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AUTUMN 2018

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Local Poyntz team: - Jon Aries, Caroline Haselhan, Sarah Ridler, Amanda Scott, Jane Spare, John Wright, Marilyn Wright and myself, Pamela McCoy.

LOCAL POYNTZ PHOTOGRAPHERS: - Sally Aries, Gillian Otlet

DISTRIBUTION. - As always, our thanks go to all the, volunteer, distributors

ARTICLES: - PLEASE, I ask that you note the closing deadline for submission of all articles, which is printed below.

WEBSITE

If you would like to add any images or write something on the website, we would be pleased to hear from you. Please contact Jon Aries at localpoyntz@gmail.com.

THIS EDITION: - I am pleased to say that I managed to get nearly all of the articles, which were submitted, into this autumn magazine. You will be happy to see that Lisa Hatherell's lovely account of her Snowdon climb is here. Also, there is a really good article from Will Marriage about the family's move to Iron Acton...thank you Will. He also submitted a quiz, with the answers, but I did run out of space. The quiz will be in the winter edition. Tim Grubb has written a seriously interesting article about the men whose names are on the Iron Acton War Memorial, which, I am sure, will be of great interest.

I am always keen to receive any articles so if you have something to write about or any moans or groans please contact me at the email address below.

FRONT PAGE: - The fantastic image of fireworks was courtesy of Peter Foote. It was taken at the bonfire night last year and seemed very pertinent for this edition. Thank you Peter.

ADVERTISEMENTS: - If anyone, out there, would like to place an advert in these magazines, please contact me at the email address below and we can discuss it.

The deadline for the winter edition is 1st November 2018. We really need to have all articles by that date, PLEASE.

EDITOR- Pamela McCoy 01454 228874
Email pam.localpoyntz@gmail.com.

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The initial registration for a year costs £23.00. Thereafter there is then an annual fee of £18.00 payable each January. Passengers registering in August can pay half of the fee.

THE ACTONIANS NEWS

email: actonians@outlook.com

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Rehearsals are now in full swing for our Autumn production of *Sinbad the Sailor*. Written by one of our members, Godfrey Laundy, this traditional Pantomime involves Pirates and Greek Gods, lots of corny jokes and slapstick action plus all the usual mayhem that you would expect from a traditional family pantomime. Come along and find out whether Sinbad finds his long-lost true love Princess Sabrina who had been snatched and carried off by the giant Roc? Boo and hiss at Captain Redbeard, the most feared pirate, scourge of the Seven Seas, plunderer of the Spanish Main. Meet Grapeshot, Bilgewater, Gunpowder Gertie and Black-hearted Bertha to name but a few of his motley pirate crew. We look forward to seeing you there. Oh yes we will!

Sinbad the Sailor runs from **Wednesday 28th November to Saturday 1st December** – including a **matinee** performance on the **1st December**. Tickets are available online www.actonians.co.uk/boxoffice

A few months ago, our **Junior Group** performed a devised theatre piece called *Planet XP*. This was the first time they had worked on such a challenging project and it was enthusiastically received by a good audience of family and friends. They had great fun working on it and have learnt a great deal and they are keen to continue to challenge themselves. We can't wait to see what they are doing next.

It was great to welcome some new members to the Pantomime auditions. We are always keen to find new members so whether you are interested in acting or working in the backstage team please contact us through our website www.actonians.co.uk. We understand that it can be somewhat daunting to come along to a meeting where you don't know anyone but contact us and we can link you up with an existing member who will meet up with you and introduce you to everyone. We are a friendly group and have a very active social calendar.

Look out for details of our Spring Production, *Spygame* by Bettine Manktelow, Mystery/Thriller/Comedy

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IRON ACTON FILM CLUB

The Iron Acton Film Club 2018-2019 season will be starting again in October. As you can imagine running both the children's film in the afternoon and an evening film for members every month is quite a commitment for the small group of Film Club committee members. So for the 2018-2019 season we have decided to ask for some help! A couple of parent volunteers to help sell refreshments before the afternoon children's film and during the interval would ease our burden considerably. If you feel you may be able to help occasionally please contact either Simon or myself. We would be very grateful to hear from you.

Over the summer we have contacted our current membership (and anyone who has previously expressed an interest in the Film Club) with details about renewing their membership. If you are not on our mailing list and would like to receive details please contact us with your email address.

2018-2019 season dates:

6 October 2018	5 January 2019
10 November 2018	2 February 2019
8 December 2018	2 March 2019

Simon Cross
01454 228291

Caroline Haselhan
01454 228791

IRON ACTON FILM CLUB



A season of 6 films (voted for by the members)

October to March at Iron Acton Parish Hall

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For further details please contact Simon 01454 228291 or Caroline 01454 228791



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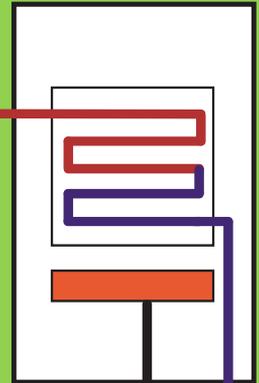
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IRON ACTON WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Jo Wright of Organic Blooms was our speaker in May and gave an inspirational talk about her business and the role it plays in helping the community. Jo studied in Chicago and gained her degree in social and therapeutic horticulture. She is now based on a 9 acre farm site in Latteridge and employs over 30 people from the age of 16 with mental health issues and learning difficulties. They are supported by specialist staff and City & Guilds Certificates can be gained. She explained how by learning new skills and earning a wage, the employees gain confidence, get fit and socialise more freely. The business has flourished over the years and her seasonal cut flowers, grown without artificial chemicals, are available to collect or by post.

In June we welcomed Mark Green from Freewheelers Riding For Life, a charity which depends on volunteer motorcycle riders to deliver emergency out of hours supplies to hospitals in the South West. Although this usually entails blood, specimens for urgent pathology analysis, breast milk for premature babies and patient documents, there have been some more unusual requests, such as for a zimmer frame which one intrepid rider was able to deliver! Over 4,800 missions were undertaken last year and their work saves the NHS approximately £390,000 which would otherwise be paid in taxi fares. The specially adapted motorbikes cost £20,000 each (there are 10), all of which is raised by charitable donation. We all agreed this was a very worthwhile charity, which perhaps isn't as well-known as others and is certainly deserving of local support.

As everyone knows, May Day was a great success and one of the hottest for years. As well as running the bric-a-brac stall, some of our ladies sold programmes very successfully and collected in excess of £383.

