

# FOCUS ON IRON ACTON

# S. J. A. Builders

*Extensions, Garages,  
Porches, Renovations,  
Stonework, etc.*

*All trades covered*

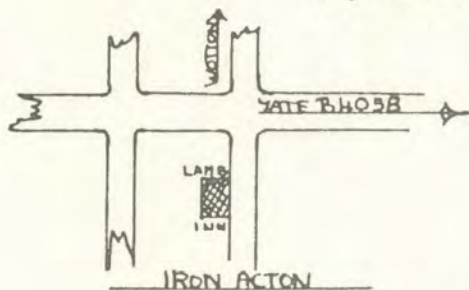
Simon Atherton,



## Rangeworthy 8115

### + THE LAMB INN +

+ PHONE RANGEWORTHY 265 +



+ FLOWERS ORIGINAL BITTER +

+ SAMPLE OUR SUPERB RANGE OF  
HOME BAKED FOODS +

+ LARGE NATURAL SECLUDED  
GARDEN +

+ OLDE WORLDE FRIENDLY  
ATMOSPHERE +



+ THE LAMB +  
+ 1690 +



NO. 17

SPRING '88

EDITORIAL

With this issue we welcome all the new parishioners who join us in April. Previous readers will excuse us, we hope, while we explain ourselves to them.

"Focus" is a free newsletter issued three times a year to try to keep everyone in touch with what goes on in the Parish. Each number costs about 20p. but thanks to income from advertisers, generous donations from Acton Aid, the Parish Council, the W.I., Whist Drive organisers and individual donors, we are able to keep up our free issues, and are now beginning our sixth year.

We are always grateful for contributions of all sorts, whether money or articles for publication (but no politics please!).

Write and tell us what you think of us and we may publish your letters (if they are not too rude!). And if you really are not interested and would rather not be bothered with us, phone one of the numbers below and cancel your "order". But we hope you will enjoy our amateur efforts, and enjoy being members of our parish.

To end, we wish everyone a Happy Easter and a warm, sunny summer. Winter hasn't been too bad so perhaps this is our lucky year!

Charles Wilkins  
Hillside  
School Road  
Tel: 254

Jo Voss  
Dean Lodge East  
High Street  
Tel: 674

Lynne Blanchard  
Rose Cottage  
Latteridge Road  
Tel: 566

John Percy  
Primrose Cottage  
High Street  
Tel: 339

Betty Cook  
Neksdore  
High Street  
Tel: 202

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**Life goes on**

A COLLEAGUE who recently joined a coach trip through the Vienna Woods was intrigued to hear the tour guide explain carefully over the loudspeaker: "Sometimes you will see here the Viennese recreating themselves."

## THE HIT - THE STING!

Mike Taylor's 50th birthday  
did not turn out exactly the way he planned.

### ITINERARY

Leave Bristol 10 a.m. Friday 4th December 1987 for Heathrow.  
2 p.m. leave Heathrow for Amsterdam.  
4 p.m. arrive Amsterdam.  
6 p.m. check in hotel.  
7 p.m. having showered and changed, off to the "near" Red light District for dinner and a few beers.

Saturday 5th:  
Shopping - Art Galleries - Museums etc.

Sunday 6th:  
Ditto.

Monday 7th:  
Ditto for most of the day but also return to Iron Acton quietly, hoping that the Revenge Squad (to include the Dyers Lane Mafia) have forgotten that it's my 50th Birthday!

### ACTUAL:

Arrived Amsterdam to find that KLM - the ROYAL Dutch airline (Bryan was impressed!) - had sent our suitcase to sunny Malta. Minus 5 degrees in Amsterdam, and guess where my overcoat was?

Stella had a field day on my credit cards in the departmental stores buying "just a few clothes to tide me over" whilst I planned litigation against KLM.

More shopping next morning during lead up to lunch with an old friend in an Indonesian restaurant. Arrived at restaurant unshaven and still in the same clothes that I had travelled in the day before to find the HIT SQUAD consisting of what at first seemed like half the population of Iron Acton.

Much later and still bemused, met the Hit Squad again in the "VERY near" Red Light district for subsequent candlelit canal cruise (booze up), followed by quiet (you must be joking) drinks in their hotel bar until 4 a.m. Sunday.

8 a.m. Sunday and still more bemused (or drunk perhaps), groped our way across Amsterdam to see the Hit Squad off in their coach. After "pouring" Ted into coach and consulting AA book, they finally left scattering the birds and churchgoers around Central Station.

Spent remainder of weekend recovering on orange juice.

Monday 7th "crept" quietly back into village but within 30 minutes of arrival, and just about to fall asleep in armchair, was "HIT" again by Dyers Lane Mafia bosses and about 60 of their "friends".

By midnight, and when just beginning to enjoy it all after a few beers, was surveying a huge pile of empty booze bottles. Said to loving spouse

"DIDN'T THEY BRING A LOT OF BOOZE WITH THEM"

"YES" SAYS SPOUSE - "BUT YOU BOUGHT MOST OF IT VIA TESCO ON YOUR ACCESS CARD!"

Life (credit) begins at 50. But thank you and thank you again my friends, I am told that revenge is sweet!

\* \* \* \* \*

SAINT JAMES THE LESS, IRON ACTON

TIMES OF HOLY WEEK & EASTER SERVICES

Palm Sunday	Holy Communion	8.0 a.m.
	Blessing & Distribution of Palms, Procession, Passion, Sung Eucharist.	9.30 a.m.
	Concert of Easter Music - Ridings Singers	7.15 p.m.
Mon.	Holy Communion	8.0 a.m.
	Stations of the Cross	7.30 p.m.
Tues.	Holy Communion	7.30 p.m.
Wed.	Holy Communion	10.30 a.m.
	Stations of the Cross	7.30 p.m.
Maundy Thurs.	Solemn Eucharist, Procession to the Altar of Repose, Stripping of the altar Watch of the Passion	7.30 p.m. 8.30 p.m.
Good Friday	Matins & Litany	8.00 a.m.
	Good Friday Liturgy	9.30 a.m.
	An hour before the Cross	2.30 p.m.
	Stations of the Cross	7.30 p.m.
Holy Saturday	Pascal Ceremonies	7.30 p.m.
Easter Day	Holy Communion	7.0 a.m.
	Holy Communion	8.0 a.m.
	Sung Eucharist	9.30 a.m.
	Evensong & Address	6.30 p.m.
Easter Monday	Holy Communion	8.0 a.m.
	Holy Communion	10.30 a.m.

