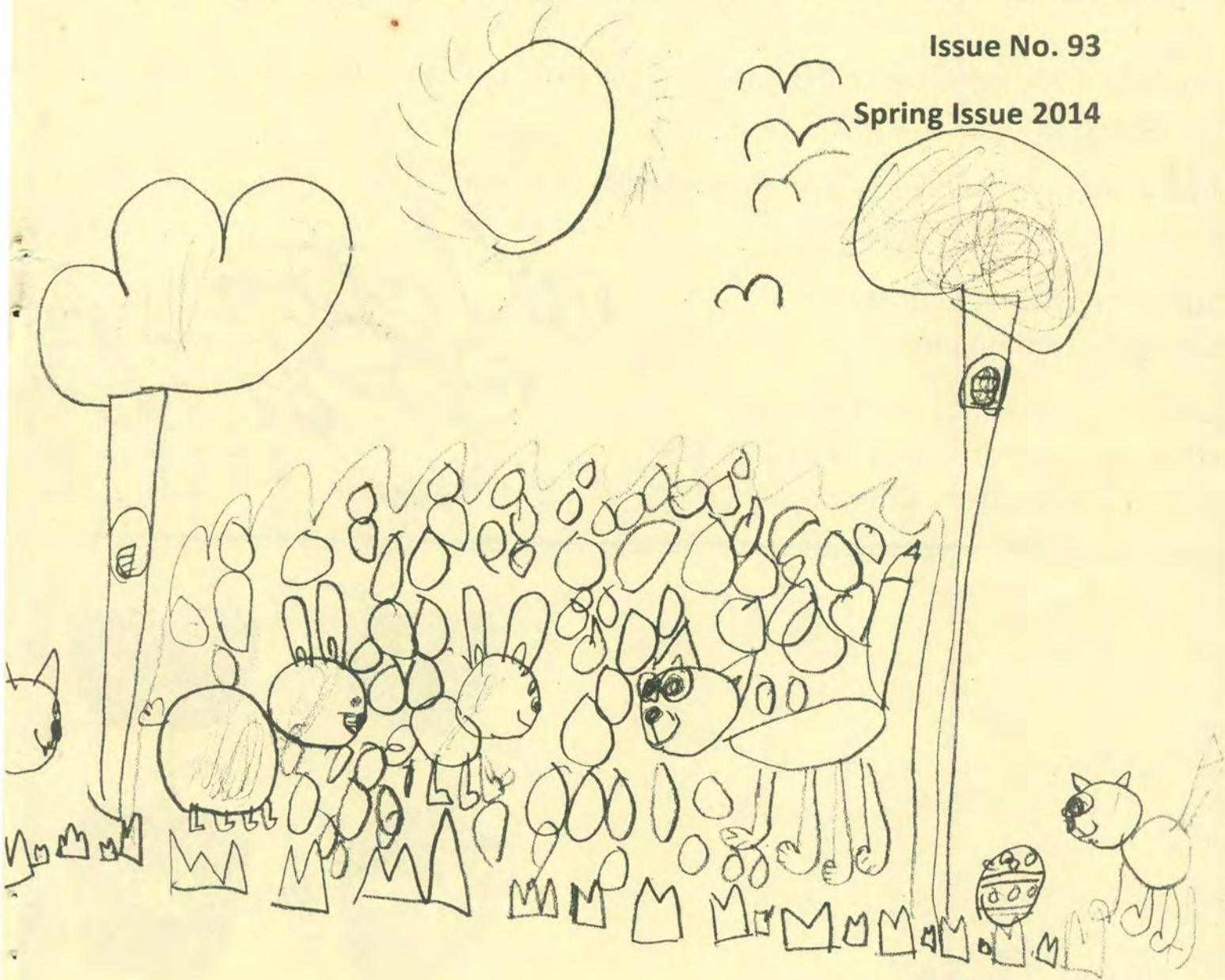


FOCAL POYNTZ

Issue No. 93

Spring Issue 2014



Designed by
Megan from
North Road Primary

A magazine for Iron Acton

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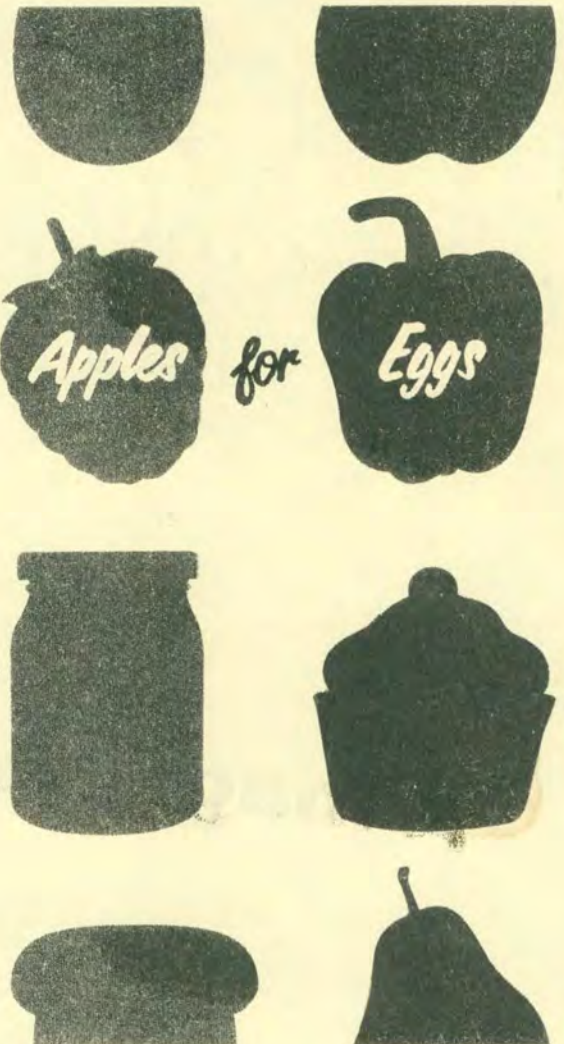
Food Swap

Do you bake, grow, preserve, pickle, brew, gather or otherwise create your own food?

Come along to the Apples for Eggs – Iron Acton Food Swap for a chance to exchange some of your delicacies with other local home producers.

Saturday 29th March 2014 – 12pm – 2pm
Iron Acton Parish Hall, High Street, Iron Acton

For further information or to register to attend see www.applesforeggs.com or email Caroline on caroline@huishs.com





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Come along to the Apples for Eggs – Iron Acton Food Swap for a chance to
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Iron Acton School
Sharon Kellett and Amanda Scott
Catherine Neck
The Smith Family
Laura Walters
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 the pupils of North Road Primary School

NEXT ISSUE

SUMMER 2014

Contribution Deadline Week Ending 6 July

Distribution Week Ending 1 August

Acton Aid is proud to present 2 evenings of great music and entertainment

MASH IN THE MEADOW

Friday 27th June 2014

An evening of Folk, Blues, Rock, Bluegrass, Soul and Funk featuring:
Flash Harry, Lizzie Deane, Slapface and the Hoagies and Trevor Moss and Hannah-Lou.



PROMS IN THE MEADOW

Saturday 28th June 2014



YOUR PRESENCE IS REQUIRED!

Join Bristol Millennium Orchestra, Iron Acton Community Choir, Bristol Pipes & Drums and others in a World War One commemorative themed event.

See <http://www.ironactonvillage.info/> for ticket information for both events

Extracts From My Secret Diaries – King Henry VIII – (1491 : 1991)

Part 1

So my friends and fellow countrymen, you wish to know the ways and adventures of my life – forsooth, I trust ye will not be disappointed.

I was born on 6th June 1491, the second son and third child of Henry VII and Elizabeth of York at Greenwich Palace, London; this has now become the Royal Observatory from where you measure something called Greenwich Mean Time?

My father had emerged victorious from the battlefield of Bosworth in August 1485, so ending the Civil Wars of the Roses – which incidentally included the bloodiest battle in English history, the Battle of Towton, also known as the Bloody Meadow, in which over twenty thousand souls lost their lives.

