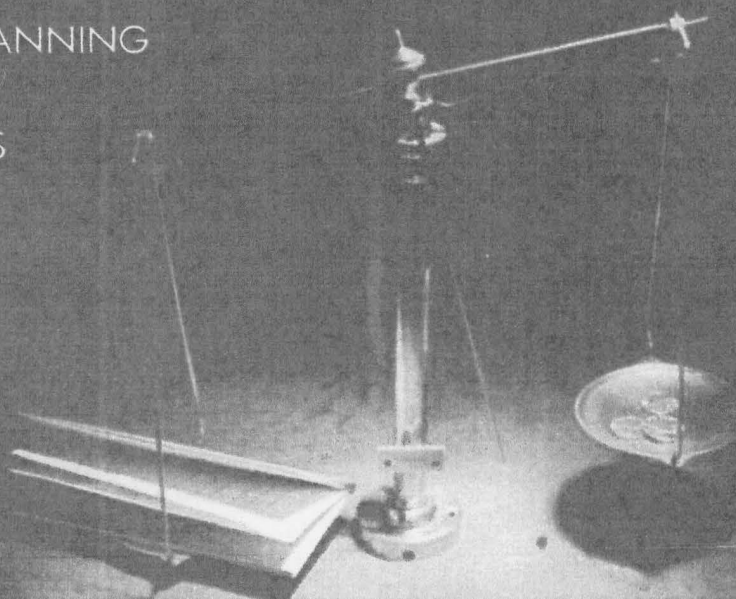
**Mark Curtis Dip FA**

M. 07917 390943

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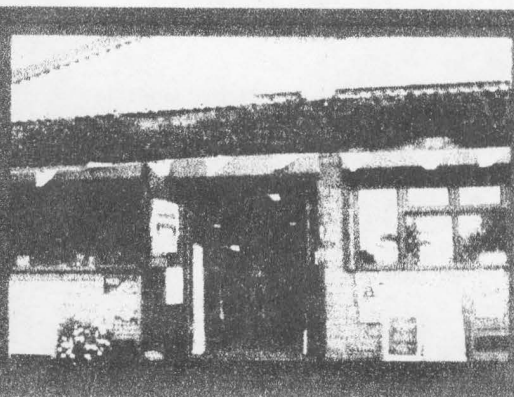
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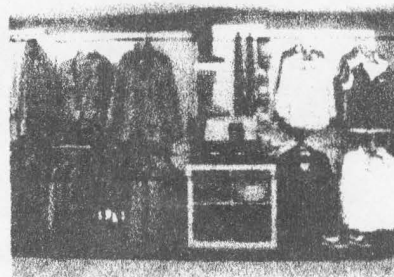
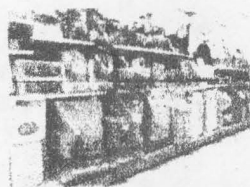
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## North Road Community Primary School

The summer holidays seem a far and distant memory now but the new academic year is flying by already. We have our new Reception Class in full flow and are already thinking about Reception 2014. If your child was born between 1<sup>st</sup> September 2009 and 31<sup>st</sup> August 2010 they will be due to start school in September 2014. Applications are due to South Gloucestershire by January 15<sup>th</sup> 2014. We have open days throughout the Autumn term. For dates or to arrange an appointment to come and see our school please see the school website [www.northroadprimaryschool.co.uk](http://www.northroadprimaryschool.co.uk).



To start the new year off with a bang we arranged for a Dr Who script writer to come and inspire our young writers. Cavan Scott writes for Dr Who, Angry Birds, The Sarah Jane Adventures and Skylanders. He led two workshops for our Year 1-3 pupils followed by 2 workshops with Year 4-6. The children learnt how to describe a monster good enough to appear in Dr Who followed by how to incorporate the monster into a story. The writing the children produced was amazing and all were very engaged. Cavan also led a Dr Who superfan quiz which involved the children finding out about the past 50 years of Dr Who as well as some dressing up! Pictures of the event can be seen on our website.

We were invited to attend the launch of the new softplay at the Sports Shed in Yate. The gym has moved to the leisure centre and the Sports Shed has reopened as a soft play and party venue. The children thoroughly enjoyed testing the equipment and had a great time- we can all highly recommend it for the forthcoming wet and miserable winter days.