Our summer outing was to Sheppey's Cider Farm in Taunton. On a beautiful summer evening the tour began with a film show followed by a walk to the orchards where the many different variety of apples are grown. The museum was very interesting and housed farm machinery and implements used in the past on this 200 year old farm. The cider tasting was very much enjoyed and there was then an opportunity to buy our favourites in the farm shop afterwards. Another really enjoyable trip, thanks to our organisers.

We have a break in August and then resume meetings as usual in September, when we will be having a beetle drive and following its success last year, another Puds Night, involving sampling as many homemade desserts as possible.

We welcome new members and if you are interested in joining us, please contact our Secretary, Bridget, on 321741. We meet in the Parish Hall on the second Monday of the month at 7.30pm.

Sylvie Powell



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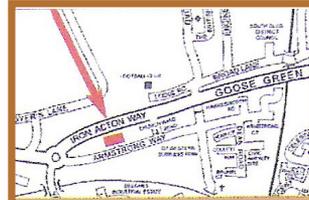
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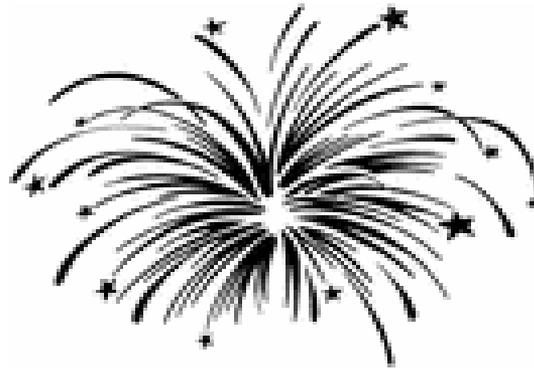




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From 10th September 2018



MOVING – SHAKING

It started because of the books. We had lived in our three-bedroomed terraced house in Bishopston for nearly twenty years and had accumulated the evidence of forty years of reading between us. Medical and nursing text books, cookery books, children's picture books; shelves full of dictionaries, sheet music, travel guides and maps; but mostly fiction – shelves and shelves of novels in the living room, the study, the bedrooms and the loft. Classics, contemporary fiction, but whole shelves given over to naval fiction, time-slip novels and crime. We had had purpose-built bookshelves made in three rooms but were having to resort to double banking the books just to fit them all in.

It wasn't just because we were running out of storage that we decided to move. We wanted more space, a bigger garden and to get away from living in a terrace. Most of the neighbours were lovely, but some were a bit noisy and very close by. I expect we had our moments too, with various family members playing the piano, violin, ukulele, trombone and cello, or yelling at the Wii / Xbox in frustration. But the children were no longer tied to local junior schools, so we had an opportunity to move away.

It wasn't a hugely well-researched move. Our nearest neighbour had a few friends round to watch a United match. They were being quite noisy; I was getting quite nettled. Sitting on the sofa, I started to look

at houses on line. I only looked at two houses on my iPad; we arranged to view one of them and we ended up buying it. It was the only house we looked at. Why Iron Acton? We'd not been here before, but I'd read about Henry VIII's West Country progress in 1535 in a novel and it said he'd stayed at Acton Court, so I suppose it was in my mind. We came to see the house after work, in the dark, separately (hospital rotas are never that forgiving). We both loved it straight away.

We moved in the Spring of 2017. There's been lots to do in the house and lots to discover. Ordering logs and lighting fires has been an adventure for us which we have cracked; we are much better at that than we were when we ran out of oil in February, before finding we had fantastic neighbours who helped us through a minor crisis. There is the beautiful garden we inherited and are still learning about - the never-ending battle between the fish and the pond weed that we haven't quite solved; the apple tree that drops two pounds of Bramleys on the ground every night, and what to do with them all; the grapevine we don't know how to prune. Outside our home, we couldn't have been made more welcome by the village, and what an extraordinary village it has turned out to be. We were told to "join everything" so - nervously at first - we gave it our best shot. Actonians, the Community Choir, Acton Aid, bell ringing; we dressed up as pirates for the nautical Prom in the Meadow; won best tomatoes at the village show (beginner's luck!) and provided a bevy of young ladies to dance at the Burns' Night supper. Two of the children have summer jobs in the village to which they can walk, and we have played and sung at the Prom. We have been offered cauliflowers, peas, rhubarb; the use of swimming pools and practical help with everything from carpentry, plumbing and electrics .

The year has shot past. We can't believe how lucky we have been to find a ready-made community of extraordinary people who have been so kind, thoughtful and welcoming. We are in equilibrium with the garden; we have done a little decorating. There's only one thing we haven't faced up to at all. Upstairs, in neatly labelled packing cases, are several thousand books. **Will Marriage**

THE HILLS ARE ALIVE.....'

I am writing in a slightly, mad, euphoric manner because if you didn't already know.....
We did it. By George we did it!

Ascending Snowdon will always rate as one of my most incredible, personal lifetime achievements.

It is right up there with my flight last year, if not even a little ahead, because this time I did it on my own two feet nobly assisted at times by my hands and sometimes my bottom!!

When my latest Miranda challenge was conceived, after a few impromptu drinks one balmy August evening, I didn't really think it would take root. I was a little astounded a few days later, that our group organisers, Heather and Laura had found that the youth hostel had a few remaining rooms, just enough for those who had been under the influence that night, and it was now decision-making time. With every fibre in my body wishing to desist I found myself agreeing and the rooms were filled even by those who had rather hoped for a 5-star hotel with Spa!!!

Going away without David was going to be one of my biggest stumbling blocks I faced, let alone that blooming mountain!

And so, as is my way when facing fear head on, I stick the fear and my head right in the biggest sand dune possible hoping the roots will wither and die right there.

But no, as Christmas passed by, little green shoots began to emerge as the newly formed Mountaineers group started wittering about the ascent as if they were actually going to do it! Therefore, a weekly then twice weekly training campaign began. I didn't really believe it would get any of us, mostly 50-year olds, fit enough for the great climb but at least I would get a bit fitter in the process. The hills, which to start with stopped us in our tracks at least 5 times and where, according to our rude husbands, the air would go silent as we gasped for breath, suddenly became less daunting until finally we made it to the top with no stops and better still we could fill the cold air with our chatter!

