



W. CHAPMAN, R.S.

FOCUS on IRON ACTON

The Parish Meadow

"FOCUS ON IRON ACTON" - from an idea generated in Charles Wilkins' Dog House over a bottle of his best German Wine. Charles and Godfrey Cook (regular but poor golf players) were at that time somewhat depressed by the news that Golf had been declared unfit for respectable people - the courses being frequented by socially unacceptable people who made wealth through undesirable means.

It was only some weeks later that they discovered that this news had been issued by the inner council of ayatollahs and only applied to Iran. But now the seed had germinated, fostered and nurtured by the fact that everyone consulted thought it was an excellent idea - probably on the basis that it would shut the two of them up - verbally anyway!

At this juncture, Wilkins, having listened to Cook's ideas on the subject (obviously affected by the quality of wine being drunk at the time) thought it wise to enlist the help of a few intelligent people so that he, at least, would have some compatible company at meetings. Joy Waker, Sue Pullen and Joanna Voss were asked to assist (Pip turned up instead but this situation was accepted - he can at least make sure that tolerably decent English will be used.

All had been dismayed for some time by the lack of communication within the Parish. There were an appreciable number of Clubs and other organisations all doing a splendid job but in many cases their activities known only to a small section of the Parish. Something was needed - a publication for circulation - thus

"FOCUS ON IRON ACTON"

- (1) To be distributed free to all householders in the Parish.
(it was thought that no-one could be persuaded to pay real money for a copy)
- (2) To be issued initially every three months - not too ambitious to begin with but hopefully the issues will become more frequent.
- (3) The aims:-
 - (i) to stimulate peoples interest in their own Parish by keeping them informed of all activities that have recently taken place, are now taking place or are proposed to take place in the near future;
 - (ii) to assist existing organisations expand their membership by interesting others in their activities;
 - (iii) to encourage the formation of other Clubs, sporting and other activities, competitions etc., by bringing together people with the same interests;

- (iv) to interest readers in the history of not only the village but the personalities who have lived there in the past and also those who still live there;
- (v) to publish articles, poems etc., by local people on any subject (apart from politics) which would be of general interest;
- (vi) to encourage young and middle-aged potential journalists to accept responsibility for the future publication.

We shall probably be responsible for a lot of mistakes as we have no previous experience of this kind of venture - if so please laugh - don't moan - after all it hasn't cost you anything. We would sooner have your printable contributions, we certainly need your help.

The first edition is composed in the main of details of the organisations within the Parish - with help, future editions will contain plenty of readers' contributions.

Finally, our thanks to Maureen Chapman for designing the front cover.

A girl at boarding school in the West Country wrote to her parents: "Last week the Bishop came for a confirmation. I could see him very well from my place in chapel. Now I know what a crook really looks like".

IRON ACTON SCHOOL - Plans are going ahead for a facelift for Iron Acton School in 1983, when it is hoped to restructure and modernise the building.

The school caters for children of Primary School age (4 - 11 years) from the village and surrounding areas.

Since its opening as Iron Acton National School in 1874, very few structural alterations have been made. A new toilet unit was erected in 1965, and a Terrapin classroom was added in 1966.

Present plans are that the existing staffroom will, with an extension, become the Infant's classroom, and a second floor is to be installed in the present Infant's room which will accommodate the Junior class. The remainder of the present building will provide the school with a hall which will be used for physical education, drama, resource areas etc., as well as a new servery and dining area. A new staffroom, office, children's and staff toilets are being added at the rear of the school. The Terrapin classroom will then be removed.

This restructuring is likely to cost well in excess of £100,000, and it is hoped that work will start in the Spring.

And on a lighter note.....

Seen in the window of a car in Kircaldy:
Sex Appeal. Please give generously!

IRON ACTON WOMEN'S INSTITUTE - The aim of the Women's Institute is to promote women's interests and their motto is "For Home and Country".

Iron Acton W.I. was formed in November 1919 at a meeting in the Schoolroom, followed by meetings at Algars Manor, then at The Institute, (The Old Village Hall), and finally to the New Village Hall in 1954. This information came from old minute books still in possession of the W.I. Reading through these old records is very fascinating and perhaps in future editions of this paper we may be able to publish copies of the minutes.

Iron Acton W.I. belongs to the Sodbury Vale Group in the Avon Federation, who in turn belong to the National Federation of Women's Institutes in London. The N.F.W.I. is affiliated to the Associated Country Women of the World.

