



# Local Poyntz

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**SPRING 2017**

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**OPENING HOURS:**

**MON-FRI 9am-6pm**

**SAT 9am-5.30pm**

**SUN 10.30am-4.30pm**

## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

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

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

**LETTER FROM AMERICA:** – A few weeks ago I was totally surprised, and delighted, to receive an email from a gentleman who lives in North Carolina, U.S.A. His name is George Ellis and you can read his “letter from America” on page 28. I wonder if there is anyone, in our parish, who might remember him or any of his family. If anyone does know of him it would be lovely to hear from you. Please contact me. George has written some more paragraphs, which will appear in our summer edition. One never knows who is “out there” reading our stuff!!

**YOUNG POYNTZ:** - Jess Hatherell is always looking for articles from the younger members of our community, so please contact her.

**ARTICLES:** - This, spring magazine, is rather later than it should be and the reason is due to several articles being sent long after the closing date. You might ask, “why not leave them out?” I will always endeavour to include every article, poster or advert. What I am asking is **PLEASE** note the closing date, at the bottom of this page, and send your article a.s.a.p.

### **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](mailto:localpoyntz@gmail.com).

### **FLYERS**

We are always willing to include any flyers, with the magazine. If the flyers are from a local group or organisation, there is no charge. Otherwise the price is available on request.

### **PHOTO'S**

I am always looking for photographs to put on the front page and elsewhere in the magazine. The next edition will be summer, so if you have an image showing any beautiful, local scene please gets in touch.

Pamela McCoy 01454 228874 email [pam.localpoyntz@gmail.com](mailto:pam.localpoyntz@gmail.com).  
Young Poyntz Editor – Jessica Hatherell email [jrhatherell@outlook.com](mailto:jrhatherell@outlook.com)

**The deadline for the summer edition is 8<sup>th</sup> May 2017. We really need to have all articles by that date, PLEASE.**

Front-page image was courtesy of Gillian Otlet

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## Green Community Travel Limited

The Yard, 390 North Road, Yate, South Gloucestershire, BS37 7LW

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Green Community Travel provides safe, affordable and accessible travel for individuals and groups who are unable to use public transport and would otherwise have no other way of getting around. Any voluntary or community group which meets within the South Gloucestershire area can join our Group Travel scheme and make use of our services. We have a Ring and Ride and a Voluntary Car Service, and we also organise Day Trips.

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You can use the Ring and Ride Service to go to your local Post Office, shops, hairdressers and many other destinations.

Once registered, the charge for this would be £3.50 (0-5 miles radius) with our Ring and Ride Service with a Diamond Bus Pass. Please contact us for full details of charges.

We also offer Regular Bookings for our passengers.

(If you do not have a bus pass you can get one from South Glos Council 01454 868686.)

The initial registration for a year costs £20.00. Thereafter there is then an annual fee of £15.00 payable each January. Passengers registering in August can pay half of the fee.

## Actonian's Drama Group

The **Actonian's** are hosting the Avon One Act Drama Festival this year at Iron Acton Parish Hall from 24<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> February 2017.

On Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> February at 2:30 pm the **Junior Actonian's** are performing 'Blood' by Nettie Baskcomb-Brown along with Oldland Players who are performing the first Act from 'Private Lives' and at 7:30pm the **Actonian's** perform the first act of 'Top Girls' by Caryl Churchill with Sodbury Players also performing 'Consequences'. Tickets will be available on the door or by phone: 01454228243.

'**Blood**' is a cleverly crafted comedy visualising what is happening inside your body as you perform your daily routines! Follow Porphy and Alpha, two young blood cells, who must learn to deal with all that the human body throws at them.

'**Top Girls**' (Act One) was written by Caryl Churchill in 1981 at the height of Maggie Thatcher's reign. The first Act is set in a smart London Restaurant where Marlene is celebrating her promotion to Managing Director of an employment agency by inviting five unusual historical women. All the women have either inhabited the world of men or been at the mercy of their husbands, fathers or lovers. Their stories are remarkable and they have in common their 'extraordinary achievements'.

Following this performance of Act One the **Actonian's** will go on to perform the full three act play on the 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> May at Iron Acton Parish Hall. Tickets will be on sale by mid April

More details about the **Actonian's Drama Group** and the plays are available on our website: [www.actonians.co.uk](http://www.actonians.co.uk) or follow us on <https://www.facebook.com/Actonians>



The Actonian's are currently seeking two young female actresses for the production of Top Girls in May. If you are interested, please contact the group by email: [actonians@outlook.com](mailto:actonians@outlook.com)

*New members are always welcome.*



Top Girls

A most unusual dinner party. From left to right Debby Ashton as Lady Nijo, Lin Bowden as Isabella Bird, Sarah Godsell as the hostess Marlene, Sue Anstey as Pope Joan, Rachel Taylor as Patient Griselda and in the front Pat Stimson as Dull Gret.

Share and Prayer

Join in with local friends at coffee time

Saturday

11<sup>th</sup> March + 13<sup>th</sup> May, 2017, 9.30-10.30am

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An introduction to

# *jewellery making*

Would you like to learn how to make your own jewellery?

It's easier than you would think!

Come along to one of my classes I will be holding in the local area (venue and dates to be confirmed). In this two hour class, you will learn about the tools and products you need to get started, plus the terms and techniques to give you the knowledge and confidence to continue making your own beautiful jewellery.

The lesson cost is £30. This includes the three pieces of jewellery you will have made in the lesson, and the instruction sheets for you to refer back to.

To book your place or for any further information, please contact Lucy on 07545087165 or email [lucymiller11@mac.com](mailto:lucymiller11@mac.com)



## Iron Acton Community Choir

We are currently beginning our preparations for the next Proms in the Meadow concert. The theme this year is a nautical one so thoughts have turned to The Sea, The Seaside and Sailing for inspiration, and probably some G&S (HMS Pinafore/Pirates of Penzance) for our jaunt with the Orchestra. The details of the event will be elsewhere within this magazine I am sure, but do look out for it...it really is a great evening's entertainment and a real jewel in the village's event calendar!

We are also reflecting on our January concert in the Parish Church. We sang a good range of music interspersed with seasonal readings and played to our largest audience yet. All the choir members thoroughly enjoyed it and, according to all feedback from our loyal listeners, so did they. I was delighted with the quality of the choir and particularly in the light of some of the more challenging pieces we took on. The highlight was to sing The Hallelujah Chorus in the wonderful acoustics that the Church offers...a real delight for all of us!

