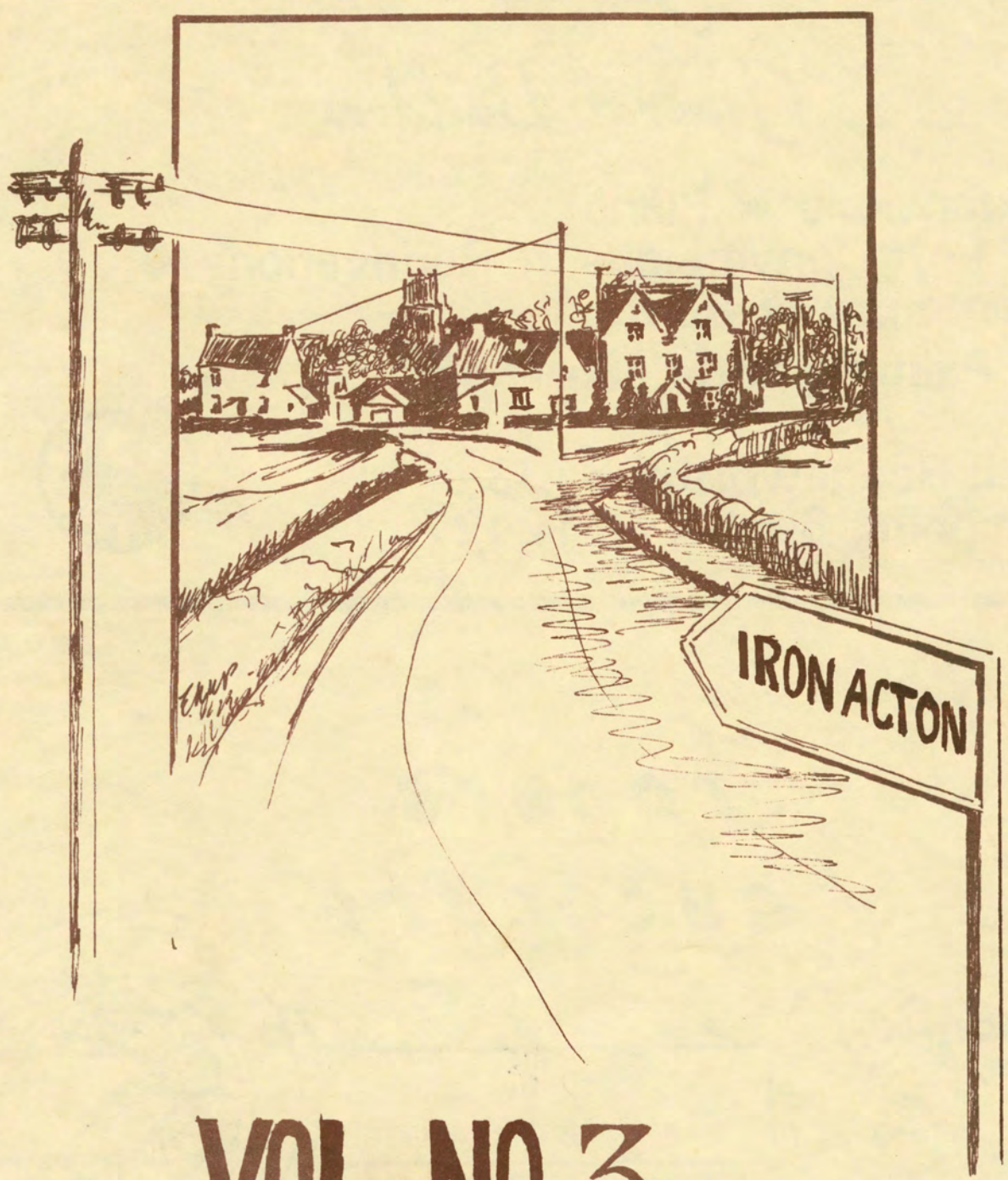


FOCUS ON



VOL. NO. 3.

K. J. Hillier

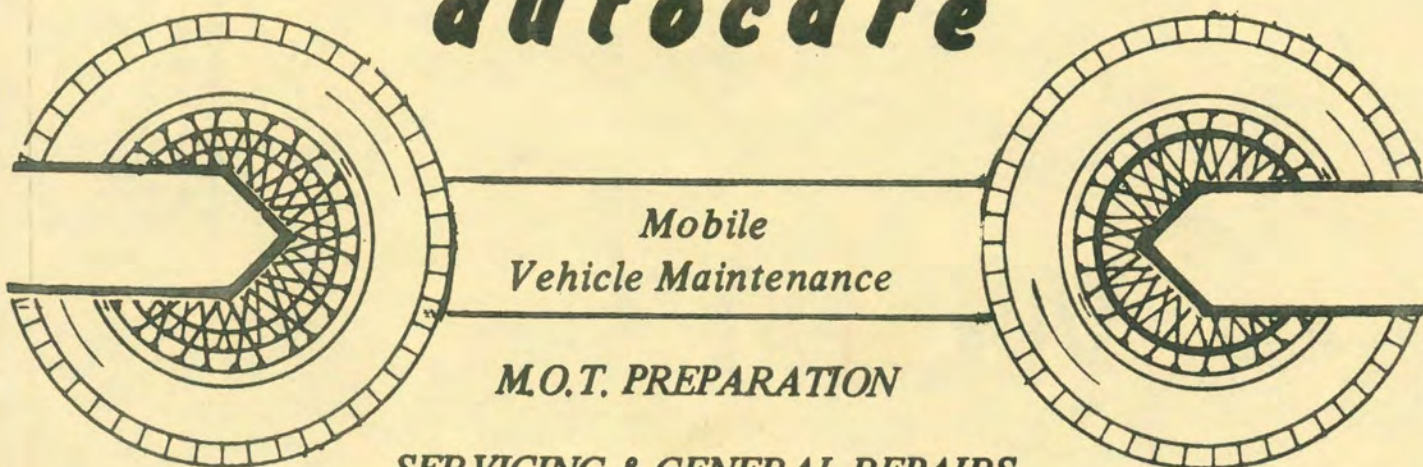
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No. 10 Christmas '85

EDITORIAL

Little did we think, when we started on our first issue in the spring of 1983 that we would be able to continue until this, our tenth edition. But thanks to your encouragement and good wishes we have managed to survive, and, we hope, to carry on into the future.