The last most interesting event was The Diamond Jubilee in 1979, but the W.I. is permanently involved in Group, Country and National activities, sending a delegate twice a year to County meetings and one every two years (alternating with Yate) to the National Federation Annual General Meeting at the Albert Hall in London.

Courses and meetings in the January Avon Federation News Letter include Cookery, Georgian England, Conservation and Drama, and an Art and Photography Exhibition - not quite the Jam and Jerusalem image, most people have of the W.I.

At the moment the W.I. would very much like to welcome new members to our monthly meetings, we have a very varied programme lined up for 1983 including a Whist Drive in the New Village Hall on Thursday March 17th at 7:30 p.m.

President: Mrs. E. Blanchard, Rose Cottage, Latteridge Rd. Iron Acton.
Tel. No. Rangeworthy 566.

Secretary: Mrs M. Thomas, Lodge Farm, Wotton Rd., Iron Acton.
Tel. No. Rangeworthy 232.

The W.I. usually meets on the second Monday of each month at the New Village Hall at 7:30 p.m.

"LONG SERVICE TO THE VILLAGE" - After almost forty years at the Post Office, Mrs. May Beasley has recently retired.

During the war May was in the Wrens and came home in 1944 to take over the Post Office from her father, Patrick Dillon, when his health deteriorated.

She married Jim in 1950 and they started farming. Jim has now retired too, from Rolls-Royce, and they plan to spend more time on the farm.

The Post Office stays in the family as it has been taken over by her sister Mrs. Christine Colquhoun.

THE VILLAGE HALL AND THE FUTURE - As 1982 draws to a close, it is good to be able to report that this year the Hall has been more fully used than ever before, and that bookings for 1983 indicate a busy future ahead. Believing, as I think we all do, that the Hall is a focus for the community spirit of the village, this tells the story of a flourishing village life.

Of course, we all know about the Hall's shortcomings, its somewhat chilly and spartan atmosphere when we open it up on a winter's eve, its jumbled store room, its inhospitable toilets and its cramped kitchen and stage. Three years ago a great deal of money was spent on improving the washroom facilities but, stupid vandals from whom we are never wholly free have left their mark.

The situation with regard to the kitchen, storeroom and stage is more hopeful. Just over a year ago the committee considered a scheme to build a storage facility (scene-dock etc.) on the North gable end of the Hall, and to add a Northward extension of the committee room so as to improve the green-room facilities for stage shows. Such an extension would free the present storeroom which could then be connected to the kitchen by a doorway and used, either as a savery and bar or as a small meeting room. We visualised that smaller groups might wish to hire just the committee room, kitchen and intervening room, thus saving expense for themselves and reducing the Hall Committee's heating costs.

On big occasions, such as the Village Hall Variety Show or the Annual Auction, the room can be used as a bar and thus overcome the shortage of working space in the kitchen. Furthermore, the Committee has been asked if the Hall could be used, from time to time, for stage drama festivals. If the new accommodation can be built, then we shall have a back-stage facility good enough to offer the Hall for such festivals. Additionally, we shall give encouragement to our own resident drama group, The Actonians, who have built up such an excellent reputation locally and throughout Avon for vigour, skill and enthusiasm in their productions

Funds for such a project are bound to be a problem, but the Committee are confident that we shall be able to raise the money and that the Village will be behind us in our efforts. The plan is that the Avon Community Project who are currently preparing drawings for the planning authorities will provide the professional services and labour (supported by the Manpower Services Commission) while we find the money for materials. Even the latter may cost well over £5,000 but, thanks to our savings, a generous promised grant from the Parish Council and another one from Northavon D.C., we are optimistic, and feel sure that, whatever the shortfall, the Village will help us to raise the "necessary". Delays, due to re-organisation within the Community Building Project, have been frustrating, but we are now fairly certain that building will start early in the Summer.

In conclusion I would like to thank all those members of the Committee and other volunteers who help keep the Hall going, trimming hedges, painting walls, repairing breakages, all in their own precious time. Our fund raising events such as the Variety Show and Auction and the Horticultural Show require an enormous effort from every member of the Committee and I can honestly say that there isn't a "passenger" among them.

John Naish

BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION - Looking around the village now it is hard to believe we achieved second place in last year's contest, weeds and litter seem to be everywhere.

This year we really must make an all-out effort and get to First Place. This means not just one tidy-up and then forget it, but continual work right through until August - and surely once we've all got this anti-litter habit it wouldn't be too difficult to keep it up permanently?

This year to encourage you there will be prizes for the most attractive and colourful gardens seen from the road. Details are not complete yet but will be announced later.