I don't think I would have coped with Snowdon if we were not able to talk, that is what we do! Much as our husbands may mock us for our incessant noise, talking is the best therapy anyone can undertake, silence breeds fear. The frequent use of my vocal chords was also of paramount necessity during the Snowdon climb because how else would I have commanded my leaders to react when certain moments of terror stopped me in my tracks? Such an occasion transpired when the wind suddenly picked up and I insisted in Caroline 'doing something'! I was informed not to panic unless the skinniest of our group was blown off the edge, so I could relax as that was never going to be me!!!

The week before the climb arrived, and with it a dawning realisation that there may be no way out and then the night before...

I felt myself being choked by the long tendrils of anxiety. A surreal feeling of detachment made me disconnect from reality but so many lovely people sent messages of support and a precious card urging me on from one of our team made me face the inevitable with wobbly determination.

I found my St Christopher necklace, first used on my flight last year and hung it securely around my neck. I felt that I was like a prisoner being marshalled to the scaffold, time now in slow motion.

The thought of the 4-hour journey to North Wales was even a terror to me. I had the bare-faced gall to interview the potential drivers and check their credentials of risk taking and speed management!! I, of course, couldn't possibly be a driver; Motorway driving? NO WAY!

Leaving my family was so very hard, they on the other hand seemed quite excited- RUDE!

My driver, it turns out, was top notch, steady and slow and didn't blow a gasket when I enquired whether she had had a recent service (I didn't let on I secretly checked her tyre treads too) 'WHAT A CHEEK' I can hear you splutter as you read this Caroline!

We cruised to beautiful North Wales chattering non-stop and admiring the many sheep as we approached the youth hostel.

And here the pleasure stopped.

Fog.

As we gathered for pre-supper drinkies in our Chalet School style dormitory (no alcohol allowed in the rooms so of course we kept to that rule!!!!) drifting, ghosts of fog suddenly occluded our window swallowing up the entire landscape outside like an Alfred Hitchcock moment of terror.

How could we possibly go up a mountain in a place with this kind of violent, all consuming, ever changing climate of its own?

I must report that I didn't sleep a wink that night even though the hostel was amazing and the company even better. I felt the sickness of home- longing gripping me tight.

The next morning, I grimly reported my lack of sleep to the others, indignantly informing them that I was in no condition to carry out the task which lay ahead as if it was all their faults! They simply laughed at me and said I had been heard snoring. I can assure you it was the strains of terror playing they heard!!!!

I really couldn't tuck into much at breakfast which panicked me further – I would have no energy. I would expire up there for sure!

Unbelievably the weather report was fantastic, a few lingering clouds to clear by lunchtime. A Miracle.

This didn't stop me crying after breakfast. Despite all my protestations we had agreed to go up the trickier Pyg track rather than following the easier Llanberis which runs along the same route as the railway track. The sensible rationale behind this decision was that the Pyg track lay just across the road from the hostel whereas the start of the Llanberis meant a long walk down into the valley and then having to walk back up from way further down. Yes, taking the Pyg track was logical but when have I ever used that curious form of reasoning? Instead I found a chart of the 6 main tracks in the youth hostel where they had rated the fear factor of each track using the unnerving emoji created from Edvard Munch's painting 'The scream'.

The hardest route had a 10 rating and naturally the Llanberis route was only rated 1.

The Pyg track taunted me as I saw, with horror, the 5-SCREAM rating it boasted. I, felt synonymous with Munch's lonesome figure holding its face and feeling a silent scream surging from its inner being on a deaf world.

I felt sick as I smiled for the camera for our 'before' photo wondering if there would be an after!

And so, we began.

I remember the start so well, the roughly hewn, gruelling steps but well within our stamina levels. I also remember the summit, and a few notable hairy bits in between, but much is a blur.

A bit like childbirth, an apt analogy by one of our group, the process of climbing up was so all consuming that you somehow forgot how you reached the goal. It was the greatest form of mindfulness. You existed entirely in the here and now placing every single foot step and hand hold with utmost precision.

My midwife was Caroline, like a shadow she appeared by my side at every potential crisis, anticipating my fear (she is part mountain-goat for sure!) On reflection, I have discovered to my surprise, that I am not particularly scared of heights. Those who are acrophobic tend to have an overwhelming feeling of being drawn magnetically to the edge, whereas I am just frightened of tripping Miranda- style and then to be last seen hurtling over a precipice!

It became apparent that one of our team was terrified of heights and so I held her hand until she felt calm again and she marvelled at my ability to be so near the edge. Everyone assumed she was holding my hand. Now who could have second guessed that!

And so, the day passed in a surreal haze despite there being no fog. We climbed together all rooting for each other.

I will never forget several moments.

The first being told that around the next corner we would see our first glimpse of Snowdon. First glimpse????!!! What on earth had we been scrabbling up this last hour? Weren't we already on that blessed mountain?!

Then it came into view, shockingly HUGE!

No one signed me up for this monster – how on earth could we get up that?

After many an expletive we carried on as we had, one step at a time.

The second memory cast forever was a need to slide, on our bottoms down a large rock whilst 2 selfless team members stood valiantly in front of the edge that lay in front. Amanda, in justified trepidation went first and then like pre -schoolers we all followed suit. The vision is appalling; think of the outcome if us bottom sliders had, domino-like, slid further than we should have and toppled our dear friends off that edge? Just Imagine!!!!

Worse followed, snow had created a need to divert over or around some high rocks, somehow there was a stream of mountaineers behind us waiting for our lead. Poor Rachel 'the intrepid' decided to lead a way around the rocks but then we saw her, frozen like a terrified Spiderman clinging to the rocks. Luckily with a bit of coaxing she found her way back

but it was a step too far. I wondered if now the time had come to quit. What a crying shame though – so near, so far.

Well this was my moment of exaltation, my Neal Armstrong, my Captain Scott for who knew what lay ahead!! I saw a boy aged about 12, scale up the boulders pulled by his dog, so I issued the golden command; 'Follow that little boy'.

The look of disgust on his face at some mad, old lady calling him 'little' didn't faze me for a minute and like a warrior about to conquer all. I brandished my stick, clung on for dear life and heaved my way up and others followed in my wake!! (Apparently, I barged right in front of the boys somewhat flummoxed father!!). Who cares we were on track once more.

My most anticipated fear of taking the Pyg track was its infamous zigzags. I had googled these incessantly, zoomed in on maps and replayed films of them on You Tube videos from go-pro cameras. When I enquired solemnly at what point these beasts would appear, feeling a wave of depression bearing down on me, I was shocked to be told we were half way through them! Shame on you Zig -Zags, nothing but a piffling, wavy path!