Our MacMillan coffee morning went well and we raised over £150. Thank you to all attended and donated cakes. Look out for next year's coffee morning. It is a lovely chance to let the local community come into our school, we always have old photos and log books on display for people to reminisce over.

Over the summer we set the children a Gromit challenge. We asked for families to send in their Gromit pictures to put on display. Some of the staff found all 80 so we now have a full set on display. We are still awaiting a picture of Gromit 81!

You may be aware that we have our own allotments at the bottom of our school playground. Mrs Turner, one of our TAs, and a group of children from KS2 have already started our planting for our winter vegetables. This year Iron Acton Garden Centre have provided us with seed potatoes and a variety of vegetables including sprouts, cauliflower and spinach. Fingers crossed they may be ready for Christmas lunch! Later on this year Iron Acton Garden Centre are going to come and show the children how to plant hanging baskets.

This year our Christmas Fair will be on Friday, 29<sup>th</sup> November - 2-4pm. This year we thought, as well as the usual raffles, lucky dip, refreshments we would have some Christmas craft activities for the children to do, as well as a children's table top sale. Parents can buy a table for £5 and sell children's clothes, toys and books. This gives you a chance to clear out before Christmas as well as picking up some bargains to help with the cost of Christmas. Tables will be allocated on a first come first served, if you would like one please call the school office on 01454 867788 to book your table. Chocoholics', sweet treats, the book people and a children's hair accessory stall also have stalls.

Jo Williams, Head Teacher, North Road Community Primary

## North Road Ladies Club

Our speaker for our September meeting was Tim Hooper, who kept us entertained with his stories about the parts he had played on television.

In October we spent an enjoyable hour listening to Paul Evans reciting various poems.

On Monday, 4 November we will be celebrating our 46<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party at The White Hart Inn, Iron Acton.

2 December will be our AGM and an American Supper, followed by entertainment by Peggy Scott.

We have had a very successful year and have been very pleased to welcome five new members.

Our meetings are held in Iron Acton Parish Hall, usually on the first Monday of the month, commencing at 7.30pm

June Rycroft  
Club Secretary

## Iron Acton Community Choir



The Choir moves on. We are now preparing for a Concert at Christmas (Saturday 21st Dec: 16.00 in the Parish Hall). A range of items including Christmas carols and more contemporary and secular music will be performed for friends and family...with mulled wine and mince pies - all being well. A great start to the final week of Christmas festivities. Hopefully some or more of you will feel able to come along.

Rehearsals are demanding musically with some significantly challenging material...but it is always great fun and amidst the hard work, people share time and space in a environment of team work and effort and it is, in the true sense of the words, "life enhancing".

As the choir master of this ongoing venture, I can only offer my deepest appreciation for the hard work and commitment shown by all the members. It has been a privilege and a pleasure to take up the baton with them, and I look forward hugely to continuing to develop our repertoire, helping to extend skills and abilities and providing opportunities to make a glorious sound and to build a sense of team work and community. That is the pay off for me for getting involved in the choir, and I am thrilled that I have that opportunity here in this lovely village where so much good work goes on.

We are now self sufficient, having received the help and support of Acton Aid to get off the ground (for which we are very grateful). We will happily consider any requests for additional work alongside our commitment to Proms in the Meadow...in which we are looking forward to being involved next year. We are looking for a performance pianist for our actual concert performances (we have an accompanist for rehearsals for whom we are also very thankful). I am also delighted that Marilyn Wright has been able to take up the baton on the occasions of my absence from choir practices...much appreciation for that too.

We have 49 members and the space in which we rehearse cannot cope with more than that number. Therefore, whilst I have had a few inquiries from people keen to join and it would be particularly good to have a couple more guys to join the tenors and basses, there really is very little room for manoeuvre. However, if you want to make inquiries or join a waiting list then do feel free to contact me on [robpardoe@gmail.com](mailto:robpardoe@gmail.com) ...and if spaces become available we can take it from there.

Robert Pardoe  
Conductor: Iron Acton Community Choir

## **My Summer Holiday**

### **The Climb**

My summer holiday was great. We had many exciting experiences and I am going to share one with you.

