

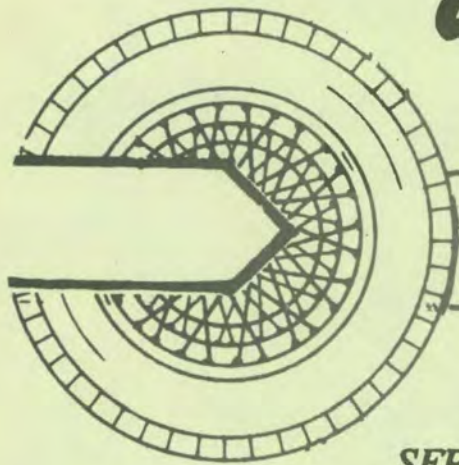


FOCUS on

IRON ACTON



roger's autocare

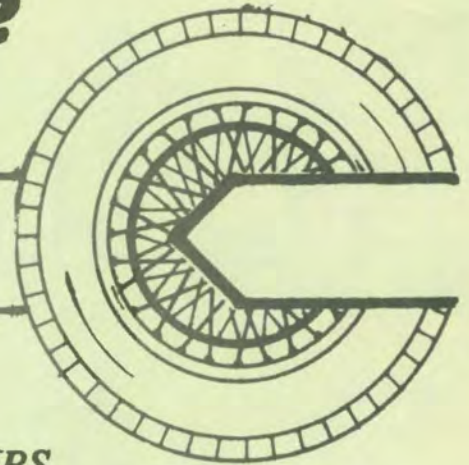


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WEEK END SNACKS ~ FRI: SAT: & SUNDAY.

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SPRING '89

Editorial

Spring has arrived very early this year - indeed what happened to Winter? It is good to see everything springing up and making our village look so attractive again. Let us make a special effort again this year and see if we can win the Best Kept Village in Avon again.

We welcome to the editorial team of Focus Peter Redman, and much appreciate his sketches. We have always felt that we wanted pictures as well as text and now we are getting them. We hope you enjoy them.

We are very grateful to the Parish Council for a donation to the cost of this issue of Focus - our funds were right down to rock bottom, and we were worried that we might not be able to continue. We are always most grateful for the donations that we receive, and especially to our contributors who regularly write such interesting articles for us.

Charles Wilkins
Hillside
254

Jo Voss
Dean Lodge East
674

Betty Cook
Neksdor
202

John Percy
Primrose Cottage
339

Lynne Blanchard
Rose Cottage
566

Peter Redman
Lawncott
395

Once again, Pat Ashmead has typed much of this issue of Focus. We are all very grateful to her.

* * * * *

EYELASHES

False eyelashes are a marvellous invention - I spent half an hour in the bathroom trying to kill one of the damn things.

A man jumped into a 482 mile long river in France in the early hours of this morning. He was said to be in Seine.



CROAK DOWN THE 'PHONE TO HELP FROGS AND TOADS

Frogs and toads get the most awful press. Many people think of them as being slimey creatures which can give them warts or worse. The truth of the matter is rather different; frogs and toads are totally harmless and are great friends of the gardener, eating many of the pests which can infest the vegetable patch.

However, in recent years frogs and toads have been suffering because many of their wild ponds have been filled in to make way for new houses or farmland. To make up for this, some gardeners have been building wildlife ponds in their own back yards to provide a safe haven for these increasingly uncommon creatures.

From St. Valentine's Day, Avon Wildlife Trust will be encouraging more people to make a place for frogs and toads in their lives with its CROAKLINE. By ringing Bristol 268018 frog-lovers will be offered the chance to receive a free CROAKPACK full of useful tips on caring for frogs and toads in the garden and the latest advise on the best kind of pond to build for them.

People with ponds that are overflowing with spawn can ring in to join our spawn bank, so that others can have the chance to introduce frogs to their ponds. And those wanting to give a frog a home should ring in to see if someone near them can offer them the spawn they need to have a pond brimming with tadpoles by the summer.

So whatever you want to know about frogs and toads, it looks like the CROAKLINE on Bristol 268018 is the answer to all your questions.

Steve Micklewright.
Avon Wildlife Trust.

* * * * *

ACTONIANS DRAMA GROUP

The Actonians are continuing in their traditional pattern of producing both three-act and one-act plays for the Spring.

We will be staging 'The Dining Room' by A.R. Gurney, Jr. in the Village Hall from April 20th-22nd.

We also have two one-act plays 'on the go', this time both involving the younger members of the Junior Actonians. 'Life of Hercules - Page One' will be entered for the Kingswood Festival and the Avon Association of Drama Festival and 'Michael' will be entered for the Malmesbury Festival.

We have done quite well in the past so we hope to have successful entries this time!

Liz Birch - Secretary.

NORTH ROAD BAPTIST CHAPEL

The Pastor and Members and the Congregation of North Road Baptist Chapel will celebrate the 80th Anniversary of the erection of their Church in 1909 during the coming year.

So far two special services have been arranged

On Good Friday at 7.00 p.m. we welcome the annual visit of the Whites Hill Male Voice Choir. The address will be given by Mr. Phillip Green from Kingswood, Bristol.

On Sunday 9th April we will welcome Members of the Bristol Evangelical Male Voice Choir who will arrange and conduct the whole service. This service will commence at 6.30 p.m. instead of our usual starting time of 6.00 p.m. There will be further special services during the year.

If anyone has any old photographs or records relating to the Church the Pastor would be delighted to see them and if possible take copies to enable us to build up our records. Please telephone him on Rangeworthy 587.

The records in our possession would appear to suggest that the Church started in or about 1870 with Cottage Prayer Meetings. These were followed by the erection of a Galvanized Iron Chapel which itself was replaced in 1909 by the present Building.

Services are held every Sunday with the Bible Class Meeting at 2.30 p.m. and the Gospel Services held at 6.00 p.m.

The Ladies meet for their Services on alternate Tuesdays at 2.30 p.m.