It seems that the anticipation of a fear is often far greater than the reality, a message I really need to try and remember and one I still must chant to myself every time I descend on that awful beast, the escalator. Yes, they still make my legs turn to jelly, but I do get on and the shrieking is less frequent!

Finally, the summit.

What can I say, it was utterly incredible, I am still unsure how we got there and in a perfectly respectable time too! I felt dazed and triumphant, bursting with pride. I found it very emotional and spiritual, a bit of an 'out of body' moment. The relief was enormous. I hadn't fallen off...yet!! There was also a little indignation because the guide books say you can climb Snowdon if you are moderately fit – MODERATELY FIT????? This bunch of mostly 50 somethings were on fire, super heroes!

We had all vowed to take up a surprise to share at the top, which included personalised 'We did it' sashes (one little girl was heard to say on our descent 'Oh Mummy do we get one of those when we reach the top?' – so Heather has a new career opportunity! Can you build a little hut Andrew??! We had dear Sarah wearing a turkey hat, good old Mayshill sloe gin from Nikki and all sorts! And me? Well if you hadn't already heard or seen it on Facebook, I kept my promise. Just before the summit I made everyone close their eyes, although I now have found out that there was a peeping Tom, so I am very lucky I didn't turn around to find my friends hot-footing it down the mountain, because right up there with crowds of strangers, some of whom joined in, I whipped on a nun's outfit and sang the inevitable;

'The hills are alive.....'

Post script:

The mountain ranges stretch into the horizon.

My eldest daughter has moved to Cornwall and I need to get over my fear of driving on a motorway! REALLY? Watch this space and yourselves on the M4!!!* (No panic though I haven't got beyond a dual carriageway yet!!)

But I did take to the skies again this summer on a wonderful trip to Croatia. I used my techniques learned on the Fearless Flyers course and on the way out they worked well especially as a certain lovely TUI pilot had organised a visit to the cockpit and it always helps if I know there is a friendly face at the helm!

For some reason the trip home was more daunting, and I had to suppress a mounting sense of trepidation...

BUT the good news is that I sucked in my terror and resisted the overpowering desire to unstrap my seat belt minutes from landing and run, screaming to the air hostesses 'Do you realise the wheels have not come down yet??' No, instead I held my breath, sang a hymn (in my head!!) and let the tears flow when I heard the familiar clunk of the wheels doing what they should, letting us gracefully pull to a stop.

And YES, David I will do it again!!! He has never had this in writing before...HELP!!!!

**Editor's note: It is best not to use the M4 to get to Cornwall from Bristol – you will end up in Wales or London. The M5 is much more convenient.*

Lisa Hatherell

FRIENDS OF IRON ACTON SCHOOL

What a great term of weather for our events! May Day seems so long ago but was at the start of the dry spell, so we enjoyed plenty of sunny maypole dancing and a tombola sell out, as well as ice pops to cool the crowds.

In June during Health Week we held a healthy snack sale after school; lots of yummy fruit snacks were devoured.. OK so a couple of banana cakes sneaked in too..

The Sports Day was sunny and all the parents were glad of the refreshments kindly provided by the church's volunteers. This then ran into our Summer Fete event, now known as Actonbury, complete with games, Jolly Jar Tombola, music and a BBQ.

Not long after it was time to say goodbye to our current Year 6's. Money raised through the year goes to various gifts for them including Leavers sweatshirts, autograph books and a contribution to their Residential course at the outdoor centre in Govilon near Abergavenny. We also host the end of year disco in their honour; a chance to reflect on the years that have passed since they entered the school as tiny shy reception children.

So in September we look forward to welcoming 15 new Reception children to the school. On the first day parents of new children are invited to join Friends at the Lamb after drop off for Tea and Tears: a chance to meet other parents and distract oneself from the leaving your little one at the school gates! Rest assured they will be well looked after at Iron Acton and welcomed into our friendly family of a school.

Sonya Grubb
Friends of Iron Acton Primary School PTA.

IRON ACTON PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

We have come to the end of an amazing year at Iron Acton School. I am so pleased with the progress the children have made academically and also in many other important ways. We have said goodbye to 8 of our oldest children who have now moved on to secondary school and we welcome 15 new families to our school in September. We continue to see positive growth in numbers which helps us to remain sustainable into the future. The Local Authority is now looking at providing us with additional space to replace temporary buildings which are becoming increasingly less fit for purpose and an additional classroom to enable us to improve our class structure. This is incredibly exciting news for us and we ask for your support during the planning permission process as this is something that will help us to be the best school we can be whilst maintaining our small community feel which I know so many value.

I would like to say a huge thank you to all of our staff, governors and parents as we come to the end of another academic year. Your support and hard work has been invaluable in making sure the school continually moves forward. We have a truly dedicated staff team here at Iron Acton who work tirelessly to ensure that the children receive only the best.

In September, we begin an exciting new venture in the form of a partnership with Hawkesbury Upton Primary School. This arrangement will enable the children and staff to work closely together on projects which enhance learning and provision; we will be looking at taking the best parts of both schools whilst keeping the distinct character of each. We are pleased to have been asked to take part in this opportunity which will be instrumental in moving the school along in its journey.

As September approaches we look forward to a new and exciting year. We will keep you updated on all of the many things that take place as the year progresses.

Thank you all for your support of the school.

Mike Riches
Headteacher

IRON ACTON COMMUNITY CHOIR

We had a very successful prom concert in The Meadows on 7th July. Singing a range of music from Disney, Sound of Music and James Bond, we kept an enthusiastic and generous audience entertained and thoroughly enjoyed singing with the BMO as usual. Thank you to all who came and supported The Proms...we thoroughly enjoy the opportunity to sing for Acton Aid's fantastic event and it is a delight to share our work with friends and family and the wider community from near and further afield.

Sadly, we lost one of our founding members, Gerry Millward, when he died fairly suddenly earlier in the year. We were able to sing The Rose at his funeral which was a huge privilege, and also at The Proms in his memory. He will be much missed but remembered with great affection and fondness.

We also sang at a village wedding in July and have been booked for another one later this year. This is great fun and extends our experience and skills. We might be ready for more, given enough rehearsal time and space!

We are now amidst our preparations for the Carol Service in the church in December and our Winter Concert in early January (2019) and have begun to think about how we can best add to the joy and delight of those events! Rehearsals start on September 4th for this new season of music.