The legend goes that my father had plucked the Crown of England from a thorn bush after the battle. Richard III was the last English king to die in battle, Ha !!! A just dessert, for this wicked and evil tyrant had been responsible for the murder of two innocent babes – the Princes in the Tower.

My mother, who I had idolised, had married my father in 1486 which had entwined the Houses of York and Lancaster, so bringing into being the Tudor Rose. She was considered the most beautiful woman in Christendom, indeed it is the face that you see pictured as the Queen of Hearts on playing cards, for she was truly the Queen of Hearts for all the charitable good works she had done.

Was named, as tradition dictates of the second son born of the monarch, Duke of York, and my parents decided that my life should be spent in religious study for I was being groomed for the Church.

I received the best of education. Being taught by the notable scholars of the day, Erasmus, John Skelton, Polydore Vergil and Thomas More. By the age of five I was fluent in French, Latin, Greek and Italian. I was showing a penchant for music and considered a great dancer for my age.

I spent the early part of my childhood at Sheen Palace, which would be rebuilt and renamed Richmond Palace after a great fire had destroyed the old building in 1494, with my elder brother Arthur and my sisters Margaret and Mary.

In 1498 my father, Henry VII, implemented a personal bodyguard for himself and stationed them permanently at the Tower of London, they would become known as Beefeaters a tradition that still carries on til this day.

My brother, having been created Prince of Wales, was being groomed to succeed my father and cement our place on the European stage. A great marriage was arranged between him and Katherine of Aragon the daughter of Isabella and Ferdinand of Spain. This took place in November 1501 and I was proud to be the centre of attention at the age of ten when I escorted her down the aisle of St Paul's Cathedral on that great occasion.

Alas, this happy state of affairs did not last. For six months after they married, in March 1502, Arthur died of the sweating sickness at their castle in Ludlow. Eventually it was the events during these six months that were to have such an enormous effect on English and indeed world history.

At the age of thirteen my elder sister Margaret married James the Fourth of Scotland, and in honour of this my father and James signed a treaty called the Treaty of Perpetual Peace, so ending war between our countries. After so many years, Margaret was to become the grandmother of Mary, Queen of Scots, the woman who was to cause my youngest daughter Elizabeth so many problems.

In 1504 I experienced my first heartbreak when my beloved mother died in childbirth. My father was devastated and I was bereft with grief for I had loved her so much.

Between this time and my father's death from tuberculosis in April 1509, I became betrothed to Katherine of Aragon for political expediency and dynastic furtherance. A special dispensation had to be obtained from the Pope as we were within the forbidden degrees of consanguinity. This was obtained, but once again this would lead to cataclysmic uncharted territory of which I will reveal more in due course.

In 1509, at the age of eighteen I was crowned King of England. To describe myself at this age, without meaning to sound too immodest, I was considered the most handsomest prince in Europe. I was a giant among men at six foot two without stocking or shoe, with calves the size of hams. One of my favourite sports was wrestling and I could throw a fully grown man six feet.

One of the first things I did was to behead my father's hated tax collectors – Empson and Dudley. An act which made me very popular with my Subjects.

During my early years growing up at Court, I was introduced to who would become one of the greatest statesman my kingdom has known, Thomas Wolsey.

He was born in Ipswich, Suffolk, the son of a butcher but because of his low birth and jealousy, courtiers called him "The Butcher's Cur". He rose rapidly through the ranks of my father's regime becoming my father's Chief Almoner, and it was because of his shrewdness and huge talent that I asked the Pope to create him a cardinal, this he did in 1510. In fact it was Wolsey that invented the form of address to the monarch of "Your Royal Highness" and "Your Majesty", whereas the King had been addressed previously as "Sire, My Lord or Your Grace", this of course appealed to my ego greatly.

One of the main reasons for my marriage to Katherine was to beget a son and heir for the foundation of my dynasty, but was built on shaky ground. Katherine was quickly pregnant but the child never survived full term and was stillborn. However, joyfully in 1512 a son was born, Henry, when bonfires were lit and bells were rung throughout the land, but after only six weeks he died, we were heartbroken.

After that year my younger sister Mary married the old and very ill King Louis XII of France for political reasons, however before that she wrung a promise from me that when he died she could marry her heart's desire and I agreed. Needless to say, the French being what they are – untrustworthy, the peace between our two countries did not last long and they renewed the old alliance with Scotland.

He !! He !! (continuo) He !! He !!



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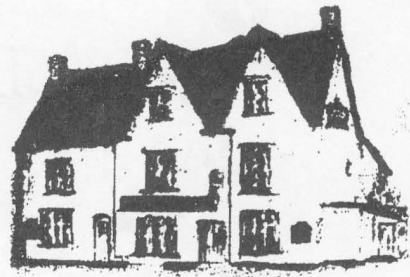
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Iron Acton K9 Club

The last couple of months have been quiet ones for the Dog Club. We enjoyed a lovely Doggy Christmas Party in Rangeworthy Hall and a Christmas meal at the Lamb. Alice and Poppy won the prize for best fancy dress at our Doggy party, well deserved as Alice spent the evening before knitting a hat with antlers for poppy to wear. Those of us who resorted to buying antlers could only admire her creativity.

Dot and Oscar won the "Name the Puppy" competition and the money raised from this, added to that raised by the raffle, meant we could send £112.00 to "Dogs for the Disabled". A very admirable organisation who breed and train dogs to help children and adults with all sorts of disabilities.

Since Christmas, the weather has severely affected our chances to enjoy agility, flyball and dummy retrieves, but we have managed a few opportunities. Lexie, the staffie, continues to think she is a gundog and is gaining in confidence at retrieves along with our labradors and spaniels. We are planning to introduce our own "Agility Competence" awards and hopefully the weather will improve enough for us to test the skills of dogs and handlers as they work together.

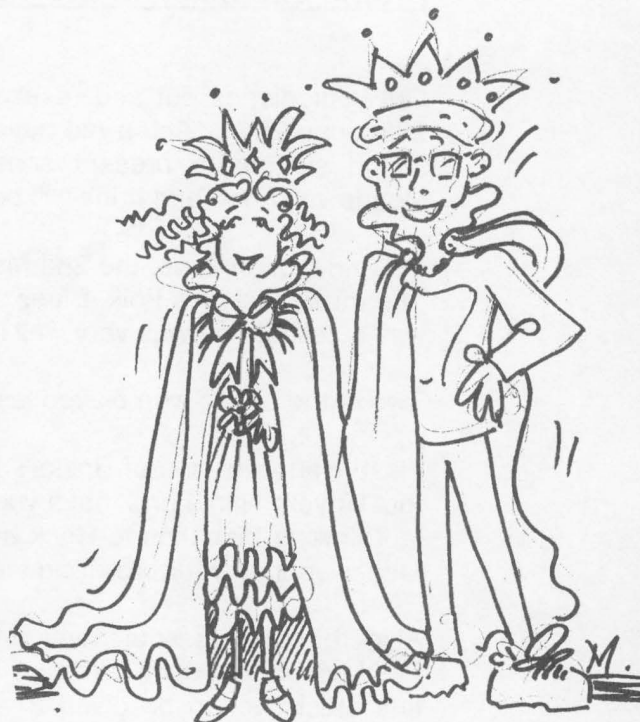
The Monday group continue to meet in Rangeworthy Hall for obedience training. The club has a number of dogs and handlers working towards the silver and gold Kennel Club Good Citizens Awards tests but as both involve outside work we have again been a little restricted by the weather. The silver plus group remains well supported with dogs and handlers enjoying the chance to work and socialise together.

Tummy rubs all round.

