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IRON ACTON SCHOOL



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WEEK END SNACKS ~ FRI: SAT: & SUNDAY.

SUNDAY LUNCH OUR SPECIALITY.



21 Issues ago the founder members of Focus hammered out a set of aims and objectives for FOCUS magazine:

- * To produce a free quarterly newspaper for distribution to all homes in the Parish.
- * To encourage interest in their Village by keeping them informed of organisations and activities taking place there.
- * To encourage the formation of other clubs.
- * To interest readers in the history of the Village and in personalities who have lived there or who live there still.

At another point they said "the magazine must be absolutely non-political". It is ... and here we'd like to point out that we have NO CONNECTION WHATEVER with the smaller information sheet produced by the SLDP (who chose the name Focus sometime after our own magazine was first produced).

One other stated aim was that readers would be invited to contribute their own articles, poems, etc, to FOCUS.

21 Editions on we continue to achieve most of these aims - though we'd like to see more contributions from individuals. Doesn't matter what it's about - hobbies, work, interests, loves, hates, short stories Why not think about it??

It would be good to have feed back from time to time. Comments, preferably constructive, but rude if you feel like it!

Don't forget to write!!

Charles Wilkins
Hillside
254

John Percy
Primrose Cottage
339

Betty Cook
Neksdor
202

Jo Voss
Dean Lodge East
674

Pete Redman
Lawn Cottage
395

Lynne Blanchard
Rose Cottage
566

ACTON AID *****

The main event which we have on the horizon is

THE IRON ACTON HORSE AND DOG SHOW

Which will take place at Mudgetown Farm (by kind permission of Alan Powell) on SUNDAY, 17 SEPTEMBER 1989. Schedules may be obtained from Patrick Murphy, The Cottage, The Green, Iron Acton. This year we are fortunate enough to have the Patchway Cars Open Jumping Final in addition to the usual events, clear round rings, gymkhana.

Please can anyone provide:

- 1 A lot of wooden stakes for marking out the rings - we need 100 plus.
- 2 Marquees - we need one (or two) to join the 'tent city' which springs up each year on the site field.

Any offers will be gratefully received by Gerry Millward, John Tillotson or Ron Dowding.

Something else to think about ... The money given towards Ted Poole's Fund has risen to over £400. Acton Aid has thought long and hard about how this money should be spent. We felt it should be a suitable, permanent memorial for Ted's remembrance. A small amount is to be spent on a trophy for the Horse and Dog Show, but if you have any brainwaves about the remainder let Ron or Gerry know.

A change of format has also been suggested for the Children's Christmas Party; perhaps separating the very younger ones from the older ones and including a disco for the latter. Any comments??

Acton Aid's 'worthy deeds since the last Focus include: cleaning up the Village Green for National Spring Clean Day in April; giving £60 towards Iron Acton School's Field Studies Weekend; and, by the time you read this, Lionel Alsop will be setting the date for the Senior Citizens Summer Trip (to, we think, Stourhead).

Peter Kitching has been organising the Acton Aid Social/Fund Raising Events: A successful Fish Evening in April (special thanks to Roger Tovey who arranged the food); a Mid-Summer Madness Evening at Bob Sheppard's in June; and, up and coming, the Acton Aid Barbecue on 22 July at Barry Wrights.

A reminder that the monthly meetings are still being held at the Rose and Crown, first Thursday of each month at 8 pm, finishing each meeting between 9.15 & 9.30 - thus allowing plenty of time for a social at the bar afterwards!!

RON DOWDING

WHIST DRIVES *****

The Whist Drives are held on the 4th Monday of Each Month at 7.30 pm (and not as stated in the last Focus), unless we have extra ones on Bank Holidays. However, there will not be a Whist Drive in November and the Christmas one will be on Friday, 15 December. The Village Hall is booked for 1990 so please keep coming along as all of the money raised helps numerous charities.

DON ELSON

[Lynne's sorry she got it wrong last time, she honestly thought she had correct details]

VILLAGE HALL

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 1988-1989

During the past year the Hall has been used by local groups which include the Actonians, the Guides and Brownies, the Women's Institute, the Youth Club and the Parish Council. The Fencing Club and the Knitters' Group from outside the Village have continued their sessions. Several private parties have been held.

These hirings provide the greater part of the finance needed to maintain the Hall but supplements are needed. To this end, the Committee has presented a talk about the history of Acton Court by Bath Archaeological Trust, A Horticultural Show, a Soiree and an Auction. For further help we are grateful to John & Barbara Naish for once again allowing us to sell tea and cakes during their garden opening and to the organisers of the Whist Drives for providing us with welcome funds.

As a result of these considerable efforts we have been able to improve the Hall and its facilities. Painting of the main hall, the committee rooms and the toilets has been completed. Perspex panels were fitted by the hatches in the main hall and the foyer to protect the walls above the skirting. Artex has improved the ceilings in the kitchen and other rooms. This work was done by the Community Services and we are grateful for their help and expertise. Water heaters have been installed in the toilets and an urn provided for the kitchen. We are happy to report a modern emergency lighting system is now in operation.

Storage heaters have proved efficient in maintaining a background heat. However, after discussions in committee and consultation with the MEB, it has been decided to install radiant infra red fittings with cutout control. This will be done later in the year and will provide instant heat when necessary. In conclusion, it was thought appropriate to place a plaque in the foyer to commemorate the gift of the land to the Village by F R R Rugman Esq in 1948.

Finally, we should like to express our appreciation to all who have supported our fund raising events; and my personal thanks to the officers and committee members without whose efforts and enthusiasm it would be impossible to maintain the Hall and offer improved facilities to the Villagers.

MARGARET WOODMAN

ELIZABETHAN CLUB

We had a Mystery Tour in April, with the afternoon spent on the Mendips in sunshine. However, come evening, and we found ourselves in a snow blizzard. Nevertheless, everyone enjoyed themselves.

We then had an outing to Stratford and Evesham. The weather was good (all day!) everyone had a delightful time but it is such a shame that many Town Councils are selling their coach parks for building and replacing them further out of town. This won't encourage older people to visit them.

On 13 June we visited Plymouth. Yet again the sun shone for us and a very happy band of people returned to Iron Acton and we still have a trip to Dartmouth to come on 4 July.

This will be my last report as Secretary as I feel someone else should take over the responsibility. I would like to wish my successor the best of luck in the capacity of Secretary and also take this opportunity to say that we are always happy to see new members at the Village Hall on Wednesday afternoons.