A warm welcome awaits anyone who would like to join us at any of those services.

Preachers for the next few months evening services are as follows:-

MARCH

5th Pastor, 12th Mr. R. Barnes, 19th Mr Peter Isaac, 26th Easter Day Service.

APRIL

2nd Pastor, 9th Bristol Evangelical Male Voice Choir, 16th Mr. M. Powell,
23rd Mr. S. Bellamy, 30th Mrs Pat Holmes.

MAY

7th Pastor, 14th Mr J. Davies, 21st Mr. M. Turner, 28th Mr. B. Saunders.

JUNE

4th Pastor, 11th Mr T. Warren, 18th Mr K. Moon, 25th Mr. Mervyn Douglas.

JULY

2nd Pastor, Mr. C. Moody, 16th Mr. K. Cherrington, 23rd Mr. J. Sutton, 30th to be appointed.

FURTHER EXTRACTS FROM THE DIARIES OF MR ARTHUR STRANGE
OF NORTHAMPTON, FORMERLY OF WOTTON ROAD.

PART THREE.

- 3rd.Sept. .. down to Acton.. cycled to Gordano with M. Rowlands, A. Davis, E. Morgan... got a little muddled and arrived just before half-time Iron Acton 2 Gordano Utd. 3. A chap named Holmes from Bristol let Acton down by not turning up. C. Lane played in long trousers and with a bad hand. B. Taylor and S. Dyer scored. We had to stop for about an hour for M. Rowlands to have his cycle crank looked to at a cycle shop. We came across the Suspension Bridge twice.. E.M. and A.D. went on.. M.R. and I got back about 8.30 p.m.
- 4th. " .. to church... handed back magazine given to me by Miss N. Dust.. rode down to Acton... stayed on the corner with - Curtis and E. Morgan (he directing the traffic!). H. Wiggins and J. Ellis went nutting. .. evening service.. Mrs. Ellis played the organ.. Mr. Holcombe being ill.
- 5th. " .. I saw a lame bull in the Avenue (King's bull) .. gang in Wallbank's porch.. Lloyd Prout there. 'Dingo' Dyer and 'Shirty' Seymour bought two 6½d. mouthorgans and were playing songs... we saw a charabanc go past with some chap dressed up as a conductor in it conducting a sing-song.
- 8th. " .. G. Aldom said that he had seen two fire engines and an ambulance go down the road.. this because we had heard some shouting coming from Acton... not true.
- 10th." football match. Iron Acton School 7 Tytherington School 5. .. I believe Mrs. Huggins has her hair bobbed. I took a cockerel from B. Howes' to Sansum's this morning for my uncle. .. down to Acton... had kick on the leg from 'Toffee' May. Iron Acton 4 St. Francis 2. S. Dyer, B. Taylor and B. Seymour scored.
- 11th." Miss Priscella Turner and Mr. Gowen (from Yate) were married at I. Acton yesterday.
- 14th." Eclipse of the moon tonight.. not visible.. cloudy.
- 15th." Mrs. Bodman said that Mrs. Jenkins had 'fits on the brain' and that she is sinking.
... football behind Pinnell's.. D. Day, J. Wyman, G. Kingscott, M. Pinnell, D. Emery and C. Organ 6. J.K. and S. Ponting, V. Crossey and myself 5. G. Kingscott hit Pinnell's cat flying off the wall with a hot drive.
- 16th. " .. up to Sodbury with G. Wiggins, E. Padfield and others to the Labour Ex. big crush outside... I had to wait until last to obtain my card.. a car coming out of Park St. ran into the 3.45 bus going to Wotton.. no-one injured.
- 17th." .. football.. Iron Acton 7 St. Leonard's Bible Class 2. They brought a whole charabanc load of girls and fellows (including their vicar).. plenty of noise and fun.. they had a little mascot. Iron Acton's team.. R. Bateman: A. May, E. Padfield: F. Broome, A. Harmer, J. Richardson : B. Taylor, R. Smith, F. Dyer, S. Dyer, B. Seymour. .. evening.. went to the Show behind the Crown.. good crowd there. Mrs Jenkins died this morning.

- 19th." .. up to the Labour Ex. Mr. Turner spoke to me about a job at the Electrical Works at Yate. .. listened to Ponting's gramophone playing "Around the Marble Arch".
- 20th." .. evening.. played football on the Green.. saved penalty from G. Wiggins. Alec England hit A. Sheppard on the jaw for having too much to say when Bob Sheppard kicked the ball over into Kent's. Mrs Jenkins funeral today.. Aeroplane flights start today at Alveston.. 5/-d. 10/- (loop the loop)
- 21st." .. went over to Kingswood with V. Cater, E. Padfield and M. Rowlands.. Kingswood 3 Keynsham 2. Replay of English Cup match.
- 24th." .. went to Bristol (Packer's Ground) to watch match. M.A.C. 1. Iron Acton 8. Alec and John Jenkins (related to the Jenkins family in Chaingate Lane) were playing for St. Pancras Re. on pitch alongside.
- 27th." .. to Labour Ex. with V. Cater... we called at Yate Market.. on the Nibley to tell Mr. Fletcher that a job had been found for Cecil.
- 29th." Five-a-side match.. Mudgetown 8 (M & T. Pinnell, K. Ponting & myself) Chaingate Lane 5 (B. Wilkins, J. Wyman, S & K. Nicholls).
- 30th." Paid Mr. Gowen the rent.. he gave me 2/- back.
- 1st.Oct. Football match.. Mudgetown 5 Jubilee Terrace 8.
- 2nd. " Sun. Harvest Festival. Holy Communion at 8.o'clock with D. Gibbons. Served at 11 o'clock service with D. Clark.. walked to evening service with M. Pinnell and G. Kingscott.. church crowded out.
- 4th. " went for ride with V. Cater to Codrington and up to the Roman Camp.. we called in at Yate Market.
- 6th. " .. football meeting.. Messrs Blanchard, Unsworth, Prior, Morse and Holmes elected to Committee.
- 14th." .. choir practice.. the rector came down to Wallbanks to order V. Cater and me up to choir.. afterwards D. Gibbons, J. Ellis and V.Cater went round to the Girl Guides Hut in the Rectory garden with a stink bomb.
- 15th." saw.. B. Dyer, C. Fletcher and R. Elson. they were talking of starting a junior football team at North Road. They asked me if I would play in goal.
- 18th." .. over to North Rd. to football meeting.. the 1st team had resigned from the league. Agreed to start a junior team under the name of Codrington Arms Juniors. B. Dyer elected captain. C. Fletcher vice-captain.
.. team selected to play the first match : A. Strange : G. Smith : B. Dyer : C. Pearce : L. Wookey : H. Hendy : B. Aldom : R. Elson : B. Milsom : C. Powell : C. Fletcher.