The energy and enthusiasm members bring to rehearsals in the Parish 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 45 members in total. We meet on a Tuesday evening in Iron Acton Parish 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...this year's winter concert donations will add to the coffers of the Anthony Nolan Trust and The Syrian Children Refugees crisis.

We currently have spaces within the choir in all voice parts, but particularly we would like to recruit more Sopranos and Basses. If you are interested then just let me know ([robpar DOE@gmail.com](mailto:robpar DOE@gmail.com)) and we'll take it from there...or pop in to one of our Tuesday evening rehearsals and see what you think.



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## **Acton Aid: A Year in Retrospect**

With a great sense of pride and relief, my year as chair of Acton Aid came to an end recently as I handed over the reins to Ashley Mee.

As most of you know, Acton Aid runs events throughout the year, distributing the profits from these to deserving causes in the parish.

Over the last year, the standout events were the Mash and Proms, which were attended by a record crowd who all enjoyed themselves thoroughly.

The events this year will be on 14th July (Mash) and 15 July (Proms) with the Proms taking on a Nautical Theme so keep the dates free as tickets will be on sale soon.

The other events of last year also went well: The Beer Festival, Guy Fawkes Night, and the recent Burns Night supper all attracted sell out attendances, and I was particularly pleased that we were also able to make important contributions to other community groups.

In May we helped to give the Church a thorough spring clean and we supported the Queen's 90th Birthday party in June by erecting our big tents beside the Village Hall and transporting various bits of the infrastructure around the village.

Perhaps our greatest success was to spend a full and exhausting day making Gloria Jean fully ship-shape, to the extent that she has now passed the dreaded inspection and our children can now fully enjoy playing on her.

Although fund raising is not our primary concern, the events we run raise significant revenue which we are keen to re-distribute to anyone in the parish in need of financial assistance so, if you know of anyone we could help, please mention it to any Acton Aid member so that it can be discussed at the next AA meeting.

If you would be interested in joining AA, please come along to one of our regular meetings, which are held on the first Thursday monthly at 8pm in The Lamb.

It has been a great honour to lead such a flourishing organisation through the last year and I wish Ashley and his team the best of luck for the coming 12 months.

Simon Cross  
Ex-Chairman!

## **Mash & Proms 2017**

You will be excited to hear that Acton Aid members have agreed to run the Mash and Proms again in 2017 and that a sub-committee has been meeting regularly to ensure this year will be the best yet!

The Mash will be held on Friday 14th July 2017 and the Proms in the Meadows takes place the day after on Saturday 15th July 2017.

We have already booked the acts for the Mash – two of them brand new and one you have heard in 2015. Slojin will open followed by The First Raitt Band and Sheelanagig to ensure a high energy end. What a great way to enjoy a summer Friday night!

This year's theme for the Proms will be 'A Nautical Extravaganza' and we are hoping many of you will come dressed for the occasion. So whether it is Long John Silver or Horatio Nelson or even Ellen McArthur you can start planning your outfit now! You will also be pleased to hear we have secured the services of Fire Magic to ensure the evening ends with a serious bang!

Tickets will be on sale in April with massive discounts for Early Birds so put the dates in your diary and keep an eye out for our emails and other publicity to get the best possible deal! Most importantly, start to think about who you want to share your rum rations with and tell them to 'save the date'!

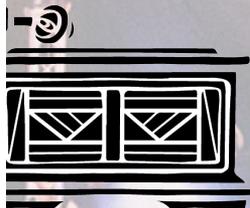
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Acton Aid



Acton Aid Presents

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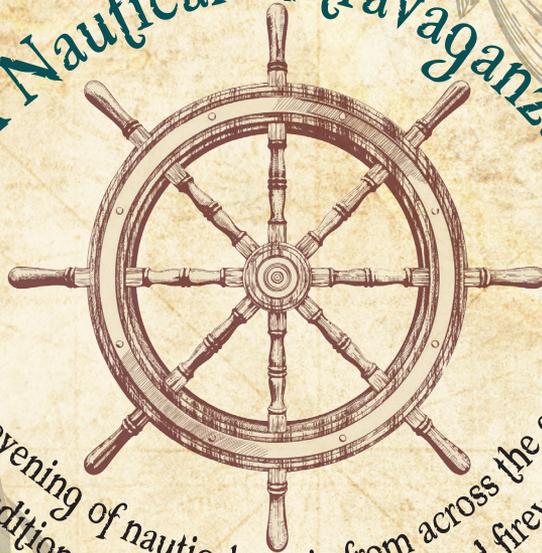
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Acton Aid Presents

# PROMS IN THE MEADOWS

*A Nautical Extravaganza!*



*An evening of nautical music from across the eras,  
with traditional 'last night of the proms' and fireworks!*

**SATURDAY 15TH JULY 2017**

**IRON ACTON PARISH MEADOWS, BRISTOL**

*Prizes for best nautical outfits!*

**Buy tickets at [www.actonaid.org.uk](http://www.actonaid.org.uk)**

## Press release for Mash in the Meadows 14<sup>th</sup> July 2017

If you like top quality live music in a beautiful village meadow setting, make sure you put Friday 14<sup>th</sup> July in your diary. Acton Aid who organise events to raise funds for local good causes in Iron Acton are presenting the 5<sup>th</sup> Mash in the Meadows.

They have lined up 3 superb bands who will treat you to a mixture of Classic Rock, Blues, Folk, Jazz, Eastern European, stomp and other genres that are difficult to label.

As usual the performers are on a large “Glastonbury” type stage with a superb sound system and lighting.

There will also be a selection of hot food and of course a well-stocked bar.

The **First Raitt Band** will treat you to a wonderful rendition of Bonnie Raitt songs. This band of talented musicians includes Pete Watson, Roger Slade and John Furlong of Flash Harry fame, Ian Vallin on bass plus the incredible songstress, Caroline Tarbuck. The band recently met Bonnie Raitt back stage at the Colston Hall and as far as Bonnie herself knows, they are the world’s only Bonnie Raitt tribute band.

Also on stage will be **Slowjin**. Based in Cheltenham, SlowJin are a 4-piece Blues/Rock band that have been wowing audiences since 2011 and play a fantastic array of classic rock and blues numbers. Covers include songs made famous by Cream, Gary Moore, Deep Purple, Queen, The Verve, Elbow, Bryan Adams, Joe Cocker and Fleetwood Mac to name but a few! So make sure you bring your dancing shoes and get ready to party.

Headlining the Mash this year is an amazing and totally unique band, **Sheelanagig**, who have become something of a West Country institution for the past decade. A quintet with a well-stocked armoury of stringed instruments – guitar, fiddle, double bass – and a bagful of joint-jumping tunes, these boys sure know how party.