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**Closet romance**

AN ADVERTISER in a Sussex freesheet seems confident that furniture goes the way of birds, bees and rabbits: "For Sale: two reproductive cupboards . . . vgc, £25."

Sign in 'pub': "Don't drink if you're driving. There's no cure for the mourning after ..."

## A VISIT TO THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

I first paid a brief visit to Beijing (formerly known as Peking) in October 1986. I was left with an impression of a rather ugly city with many blocks of utilitarian flats separated by enormously wide roads thronged by cyclists. Although my professional colleagues were most welcoming, there was a certain wariness on the part of the Chinese public. There were some tentative smiles but there were an equal number of impassive or even hostile glances.

A more recent visit took me back to Beijing and on to Nanjing and Shanghai. There were marked differences from my first visit. The Chinese public have clearly received the message that fraternising with foreigners is not only acceptable but is to be encouraged. Private enterprise shops and stalls have appeared in the side streets and the blue or grey uniform of the Mao jacket has almost disappeared. Multiple food stands, selling both hot and cold Chinese food, do a brisk trade and, on one side of Tian An Men Square, is the much publicised Kentucky Fried Chicken emporium, reputed to be the largest in the world. In common with the style of the names of many other Chinese buildings this was soon dubbed 'The Hall of the Heavenly Chicken'!

Excursions to places such as the Forbidden City, the Ming Tombs and the Great Wall were made and, although not being keen on sightseeing, the Great Wall, in particular, is of such awesome proportions that it cannot fail to stun the senses.

I visited many hospitals in Beijing and the conditions in most of them give a new perspective to the problems of the NHS! The wards were generally overcrowded and none too clean but the conditions in hospital are, for the most part, similar to those in the patients' homes. Direct comparisons with Western hospitals are, therefore, inappropriate.

Nanjing was our next stop - the capital of China prior to Beijing. A day excursion was made to the spectacular double decker bridge over the Yangtze River and to the Mausoleum of Dr Sun Yak-sen, the founder of the Chinese Republic but the remainder of the time was spent in professional exchanges. In medical terms, Nanjing was very well organised and a great deal of advanced work was taking place there although the hospital conditions were similar to those in Beijing.

We then travelled to Shanghai by train. Chinese trains are divided into two basic classes - hard seat and soft seat. We were booked soft seat class which proved to be not dissimilar to that offered by first class British Rail. Indeed there were a few extras such as a potted plant and a lace mat on each table and a large colour television at both ends of each carriage. We watched a 2 hour Kungfu film which, I have to confess, was more of a disadvantage than an advantage since it made normal conversation impossible! Every passenger was supplied with a large cup of Jasmine tea and the car attendant passed down the train periodically topping up the cups from a huge kettle of boiling water - no additional tealeaves were added so the tea got steadily weaker as the journey progressed.

The car attendant had one other trick up her sleeve. She was an attractive, slim Chinese girl, albeit dressed in the railway uniform complete with peaked cap. During the trip, however, she would come down the carriage selling small silk scarves, silk dressing gowns, kimonos and other products. Because of uncertainty regarding size, the attendant was persuaded to put on some of the kimonos which she did but requested that we should take no photographs. We assumed that this was not part of her normal duties!

The main purpose of our visit to Shanghai was, once again, to tour hospitals and engage in professional exchanges. One afternoon, however, was spent strolling down the "Bund". Shanghai is sliced in two by the Huangpu river. The "Bund" is a promenade alongside the river and looks remarkably like the Victoria Embankment. The "Bund" is bordered by well cultivated gardens which, in former times displayed notices saying 'No dogs, No Chinese' - and in that order! Today however the "Bund" has a reputation as a place for seeing and being seen. The Chinese frequently accost visitors and start up conversations. I strolled along the "Bund" and met a young Chinese man who spoke good English. Within minutes we were surrounded by a number of other Chinese. It soon transpired that three of them were medical students and we became engrossed in talking 'shop'. During a pause I looked round and, to my astonishment, found that we were surrounded by forty or fifty Chinese listening to our conversation! It was a most interesting afternoon.

All in all, it was a fascinating visit and one was left with an impression that, after a long and difficult period, there now seems to be a genuine eagerness to 'catch up' with the rest of the world and this is as true in medicine as in other spheres. Certainly we all left with many warm invitations to return.

Dr John Zorab, Frenchay Hospital.

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### The Actonians

Ann Aplin has maintained the high standard she achieved last year with a festival play chosen and directed by herself taking second place in Kingswood.

"We are due in Eastbourne in 10 minutes" caught the ghastly good humour of a couple trapped in an uneviable situation. Beyond the pale, relatives/friends, suggest a jolly get together. A new form of social torture is produced, an indoor compost heap. The most unscintillating of visitors arrives, a male Mary Whitehouse, complete with binoculars to scan the small screen for signs of smut. Who wouldn't invent a pressing engagement in Eastbourne or indeed anywhere at all, to get away from that lot?

The play was also entered in the Bristol festival. Well done to Nick Sharpe, Peter Butterworth & Jenny Winters and the technical team who were all favourably mentioned.

NOT TO BE MISSED! The Actonians are performing J.B. Priestly's play, "When we are married" in the Village Hall on 28th, 29th, 30th of April. Book early so as to avoid disappointment later. Tickets from Members of the Actonians or the Post Office.

## Australia Fair

Just now, when many of us are hearing about Australia and those far off days 200 years ago when Captain Arthur Phillip took his ships into the greatest natural harbour in the world, my own thoughts often go back to my first visit to Sydney in 1986. Somehow, although I had got around a bit with the Navy between 1940 and 1945, I had never been to Australia. Nor had Barbara, and our chance came when an international gardening club we belong to decided to hold a congress at Sydney in their spring of 1986. This was, of course, September, just about the best month for us both to get away.

Expensive? - well, not really, when you think what people spend on holidays in the Mediterranean, the Canary Islands and the Caribbean. The other great bonus for us was that our hosts were going to be friendly gardening enthusiasts who would take us into their own gardens and show us the best of Australian wild flowers.