We are most grateful to those who send us donations and subscriptions that enable us to meet the costs of production each time, and we do look forward to adding more names to our list of "Friends of Focus!" Every little helps, so if you feel so inclined, please contact any of the names below.

We thank, too, those who advertise in our issues, and hope that, as a result, a few more customers will come their way.

We especially appreciate those who contribute by sending in articles, letters and reports for inclusion on our pages; and we should so much enjoy hearing from YOU of your interests, hobbies or experiences. Our next issue should be out about March next year.

Finally, may we wish everyone a VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS and a PEACEFUL AND ENJOYABLE NEW YEAR.

* * * * *

Letters

I would like to thank pupils, former pupils, parents, school governors, teaching and non-teaching staff, and friends of Iron Acton C of E School for the many gifts, cards and best wishes given to me on my recent retirement.

Brian Burgess.

I would like to record my grateful thanks to all my splendid friends who helped with prizes and donations to raise £205. for St. Peters Hospice at the Whist Drive held in October. Once again many thanks to the happy band of Ladies who looked after refreshments at the interval. Please watch Notice Board for future Whist Drive, hopefully to be held in February 1986.

A.G. Pitt.

* * * * *

Betty Cook
Neksdore

Charles Wilkins
Hillside

P & J Voss

Dead Lodge East

John Percy

Primrose Cott.

* * * * *

We would like to thank Mrs Pat Ashmead again for typing 'Focus'

ACTON AID.

Our second big fund-raising event of the year, the clay pigeon shoot, was held on October 20th at Mudgetown Farm, by kind permission of Mr Powell. The event was organised by Laurence Manniatt, ably assisted by the Chipping Sodbury Shooting Club, and it proved to be a most enjoyable day for all concerned, helped by good weather which has not been the feature of previous years.

In August, nearly a hundred senior citizens enjoyed a coach trip to Bourton-on-the-Water on one of the few fine and sunny days of that period.

As Christmas creeps closer, members are turning up for the preparation and distribution of the senior citizens' Christmas parcels. These parcels are much appreciated by the recipients, not only for the contents, but also for the gesture and messages of goodwill from the youngsters of the village, as well as the posies decorating the parcels.

On the social side, we are looking forward to the Christmas party in the villahe hall on December 14th. The children will have their party on December 22nd, also in the village hall, when it is hoped to provide a similar entertainment to last year's, which was a great success. The village hall was used in October for a Vicars and Tarts fancy dress evening. One or two ladies braved it and turned up as very elegant vicars but, as far as I know, none of the men were tarts. The annual dinner dance has been booked for February 14th, 1986, at last year's venue, Chipping Sodbury Town Hall.

It has been gratifying to be able to make a considerable donation to the village hall committee to help with the cost of urgent repairs and improvements to the hall. We have also been pleased to support the Rangeworthy Playgroup which takes a number of small children from Iron Acton.

After years of debate, we have at last made the decision to sell the skittle alley. It has been very little used in recent times, merely taking up storage space for 364 days of the year. If any reader is interested in buying it, or knows of any other organisation which might be similarly interested, please contact us - the purchaser can be sure that the money will go to a good home.

Over the years most of the village organisations have benefited financially from money raised by Acton Aid. However, it has been felt for some time that not all organisations or groups take advantage of this and therefore we would like to hear from any deserving source if they require assistance of the sort we give. This does not mean we have money to burn, and no promises can be made as to whether or not we can assist, but we want to be made aware of the needs of the community.

Bill Allen was given an Acton Aid send-off on September 29th, with a gallon of whisky, and he has the eternal gratitude of Acton Aid for allowing the use of a room for our meetings.

Finally, a reminder to members whom we have not seen for some time - we still meet on the first Thursday in the month and still in the same room in the Rose and Crown, thanks to the new landlord.

Geoff Dickes,
Chairman.

* * * * *

ELIZABETHAN CLUB.

On October 26th we held a whist drive and the profit of £68 was donated to the Village Hall. We have a whist drive every last Wednesday afternoon of the month.

We held a whist drive on November 14th, and a Christmas Sale on November 16th, in aid of our own funds.

The Club "Christmas" dinner will be on January 7th, 1986 at 8 p.m. at Stanshawes Court, and the coach will pick up at Iron Acton at 7 p.m. and at North Road at 7.15 p.m.

The Bulb Show will be on March 15th and will be open to everyone. We hope that school children will also enter.

D. Elson,
Secretary.

* * * * *

Overheard in the High Street (Many years ago)

Canon Browne (the then Rector of Iron Acton) was proceeding along the High Street when he met Spigot Brown coming out of the Rose & Crown.

Canon Browne: Drunk again Brown!
Spigot Brown: So be I, Sir!

IRON ACTON WI

I'm going to use our space in this edition of 'Focus' by giving a summary of our programme for 1986 and some information on how much membership would cost.

The membership year starts in January and the subscription for 1986 is £5. This may seem high to some of you but if you divide this amount into 11 (the number of meetings we have per year), the cost per meeting is 45p. although I must quickly point out that you can't just attend the meetings that appeal to you and pay your 45p. - it's £5 or nothing! If after reading the following, you'd like to 'give us a whirl' you can always come along to one of our meetings for free - it's on the second visit you're not allowed out of the Hall without paying!

Here, unveiled in all it's glory (fanfare of state trumpeters please) is the:

IRON ACTON WI PROGRAMME FOR 1986

Monday, 13 January "Flash Company" - no we're not into voyeurism! This is a duo from the Folk Club who can entertain with traditional, music hall and blues music.

Monday, 10 February. A visit by a representative from the Bristol Water Board. After a short introductory talk we'll be shown a film based on the natural history of Chew Valley Lake entitled "Man Made for Nature" and this will be followed by the chance to ask any questions we want - I hope they're prepared.

Monday, 10 March. A talk by Susan Marshfield entitled "Barefoot to Buckingham Palace". This talk comes so highly recommended that I've yet to hear an adverse comment about it. This lady has Style - suffice to say that when word got around that she was chairing a meeting on meetings (really riveting topic) about 150 people turned up, threw the organisers into chaos but had a really entertaining evening.