Putting both groove and stomp into a selection of traditional and original European folk music dating from the medieval times to present day, it’s difficult – nay, impossible – for your limbs to remain still when you’re within earshot of them in full flight.

The fact they often play with a knowing wink shouldn’t obscure their impeccable technique and virtuoso-standard ability that raises the roof in every place they play. Expect fun, a lot of laughs and some great music.

Tickets will be available from [www.actonaid.org.uk](http://www.actonaid.org.uk) . Be sure to buy your tickets early to get the best early bird prices for the Mash and Proms and to make sure you buy them before they sell out.

## Iron Acton Film Club

As I write our film season is drawing to a close with just one showing to go in March.

As always the children's films have been very well attended. Free to all children of the Parish, we aim to provide a relaxed atmosphere in which children can watch recent film releases (usually U certificate but occasionally PG) on the big screen with their friends. We do ask that children under the age of 8 are accompanied by an adult. Details of the children's films are notified via the local schools each month so please check book bags or school newsletters to find out which film we are showing. Our March film is *The BFG*.

Due to the nature of our licence we can only advertise forthcoming evening films to our members and it is our members who vote for the films they would like to see. We try to show recent DVD releases, for instance, in January and February we showed *Jason Bourne* and *Bridget Jones' Baby*.

Our season finishes in March but if you are interested in joining for our 2017-2018 season (which will start in October 2017) please contact Caroline Haselhan (01454 228791) or Simon Cross (01454 228291) for further details. Existing members will be contacted with details of the new season by email during the summer. So please ensure we have your current email address if you wish to renew your membership.

Hope to see you at Film Club.

Caroline Haselhan.



## St James the Less

Your local Parish Church where you are always welcome

Spring is on the way at last. Snowdrops, crocus and primroses are coming into flower and the daffodils and tulips are showing signs of life in our gardens. It is a wonderful season of renewal and growth and hope for better things to come.

I was lucky enough to go to New Zealand a couple of years ago, as I know some of you have also been so fortunate, and I was amazed and encouraged by the work done in Christchurch after the earthquake they suffered which caused so much damage. The most amazing sight was the cardboard cathedral that was built to replace the one so badly damaged. I was lucky to see it just as a service was about to start and was shown around afterwards by the rector there. It is a beautiful place to see and well worth googling! They had also made a shopping centre from containers and a wonderful open entertainment space from pallets called the Pallet Pavilion which was only going to be there for three months but was being dismantled while we were there after three years.

This all goes to show how resourceful and positive we can be in the face of great adversity and how much can be achieved by working together towards a common aim.

The Christian faith is based on the same principles of love and hope and helping each other. Who knows what we could achieve together and what miracles could happen!

Administrator for the church is Kathryn Nichols for any enquiries.

Tel. 01454 776518

email [fromesidepartnership@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:fromesidepartnership@yahoo.co.uk)

Rector: Rev. Malcolm Strange

Tel. 01454 775529

Churchwardens:

Carol Groom 07890410540

email [carolgroom@hotmail.com](mailto:carolgroom@hotmail.com)

Di Heal 01454 228498

email [di@healfamily.me.uk](mailto:di@healfamily.me.uk)

Details of all our services are available on the website and on the church notice board and follow this pattern

Sunday: 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 9.15am Holy Communion. 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday 9.30am Family Service. 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday is a joint Benefice Service at each church in turn at 10.00am

Wednesday 10.30am Holy Communion in Marshall Room

The Marshall Room is available for hire for meetings and groups. We were sorry to lose the Toddler Group who were regular users for many years and would like to see the room used more often. Please contact Sally Aries for hire on 01454 228037.

FROMESIDE CHURCHES  
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PARISH HALL



A date for your diary

Contact Di Heal 228498

## **News from North Road Community Primary School**

The children and staff at North Road Primary School are pleased to announce that they have successfully been awarded a Bronze Health in Schools Award for demonstrating their commitment to promoting a healthy lifestyle for pupils. Our journey for a silver award has already begun with the School Council delivering a presentation to parents and pupils about how to pack a healthy lunchbox. The Lunch Crew will be awarding stickers to all pupils who include fresh fruit and vegetables in their lunchboxes.

Our quest to achieve the ArtsMark Award is also progressing well with the next art project challenge, a piece of outdoor art, forming our latest 'pop up art gallery' around the playground of our school. Please feel free to come into school and collect a gallery program from the main reception and a member of the staff, along with members of the School Council, will be delighted to show you around the outdoor art gallery.

We have also started a new fundraising challenge in order to improve the school library. We have a 'sponsor a book' display in our school hall and are asking for sponsors to donate £5 for a new book. All sponsors are invited to sign the bookcase display and a book plate with their name will be added inside of a new book which will go into the library. If you feel able to support us in this way or you would like to come and see the children's artwork please call into the school office at anytime. We would be delighted to see you and show you around our lovely school.

Sarah Stillie, Headteacher, North Road Community Primary School

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### **North Road Ladies Club**

Our first meeting in the New Year took place on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> January when it turned out to be an extremely cold and frosty evening. However, 22 members braved the weather to attend our meeting when Brian Griffiths gave a most enjoyable illustrated talk on his visit to the Amalfi Coast and Tuscany.

Each year we fund -raise to support a charity and for 2017 our chosen charity is "Special Friends Club". This is a charity operating throughout Bristol and South Gloucestershire and run by parent volunteers. The charity provides support for families of children with special needs by organizing a wide range of activities that can be shared and enjoyed by the whole family.

2017 is North Road Ladies Club's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary so we will be thinking of ideas for celebrating with a party on 6<sup>th</sup> November.

Our meetings are held in Iron Acton Parish Hall on the first Monday of the month, commencing at 7.30 p.m. Visitors, or new members, are always most welcome to join our friendly club.

On Monday, 6<sup>th</sup> February our speaker, Bob Cutts, will be giving a talk on "Bride Ships".

June Rycroft  
Club Secretary

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## RED PHONE BOX ON HIGH STREET

Further to our note in the last edition many people have been supportive of our goal of adopting the red phone box to prevent its removal and keep it as a feature in our historic high street. The Parish Council have agreed to nominally sponsor the adoption but it will be up to any interested Parishioners to decide what use to put it to.

There was a good article on postbox adoption on the BBC website in January.  
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-36148287>

One of the top uses of boxes has been a site for a Defibrillator but as we luckily already have one at the Village Hall perhaps a book exchange or home grown produce shop might be more useful? We could decorate it for the seasons?

We propose to hold an informal meeting to discuss the ideas on Thursday 16th March in the Lamb Inn at 7.30pm. Do come along and share your ideas.