There is more of this diary for next time!

ELIZABETHAN CLUB

Our Christmas party went off very well, every member bringing some Christmas fare. Our thanks are due to Mrs. Hinder and Mrs Isaacs who came in to help and supplied plates and a microwave. We have recently had two film shows which were very interesting. We were all very sorry to lose Mr & Mrs Watts as members owing to illness. We do hope that they will be able to come on our outings.

The first outing is on April 4th, - a mystery tour starting at 2 p.m, cost £3.50 including supper at an inn.

We have arranged a whist drive on February 27th at 7.30 p.m. and a Spring Sale on the 18th March.

If anyone would like to join one of our outings please contact me, the cost is £3.50 per person.

D. Elson - Secretary.

* * * * *

WHIST DRIVES

Our Whist Drives seem to have taken off, people are now coming from as far as Thornbury, Ozleworth, Hawkesbury and Badminton, but where are the Iron Acton people? All the money from these Drives goes to various charities, four of which are in the village. We now hold them on the last Monday of the month, and we will keep the standard of prizes up if you keep coming. Thanks to all who help including people who stay behind to stack the tables and chairs.

Good luck and happy whist.

D. Elson.

* * * * *

BIRD NEWS



NOTHATCH

I have not seen the spotted woodpecker at the bird table very often this winter, probably because the weather has been so mild and there is plenty of food elsewhere. But I was delighted to see the return of a nuthatch, after an absence of at least twelve years. Now we have a pair making daily visits to the peanuts. Hopefully they will make a permanent home here, we have several hazel bushes in the garden and of course the big walnut tree at the front. Even if they eat all our walnuts it is worth it, to be able to watch such a pretty bird.

Last year I saw a bird I did not recognise in the garden, and looking through my birdbooks, identified it as a red-backed shrike. This does not seem to be its natural habitat, and I wonder if they are often seen in this area?

B.C.

* * * * *

RANGEWORTH PLAYGROUP

The New Year has brought some new little faces to playgroup and some new toys and equipment bought with some of the proceeds from our fund raising events in '88. Many thanks to all who supported us.

The children have again been invited to Rangeworthy Parish Church to take part in the Mothers Day family service on the 5th March. They will be making bouquets in playgroup to give to their Mothers and Mary and Sandra, our playgroup leaders, are teaching the children a hymn that will be sung during the service.

Our Easter festivities will include an 'Easter Hat Competition' to be held at playgroup on the last day of term and during March we shall be taking the children to Mrs. Bartlett's farm in Rangeworthy to see the spring lambs.

As most of you will probably know playgroup is held at the Rangeworthy Memorial Hall which has just been re-decorated and a new kitchen installed. It is a lovely hall for a playgroup to be held and we are always fund raising to buy new equipment and replace old or broken toys. We are also a very friendly bunch: if anyone is new to the village and has children of pre-school age we would be delighted to hear from you.

Many more outings and activities will be arranged during the summer term although at this time no details have been finalised. However, the date has just been decided for our A.G.M. - the 24th April: hope to see all you mums then.

Jan Averis - Secretary.

* * * * *

NORTH ROAD LADIES CLUB

The February meeting held in North Road School was well attended to hear Mr Cyril Martin give a talk and slides on Wild Flowers - all the flowers we see growing but never knew the name of, or how pretty they are until magnified on the screen.

Forthcoming Events.

- March 6th Talk and slides 'The Friends Connection' by Mr & Mrs Fulham.
April 10th Pottery Painting by Heather Fletcher.
May 8th Patchwork by Judith Barker.

Contact - June Broom, Rangeworthy 597.

* * * * *

DOLPHINS

Dolphins are so intelligent that within only a few weeks of being in captivity they can train a man to stand on the very edge of their pool and throw them fish three times a day.

THE PARISH CHURCH

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SERVICES

PALM SUNDAY

8 a.m. Holy Communion
9.30 a.m. Blessing and Distribution of Palms, Procession, Passion,
Sung Eucharist.
6.30 p.m. Evensong

MONDAY

8 a.m. Holy Communion
7.30 p.m. Stations of the Cross

TUESDAY

7.30 p.m. Holy Communion

WEDNESDAY

10.30 a.m. Holy Communion
7.30 p.m. Stations of the Cross

MAUNDY THURSDAY

7.30 p.m. Solemn Eucharist, Procession to the Altar of Repose,
Stripping Alters
8.30 p.m.-Midnight. Watch of the Passion.

GOOD FRIDAY

8 a.m. Mattins and Litany
9.30 a.m. Good Friday Liturgy
2-3 p.m. An Hour before the Cross
7.30 p.m. Stations of the Cross

HOLY SATURDAY

8 a.m. Mattins, Litany and Ante-Communion
7.30 p.m. The Paschal Ceremonies

EASTER DAY

7 a.m. Holy Communion
8 a.m. Holy Communion
9.30 a.m. Sung Eucharist
6.30 p.m. Evensong and Address

EASTER MONDAY

8 a.m & 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion.

Plant Sale

for Church Funds
in Rectory Garden

Saturday 15th April, 2.30-5.30.