The energy and enthusiasm members bring to rehearsals in the Village Hall remains fantastic and it is a really positive and joyous experience to work with them to learn new music and develop our skills and abilities to sing in harmony with each other. Community singing is a powerful force for good and the Iron Acton Community Choir is real proof of that. It is a privilege to work with all the singers and we manage that fantastic balance between working very hard and having a lot of fun too. We now number about 35-40 members in total. We meet on a Tuesday evening in the Village Hall normally at 20.30 hrs and we now pay an annual membership fee (£30) to support the running of the choir in terms of hiring of the rehearsal space and the purchase of music. Any money raised from our singing (and this does happen!!) always goes to chosen charities.

We currently have spaces within the choir in all voice parts, but particularly we would like to recruit more Sopranos, Tenors and Basses. You just need to be keen and enthusiastic, no prior experience nor musical knowledge required and there is no audition. If you are interested then just let me know (robpardoe@gmail.com) and we'll take it from there...or pop in to one of our Tuesday evening rehearsals and see what you think.

Rob Pardoe





IRON ACTON K9 CLUB

May Day came and went in a blaze of hot sun. We had a lovely time doing our display in the ring but were relieved to get back to the shade of the Dogstacle Course in the Meadows.

Our club show in July was another beautiful sunny day but again it was a bit too hot for dogs. Lots of our members came along to enjoy activity events, a BBQ and Novelty Show. First up were the activities –Winners of the Agility Challenge were Lexie & Paul Hampson, Doris & Dave Morgan were runners up. Gundog scurry winners were Rain with Gill Chapman and runners up Poppy with Ruth Gumbrell. Haybale Scurry winners were Daphne & Louise Drew Morgan, Blossom & Anne Weaver were runners up. Flyball winners were Lexie with Paul, Tara with Sue Gadsby were runners up. Dogstacle course winners were Rosie with Sue Gadsby. The overall Activity Champions were Lexie and Paul with Blossom with Ann runners up.

After a lovely BBQ the Novelty Show got underway with everyone vying for the shady spots in the ring. Best pedigree was won by Rain with Gill Chapman, Best Crossbreed was Rosie with Matt Lovell. Best puppy up to 12 months was Otis with Freya O'Neill. Best adult to 6 years Purdey with Karen Carnovale. Best veteran was Jade with Kath. Prettiest bitch was Lola with Megan Broom and Handsomest dog Bo with Steve Anstey. Best 6 legs in motion were Murphy with Dot Glover and Best titbit catcher Bo with Steve. Waggiest tail was won by Poppy with Ruth and dog the judge would most like to take home was Ebony with Sue Anstey. The overall Novelty Show Champion was Purdey with Karen Carnovale, reserve champion Jade with Kath. Well done everyone – a lovely day for dogs & handlers.

Together our May Day Dogstacle course and Club Show raised £175 which has been donated to the Seizure Alert Dog Training Charity.

Lots of puppies have been working on the Kennel Club Puppy course recently and successes were Stephen with Betty, Kate with Hugo, Seona with Bella, Adam with Wilbur, Vicky with Dexter, Freya with Otis, Andrea with Ludo and Lisa with Frankie. Silver passes were Phillip with Poppy and Helen with Ted. Gold passes were Sue with Doris, Lynne with Mitzzi, Gemma with Harlo and Rachel with Tora. Well done everyone – lots of hard work but worth it in the end.

There are lots of fun ways for dogs and handlers to learn new skills. If you would like more information about the club please ring Sue on 01454 228803 or Karen on 01454 228891 for more details or see our website www.ironactonk9club.co.uk.

Tummy rubs all round.



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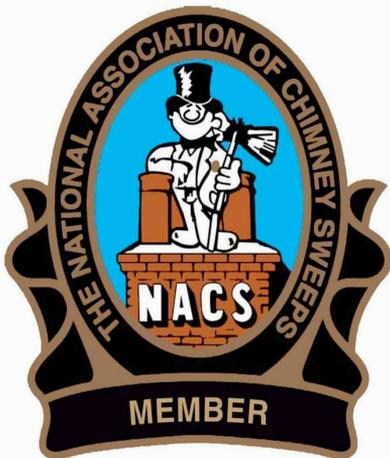
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PHONE BOXES

It looks like we are not the only village to be renovating our red phone box. Here are some pictures of other renovations. With thanks to Will Marriage for suggesting these images.





PHONE BOX UPDATE



Since the summer magazine we have made great progress with the restoration work. Several teams, of 3 or 4 people, have been very busy with sanding, scraping and using equipment on loan from Andrew Tillotson. It has been very labour intensive and time consuming but the result is worthwhile. The last 2 days (7th & 8th August) 2 teams have finished the preparation of the paintwork and we now have most the undercoat applied. You may have observed the “pink phone box” which now sits beside the village bench. Don’t be alarmed it will be standard phone box red in the fullness of time.

The funds raised have enabled us to buy all of the various paints and replacement glass panels.

The phone box money box, which has been on the bar of “The Lamb Inn”, has produced a bonus of £46.53, so many thanks to those folk who put their loose change into it. Together with contributions from our team we can now go ahead and buy the two large glass panels for the top of the phone box. These panels will have the words “Swap Box” on them.

The intention is to use the phone box as a swap box and information centre. There will be books, DVDs and CDs in the winter and plants in the summer. There will also be information about the Parish and details of walks around here.

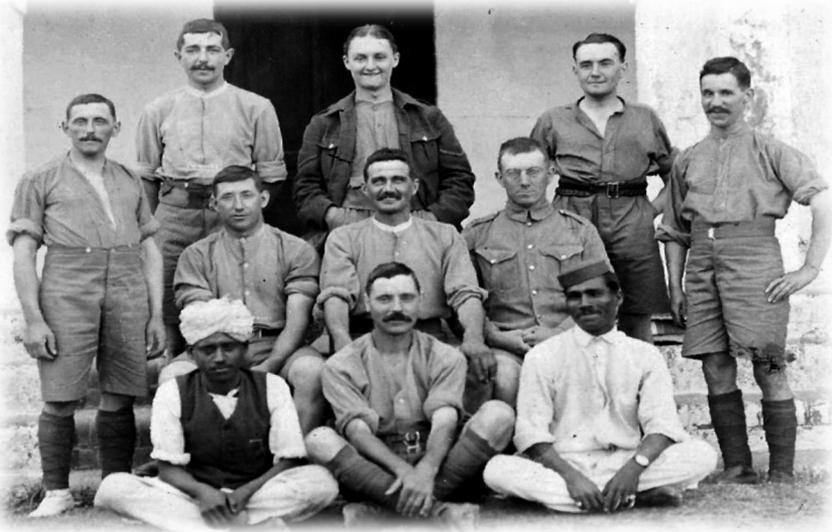
We welcome any ideas or suggestions.