Sonya Grubb and Pam McCoy





## **Iron Acton Parish Hall New Committee Members Needed**

Iron Acton Parish Hall Committee meets once a month on the second Wednesday of each month to discuss all issues relating to the Parish Hall. These range from planning an extension, arranging for windows to be painted, auditing cutlery or chairs and planning general maintenance.

A couple of our members have recently retired and we would like to recruit volunteers who must live in the Parish, to join us. Anyone who is willing to become involved in practical tasks such as planting bulbs, redrafting our hire agreement or any of numerous other issues would be particularly welcome.

If you think you would like to become involved in running your Parish Hall please contact Sue Gadsby on 01454 228803.

# GARDENING POYNTZ

By Jo Wright

## Spring is here!

March, April and May are for me the most exciting months of the year as I watch buds break, seeds germinating and signs of new life everywhere. For those who produce their plants from seed, this is one of the busiest times. It is also a critical time for protecting that tender new growth from slugs and other pests.

## Time to get busy

March is the month to top dress your roses, fruit trees and borders with compost, leaf mould or manure. If you do this too early you will encourage soft growth which could be affected by late frosts.

Pruning of trees, shrubs and roses should also be completed this month before they break their dormancy (not that anything has had proper dormancy this Winter!)

Large, congested clumps of perennials should also be lifted and divided before they put on too much growth

Try and keep on top of weeds as they start growing, while they are still small. It will save so much time later and also reduce hiding places for those slugs that are just waiting for the soft new growth

Hardy annuals, can be planted out in a warm Spring, but half hardy annuals should not be planted out until mid May, when the risk of frosts have passed. If you're not sure which are which, seed packets contain a wealth of information, and good garden centres should display this information.

*To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow*

*Audrey Hepburn*



A lovely Spring mix of foxglove, allium, viburnum and stock

"Is the spring coming?" he said.  
"What is it like?"...  
"It is the sun shining on the rain and the rain falling on the sunshine..."

**Frances Hodgson Burnett,**

**The Secret Garden**



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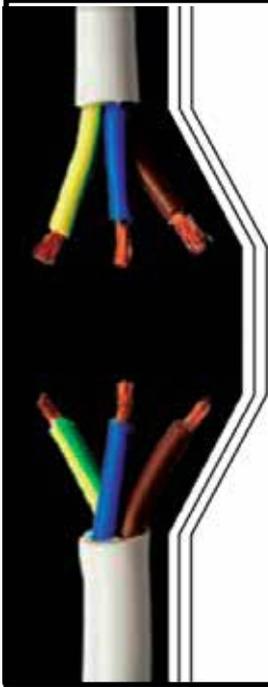
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**Nicola Johnson**  
**07974 687020**

[nikkishortbarknsides@gmail.com](mailto:nikkishortbarknsides@gmail.com)

## Iron Acton Parish Council

### New Councillors

John Wright – Iron Acton Ward  
Mark Kavanagh – Iron Acton Ward  
Richard Hunter – East Ward

### New Play Equipment

Iron Acton has successfully applied for and been awarded £10,000.00 from the National Lottery towards the cost of updating the play equipment in the play park, various other methods of fund raising and requests for donations have gone out to various organisations in order to hopefully achieve the shortfall required for a full revamp of the play park. Iron Acton Parish Council hope to have some of the work started in spring/early summer with completion to be done in time for the main school holidays.

### Chill Wood

The 5-year management program is underway, further details can be found on the website. We are currently awaiting a contractor to rebuild the wall (ViewPoint) It has recently been reported to the Parish Council of damage within Chill Wood caused by the construction of a cycle track being constructed, this is being investigated by the relevant authorities.

### Chair / Vice Chair

Following the resignation of Chair by Councillor Bellis and now having a full set of Councillors a new chair and vice chair was duly elected during the February meeting.

Chair – Bob Lomas  
Vice Chair – Peter Bellis

### Allotments

There is currently a short waiting list for allotments if anyone is interested in joining the waiting list please contact the clerk on Tel: 01454 501134 Email: [clerk@ironactonparishcouncil.com](mailto:clerk@ironactonparishcouncil.com)

### Annual Parish Meeting

The Provisional date for the Annual Parish Meeting is 11<sup>th</sup> May 2017

### Minutes

The Parish Council has received a freedom of information request to view the historical hand written minute books. We no longer have these in our possession and have tried to locate them in Gloucester, South Gloucestershire and Bristol archives without success. If any readers of Local Poyntz have any idea where these may be, please contact the clerk. We are very keen to recover these valuable local documents.



## **Iron Acton K9 Club - Movie Star Dogs**

There has been a bit of a buzz at the club recently as a number of our dogs and handlers were selected to take part in filming scenes for a Hollywood movie all about dogs. Unfortunately, the scenes we were shooting were done in Cardiff – based at Pinewood studio but the main cast have now moved on to Las Vegas to complete filming!! Karen Carnovale with Purdey and Shya and Paul Hampson with Lexie were in a Dog Pound scene. Dot Glover with Oscar were in a grooming parlour scene and Sue Gadsby and Karen Carnovale worked with Purdey, Dusty and Grace on a pool party scene. It was hard work – 5.00 am starts for costume & make up at 6.00am. Waiting to be called to set involved huddling around gas heaters outside a warehouse in Cardiff, so not all the glamour we might have expected but all in all a great experience. The film is due out in November this year and hopefully we won't all end up on the cutting room floor.

Our obedience training in Rangeworthy Village Hall continues on Monday evenings. Club members have been working hard and have attained more success with Kennel Club Good Citizens scheme assessments. We train all ages from puppies to Kennel Club Good Citizens Bronze, Silver and Gold standards followed by our club class for more experienced members.

Recent puppy passes were Alex Saxon with Watson, Robert Blade with Rio, Julie Inke with Lucy and Karen Huntley with Mabel. Tony York with Rolo were successful at silver level and Laurence Bath with Zozo have worked really well to pass the gold standard. Good work everyone. Our club class is now held on Tuesday evenings when the handlers and dogs work on fun exercises and tricks to further develop their skills and working partnerships.

Our activities members have been meeting on Sunday afternoons to enjoy agility training, hay bale scurry, flyball and dummy retrieves. We have lots of fun and our dogs all enjoy the exercise and socialisation. If you would like more information about the club please ring Sue 01454 228803 or Karen 01454 228891 or see our website for more details on class times and trainers [www.ironactonk9club.co.uk](http://www.ironactonk9club.co.uk).

We will be arranging activities in the Parish Meadows for the village May Day event so we look forward to seeing lots of you there.