Monday, 14 April. At the end of April, 6 Institutes together with representatives from Avon Federation will descend on the Village Hall for the Annual Group Meeting. Therefore, this meeting will be taken over with discussions and planning for the forthcoming hysteria-causing evening.

Monday, 12 May. All Institutes discuss (or should) the resolutions that have been put forward for the Annual General Meeting at the Royal Albert Hall in June. We try to balance this with a less heavy topic but this is decided nearer to the date.

Monday, 9 June. Talk on the Kennet and Avon Canal Trust - their history, work and future.

Monday, 14 July. We take a coach to Bradford on Avon and then climb aboard a boat on the Kennet and Avon Canal for a 2 hour boat trip. After this we'll probably find our way into a local hostelry and then make our merry way home!

AUGUST - NO MEETING (need time to recover from July)

Monday, 8 September. Talk on the work of St. Peter's Hospice - this was postponed from February '85 due to snow, unless British weather lives up to reputation we should be O.K. this time.

Monday, 13 October. A visit to Oldbury Power Station which will include a guided tour and a talk. Last one to the reactor is a cissie?

Monday, 10 November. Our Birthday Party Night - mass exodus from the village, best not to get in our way.

Monday, 8 December. End of another year and at this meeting we choose our officers and committee for the following year. The business is followed by sherry and mince pies.

Has your appetite been whetted? We also plan social events outside of normal meeting nights. Two are already planned: a visit to Bath Pantomime in January and a Wine and Cheese Party on a warm summer night (optimistic as always).

Interested?

Our meetings start at 7.30 in the Village Hall.

Worried about walking in and not know anyone? Ring me on Rangeworthy 566 and we'll arrange for you to be looked after!

See you in '86 then!

PS. Offer only open to ladies (operations can be arranged).

LYNNE BLANCHARD
SECRETARY.

CHURCH NOTES.

CHRISTMAS FAYRE

November 30th at 3 p.m. in the Village Hall.

HAND BELL RINGING

We hope to go round as usual this year collecting for Cancer Research and the church, starting either Tuesday 17th or Wednesday 18th December. Look in the December Parish Magazine for the exact date. We shall probably be short of ringers this year and would welcome new recruits. Please contact the Rector if you would like to learn.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Christmas is the time when many people who do not come regularly to Church like to come. The times of services this year will be:-

CHRISTMAS EVE December 24th.

Holy Communion	9 a.m.
Crib Service	6.30 p.m.
Mattins of Christmas	11.15 p.m.
Midnight Mass	12 midnight.

CHRISTMAS DAY

Holy Communion	8 a.m.
Sung Eucharist, a service for every member of the family whatever their age.	9.30 a.m.
Evensong	4 p.m.

ST. STEPHEN'S DAY (26th)

Holy Communion 8 a.m. and 10.30 a.m.

SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS (29th)

Services as usual with Evensong at 6 p.m. and Carol Service 6.30 p.m.

* * * * *

A five-year old boy repeated perfectly the first five verses of the 23rd Psalm. His father, however, was startled when he went on to recite, "And good Mrs. Murphy will follow me all the days of my life and I will dwell in her house forever."

* * * * *

The Secret Diaries of Pupils at Iron Acton School. With
Apologies to Sue Townsend.

"Every Thursday our teacher takes us to Yate C.P. to play football. We join with their boys to make two teams. A few weeks ago we played against Cromhall and won 5.0. Our next match is against Oldbury. They are a good side but I think we will beat them. I like playing football."

Gary Davis Aged 10 $\frac{3}{4}$

"We have a new Headmaster now he's called Mr Whitford. He has changed several things and bought us new books."

Joanna Thorne Aged 10 $\frac{1}{4}$

"We have lots of new things, it's very nice."

Sarah Matthews Aged 10 $\frac{3}{4}$

"This term we have been taken to Bristol Docks to see the replica of Sir Francis Drake's ship, the Golden Hinde."

Joanna Jarrett Aged 11.

"We have a new cooker for Food Activities. The Infants made some bread rolls and Christopher said the yeast had a funny smell."

Rosemarie Browne Aged 8 $\frac{1}{2}$

"We have 27 children in our school. Four new children have started this term, one always feels tired in the afternoon. The desks in my classroom have been moved. We used to sit in lines but now we sit in groups. We have a time table.

Paul Woollard Aged 9 $\frac{3}{4}$

"For our Harvest Festival we did a play about the life of a Miller. I was a maid called Annie and I had to serve food to the farmers. Our mums came back in the afternoon to buy the Harvest Produce. We had tea and squash and shared the Harvest Loaf."

Katie Jarrett. Aged 8 $\frac{3}{4}$

"We were taken to see a Puppet show about Robin Hood. It was fun."

Katy Gale. Aged 8.

THOUGHTS ON OPENING A GARDEN TO THE PUBLIC

My first thought on opening the garden was "Great idea - two charities will be a few pounds better off and we'll have a tidy garden for the first time in ten years." (That was in November 1984.)

My second thought was "I must have been mad! (That was in early June 1985.) By late June, any logical thought processes had disintegrated into mania and obsession.

Nobody would willingly cast their minds back to last June - the wettest, the coldest, the most windy . . . Yes, that June when we all wore two layers of thermal underwear and there were cough mixture riots in Yate chemists. The garden, though, was "in the Book" the handbook of the National Gardens Scheme, so, no excuses, it had to be opened.

The roses were rotting in the bud because of the wet, the springy greenness of the turf was due to a bumper crop of moss and the Delphiniums were all splints and sticky tape where they'd had emergency surgery following one of the nightly hurricanes. As time ticked by, some of the stinging nettle crops became a newly designated wildlife park and I was grateful to the appealing naturalist on Radio 4 who said the frog population would soon be extinct unless we all left big "natural" areas in our gardens.

In a way I rather hoped for rain on the day. The garden through a wet haze would look mellow and romantic, and nobody would linger long enough to get the full effect of the rampant black spot which had descended over two days with a vigour one can only respect. Why are the pests and slugs so successful? When everything else in the world has been blown up, I bet there is still greenfly.