The above images were taken Tuesday, 7th Aug., morning during the preparation; the left image below was taken the following day and the right one after Steve had painted the top. It’s looking good.

Pam McCoy pam.localpoyntz@gmail.com.



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GREAT WAR CENTENARY: IRON ACTON WAR MEMORIAL

The Iron Acton war memorial is one of around 100,000 war memorials in the UK and, in common with the majority of other examples across the country, it is dedicated to all those from the village who died in action during the First and Second World Wars. The wooden tablet inside the Church of St James The Less reads:

*To the glory of God and in grateful remembrance of the men of this parish who gave their lives for Justice, King and Country in the Great War
This tablet is set up by their friends and neighbours
1914-1918*

The First World War was a turning point for war memorials. Where previously they had been built to celebrate great leaders and victories, after the Boer War of 1899-1902, the public perception of the lower ranks of the armed forces and especially of volunteers started to improve and more communities created local war memorials.

The logistical impossibility of repatriating bodies when numbers were so high (there were over 700,000 British dead), combined with a belief that the dead should be treated equally regardless of rank and wealth, meant that casualties were buried in cemeteries near the battlefields or, where there was no known grave, were commemorated on memorials to the missing. This meant that many bereaved families had no grave to act as a focus for their grief at home. So, communities, whether residents of the same area or members of the same workplace, school, church or other group, formed committees to create a war memorial to commemorate their dead and the losses they had suffered.

There appear to be no records describing how or when the Iron Acton memorial was created. In addition, War Memorial committees did not work to a nationally agreed plan and there were no hard and fast rules as to who should be recorded or not. Many places recorded those who served as well as those who died in the war and, as will be seen from the list below, inclusion on the memorial might be influenced by status within the village and or the ability to contribute to the creation of the memorial. While Major Ball-Acton had few connections to the village, there are other men who could have been recorded on the memorial but are not. John and Sabrina Cater of Pear Tree Cottage, Holloway Hill, for example, lost three sons to the first World War – Albert (23), Archibald (31) and Hubert (21). All three of these men had emigrated



to Canada and Albert and Hubert fought in the Canadian 1st Battalion dying on the same day on 27th September 1916 and being commemorated on the Vimy Memorial. Archibald died on the 2nd October 1918 fighting for the 18th Battalion Canadian Infantry and is buried at Bucquoy Road Cemetery, Ficheux. These men are on no memorial other than their parents' gravestone in St Mary's Churchyard, Yate.

The highest ranking and oldest of the Iron Acton casualties was **Reginald Thomas Annesley Ball-Acton** a Major in the 1st Battalion (51st Foot) The King's Own (Yorkshire Light Infantry). Although born on 2nd October 1877 in County Wicklow he married Isabel Richmond of Holm Ray, Iron Acton on 17th April 1913. He was educated at Rugby School,

Oxford Military College and the Royal Military College, Sandhurst and served with the 2nd Battalion (105th Foot) in the South African War between 1900-2. He resigned his commission soon after the end of the war and took up farming in South Africa and Argentina but re-joined his regiment on the outbreak of war in August 1914. He went to France in December 1914 and was wounded at the end of January 1915 and invalided home. After spending time with the 7th Battalion at Hull for a year he returned to France in March 1916. On 22nd May Major Ball-Acton volunteered to go out on a large patrol from the trenches at Wieltje to 'Argyle Farm' which, on finding it empty, came across a German patrol which bombed them causing three casualties. The wounded men were taken back to the British trenches and the patrol went out again only to encounter hostile machine gun fire which resulted in Major Ball-Acton being shot in the neck and killed. 2nd Lieutenant Bond and Private Garnet brought him back at great risk, thinking he was alive and Lieutenant Bond was awarded the Military Cross for his conduct. Major Ball-Acton was buried in an unmarked grave at White House Cemetery, St. Jean. In the absence of any documentation from parish or church archives we can only assume that it was at the request of his parents-in-law or wife that Major Ball-Acton was included on the memorial.

William Colbourne of the 1st/6th Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment died on the 15th August 1916 aged 26. He was the son of Joseph (a haulier) and Mary Ann Colbourne of Northmead Lane, Iron Acton. His death from wounds received was reported in the Gloucester Journal of Saturday 16th September 1916 amongst a list of 140 officers (37 killed) and 4744 other ranks who were also casualties. On the 15th the 1st/6th Gloucesters were relieved in the trenches near Owillers by the 4th Gloucesters and went into reserve trenches at Ribble Street, east of Aveluy so it seems likely that he was wounded earlier, possibly on the 14th when A and B Companies unsuccessfully attacked the Germans. William's grave is unlocated and he is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial.

Silas Rummins died on the 8th October 1916 and more information on his life can be found in my article for Focal Poyntz from the Summer of 2017.

Alvan Digby Blanch died on the 5th November 1916 whilst serving with the 2nd Battalion Warwickshire Regiment (having previously served with the Royal Gloucestershire Hussars Yeomanry) and was the son of Alvan Thomas and Hannah Maria Blanch. At 11:13 on the 5th the 2nd Battalion attacked out of Hogs Back Trench south west of Morval, along Barritska and Mirage Trenches (the latter found to be full of German dead) towards Le Transloy. Eight officers and 102 other ranks were casualties in the attack and Alvan has no known grave being commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial.

Percy George Thomas was a private in the 15th Royal Warwickshire Regiment, was killed on 9th May. Percy was a 26-year-old general labourer and the son of William (also a general labourer) and Caroline (a seamstress) living on The Green, Iron Acton. The 15th Battalion was in trenches near Fresnoy and on the 8th and 9th was involved in attacks to try and take the village and nearby Fresnoy Wood. They attacked at 1am under a creeping barrage that proved too slow and led to casualties. Despite some initial success in reaching the village and the wood the battalion was forced to withdraw to less exposed positions back in the jumping-off trenches. 137 other ranks were wounded and Percy was one of the seven who were killed during the attack. Percy's original battlefield grave was marked by a cross and his body was reburied on 21st October 1919 within Orchard Dump Cemetery, Arleux-en-Gohelle.