Karen will be offering training on a 1 to 1 basis for dogs / handlers who have more individual needs. If you would like more details please give her a call on the number above.

Tummy rubs all round.  
Sue



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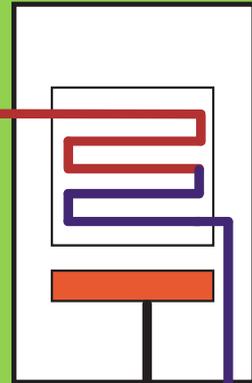
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## Letter from America

Hi Pam [Editor],

Just a brief note to inform you that, even though I'm an Iron Acton lad from way back and now living in the mountains of North Carolina, it is a pleasure to read the goings on within Poyntz of the village. Some of the names that pop up within articles are remembered, some are not. What to do with these newcomers?

But all aside, there does appear to be a certain vibrancy being felt through these articles one reads. During the 60's getting things done in Iron Acton was a challenge despite some very good efforts by very good people. Reverting back to the established Actonions as well as the new folk that have moved into the village, the common interests and goals they share continues to fuel the village experiences for the next generation.

As a lad I lived in the council house estate in Chilwood Close, we moved in right after they were built. My father, Jack Ellis, was a Superintendent in Bristol for the GPO, and my grandfather, Maurice Ellis was headmaster at the IA primary school. Life was hard back then! But there was a certain richness in being able to run down the fields on those long summer days and see the daily steam engine puffing away to Thornbury, or as children we'd imagine ourselves as cave men living in the cave in what we called the 'big woods' by the Frome.

It was this hardship, post war, which made me determined to move on at some point after Grammar school and leave for the States to go to University and earn a degree, raise a family and do the things, we all try to do. But reading the Poyntz articles brings a smile to me and takes me back to the simpler days of childhood. The fact that the villagers appear to be planning this event, or doing that, to bring everyone into the sense of 'village life' is great to see.

Now, after living in Florida for four decades, we live in a village in the mountains of North Carolina, up around 3500'. The size is about the same as Iron Acton, so is the population, and it is a true village. It has one pub, and three churches, and on Sundays, all are filled. People live here, as they do in Iron Acton, because they have an innate sense that they belong in such a place. They live in a village because they want to, not because they have to.

All in all, to make a long story short, when we decide to do things, or write articles, or organize events for others to participate in within the village, we are maintaining those experiences and connections of the past for others to remember far into the future. Maybe, one day they may be living in some faraway place and be reminded of their village upbringing which helped shape them to become what they are.

So, please convey my thanks for all who put in their time and effort, possibly without knowing it, to make Iron Acton a special place, even if those readers may be in some unlikely faraway place!

Respectfully yours,

George F Ellis  
Blowing Rock ,  
North Carolina. USA

## **PAST POYNTZ**

### **Iron Acton Home Front 1914 - 1919**

#### **Soldiers & Sailors Family Association Clothing Depot (24 October 1914)**

Mrs Anley from Iron Acton contributed to the 'Four hundred and sixty-nine garments and a large quantity of tobacco, cigarettes, sweets, etc. and some literature' sent to the front via the Gloucestershire Centre.

#### **Threatening language at Iron Acton School (Western Daily Press 3 December 1914)**

'At the [Thornbury] petty session on Wednesday – before Sir George B. Jenkinson, Bart. (Chairman), the Hon. R.W.H. Rodney, and Messrs J.J. Harle and G. Whitfield – Mrs Violet Harrison was charged with a breach of the county bye-laws in using threatening language to a school teacher at Iron Acton, on the 27<sup>th</sup> ult. Mr H.P. Thurston (Messrs Thurston and Jolly, solicitors, Thornbury) appeared to prosecute. Defendant was fined £1 and £1 11s costs, with a warning from the bench that she would be dealt with more severely if she continued her annoyance and threats.'

This incident was also mentioned by the school managers on 30<sup>th</sup> November 1914: 'The Rector reported that the police were accusing Mrs. Harrison of using threats and abusive language to Mrs. James in connection with the punishment of the children and on the suggestion of the Rector it was unanimously decided that Mr. Thurstan, solicitors, of Thornbury should be asked to watch the case on behalf of the managers when it came before the magistrates.'

#### **Arrival of More Belgian Refugees (Gloucester Journal 2 January 1915)**

'A further party of 55 Belgian refugees, comprised in ten families, arrived at the Great Western Railway Station, Gloucester, on Thursday by the 8.11 train from London. They were met by Mr. M.W. Colchester-Wemyss, Mr. F.E. Goodchild, Mr. G.L. Hone (Tewkesbury), Mr. Strickland (Apperley), Mr. T.H. Hulls (Corse), Rev. H.L.O. Cherrington and Mr. Cook (Norton) and Mr. Williams (Walmley). Most of the party belonged to the working class, and some presented a most pitiful appearance. The refugees were allocated as follows: - ..... Iron Acton, 3 women and 3 children .....

#### **6<sup>th</sup> Gloucesters' Recruiting Campaign (Western Daily Press 20 May 1915)**

'On Tuesday morning, the 6<sup>th</sup> Gloucesters' detachment paraded at the National School Frampton Cotterell, and went for a short march, and in the afternoon gave exhibitions of physical and musketry drills on the Rectory lawn, where the band also played selections. In the evening they again paraded, and headed by the band and the 'Frampton Cotterell and Coalpit Heath Volunteer Training Corps' marched to Iron Acton, where they received a hearty welcome from Mr A.S. Fugill and the local Recruiting Committee on the open space known as the "Seeds." Here a capital concert was given, when, in addition to the selections by the band, capital songs were sung by Mrs Crofton Atkins, Iron Acton school children, and Mr Bert Hand. Master Crofton Atkins, a little fellow of five or six, in the full dress of the Sherwood Foresters, of which his father is colonel, and his little sister, in kilts, gave a very enjoyable duet, and the former also sang "The British Grenadiers." A recital by Mrs Sellen and a pianoforte solo by Mrs Langdon completed the programme. Captain Evans, of the Canadians, an invalid from the front, gave a stirring recruiting speech. He was told two reasons had been given in the district for not joining. One that it was not paid enough; and the other, they were not going until they were forced. Well, all he could say was either they did not understand things or they were afraid. The only valid reason for not enlisting was physical incapacity. The enemy outside their brutish ways, were strong and England was never up against anything like this before. Corpl. Griffiths, of the 6<sup>th</sup> Gloucesters, also made a strong appeal to the young men to come forward. In answer to his call for recruits two came forward and stood beside those who

had enlisted at Pucklechurch and Frampton, who were in uniform. Refreshments and cigarettes were kindly provided for the soldiers by local friends, who returned to Frampton at 9.30 p.m. On Wednesday morning at 10.30 the detachment marched off from Frampton Cotterell billets en route for Rangeworthy and Charfield.' *(The same paper reported (23 June 1915) that 'only' 100 recruits were secured by the tour.)*