DON ELSON

ROSE AND CROWN 'B' DARTS TEAM *****

The Crown B Men's Darts Team, playing in the Chipping Sodbury and Yate District Winter League, have recently completed another successful season, finishing runners up in both the League and Cup Competitions.

A good start has also been made in the Summer League, where 6 matches have been won with only one match being lost.

An interesting cup match is in prospect on 15 June when the Crown A and B Teams meet. Although not as successful, the A Team [which one's Murdoch then??] will no doubt be very keen to show their worth. ***

BARRY McIVER

*** Your roving Focus reporter found herself pulling pints on the fateful evening of the local derby. Several things 'came to light' and the landlord found his glasses misting up and a dramatic surge of blood pressure, but more of that later

Firstly, the Crown B Team won by 5 games to 2 - a noisy evening with much good humour and one of the nicest darts evenings I've witnessed in a long time.

Secondly, the cause of the landlord's distress? It was all the fault of one Dave Whitehead who has decided the pace of playing darts in Iron Acton is too great and his departure to Poole in Dorset is imminent - using the excuse of starting a new job. What wonderful friends he has!? They decided to mark his departure in style and so a kissogram was arranged.

The air of anticipation became more and more intense. The only person unaffected was the poor unsuspecting "victim". Everytime the door into the lounge clanged open numerous heads swivelled with great discussion about "Is that her?"

Suddenly the lady was there and what happened was the ~~silence was broken by the sound of the door opening and the lady's entrance. She was wearing a red dress and had a very nice smile on her face. She was looking at the group and seemed to be looking for someone. She was looking at the group and seemed to be looking for someone. She was looking at the group and seemed to be looking for someone.~~

- Sorry folks, I've been sensed by the Focus Committee, what with J Bond (007 Variety) getting a 15 Rating we've got to be careful!!!

IRON ACTON SCHOOL *****

This year we have been busy stocking up with the equipment and resources that we shall need once the National Curriculum gets going in September with the introduction of Key Stage 1 (Infants). The following year it will spread to Key Stage 2 (Juniors). We have been grateful to receive a Sony tape recorder, overhead projector screen and listening centre from the Friends of Iron Acton School. They also gave £100 towards the science apparatus we bought at a special 'Science Supermarket' organised by Avon County. Everything from thermometers to magnets, pulleys to anemometers, batteries to mirrors. In all we spent £300! £100 from the Friends and we also received £70 from Avon in extra grant. We are now turning our attention towards maths resources - by the time that exercise is completed we are sure that we will have the material requirements to start the wide ranging, challenging demands of the National Curriculum.

The 3rd and 4th Year Juniors spent a rewarding and pleasant weekend at Slimbridge Youth Hostel in May, with trips to Berkeley Castle, the Jenner Museum (thanks to Dr Naish who acted as our guide), Gloucester Cathedral, the National Waterways Museum at Gloucester, Frampton on Severn for a village study, round

and round the turbo-slides at Gloucester Leisure Centre and finally a day at Slimbridge Wildfowl Trust. Many thanks to Acton Aid and the Friends of Iron Acton School whose financial assistance made this weekend possible and to Mrs Hatt who gave up her time to accompany us.

Later on in May we held the soccer tournament for small schools at Iron Acton, while the girls went to the equivalent netball tournament at Yate CP. The girls distinguished themselves by winning all 3 matches in their group. Michelle Davis scored 28 goals out of 32, while Sarah Thorne marshalled our defence so well that only 8 goals were scored against us. Mrs Hatt was especially pleased with Rebecca Parkhill and Juliet Spare who had to compete in the centre court area against much bigger girls. The highlight was an 8-5 win over St Andrews, Cromhall who had a long unbeaten record. Lara Sutton, Michelle Holliman and Lizzy Bidwell were the other team members.

The boys formed a joint team with Yate CP (Acton United) and they too won all 3 of their matches. Defender John Bidwell and goalkeepers Bradley Hillier and James Boyce prevented the opposition from scoring a single goal! Daniel Cook linked effectively in attack with James Deane from Yate CP. Once again, the most exciting match came with the last game against Rangeworthy. The result could have gone either way until the last minute, long shot from Jonathan Bracey made it 2-0 to Acton United.

Congratulations to the members of the School Gym Club who all passed badges in the BAGA Award Scheme, ranging from Badge 6 to Badge 2. Our swimmers have been ploughing their way through the Southwold pool water on their way to badges ranging from 5 m (Vanessa Parkhill) to 50 m (John Bidwell). Well done also, Juliet Spare, Lara Sutton and Michelle Davis who passed their Cycling Proficiency Awards. We thank PC Coleman and PC Hunt for their help with training and examining. Sarah Thorne and Bryonie Cook were both prize winners in the Best Kept Village Poster Competition. Michelle Davis and Daniel Cook were very highly commended.

Thank you to Dr Spare for arranging a visit to Yate Health Centre for Class 1 as part of their Human Body Topic Work.

One more change to affect Iron Acton School (as it will other Voluntary Controlled Church Schools) is that the 1988 Education Reform Act will cause the Governors to change from 1 September 1989. This will mean a new election for the Parent Governors - the implications for the other Governors are not yet clear; the Foundation and Minor Authority Governors will remain the same but we will have one less LEA Appointed Governor.

SCHOOL TERM DATES FOR THE REST OF THE YEAR ARE AS FOLLOWS:

<u>End of Summer Term:</u>	Tuesday, 25 July - for the children <u>Please Note:</u> Avon has brought this forward
<u>Next Friends' Committee Meeting:</u>	Monday, 4 September, 8 pm, at School
<u>Start of Autumn Term:</u>	Tuesday, 5 September
<u>School Closed for INSET:</u>	Friday, 20 October
<u>Autumn Half Term:</u>	Monday, 23 October to Friday, 28 October
<u>End of Term:</u>	Tuesday, 19 December

RON DOWDING

BELLS AND PINNACLES - A BLANCHARD SPECIAL

As will be seen in another article, lots and lots of pennies are needed (approximately £10,000) to restore the bells and pinnacles at the Church (and this is in addition to what is already needed each year).

Some of you may be puzzled so let me explain!!

We'll start with the easy one! Bells are metal things in the tower that should go ding dong when a rope is pulled. Pinnacles are the things you see if you look at the top of the tower that resemble either lupins (if you've got green fingers) or the ice creams in the 'Noddy Books' if you haven't.