Couldn't groups of neighbours get together and form regular working parties to improve the paths and grass areas around their homes?

Yes we've heard all the arguments that it is the Council's job to do it, but last year the Parish Council advertised for a long time for someone to work part-time (paid of course) around the village, but not one person applied.

If anyone can offer help or has any ideas on how we can make the village a tidier and more attractive place, please contact Betty Cook at Neksdore, (previously Cairn Lodge), High Street.

1983 is designated as Beautiful Britain year, so let's make sure our little patch lives up to it.

CALLING ALL GARDENERS - Now is the time for planning your summer planting, buying your seeds, and looking ahead to the Village Hall Flower Show which will be on Saturday September 3rd.

Last year three new cups were awarded. The first for Flower Arranging which was well supported. The second, for allotment holders, had only one entry, so come on all you allotment gardeners - make it a good contest this year!

The third new cup is the George Brown Trophy and this was not even won at all - the only entry had to be disqualified, as it was twelve double asters, when it should have been 6 double and 6 single asters.

So add aster seeds to your list and have a try for that one too - and always read the schedule thoroughly, then you won't have the disappointment of being disqualified!

Remember the tallest sunflower contest too! Happy Gardening!

NORTH ROAD LADIES CLUB - The Ladies Club has been in existence 15 years and has met monthly at North Road School. It has about 30 members half of these being founder members.

Over the years the Ladies Club has had Mystery Tours, visits, Skittles and this year a Bar-b-Q all extra to the monthly meeting. Membership has been halved this year to £2 hoping to increase membership.

Most meetings are on the first Monday in the month at 7:30 p.m. but this can vary if the school is closed for holidays.

One of our most interesting events this year was when the Club celebrated its 15th Birthday on Saturday October 30th when a party of ladies and husbands went to "Snuffy's" where they enjoyed a meal and entertainment by the "Batchelors" who sang all their songs. On Monday November 1st Mr. Bullock of Bristol talked on Antiques and the ladies brought antiques for Mr. Bullock to date and value. Mr. Bullock proved to be a very entertaining speaker who can be heard on Radio Bristol. This was followed by a Birthday Cake and wine.

Chairlady:	Mrs. Jo Powell 3 Broad Lane, Yate.	
Secretary:	Mrs. Wendy Sweet, 273 Witcombe, Yate.	Tel. C/Sodbury 315279
Treasurer:	Mrs. June Broom, 333 North Road, Yate.	Tel. Rangeworthy 597
Raffle Organisers:	Mrs. Elsie Janes, 276 North Road, Yate	
	Mrs. Janet Drew, 229 North Road, Yate	Tel. Rangeworthy 370

Posters:	Mrs. Carol Groom, Sunnymead, North Road, Yate.	Tel. Rangeworthy 712
Refreshments:	Mrs. Olive Baggot, 261 Witcombe, Yate.	Tel. C/Sodbury 317504
	Mrs. Hazel Golledge, 307 North Road, Yate.	Tel. Rangeworthy 529
	Mrs. Beverly Rogers, 309 North Road, Yate.	Tel. Rangeworthy 653

All meetings held at North Road School, unless stated otherwise, at 7:30 p.m.
For Diary of forthcoming events please refer to back page.

Another somewhat delayed report from the nativity play circuit
has just reached us.....

Three six year olds were cast as the Three Kings.
Presenting their gifts at the stable, the first said
"Gold", the second "Myrrh", the third: "And Frank
sent this."

THE LAMB INN FOLK CLUB - We meet in the clubroom of the Lamb Inn,
Iron Acton every Friday from 8:15 - 11:15 p.m.

Organiser: Gerry Aitchison - Tel Winterbourne 776356
Booking Sec. Keith Davis - Tel Bristol 570323

The club was formed 12 years ago in order to provide a meeting place for
anyone interested in folk songs and music whether listening or performing.

National and International guest singers/musicians provide a variety of types
of music, embracing all traditions of folk music from the past up to the present
day. We hope to create an informal friendly atmosphere where anyone is
welcome: there is no need to be a member in order to enjoy our evening.
The bar is open in the club room. There are also "singers nights" where
new performers are encouraged and we hear from all our own resident singers
and musicians.

Our Annual Folk Festival is underway for 1983 (August 12th, 13th and 14th)
where many people join together for a weekend of folk activities. Last year
we were so pleased to have local children performing on the village green
around the maypole. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the village
for their enthusiasm and help in our last 3 festivals.

Forthcoming events are detailed in the Diary on the back page.