Arriving in the early hours of a balmy morning at Sydney airport near Botany Bay my first impression of the sprawling outskirts of this huge city was that it all seemed very familiar, you drive on the left, there's the same amount of litter and the same sort of graffiti. But when you get your first sight of Sydney Harbour then - phew - you find it is more wonderful than you'd ever expected. Imagine a waterway 15 miles long and never less than a mile wide, indented with numerous bays and inlets, and fitted with blue water and scattered white sails. Then the Opera house and the 'Old Coathanger' bridge; we've seen so many views of them in books and on the television that the reality might become stale. Not a bit of it. The Opera house on its rocky peninsula is very beautiful indeed. When you get inside to see the vast auditorium it takes your breath away.

It was nice next day to see Sydney in the rain. Yes, it does rain there, and the spring flowers are lovely. When the Naval party first arrived in 1788 they found the soil near the harbour very hostile to the vegetable seeds they sowed. Indeed, they very nearly starved in the next few years. Man's efforts, however, have softened the harshness of that dry sandstone soil and the first vegetable patch, now Sydney's Botanic Garden, which comes right down to the shores of the harbour east of the Opera house is a beautifully well-kept park planted mainly with native trees. We never tired of walking there and it was never crowded.

The golden sandstone which is never far from the surface in Sydney and which makes the lovely cliffs of Sydney Heads is called Hawkesbury Sandstone. In an indirect way, the name comes from our local village of Hawkesbury; Robert Banks Jenkinson, Lord Hawkesbury, (who is buried in Hawkesbury Church), was a member of the government which sent out the first ships to Sydney and a large river arising in the sandstone was named after him.



The Hawkesbury Sandstone hills inland from Sydney, which are called the Blue Mountains, proved a great barrier to the early settlers. No one could get past them into the rich interior for nearly 30 years. The trouble was that the huge cliffs more than 1,000 feet high barred the way of the explorers who travelled up the rivers hoping to find a pass. They were always baulked when they found the river arising from a spring at the foot of the cliffs. It was not until 1813 that Wentworth and other explorers found that the best way over the Blue Mountains was not to follow the rivers but the ridges. They found a way down the cliffs to the west, where the convicts were sent to build a road. The vast rolling plains of New South Wales, which were quite soon to provide pasture for millions of sheep, were thus opened up and the future of the colony was assured.

We visited the Blue Mountains as part of our garden tour. There are some wonderful private gardens up at 3,000 feet above sea level. We especially enjoyed the Camellias, Azaleas and the Flowering Cherries, while in one small area with rich volcanic soil we found perfect growing conditions for memorable banks of Daphne, Camellia and Rhododendrons as well as stately trees.

The wild flowers of Australia are seen at their best in Western Australia which we visited on our way home. The City of Perth is as far away from Sydney as Cairo is from London, so it takes a good four hours of jet travel to reach that city near the Indian Ocean. It is full of successful British immigrants, including - so we learn from Alan Whicker - a leader of the oldest profession. Less glamorous but equally professional, some ex-consultants from Frenchay Hospital have found there an appreciative field for their skills. Our Frenchay hosts were in the habit of taking a before-breakfast swim in the Indian Ocean, winter and summer alike. The only concession for us was that we went by car instead of by bicycle. The sea wasn't exactly warm but nor was it cold; it was delicious.

Soon, we were out in the John Forrest National Park near Perth enjoying the extraordinary wild flowers. Some 60% of the world population of plants exist only in Australia and are entirely unfamiliar to Europeans. I found it quite bewildering not being able even to hazard a guess as to which family a flower belonged to. Well, - when you have a flower like the beautiful Kangaroo's Paw whose petals are bright green and its stem scarlet, it isn't surprising that everything seems upside down in Australia!

It's a wonderful continent. We only saw about a hundredth part of it; three weeks is far too short a time but, if you have relatives or friends out there, cut out the Costa Brava for the next three years and go down-under instead!

JOHN NAISH.

\* \* \* \* \*

"Fear of God?"

Under a list of Religious Organisations in the latest Thomson's Directory: "Convent of the Scared Heart"

(Changing ethics ....) Overheard at Christmas, in a town square with a large Christmas tree: "Mum, look! There's some decorations on it - we could take them home!" "No, dear - they're too high up ...."

## WEATHER LORE

Pity the poor Weather Man! Whenever the forecast is wrong he gets so many grumbles you would think he actually manufactured the weather instead of just trying to predict it. I wonder who we blamed before we had all these daily forecasts? For hundreds of years people managed fairly well to predict the weather themselves and I suppose that's why there are so many little rhymes about it. My old granny had a fund of these rhymes and I still remember some of them.

"Red in the morning, shepherds warning,  
Red at night, shepherds delight."

"Mackerel sky, not long wet, not long dry."

"Mist on the hill brings water to the mill, Mist on the moor, brings  
sunshine to your door."

"Rain before seven, fine before eleven."

And if as often happened it was still tipping down at eleven, there was  
even one for that - - -

"Now we'll have to wait till two, to see what the day will do."

There was another one which I can't remember, something about ice which  
would bear a duck in November. I'm sure some of our readers must know  
it and probably a few which I haven't mentioned. Do let us have them  
and we will include them in our next issue.

\* \* \* \* \*

### MORE WEATHER, & OTHER SUBJECTS

After writing the bit about weather lore, I came across the following  
old Devon rhyme, which is a fairly good description of our winters.

"Vust 'er rained, then 'er blawed,  
Then 'er 'ailed, then 'er snawed,  
Then 'er comed a shower of rain,  
Then 'er vruz and blawed again."

I also heard another little verse, on an entirely different subject!

"When daughters of vicars wore nondescript knickers,  
They often got left in the lurch.  
But now they spend Sundays in celanese undies  
You can't get a seat in the church!"

Sorry Rector!

\* \* \* \* \*

Archbishop Runcie was on the way to an Ordination at Gloucester  
Cathedral when the car he was travelling in slewed into a ditch. One of  
his attendants went to inform the Police and to request them to warn the  
waiting assembly that he would be late. A young Policeman asked "Has he  
been drinking? (related by Archbishop Runcie himself!)"