A stalwart Gaillardia and a favourite lupin had inexplicably succumbed. Slugs? Skullduggery? I remember when I first moved here a brisk gardening lady (just visiting) pointed out to me that I had gaps in my herbaceous border. Up till then I hadn't realised that they were not allowed. Since then the fear of gaps has become like a brooding presence. I would wake at 3.00 a.m. and remember GAPS. In the night they would become astronomical Black Holes and in my mind I saw little old ladies and vicars being sucked into them. I would lie in a cold sweat, realising that on July 7th there would be Nothing out at all, and then at first light I would zoom like a demented hornet from garden to garden centre, bursting through the doors as the shop assistant was sleepily unlocking the till.

"Never mind the colour, never mind the price, does it
FLOWER SOON!"

No, it didn't rain on the day. It was that other day, when everyone collapsed with shock and sunstroke. A lot of people came to ours and our neighbours' gardens, and the money they paid went to good causes. It was good to see so many local people there giving their support to the occasion.

Looking at my diary for July 9th, it says "Had a very busy day" or is it "boozy?" Either way reaction seems to have set in as the writing is a little shaky. After that the ground elder began to sprout a little more confidently.

Somebody said last week, Were we going to do it again.

Er -

Thinking about it.

Jo V.

GARDENERS PATCH

A fine dry autumn after the disastrous summer has given us a chance to clean up for the winter. Leeks and winter greens are looking well and broad beans and spring bedding are already planted. Now we must hope for a not too hard winter and more sun and warmth next summer.

The number of entries in the flower show was low, but the quality was good, and a successful sale in the evening made a good profit for the Village Hall funds.

The leaves seem to have hung on late this year, but as I write the wind is rising so they will soon be swirling everywhere, and will keep us busy raking and sweeping for the next few weeks. Colours have not been so brilliant as last autumn but there have still been some attractive scenes, and the Arboretum at Westonbirt has been spectacular as usual. More people than I have ever seen there before have visited it, probably due to the recent T.V. programme on Gardeners World.

* * * * *

The Matron of an Old People's home announced:

"Bill attributes his long life and excellent health to the fact that he neither drinks nor smokes, doesn't gamble, has refrained from sex and is a strict vegetarian. He invites you all to celebrate his birthday next Monday."

From the other inmates came one word: "How?"

VILLAGE HALL

Last year at this time user conditions were a bit chaotic for the pantomime and several other activities centered on the hall. You muddled and won through.

Things are starting to take shape and for this December there is real confidence that the main hall will be decorated and other basic improvements completed ready to take the heavy bookings over the Christmas period. The committee will hang together, rather than separately, if the colours are judged to be disastrous.

It was disheartening that the new carpets in side rooms were extensively damaged by cigarette burns during a wedding reception in the summer and our lack of indemnity against such abuse brings into question whether outside hirings ought to be stopped completely. So much care is shown by local organisations that perhaps we would be better without the doubtful commercial benefits of open letting.

John Smalley.

* * * * *

YOUNG COMMUNICANTS

We are continuing to save and collect aluminium drink cans until 30th April 1986. The proceeds from their sale will be included in our total donation to Christian Aid. Please let me know if you wish us to collect.

Meanwhile we are making Chrismons. These are Christmas Tree Decorations in the shape of Christian Monograms and Symbols. They will be on sale at the Church Christmas Sale - Please come along and buy them.

B.M. Sambels.

* * * * *

Welcome to the Village:-

Mr & Mrs David Whittle
and Daughter Haley,
Eastview Cottage,
Nibley Lane.

THE ACTONIANS

The eclipse of the moon, appropriately on the Monday, was fortunately an almost inaccurate portent for the 'Waters of the Moon', the play by N.C. Hunter produced by the Actonians under the direction of Ann Aplin. The play is set in a somewhat rundown hotel near Dartmoor at the end of 1951. The players seemed to transport themselves in time and place through the snow and ice with gusto. It was good to be able to welcome back Gaynor Clark after an absence of nearly five years and to welcome for the first time on stage Ray Bulmer, who deserted the backstage to come out front. The technical problems, which involved amongst other things the final bit of paint as the beginners were about to begin, were thought to be overcome by curtain up. However, the use of a defective iron in the dressing room brought a touch of the feared eclipse in the first act as the main trip fuse blew, but quick work from Steve Birch (who doubles as Hall Steward in his spare time) restored light and levity to the evening.

The Young Actonians under the direction of Peter Lawry are producing the 'Bakers Boy' on the 22nd and 23rd of November, with a cast of over 20. Once again the younger ones are showing great enthusiasm and no doubt the production will be a well-deserved success.

The immediate future brings the one act festivals in February. By the time this appears, Lesley Keatley, producer of last year's HTV selected play, 'The Rape of Bunny Stuntz', will have selected and cast her play. Let us hope that you will be able to see it live in the Village Hall as well as on T.V!

Chairman: Peter Lawry Secretary: Lesley Keatley
Young Actonians: Penny Percy.

* * * * *

Fundamental advice.

A NOTICE in the kitchen of the village hall at Langley, Kent, states:

"Will ladies making tea please empty teapots and then stand upside down in the sink. No hot bottoms on the Formica please."

* * * * *

A MONEY-RAISING scheme in a Cornish newspaper invites parishoners to: "Bring all your old newspapers and your neighbours. Please tie them all up."

THE LAMB INN FOLK CLUB Has sent us the highlights of its programme for the next few weeks:-

December	6th	Dab Hand	December 31st.	New Year's Party
"	13th.	Joe Stead		and Ceilidh at Village Hall.
"	20th.	Eddie Walker		
January	17th.	Roy Harris		
"	24th.	Spring Chickens		
February	7th.	Kevin Adams		
"	14th.	Richard Digance		
"	15th	"SPECIAL" lunchtime Singaround in the Clubroom and Valentine's Ceilidh at the Village Hall.		
"	28th	Fiona Simpson		

New members are welcome every Friday at 8.15 p.m. in the Lamb Inn Clubroom.

* * * * *

IRON ACTON GUIDES AND BROWNIES

This term has been rather quiet at both Guides and Brownies. On 19th November we had a joint evening hike, ending up back at the Village Hall with soup and hot dogs. As usual we will be holding a joint Christmas party. On December 3rd the Guide Company are visiting Staple Hill Police Station for the evening.