THE STORY OF ACTON AID - ACTON AID was formed in early 1973 by means of a letter from Brian Burgess to a number of men in the Parish inviting them to a meeting to consider ways and means of getting together as a body which could provide a service to the village. As a result ACTON AID came into being as an organisation of men resident in the Parish with the purpose of "Assisting the Parish and its People".

Today, ten years later, it has become a "Registered Charity" with a membership of nearly fifty; and must have raised in that time approximately £10,000 by means of Barn Dances, Horse Shows, Draws, etc.

There are many ways in which this money has been spent besides donations to the Church, Guides and Brownies, the School, Youth Club and Village Hall. Christmas parcels have been provided for pensioners, and summer outings or theatre parties for the elderly, as well as parties for the children and holidays for the handicapped. Jubilee mugs were distributed to youngsters throughout the Parish in 1977 and Wedding Day crown pieces in 1980. And so the list goes on!

ACTON AID has also offered its services where required in such things as painting the Village Hall, rebuilding stone walls there and at the Church, assisting in the development of the Parish Fields, providing transport for hospital visiting, and a notice board for the use of all societies in Iron Acton. Members are always willing to assist physically with other events needing help.

ACTON AID meets, and new members are welcome, on the first Thursday in each month at the Rose and Crown at 8:00 p.m. Its social activities for members and friends offer an excellent opportunity for new residents to "get-together".

The Annual General Meeting will be, as usual, on the first Thursday in February and the Tenth Anniversary Dinner Dance will be held at "Rockwood" Yate Rocks, on Friday 25th February. Tickets for members and friends are available at £9:50 each from Mr. Gerry Millward, "Comerways", High Street.

Our Annual Horse and Dog Show will be held on Sunday June 5th.

The Honorary Secretary of Acton Aid is Mr. Geoff Dickes, "The Keepings" High Street. Tel. Rangeworthy 609.

Estate Agents in the Dunstable area are advertising
11,800 square feet of modern industrial premises
with the comment that it "affronts the A5."

IRON ACTON YOUTH CLUB - Iron Acton Youth Club is open to any children of the Parish who are 12 years and over. Although there has been a Youth Club in the village for many years, it was closed for a short time in 1981, until it re-opened on the 8th September with Nick Barrett as the Youth Leader. The annual membership fee is 50p and the weekly entrance fee 25p.

The club meets every Monday from 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. at the Village Hall, except for the second Monday in the month when the Hall is not available. On these occasions, we have the use of a mini bus and we have taken trips to Bath, Bristol and Chipping Sodbury for Ice Skating, Roller Skating or the Cinema. On the last trip to Bristol we were able to see the much acclaimed film E.T. It is hoped that in the summer months we shall utilise the Parish Meadows for games, such as rounders and football.

The facilities that we have available at the Village Hall are Table Tennis, Billiards and Darts, but our equipment is very old and, should anyone in the village have items which they think would be of use to us, we should be very pleased if they would contact either Nick Barrett or John Wright.

We are very grateful for the assistance that Acton Aid members give to us on Monday evenings, but again, should there be anyone in the village who would like to assist with the Youth Club, we shall be very pleased to hear from them. Contacts are as follows:-

Nick Barrett,
6 Charmouth Road, Newbridge, Bath. BA1 3LT.

Tel. Bath 332631

John Wright,
Algar's Mill,
Iron Acton.

Tel. Rangeworthy 373

IRON ACTON GUIDES AND BROWNIES - During the last fifty years there have been regular meetings of Guides and Brownies in Iron Acton.

During these years the world has seen many changes but thankfully Guiding is still going on and although our ideas have changed with the times our basic aims are still the same. These are to Do our Duty to God and the Queen and to help other people whenever the opportunity arises. Through our varied syllabus of challenges and badge work, we aim to provide each girl with a variety of skills that will enable her to be independent and face any challenges she may meet in to-day's world.

In the past the Guide Company has undertaken many a hike, camp fire and holiday. Last year they spent a week's camp in the Forest of Dean with a Guide Company from Yate. Plans are already well under way for this year's camp.

The Brownies also meet for Brownie Revels one day in the Summer and last year they went away on Pack Holiday and stayed in a small cottage on the Duke of Beaufort's Estate at Badminton.

At present there is one qualified Guider for each unit. A rota of mothers has been drawn up to enable the Guiders to have some help each week. If you are interested in helping with either unit please contact one of the Guiders. We are at present looking for someone to "look after" the Brownie Pack for approximately six months from June onwards while the present Brownie Guider takes six months maternity leave.