Okay, now you know the basics the next question is what are we going to do about it (hope you noticed the 'we')? The first thing on the agenda is:

A CRAFT EXHIBITION AND FLOWER FESTIVAL

To coincide with the Harvest Festival, on

SATURDAY, 23 SEPTEMBER AND SUNDAY, 24 SEPTEMBER

Opening times will be announced later but, in addition, we hope to have:

- * The Church Tower Open
- * An Additional Display of Photographs showing Scenes and People of Iron Acton in By-Gone Years (they've even managed to dredge up one of me looking sweet when I was in the Brownies - at least that will ensure that one Barrie Wright (spelled your name right this time) turns up!
- * Refreshments and Various Stalls
- * A Concert in the Church on Saturday Evening with Admission by Programme - your's truly organising this one so one thing can be guaranteed there's going to be a really wide range of performers; something for everyone - young, old an inbetweenies, from highbrow downwards!
- * Following this wonderfully cultural(!) event the activity moves to the School where a Wine and Cheese Party will take place.
- * A Raffle will also be launched on Saturday Morning which will culminate in November at the Christmas Fayre.

THIS WILL ONLY BE A SUCCESS WITH YOUR HELP (you've heard this before??)

How? Read on

ARE YOU CRAFTY? Or do you know someone who is? We are accosting anyone we think can help but are bound to miss someone out. We can't have a craft exhibition without any items, so rummage around in the loft or take back Aunt's cardigan that you knitted last Christmas knitting, sewing, painting, drawing, wood turning, the list is endless Don't be bashful about coming forward please, please let us know if you can help.

CAN YOU PROVIDE? A raffle prize, tombola price or a cake for refreshments?

CAN YOU SPARE: A couple of hours to help set up, patrol or help dismantle?

DOES THE COMPANY YOU WORK FOR look favourable on "good causes"? Is there someone we could approach? If you could help us make the initial contact please let us know?

ANY DRESSMAKING DUMMIES OR DRESS FORMS not being used this weekend would be welcomed with open arms to use to display some items.

Please Contact: LYNNE BLANCHARD - RANGEWORTHY 566
THE RECTOR - RANGEWORTHY 412
ANY MEMBER OF THE PCC OR CONGREGATION

START NOW By putting the dates into your diaries and telling everyone you can. As usual, the more the merrier!!!!

BRYAN'S BIT!



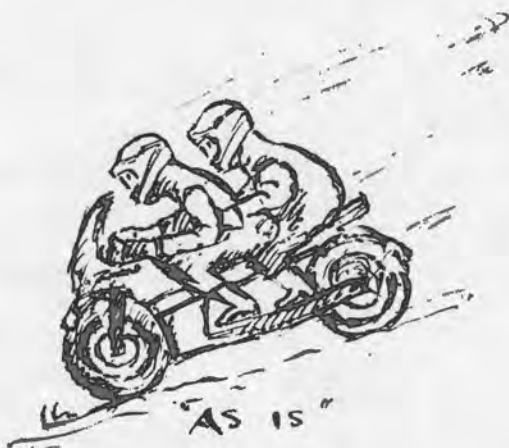
Sorry for not being able to put my 'bit' into Focus for the last few issues - even though Jo Voss has given me hell - but I've found a new love in my life that seems to take up all my spare time.

From the age of about 14 I have been besotted with riding motor cycles. As soon as I was 16 I bought my first machine with my paper round money - an Ariel NH 350 cc. A real dog of a bike - it was more in the garage than on the road but still the thrill of riding was there all the time, even in the wet and cold.

The point of these few lines is to ask if other members of the Parish have had the same problems I encountered with my family over going back to 2 wheels for some fun and excitement in a hard working life, when the last real machine was nearly 200 years old - that's their calculation, not mine!

I have 2 wonderful sons - the eldest, Mark, had gone through schoolboy scrambling and at 16 wanted to go "on the road". I said no! The reason was based on the statistics of reported road accidents. We, of course, had words on the subject (some of them a bit rife!), but in the meantime most of his mates had come off their bikes, for many different reasons. Fortunately, none of the accidents was serious.

My own feeling is that youngsters ought to be allowed to drive a car at 16, as long as it's not mine! and only after they have had 2 years of road experience should they be allowed to go on 2 wheels.



So, not long after having been an old misery guts, out of touch with the real world and just plain vindictive, there I am flying in the face of all my own wisdom by going soft in the head over a huge, great 1100 cc 4-cylinderead monster and, to compound the insanity of it all, I persuade the lads' ever loving, ever wonderful Mother to ride pillion and take her off at every free time we get left after a 70 hour working week, to add to the carnage on the roads!

All the 'aggro' so far has been worthwhile. We get out every fine Saturday for a run through the countryside - a real thrill. All the other bikers wave as we pass by, and joining a bike club in Bristol we get to meet other nutters, who make us feel normal, even though we have earnt the family title of

"HELL'S PARENTS"

BRYAN TAYLOR

..... Dusty, methinks you should get one of the above paragraphs framed!! (Lynne)

BEHIND THE SCENES WITH THE ACTONIANS

It's said that the poet Coleridge, staying once in Somerset, was stopped in the middle of composing his most famous poem, by a man from Porlock knocking on the front door. His genius was dissipated by the interruption and he never finished the poem. There was a similar event recently in Iron Acton when your reporter, dissipated (following the jazz dance night) if not a genius, went to the dress rehearsal of The Dining Room but was summoned away half way through by someone who wanted to look over the house (No they didn't buy it.)

However, the first act was impressive. Those who saw the play right through gave it rave reviews and it was certainly an excellent vehicle for displaying the astonishing versatility of the cast. Six people played an amazing fifty-three parts!

How do people get into amateur dramatics in the first place? Gerry Millward blithely admits that he was cornd by Maureen Chapman. He just happened to be strumming a little ditty to himself on the banjo one day, meaning no harm to anyone, when Maureen suggested it might sound awfully sweet if he stood on the stage. Two years later he's playing at least six of the fifty three roles in The Dining Room.

Steve Birch, when new to the area, went to Bristol Central Library looking for a drama group to join. The Act of Actonians meant it was high on the list alphabetically and that's why he chose it. An added bonus was that later he met and married Liz, a fellow member. A drama group called Phase 5 in Yate folded and some players from there joined up with the Actonians, so their loss was our gain. Margaret Thompson was cajoled into joining when she met up with the late Betty Driver at Frenchay Hospital. Others have simply answered an ad in the local paper appealing for more actors/actresses.

The Actonians are highly democratic. There's no permanent boss. If someone finds a good play they'd like to produce, they can do it. (Got to persuade the others first of course.) Also, everyone mucks in with stage and costume design, though there are unseen helpers here - Barry Wright recently lent his workshop to the creators of stage scenery.