* * * * *

IRON ACTON MOTHER'S AND TODDLERS' GROUP

We continue to meet in the Family Room of the Lamb Inn every Thursday during term time from 2.00 until 3.30 p.m. Our numbers continue to remain steady, but we would love to see some new faces. The Group is aimed at Mothers with children under the age of three. The aim of the Group is to provide a meeting place for mothers. We have a large variety of toys including a slide, play-tunnel, jigsaws, books and bikes, etc. The cost of an afternoon is 25p. This includes a cup of tea for Mum, and squash and biscuits for children. So if you have children between the ages of birth and three years, and you fancy an afternoon out, why not come along for a visit?

* * * * *

MR. BILL ALLEN

Regulars at the Rose and Crown, and most residents of the Village will be sorry at the news that Bill has retired as Licensee of the 'Pub'. Bill, and his family before him, have managed the Rose and Crown for the last fifty years, and he will be greatly missed; but Bill, who has moved not far away at Rangeworthy, will, we're sure be often seen visiting the Village. We wish him a very long and happy retirement.

LADIES DARTS TEAM

The Ladies Darts Team started in 1979 with fourteen Local Ladies. We belong to Chipping Sodbury League which has thirty two teams from around.

Our team has won its way from third division to first division over the years and at the moment stand half way in first.

The darts played at the Lamb Inn for the first few seasons then moved to the Crown Inn. Five Girls (as we like to be called) have been with the team from the start, one very keen player Mrs E. Lanfear only misses when she is ill or over 60 Club outing, another one moved house to Severn Beach and missed about once, all members are very dedicated. We have to rely on some husbands for transport and are thankful they never make other appointments.

Back to the real subject of Darts. Our first win was in our second season with a Trophy for 1001. Since this we have won about twelve trophies for winning the League or coming second. Two ladies Mrs D. Wall and Mrs E. Pullin have won '180' trophies. All these have been won in League Events and our own team efforts are:-

A cup for highest score which is held at present by Mrs B. Woodward with 156. A singles cup - best player for that season is held by Mrs J. Tudor. Mrs Tudor played all one season without loosing a match.

We all meet alternate Mondays in the winter and Tuesdays in the summer.

Hope my giving out some haloes for my team has not bored you all.

Darts Captain E. Pullin.

* * * * *

COOKERY CORNER

A warming, but in-expensive winter recipe from Mrs Scott, at Lavenham Farm.

Sausage and bacon pudding.

1lb pork sausages	1 carrot diced
4 oz. streaky bacon	Suet crust made with 4 oz.S.R.flour
1 onion sliced	2 oz. suet, pinch salt, water to mix.

Cut sausages and bacon rashers into three or four pieces and layer in a 2-pint basin with the vegetables. Add salt and pepper and quarter to half pint water. Cover with suet crust and foil or greased paper and steam for 1½ hours.

Serves 4 to 6

Please remember to send in your recipes so that other people can enjoy them too.

How the Health Service came to Frenchay Hospital

The appointed day was July 5th 1948. From the moment Frenchay Hospital ceased to be run by the Health Committee of Bristol City Council and, together with hundreds of voluntary and municipal hospitals up and down the country, it became nationalised.

Older Bristolians can remember that Frenchay, during the last years of the war, was used by the American Army as a base hospital for the treatment of casualties from the war in Europe, but few of those I have talked to also remember that before the Second World War Frenchay was a children's hospital or sanatorium for the treatment of tuberculosis. The magnificent park and 18th century house had been purchased by the City of Bristol with this use in mind, and the wards which are now used to house the Burns Unit were built with open air verandas, swings and sandpits. A school was also provided, because children with tuberculous joint disease often had to stay in hospital for several years. All that changed when the drug Streptomycin was introduced in 1948 - the year the National Health Service began.

My memories of the Hospital in July 1948 are of understaffed wards full of patients with tuberculosis and other serious chest diseases. The nurses were either highly qualified post-graduates from all over the British Isles or comparatively untrained auxiliaries from the vicinity of the Hospital. There were also a fair number of male nurses fresh from the Army, Navy or Air Force. Their spit and polish discipline was splendid but their methods didn't always make for a happy ward. Some of our readers may wonder whether a hospital ward can ever be a happy place, but I can assure them that there were such, particularly in those years when the patients were younger and all hopeful of regaining their health.

Indeed, their confidence was well placed, for Frenchay already had one of the leading Chest Surgeons in the country, and the Plastic Surgery Department whose staff had been trained in the hard school of repairing the faces and hands of burnt and disfigured pilots and other brave men during the war, was rapidly acquiring an international reputation. The plastic Surgeons eagerly strove to deal with the enormous numbers of children with cleft palate, hare lip and other facial deformities who had been waiting throughout the war to claim the time and attention of skilled surgeons. The availability of antibiotics, so recently introduced, made surgery of the jaw so much safer and successful than it had been pre-war.

The Brain Surgery Department at Frenchay was in its infancy as there was no suitable operating theatre for such long and delicate operations. The first Neuro-Surgeon at Frenchay was a very well qualified woman but she returned to London fairly soon after starting up the Unit at Frenchay, and the long awaited neuro surgery theatre was not completed until the early fifties.

The young doctors in the residents' "mess" were a brilliant bunch of eccentrics from all corners of the world. So few Englishmen were there that an Irish joker put up a notice over the dining table which read "English Spoken". Many of these Americans, Dutch, Irish, Scots and Indian doctors have been for many years leaders of their specialities in their own countries. I know that many of them look back to their training at Frenchay with gratitude, and often revisit the Hospital. They were not easy to discipline as the Matron found when she tried to stop them having midnight swims in the static water tank outside her cottage. Finally she persuaded the Management Committee that the risk of fire has been overestimated and that the tank was a breeding ground for mosquitoes, so it was drained much to the sorrow of nurses and doctors alike.

The Matron, a much loved but sharp-tongued character, had her own misdemeanours the most notable of which was to adopt a neurotic cocker spaniel which followed her everywhere on her rounds and was prone to bite the fingers or noses of gushing well wishers who had stopped to pat the little darling. The Management Committee, after a lengthy meeting, decided to ban all pets from the Hospital which meant that one of our best Ward Sisters had to part with the pony which she had kept stabled at the back of Sisters' House.