Last November a Supporters Group was formed for the Guides and Brownies to raise funds for village hall rent and also to pay our annual census which at present is £3 per enrolled Guide or Brownie per year. The first fund raising event will be a Wine and Cheese Party on January 28th in the New Village Hall at 7:30 p.m. Tickets will be £1.50p for adults and 50p for children available from the Guiders.

If you require any further information about Guides or Brownies, and new members are always welcome, please contact:-

Guides: Mrs. D. Cater,
 21 Church Road,
 Frampton Cotterell.

 Tel. Winterbourne 775845

Brownies: Mrs. S. Pullen
 Brookby House,
 High Street.

 Tel. Rangeworthy 588

Guides meet in the Village Hall on Wednesdays 7:30 - 9:00 p.m.
Brownies meet in the Village Hall Wednesdays 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

THE MOTHERS UNION - The Mothers Union was started over one hundred years ago by Mrs. Mary Sumner, the wife of the Rector of Arlesford in Hampshire and has now spread throughout the world. There are branches from Canada in the north down through the whole of Africa to Australia and New Zealand in the south. We are united to them all by Prayer and Worship, each diocese at home and overseas being remembered in turn throughout the year.

Membership of the Mothers Union is open to all women who have been baptised and who agree to support our Aims and Objects. The aim of the Mothers Union, as set out in our Charter, is to be specially concerned with all that strengthens and preserves marriage and Christian family life.

Our local branch in Iron Acton meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month either at 2:30 p.m. or 7:30 p.m. Our monthly meetings usually take the form of a short service in Church followed by a meeting at the Rectory, when we have Talks, Slide Shows, Demonstrations, Discussions etc. We would be very happy to welcome any ladies (whether Mothers or not) from the Parish to our meetings. Those with young children will be pleased to know that we love to have the children with us at our afternoon meetings, please do not be worried about your child making a noise, we don't mind at all and all our speakers are well able to cope with this!

We have our Corporate Communion on the first Sunday of the month at 9:30 a.m. when all the members try to come to Church to make their Holy Communion together.

The Mothers Union throughout the world keeps Lady Day (25th March) as a day of special celebration and thanksgiving and this year we will be present at the Sung Eucharist at 7:30 p.m. to offer our own special thanks for the fellowship and work of our Branch. If there is something more you would like to know about our organisation please contact the Enrolling Member - Mrs. Diana Cater, 21 Church Road, Frampton Cotterell, Bristol. Tel. Winterbourne 775845, or come along to a meeting, the time and topic are announced each month in the Parish Magazine.

We look forward to being able to welcome some new ladies very soon.

P.C.C. - This stands for Parochial Church Council which must never be confused with the Parish Council. The Parochial Church Council consists of the Rector, as Chairman, and elected members from the Church Electoral Roll. Its duties are to look after the upkeep of the Church building and to further the work of the Church in this Parish and beyond. Here the old churchyard comes under their care, but not the cemetery, which belongs to the Parish Council.

Members of the present P.C.C. are The Rector, Mr. C. Whitehead and Mr. A. Gifford, Churchwardens, Mrs. P. Percy, Secretary; Mr. J. Park, Treasurer; other members - Miss K. Anstey, Mrs. B. Bright, Mrs. D. Cater, Mrs. H. Dron, Mrs. W. Gainey, Mrs. J. Waker, Mr. D. King, Mr. J. Percy, Mr. G. Riddle, Mr. G. Singleton, Mr. M. Wheeler.

The Parish Magazine will tell you all the Church news, service times etc. and anyone can ask at the Rectory at any time, telephone Rangeworthy 412.

Forthcoming fund raising event - Mid-Lent Sale on Saturday March 12th in the New Village Hall.

Y.C.I.A. or YOUNG COMMUNICANTS OF IRON ACTON - Our group is not a large one but as its liaison officer I welcome the chance to write about it. I expect all Churchmembers have experienced a period after Confirmation when, however much one wishes to become an active member of one's Church, there is difficulty in finding a slot into which to fit. This group is formed with the intention of bridging the gap and also has aims with regard to carrying out the Christian way of life. Our intention is to make an act of corporate communion on the third Sunday in each month.

We have helped in a small way at some of our Church Sales, one member also looking after the Mothers Union Sweet Stall at the Christmas Sale. We had a picnic supper walk and visited the St. Nicholas Church Museum in Bristol, Bristol Cathedral and the Lord Mayor's Chapel. Obliginglly the vergger in charge at the latter let us go into the Poyntz Chapel.