Sue Gadsby

May Day

It would be hard to top last year's May Day on the Green! After the disappointing cancellation of 2012 due to the good old English weather, last year's May Day was a tumultuous success. The sun shone all day casting an upbeat hue over everyone and everything it touched. The Green was packed with Stalls, activities, Fair rides, the PlayBus, the ever faithful ActonAid BBQ, the WI Tea Marquee and the Beer Tent (and much much more!). People came from far and wide and everyone soaked up the atmosphere until time was called on the Day.



Now it is time to look forward to the next May Day. On Monday 5th May this year, new and old faces will once again converge on the Village Green. As I write this piece, the May Day Committee 2014 has just had its first meeting and tried and tested (and some new!) preparations are already under way.

The plan as ever is to have a well balanced day of events with Charity run Stalls that don't cost the earth, 'have a go' activities and entertaining ring events such as Iron Acton School's Maypole Dancing. We now just have to hope for another brilliant May Day weather wise and an end to the dismal rain and wind that we are currently witnessing!

Within this edition of Focal Poyntz you will see a letter inviting children of the Parish to step forward as our potential May Queen, May King and Their Entourage. Letters will go out to the local Schools nearer the time but if your child or children would like to be nominated for one of the prestigious roles, do please complete the form and hand the nomination slip into The Lamb Inn care of Tracey Byrne. Children must be between the ages of 7 and 11 years. Names will be drawn around Easter time and formally announced to the Parish via the Noticeboard at the bottom of Iron Acton Primary's School Hill.

For now, if you would like to run a Stall, advertise in the Programme or share your ideas, please do get in touch tracey@byrne.eu.com or anniekinghome@gmail.com

Until then, here's to a lovely May Day celebration.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Annie King

Proms and Mash in the Meadow

Get your diaries out and reserve the evenings of Friday 27th June and Saturday 28th June 2014. Acton Aid have once again arranged for a professional stage and sound system to present some fantastic live music in the Iron Acton Parish Meadows. Food and drink will be on sale at both events.

On Friday 27th June, the 2nd Mash in the Meadows will feature four top music acts. The music includes Folk, Blues, Rock, Soul, Funk and Bluegrass. Last year's Mash was a sellout and was very well received by the audience.

Two of the bands who played last year are returning by popular demand.

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.

Also returning is soul, funk and blues singing sensation Lizzie Deane and her fabulous band 'Soul Source'. Lizzie regularly receives fantastic reviews. She is the first artist ever to be given a weekly residency at Jools Holland's London venue, Boisdale of Canary Wharf.

Lizzie has a deeply soulful voice that emulates the sweet melodic and raw, belting gospel vocals associated with the classic divas. Her warm, infectious persona and captivating performance style draws comparisons to the likes of Aretha Franklin, Dusty Springfield, Amy Winehouse, Janis Joplin, Lisa Stansfield and Joss Stone.

She has performed and toured with many highly-acclaimed artists on stage, TV and radio.

We have also signed **Slapface and the Hoagies** who are a four-piece band featuring vocals, harmonica, snare, guitars, dobro, double bass and banjo. They will be playing a mix of skiffle, bluegrass, country and rockin' hillbilly. They are well known for playing great music intermingled with good humour and banter.

Completing the line up we have husband and wife folk duo, **Trevor Moss & Hannah-Lou**. They write most of their own material and sing wonderful haunting harmonies. This November they released their third album in consecutive years *La Ferme De Fontenaille*. They have previously played at Glastonbury and last year completed a nationwide tour supporting Ade Edmondson's Bad Sheppards.

You can sample the music from the bands' web sites

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

<http://www.lizziedeane.com>

<http://www.slapfaceandthehoagies.com/listen/>

<http://www.trevormossandhannahlou.com/#/albumslyrics/4567850989>

On Saturday 28th June Acton Aid are presenting the Proms in the Meadow - an evening commemorating World War One and recognizing all those in the village who have served in the armed forces since. Military themed music and entertainment will be included along with music from the era.

The event will feature the Bristol Millennium Orchestra, Iron Acton Community Choir, Bristol Pipes & Drums and other local performers.

This will be followed by our traditional Proms finale and a fantastic fireworks display. To recognize all those who have served or are serving we are asking them to contact Peter Huish on peter@huishs.com or 228861 to discuss.

As usual, bring your picnics, gazebos and of course your union jacks.

Both events sold out last year so please make sure you buy your tickets well in advance See <http://www.ironactonvillage.info/> for ticket information

North Road County Primary School

We are already half way through the school year and so much has happened and so much more to do and fit in. No wonder time flies at North Road!

We are already looking ahead to the new National Curriculum being launched in September. We know the DfE would like all KS1 children to know more about nature and the changes in the seasons.

We have been very lucky that a local resident, Mr Roy Bishop a retired wood work teacher, has asked to support us in providing this extra curriculum. He has lots of links with the local woodland council department and has managed to secure our school some funding to allow us to deliver this topic. Mr Bishop and the woodland department have come to school to show the children samples of real wood as well as showing them ways to identify trees. They have all gone to Ridge Wood to collect seeds as well as having a go at identifying trees and then finally they planted their seeds in the hope we will have our own wood one day.

We love going on school trips to enhance our topics in school.

Jupiter class had a great Victorian day which included a trip to Yate Heritage Centre where they experienced life as a Victorian child. This was followed by a Victorian afternoon tea - Victoria sponge and tea in bone china cups and saucers. Mr Jenkins even taught them a Victorian dance in PE! They all looked great in their Victorian costumes.

Mars Class enjoyed their trip to Castell Coch in Wales. You may have noticed that the outdoor area at the front of school has also been made into a castle. The children had great fun dressing up as knights and guarding their castle; I believe some children have even been thrown into the dungeon!

Neptune had a great time at the Bristol museum looking at the Egyptian artefacts. They had produced some great writing and enjoyed making clay tombs. This term the children are learning about holidays, starry nights, games we used to play and the highwayman.

Eight Year 5 and 6 pupils took part in the Yate International maths challenge. Our school entered two teams and each team undertook a series of maths challenges. Both teams did extremely well and out of the 16 teams we came 5th and 7th! Congratulations to Martha, Owen, Lewis D, Jasmine, Sam, Paige, George T and Kayleigh.

On 9th January. Dr Tom Robson a leading educationalist and Government adviser visited the school to talk about learning, problem solving and learning powers.

He visited every class and talked about his learning gems and how they helped the children learn and how the gems effected the children's brains. The idea was to build the children's resilience and encourage them to take responsibility for their learning.

Tom focused on Diamond Power which encouraged the children to be responsible for their actions and solve their own problems. If they managed to do this they stole the adults diamond power and sparkled brighter than anyone else. Each class then identified a problem they wanted to solve and created a Diamond Charter that they are now working on. It has been brilliant to see the children

working around school identifying and solving their own problems. It has had a great effect. The other gem powers we looked at were:

Ruby Power-which involves children supporting each other and gaining Ruby power.
Emerald Power-which involves sticking at tricky and difficult things.

You may be aware that we have a new National Curriculum in September and Tom, who is a former teacher who is passionate about science, has advised the Government on the new science curriculum. After working with the children he spent time with staff looking at science and how we can develop our teaching further to ensure we are developing scientists of the future!

The start of 2014 saw the start of our fitness campaign. Miss Hobbs organised Zumba for parents, circuit training for parents and children, daily wake and shake for the children and finally a family swim session at Yate leisure centre. On February 14th we had a sponsored skipathon for the British Heart Foundation. We raised over £600 and are looking forward to donating the cheque to the charity soon.

Some of the KS2 children have taken part in a South Glos cross country tournament which ended on Saturday. Miss Hobbs, Martha, Thomas M, Kayleigh, Harry, Alfie, Kaighn, Owen and Ethan and their parents have been to KLB school every few weeks to take part, and points over the weeks have been added together. Martha came 7th overall and Kayleigh 10th so both received a medal- well done girls! The children have all increased their positions over the weeks and have all done extremely well. Well done to Miss Hobbs who came 10th in the adults' race on Saturday. The children will be taking part in the Colston School cross country race in March where we are hoping for more success!