### Plant Sale

There will be a plant sale at The Rectory in aid of Church funds towards the end of April although the date is not yet finalised. Do please save all your spare plants and look out for the date in notices and in the Church parish magazine - if you don't have one please contact - The Rector, phone RANGEWORTHY 412.

\* \* \* \* \*

### The Elizabethans

Once again I have to say that the Club is thriving. We send our best wishes to Mrs Stowell and hope she will soon be well enough to come to the meetings again - also to Mr Merry who has had pneumonia.

Our first outing will be to the Black Mountains on May 24th.

We hold an afternoon Whist Drive on the second Wednesday of each month at 2.15 p.m. when anyone is welcome. Come along for an enjoyable afternoon with a cup of tea and biscuits during the interval. We shall be going to Church for our yearly service on Ash Wednesday and we are having a lunch party on the 2nd March for members. Don't forget your knife, fork and spoon.

D. Elson -Secretary

\* \* \* \* \*

### Whist Drives

The monthly Whist Drives are becoming very Popular although support from the Parishoners of Iron Acton is sparse. We have given £250 to the Village Hall and £68 to Arthritis Research. I would like to thank those people who help to put out the tables and chairs, Mr Pitt, Mr Worsley and Mr Shepherd and all those people who gave such generous prizes for the Christmas Drive. Do keep coming, it is a very cheap and entertaining night out.

Thank you.

D. Elson

\* \* \* \* \*

### St. Peters Hospice

We need one or two volunteers for Latteridge and the Latteridge Road areas to help with the house to house collection from July 11-15th.

When Miss Sambels went round with the box she was always most heartened by the kind and generous welcome she received from all the people of Latteridge, so whoever carries on her good work should find that it is a very pleasant task for a very worthwhile cause. If you can help, please contact the Rector.

## Parish Council

Boundary alterations come into effect in April and will considerably increase our parish.

Latteridge boundaries remain the same. To the north, Patch Elm Lane joins Rangeworthy. To the south the Boundary is the river Frome, right along to Cog Mill. To the east our boundary will be the Bristol-Birmingham railway line, so that we shall take in Broad Lane, Engine Common and the east side of North Road from the school to the traffic lights. A larger part of the industrial area will also be in our parish.

For the information of new parishioners we include a list of council members - Chairman; Mrs. B. Cook, Councillors; Mrs E. Blanchard, Messrs R. Curtis, D. Edwards, D. Elson, G. Gale., C. Harries, M. Wheeler, C. Worsley.

Our meetings are usually on the third Monday of the month in the Village Hall, though twice a year we meet at North Road School. The clerk is Mr N. Carter, 9, Chilwood Close. This year we have had a completely new and interesting experience, the Crest Homes Inquiry into Northavon's decision not to allow them to build on the land surrounding Yate Town football ground.

Yate and Iron Acton were represented by Miss Chris Willmore, and several local people also spoke on our behalf. They were Messrs Elson, Harries, Worsley, Lomas, Slade and Williams. Between them they built up a comprehensive picture of our problems with traffic and public facilities, the way North Road and Engine Common have grown since the days when the old coal mines were working, and why we do not want a new development of 300 or more houses which would swamp the existing community. Now, we can only sit back and wait for the result of the inquiry, which will be in the autumn.

At the moment of writing we have great hopes that we shall soon have a resident policeman in the village again.

The Annual Parish Meeting will take place on 22nd April at 7.30 in the Village Hall. Please come along and support what we are doing.

\* \* \* \* \*

## Guide and Brownie Supporters Group

Our Coffee and Gateaux party in February produced the usual mouth-watering display of cakes, and visitors really had a hard time deciding which to choose. Not quite as many people as last year, (due to the number of bugs and colds around) but the table was soon cleared of all the goodies, and we made about £100.

We shall be joining with the Guides and Brownies to take part in the Village Day on June 18th and we hope to arrange an evening of games and races before they break for the long summer holiday.

Please save your good quality jumble for our sale which will be in September.

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### Iron Acton C.E.V.C. School

The January term opened with 41 children in the school, 21 in Mrs Hatt's clas and 20 in Class 1 with Mr Dowding.

Brian Lloyd has started giving brass instrument lessons in school on Mondays, also Eileen Hughes has kindly agreed to come in on Wednesday afternoons and work with a small group of juniors on art activities.

Help from the Friends of Iron Acton School has enable us to build up our maths material and equipment: the juniors have also received a Black and Decker Workmate Woodwork bench which is being put to enthusiastic use.

Avon County have completed delivery of our P.E. and gym apparatus, this has enabled us to add Gym Club to our range of out-of-school activities, which are:-

- Mondays - Handicraft & Needlework Club.
- Tuesdays - Short Tennis and Gym Club on alternate weeks.
- Wednesdays - Computer Club.

We have been asked to provide the Maypole Dancers for the Village Day on June 18th, - training starts after Easter.

The last day of the Spring Term is Tuesday March 29th and will include an end of term service in St. James the Less at 2.30 p.m. Everyone welcome!

Summer Term begins on April 12th.

The school will be closed on Monday May 2nd (May Day) and on Monday May 9th for a Staff IN-SERVICE DAY.

The next Governors meeting is also on Monday May 9th.

This year our Field Studies week will take us to Ilfracombe Youth Hostel for the week May 16th - 20th.

Summer half term is Monday May 30th - Friday June 3rd.

The School Summer Fayre is Saturday 9th July and end-of-term is Friday 22nd July.

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Notice in a Portofino (Italy) restaurant, after extolling its unique cooking: "We also serve children: (Medium rare).

## Acton Aid

Following the recent A.G.M., these are the Officers for the coming year.

<u>Chairman</u>	Derek Parry, Wisteria Cottage - R/W 550.
<u>Vice Chairman</u>	Gerry Millward, Cornerways - R/W 704.
<u>Secretary</u>	Ron Dowding, Fern Cottage - R/W 340.
<u>Treasurer</u>	Steve Birch, Roden Acre, Frampton End Lane - 993/772718.
<u>Services Sec.</u>	Lionel Alsop, By-ways, Holly Hill - R/W 400.
<u>Social/FundRaising Sec.</u>	Gerry Millward R/W 704.
<u>Village Hall rep.</u>	John Wright, Algars Mill - R/W 373.
<u>Draw Sec.</u>	Reg Demuth, 256 North Road - R/W 424.
<u>Hospital Visiting.</u>	Paul Townsend and Ted Poole
<u>Publicity.</u>	Charles Wilkins.