We've all been glad to see children in various productions - both from the village and further afield. Jenny Pratt's daughter Penny recently won a trophy at the Malmesbury Festival. The group have won an HIV award for The Rape of Bunny Stunz, and Peter Butterworth has been offered a place at drama school in London which he is shortly to take up.

Rehearsals are hard work (twice a week) and a play will take nine to twelve weeks from conception to performance. But there's a lighter side; Actonians have an annual dinner, the occasional treasure hunt or barbecue. "We've even played cricket in the pouring rain dressed in Roman costumes." says Arne Aplin. (Did they score a centurion, one wonders?)

Can anyone join? Yes, yes, you'd be very welcome. You don't have to be brilliant, just a willingness to muck in and enjoy yourself. Would you believe that Mike Wills, - late of The Dining Room - had never acted before? YOU TOO COULD BE A STAR!

PARISH COUNCIL

Once again a very low attendance at the Parish Meeting. It is hard to believe that everyone is so satisfied with what we do, so why don't you ever come along with your criticisms, at least once a year?

The appeal against the planning decision to refuse the quarry at Mudgetown will begin on Sept. 26th at Rangeworthy Village Hall, and will last eight days. We must all make our voices heard if we are to win this fight so please do all you can. The more people attend the inquiry the better, so if you can manage to be there, even if only for a few hours please make every effort. If you would like to speak you will need to be there at 10 a.m. on the first day to register and we shall then be told when local evidence will be heard. The address to send your objections is:-

The Planning Inspectorate
Department of the Environment,
Room 1214,
Tollgate House,
Houlton Street,
Bristol BS2 9DJ.

Remember the more people who write and appear at the inquiry the better chance we shall have to preserve our countryside.

When you receive this magazine we shall be well into judging time for the Best Kept Village. Let's hope we get a good result this year. The usual garden competitions will be judged about mid-July.

* * * * *

PLANT SALE

Many thanks to everyone who supported my plant sale. Due to your help I was able to put £100 into Focus funds.

B.C.

* * * * *

MORE WEATHER LORE

When McCaskill says there'll be drought, 'tis time to get your broolly out.
When scattered showers are on the way, the sun will probably shine all day.
If hurricanes are soon to blow, then Mr Fish will never know.
Whatever they say the weather'll do, they've none of they beggars got a clue.

Peter Simple, Daily Telegraph

* * * * *

PROBLEM CORNER

Overheard in a Parochial Church Council Meeting, following Lynne Blanchard's election to Church Warden; "The Archbishop of Canterbury's got the Bishop of Durham, now the Rector's got Lynne!"

HOME THOUGHTS???

Road Conditions seem to be getting worse all over the County of Avon. Traffic in Iron Acton High Street has increased to such an extent that we now seem to be approaching the volume that existed before the by-pass was built.

Why is this? Informed opinion suggests that because of the constant road works, temporary traffic lights and hold-ups at the level crossing Iron Acton High Street has become a short cut for traffic trying to beat the queues on the by-pass and in order to beat the queues drivers feel it is necessary to put the foot down hard so that at times the village is more like a dirt track than a road. There are plenty of children (and adults too) on foot, bikes and ponies in the village. Their quality of life and safety are important.

School Road, Frampton Cotterell is likely to get "humps" to stop speeding short cutters. Should the High Street have the same?

Do you have traffic problems in your road? Could there be improvements to make life safer and pleasanter for residents and users? What are your views.

* * * * *

The above item was by Jo Voss. Deliberately made contentious in the hope that it will raise some of you to rush to put pen to paper and reply.

We've wanted to include a section whereby replies to previous issues could be made but because of the time lapse between issues it is difficult to choose a topic that will be relevant. We believe we've got such a topic here and we look forward to hearing from Focus readers.

Please don't disappoint us

BIRD TABLE

The piebald blackbird still continues to hold court near the Churchyard. Will there soon be colonies of black and white "Blackbirds" in the Village? We'd like to hear of other sightings.

INFORMATION PLEASE

A blue tit has spent a whole day trying to get in my closed window, hammering and scratching on the glass with his beak and claws and flying up and down, apparently looking for an opening. Can anyone say why birds do this?

SOFA

Do any of you ever buy new furniture and feel guilty about putting the old out for scrap but don't know who to contact? Ring a group called SOFA (it stands for "shifting old furniture about" - good innit?) on Bristol 276892. They will make sure it reaches people who could make use of the things we discard. You get nice new things and a shining halo - what more could you want!!

A WEEK IN THE LIFE

. . . OF A DRIVING INSTRUCTOR

MONDAY, 11 JUNE 1979

Miss W from Keynsham (a new pupil).

"I understand you took a Driving Test a couple of years ago?"

"Yes, I did but not really."

"Why was that?"

"Well, the examiner, the silly B-----, asked me to do an emergency stop, I did, he went forward and knocked himself out. When he came round he told me that I'd failed. He made out the fail sheet, got out of the car and walked back to the Test Centre!"



TUESDAY, 12 JUNE 1979

Today it was Rashid (my weekly nightmare). It is his 23rd lesson and so I thought I would try and get him out on to a main road. Definitely not one of my better ideas! As we were turning left on to the main road we mounted the pavement, just managing to miss 2 men who were standing on the pavement talking. What a blessing for dual controls! As they recovered from their shock one of the men turned to me and said "Can you take him around the other side, I'd quite like that hedge down!"

WEDNESDAY, 13 JUNE 1979

A very good day. Olive Hitchings passed her Driving Test first time today.

THURSDAY, 14 JUNE 1989

Mrs H of Hartcliffe. I thought I'd try and get her to do a 3-point turn. However, the more she turned the steering wheel the lower she sank down in the seat. I wasn't sure if she was trying to look through the button holes in her cardigan or disappear out of sight altogether!

FRIDAY, 15 JUNE 1989

Today it was the turn of Mrs G from Stockwood. I call her my 'spring chicken' because she has a tendency to flap her arms. The more anxious she gets the faster she flaps. I'm sure she's going to take off one day. Today she was fairly calm.

SATURDAY, 16 JUNE 1979

Today I called on Mrs B to change the time of her offspring's lesson. I rang the front door bell and a voice said through a tiny, open crack in the door "Oh, it's you Dennis, can you come round the back, I've no clothes on." I hope the neighbours didn't hear.