Friends of Iron Acton School

Spring is here, it's time to plant your potatoes, clean out your cupboards and to send all your unneeded and unwanted clothes to the Friends Jumble Sale. This year it will be held on April 8th in the School Hall, with jumble, white elephant, books and toy stalls, plus the delicious cake stall and other side shows such as the Grand National Draw to encourage you to part with your money. At the beginning of April our leaflets will be popping through your letter box asking for your unwanted jumble and telephone numbers to contact for collection. It's a great opportunity not to be missed, so remember the Friends when you are spring-cleaning and don't forget to come and support the school on April 8th.

The Jumble Sale is our first big fund-raiser of 1989. After the frantic fund raising of last summer and autumn we were delighted to be able to record a total income of over £2,000 at the A.G.M. in November. Needless to say the Friends had also spent over £2,000, and further items are still needed by the school. A coffee afternoon and the sale of studio Christmas cards helped to keep our funds topped up. Our latest buys have included a music centre for the Hall, a screen for the overhead projector, and a headphone multi-socket set for use with the tape recorder. This last item enables several children to listen to a tape at the same time.

Although it seems silly to talk about Summer Fayres in February, we have started to plan the Friends' already. Our summer fayre will be at the beginning of July, so make a note in your diary, in case you forget.

For anyone who has managed to escape the net of our leaflet circulation or who is new to the village and does not know who and what the Friends are, here is a brief description. The Friends of Iron Acton School was set up two years ago to raise money for the school and to provide a pool of helpers for school activities. Since then the Friends have raised over £3,000 and helped to provide such necessary items as a computer, a video, a piano, and books and have also helped in providing transport for school activities, cooking and cataloguing the library. We are always delighted to welcome new members and if you have any spare time and would like to offer your services then please contact Ron Dowding (340), or Jill Bradshaw (626).

The Friends of Iron Acton School thank you again for your support. Don't forget:-

Iron Acton School April 8th at 2 p.m. **JUMBLE SALE**

Jill Bradshaw - Secretary.

* * * * *

ACTING

Timothy desperately wanted to be a famous actor and always believed in trying to "live" any parts he was asked to play. When he was invited to audition for the part of Abraham Lincoln in a new play, Timothy read all about Lincoln. He researched Lincoln's background for weeks and then dressed to look exactly like him - black hat, black cloak, red sash and large black boots. After admiring himself in a mirror he set off for the audition. He didn't get the part - but on the way home he was assassinated.

GUIDE AND BROWNIE SUPPORTERS GROUP

We must begin this report with a series of thank yous:-

First to Wendy, our Brown Owl and Sally, our Guider who have given so much time and effort. Unfortunately they are both having to leave us. Thank you also to Mrs. Cheese who has agreed to take over as Brown Owl, but if we cannot find a new Guider I am afraid the guides will have closed down by the time you read this.

Secondly to all the people who supported the Coffee-and-Gateaux Evening and helped to make a record profit of £190.

Thirdly our very grateful thanks to Acton Aid who so generously donated £180 to cover the capitation fee this year. A month ago our funds were very, very low and we wondered how we would manage to cover commitments for the year. But now things look much brighter and we shall be able to buy some much needed equipment as well as paying the rent of the hall. If we can only find a new Guider everything will be perfect. Thanks again to everyone who has helped us.

* * * * *

THE CHANGING SCENE

How Village life has changed! I have been looking at some old Kellys Directories, the most recent one dated 1927. At that time Iron Acton had 2 coal merchants, 1 sawmill, 2 blacksmiths, 2 garages, 3 grocers, 4 other shopkeepers, 3 boot and shoe dealers or repairers, 2 bakers, 1 chimney sweep, 1 butcher, 1 saddler, 1 fried fish dealer, 2 Post Offices, 2 beer retailers, (as distinct from public houses) 1 cycle agent, a Police Station and a railway station. There was also a regular carrier service to Bristol.

Even when we came to live here in 1961 there were still 5 shops and the Post Office in the High Street. The only thing that has stayed the same is the number of pubs and Post Offices. Many of you will have enjoyed reading Mr. Strange's diaries and they must have brought back many memories. Surely there must be other people who have interesting stories to tell about the old days. Why not write them down so that we can share them with you?

If you think you could not write about it, contact us and one of us will come and chat to you, and write it for you. Everyone enjoys reading about the past, it would give pleasure to so many people.

B.C.

* * * * *

DECEIT

In the divorce court the judge frowned and said: "So, Miss Brown, you admit that you stayed in a hotel with this man?"

Woman: "Yes, I do. But I couldn't help it. He deceived me."

Judge: "Really? How?"

Woman: "Well, he told the reception clerk I was his wife."

YET MORE WEATHER LORE

First a few more rhymes about mackerel sky:-

"Mackerel sky and mares tails, Make lofty ships carry low sails."

"A mackerel sky, not twenty four hours dry."

"Mackerel scales, furl your sails."

"A round topped cloud with flattened base
Carries rainfall in its face."

"When clouds appear like rocks and towers
The earth's refreshed by frequent showers."

And a North country one:-

"When it gangs up in fops, It'll come down in drops."
No I don't know what it means either!

* * * * *

VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE

AUCTION SALE SATURDAY 6th MAY 1989

Have you searched your attic, looked into the darker corners of your garage or descended into your cellar recently?

We think everyone has something to sell, hidden away and forgotten. Let us sell it for you.

We are looking for household effects of quality. In the past we have sold dishwashers, washing machines, cookers, music centres, television sets, videos and all manner of items.

Investigation in your cupboards may reveal porcelain, pottery silver, brass, copper and other objets d'art. Maybe you have furniture, water colours, oils, prints or drawings which have lost their attraction for you.

We are accepting goods at the Village Hall on Friday May 5th between 11 a.m. and 8 p.m.