We were on such a mission: we had to get there on time! We ran for 20 minutes dodging staring tourists and swerving past anxious business men who were clutching their mobiles. It seemed like an eternity but we arrived in plenty of time. Phew!

Three bulky policemen in bullet-proof vests asked to check our bags and examine our passports. We handed them over. Luckily they didn't make us take our shoes off, on such a hot day the smell may have been overpowering for us all. The waiting room was very busy so we sat on the floor and waited - preparing for the adventure ahead.

We were lead through a glass door and down an escalator to a dark tunnel. After a while we were at a small wooden door.

This was going to take a while, you could tell just by looking up. 334 steps with a short break about 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of the way up.

After about 5 exhausting minutes we reached a little room where we were given some information about the place and the buildings surrounding it. Worryingly we all were given a pair of orange ear-plugs which wasn't such a good sign. You can tell it's going to get noisy when things like that happen!

We passed several store rooms, the stairs got steeper. At this point you could see all around you through the windows, it was a lot lighter and brighter. The passageway was a mosaic of circular glass flooded with light and were overcome with a strange ticking noise.

DONG

DONG

DONG

DONG

DONG

DONG

DONG

DONG

DONG

DONG

DONG !!!!

Suddenly our ears were bursting with the powerful sound of -

**“BIG BEN”**

Chiming alongside 4 other bells. The ringing in our ears seemed to go on and on. The view of the City of London was spectacular from this great height. We had just climbed the Elizabeth Tower and stood only feet away from the famous bell. How lucky was I, at the age of 12 to have had this experience.

Here are a few quick interesting facts:

The Elizabeth Tower is over 96 metres high and 12 metres square with 11 floors inside.

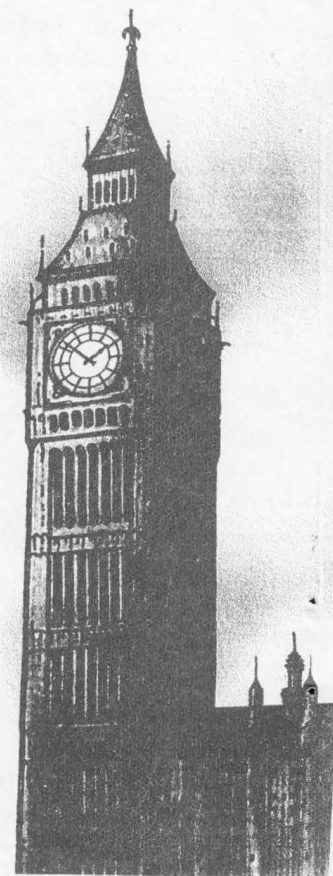
Each clock dial is 7 metres in diameter and illuminated each night by 28 energy efficient light bulbs giving out 85 watts.

Each minutes hand travels a distance of about 100 miles a year.

Big Ben - the great bell measure 2.7mts in diameter, 2.2mts in height and weighs 13.7 tonnes.

I hope you have enjoyed sharing my exciting experience of August 2013.

Daisy Wood.



## St James The Less Church

### **'Serving the Community - making us stronger'**

Serving its community since the 15<sup>th</sup> Century Church has provided comfort and stability to its parishioners. From the hand written records to the stone tombs the building has witnessed key events in local lives and remains a rich source of historical information.



Over this time the Church has seen many changes take place and has had to adapt to keep up with changing attitudes. However even in the most difficult times it has tried to keep true to its role in offering help and support to all.

As part of the new Fromside Churches Group we at the PCC are committed to helping ensure that St James the Less Church maintains this tradition by helping the building remain the community resource it has always been.

In years gone by the Church played a greater role in community life as there were often less distractions than today. Many of us lead hectic lives that are dominated by technology and trying to meet the demands of a sensible work/family/life that may mean attending Church probably has slipped down the list of seemingly endless tasks needing to be done.

However just take a minute to imagine how you might feel if you drove up the High Street and the Church was all boarded up or falling into disrepair? I expect even to those who would seldom go inside would experience some sense of loss and that is why we all need to work hard to ensure that the building can adapt to satisfy the needs of those in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century!