Recently Rev. Gordon Holmes of Bristol Cathedral spoke to some of us about the work of Christian Aid. During the next few months we intend studying this more fully and hope to stage an exhibition about it in the spring, when we will welcome your support. Because our young people are so busy and often under exam pressure it is not possible to meet regularly but I hope to plan "workshop" dates for this project in the near future.

Membership of Y.C.I.A. is automatic at Confirmation and any young communicant coming to live in the Iron Acton area will be most welcome. Please contact me at Faith Cottage, Latteridge Road, or through Father Waker.

Barbara M. Sambels.

BELL RINGING - As you probably heard during the Christmas week, our new ringers Naomi Angell, Stephen Wheeler, James Angell and Nicholas Williams, demonstrated their skills and achievements ringing the Church Bells. They have all worked very hard during the months since September which included cleaning, greasing and maintaining tower and bells.

We must thank the ringers from the neighbouring towns who have spent many evenings helping us with our practices, and also the Church Bellringing Association who have shown much interest in the development of the new band at Iron Acton and have invited our ringers to attend all the social meetings and practices planned for this year, the first practice arranged this year will be at Iron Acton on January 8th.

For more details please conact the Tower Captain - Brian Angell, 268 North Road.

HANDBELL RINGERS - A group, mainly of teenagers, led by the Rector, who ring at Christmas time to raise money for charity as they go round from house to house, sometimes in appalling weather. A few short concerts are given purely for pleasure and to entertain such as when we visit a ward at Frenchay Hospital by special request of the Sister in charge.

It is hoped that we shall soon be able to ring on other occasions during the year and we shall need a few more dedicated youngsters with a sense of rhythm and willingness to learn. Please contact the Rectory if you are interested.

British Rail's attempts to use its staff more flexibly seems to be causing some bewilderment. A passenger on a recent King's Cross - Newcastle express heard this opening announcement over the intercom:
"This is the - who the hell am I? - chief stewardess....."

ACTONI ANS DRAMA GROUP - The Actonians were formed fifteen years ago and now have a membership of about forty adults. Our current Chairman is Steve Birch (Winterbourne 772718), Secretary Jane Endicott (Bristol 793598) Treasurer Robert Sanday.

We put on two full length plays each year in the autumn and spring, each for three nights in the Village Hall.

We also do a one-act play in February and March for the Festivals and the Evening of Entertainment. Apart from these three main plays we put on various melodramas, sketches and mummings plays. We also run several fund raising events each year as well as dinners, parties etc.

The Annual General Meeting is held in the first half of June to choose the new committee, which consists of eight officers and five other members, and meets each month in various members' homes.

A general meeting is held to choose and cast the play, and rehearsals take place twice a week, at first in the Rose and Crown, and then, as the production date draws nearer, in the Village Hall. After the play we have another general meeting to hear the report on it.

For the Festivals this year we are putting on five scenes from three of Shakespeares plays, and the spring production will be "The Night of the Iguana".

Annual Subscriptions are £5 for full membership and £2.50 for Associate Members - the latter do not act, but receive newsletters and tickets for the productions, and can attend all other events.

For information on dates, times etc. or if you wish to join us, please ring Ann Aplin (Rangeworthy 243). We are always looking for new members, Full or Associate, so if you are interested please contact us.

JUNIOR ACTONIANS - is a group of young people over the age of 7, living in and around Iron Acton, who are interested in acting or behind the scenes stage work. It is run by members of the Actonians Drama Group. We have been running a year and have produced "Scrooge", "Tricks", a play written by members themselves. Junior Actonians have performed in "Under Milk Wood" and have acted at the Harvest Festival Supper as well as Acton Aid's and also the Village Hall's Evening of Entertainment.

Auditions will be held for "Alice in Wonderland" on Sunday 16th January from 5 p.m. - 7 p.m. in the village hall. Cost to join the play will be £1, then 20p for rehearsals held at the same time, on subsequent Sundays. Producer - Mrs. Penny Percy. Performance of "Alice in Wonderland" on 28th March 1982 - 7:30 p.m. in the Village Hall.

Enquiries concerning Junior Actonians to Mrs. Penny Percy - Tel Rangeworthy 339.

THE ELIZABETHAN CLUB - This club for the over 60's was formed on the first of July 1952, the year of Queen Elizabeth II's Coronations, hence the name.

Three founder members are still living, Mrs. Leppard and Mrs. Long, who are no longer members, and Mrs. Cutts who is still very active in the club.

Members meet on Wednesday afternoons at 2:30 in the Village Hall for a social get-together, and once a month hold a Whist Drive.