#### **Casualties to Local Officers – Major Ball-Acton (Cheltenham Chronicle 3 June 1916)**

'Major Reginald Thomas Annesley Ball-Acton, King's Own (Yorkshire Light Infantry), of Kilmacurragh, co. Wicklow, and Iron Acton, Gloucestershire (killed in action on May 22), was the last surviving son of the late Colonel Ball-Acton, C.B., K.O.Y.L.I. Before the war he held the rank of captain in the Reserve of Officers, K.O.Y.L.I. and in August 1914, he was gazetted for employment with his regiment. He had been recently promoted major and appointed to one of the Service Battalions. Major Ball-Acton, who was born in 1877, was educated at Rugby and Sandhurst, and was formerly a captain in the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry. His brother, Major Charles Annesley Acton, Royal Welsh Fusiliers, fell in action last September.' *(The war diary for the 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion K.O.Y.L.I records that Major Ball-Acton was 'shot through the neck and killed' on a patrol near Wieltje near Ypres. He is buried in White House Cemetery, St Jean-Les-Ypres.)*

#### **Dursley Petty Sessions (Gloucester Journal 26 May 1917)**

'Before Sir Ashton Lister (in the chair) and Mr. Sidney Bloodworth.....Henry Mainstone, old age pensioner, of Iron Acton, was brought up charged with sleeping on the roadside. P.C. Gabb stated that he found the old man asleep in Kingshill Lane. He was very cold and wet and could not explain himself, so he brought him to the station. Sir Ashton remarked that the man would probably have died had he lain out all night. P.S. Wicks said his friends had been communicated with, and the Bench discharged him, the police to take care of him till their arrival.'

#### **Death of Mrs Heddon (Gloucestershire Chronicle 17 July 1915)**

'On Saturday afternoon the body of Mrs. C. Heddon, aged 64, of Iron Acton, was laid to rest in the parish churchyard, the service being taken by the rector (the Rev. Canon G.R. Browne). The chief mourners were Mr. J.C. Heddon (husband), Miss E. Heddon (daughter, Mrs. Aldridge (Exeter), Mrs. Parker (Portsmouth), sisters; Mr. R.A.R. Cohen (hon. Secretary South Gloucestershire Teachers' Association), and Mr. C. Willson (Birmingham). The great sympathy felt for Mr. Heddon, who has been head master of the Parish School for more than forty years, was shown by the presence of many friends in the church and churchyard. Many beautiful wreaths were sent. The ringers have a muffled peal after the service as a mark of respect to their captain, Mr. Heddon.'

#### **National Emergency Committee (Western Daily Press 11 September 1915)**

'A meeting was held in the Iron Acton schoolroom on Thursday evening, Colonel Burgess (late of the 12<sup>th</sup> Gloucesters) presiding over a good attendance. Before the meeting the band of the 12<sup>th</sup> Gloucesters gave selections, both outside and in the school. Mr J. Rowe Brooks, of Bristol, said three factors were required to win this war, men, munitions, and money. With regard to men they were all proud of the magnificent response already made voluntarily in defence of the preservation of their liberty, not only from their own towns and villages, but from all their colonies. Lord Kitchener had now said he wanted more men, and therefore they must be found. Then again the war was costing the country £2,083 a minute, an enormous amount, and they had to their share to help raise it. They were in for a big struggle yet, and if they could not fight or make leaden bullets, they must do their best to provide the silver bullets to preserve for themselves and their successors the glorious heritage of liberty and freedom handed down to them. Mr. E Black, of Cardiff, gave an address on the need of men.'

**Obtaining Sugar by Forgery (Cheltenham Chronicle 2 February 1918)**

'George Fursman (34), grocer, Iron Acton pleaded guilty to forging a document requesting the Royal Commission on Sugar to supply four dozen pounds weight of sugar to one Emily Stiff, of Iron Acton. Mr Herbert Davey, who prosecuted, said Miss Stiff filled in a buff form applying for four dozen pounds of sugar, but did not fill in a white form, which she should have done. She took the forms to the prisoner, who altered them and filled in the white one for fourteen dozen pounds of sugar. He then sent the forms to a wholesaler and obtained fourteen dozen pounds applied for by her. The offence was not discovered until an inspector went to inquire as to how the sugar was used. The forgery was then discovered. Prisoner said he had no intention of defrauding anyone, but thinking that the sugar applied for would be halved, as the ordinary supplied had been, he altered the figures. His Lordship said prisoner used the sugar so obtained in his business, selling it at a profit, and must have known he was doing wrong. He has the option of fining prisoner instead of sending him to prison, and this he proposed to do. Prisoner would remain in custody until he paid a fine of £50, and an order would be made for £10 10s. costs in addition.'

**Peace Celebration (Western Daily Press 23 July 1919)**

'The Peace celebration was held at Iron Acton on Saturday. Mr and Mrs W.G. Forrest kindly gave a tea to all children between four and fourteen years of age, and all returned soldiers, as a thank offering for the return of their own soldier son. There was a procession through the village, headed by the Yate British Band, and fireworks but the sports were postponed. An address was given by Canon G.R. Browne when the flag was hoisted on the school green.'

Tim Grubb email [timmy.grubb@gmail.com](mailto:timmy.grubb@gmail.com)



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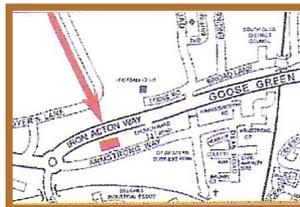
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## Iron Acton Primary School News

Iron Acton Primary School is an amazing place; all of the children are fantastic learners and the staff have been very impressed with their attitude to learning since the start of the school year. This time I thought it would be good for you to hear from them about what they think of their school and their learning. I hope you enjoy hearing what they have to say.

In Kestrels class, my favourite thing has been doing lots of writing in English. Ruby, age 6.

We have been learning how to spell new and harder words. It's really fun! Sophie, age 5.

I like learning maths and phonics. You learn new sounds each week and you learn new things about numbers. Jasmine, age 6.

In maths, I have been learning the grid method to help with multiplication. Rosie, age 7.

I like learning phonics. Vincent, age 5.

We have been on lots of trips this year. Recently, we went to Bristol Cathedral to learn about Candlemass. We made candle holders and I enjoyed it. Wesley, age 9.