In the forth coming weeks we have World Book Day, where this year we have a rabbit theme! Our sport relief circuit event, a talent show and a whole school trip which finishes with year 5 and 6 sleeping over in tents!

Our website has photos of all our events which you are more than welcome to look at.

Date for your diary-on Friday 26th September we will be hosting our annual McMillan coffee morning in the school hall. You are all invited to come and have a cuppa and a slice of cake for a donation which goes to a very worthy charity. We even have the old log books from the school for you to reminisce over.

Jo Williams
Head Teacher
North Road Community Primary

Friday's Craft Group



The idea of starting a craft group has been forming over the last couple of years and this winter seemed the perfect time to start. So I had a chat to a couple of friends, Christine and Jill, who seemed interested in joining me to get the group started.

It was the very beginning of January, it was damp and dark and I decided to get the ball rolling. I had made a decision which day I was free and the other two friends were available, I then rang Meryl to see what the availability of the committee room was like, and then everything just fell into place!!

We are a group of like minded people who either have skills they want to share, skills that are a bit rusty and need refreshing or want to acquire new skills. For instance at the moment Christine is running a six week knitting course. Current activities include knitting, sewing, patchwork, crewel, tapestry and any other projects that members have had stashed away in the cupboard gathering dust for years!

I would like to thank both Christine and Jill for their help and support. And give a very big thank you to all the members of the craft group who turn up weeks by week and make the group such a success.

So if this sounds interesting, why don't you come along and join us on a Friday afternoon, in the committee room in the Parish Hall, 1.30 - 3.30pm, there's no joining fee it's just £2 per session plus 50p for a cuppa.

Contact June on 01454 228760 for more information.

Iron Acton Community Cinema

As many of you may have heard, after a very successful January meeting, the IACC has gone into hibernation until the next season starting in October this year.

Under our current arrangements, our overheads have been in excess of £450 for each event and we have struggled to make ends meet. With our current pricing structure we need to attract audiences of around 50 for both shows to break even, which has proved extremely difficult.

We have researched alternative solutions for future events to reduce costs and will proceed on the following basis.

- We are aiming to purchase our own equipment to show the films (a projector, screen and sound system). This means we will not need to hire projection equipment from the British Federation of Film Societies (BFFS). We have recently submitted a bid for grant funding to assist with this.
- We can then apply for an annual "Umbrella" Licence, which will cover the showing of all films in the Parish Hall at a much lower cost.

This will greatly reduce our overheads but the licence imposes certain conditions:

- We will not be able to advertise films in any public media (posters etc).
- We will not be able to charge admission to shows.

To make this work financially we will invite any adult supporters to become members which will entitle them to free entry to the evening showings and we may be able to offer free admission to the children's' afternoon shows.

We have six dates booked in for next season which are all Saturdays on 4 October, 1 November, 6 December, 10 January (2015), 7 February and 7 March and the proposed annual subscription membership will £25.

We hope to be able to arrange temporary memberships for a suitable suggested donation, which will allow visitors and guests to attend.

Another benefit of membership is that we will ask members to vote on which films they would like us to show so you will be able to determine the programme.

Owing to the restrictions on publicity imposed under the proposed licence, e-mail will become the primary method for communicating information about the IACC so, even if you are only slightly interested, please ensure we have your e-mail address by sending me an e-mail to simon@laburnumhouse.fsnet.co.uk. We will then be able to keep you informed of developments and send you a membership application later in the year.

The community has so far demonstrated great support for the IACC and we feel sure that the proposed financial strategy will prove much more sustainable and allow us to continue to run events for many years to come.

Simon Cross
228291



North Road Ladies Club

We had a very good attendance for our first meeting of the year and our membership continues to thrive.

Members have decided that our Charity for 2014 will be the Alzheimer's Society. For a fundraising event Yate Football Club have kindly given us permission to hold a Summer Fete in their premises on Saturday, 7 June 2 - 4.30pm, so please put this date in your diary and come along to give your support to this Charity.

Richard Cornock of Tytherington was our speaker in January and gave a very entertaining talk about "A Year on a Dairy Farm." This was illustrated by some lovely slides and he also explained how he had become a writer on farm life.

In February, Margaret Giess brought along a large variety of hats, with a story to each hat. The selection of hats ranged from the late 1800s to the present day and included a Railway Stationmaster's hat (one for every day and one for greeting nobility), a really heavy Fireman's Helmet, a top hat with its small cleaning cushion and a beautifully made Salvation Army lady's bonnet. One of our members had brought along her own hat and bravely stood up to tell the tale behind her hat. Margaret also informed us that many years ago Frampton Cotterell and Watley's End were home to many hat making industries and several hatters' cottages can still be found in the area.

Our March meeting will be Handbell Ringers and Anecdotes.

We hold our meeting in Iron Acton Parish Hall, usually on the first Monday of the month at 7.30pm and new members are always most welcome.

June Ryecroft
Club Secretary

THE ACTONIANS next production is

CANTERBURY TALES made modern

By Phil Woods

5-17 May 2014

7.30 pm - Tickets £10

Book at: www.actonians.co.uk or Call: 07807 547 238

Calling all pilgrims en route to Canterbury, come rest your weary bones; eat, drink and be entertained at your medieval hostelry (Iron Acton Parish Hall, to you and me). The hall will be decked out as a medieval banqueting hall with extraordinary "tapestries". Food (ploughman's platter) will be served half way through the evening, with the bar flowing throughout. We have a magician to entertain you before the evening begins and also during the meal.

We shall be performing five of the Canterbury Tales in modern English, so no translation equipment will be necessary (and you'll finally be able to say you really know them!). All the tales promise to raise much laughter and our Juniors will be retelling one of them.

Ever willing to take on new ideas, and following on from the success of 'X factor' and 'Strictly', the evening will take the form of a tale-telling competition and your enthusiastic applause will register on the 'clapometer' to decide the winner.

As there is much innuendo (and some cross dressing), it may not be suitable for the very young or terribly sensitive. On the other hand, it will be totally suitable for most of you!

Rest assured, however, that as director I have chosen the least salacious, yet those I consider the funniest tales to entertain all our pilgrims: as dearly departed Kenny would have said, it will all be done in the "best possible taste"!

This production comes hot on the heels of our ROSE BOWL AWARD for best dramatic production for 'THE 39 STEPS' and recent nomination from NODA for Best Production for 'Out of Order'. (As the next director, I have a lot to live up to - no pressure then!)

Iron Acton Parish Council

Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on May 8th in Iron Acton Parish Hall commencing at 7.30pm. All parishioners are invited.

Parish Meadow

Since the autumn issue we have had some dangerous and unsuitable trees felled around the meadows, the timber from which has been sold to local parishioners.

We have removed a willow tree which was growing in the stream which seems to have solved the flooding problems experience in the past. Even with recent torrential storms no problems have been reported.

Looking to the future, the committee are contemplating ways to provide recreational equipment for use by the 10-16 year old age group. With this idea in mind we invite young parishioners (and interested parents) to a discussion forum to be held in The Parish Hall on Saturday 26th April at 2.30. This will be an opportunity for ideas and comments to be brought to members of the council for consideration.

If you are interested in future facility developments in The Parish Meadow - PLEASE COME ALONG.

Allotments

The Allotment Association continues to flourish, despite the recent wet and windy weather. We have (nearly) built ourselves an allotment shed at Nibley Lane and have acquired a few items of garden machinery to help keep the communal areas neat and tidy.

Through our association with the National Allotment Society, several members were able to buy seeds and potatoes from Kings Seeds at very reasonable prices.

All we need now is some decent weather so we can start planting for the new season. There is currently one vacant plot and, whilst there is a long waiting list, parishioners have priority and so if you are keen to get digging, please contact the Clerk, Donna Beal.

Dog Warden

Iron Acton Parish Council has recently been approached by adjoining Parishes with the view to employing a dog warden. The general thoughts and idea so far is that neighbouring parishes would employ a dog warden to work between the parishes and therefore share the cost of employment.