The Ward Sisters in those days were a splendid bunch who worked long hours, often staying on after their duty spell was over if a seriously ill patient needed their skill. There was always a terrible shortage of Staff, and in 1950 the Management Committee decided they would have to start a nurse training school instead of relying on qualified nurses from other hospitals. In order to build up a school they had to open up Departments of General Medicine and General Surgery: nurses cannot be trained in the ultra-specialised units of brain and plastic surgery, but must have "general training" to gain the approval of the Royal College of Nursing.

At this point I received an evening telephone call from the Chairman of the Frenchay Management Committee, asking me if I would set up a Department of General Medicine for the treatment of heart disease, fevers, pneumonia and stomach disorders. As I already had a very busy job at Southmead Hospital, he was asking a lot, but when he told me who was coming to work in the General Survery Department - my old friends Paddy Butler and Charles Bartlett - I didn't have the heart to say no. Besides, I had always loved Frenchay and its happy band of brothers.

It was a struggle at first. People talk glibly nowadays about cuts and staff shortages, but they have no idea of the problems we faced in those early days of the Health Service. Often there was only one unqualified auxiliary on night duty on a ward with twenty patients, and a doctor called to a ward in the night might have to wait for over an hour before the perambulating night sister could get around to open the dangerous drug cupboard so that a patient could have an emergency injection. Operating theatre teams with their magnificent theatre orderlies, untrained but skilled and loyal, would often work for several hours during the night and then turn out for a normal morning "list."

The morale of the Hospital was always good. Newly qualified doctors from the Bristol Medical School liked the cheerful informal atmosphere of Frenchay and we were never short of candidates for jobs; foreign trainees continued to come and learn their craft from Frenchay's specially skilled surgeons. It was cold in winter walking between the wards, the paint was peeling, the doctors' and nurses' rooms were small and poky, and to a visitor the Hospital must have looked a mess. But it worked; patients came in, got cured and didn't hate the memory. That's how the Health Service came to a clump of war-built "temporary" buildings which was called Frenchay Hospital.

J.M. Naish.

* * * * *

BEST KEPT VILLAGE

This year we achieved third place in the competition for the Championship Shield in the whole of Avon. Not a bad result, but next year we have to make a special effort to get back to the top spot. The gardens were all beautiful and the judges again found it very hard to pick the winners - eventually deciding on Mr & Mrs Cutts, Irondale for the best planted container, and Mr & Mrs Woodward, Algars Drive for the best garden. At the moment the village looks a mess - not only with fallen leaves which are natural at this time of year but with tin cans and paper of all kinds discarded everywhere. How I wish we could make an effort all the year round instead of just when the judging is done!

NORTH ROAD BAPTIST CHAPEL.

A place of worship has existed in North Road, Yate, for well nigh a hundred years - first in a Tin Mission and since 1909 in the present building. Services have been conducted there throughout this long time by Lay Preachers of all denominations.

Services are held at the Chapel on every Sunday as follows:-

at 2.30 p.m. A Bible Class Meeting
at 6.00 p.m. A Gospel Service which on the first Sunday of each month is followed by Communion.

During the week the following Meetings are held:-

Tuesdays at 2.30 p.m. Ladies Meeting on alternate Tuesdays.
Thursdays at 7.30 p.m. Prayer Meeting and Bible Study.

The following Special Services have so far been arranged:-

1985

December 14th at 7 p.m. Advent Concert - given by
"The One-Way Singers"

December 22nd at 6 p.m. Family Carol Service.

1986

March 23rd at 6 p.m. Bristol Male Voice Choir

March 28th (Good Friday) at 7 p.m. Whiteshill Male Voice
Choir.

Our Members are very grateful to the Iron Acton Parish Council for its generous grant towards the cost of recent repairs to the Chapel.

A very warm welcome is extended to everyone who would like to join us.

"And The Spirit (Christ's Holy Spirit) And The Bride (Christ's Church On Earth) Say "COME"

Pastor K.W.J. Merrick
344, North Road,
Yate,
Bristol.

* * * * *

Notice in Selsey Methodist Church: "Please speak up loud and clear, because the agnostics in this Church are troublesome."

Ernie Godolphin's Problem

A Christmas Ghost Story by L.C. Voss.

It was snug in the bar of the Woolsack one cold, bright, December night. Last orders were in and the bell had just rung time but no one was in a hurry to finish drinking up.

"It's snug in here," said Ernie Godolphin, swigging again from his tankard kept specially for him behind the bar and standing with his large hind quarters roasting in front of the log fire. "In Ireland they call bars 'snugs,' you know. "I'm just going down to the snug for a wet," they say." He was full of uninteresting information like this which he was only too willing to share with unwilling companions.

"I'm surprised they allowed you into Ireland, Ernie," said Dave Wardle, one of the regulars, "An unbeliever like you." Anyone who was a regular was used to Ernie and was also familiar with his views on every subject from abortion to the zodiac.

"It's a country of superstition, it's true," said Ernie, "but I don't see why that should have affected me." Like most unimaginative people he could find no fault with himself. "I told the people I was staying with, there was no justification for all the fuss they made about candles and pictures of the Virgin and all that rot."

His companions exchanged glances; Ernie was famous for insulting his hosts, who rarely seemed to feel that his behaviour released them from the obligations of their role so that he never fully realised how far he fell short of being the perfect guest.

"And as for the Holy Ghost . . ." he continued.

"Don't you believe at all in ghosts then, Ernie?" said Mike, another of the group.

"No, I do not," said Ernie belligerently. "I'm a realist."

"I think you mean a materialist," murmured Colin, who hovered on the edge of the group.

Ernie, who was not a good listener, happened to catch this remark but was not put out. "That's right," he said, "a materialist, the only spirits are the sort you find in this glass," and with that he gulped down the whisky chaser that he invariably followed his tankard of beer with. "Well, I'm away home," he said, patting the ample belly that the diet we have already seen him drinking had produced over the years.

Ernie's shortest way home was by a path through the churchyard which led to the small house on the other side where he had lived alone since his mother died. As he reached the doorway of the Woolsack he stumbled and turned back to his companions with a smile . . . "If I fall down in the churchyard I shall know it was just a good night at the pub and not one of those dead men sticking their feet up to trip me over." This was a regular joke of his and consequently, though it fitted in well with what they had just been discussing, no one reacted very much. They were not to know that this joke was one he was not going to make again.