The new Chairman, Derek Parry thanked the retiring Chairman (Mike Sutton) for his hard work during the previous year and also Gerry Millward who was giving up the office of treasurer ..... to be Vice Chairman and FundRaising/Social Secretary!!

Derek listed the various activities undertaken by Acton Aid, which averaged one per month. Special thanks went to Eric Harford for the use of his field for the Horse Show, Patrick Murphy and his band of helpers who organised the event, Lionel Alsop who took on the Services (arranging the O.A.P. Summer Coach trip and Christmas parcels) at short notice. It was nice to see Reg Demuth offering to take on the job of Draw Secretary.

Gerry Millward, presenting his last Treasurer's Report, stated that income during the last year was significantly down, mainly due to reduced profit from the Horse Show (which had suffered from bad weather in the run up to the event). This had been off set by careful budgeting and expenditure, so that we started the new Acton Aid year with £550 in the funds.

**NEW MEMBERS ESPECIALLY WELCOME TO OUR MEETINGS ON THE FIRST THURSDAYS OF THE MONTH AT THE ROSE & CROWN.**

**WEEKLY DRAW.** Most people in the village know that Acton Aid runs a weekly draw but, for the benefit of newcomers and others, we give a few details here.

To enter the draw costs 10p per week. Each week, three prizes of £3, £2, & £1 are drawn. In addition, at Christmas, two extra prizes of £12 are given. The draw is enjoyed by over 100 people in the village, and also provides a useful source of income to Acton Aid.

If you would like to join the draw, please contact any member of Acton Aid, or in particular Reg Demuth if you live in the North Road area, Beryl Woodward if you live in the estate, or John Percy if you live elsewhere.

## Iron Acton Youth Club

### WHAT ARE WE? WHO ARE WE?

What are we? We are a group of young people aged 10-21 meeting every Thursday in the Village Hall between 7 and 10 p.m. We are helped by an Adult Youth Worker, (who in turn is helped by adult volunteers).

The Club exists for their own kind. They are people with a thought to help one another and to have access to the Youth Leader for advice and guidance. These people also need to take part in activities such as Table Tennis, Darts, Pool, Swimming and other like events. They are people with a sense of adventure who if given the opportunity are willing to tackle any activity. They are people who need the help and respect of the Community.

What are we? We are IRON ACTON, a part of the whole, who needs to be recognised as requiring the help of the whole. We are an active part of the village seeking our own identity without being regarded as an unwanted part. We need to be recognised as we recognise our needs.

The Youth Club has attempted to organise activities for the younger people of the Community, but are thwarted by lack of support. I, as Leader of the Club, have in the past, and I suspect in the future, been subject to criticism for what "members of the Youth Club" do. Do you not think that it is time for those who criticise to step forward and offer constructive help? If anyone is not responsible enough to come forward and confront me in person, then I can only ignore such criticism as unfounded.

I also "hear" little snippets on the grapevine, one being that the Youth of the village have nowhere to go. If that is so, then why is it that the Youth Club has to "advertise" for membership? So come on Iron Acton give us your support. Those of you between 10 and 21 years, come along on a Thursday evening, the more members we have the greater the scope of our activities. Adults, - mums and dads, - you too can give your support by helping with transport, or you may have a special skill to pass on.

COME AND SEE ME NEXT THURSDAY  
OR RING ME 9-5 p.m. ALMONDSBURY 612651

Clive Washbourne.

YOUTH CLUB LEADER.

When there is no Youth Club, you all want one.  
When there is one, no one goes - come on kids.

\* \* \* \* \*

In a Gift Shop at Thornton Dene, Yorkshire, there is a sign: "No credit given, except to people over 85 (or) accompanied by both parents." The "or" is left out ...

West Country Tourist Board advertisement extolling the virtues and opportunities of hotels in its regions: "Jane's Hotel, Bath. Baby listening. Shooting arranged ..."

### Rangeworthy Playgroup

The end of Christmas Term, it seems so long ago now, finished in the usual state of high excitement with the Christmas Party & Play. Spring Term has been more settled with a steady influx of new children making our numbers quite healthy again. Hopefully, in the new few weeks we will have our annual visit to Pool Farm to see the Spring lambs, which is always enjoyed greatly by the children. Then with Easter approaching they will all be making Easter Chicks, etc. with term ending with the Easter Bonnet Parade.

There is always lots for the children to do, glueing, painting, sand, water, toys etc. with the occasional music session or visit. So let your child come to our hall to make a mess with the paint and glue every Monday, Wednesday or Friday morning. I'm sure that they would love it.

If you want further information then please contact Jill Bradshaw, 626.

\* \* \* \* \*

### Friends of Iron Acton School

Our main fund raising activity of the Spring Term has been a coffee afternoon held at the school on the 29.1.88. We coupled this with a Bring and Buy Sale and a showing of the video made by Mr Hatt of the Children's Christmas Concert. This event was well attended and we took £65 on the day, which, with the sale of the Christmas video to parents and friends, will push this figure close to £100.

We are planning a Jumble Sale for Saturday 26th March, so please remember the school when you are spring cleaning and sorting out your old summer clothes, and if you have any donations then contact the school and we will arrange collection.

We are also hoping to have a stall at the Village Day, on June 18th, and a date for the future is our Summer Fayre on the 9th July.

Before Christmas we had a Christmas card competition at the school and the winning entry was printed and sold in aid of the friends. We sold 400 cards - maybe you had one on the fire place, and it raised another £34 for our funds.

As well as raising money we have been spending it too. A sizable amount has been used to buy maths apparatus for the new maths programme being introduced at the school; a keyboard for the music department; sponsoring a Class II trip to Priston Mill; and a Workmate, with tools, for the Junior's Activities classes. Mr Dowding has asked for our help in part-purchasing a new piano for the school, and a concept keyboard for the Infants School Computer.

Please continue to support us and we look forward to seeing our friends at the Jumble Sale on Saturday March 26th.