We would really like to know your thoughts and views on this and any comments and input would be greatly received. Please feel free to contact the clerk or Councillors with your views.

Big Spring Clean

The Parish Council has signed up for the big spring clean 2014 along with various other groups/ organisations within the Parish. Communities from all over South Gloucestershire will all come together to take part in the scheme.

The scheduled date is WC 7th April 2014. If you would like to be involved and take part please contact the clerk for further details.

Donna Beal
Clerk - Iron Acton Parish Council
Tel:- 01454 501134
Email:- ironactonparishcouncil@hotmail.com
Web Site:- www.ironactonparishcouncil.com



Acton Aid

Acton Aid finished its 40th anniversary year by delivering Christmas parcels to the elderly across the Parish. This rounded off a busy year during which Acton Aid organised numerous fund raising events, assisted local projects and donated funds to various good causes.

Our one-off financial donations this year included:

- £450 to allow local children to enjoy music and dancing lessons
- £250 to purchase polo shirts for Iron Acton Community Choir
- £750 to purchase materials used to improve the facilities in the children's play area of the Parish meadows
- £400 to help establish the community cinema

£400 to fund equipment and help Iron Acton School set-up an after school photography club

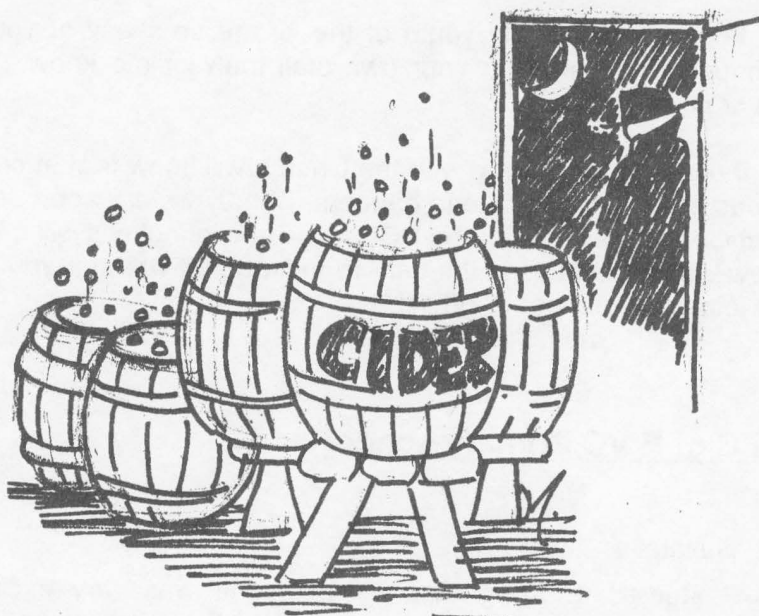
£180 to fund childcare facilities at the New Years Eve party

£1060 to fund Christmas parcels

The New Year saw an Acton Aid working party repaint the school hall one Saturday morning and in during February members enjoyed the annual Chairman's Dinner and conducted the AGM, where Robert Pardoe took the reins as our new Chairman.

Planning for the year ahead continues. Mash & Proms in the Meadow are now confirmed to take place on Friday 27th & Saturday 28th June respectively. We have great line-ups booked for both events. Remember we will be marking the centenary of the start of World War 1 at 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.

Other intended events include the Beer Festival in September (look out for our own Cider which is bubbling away nicely in our secret location) and Bonfire Night in November. We'll also be manning the BBQ at May Day again.



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.

Don't forget 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 Mash & Proms. 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, Robert Pardoe on 228277 or the Secretary, Jason Haselhan on 228791, in confidence.

Jason Haselhan,
Secretary Acton Aid

St James the Less Church

Now all the tinsel is packed away and there's not a mince pie in sight our thoughts turn to Spring with the promise of good things to come. A break in the rain would be welcome for some and for many the prospect of trying to tackle new challenges is key.

The PCC ever keen to provide the support the community requires has planned a series of events for the year which we hope will provide fun and enjoyment as well as raising funds. Keep a sharp look out for the adverts as they appear and don't be afraid to ask if you need any more information.

Looking forward to the plan is to hold the Summer Fete in the Parish Hall and grounds in July. As with the Christmas Fayre we hope to achieve a blend of traditional and new attractions so that it is something that a wide range of people can enjoy. If you would like to help or have an idea that you think would be good to try then please let us know. There will be an opportunity for a select number of local traders so please get in touch if you wish to secure a pitch. Booking forms are now available.

We are very keen to involve the youth of the village so if any of you want to get involved perhaps design and run your own stall then let me know. Perhaps you have a game or craft idea.

Just to finish those of you involved with the Church will know that at certain times of the year various official things have to happen. Shortly we are approaching the time for the Annual General Meeting of the PCC. The official notices will begin to appear in the next few weeks and this is the time to think about whether you could commit some time to join as a member or officer.

Iron Acton C of E VC Primary school

World War 2 by Natalia

In PE class 2 studied a Swing dance. Everyone was very excited when we performed it to parents and the rest of the school. Everyone dressed up in World War 2 clothes which they brought from home. Some people made them and other people bought them. Later on in the day a lady came from Yate Heritage and talked about local life in World War 2. Everyone had a great time that day.

Class 2 trips Natalia and Leilani

We did a topic on Fair trade, learning how spend money wisely. We went to Parker's Aquatic centre and Holly Farm to find out how to buy animals and look after them. Mr Sandy and Mr Parker told us that they treat living things well and look after them properly.

Class 2 went to Folly Farm as part of their habitat topic. We were given the name of an animal or plant and told what they ate, and what they needed to live. We had to find the right habitats: woodlands, marsh, and meadow. We also built minibeast houses.

Athletics Festival by Leah

In November a team of year 5/6 pupils went to the athletics festival at Yate International School.

Mr Griggs and Mrs Jones taught us lots of different skills. We did lots of different activities such as long jump, speed bounce and bouncing balls. I was best at long jump. It was very busy and noisy but a lot of fun.



Lower Woods by Olivia

Class 3 went to Lower woods for Science. It was really nice and peaceful in the woods. We split in two groups. People with Mr Kemp measured the number of leaves on a tree. Margaret Westmoor's group made pictures from natural materials (mud, sticks, leaves, flowers and berries). We made faces, rainbows and patterns. Then the groups swapped over

Annual Clifton Carol Service

In December Class 3 joined other South Gloucestershire school at Clifton Cathedral. We went on a coach. It was fantastic. Alfie and Leah dressed up as shepherds. Each school made a sheep to take. Alfie made one which looked like Grommit. As we entered we put it on the fake grass. We sat in a huge church to watch all the schools rehearsal and then we did the real thing. We saw Mr Rogers our brass teacher playing in an orchestra.

Lilly

Clifton Cathedral is a very beautiful building. The roof has triangle bits and there is beautiful stained glass. When we went to Clifton Cathedral we sang "Once in Royal David's city". The soloists for "Sing" and "Once in Royal David's city" were amazing. Then we watched the other schools rehearsing. After that the shepherds put their sheep into the little entrance. Then we sat down and watched the play. Mr Rogers (our brass teacher) played with another school, and then he played with the South Gloucestershire Orchestra. Normally when you see a Nativity play the donkey is not real. Not here! There was a real donkey called GiGi. There was also a real baby for Jesus; it was really Mr Roger's baby girl. His other daughter was an angel and his wife was Mary. We went home on the coach. I really enjoyed myself at Clifton and can't wait to go again next year.

Year 5 went to the Advent adventure organised by Regenerate. We went into the hall and were put into groups with an adult. The first group was the desert with the wise men. The second was people who live on the streets; the third one was keeping secrets. Then we had to write a note about our mums. Then we smelt the myrrh and frankincense candle and we felt a piece of gold (not real gold of course). At the end we all sang "Away in a Manger"

The Grumpy Innkeeper by Poppy Orchard

The whole school watched puppet show by Open air campaigners. It was very funny and told us the actual Nativity story.