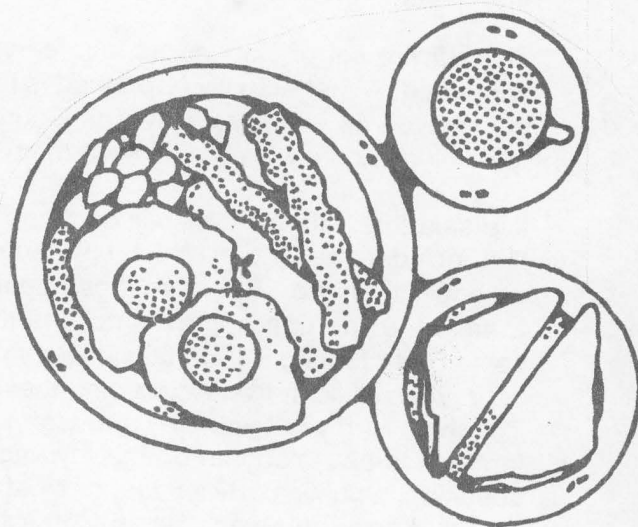
St James is there for all to enjoy from the amazing history and architecture to those seeking sanctuary from their smartphones. Outside of services the tranquil interior allows you to collect your thoughts in peace and perhaps reflect on a difficult family problem or how to clinch that important business deal. Over the coming months we shall be striving to stage events to 'open up' the Church to the wider community so please come and support us.

Denise Smith

## **Breakfast For St Peter's Hospice**

September 14<sup>th</sup>, England were playing Australia in Cardiff and the Barmy Army from Iron Acton thankfully decided upon a good hearty breakfast to set them up for their day out. Full English was served promptly by the A Team of volunteers whose shift was from 7.30 - 9.30am.

The Parish Hall in Iron Acton looked resplendent and welcoming with smiling faces and a glass of Bucks Fizz at the door. Passing through the entrance hall the colourful Tombola couldn't be missed and temptation was great as old and young eagerly sought either a bottle of something strong, a hamper bursting with goodies or a model tractor to be loved. The first punter was awarded with a box of chocolates and a bottle of port to ensure he enjoyed the cricket whilst his wife could spoil herself with the chocolates!



The hall was soon buzzing with conversations and laughter and the queue steadily trickled along as appetites were whetted whilst choices were made. The tea and coffee ladies worked non-stop to keep cups freshly filled whilst the kitchen staff kept churning out scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage, tomatoes, mushrooms, hashbrowns and baked beans. The toast table was a hive of activity with banter about the depth of colour of the end product. Friends greeted one-another and strangers soon found someone to talk to whilst the younger visitors enjoyed playing on the toys supplied by The Toddler Group in the village. The Saturday newspapers were kindly donated and on hand for all to indulge and the tables were enhanced by locally grown flowers.

The B Team arrived on time and smoothly took over their duties albeit cooking the bacon outside, the aroma intended to entice all-comers, or join the row of servers who at one time included junior apprentices one who was gaining experience for his school award.

The washer-up just kept going and going and going through to 11am when the doors closed, but then on again to wash and clear all plates, cutlery pots and pans - whilst some volunteers settled down to snatch a well-earned breakfast themselves before finally leaving the hall spick and span at 12.45pm thrilled that over 250 meals had been enjoyed.

Over 40 helpers were involved in the organising, setting up, running and clearing of this event all with enthusiasm to support St Peter's Hospice and help raise awareness of the work carried out by the Trustees and Staff of Bristol's only adult hospice. People willingly gave of their time, prizes were generously donated, as were monetary gifts which culminated in a total of £2,670 being raised. To everyone who helped and supported there are just two final words - THANK YOU.

Di Heal

## Ponderings of Chairman Pete

So do you think your Parish Council is a joke? Or secretive? I'd love to tell you LOTS of things about your Parish Council, but here I can only tell you some. Anything I say will be meant with good motives for Iron Acton Parish and is hopefully polite and respectful. You have to realise that if I say something that someone else thinks is untrue then I may have to defend myself in a legal case, and some things I can't say because of other legal constraints.