\* \* \* \* \*

A woman wrote of her husband sampling her baking without permission. "I left a warning note by a plate of one dozen mince pies: "Counted - 1 dozen!" "When I returned 2 pies had disappeared and my note had been boldly altered to: "Think Metric."



Mr. A Strange, who wrote the item about the Wickwar Gang in our last issue, has sent us an edited version of his diary for 1932. We are sure that you will find this first part of it makes fascinating reading. Some of you may remember some of the incidents and personalities - we trust that you are not offended by any of Mr. Strange's remarks. For our younger readers, the diary evokes a quite different world from today's.

### 1932

- 5th. Jan .. Went to the Choir Tea (at Rectory) .. very rowdy .. 18 present.
- 6th. " Floods from the bottom of Tonkins Hill to Tily's ..
- 8th. " .. choirpractice .. we went up to Clark's (Dennis Clark - Hill House) with the rest to watch a cinema show .. it broke down. He gave some books away .. I had 'The Radium Casket'.
- 13th. " New school term at Grammar School .. to School by myself .. M Turner had gone .. renewed acquaintance with old friends.
- 20th. " .. down to Acton to change postal order .. got 9d. for taking telegram to Hallett's (Rangeworthy).
- 24th. " Army manoeuvres at Yate.
- 26th. " Choir practice .. Bill Wilkins join choir.
- 30th. " .. rode to Wotton with F. Fortune. Played in match .. C.Sodbury G.S. 10 Wotton G.S.O.  
Coming home F.F's freewheel gave out on top of Charfield Hill. I had to tow him home.
- 1st. Feb. Rhoda Fortune gained the first 'star' awarded at the Grammar School.
- 5th. " My uncle came in about 7.45 p.m. to say there was a fire somewhere .. thought it was Bob Cook's hay mow .. CHEMICAL WORKS at Yate burnt out .. went up there with F. Fortune and M. Pinnell .. crowds of people there.
- 6th. sat. .. in afternoon went down to Acton .. met part of Iron Acton Juniors football team at the bottom of Alveston Old Church Hill .. they had been to Pilning to play against the Scouts .. lost 3-1.. B. Dyer scored. E. Morgan had a puncture .. M. Rowland's chain broke ..
- 8th. Feb. .. to Mrs. Williams's for music lesson ('Grammy' Williams who had been Headmistress at Rangeworthy School)
- 27th. " Lord Apsley landed in the field opposite .. (to visit Capt. and Mrs. Watts at Mudgetown Farm).
- 6th. Mar. Sid Cullum home on leave .. (Sid's family lived in Wotton Road, he had joined the Navy).
- 13th. " Freddie Fay's Follies at the Lamb all the week.
- 25th. " Good Friday .. to church .. then watched Iron Acton beat Rangeworthy 4-2 .. in the afternoon - Iron Acton 4 'Old Crocks' 5.
- 27th. " Easter Sunday .. served by myself (D.Clark is ill) at 11 o'clock H. Communion .. had Easter Eggs round at the Rectory afterwards.
- 5th. Aprl. Rangeworthy Races today (Berkeley Point-to-Point) .. had to stay in for Cooks to come for my uncle's pigs .. but they did not arrive.
- 6th. " Mrs. Kendall's funeral (wife of Mr Charlie Kendall, Wotton Rd).
- 7th. " Hail, snow, sleet and thunder .. took saw round to Wilkins (Yate Rd,)

- 9th.sat. .. football Iron Acton 7 Danish Bacon 1.  
We played against Pilning Scouts at 6 o'clock .. I played outside left and then in defence .. we drew 3-3. They had cycled over.
- 11th.Aprl. Mrs. Alsop called for nurse's money this morning.
- 12th. " .. up to Yate Market with D. Gibbons, A. Webb and J. Hull .. I saw a waggonet sold for 18s.
- 15th. " Mr. Boulton, who was killed at (Wickwar?) Wick/Quarries was buried at Rangeworthy today.  
choir practice .. Jimmy Dando (local character) had been acting his capers outside earlier.
- 19th. " .. saw D. Gibbons, he was having a horse shoed (at the Swan, Yate ?)  
My uncle sold wireless pole to P.C. Rowlands.
- 30th. " .. someone has been placing plates on the railway line between Iron Acton and Yate.
- 31st. " went over to Winterbourne .. Winterbourne beat North Rd, 4-1 play-off for championship of 1Vth. Div. Suburban League.
- 1st.May Sun. Walked to church with M. Turner in afternoon ..Flowe rang Sunday. Thunder and heavy rain.  
.. went to evening service in rain .. The Vicar of St. Judes preached sermon. .. only 17 in congregation .. 11 in the choir.
- 2nd. " Floods .. round Watery Lane to school .. floods out at bottom of Bowling Hill .. saw Joyce Pinnell and Dorothy Weaver in the evening.
- 4th. " Helped M. Pinnell with his homework .. preparation for scholarship exam.
- 6th. " .. after choir practice .. watched M. Turner mowing the lawn in front of his house ..
- 7th.Sat. .. over to Watley's End with H. Wiggins .. Watley's End 4 Warmley Amateurs 2.  
Rangeworthy 2 Emmanuel Lads 6 friendly match.
- 9th.May Scholarship exams at elementary schools today.
- 10th. " .. played football on the Green .. Ron (my cousin) kicked the ball over into Dr. Kent's .. the doctor brought it back out for us.  
Mr Seymour (Two Pools Cottages) died today. Funeral on 14th (Sat.)
- 21st. " Sat. Floods out in Chaingate Lane .. several houses had the water in. .. also floods out at the bottom of Tonkins Hill .. the worst I have ever known. I came back past the Lodge across the fields. Later .. went down to Cog Mill and round to the Fishponds (by Keedwells) with V. Cater to look at the floods.  
Tom Amos (Chaingate Lane) was running up and down the lane without any shoes or socks on.
- 22nd. " Sun .. late for church .. I sat with H. White .. he lent me 1d. to put in the collection.
- 26th. " .. on way to school .. Mrs. Holly the postwoman was frightened by a cow along by Craig Affie.
- 28th. " .. the new schoolmaster for Iron Acton school arrives. Mr Ellis from Sea Mills.
- 29th.Sun. .. to church .. caught up with M. Turner and D. Gibbons .. sat in the back row of choir with M.T. and Jack Elson. The front two rows had to sit in front of the pulpit (disciplinary reasons!) Saw the new school master Mr. Ellis in church.