As he stepped out of the warm bar into the frosty night outside and looked up at the bright moon nearing the full, he felt for a moment disorientated and lost and, though he had walked this way home from the pub almost every night for twenty years, he momentarily wondered which way to go but, getting a grip of himself, he moved off down the road, crossed to the church and went through the gate under the yew tree and diagonally across between the gravestones.

Halfway across he looked up at the moon again. The movement of the few wisps of cloud made the church tower seem to be toppling over on him but he ignored the illusion and looked forward at the way he had to go and then looked again. His heart started beating faster and his breath wheezed louder. Near the gate out of the graveyard by which he must pass was a large table tomb, an ancient, grey, rectangular box. But now at one end was a strange light and, as Ernie walked cautiously forward, it gradually took the shape of a luminous skeleton. The greenish glow was eerie in the cold, white light of the moon and as Ernie bravely continued to advance the skeleton raised itself onto the flat top of the tomb and started to dance.

The tune of Saint Saens' Dance Macabre, a record Ernie possessed in his surprisingly extensive collection, was running through his head and the skeleton danced in time to this appropriate music, while Ernie now stood stock still watching, until the skeleton started to beckon him forward, indicating he should join in this dance of death.

Ernie knew nothing of the bell, book and candle of exorcism, but from out of the distant past when he had, as a boy, attended church regularly with his parents, his memory found the words, "Get thee behind me, Satan."

"Gee mind see . . . ," he began, the words strangely muddled. He tried again "Guess me behind thee, Hilton," slightly better, but he knew it wasn't good enough. While the skeleton continued to grin and beckon, he rushed past, on through the gate, and only stopped when the bright electric light and familiar comfort of his own sitting room reassured him. Nevertheless, trembling violently, he continued striding up and down the room, talking to himself about the experience, his speech gradually returning to normal, his heart beats and breathing slowing down, and by about four o'clock in the morning, after drinking a number of cups of tea, an unusual proceeding for him, he felt able to go to bed, where he fell into a restless sleep.

The next night, in the Woolsack, he was unusually quiet; though as the evening wore on and closing time approached he did make considerable efforts to get some one to come home for a drink with him afterwards, but it was mid week and most of the regulars had to go to work the next day. They knew that a session at Ernie's went on till the small hours and they all made excuses. So Ernie left the pub and was soon alone as the group went their different ways.

At the gate to the churchyard by the yew he hesitated, tempted to break the convenient habit of twenty years and go the long way round by the road. But Ernie did not lack courage and with a heart which once again started to beat faster he set off diagonally across the churchyard. It was a similar night to the previous one, the moon one day nearer the full, and Ernie had the same experience looking at it. Then, on the tomb, he saw the strange green light which formed itself into the shapes, this time, of two skeletons. They did not dance but only beckoned and seemed to leer as Ernie, after one look, broke into a gallop, past them to the gate, out, and so home.

Although he has confided in no one about these experiences, Ernie has thought long and hard about them but reached no conclusions. They have however, not been without their effect on his behaviour. In the bar, he can no longer be drawn into laying down the law on the subject of the spirit world. When he walks home he goes the long way round by the road, never across the churchyard. And he has given up whisky chasers.

* * * * *

RANGEWORTHY PLAY GROUP

Do you have a child between the ages of 3 & 5? If the answer is yes, why not come along to Rangeworthy Play Group and see what he can gain from attending.

The playgroup is held at Rangeworthy Village Hall on Monday and Friday mornings during school term time. It is a non-profit making group, run by a committee of mothers, with a paid trained organiser and her helper. Mothers are encouraged to be involved in the group and help on average about two sessions per term. The fees are 90p per session.

There are numerous activities for your child to enjoy in a relaxed, caring atmosphere. Last year the children also enjoyed two visits to local farms to see the animals and hold the spring lambs, a day trip to Bristol Zoo, a Teddy-bears Picnic, a nativity play and a Christmas party.

If you would like to visit the group with your child to see if it is right for him, informal visits are always welcomed. We have vacancies this year and are accepting names for 1986 - 1987, so do contact us if you have a child under 3, who may wish to attend in the future. Lastly the Playgroup has always attracted children from the Iron Acton area and there are several attending this year. If you would like your child to attend then it may be possible to help you with any transport problems.

Like what you have read? Then ring Lyn Davies on 259 or Jill Bradshaw on 626 for more information.

GUIDE & BROWNIE SUPPORTERS GROUP

Another of our popular Coffee & Gateaux Parties held on November 7th made about £130. - many thanks to all who came, the profit will go a long way towards this years capitation fee. Our next event will be a Wine & Cheese evening on February 7th - put it in your diary, it's usually a good party!

Taking Off

Out of work? Finished employment early? Been made redundant? Or just teed off with your present job and feel there is more to life than working for someone else? You want to have a go on your own? Great!

Maggie Thatcher says the country needs enterprise and there really are so many opportunities out there. Just think of the last time you tried to buy something that no one could provide or the last job that no one was willing to do for you.

Here are a few tips that may come in useful; decide what it is that you really would want to spend the rest of your life doing. When your decision is made, tell no one but do your own market research and use your own judgement as to its potential. Finally, you will be ready for take off, and in some ways taking off in a business is just like taking off in an aeroplane.

Just for a moment imagine you have taken flying lessons and today is the day you go solo. Everything is perfect. You are in the aircraft at the start of the runway and are given permission to go. Off come the brakes; the throttle is put to half and you gather speed. As the end of the runway looms closer, you realise you are not going fast enough to get into the air, so you taxi and start again and, if you stay at half throttle, again and again. Now go for it with full throttle, keep climbing until you have reached the height that you want to be at.

Taking off in business is exactly like that. 'At full throttle' is the only way to start successfully. For at least six months you must put to one side all other commitments, hobbies, socials, even friends. You do not have time for them. A twelve hour day is only part time, and be frustrated that there are not eight days in the week.

Here are some further gems of wisdom born of experience. Avoid people who can say no to you. You do not need negative waves. Avoid borrowing money. It has to be paid for, and by your efforts. Ignore the suggestion that things are cheap because you can get tax relief on them. They still have to be paid for. You don't get 'owt for nowt'. Register for V.A.T. on day one. It's great. H.M. Customs get you a 15% discount on nearly everything and you hold their money for nearly three months. But never ever try to diddle the V.A.T. man or the Tax man. They will catch you out for sure. If you are still alive they will strip you of everything you have worked so hard for. If you are fortunate enough to be dead they will dig up your grave to check your pockets.