Dennis King



DR. EDWARD JENNER, OUR OWN COUNTRY DOCTOR HERO



Dr. Edward Jenner of Berkeley was a country-boy son of a country parson. Although he was born on 17th May 1749 in the middle of a century in which new discoveries and new ideas were revolutionising Europe, his own childhood was among the peaceful pastures of Severnside. The lowing of milk cows, the humming of bees and the call of the cuckoo were the sounds which enveloped his cradle. He was the youngest of a large family and his early life was idyllic.

Then came tragedy. Both his parents died and he was left in the care of his elder brother, Stephen, who became the Vicar of Rockhampton, and of his sister whose husband succeeded to the vicarage of Berkeley. At first he went to the Grammar School at Cirencester but, after he was inoculated with the Small Pox (a practice then in vogue - very dangerous - but probably less dangerous than catching the disease naturally), his health was shattered, so he was put under the care of a kindly parson at Wootton-under-Edge who supervised his education and allowed his time to roam the fields where his passion for nature led him to be a keen observer of birds, beasts and flowers.

At the age of 12 his schooling was over and he was apprenticed to Mr Ludlow, an Apothecary of Chipping Sodbury, Ludlow taught him his lifelong habits of order and cleanliness in all things medical. Young Edward would have had to wash bandages, make potions from local herbs and roots, roll pills and go out on horseback to deliver medicines. In time he would have been allowed to stitch up wounds with a horsehair plucked from one of their horses in the stable, or to put on leeches, to "cup" a boil or even to bleed a seriously ill patient. It was while he was at Chipping Sodbury that the famous incident occurred when a milkmaid came up to the surgery with a rash and blisters on her arm. "Well," she said, jokingly, "It can't be the Small Pox because I have already had Cow Pox, and folks who've had Cow Pox never get Small Pox", Jenner made a note of this, and, sure enough, all the milkmaids he knew had lovely complexions; none were scarred by the Small Pox as so many were in those days. However, it was more than 25 years before Jenner could turn his hunch into a proven scientific fact.

At the age of 18 he went up to London for two years to study Anatomy and medical practice under the tuition of one of the greatest of medical scientists, John Hunter. Hunter was a Scotsman possessed of a sharp intelligence and a restless energy. Already he was famous as a surgeon, so Jenner, through him, got to know many of the great names of London who called in Dr. Hunter when they were in real trouble. It was a long hard day for Jenner. First there were hospital rounds at St. George's Hospital, then consulting hours near Hyde Park Corner, after which Hunter set off in his coach to visit his patients in the great houses. Hunter and Jenner then worked later in his private laboratory, dissecting everything from rats to dolphins with the occasional human postmortem thrown in. Young Jenner had to get used to the smells and the long hours to which all budding doctors became used. Hunter thought so highly of him that he wanted him to stay on in London as his assistant or to go around the world with James Cook to gain experience and fame.

Jenner would have none of it. All he wanted was to get back to Gloucestershire and to become a country doctor. In 1780 he returned to Berkeley and set up as a G.P. trotting round the countryside on his horse and watching the life of the fields. Hunter remained his friend, and every time Jenner wrote to Hunter about some interesting fact of natural history Hunter would write back demanding specimens of proof, encouraging him to experiment to find the truth. Two matters particularly fascinated them - the hibernation of hedgehogs and the sex life of the cuckoo. Jenner recorded the temperatures of hibernating hedgehogs and sent many a prickly young animal up to London in a willow basket for Hunter's menagerie or laboratory. But cuckoos were his great love and, after 5 summers of fledgling in the nest, he was able to report to Hunter that it was definitely not the parent birds who threw out their own chick in favour of the little cuckoo intruder; it was the tiny young cuckoo itself which humped out the eggs and young of its foster parents. He actually observed the process which many could not bring themselves to believe until a few years ago when brilliant work with video cameras allowed us all to see it on T.V. John Hunter read a paper before the royal Society describing Jenner's work, and in due course the obscure doctor of Berkeley was elected a Fellow of the Royal society. Despite his humility, he was not numbered among the country's top scientists.

John Naish

We will conclude this article in our next issue.

* * * * *

ACTONIANS

Congratulations to the Actonians! Their recent excellent production of "The Dining Table" has won for them the John Coe Award for Best Dramatic Production, and very well deserved too. These talented people give a great deal of their spare time to their hobby and it is great to see them get recognition.

* * * * *

NEWS - Little Puddlington's Arts Festival this year is to include a revolutionary new play in which all the characters remain clothed throughout the entire evening. The audience, however, is expected to strip instead.

TENNIS COURTS

There are two tennis courts in the Parish Meadows for the use of all members of the parish, and they are not as widely used as they could be. If you would like to book a game contact the Clerk, Norman Carter, 9, Chilwood Close. Tel: 563. There is a small booking charge of 30p per person per hour.

* * * * *

A Scotsman was fined for indecent conduct at Edinburgh on Friday. According to witnesses the man had continually wiped the perspiration off his forehead with his kilt.

Dentist - Man: "Give it me straight - how am I?"
Dentist : "Well, sir your teeth are all right - but I'm
afraid your gums will have to come out."

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

PART FOUR.

19th Oct. 1932

... out behind Pinnells after tea. M. Pinnell ("Mickey Mouse") ... his football boots about 2 sizes too big for him .. size 7. they were 'Chubby' Fortune's.

20th got 3d. for taking a telegram up to the Lion. Mr Miles asked me to deliver a message for him ... couldn't muster up enough courage to enquire at the office of the Electrical Works for job.

... later .. followed the hounds (they met at Rangeworthy) ... down New Rd. and up to Tortworth. ... afternoon ... rode to Pilning on my own .. got wet through .. spoke to Basil Jupp (the Vicar's son) about football fixtures with Pilning Scouts. On way back called at Hortham Colony .. the secretary was not there. Got lost around Earthcott and Itchington in the darkness. Met an old woman who said she had known my Grandmother and my Mother .. said her name was Davis. Got home 8.30 wet through.

21st Went over to Rossiter & Rex's store at Frampton .. water over the road at the Mill - raining. Came back round Cog Mill.

22nd Sat. Rode M Pinnell down to Acton. We went to look at the floods by the Mill. Football match - Iron Acton 3 Robinsons 3 (they had 100% record) Large crowd, thrilling game. R. Richardson gave penalty away. "Spark" Padfield scored from a penalty. G. Hedges scored two goals. Plenty of barracking. Ref had to stop game to speak to fellow named Buckley from Watley's End. Art Seymour threatened to hit the referee after the match. Evening - went out behind Pinnell's but Mr Harford turned us out. Over to North Road with B. Aldom. Chaps gambling and letting off fireworks. Freddie Fay's troupe have been at the Lamb Inn all this week.