I enjoy learning maths with Mrs Pilgrim. Maths is fun. Marley, age 7.

In art, we have been designing mosaic patterns as part of our Romans topic. Dan, age 8.

I enjoy maths because we have challenges. George, age 6.

I really enjoyed going to Govilon Outdoor Activity Centre, particularly going under the waterfall in the afternoon. Savannah, age 8.

My highlight of the year so far was when the Viaduct Animal Centre came in and showed us a snake. Alaula, age 10.

I enjoyed our visit to Pizza Express and to Bristol Museum with Miss Bagnall and learning about fractions using the pizza. Even though it was raining we went to the park and had lots of fun. Orla, age 10.

I have enjoyed doing swimming and our visit to Bristol Museum. Olivia, age 10.

Over the coming weeks we will begin to think about Easter and the significance it has for Christians as well as for us as a church school. We will hold our Easter service in St James the Less Church at the end of term. We will also move on to new topics, including The Egyptians, The Romans and Flying so we have another busy term of exciting learning ahead.

Mike Riches and all at Iron Acton Primary School

## YOUNG POYNTZ

### School ski trip

This February half-term I was lucky enough to be part of a school ski trip bound for Austria.

I must admit I was extremely nervous before getting on the coach, as I have never been skiing before, and in my older sister's words I am "a bit of a goon!".

But I got on the coach and got comfortable as that is where I would be staying for the next 26 hours or so!

Of course, we stopped along the way at service stations and on the ferry but the rest was spent watching films and listening to music which everyone sung along to and then trying in vain to get some sleep, in a fairly up right position, on a bus full of teenagers!

Day 1: Day 1 was only really a few hours and was spent mainly unpacking, wandering around in the surreal landscapes all carpeted in a deep layer of snow (which you soon found out when you stepped in it and ended up with wet shins!). Also, we had a first taste of Austrian food, which was... interesting. We had a starter of rather salty soup and a main consisting of a giant frankfurter and chips. It was a welcome relief to have a warm meal after such a journey even if this was not exactly a Michelin star restaurant!

Day 2: The first day of skiing!! This was a day where I quickly noted that you do not need hundreds of layers accompanied by hand and foot warmers (an addition from my dear mother- one for each hand and foot for each day! despite my father's disapproval). We all started to sweat very fast after being made to trudge along the snow and practice our skiing on flat ground, much harder than it sounds! I enjoyed the day even if it was a struggle and we were treated that evening with a trip to watch a ski show of professional skiers.

Day 3: This was a rather eventful day! My lovely instructor, Selina, made the brave decision that we should be allowed on the blue slopes on this day. I think that even she will admit this was a BAD decision!! Somehow our entire group managed to get themselves lost in different places across the resort. We all felt a bit cocky and skied off without waiting for the instructor and some rather slow members of the group, which didn't end well. Luckily, we found everyone but had a teacher and instructor who were both in a bit of a tizzy!! We were taken to see a glacier and the breath takingly beautiful mountains from an enormous height after travelling up in a gondola as our entertainment that afternoon.

Day 4: A better decision was made on day 4, to split up our group and we had a great day racing down the blues and improving greatly. This was followed by a trip to bowling in a small Austrian bar, which I found was not a strength of mine!

Day 5: This day saw even more improvements to our group, and we were able to complete some red slopes for which I was very proud. We followed this day with a trip to a swimming complex, which included; 3 different pools- a wave machine pool, an outside pool with Jacuzzis and a lazy river and a pool with a diving board. There were also some terrifying

slides on one of which I managed to accidentally go down backwards (see where my sister was coming from with the goon thing now?)

Day 6: Our instructor took us up to the next mountain, where we practised our red slope skills and were rewarded by going to a restaurant which sold possibly the best burger I've ever tasted! A disco followed day 6, however another school at the disco who were a little big for their boots- to say the least, got a bit rowdy and rude towards our teachers, so we left early and carried on the rave on the bus!

Day 7: Our last day of skiing, which having never thought I would feel this way at the beginning of the trip was actually a sad day. I had come to love the sport, the thrill, the silence and views from the chairlifts, the gross pommes (large chips-the only bit of German I remember!), the scenery and the people. We finished on a high- heading to the same mountain as the previous day, hitting some reds, followed by pizza and finally skiing down a black! I can't necessarily say that I enjoyed the black slope but I can say I felt extremely proud and fulfilled after it. We returned our hired gear, got an early tea and then started the long journey home. I did manage to get an hour or 2 of sleep on the way back until I was rudely awakened by a straw being put in my open, snoring mouth!

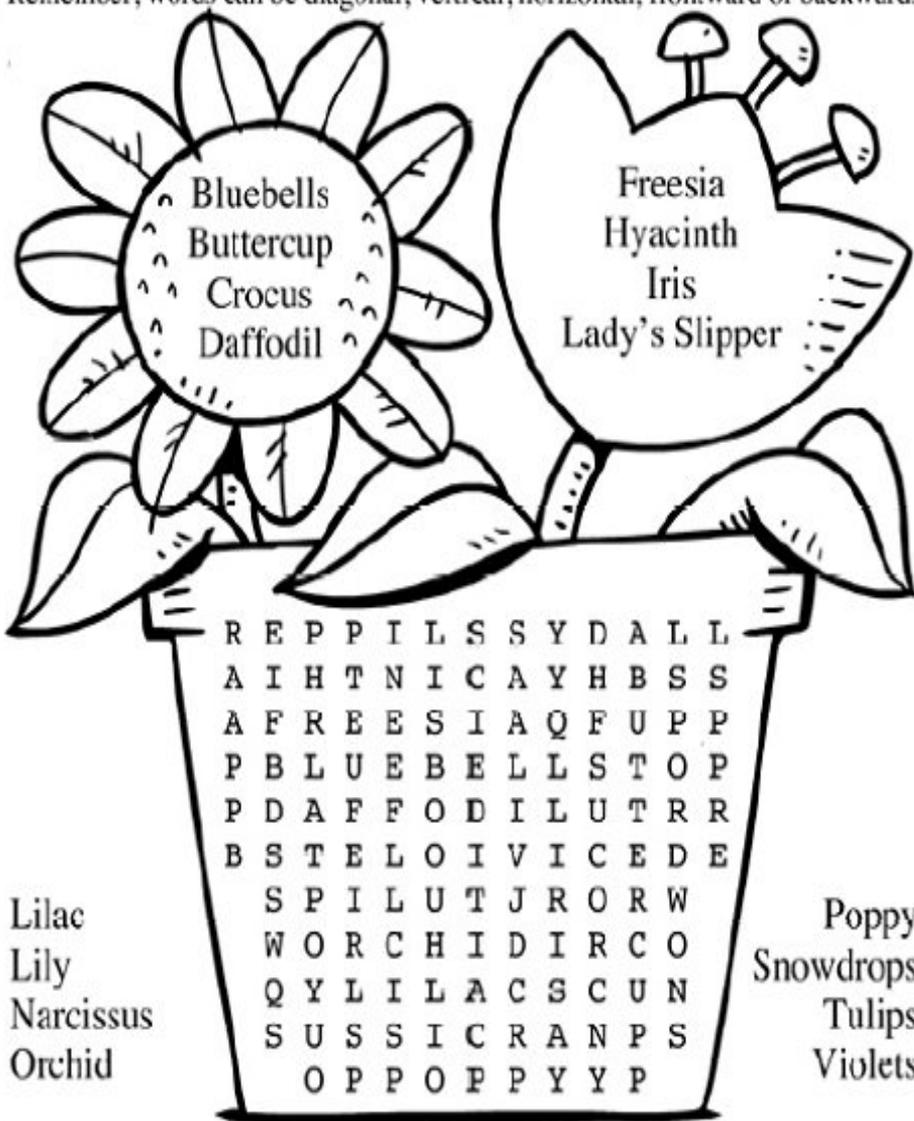
I would recommend skiing to anyone- goon or not! It was one of the most amazing experiences I've had.