Funds are raised by two sales each year (jumble, produce, plants, cakes etc.) and help to pay for coach outings and events like the Xmas Dinner, last held at the George at Chipping Sodbury.

There will be a whist drive for charity on January 27th, and the Spring Sale takes place on April 16th in the Hall.

The present Chairman is Mrs. J. Taylor, The Lilacs, Station Road, Tel. Rangeworthy 666 and the Secretary is Mrs. B. Hall, The Green, Tel. 305.

New members are always welcome, no need to be lonely when you retire in Iron Acton, come along any Wednesday afternoon, or contact one of our officers.

IRON ACTON LADIES DARTS TEAM - Matches normally take place each Monday evening and commence at 8:30 p.m. We play each team in our particular league on 2 occasions: once in our home pub (The Lamb Inn) and once in theirs, with teams being entered for both the summer and winter leagues.

Captain: Mrs. Ellen Pullin,
32 Algars Drive,
Iron Acton.

Tel. Rangeworthy 623

Forthcoming dates of matches are detailed in the Diary at the back of this paper.

IRON ACTON FOOTBALL CLUB - One of the longest standing institutions in the local vicinity is Iron Acton Football Club. This organisation, which was founded before the turn of the century has gone about its business of 'chasing a piece of leather' for many years on the patch of land behind the Rose and Crown. In fact, the public house is used as the club headquarters.

All meetings which are necessary to make the club a well run and organised outfit are held at H.Q. under the chairmanship of Les Gale, who is to be seen regularly round and about furthering his business of Coal Merchant along with his partner John Eaves. John is also Vice Chairman of the Football Club.

The Rose and Crown has become synonymous with the Football Club and a warm welcome is always extended by Licensee Bill Allen and until recently his wife Pru who unfortunately passed away.

The club affairs are handled by a Management Committee that consists of a body of ten people. Fortnightly meetings are held when all aspects of the Club's business are discussed, debated and where applicable actions placed.

The very important post of Secretary is held down by Basil Taylor, a resident of Frampton Cotterell. Basil has been involved with the Football Club for ten years and for the past two years has been in his present position.

The Chairman's son, Geoff, a former player, is very active in the Treasurer's post and the playing affairs are the responsibility of Bob Ford, again a former player.

Many people have been involved with the legendary Football Club over the years for which a special place is reserved in their hearts. Every Boxing Day a match takes place between the present side and old faces from the past.

The event is always well patronised and figures high in the calendar of club events. The most recent of these games took place on Boxing Day last year and if the number of people in the Rose and Crown Bar was anything to go by, patronage broke all records.

Chairman: Mr. L. Gale,
High Street,
Iron Acton. Tel. Rangeworthy 291

Secretary: Mr. B. Taylor,
198 Woodend Road,
Frampton Cotterell. Tel. Winterbourne 775952

CROSS KEYS LADIES DARTS TEAM - Started at Crosskeys 5 years ago although most of the team have played darts for other teams before. We started in the third division and have worked our way up to the first division. Most of the girls in the team live in the Iron Acton/North Road area.

Our best year so far was 1980 when we won three trophies.

Chairman: Mrs. J. Payne,
The Willows,
11 Engine Common Lane. Tel. Rangeworthy 611

Secretary: Miss J. Payne
see above.

The Darts Team meet in the Cross Keys, North Road, on Mondays or Tuesdays at 8:30 p.m.

And now an Epitaph from a contributor who wishes to remain anonymous.....

When Wilkins and Cook played a round
As the golf ball they chased o'er the ground
They discussed all their views
And the Iron Acton News
And the Focus on Acton was found.

D A N G E R

Although all reasonable safety precautions have been taken at the dam at Chilwood, parents are warned that it is NOT a safe or sensible place for children to play, especially when the river is in flood.

It is well known that a little danger adds spice to children's games, but there are limits, and no-one wants a tragic accident.

So please, parents, either keep your children away from the dam or make sure there is always at least one adult with them.

THE PARISH COUNCIL - Originally Parish Councils were elected for one year at the Annual Parish Meeting, and votes were cast by a show of hands. Nomination papers were handed in at the Parish Meeting, then the names were called in alphabetical order and the parishioners present voted.

The nine with the highest number of votes were elected, and if two people tied for ninth place the Chairman gave his casting vote.

The last annual election was held in March 1899, and from March 1901 elections were for a term of three years.

The Local Government Act of 1933 allowed Parish Councils to apply to the County Council for future elections to be by ballot, and in October 1936 the Parish Council resolved to do this.