William Thomas Jones was the son of Selina Ann Jones of Chaingate Lane and fought with the 8th Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment. He died on the 9th July 1917 aged 19 and like many of the men on the memorial, he has no known grave being instead commemorated on

the Menin Gate in Ypres. On the 9th the Battalion was at Oosttaverne and William was killed, along with eleven other Gloucestershire Regiment men, during a successful attack on enemy positions east of the village where they managed to establish posts and take seven prisoners.

Frank Pritchard was born in Yate in 1897 and was the son of Charles and Elizabeth Pritchard of North Road. Frank fought with the 2nd/6th Gloucestershire Regiment and is buried in New Irish Farm Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. He was killed in an attack from trenches at Wieltje when Two Corps requested the support of 'A' Company to attack and capture Pond Farm - a significant German strongpoint - on the 23rd August 1917 during Third Battle of Ypres or Passchendaele.

Alfred Wollen was born in 1898 to George Wollen, one of the school managers and a domestic gardener and Caroline Jane Wollen of the High Street, Iron Acton. Private Wollen of the 1st Battalion Wiltshire Regiment died on 30th August and has no known grave being commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial. Alfred was one of two men killed whilst the battalion was marching from Asylum, Ypres, to the front line after being bussed in from the Steenvorde area. In total, before they even reached the front line on that day, the battalion casualties were two men killed, six men wounded, one wounded but still at duty and one man with shell shock.

In December 1917 (on either the 3rd or 13th, records are unclear) **Gilbert Read** was the final villager to be killed that year. Gilbert was a 25-year-old farm labourer and a private in the 7th Battalion of the Norfolk Regiment and the son of Robert and Mary Jane Reed of Chaingate Lane and is buried at Rocquigny-Equancourt Road British Cemetery, Manancourt. After fighting with the 12th Eastern Division around Cambrai in November and December, the Battalion was relieved on the 3rd - 4th December and out of the line on the 13th in billets at Thiennes and Berguette so it is unclear how Gilbert died.

The final Iron Acton casualty, and the only one in 1918 was **William John Brain**, son of James (a coal hewer) and Mary Ann Brain of Chaingate Lane. William was serving with the 4th Battalion Grenadier Guards when he died on 13th April 1918 aged 22 and is remembered on the Ploegsteert Memorial. William died during the stand of the 4th Guards Brigade against the German Spring Offensive on the 12th and 13th April 1918. The battalion was ordered to fight to the last man in an attempt to stop the Germans and after three days and nights without rest they had suffered 90% casualties, some 504 men. Only two officers of the nineteen who went into action, the Commanding Officer and Adjutant, were not casualties.

Of course, these ten soldiers are only a small fraction of the men from the village who served in World War One and as we approach the anniversary of the Armistice we should also spare a thought for these men who went through so much during the war.

Tim Grubb

Chillwood.research@gmail.com

ST JAMES THE LESS CHURCH

Your local Parish Church where you are always welcome

What a glorious few months we have had this summer! Hopefully by the time you read this we will have had some rain for our poor parched gardens but not too much to cause flooding and misery. I'm sure we are all thankful that we do not usually have the extremes of weather suffered in other parts of the world with the dreadful fires in Greece and floods elsewhere.

We are very happy as a Benefice to welcome our new curate Bob Latham to our fold. I believe he is the first curate we have had at St James in living memory but please correct me if I am wrong.

There are many new ideas coming to fruition within our church community at the moment including Messy Church and we continue to build links with the other churches in our area to mutual benefit. The Mission Area with Yate is also gaining momentum which gives us all much scope for new initiatives and ideas.

We hold an informal Holy Communion Service at 10.30am every Wednesday morning in the Marshall Room followed by refreshments. Please come and join us, especially if you are unable to come to church on Sunday and would like to meet new people and get involved in our very random conversations following our short worship. New cakes always welcome!

Rector:

Rev. Malcom Strange

Tel: 01454 775529

Churchwardens:

Carol Groom 07890 410540 email carolgroom@hotmail.com

Di Heal 01454 228498 email di@healfamily.me.uk

Administrator for the church is Kathryn Nichols for any enquiries.

Tel. 01454 776518

email office@fromsidechurches.org.uk

Details of all our services are available on the web site and on the church notice board.

Any requests for Pastoral visits to be referred to Jo Strange 01454 775429 or Pearl Conway 01454 314194 who will contact the local Pastoral team member.

The Marshall Room is available for hire. Please contact Sally Aries on 01454 228037.

A quote from Albert Einstein:

“Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow. The important thing is not to stop questioning.”

IRON ACTON PARISH COUNCIL

Dear Iron Acton Parishioner,

PROTECTION AND ENHANCEMENT OF IRON ACTON'S GREENS

As you will be aware, Iron Acton has two formally designated greens, in Iron Acton village and in Latteridge. Parish Council bylaws forbid unauthorised vehicular access or camping on both greens and the bylaws can be enforced through the courts. However, this is a costly and slow process. Following unauthorised camping on the village green earlier this summer Iron Acton Parish Council has been considering whether more should be done to protect and enhance the two greens. The council now has 'in principle' proposals and would welcome thoughts and comments from interested parishioners.

Iron Acton village green

The village green is open and accessible which makes it particularly vulnerable. The Parish Council has decided in principle that it should be protected physically from unauthorised vehicular access while ensuring that it can still be used for events such as May Day on the Green. The council regards it as essential to maintain the open feel of the green along with easy pedestrian access and has, therefore, decided against the erection of fences, bars or railings. It is considering, instead, individual rocks or short, free-standing posts spaced closely enough together to bar vehicles while minimising nuisance for pedestrians. It has also had suggestions for enhancing the green through adding benches and/or flower planting (in beds, planters or a rockery). The council will consider suggestions for such enhancements provided there are individuals or organisations willing and able to establish and maintain them for the foreseeable future.

Latteridge green

Latteridge green is more protected than Iron Acton village green with banks, rocks and trees limiting access for some of its perimeter. It is also smaller, has a wilder feel and tends to become boggy in wet weather. Perhaps as a result of this, it does not seem to have a history of unauthorised vehicular access. The Parish Council has decided in principle that a conservative approach would be best for Latteridge green and that no changes should be made unless a problem develops in the future.