Jess Hatherell



# Spring Flower Word Search

Try to find all of the hidden spring flower related words in the puzzle below. Remember, words can be diagonal, vertical, horizontal, frontward or backwards.



## **Iron Acton Women's Institute**

The first meeting of the year was very well attended and it's good to see that the group is thriving with yet more new members joining us.

We began with a talk given with enthusiasm and humour by Margaret Gless, who came along with her vast array of hats. Assisted by Gordon, she had a story to tell about each one, which she modelled of course. Many were collected from her visits abroad and others had nostalgic stories such as a station master's top hat (Temple Meads) and Gordon's grandfather's railway cap, still in pristine condition and which had been worn for many years with much pride. Seeing a photograph from the 1920s of the gentleman in his uniform with his wife made it all the more poignant. Also included in Margaret's collection were a 1929 leather motorbike helmet, a Sebastian Vettel Red Bull Formula 1 helmet and an original style Salvation Army bonnet. She also had a more modern one which most agreed wasn't a patch on the old style.

Bridget reported that those members who had preferred giving a donation to charity rather than exchanging Christmas cards, raised a total of £51 for the Alzheimer's Society. A group of members is due to go to Denman College, the WI's own Residential and Day Adult Education College near Oxford, for a visit in February. The skittles team got through the first round of the area competition for the first time (by winning, not a bye this time), just before Christmas but alas succumbed in the second round in January to Falfield at The White Swan in Tytherington. As usual it was good fun and played in a very friendly spirit.

There is much to look forward to this year, including such diverse talks as the building works at Dyrham Park, silk painting, Cotswold canals, hedgehog rescue and a flower arranging demonstration. There is also an outing to the Kingswood Museum Gardens in the summer.

Anyone wishing to join our friendly group can contact our Secretary, Bridget, on 01454 321741. We meet in Iron Acton Parish Hall on the second Monday of the month at 7.30pm.

Sylvie Powell

## Iron Acton Parish Hall – Regular classes/meetings

<b>Kathryn Hurley Dance Academy</b> <a href="http://www.thekathrynhurleydanceacademy.com">http://www.thekathrynhurleydanceacademy.com</a>	Ballet, Tap and Modern	Various times/days
<b>Music with Mummy</b> <a href="http://yate.musicwithmummy.co.uk/">http://yate.musicwithmummy.co.uk/</a>	The MUSIC with MUMMY programme will take your child on a musical journey from birth until they go to school.	Various times/days
<b>Ballroom Dancing</b> Cathie Mathews 07747 686206	Weekly private lessons	Monday and Friday mornings
<b>Community Cinema</b> <a href="mailto:simon@laburnumhouse.fsnet.co.uk">simon@laburnumhouse.fsnet.co.uk</a> <a href="mailto:caroline.haselhan@btinternet.com">caroline.haselhan@btinternet.com</a>	Open to members joining from within the parish. Monthly film for members and a free matinee for any children living within the parish	1 <sup>st</sup> Saturday of the month (October to March) 3:30pm & 7:30pm
<b>WI</b> Secretary – Bridget 01454 321741	Womens Institute	2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday of the Month 7.30pm
<b>Community Choir</b> <a href="http://www.ironacton.info/community/#community-choir">http://www.ironacton.info/community/#community-choir</a>	We sing secular music from a range of sources. Our youngest members are 17 and our oldest would certainly never be asked his or her age. Member's have to be older than 16, and to be living within the Iron Acton Parish.	Tuesday 8.30 to 10.00pm
<b>Ballroom Dancing</b> Christine and Peter Lockley – 01454 313885	Private lessons	Tuesday From 6pm
<b>Liz Nichols Pilates</b> <a href="mailto:lizinichols@hotmail.com">lizinichols@hotmail.com</a>	Classes are relaxed and friendly; you will be encouraged to work at your own pace but with challenges where appropriate.	Wednesday 9.30 to 10.30am

<p><b>Actonians</b></p> <p><a href="http://www.actonians.co.uk/">http://www.actonians.co.uk/</a></p>	<p>The Actonians are a local drama group. They produce two shows a year in the Iron Acton Parish Hall</p>	<p>Wednesday</p> <p>Junior Actonians 6.30 to 7.30pm</p> <p>Actonians From 7.30pm</p>
<p><b>Zumba Gold</b></p> <p>Telephone - Sally Ellis – 07341 813559</p>	<p>This class is suitable for Men &amp; Women of all ages and abilities, BEGINNERS welcome, a fun, friendly class with all the flavour of Zumba but at a more moderate pace and low impact - bring a bottle of water, wear comfortable clothes and trainers</p>	<p>Thursday</p> <p>9:30 to 10:30 am</p>
<p><b>Laughter In Line</b></p> <p>Sarah Cleaver – 01454 773927</p>	<p>Line dance club that is all about having fun and making new friends</p>	<p>Thursday</p> <p>Beginners 7.30pm</p> <p>Improvers 8.30pm</p>
<p><b>Iron Acton Craft Group</b></p> <p>Telephone June on 01454 228760</p>	<p>If sitting and enjoying a couple of hours relaxing while you knit, sew etc appeals, and to be part of a lovely friendly group then please come along, bring a project to finish or start a new one!</p>	<p>Friday</p> <p>1.30 to 3.30pm</p>

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