The first election by ballot was in April 1937 and continued to take place every three years until 1979 when the present councillors were elected. The term of office was then changed to four years so that the next local elections are due in May this year. The Annual Parish Meeting will be in April when it is hoped that parishioners will come along and air their views.

The Parish Council administers the cemetery, allotments, village greens and recreation fields.

Thanks to the generosity of Miss Isemonger, a previous resident of the village, the parish now owns Chilwood and the allotments at Station Road.

The Parish Fields were purchased in 1978, since when planning permission has been granted for change of use to sports and recreational purposes.

The present Chairman is Betty Cook, Neksdore, High Street and the Clerk is Norman Carter, 9 Chilwood Close.

DIARY OF EVENTS IN THE PARISH.

In the Village Hall:-

January.

- 27. ELIZABETHANS WHIST DRIVE.
- 28. GUIDES & BROWNIES SUPPORTERS GROUP WINE AND CHEESE PARTY.
- 30. Actonians.

February.

- 1. Actonians.
- 2. Elizabethans.
Guides and Brownies.
- 3. Actonians.
- 4. Actonians.
- 5. Actonians.
- 6. Junior Actonians.
- 9. Elizabethans.
Guides and Brownies.
Actonians.
- 12. FOOTBALL CLUB DANCE.
- 13. Junior Actonians.
- 14. Womens' Institute.
- 16. Elizabethans.
Guides and Brownies.
Actonians.
- 20. Junior Actonians.
- 21. Parish Council.
- 23. Elizabethans.
Guides and Brownies.
Actonians.
- 27. Junior Actonians.
- 28. Womens' Institute, Avon New Members Evening.

March.

- 2. Elizabethans.
Guides and Brownies.
Village Hall Committee.
- 6. Junior Actonians.
- 9. Elizabethans.
Guides and Brownies.
- 12. PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL MID-LENT SALE.

March.

- 13. Junior Actonians.
- 14. Womens' Institute.
- 16. Elizabethans.
Guides and Brownies.
- 17. WOMENS' INSTITUTE WHIST DRIVE.
- 18. Southwold Swimming Club.
- 20. Junior Actonians.
- 21. Parish Council.
- 23. Elizabethans.
Guides and Brownies.
- 24. PARISH MEETING.
- 25. AUCTION ON BEHALF OF VILLAGE HALL.
- 26. HALL.
- 27. Junior Actonians.
- 28. JUNIOR ACTONIANS PERFORMANCE OF ALICE IN WONDERLAND.
- 30. Elizabethans.

April.

- 6. Elizabethans.
- 8. Conservative Party Meeting.
- 11. Womens' Institute.
- 12. Northavon D. C. (Issue of bus tickets).
- 13. Elizabethans.
Guides and Brownies.
- 16. ELIZABETHANS SALE.
- 18. Parish Council.
- 20. Elizabethans.
Guides and Brownies.
- 24. Actonians.
- 27. Elizabethans.
Actonians.
- 28. ACTONIANS PERFORMANCE OF NIGHT OF THE IGUANA.
- 30. Ditto.

May.

- 5. Probable date of the Local Elections.

Events continued on next page:

DIARY OF EVENTS IN THE PARISH (cont).

At the Lamb Inn:-

FOLK CLUB. Every Friday at 8.15 p.m.

Jan 28. Singers Night.
Feb. 4. Carol Harding.
11. Alistair Russell.
18. Charlie Yarwood.
25. Singers Night.
Mar. 4. Betty and Norman.

LADIES DARTS TEAM. Home Matches.

Jan 24. v. Holford Arms, Knockdown.
Feb 14. v. The Squire, Chipping Sodbury.
28. v. Horton Social Club.

At the Rose and Crown:-

ACTON AID. Every first Thursday at 8.0 p.m.

Feb. 3. Annual General Meeting.
25. 10th. Annual Dinner/Dance
at Rookwood.

DARTS CLUB. Every Tuesday evening.

At the Parish Church of St. James the Less:-

Mar.16. Confirmation Service by
Bishop Mervyn Stockwood. 7.30 p.m.

The North Road Ladies Club:-

Feb. 7. Cooking Demonstration.
Mar. 7. Bellringing. Mr. Horseman.
Apr.11. Cooking with Cream. Mr. John Blamey.

Grateful thanks to all who have co-operated in this production and in particular to SUE PULLEN who has spent many hours typing and collating the material and to Mr. RONALD LUFFMAN of the Printing Department of Hartnell/Taylor/Cook.