23rd Water out at Tonkins Hill.

24th Up to Yate and round Goosegreen with C. Pearce, C. Fletcher T. Davis and B. Dyer - talking about school and the cinema .. met the mob by Forests. They started bullying C. Maggs and S. Evans from Rangeworthy. I said I would stand by them (!!)

25th .. to the Labour Exchange. M. Turner said he hoped to let me know whether he can get me a job at the Electrical Works at Yate. Called in at the Sale at Yate - saw sheep sold for 6/-d. each and a ram for £2. My Grandmother gave Mr Woollen a glass of wine when he was working outside - saw the new policeman. Went back to Yate market - in the road outside to watch a cheapjack wrangling money out of people. Another man selling herbal pills and one selling knives for cutting glass.

27th ... down to the Institute - Opening Night, free. We had a good tuck in, played cards with G. Rowlands. We lost to E. Morgan and F. Rale. I was leading but 'Mickey' Lane won both prizes. B. Taylor and myself beat E. Morgan and H. Wiggins at whist. (the Institute was a boys club which met at the Old Parish Hall and was run by Miss Harrison who lived at the Mill House).

- 28th .. went over to Hortham Colony about football fixtures - made a bit of a mess of it. Back at 5 o'clock. Walked down to Acton with B. Aldom and over to North Road. Saw the mob outside Haines's shop. Got my goalie's jersey and came home on the back of T. Curtis's bike.
- 29th Sat. Codrington Arms Juniors 0 Coalpit Heath 5. Raining- plenty to do in goal. B. Dyer and B. Aldom were the best in the forward line. L. Wookey in defence. R. Elson could not play as his father had fallen off a hay rick and had hurt himself.
- 30th Sun. After evening service walked up to Yate with B. Aldom. We took I.H. and her sister home - met B. Dyer, C. Fletcher and C. Powell. We nearly got into trouble over being with D.D. when her Father came along.
- 31st Rode down to Acton and refereed match between Iron Acton (C. Wiggins, R. Ballam, K. Huzzell, D. Pullin, D. Moore, R. Dust and - Mayho) and Mudgetown (M. Pinnell, G. Aldom, G. Kingscott, J. Wyman, S and K. Ponting and D. Emery) Acton won 6 - 2.
- 5th Nov.
Codrington Arms Juniors 5 Kingswood 1 (scorers a. Sheppard, H. Cryer, B. Dyer and R. Elson). Round North Road in evening, bonfire and fireworks outside Haine's shop. Later I stopped to see Elson's bonfire.
- 6th D. Gibbons told me about a Miss Crease being attacked near Martin Powell's last night. Believed to be a lunatic.
- 7th Rode up to Sodbury with G. Smith and J. Gurney. They told me that some schoolmaster chap is going to put the police on the track of 'the mob' (North Road) for insulting his daughter. L. Wookey claimed someone had grabbed at his hand when playing fox and hounds - it was only an old horse in Forrest's shed.
- 8th Up to the Lab. Exchange - no work. Across to Filton with Bill Short (Sodbury) who I had met outside the Exchange. No work at the Aerodrome. After choir practice went to a football meeting at North Road. I was elected vice-captain. About 30 attended.
- 9th Went to Dursley with Bill Short. Stopped at Wickwar Brewery. No vacancies. Had to wait outside Listers all the dinner hour. Offered me only 10/ per week. Bill wanted me to take it. (Would have meant cycling over 30 miles daily).
- Frank Adair's concert party 'Radio Stars' at the Crown Inn all this week.
- 11th Bought poppy 3d. off Joyce Pinnell. Up to Sodbury and then round Westerleigh for a ride. I observed the 2 min. silence in Sodbury Street.
- 12th Sat. Football match. Iron Acton School 1 North Road School 2.
- 13th Sunday afternoon walked up to Sodbury with B. Dyer. British Legion Parade. They were all in Church when we got there. Cirencester Town Band - got home 5.15.
- 16th Mr Stiff did not have a 'Daily Press' so I had the 'News Chronicle' .. not as good as the 'Daily Herald'. Got the onions out of the shed and weighed them - 32 lbs. Took them round to Miss Oseland's, got 2/6d. for them. The little Miss Oseland is ill.

HORTICULTURAL SHOW

Yes, it's that time of year again when yours truly goes berserk and babbles even more incoherently than usual about leeks, jam, dahlias and decorated sponges!

All of the money raised goes towards the upkeep and improving of the Village Hall. Last year I pleaded with you to help us and you did. Can I ask for your help again this year and, more importantly, will you say yes?

Listed below are the classes for this year. Sorry they're all squashed up but I didn't want Mr Wilkins shouting at me for wasting space! However, all is not lost, as properly laid out schedules will be available at Village pubs and shop (good excuse to get a drink?Just popping out for a schedule, dear!?)

* * * * *

Allotment Trophy - Best Collection of Vegetables Grown on an Allotment

Aster Trophy - Best Entry by Iron Acton Resident of 6 Double & 6 Single Asters

1	Collection of Vegetables	38	3 Crysanthemums
2	Collection of Salads	39	6 Pom-Pom Dahlias (Not Over 2½")
3	Collection of Fruits	40	3 Cactus Dahlias
4	4 Potatoes (Any 1 Variety)	41	3 Decorated Dahlias
5	7 lbs Potatoes (Any 1 Variety)	42	3 Spikes Gladioli
6	3 Carrots (Long)	43	9 Sweet Peas
7	3 Carrots (Short)	44	Best Pot Plant (Foliage)
8	2 Cobs Sweet Corn	45	Best Pot Plant (Flowering)
9	3 Onions (From Seed, Trimmed)	46	Tallest Sunflower
10	3 Onions (From Sets, Trimmed)	47	A Basket of Garden Flowers
11	6 Shallots	48	An Arrangement of Dried Flowers
12	6 Runner Beans	49	A Petite Arrangement
13	The Longest Runner Bean	50	6 Eggs (Brown)
14	2 Peppers	51	6 Eggs (Any Other Variety)
15	2 Stems of Calabrese	52	A Pot of Honey
16	2 Cabbages (Any 1 Variety)	53	A Pot of Jam
17	2 Cauliflowers	54	A Pot of Jelly
18	2 Marrows	55	A Pot of Marmalade
19	The Heaviest marrow	56	A Jar of Chutney
20	3 Courgettes	57	A Decorated Victoria Sandwich
21	2 Lettuce (Cabbage)	58	A Savoury Flan
22	2 Cucumbers (Frame or Greenhouse)	59	A Rich Fruit Cake
23	2 Cucumbers (Ridge)	60	6 Open Tarts
24	6 Tomatoes	61	A Loaf of Bread
25	3 Parsnips	62	A Plate of Biscuits
26	3 Beetroot	63	An Apple Tart
27	3 Pot Leeks	64	A Bottle of Red Wine
28	3 Blanch Leeks	65	A Bottle of White Wine
29	2 Sticks Celery	66	A Hand Knitted Article
30	4 Apples (Dessert)	67	An Embroidered Article
31	4 Apples (Culinary)	68	A Machine Sewn Article
32	4 Pears (Dessert)	69	A Handicraft Item
33	4 Plums (Dessert)	70	A Painting, Sketch or Drawing, Framed or Unframed, Any Subject
34	4 Plums (Culinary)	71	Photograph of a Holiday Scene
35	6 Roses	72	Photograph of 'Childhood'
36	1 Specimen Rose (Named)		
37	Vase of Flowers (Quality)		