So that's it! 'At full throttle' is the only way to succeed. "Is that how you got your pile?" I hear you ask. I'll tell you. I think I got it sitting on a wet seat typing this lot out. The best of luck to all of you.

Bryan Taylor.

* * * * *

'Psst - Have you Heard?'

Who? at a Birthday Party arranged for him by his friends received greetings from a Kissogram Girl! (Was she or was she not Topless?)

And Was Cxxxxx Embarrassed?

BYELAWS FOR THE PARISH MEADOWS

Byelaws made by the Parish Council of Iron Acton under Section 164 of the Public Health Act 1875 with respect to a RECREATION GROUND.

1. Throughout these byelaws the expression 'the ground' means the recreation area known as 'THE PARISH MEADOWS'.
2. An act necessary to the proper execution of his duty on the ground by an officer of the Council, or by any person or servant of any person employed by the Council, shall not be deemed an offence against these byelaws.
3. A person shall not in the ground, without reasonable excuse:-
 - i) climb any wall or fence in or enclosing the ground or any tree or any barrier, railing, post or other erection.
 - ii) remove or displace any wall or fence in or enclosing the ground or any barrier, railing, post or seat or any part of any erection or ornament or any implement provided for use in the laying out or maintenance of the ground.
4. A person shall not except in pursuance of a lawful agreement with the Council, or otherwise in the exercise of any lawful right or privilege bring or cause to be brought on the ground any beast of draught or burden or any cattle, sheep, goats or pigs.
5. i) A person shall not except in the exercise of any lawful right or privilege bring or cause to be brought on to the ground any barrow, truck, machine or vehicle other than:-
 - a) a wheeled bicycle, tricycle or other similar machine.
 - b) a wheel-chair, perambulator or chaise drawn or propelled by hand and used solely for the conveyance of a child or children or an invalid.

Provided that where the Council set apart a space on the ground for the use of any class of vehicle this byelaw shall not be deemed to prohibit the driving in or to that space or by a direct route from the entrance to the ground of any vehicle of the class for which it is set apart.

- ii) A person shall not except in the exercise of any lawful right or privilege ride any bicycle, tricycle or other similar machine on any part of the ground.
6. A person shall not affix any bill, placard or notice to or upon any tree, or to or upon any part of any building, seat or other erection on the ground.
7. A person shall not, except with the consent of the Council, erect any post, rail, fence, pole, tent, booth, stand building or other structure on the ground.
8. A person shall not in the ground drive, chip or pitch a hard golf ball.
9. A person shall not in the area (or, near the apparatus) which by notice conspicuously displayed on or near thereto has been set aside by the Council for the use of children under the age of 12 years, play or take part in any ball game.
10. A person who has attained the age of 12 years shall not use any play apparatus which by notice conspicuously displayed on or near thereto has been set aside by the Council for the use of children under the age of 12 years only.
11. A person shall not on the ground intentionally obstruct, disturb or annoy any other person in the proper use of the ground, or intentionally obstruct or disturb any officer of the Council in the proper execution of his duty, or any person or servant of any person employed by the Council in the proper execution of his duty.
12. Every person who shall offend against any of the foregoing byelaws shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding fifty pounds.
13. Every person who shall infringe any byelaw for the regulation of the ground may be removed therefrom by any officer of the Council, or by any constable, in any one of the several cases hereinafter specified: that is to say:-
 - i) Where the infraction of the byelaw is committed within the view of such officer or constable and the name and residence of the person infringing the byelaw are unknown to and cannot be readily ascertained by such officer or constable.
 - ii) Where the infraction of the byelaw is committed within the view of such officer or constable, and, from the nature of such infraction, or from any other fact of which such officer or constable may have knowledge, or of which he may be credibly informed, there may be reasonable ground for belief that the continuance on the ground of the person infringing the byelaw may result in another infraction of a byelaw, or that the removal of such person from the ground is otherwise necessary as a security for the proper use and regulation thereof.

DIARY OF FORTHCOMING EVENTS

At the Village Hall

Every Tuesday	Brownies	5-45 p.m.
	Girl Guides	7-00 p.m.
Wednesday	The Elizabethans	2-30 p.m.
	Fencing Club	7-30 p.m.
2nd Monday in the month	Women's Institute	7-30 p.m.
3rd Monday in the month	Parish Council	
November 30th	Church Christmas Fayre	3-00 p.m.
December 12th	Village Hall Xmas Whist drive	
December 14th	Acton Aid Christmas Party	
December 22nd	Acton Aid Childrens Party	
February 7th	Guides & Brownies Supporters	
February 15th	Folk Club Entertainment	
March 15th	Elizabethans Bulb Show	

At the Rose & Crown

Every 1st Thursday	Acton Aid	8-00 p.m.
Alternate Mondays	Ladies Darts Team	

At the Lamb Inn

Every Friday	Folk Club	7-30 p.m.
Thursday	Mothers & Toddlers Group (During term time)	2-00 p.m.

At Rangeworthy Village Hall

Monday & Friday mornings	Children's Play Group (During term time)
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At North Road Baptist Church

December 14th	Advent Concert	7-00 p.m.
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At Chipping Sodbury Town Hall

February 14th	Acton Aid Dinner & Dance
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At Stanshawes Court

January 7th	Elizabethans Christmas Dinner (Coach leaves at 7-00 p.m.)
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STOP PRESS

Iron Acton Youth Club

There will be an Open Meeting at 7-30 p.m. on Wednesday 27th November in the committee room Village Hall.

This meeting is being held to form a committee to restart the Village Youth Club. Anticipated start date is Thursday's January 1986. Assistant Area Youth Officer Keith Sallway will be present.

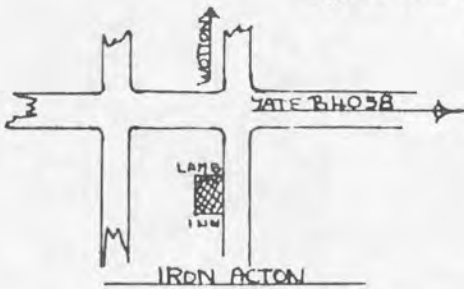
Please give this meeting your full support.

* * * * *

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