Commission rates are as follows:-

20%	on the sale price of a lot less than £25
15%	" " " " " " " between £25 and £50
10%	" " " " " " " over £50

We accept reserves, but if an item with a reserve is unsold then a charge of £1.00 will be made unless such other charge is agreed at the time of acceptance of entry.

You may view before the sale on Saturday 6th May 1989 from 9 a.m.

The proceeds will improve still further the hall facilities for the villagers.

Acton - Aid.

The Acton Aid A.G.M. was held in February. There are now 44 members, but monthly meeting attendances continue to average about 13/14.

During the past year Acton Aid helped:-

1. The children of Iron Acton .. by supporting Iron Acton School's Field Studies Week, - by the children's party - well attended this year and thanks to Tim Spare and Neale Bradshaw (plus their wives) who organised it - by paying for the school children's tickets to James and the Giant Peach, the Actonians Christmas production.
2. The old people of the village .. through the Christmas parcel distribution and summer coach trip.
3. Also a donation to Guides and Brownies to cover the annual capitation fee.

Income for all of these good works came from ... Social events where Gerry Millward worked hard and ingeniously throughout the year, organising a Shipwreck Evening, and Oompah - German Evening in November wherein the band leader had various stalwart Iron Acton citizens performing various amazing Bavarian chants and arm movements!, while Gerry and Jenny toiled away behind a range of microwave ovens ... quite an evening! Thanks also to Barrie Wright who provided the venue for the summer(?) Barbecue, and to the different members who allowed Acton Aid the use of their homes for open evenings.

We owe a lot of the success for this year's Horse Show to Alan Powell and Maureen Chapman. To Alan, for the use of his splendid field as the venue, and to Maureen for co-ordinating the organisation of the event. A glorious September day rounded things off nicely - more thanks to Patrick Murphy and his band of helpers and Gerry Millward/John Percy's Manpower Services for providing the muscle power!

During the year we sounded out the possibility of starting a Neighbourhood Watch for the village following a couple of break-ins. However, nothing in this world is simple, there were unforeseen organisational problems not the least being that the police regarded Iron Acton as a low crime area (compared to other parts of the county)! I suppose that is reassuring!

We were grateful to receive donations from the Elizabethans (from a Whist Drive) and Bob Shepherd (North Road).

Mike Sutton created Acton Aid history (I think!) by becoming Chairman for the second time within two years when Derek Parry departed for pastures new in Axbridge. Not only Derek Parry left us .. Bob Booker, Rodney Harriman, Jack Morton all moved away and at the time of writing the sad news came that Ted Poole died in Frenchay Hospital. Ted's points of order, asides, monologues .. "Harumph .. Mr Chairman I must point out ... " will be sadly missed at future meetings ... which as usual will be held the first Thursday in each month at the Rose and Crown 8 p.m.

There is a deadline of 9.30 p.m. in operation, it would be nice to see an increase in the 'faithful 13' at these meetings! If you don't feel you want to come to the meeting, why not come along at 9.30 and have a drink with us.

Following the A.G.M. this is your list of Who's Who for 89/90..

Chairman
Vice-Chairman
Secretary
Treasurer
Services
Social/Fund-raising
Village Hall rep
Draw
Notice-board
Hospital visiting

Gerry Millward
John Tillotson
Ron Dowding
Steve Birch
Lionel Alsop.
Peter Kitching
John Wright
Reg Demuth
Charles Wilkins
Paul Townsend.

Ron Dowding

OX TALE



One wet morning a few weeks ago, I looked out of my kitchen window and through the trees, saw to my amazement a large plastic bag making its way slowly down the field. Poor old soul, I said to myself, you really must be cracking up. But going upstairs to get a better view from the bedroom I was greatly relieved to find I wasn't "seeing things" after all.

It was a tiny Jersey calf on it's first outing, dressed in a natty mackintosh made from a plastic feed bag and tied on like a New Zealand rug.

Then of course I had to watch for about twenty minutes while he explored his field, closely followed by a protective mum and two older, inquisitive calves - much kicking up of heels and galloping about.

Wasting time? Perhaps, but as the poet said "What is this life if full of care, We have no time to stand and stare?"

B.C.

GRAND PLANT SALE



This will almost certainly be on Saturday May 27th but watch out for posters nearer the day.

It will be held at Neksdore High Street, and profits will go towards the summer issue of "Focus on Iron Acton". (Not to be confused with the political publication which is also called Focus.)

I shall probably have no bedding plants, mostly perennials, with maybe some shrubs and house plants.

The name? No idea - It's one of Godfrey's specimens

Please give your support.

B.C.

IRON ACTON SCHOOL



We now have 41 children on roll, Lesley and Karen Knowles having joined Class 2 at the end of last term.

The staff have been busy with In-service Training since the last report in Focus. One day was spent at the Reading Centre, Elmfield House, Westbury-on-Trym which helped us to spend the £300 given to us by Avon L.E.A. for new books.

Mrs Hatt and Mrs Howat have spent further days at the Reading Centre cataloguing, and organising this recent reading material. All three of us have also had in-service days on maths, more computer work for Mrs Howat and Mr Dowding and Infant Maths for Mrs Hatt.

Mr. Dowding has been attending meetings concerned with the various changes which the Education Reform Act (E.R.A.) will bring to Iron Acton School. Five Local Small Schools (Iron Acton, Yate C.P, Rangeworthy, St. Andrews Cromhall and Tortworth) met at Iron Acton this term to discuss and scrutinise the National Curriculum. The Governors are currently considering the implications of Local Management of Schools (L.M.S.)

A whole new set of abbreviations have emerged ... L.M.S. is no longer a railway line of old, ... A.W.P.U. is Age Weighted Pupil Units, ... Keystage 1 is the infant age group .. juniors - Key Stage 2 .. T.G.A.T. is not an E.C. Trading Group but the Task Group on Assessment and Testing. Anyway, no doubt we will all get used to the new terminology and our outlook remains optimistic that Iron Acton School will continue to rise to the challenge of any new developments.