So what do I want to tell you? Well firstly, do you know what your Parish Council is? It's 9 unpaid volunteers 4 from Iron Acton East Ward and 5 from Iron Acton Ward. We are chosen by the voters every 4 years. From amongst ourselves we vote in a Chairman and a Vice Chairman, once a year in May. We are supported by a part-time paid Clerk, who provides us with advice about what is right and wrong, and who carries out all our written work of all kinds.

The current set of Councillors was elected in 2011. When I say elected, that is technically what happened. What actually happened is that 8 adults from around 2,000 voters in the Parish offered themselves as willing to serve as Councillors, so they all got elected unopposed. To cover the remaining vacancy we are allowed to co-opt someone, so Councillor Tillotson was co-opted.

I've said this before, and I will continue to say it - the Parish gets the Councillors it deserves and that includes me. I don't think I'm perfect, and I am sure that others in the Parish could probably do better than me. But have those people offered themselves to the voters? It would be so easy to take the line that approximately 1990 people in Iron Acton Parish have taken and think 'I'll let some other fool do it'. Certainly, every Councillor you currently have is there because they want to serve the public in Iron Acton, and they think that they will do the right thing as each issue arises. The thing is, if you think they are wrong either in deed, motive or rational thought, then you need to let them know. You can do that by engaging with your Councillors, or turning up to meetings and speaking in public participation, or by standing or voting in elections.

Do you know that every Parish Council meeting is open to the public? The only exception is the parts of meetings where on very rare occasions the subject is confidential. Confidential means because of legal constraints, not because the Parish Council feels like it.

From my own perspective as a Councillor, I think it is much better when voters tell me what they think, when they've read the agenda and wish to contribute, when they turn up at the meetings. It doesn't happen very often.

One thing that I am very aware of, and it is in my conscious thought every day, is that at the last two Annual Parish Meetings the voters said clearly to us that they want to see squabbles put behind us and that they want us to get on, without nonsense, on the things that the Parish needs. In my role as Chairman that is what I strive for in all my Parish Council work.

However in my personal opinion it sometimes appears that not every Councillor has really taken that to heart, even though they all say that they have. Ultimately that is for you, the voters, to do your homework on and to decide which of the Councillors you wish to continue to represent and serve you.

Something else I don't think many people are aware of, is can a Councillor be removed or otherwise punished? The short answer is not really. On the one extreme, if someone is in prison they cannot act as a Councillor. At the milder end of the spectrum, if a complaint is made and upheld, the Parish Council can do nothing about any outcome, apart from deciding to not let that Councillor continue on any committees or sub-communities, but it has no effect on the main Parish Council meetings.

There has been some press activity lately about a Councillor who had an adverse finding in a standards investigation. The Parish Council condemned any breach of the Code of Conduct, and that is about as much as we can do. Whenever the Parish Council becomes aware of such breaches, it is likely to make a similar response. But the Parish Council does not always know of such breaches because usually the results are sent to the complainant and the defendant, and the Parish Council doesn't get told that there is even a complaint, much less the result.

On the other hand, the Parish Council doesn't always manage to find smart ways to let people know about the good things it or individual Councillors has done, or why it has made a particular decision - apart from if people are present at meetings, or course. We are hoping to make this better by starting a 'Chairman's Page' on the website soon.

In conclusion, I want to be positive about the Parish Council - particularly I want you to have enjoyed reading this article in Focal Poyntz and for it to provoke some good thought and some good action. I want to see Iron Acton Parish engage with its Parish Council and for the Parish to have a good choice of candidates at the next election in May 2015.

(These are the personal views of Peter Bellis and do not necessarily represent the views of Iron Acton Parish Council).

Peter Bellis  
Parish Councillor and Chairman

## The Actonians

### MACBETH

By William Shakespeare

21-23 November 2013 at 7.30pm

"When shall we three meet again? In thunder, lightning, or in rain?"

The opening lines might well be prophetic: we could indeed have thunder, lightning and rain, outside as well as in, given the time of year!

Our autumn production is that very well-known play by Shakespeare, covering a slice of Scottish history mired in blood, deceit and the pursuit of power. Macbeth has excelled on the battlefield and after meeting the 'weird' sisters on the heath, is told that he will be given the Thane of Cawdor's title and then be 'King hereafter'. No sooner has this meeting taken place, than a messenger arrives with the news that King Duncan has indeed bestowed on him the Thane of Cawdor's land and title.