[1-46 = General 47-49 = Flower Arranging 50-70 = Homecraft 71-72 = Photography]

Iron Acton WI Class - 6 Scones, Any Variety, Attractively Displayed (Class 73)
1st Iron Acton Brownies Class - A Picture of the Green (Class 74)

Children's Classes

Under 7 Years

75 A Picture of a Member of My Family

7 - 11 Years

76 A Self Portrait

Following Open to Everyone Up to 16 Years - Age Obviously Taken into Consideration

77 A Miniature Garden

78 A Flower Arrangement in a Tumbler

79 A Vegetable Animal

80 A Wheeled Vehicle that will Move, Made from Junk Material

81 A Crayon or Pastel Picture of a Bowl of Fruit or a Basket of Vegetables

82 A Craft Item made within the last 12 Months

83 A Paper or Fabric Collage of a Dragon

One new class this year is '70' 'Painting, Drawing, Sketch, Framed or Unframed, Any Subject. This was included as there now appears to be a budding nucleus of artists in Iron Acton.

Betty Cook, Co-Conspirator (and the more sensible one!) has the following helpful hints for prospective exhibitors:

- * Don't put veg in straight from the garden. Clean them up but don't go too far - onions with all outer skin peeled off will be marked down no matter how good they are.
- * Don't enter your largest fruit or veg if it means making up the entry with smaller items - well matched items always do better than odd sizes.
- * In the Homecraft Section try to use a proper jam pot for your preserves and make sure you fill the pot.
- * When baking a flan, place it on a hot baking sheet so that the bottom pastry is cooked, or better still, bake the pastry blind and then cook again with the filling.

Well, that's about it. Please see what you you can do and we look forward to seeing your wonderful exhibits on Saturday, 9 September. But, if you can't get to the Hall on Saturday yet have something that you would like entered let either Betty or Myself know and we will make arrangements to obtain the items beforehand and stage them for you on the day.

LYNNE BLANCHARD
RANGEWORTHY 566

BETTY COOK
RANGEWORTHY 202

FRIENDS OF IRON ACTON SCHOOL

By the time you are reading this, the Friends will be making plans for the Horse and Dog Show. For the third year running we will be presenting the refreshments and the goodies on offer will not only include tea, coffee and cold drinks but appetizing rolls and scrumptious home made cakes. We are always grateful for any donations of cakes, so if you feel able to offer then please contact either Mr Dowding at the School (Rangeworthy 322) or Myself (Rangeworthy 626). Otherwise if you are at the Show please call into the Refreshment Tent to see what we have on offer, and remember that all monies raised will go to your local school to provide up-to-date materials and apparatus.

In April we held our annual Jumble Sale which set a new record by raising £260. The event was well supported both in donations and attendance on the day, the

cakes, white elephant and raffle doing particularly well. Over the last few years we have coincided our Jumble Sale with Grand National Day, and our Grand National Draw is becoming a firm favourite. We hope to do the same next year, so remember the day, come and buy some items, have a flutter on the draw and watch the race in the excited atmosphere of the School Hall.

In July we will be holding our Summer Fayre, so keep your fingers crossed for fine weather and a good fund raising day!

This year we have continued to spend from our funds. We have purchased a set of Encyclopedia Britannica 1990, a small portable tape recorder to be used on school trips and financially supported the Field Studies Weekend at Slimbridge. In addition, with the National Curriculum looming, we have given substantial assistance with the purchase of science equipment.

If the Summer Fayre proves successful then Mr Dowding has already mentally spent the money, requesting assistance in purchasing more science equipment and maths apparatus to help implement the National Curriculum and additional books for the school library. We are also going to pay for the coach on the School Outing to Cricket St Thomas in July, whilst in the future we hope to buy and Iron Acton School sports kit for the children who take part in inter-school netball and bootball tournaments.

The Friends would again like to thank all our supporters. Without whose help we could not hold so many successful fund raising events for our local school.

JILL BRADSHAW

IRON ACTON WI *****

Our fund raising endeavours for our 70th Anniversary Celebrations are progressing favourable. We have already held a Skittles Evening at the Half Moon pub in Coalpit Heath with Husbands v Wives (the husbands won - ooh the comments they made!!) and a Pottery Party at Berkley Cottage and we say "thank you" to Rosemary Maniatt for allowing us to use her home.

The next fund raiser is a Barbeque to be held on Friday, 21 July at Parkers Garden Centre. Admission will be by ticket only and these can be obtained from members of the WI at the most wonderful price of £2.50.

Several car loads of ladies visited the Kitchen Garden at Tockington on Tuesday, 20 June and picked the most luscious strawberries and fresh broad beans. It was a good job they didn't weight the occupants of the cars before and after 'cos we have a sneaking suspicion that rather a lot of fruit was guzzled without even making it into the baskets!! We can thoroughly recommend a visit to the Kitchen Garden. Not only do they have "pick your own" but they also have a produce shop and craft shop and they make their own ice cream (a little bird told me that the Rector has a liking for their ginger and meringue ice cream and certainly the ladies who tried it during our visit wouldn't disagree with him!). They also have a small restaurant which provides a lot of home made dishes.

On Monday, 10 July we visit Sheppy's at Taunton to tour their cider factory (and hopefully have a taster of the product) and also partake of a ploughman's supper. Lynne knows when to admit defeat and says she won't be going - she can't keep pace with us 'oldies'!