Christingle Service by Ellie

Members of the church came into school to make Christingles with every child. We had to help the younger ones - I had to help the whole of my table! We all had an orange, a candle, red tape some marshmallows and raisins. The hardest bit was putting the candle into the orange.

On Sunday 8th December twenty pupils sang at the Christingle Service at St James the Less Church. We saw a Power Point about Christingles. We sang "It was on a starry night". When the lights went out it felt scary because you did not know what was going to happen.

Jill Bendeaux

St James the Less Toddler Group

We had a fun filled December at The Toddler Group with a visit from Inspiration Ceramic Art Workshop where the toddlers painted a decoration to hang on their Christmas tree and the younger ones made hand prints on baubles. At our Christmas Party we made festive table decorations, had a visit from Father Christmas and entertainment from Sarah at Jazzy Jamboree followed by lovely party food made by all the mums.

Special thanks to Natalie for the festive shaped sandwiches! Our Christmas party was funded by the profit we made on our Secret Santa for Mums and Dads stall at the Church Christmas Fayre so we would like to say a big thank you to everyone who donated such lovely gifts and supported us on the day.

We had a great start to the New Year as our first day back coincided with Nora's 1st Birthday so we celebrated with birthday songs from Lisa H and a yummy cake made by Nora's mummy!

We are looking forward to Jazzy Jamboree joining us again on 28th March and we will have an Easter Egg Hunt in the churchyard on 4th April.

Finally, we would like to say how pleased we are to be able to make a donation to Iron Acton C of E in order to help towards improvements to the outside area of Class 1. We think this is a good cause for us to support as most of the children who come to the Toddler Group go on to join the school. This will be made from our share of the profits received from last year's May Day and we are happy to be supporting the committee again this year.

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

Katie and Ann

Iron Acton Women's Institute

2013 ended on the usual high note. The birthday party meal at The Globe in Frampton Cotterell was voted a success and the Christmas party in the Parish Hall in December was well attended and a lovely end to a busy year.

It looked as if we were at last about to fulfil our skittles tournament potential. OK, so we had a bye in the first round, taking us into the second round for the first time ever but now was our time to shine wasn't it? Alas no, yet again we were trounced by Chipping Sodbury. We probably enjoy ourselves too much and don't have the killer instinct. If anyone has any motivation ideas, do let us know for this year's tournament. Third round here we come!

In recognition of the many hats, scarves and gloves knitted, Liz Flay was presented with a certificate by the "Samaritan's Purse" charity. Operation Christmas Child send shoe boxes filled with gifts to needy children all over the world. Liz has also helped with the packing and dispatch of the boxes and is deserving of the award.

The group received a lovely thank you card from the Water Aid charity for the donation made of £60.00. This sum was generated by the members who opted to donate money rather than exchange Christmas cards. Even this relatively small amount will apparently provide safe water, hygiene education and sanitation for life for a family of four.

Our first speaker of 2014 was Jane Turner, Community Fund Raiser for the Avon Riding Centre for the Disabled. This began over 30 years ago, initially to help polio sufferers but gradually people with many different disabilities, both physical and mental and of all ages were included. The Centre, which is set in over 100 acres of woodland and fields, caters for over 250 riders. The benefits of riding have been known to professionals over the years and Jane described how she had seen many people become more confident, socially interactive and feel physically better after lessons. A team of over 150 volunteers are on hand to help manage the riding lessons, for maintenance and office work and as it costs around £300,000 per year to run the Centre, fund raising events are held throughout the year. Jane conveyed her enthusiasm for this very worthwhile scheme and was thanked for a very informative and enjoyable talk. A donation was made to the Centre.

We also had a practical demonstration on bead bracelet making from a local WI colleague, Kathryn Smeaton. Kathryn showed us some of the many bracelets she had made and explained the various techniques used to craft them. We were then let loose to create our own bracelet using memory wire. It made for a very enjoyable and social evening.



We are looking forward to our next speaker on training animals for films and TV and later on the topic is "Guide Dogs and More". Outings are already planned for the warmer months when hopefully it will have stopped raining!

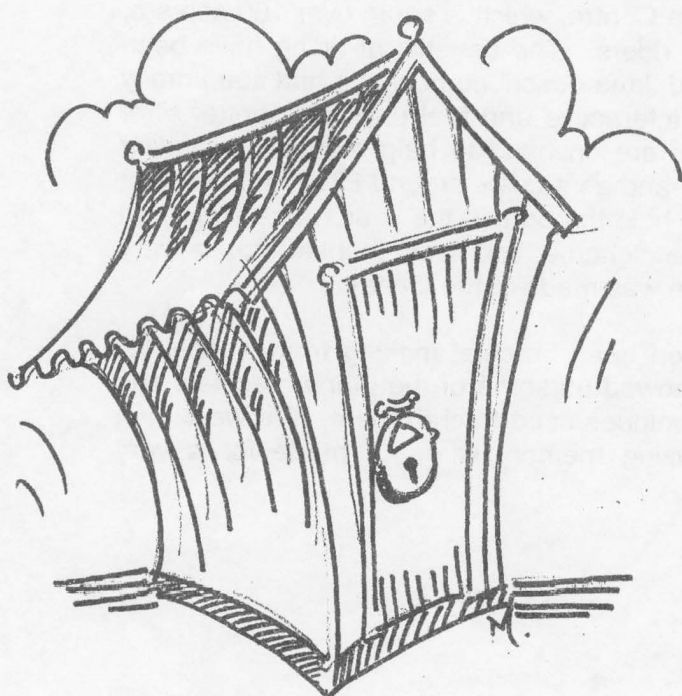
Our Secretary, Stella Taylor, can be contacted on 01454 228417 for more information on our activities and our meetings which are held in the Parish Hall on the second Monday of the month.

Sylvie Powell

Friends of Iron Acton School

Last Christmas and New Year seem eons away as I write this piece for FP but what a busy time November and December were for us. With Harvest Festival under our belts and a decent amount of money raised for the Schoolchildren's chosen Charities, we then set our sights on the Christmas Fair and Christmas Disco. For the first time in yonks, we benefited from some amazing new craft activities at the Fair thanks to the visions and commitment of Bev Jones, Karen Parker and Polly Ellwood and we had some brilliant new activity stalls thanks to the brain of Rachel Frise. All in a scented atmosphere of mulled wine and mince pies which really got everyone in the Christmas spirit. Friends would like to thank everyone who made the Christmas Fair possible and a huge thanks goes to those who attended and supported our efforts. We are indebted as always to Father Christmas for taking time out of his busy schedule to visit our small School. Without him the Fair would simply not be complete.

The very last day of term the Christmas Disco took place. Not one ticket was sold before the event and we feared that no one would attend! To our astonishment and pleasure, the Disco was the best attended Disco yet. With the brilliant turnout, everyone danced fabulously to DJ Noel and his 'happening' tunes. DJ Noel will be returning in July for the Year 6 Prom so get your Prom Gear ready kids for this wonderful event in the School Social Calendar (Saturday 19th July).



During the Christmas Holidays, Karen Parker organised the much needed creation of a 'Friends Shed'. Whilst this might sound rather mundane for those of you not involved with the School, this is very exciting for us. We now, after many years of storing things in each others' homes and around the School, have a fully functional, secure storage facility for all our materials. A massive thank you goes to Karen for arranging all this.

Karen hopes to organise an Art Project for the Schoolchildren whereby the Shed will be painted and decorated with an exciting mural. We look forward to the fruition of this in due course.

The commencement of 2014 has brought a slightly calmer term for Friends as we gear ourselves up for events later in the year. A recent exciting activity planned solely for the Schoolchildren has been the Theatre Workshop organised by Sonya Grubb. Here is Sonya's write up of the event.