The children had a very successful end to the Christmas term, Wenceslas and Cinderella playing to a packed house and an enjoyable mini-concert-cum-singalong with the Elizabethans.

Congratulations to the following children who passed their Cycling Proficiency Test with P.C. Coleman, Sarah Thorne, Helen Giles, Daniel Cook, James Boyce, Lizzy Giles, Ben Harding, Claire Gainey, Elizabeth Eastman.

Further swimming badges have been awarded to Matthew Hillier, Camilla Spare, 10 metres. 5 metre Christopher Evans. 25 metres Sadie Pitman, Rebecca Parkhill, Claire Gainey, Carly Mattravers. 50 metres Russell Hunter, Elizabeth Eastman, Rebecca Woodman. 400 metres James Boyce, Lara Sutton, Bradley Hillier.

School Dates

End of Spring Term	Friday March 17th
Summer Term starts	Wednesday April 5th
Jumble Sale	Saturday April 8th
May Day Holiday	Monday May 1st
School closes for Inservice Training	Thursday May 2nd
Half Term	May 29th - June 2nd.
School Sports Tuesday	20th June.
Area Sports	Tuesday July 4th
(Rangeworthy Cromhall Yate C.P. Oldbury on Severn)	
Summer Concert	Tuesday 25th July
Summer Day Trip	Wednesday 26th July
End of Term	Thursday 27th July.

PARISH COUNCIL

Under the Rural Areas Local Plan, we requested a large increase in the Green Belt, and it looks as if we will get a large part of our suggested area. We are not sure of the exact boundaries at the moment, but it will no doubt be in the local papers when the final decision is made.

The week of April 22nd - 30th has been designated Environment Week and the first day, April 22nd was to have been National Springclean Day. It has now been decided to call it "Operation Eyesore", a somewhat unfortunate title as we seem to be surrounded by the eyesores of caravan sites. However, we hope everyone will take part by doing all they can to clean up their immediate areas and hopefully some organisations will tackle the job of tidying more public places.

If there is any place you think needs a special clean-up, please let us know.

We have notified Northavon of the gypsy sites and the NPDR verges, which we feel should be done by District Council, but we hope everyone will co-operate in this Nationwide event.

It would give us a great start for the Best Kept Village competition!

The Parish Council meeting on April 17th will be at North Road School and the Annual Parish Meeting (open to everyone over 18) will be on April 20th at Iron Acton School. This is your chance to have your say about local affairs.

* * * * *

Friends of St. James the Less

The Friends of the Church held a most successful Mulled Wine & Mince Pies evening in the Village Hall just before Christmas. We were entertained by the Gentlemen Songsters and also by the Hand Bell ringers, on their first outing of the Christmas period. It made a most enjoyable start to the festivities, and brought in a useful profit to go towards maintenance of the church.

John Percy

If, for a christening, you are stuck for a name for a newborn boy, run through the following list, quickly:

Jonathan, Joseph, Jeremiah;
Timothy, Titus, Obadiah;
William, Henry, Walter, Sim;
Rueben, Rufus, Solomon, Jim;
Nathaniel, Daniel, Abraham;
Roderick, Frederick, Peter, Sam;
Simon, Timon, Nicholas, Pat;
Christopher, Dick, Jehosophat!

IRON ACTON WI

Iron Acton WI celebrates its 70th Anniversary in November with a party in the Village Hall. Fund raising efforts will be held throughout the year; the first of these was a Coffee Morning at Hillside by kind invitation of Charles and Dorothy Wilkins. £35 was raised.

A Barbeque is planned later in the year at Parker's Garden Centre and a Clothes and Jewellery Party in September at the Village Hall.

We entered a team in the County Darts Tournament at Yate Leisure Centre and, despite a few setbacks, we came 3rd in the competition and a good time was had by all (our captain scored a ton).

A trip to the Chelsea Flower Show is planned for May. However, we shall try to avoid the comments made by the Principal of an Agricultural College who likened having a visit by a Women's Institute as being on a par to being hit by a swarm of locusts (members like to collect little snippets of greenery from here and there - and if they can collect the specimen themselves rather than have it presented to them in a little pot with white plastic marker then so much the better!)

The only way we can see them being successful is by providing straightjackets - Ed

In March our talk is on Miniature Gardens (the Focus Committee hadn't better pass comment - a third of us live in close proximity to WI members!!) In April our speaker instructs us on Colour Flair - the WI may take on a jazzy look after this! In May we have a Flower Arranging Demonstration, in June we are to be shown the art of Egg Decoration and in July we have a Mystery Tour - the last one of these was so good it still remains a mystery, we still don't know where we went because it poured with rain the whole evening and we couldn't see out of the misted up windows! However, we did manage to find a pub - trust the WI!

On 1 July there is a County Federation organised "knees up" at Woodhouse Farm at Almondsbury. Everything from a Car Boot Sale (watch out the Football Club!!) and Dance Displays to a Tombola and Side Shows.

In addition there are numerous other events organised by the County Federation, including a County Lunch, a Painting Day (not the gloss and emulsion kind), Words and Music, WI Choirs, Hilarious Heraldry, From Wallpaper to Weeds and Bowls for Improvers (we've already had a beginners course).

The WI has a great deal to offer and new members will be very welcome on the Second Monday of Each Month at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall.

Elsie Blanchard

IRON ACTON FOOTBALL CLUB

Just a couple of little snippets in this edition of Focus. We've been promised that she who promised to write our report this time will get her act in order for the next issue !!! (I suppose I'd better own up that it was me - Lynne)

The successful Car Boot Sales commence their 1989 run on Sunday, 26 March at 10 am and if that form of entertainment is not to your liking then an Evening of Fun and Frolics is planned at the Village Hall on Saturday, 8 April (tickets £1.50) where, I am assured that Basil can be seen at his best!!