We do not have a meeting in August [they're still getting over July - Lynne]. In September there will be another fund raising evening with a clothes party, while in October we have a return visit from Mr Cotton who will show us some more interesting travel slides.

This brings us to our 70th Birthday Celebrations in November when we hope a good time will be had by all.

ELSIE BLANCHARD

TALES FROM THE TOWER

"THE BELLES"



Residing in Iron Acton Church Tower live six old ladies.

Like most old ladies, they are crotchety, cantankerous, full of "the screws" and arthritic.

The ladies are old fashioned in their "get up" they need new bearings (they are still using plain bearings (shock horror). They are generally tatty and falling apart.

That is except the glamour puss of the outfit, the 4th. She has had a face lift and uses ball bearings.

The one thing they are still good at is singing, but as you know if you are not very well, you can't sing so often as it causes damage to your joints, and anyway you might fall apart.

Now if they were human we could arrange treatment for them under the N.H.S, but these ladies need private treatment and we all know how expensive that is.

Felicity Bate and Sally-Ann Hall from the Village have started raising money for their treatment. The money needed is £10,000 which is a lot of money for two young girls to raise on their own. So what we are asking the people of Iron Acton to do is help the two girls raise this money, after all 1,000 people giving up 5 pints of beer a year would raise £5,000 so in two years the problem could be solved (and after all £10,000 would not pay for one old lady's treatment in America so you are getting a bargain with 6).

So if anyone has some good ideas for raising this money, or better still if anyone has this cash stuffed under the mattress, I'm sure it will be safer in the tower fund, where we can guarantee it will be put to good use.

Now we don't want to put these old ladies "down" do we?

A BWell Wisher.

GUIDE & BROWNIE SUPPORTERS GROUP

Sadly, we have not yet found a new Guider - is there really no-one out there who could take this on? We have a volunteer who will help, but already runs Brownies elsewhere so cannot run guides on her own.

Our Brownies are doing well with Mrs Cheese as Brown Owl and Mrs Woodman as Tawny Owl, and we are very grateful to them both.

This year we hope to have a games evening for the girls, a Bingo evening in October and of course a Coffee & Gateaux in February. We desperately need a few new committee members, so if you can help please come to our next meeting on July 18th.

Ring 202 or 405 for details.

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
September 9th	HORTICULTURAL SHOW	
November 25th	CHURCH CHRISTMAS SALE	

At the Parish Church of St James the Less

September 23rd/24th HARVEST THANKSGIVING WEEKEND,
with CRAFT EXHIBITION and
FLOWER FESTIVAL

At Mudgetown Farm

September 17th IRON ACTON HORSE AND DOG SHOW

At the Rose & Crown

1st Thursday in month Acton Aid 8.00 p.m.
Alternate Mondays Darts Club

At Rangeworthy Village Hall

Mon, Wed & Fridays Mornings, Play Group (During term time)

And lastly:-

We are pleased with our new front cover which is the work of Mr Peter Manning to whom we are most grateful.

FOCUS ON IRON ACTON is also again grateful to Mrs Pat Ashmead and Miss Lynne Blanchard for doing all the typing - and to "Ron's Print" of Kingswood for so carefully printing each issue for us. Our thanks, also, to Mr Peter Redman for his lively sketches, and to all those kind people who help with the distribution.

FOCUS ON IRON ACTON is always eager for readers to write to us, and to submit articles for publication. Any member of the editorial team will be glad to assist.

Advertisers wishing to take space in FOCUS ON IRON ACTON should contact either Mrs B Cook (phone 202) or Mr C Wilkins (254).

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TUESDAY..... 2.20pm to 3.30pm and 4.30pm to 6.30pm.

WEDNESDAY..... 9.30am to 10.30am.

There is no afternoon or evening surgery on a Wednesday.

THURSDAY..... 2.20pm to 3.30pm and 4.30pm to 6.30pm.

FRIDAY..... 2.20pm to 3.30pm and 4.30pm to 6.30pm.

SATURDAY..... 9.30am to 10.30am.

SPECIAL APPOINTMENTS FOR EMERGENCIES OUT OF NORMAL SURGERY TIMES MUST BE MADE BY TELEPHONE.

EMERGENCIES can always be dealt with, but please ALWAYS TELEPHONE before arriving, especially out of hours as the Veterinary Surgeon may not always be immediately available.

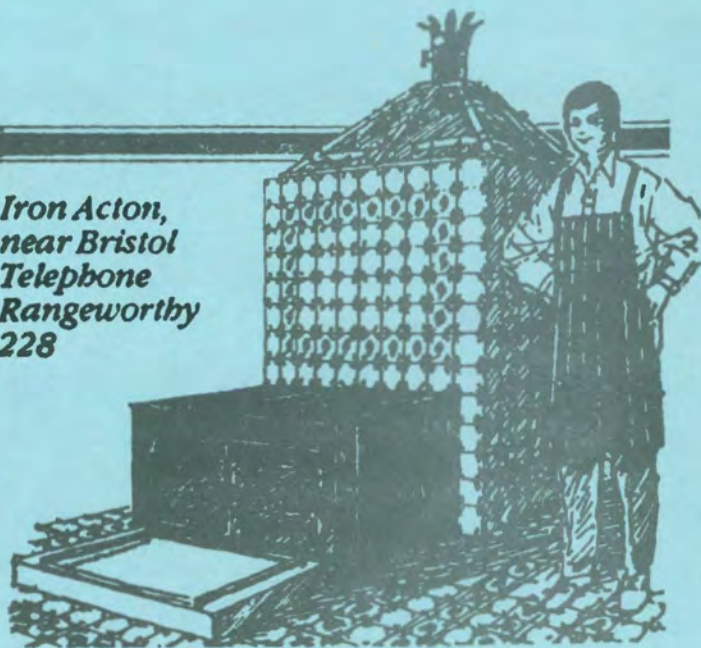
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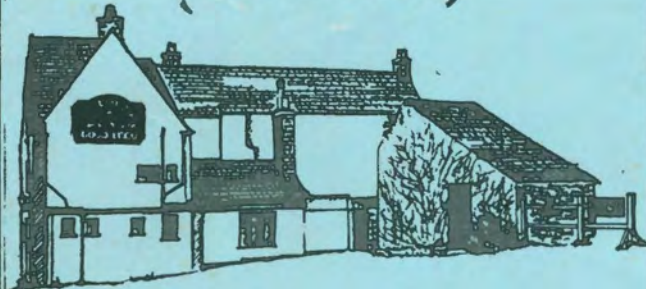


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