We will give further excerpts from this diary in future issues.

## IRON ACTON VILLAGE DAY

\*\*\*\*\*

This is the last Focus before 'it' happens. So, my task is to try and explain what will be going on, where and when - not easy 'cos everyone has been so good and agreed to participate!!

Important things first, have you all got Saturday, 18 June written in your diaries? Have you told all of your friends about it?

The following is a rough guide to what's going on but timings may alter so look on the village notice boards; in the Post Office, Village Hall and Rose and Crown for details.

Village Green - will be the site of dance displays, many local sides have been invited and the children from Iron Acton School will be dancing around the Maypole (which the Parish Council have kindly agreed to try and get refurbished).

Village Hall - in the morning a songwriting competition, the WI will be serving teas during the afternoon and a Ceilidh (Barn Dance!!) with Black Joak as the band and Dick Stanger as caller in the evening. While on the grassy area from late morning to late afternoon will be the stall run by village organisations. PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL ORGANISATIONS.

Rose & Crown Lawn - is the venue for children's entertainment by John Alderslade (he's a magician who also does a Punch and Judy Show that has to be seen to be believed!), children, and any adults, can have their faces painted by Amanda.

Rose and Crown Club Room - will be the scene of 2 informal "singarounds" during lunchtime and evening opening hours.

Marquee - will be placed on the grassy area behind the Barn at the Rose and Crown. During the afternoon a tea dance and concert with the Yetties and other local acts will be held and an evening concert featuring the Yetties, Kathryn Tickell, Simon Edwards and the Survival String Band.

Football Field - will be the venue for a Car Boot Sale organised by the Football Club. PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL ORGANISATION.

Church - Will be the site of a beautiful flower display, vestment display, sale of elsewhere mentioned incredible marmalade and, for the first time in several years, the Church Tower will be opened. I'm told (I have to admit I'm really frightened by heights and you won't get me up there!), that the view is wonderful and has to be seen to be believed! DON'T FORGET TO VISIT.

### What do you have to pay for?

No charge to wander around the car boot sale, the stalls by the Village Hall, to go into the hall for refreshments (although you pay for your tea, etc!), to watch the children's entertainment, the dance displays on the green, or to wander around the Church (although I'm sure you'll generously make a donation before you leave).

Now we come onto the "folky" events. An all day ticket is available for £5, or an afternoon ticket or an evening ticket for £2.50. This ticket will get you into all events during the afternoon/evening/both PROVIDED THERE IS ROOM IN THE VENUE - we have to abide by local authority rules on this. We thought this a fairer method than by charging for individual events.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN GETTING TICKETS PLEASE CONTACT ME ON RANGEWORTHY 566 SO THAT THEY CAN BE RESERVED FOR YOU - THEY WILL HAVE TO BE SOLD ON A FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED BASIS SO MAKE SURE THAT YOU DON'T MISS OUT.

### Car Problems

The major problem will be cars. If you can walk to the village and leave your cars at home PLEASE DO!! All car parking will have to be in the Avenue Field opposite the Church. The Police will be out and about in the village all day - at the time of writing we think there will definitely be 2 constables and possible 3, together with 3 specials. No car parking will be allowed on the Football Field apart from cars selling from their boots and the Village Hall Car Park can't be used either. To try and ease congestion we have applied for the buses to be rerouted to run past the White Hart and down onto the by-pass with a temporary bus stop on the by-pass junction with Wotton Road but this has yet to be confirmed.

### A Plea

If you live in the High Street and have off street parking facilities please, please, use them. If you can offer space to your neighbours who don't have space available can you please help them out and therefore help us.

### Opening Hours

We suggested to Allan and Gail at the Rose and Crown, and they have kindly agreed to go along with us, that a licence extension is not applied for. The aim is to keep out the rowdy element who sometimes descend anywhere that has late drinking. We hope that the other pubs will also help us and follow suit. We apologies to any locals who have sighed when reading the above - I know it's yet another case of the reasonable majority missing out because of the mindless minority but we have to take all the precautions we can.

### Finally

We hope that everyone has a wonderful time. We've done all we can to provide a happy, friendly, fun-packed day. Take advantage of it, help the Committee make enough money to cover our costs and we'll see what we can do next year.

Love

Lynne B.

XX

PS If anyone wants tickets, to find out information, or to complain, ring me on Rangeworthy 566.

PPS Just so that you all know, any profits will be ploughed back into next year, or if that doesn't go ahead they'll be given to charity - the Committee won't be "lining their pockets" with it.

## FRIENDS' OF ST JAMES THE LESS

\*\*\*\*\*

I'll start this report with an apology for an omission from my report in the last edition of Focus. In the section on the Donkey Derby I thanked everyone apart from David and Yvonne Bate for the loan of the marquee for the WI teas.

Grateful thanks go to everyone who made the Mulled Wine and Minced Pie evening such a success. The wonderful amount of £229.06 was promptly deposited into our account and having found what we hope is a winning formula it will once again be used on Saturday, 10 December 1988 (that's a polite way of saying diaries open please and don't go anywhere else on that evening!).

Having breathed a sigh of relief and thought thank goodness (or words to that effect) we won't have to fork out any money for them until December, it is now my pleasure to announce ('cos I'm a sadist) that we will be holding a barbeque at the beginning of June, the height of the English summer - go on, be an optimist, the weather can't be bad again this year, can it? Definite date has yet to be decided upon as it depends on the date of the Horse and Dog Show but posters together with the sight of villagers being persued by Committee Members with tickets and screaming £2.50 should give the game away! On a more serious note, we would like to say a big "thank you" to Dr and Mrs Hughes for allowing us to use Hill House as the venue. It really is kind of them to allow us to overrun their home for the evening.

And, of course, you'll see us manning a stall for the Village Day on 18 June at the Village Hall.

That's about it from me, we hope to see you twice in June ..... and December .....

Lynne Blanchard  
Secretary

## LYNNE'S LITTLE BITS

\*\*\*\*\*

Well, here we are again, some more little bits and pieces .....

### BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Belated birthday greetings to Godfrey Cook who celebrated his 70th birthday earlier this month (no, I haven't made one of my wonderful typing errors and put a wrong digit before the zero - I didn't believe it either!) and a happy wedding anniversary to Charles and Dorothy Wilkins who will be celebrating their Golden Wedding on 28 May.

### MARMALADE

Did you know that you can buy the most wonderful home-made marmalade from Mrs Waker at the Rectory? All different varieties - orange, thick cut, grapefruit, etc at the incredible price of 45p per pot. All monies raised go to the Church so not only are you supporting a good cause but you get a good product in return. Believe it or not (and would I lie to you?) the marmalade has been sent all over the country.

PS Any empty jam, honey, marmalade pots will be gratefully recieved and put to good use. The demand often exceeds the supply of pots so see what you can do to help.

## HORTICULTURAL SHOW

The date for this year's show will be Saturday, 10 September. Please mark it in your diaries and consider placing an entry. More about this next time.

## HOLFORD ARMS FESTIVAL

The weekend Folk Festival that used to be held at the Lamb will once again be held at the Holford Arms, Knockdown, nr Tetbury from Friday, 12 to Sunday, 14 August. Full weekend ticket - including camping - will cost £9 before 31 July and £10 afterwards. The guest list is headed by Fred Wedlock. For further info ring Maggie Starkey on C/S 321943 or Barry Vickers on C/S 323659.

## BISHOP OF BRISTOL'S VISIT

It was lovely to see the Bishop of Bristol take an "ordinary" service rather than a confirmation or patronal festival. I think the things most people noticed were how approachable he was and what a smashing sense of humour. Suffice to say that when he returns here the congregation will definitely be as large and probably even larger than last time.

## BURGLARIES

Several houses have had unwanted visitors recently and the distress caused has been quite awful to see. Can I make a plea that we all keep an eye open for people or vehicles we don't recognise? I know this is too late for the people already affected but by all of us keeping a look out we might, possibly, help someone else.

## IRON ACTON WI

\*\*\*\*\*

At our AGM on 14 December 1987, apart from enjoying mince pies and sherry, we welcomed back to our Committee 2 old members: Molly Smalley and Valerie Evans and 1 new member: Rosemary Maniatt. We all looked ahead to many interesting evenings together in the New Year. The following Officers were also elected.

President: Mrs Pauline Hill  
Secretary: Mrs Barbara Shortman  
Treasurer: Mrs Elizabeth Edwards

On 11 January we welcomed Susan Marshfield who gave an hilarious talk entitled 'Molly's First Litter' - Molly being her West Highland Terrier - tears rolled down the faces of our members at the 'activities' of Molly and we all agreed that we could thoroughly recommend this talk.

Tuesday 26 January found a party of members and friends on their way to see Snow White and the Seven Dwarves at the Bristol Hippodrome which proved very enjoyable.

In February we enjoyed a most interesting talk on Mosaics by Brian Bull who enlightened us on the intricacies of this very beautiful art.

On 14 March we will be visiting the Stuart Crystal Works in Chepstow for a pottery demonstration. I also understand that we will get the chance to go around the Factory Shop - an occasion to leave one's purse firmly at home.

Many more interesting evenings have been arranged for this year and we extend a warm welcome to anyone who would like to join us on the second Monday of each month, at 7.30 pm, in the Village Hall.

You might also like to come and buy refreshments from us on Village Day in the Hall!

Rona Wright - Press Officer

## DIARY OF FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### At the Village Hall

Every Tuesday	Brownies	6.00 p.m.
	Guides	7.30 p.m.
Every Wednesday	Elizabethans	2.00 p.m.
	Fencing Club	7.30 p.m.
Every Thursday	Youth Club	7.00 p.m.
1st Monday in month	Whist Drive	7.30 p.m.
2nd " "	Women's Institute	7.30 p.m.
3rd " "	Parish Council	7.30 p.m.
April 28,29 & 30	Actonians production of "When we are married"	
16th April	Elizabethian Spring Sale	
22nd April	Annual Parish Meeting	7.30 p.m.
7th May	Hall auction	

### At the Rose and Crown

Every 1st Thursday	Acton Aid	8.0 p.m.
Every Friday	Folk Club	
Alternate Mondays	Ladies Darts Club	

### At Rangeworthy Hall

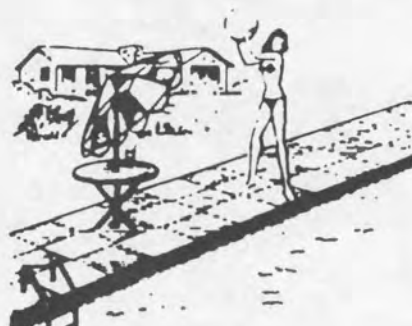
Mon, Wed, & Fri.      Play Group (during term time)mornings.

### At Iron Acton School

11th June	Church Summer Fayre
9th July	School Summer Fayre

### Everywhere

18th June      Village Day



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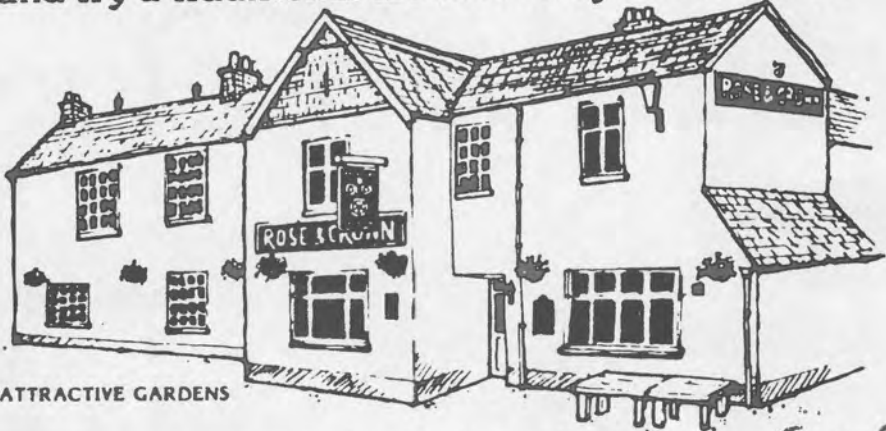


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