THE HOUSE SELLERS' GUIDE TO HOUSEBUYERS

Spring, bringing forth as it does, daffodils and income tax return forms, also generates housebuyers. Tired of the proximity of good shops and the quiet of suburban streets, they seek the commercially bereft, cockerel and car infested villages in which to put down roots and grow asparagus at twice the price of Sainsburys. For those who are about to sell their house, we offer a guide to prospective housebuyers.

Always focus on the female of the couple. She will be making the decision. Study her: Recognise her by the purple Eastex suit and the Liberty silk scarf. Often her attention is riveted by the defects: "Such a lovely sunny morning" she says. Streams of sunlight highlight the antique window grime. "I suppose it's very hard to get window cleaners in the country?" Or, "It says on the details that improvements have been made to the house. What are they?"

And then there's the lady who is unimpressed by the oak beams but can't take her eyes off the contents of your dressing table. She's really waiting to be offered a spray of perfume. "Is that the one that's exclusive to Harrods?" Well, Drummonds of Winterbourne, actually.

Then there's the intellectual lady who turns up with clip board and sharpened pencil. She writes copious notes and measures the beetle holes, while he, evidently a trained gymnast, jumps on all the floorboards to try to detect dry rot (cheaper than a surveyor).

Beware of the "it makes a nice afternoon out" couple. Last week they did the church, this week they want a tour of an old house or two. They will have a thermos in the car on the parcel shelf, and collapsible chairs in case you don't do teas.

Another is the lady, charming and natural, and so honest about the fact that her granny used to live here and she was just dying to look round and see if it was any different now.

A rarer breed is the exhausted mother who's not so much looking for a house as an ear. She can spot a good listener at twenty paces and her family dynamics are expertly summarized between the attic rooms and the downstairs loo. By the bottom of the garden I have all the details of son's poor progress at school, father's fight against stress and granny's piles.

There are, too, the hackle raisers, asset strippers who explain to you as they go round, which rooms they'd knock into one, where they'd open up windows, where they'd block off windows and would the woodshed convert to a Jacuzzi? It seems strange to consider buying a listed building and then want to modernise it!

And there are, of course, the really gorgeous families with two or three young children that you know without a doubt would fit in with the house perfectly and with village life too, and for whom you feel like dropping the price by three quarters.

So if you're tough, love washing muddy footmarks off the hallway, have a degree in psycholgh and a qualification in public speaking, why not go ahead and sell your house this spring??

Jo Voss



VILLAGE DAY '89

Because the Folk Club has now taken up residence in the Skittle Alley at the George and Dragon every Friday and doesn't really have any tangible links with the Village any more, the plans which had started to be formulated have now been shelved.

CONGRATULATIONS

To Norman and Freda Carter on the birth of their 10th grandchild - only one more to go and they have their own mixed football or hockey team!!!

VILLAGE MEETING

The Annual Open Parish Meeting takes place on Thursday, 20 April at 8.00 pm. This year though the venue is The School 'cos the Actonians are producing a drama of a different sort at the Village Hall! For the rest of us Iron Actonians (!) this is your chance to have your say and if something's puzzling you to ask questions.

HANDBELL RINGERS

It's lovely to report that this year the Church Handbell Ringers raised the smashing sum of £523 (£300 to Cancer Research the rest to the Church). This amount was raised over 8 evenings by a young team of ringers comprising of Paula and Gary Davis, Sally Ann Hall, Joanna and Sarah Thorne, Felicity Bate, Helen Perry and Haley Whittle ... accompanied by Albert Gifford as their loyal minder. Congratulations to all concerned.

WHIST DRIVES

Where are all the budding Whist players in Iron Acton? Whist Drives are held on the Last Monday of every month at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall. Proceeds always go to charitable or needy concerns and often to village organisations - to this end the Village Hall, Church, Acton Aid and Focus have benefitted. Admission is 70p plus whatever you want to spend on the raffle. Why not give it a try?

SCHOOL JUMBLE SALE

Advance warning for anyone starting their spring cleaning early! The School will be having their Jumble Sale on Saturday, 8 April, in the School Hall, in the afternoon. Please hang onto anything they could put to good use. It's a worthy cause and it's guaranteed that all the money raised will be properly used. For details of where to take your objects and when why not contact Ron Dowding?

MORE GOOD NEWS - This publication will never go national, we like happy items!

Accolades are due to Felicity Bate and Sally Ann Hall for their sponsored swim of 30 lengths. All the more admirable because they thought up the idea and implemented it themselves. At the time of writing the pennies and pounds are still being collected but perhaps I can give you a grand total next time.

BARNARDO'S AND THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

While I'm whittering on about putting hands into pockets and parting with pennies, there will be a house-to-house collection for Barnardoe's from 6-18 March and each home should receive an envelope for a possible donation to the Children's Society during the week of 2-8 April. Please be as generous as you can, both are well known charities who use their money decently and also spare a thought for the poor person rattling the tin. They're often doing it because they've been coerced into doing it and, from personal experience, I can suggest that they are probably happiest when they've finished their round!

PURCHASING ADDITIONAL ISSUES OF FOCUS

Yes, we were taken up on our offer last time and additional copies of this sparkling tome are available to send to loved ones at 50p!

Lynne Blanchard

PS Barrie Wright, you owe me an orange juice, I haven't published your latest little misdemeanour ... but if you're mean to me I just might next time...

LYNNE'S LITTLE BITS

(I think Barrie Wright got Pete Redman to do this drawing!!!)

ORIGINAL OF LAST ISSUE'S COVER

Remember in the last issue we explained that Pete Redman had given permission for us to sell the original drawing of our cover illustration? Mr Pople beat everyone else to Betty Cook's door and received the beautiful drawing for £20. I bet it looks lovely adorning the house and we are really grateful for the pennies in our coffers!