"On Thursday 6th February we invited Angel Heart Theatre to bring their show "Oshima and the Big Sea" to the Parish Hall for all the School to see. It was quite a sight the whole School going crocodile file down the High Street and everyone was really excited. The 2 Actors, with the help of about 30 puppets of all shapes and sizes, told the children a magical tale of underwater adventure set in Japan. The children sat mesmerized during the show and after, had the chance to ask really interesting questions of the actors."

A big thank you goes to Sonya for organising the Workshop. The schoolchildren benefited hugely from the experience and have been talking about it ever since. Thanks to all those parents who attended the Workshop with their pre-school children. We hope they also enjoyed the experience.

We have a fairly busy calendar for the upcoming months. On Friday March 7th we will be holding an eagerly anticipated Quiz Night in the Parish Hall. Everyone attached to the School and all Parishioners are welcome. Entrance fee is £2.50. There will be a licensed bar and a cash prize will be awarded. The Quiz itself will be run by the Quiz Master who heralds regularly at The Lamb Inn on a Monday night. So, get your thinking caps on (or not for some of us!) and come along.

Towards the end of March (Thursday 20th), Friends will be holding its annual AGM. This is where we discuss the events of the past year, ruminate over upcoming activities and invite new members to the scene. This year we would like to stress how important it is that parents and carers attached to the School join us. There is absolutely no pressure to come to every meeting and no pressure to do anything. All we ask for is a willingness to share ideas, an enthusiasm to help at events where possible and a keenness to socialise. Our meetings are very relaxed, often in the Public House environment and many a laughter can be heard from our table.

As the School Term creeps closer to Easter, Friends will be holding its annual Easter Egg Hunt in the grounds of the School. This is a really fun event for the children. In Teams, they will search the grounds for clues that make up an Easter word. When they work out the word, they will each get an Easter Egg to take home. A really nice way to end the Term. This year, Friends will be holding a Big Bake Sale after the Hunt. The children will be encouraged to bake at home and to sell their wares. Last term the children baked a huge amount of cakes and biscuits for the Wallace and Gromit Big Bake, raising money for the Grand Appeal. We are hoping to repeat the success of this event and to plough the monies raised back into the School for the benefit of the children.

And we cannot forget to mention the upcoming May Day. On Monday 5th May, May Day on the Green will take place once again. Friends of the School will be holding its customary Tombola and Sweets Stall so do come and support us. Some of the Schoolchildren will also be performing their Maypole Dancing. Hopefully this year there will be fantastic weather, a great turn out and no hitches with the music! Do come and watch the dancing. Every year the children practice so hard and they do so well. It is lovely to watch.

During the Summer months Friends will be holding their Summer Fair. The date for this is to be confirmed. Do keep a watch out for posters around the village and come along if you can. Our Fairs and Social Evenings are open to all Parishioners and it would be lovely to see more people attending and enjoying our efforts.

If you have any queries about any of our events/activities and/or would like to know more and join us, do please get in touch via email.anniekinghome@gmail.com. We would love to hear from you.

Annie King
Friends of Iron Acton School Secretary

Iron Acton Community Choir

The Choir moves on. We are now preparing for The Proms in the Meadow, where we have been invited to sing within the main Bristol Millennium Orchestra (Saturday 28th June). As part of the centenary commemorations for the start of WW1 we will be singing some "Trench tunes" and there will be a couple of additional items as well of which more details will emerge nearer the time. Hopefully some or more of you will feel able to come along...it should be a good evening.

We will also hope to add to our Christmas Repertoire later on in the year. 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 leader 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 51 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, 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 robpardo@gmail.com...and if spaces become available we can take it from there.

Robert Pardoe:
Iron Acton Community Choir Leader

Iron Acton Horticultural Show

Well, the weather hasn't exactly been very favourable since Christmas! Nothing but wind and rain which is not quite the right conditions to be preparing your allotment or vegetable garden for this year's growing season. Perhaps a more comfortable pastime would be thumbing through those seed catalogues drinking a nice cup of tea and keeping warm?

So while this awful weather persists, Iron Acton Horticultural Show is pleased to be able to present the classes for the 2014 Show on Saturday 6th September. One important change we have made to the Schedule this year is that the Rudman Cup is now open to all children up to and including 17 years old.

The full schedule is available on the village web site, together with the Rich Sticky Gingerbread recipe, The Little Nut-Tree Poem, instructions for the Cress Egg Head and various tips on how to choose and display your entry.

General Section

1. Collection of Vegetables
2. Collection of Salads
3. Collection of Fruits
4. Collection of Gourds, Squash & Pumpkins
5. Collection of Root Vegetables
6. 4 Potatoes (any 1 variety)
7. 3 Carrots (long, tops trimmed to 3 inches)
8. 3 Carrots (short)
9. Most Amusing Looking Vegetable
10. 3 Onions (from seed, trimmed)
11. 3 Onions (from sets, trimmed)
12. 6 Shallots
13. 6 Runner Beans
14. 6 French Beans
15. The Longest Runner Bean
16. 2 Peppers (sweet or chilli)
17. 2 Cabbages (any 1 variety)
18. Heaviest Marrow
19. 3 Courgettes
20. 2 Cucumbers (frame or greenhouse)
21. 6 Cherry Tomatoes (on the vine)
22. 6 Tomatoes
23. 3 Parsnips
24. 3 Beetroot
25. 4 Apples (dessert)
26. 4 Apples (culinary)
27. 4 Pears (dessert)
28. 4 Plums (dessert)
29. 4 Plums (culinary)
30. 3 Spikes Gladiolus (any variety)
31. 1 Specimen Rose (named)
32. 3 Reflexed Chrysanthemums
33. 3 Incurved Chrysanthemums
34. 6 Dahlias (not over 2½")
35. 3 Blooms Hydrangeas (any variety)
36. 6 Sweet Peas
37. Tied Bunch of Herbs (out of water)
38. Vase – "Cottage Garden Collection"
39. Shrubs (1 vase 3 different kinds, need not be in flower, overall width not to exceed 18 inches)
40. Best Pot House Plant (foliage)
41. Best Pot House Plant (flowering)
42. Best Pot Grown Pelargonium (pot not to exceed 8 inches in diameter)
43. 2 of any vegetable not listed in the Schedule

Homecraft Section

44. 1 Pot of Chilli Sauce
45. 1 Pot of Strawberry Jam
46. 1 Pot of Red or Blackcurrant Jelly
47. 1 Pot of Marmalade
48. 1 Jar of Fruit Curd
49. 1 Jar of Chutney (Flavour of your choice)
50. 1 Jar Pickled Onions
51. A Vegetarian Quiche
52. Chocolate Brownies (4 pieces)
53. 6 Muffins (any flavour)
54. 6 Plain Scones
55. A bottle of Beer, Cider, Spirit or Cordial
56. A Victoria Sponge
57. A Celebration or Novelty Cake (any shape or design, Judged 50% decoration, 50% cake)
58. A Loaf of Bread (any variety)
59. A Cake containing a type of Fruit (not dried)
60. MEN ONLY – Rich Sticky Gingerbread Recipe will be provided in the 2014 Schedule
61. A Knitted or Crocheted Article
62. A Patchwork Item
63. A Kit Tapestry/Cross Stitch
64. A Door Stop

Flower Arranging

65. 'Country Walk' – A Landscape (natural materials only) – Space allowed 60cms x 60cms – height unlimited
66. 'Coffee morning' – Space allowed 50cms wide x 40cms deep – height unlimited
67. 'Secret Grotto' – A petite arrangement – Space allowed 25cms wide x 25cms deep x 25cms high (some artificial materials may be included)
68. 'Remembrance' – Space allowed 50cms wide x 40cms deep – height unlimited
69. 'My Favourite Book' – Space allowed 40cms wide x 40cms deep – height unlimited (Title of book to be included)

Photography

70. The best photograph I have taken in the last twelve months
71. A Townscape or Street Scene

Children's Section

72. **All Ages** – TALLEST SUNFLOWER – to be displayed as a photograph with child next to the Sunflower and height of Sunflower stated.