Before making a final decision the Parish Council would welcome the views of parishioners these proposals along with any other suggestions you may have. If you would like to comment please do so to:

Donna Ford - Clerk to Iron Acton Parish Council

email - clerk@ironactonparishcouncil.com

telephone – 01454 501134 / 07790883503

address -33 Hatherley, Yate, Bristol, BS374LT

Please ensure your comments reach the Clerk by 14th September 2018 to enable them to be considered at the next meeting of the Parish Council.

Thank you for your interest.

Yours faithfully,

Robert Lomas - Chairman Iron Acton Parish Council

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IRON ACTON PARISH COUNCIL

NOTICE OF CO-OPTION REMAINING VACANCY

Iron Acton Parish Council will be looking to fill the remaining vacancy for Iron Acton Ward.

All candidates need to apply in writing to the clerk for consideration.

If you require any further information please contact the clerk.

Donna Ford

Clerk@ironactonparishcouncil.com

33 Hatherley

Yate

Bristol

BS37 4LT

Tel No: 01454 501134 / 07790883503



CHRISTMAS WINDOWS

Last year I took on the job of organising this at the last moment when it was realised the previous person would not be able to do it due to schoolwork.

I am prepared to do it again this year but wonder if there are others who would be prepared to help or have ideas of how we should proceed.

After initially fearing there would not be enough windows decorated there were eventually more than previously. I think everyone enjoys seeing the decorated windows brightening the streets and I think it enhances the Christmas Trees that look so lovely. I hope all the people who participated last year will do so again and encourage others to do the same.

If anyone has any comments or ideas or is willing to help please contact me this month.

Rose White

davandro@hotmail.co.uk

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ACTON AID – CHAIRMAN’S AUTUMN STATEMENT!

The main event of our year to date, Music in the Meadows was a resounding success. The weather could not have been kinder to us. The Mash attracted around 1000 people and Flash, the Queen tribute band in particular absolutely thrilled the crowds. The Proms with a theme of a “night at the movies” followed by the “last night of the proms” was once again a brilliant event.

Many thanks to all who worked so hard in both the preparation and on the night. In particular a big thanks to Marilyn Wright who had the tricky role of liaising with the orchestra in terms of agreeing a programme and timings etc. Also a big thanks to James Rickard who took on the role of organising the overall event and which included making sure we had enough helpers in the right place at the right time – a bit like herding cats at times!

The final contribution to Acton Aid funds has yet to be finalised at the time of going to print but we know it will be well up on last year’s Music in the Meadows. This money will be used to assist local good causes. The bucket collection totalled £2150 which has been sent to Streetlife who support the homeless in Bristol. This is in addition to the £2154 raised at the Acton Court charity day which, whilst was not a specific Acton Aid event, several members kindly gave their time to assist in the setting up and running of the event.

The Acton Aid Beer Festival (held 8th September) would have happened by the time you read this but I am sure it will have again been a huge success.

The Acton Aid Bonfire Night takes place on Saturday 3rd November – so please put it in your diaries. Last year I went to the Downend firework display and the Acton Aid bonfire night beat it hands down in terms of quality of display which lasted almost twice as long as the Downend display. And we did not get crushed by thousands of other people!

Richard Hunter
Acton Aid Chairman





HANDBELLS

Cling, Clong to Ding ,Dong!

I am very happy to be able to report that, due to your amazing support and generosity, the Iron Acton Parish Handbells have now gone to the foundry in Loughbrough for refurbishment. This should be completed by the beginning of September.

Enough money was donated for us to be able to continue with our project of eventually having a full two octave, chromatic set of bells. For this we need to purchase another 8 bells, we have enough money for one and hope that a grant will be forthcoming from South Gloucestershire Council to help fund others. We will continue to fundraise.

You may wonder why we want more bells. The ones we have only allow us to play in one key which restricts the tunes we can play and it would be great to have a wider range of pieces.

More importantly we want to start a children's' group.

It became obvious on May Day that young children really enjoy bell ringing! It is beneficial to them in many ways, they need to concentrate, be disciplined, work as a group, develop hand to eye coordination, I could list more.

The larger bells are rather heavy to ring so we are endeavouring to buy the smaller 6 bells needed first as these will be more suitable for children.

Once we have the bells and know the amount of interest then we will plan a series of 30 minute sessions teaching the children.

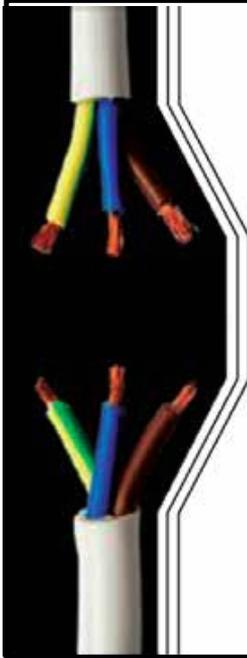
Handbells are made to order and can take up to 3 months if the casts have to be produced first. It would be great if there were children ready to ring at Christmas but this is dependent on funding for the new bells.

In the meantime the present group are looking forward to reconvening in September, new music is being written so we will have new challenges.

We plan to practise on alternate Thursday evenings. Anyone who would like to join us should contact me, or another member of the group.

Rose White

davandro@hotmail.co.uk



Jinx Johnson

Electrician

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IRON ACTON FLORAL FRIENDS

Windmills and Bulbs

Certainly not Holland, but almost Iron Acton, the three windmills are in Alveston, but are right on our border and can be clearly seen from many areas of our parish. The purpose of the wind farm is to produce electricity, which is fed into the National Grid. This electricity is from a renewable and sustainable source called “green electricity” or, as some say “vegan electricity”. The name of the company who own these is “Ecotricity”. Are they as attractive as the Dutch windmills? Perhaps In the eye of the beholder.

Then there are the bulbs – not necessarily tulips from Amsterdam: -

A recently formed group of parishioners who wish to enhance the fauna and flora of the parish of Iron Acton, last autumn and winter planted Station Road and Frampton End Road with £500 of wild flowers (these include wild daffodils, snowdrops, bluebells and primroses). During 2018 we intend to plant (we do all the planting ourselves) other areas of the Parish with £500 of plants.

What is the link with the Windmills? Ecotricity is involved with The Green Britain Foundation, who has granted us £500 this year to plant bulbs. We should also acknowledge the help of Councillor David Hockey, who last year encouraged us to link with Frampton Cotterell in the original purchasing of bulbs for Frampton End Lane.

Anyone who would like to join the group can contact John Wright on 01454 228373 or jrw@willetts.co.uk.





Balloon over Iron Acton
These beautiful images were taken by Brian Hackland
on 2nd June 2018



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