RIDINGS HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF '69 REUNION

Word reaches me that a reunion is being planned for those people who started at the Ridings High School in 1969. As far as I can remember the following are the people who, like me, left Iron Acton School that year:

Elaine Woodward - Janet Nash - Christine Watts - Adele Rowlands - Gloria Checker - Jeanette Hawkins - Janet and John Shepherd - Jeremy Tovey - Marcus Taylor - Alan Gardiner - Paul Gainey - Laurence Harnden - Martin Cutts - David Desborough

If you know any of these people can you thrust this article under their noses? The reunion's due to take place on Saturday, 20 May at 8.00 pm at the Miners Arms at Coalpit Heath. If you're interested in going (or want any more info) names should be given to Tina Davis (as was, sorry, but I don't know her married name) on Winterbourne 777445.

It'll be nice to catch up on who's done what and I do know that frantic attempts are being made to contact those people who have moved away from the area.

HORTICULTURAL SHOW

This year's Show will take place on Saturday, 9 September. If anyone has any suggestions (polite and biologically possible please) about classes to be included please let either Betty Cook or me know.

We already have a class for the Brownies and the Guides and as it's the WI's 70th Birthday this year I shall be writing to them asking if they would like a class just for them. If any other organisations are interested in a similar idea, again, please contact Betty Cook or me.

CARING AT CHRISTMAS

The Rector has kindly given me permission to include the following extract from the Church Magazine. Perhaps some of you saw the news coverage in much of the local media and wondered a) if Iron Acton had contributed something and b) what the organisers had actually managed to get from the appeal. Your questions are about to be answered!

"Over the 5 day Christmas period we were able to provide more than 300 night bed spaces and in addition served many hundreds of meals.

You will be pleased to learn that we achieved our target of 500 pairs of shoes and were able to give new shoes to all those who needed them. Likewise the generous donations of food will enable us to help many other organisations serving the homeless; in particular the Julian Trust which runs the only free nightshelter throughout the year in Bristol they are able to provide 20 bed spaces and serve anything up to 85 meals on each of the 6 nights of the week they are open.

Whether you helped financially or with donations of food, bedding or clothing your help is appreciated."

Iron Acton provided a cheque for £50. If you're looking for a "worthy cause" or have, like me, realised there's only 252 shopping days to Christmas (took me ages to work that out!!) then perhaps we can exceed this amount in 1989.

DIARY OF FORTHCOMING EVENTS

At the Village Hall

Every Tuesday	Brownies	6.00 p.m.
	Guides	7.30
Wednesday	Elizabethans	2.00
	Fencing Club	7.30
Thursday	Youth Club	7.30
2nd Monday in month	Women's Institute	7.30
3rd do do	Parish Council	7.30
4th do do	Whist Drive	7.30
3rd Thursday do	Chipping Sodbury Knitting Group	3.00
April 20th-22nd	The Actonians present "The Dining Room"	
May 6th	Auction Sale	
June 17th	Church Summer Sale	

At Iron Acton School

April 8th	School Jumble Sale
20th	Parish Council Annual Open Meeting

At the Rose & Crown

Every 1st Thursday	Acton Aid
Alternate Mondays	Darts Club

At Rangeworthy Village Hall

Mon, Wed. & Fri	Mornings. Play Group (during Term time)
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In the Rectory Garden

April 15th	Church Plant Sale
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In the Garden at NEKSDORE High Street

May 27th	Plant Sale (In aid of funds for "FOCUS ON IRON ACTON")
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AVON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Mobile Information Service

A Mobile Information Service Van (similar to a Citizens' Advice Bureau) will visit Iron Acton on the following times and dates:-

At the Lamb Inn 9.30 to 10.00 a.m.
At the Codrington Arms 10.05 to 10.30 a.m.

on March 9th & 23rd.
April 6th & 20th.
May 4th & 18th.
June 1st, 15th & 29th.

Also at Rangeworthy Village Hall 10.40 to 11.20 a.m.

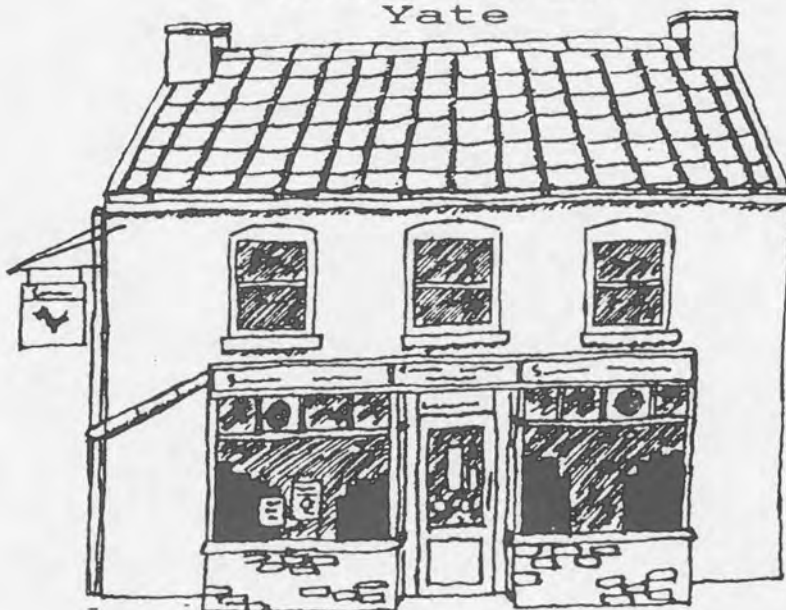
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ACTION RESEARCH KNOCK-OUT MIXED DOUBLES TENNIS TOURNAMENT

From 1st May to 2nd July 1989
£12.00/double ticket to include
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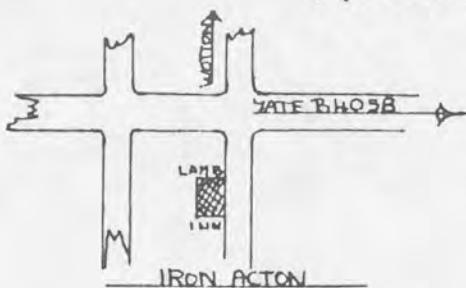
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