Up to & Including 4 Years

73. A Decorated Biscuit (Homemade or shop bought biscuits)
74. A Drawing of an Animal (crayons or felt-tip pens)
75. A Cress Egg Head
76. A Decorated Plant Pot

Ages 5, 6 and 7 Years

77. 3 Decorated Fairy Cakes (Homemade or shop bought cakes)
78. A Miniature Garden in a recycled container
79. A Vegetable Animal
80. A Painting of a member of your Family
81. A Jar of Flowers or Leaves
82. A Cress Egg Head

Ages 8, 9, 10 and 11 Years

83. 3 Decorated Gingerbread Family Members
84. A Lego Model (not kit)
85. A Seashore Collage
86. An Example of Handwriting – "A Little Nut-Tree" by Roald Dahl (Please indicate your age on the front of exhibit)
87. A Design for a Mobile Phone Case

ALL AGES UP TO 17 YEARS

(1st PRIZE – RUDMAN CUP)

88. A Non-Alcoholic Cocktail, presented in a glass with name and recipe
89. Handmade sweets or chocolates presented as a gift
90. Design a cover for a tablet computer

Art & Craft

91. Any other Art or Craft Item not covered in this Schedule
92. An Edible Gift
93. A Painting, Sketch or Drawing; Framed or Unframed, Any Subject
94. A Decorated Surround or Frame for a Photograph

As always, if you have any questions please contact a member of the Horticultural Committee.

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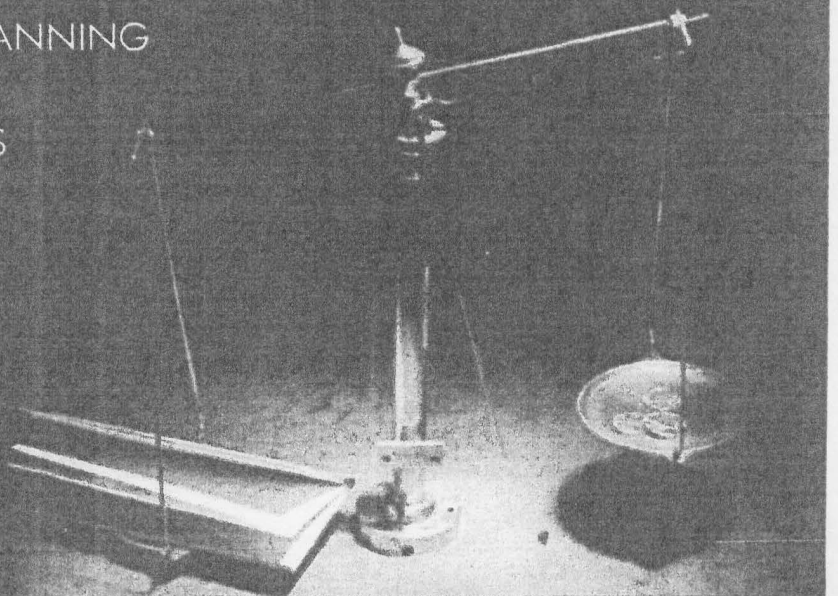
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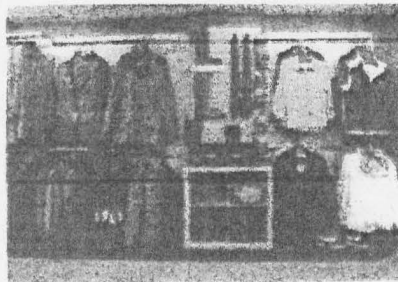
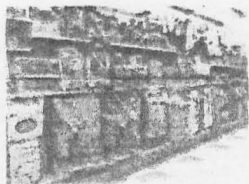
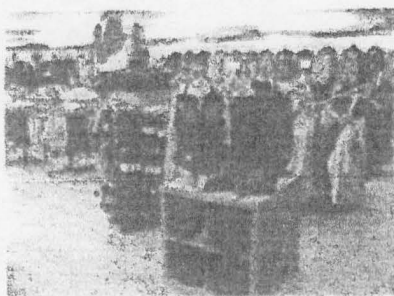
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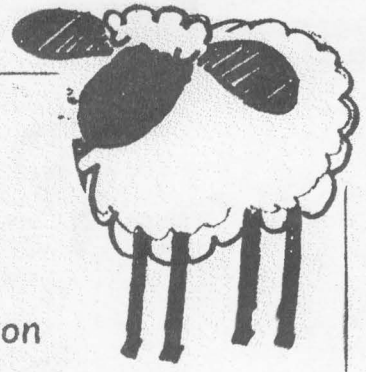
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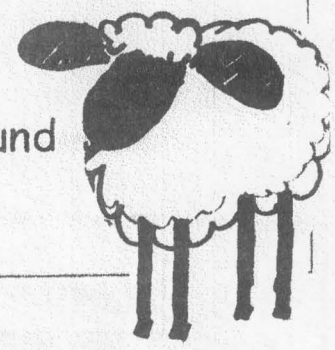
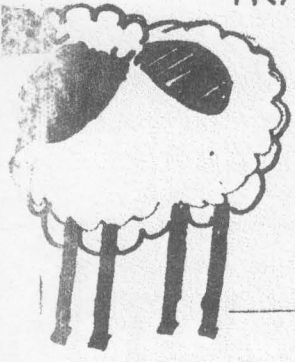
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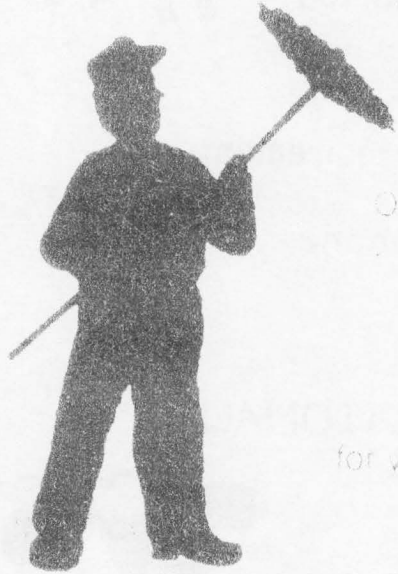
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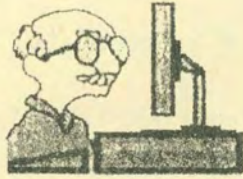
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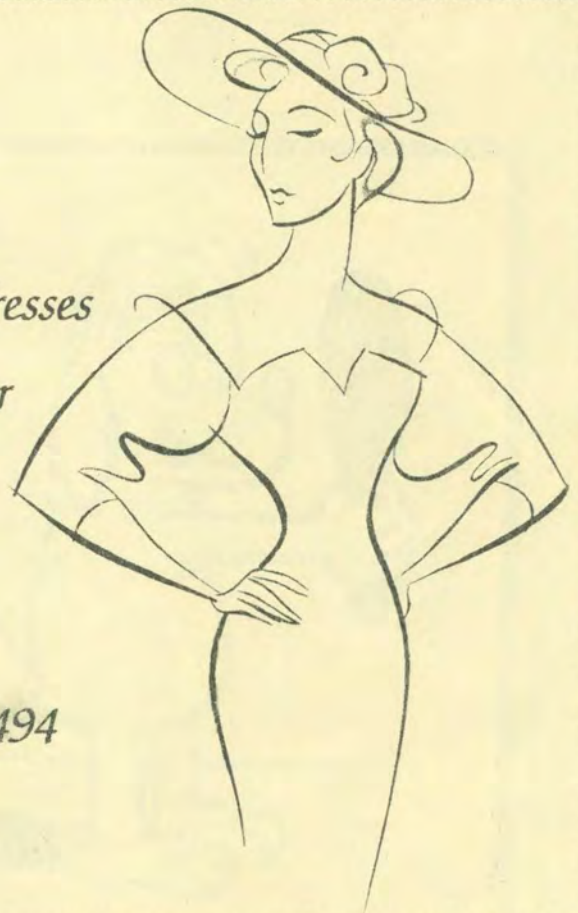
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