Sending word to his wife of his good fortune, telling her of the 'weird' sisters' second prophecy and that King Duncan comes to stay that night - Lady Macbeth sees an opportunity to fulfil their destiny. Thus begins the thought of regicide, as the darker side of human nature takes hold of both.

Slowly, we witness the rollercoaster of emotions and ultimate descent into madness of the 'golden couple'. Macbeth and Lady Macbeth will never be heirs to their treachery.

But who can stop them ??????????

Sarah Mahon

## Iron Acton Community Cinema

The IACC held its first meeting of the season on 9th November when we screened two of the original Wallace & Gromit films in the afternoon, (The Wrong Trousers and A Close Shave), in aid of The Grand Appeal for Bristol Children's Hospital.

The films were enthusiastically received by our young audience, and their parents, and a collection in aid of the appeal was well supported.

In the evening we showed the critically acclaimed The Great Gatsby as re-made by Baz Luhrmann which was very much enjoyed. The bar proved popular both before and after the show and everyone enjoyed the community atmosphere.

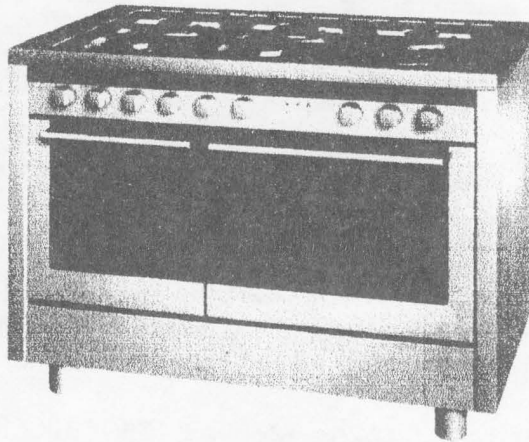
We are grateful to have received sponsorship for this event from The Holly Hill Farm Shop and The Cotswold Spring Brewery.

Our next meeting will be on 14 December and we will be showing one of my favourite Christmas Films "The Polar Express" in the afternoon, whilst the evening show will be "Les Miserables" which is sure to prove popular. Tickets will be on sale for these film from The Lamb around two weeks before the event.

Simon Cross  
01454 228291

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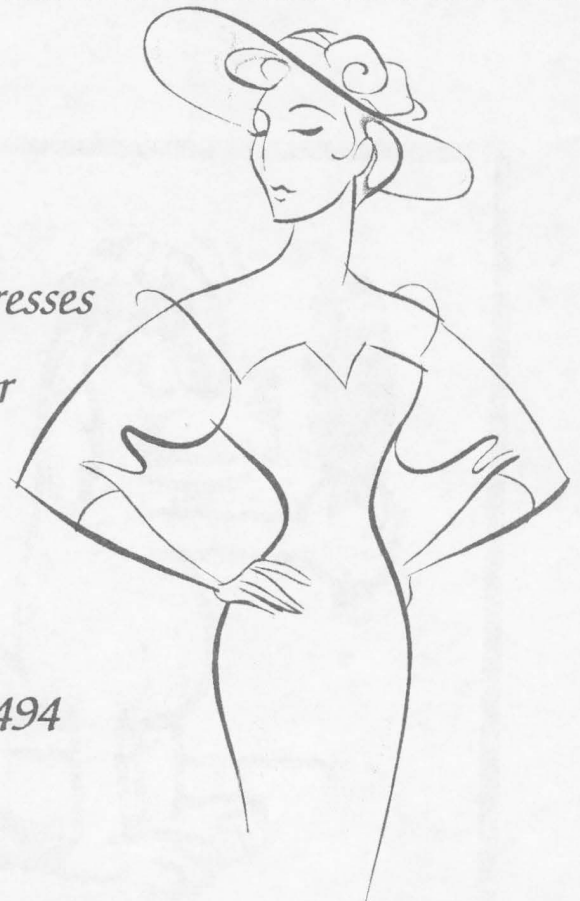
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