

FOCUS ON IRON ACTON



CHURCH OF ST. JAMES THE LESS



IRON ACTON SCHOOL



LAMB INN



WHITE HART



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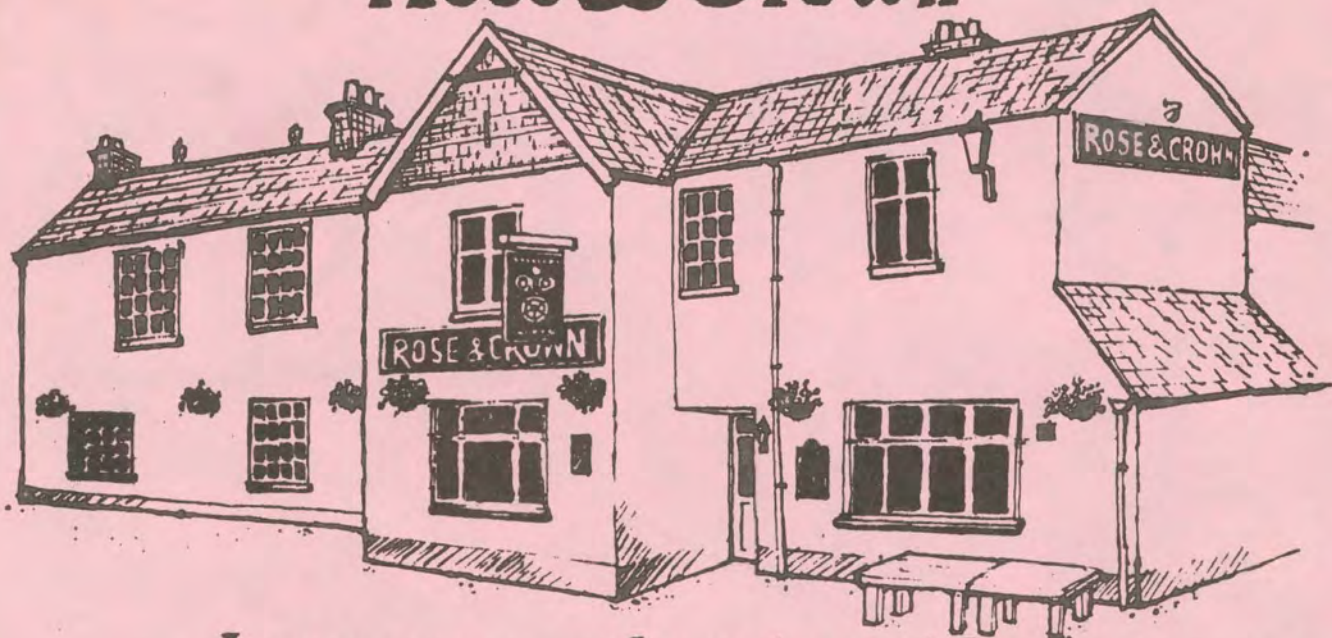
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A Happy Christmas to all our Readers.

It seems a bit early and cold-blooded to write this at the beginning of November whilst in the midst of preparing this issue of FOCUS. But writing the Editorial is all part of the process - inviting reports from various organisations, seeking other contributors, calling on advertisers, reading through articles, drawing sketches, sorting out and typing. As we write, all is now ready to be taken to the printers, and then we shall collect about 7000 pages, collate them into order and staple them into over 500 magazines, one of which will be delivered to your door, wherever in the Parish it may be - Latteridge, Nibley or Engine Common. Three times a year! It's quite exciting really - and we do enjoy the job.

We hope that you enjoy the result.

After it's done we sit back and relax, and hope that someone will write to let us know they like it; or to tell us how we ought to have done it; or, better still, send us something they have written for us to put in the next issue.

And someone always does!
Do you?

Why not ring one of the numbers below?

And as we said at the beginning "Have a Good Christmas"

* * * * *

Charles Wilkins
Hillside
254

John Percy
Primrose Cottage
339

Betty Cook
Neksdor
202

Jo Voss
Church Cottage
674

Pete Redman
Lawn Cottage
395

Lynne Blanchard
Rose Cottage
566





A "YACHTIES" LIFE.

When I first met Neil, later to become my husband, the only boats that I had ever been in were either a rowing boat on a park lake or a cross channel ferry. I was therefore rather impressed to hear that my new boyfriend had a boat! I conjured up images of lying in a bikini on the foredeck of some luxury yacht, sipping a gin and tonic and soaking up the sun. The reality has been oh! so different!

"The boat" turned out to be a rather fast racing dinghy with a sliding seat which the crew (i.e. me) had to sit out on over the sea to balance the boat. After serving my apprenticeship rubbing down the varnished deck I was taken out for a spin on the Solent. That fateful afternoon I was to swallow the first of many gulps of seawater. Neil soon realised his new girlfriend was not going to be the red hot racing crew he hoped, and decided instead to try and convert me to yacht sailing.

At that time my future father-in-law had just purchased a new 30ft sailing boat, and he very kindly (or misguidedly) lent it to us for jollies in the Solent or the occasional jaunt across the Channel. By "us" I mean me, Neil and several other strong men. Their idea of a perfect holiday was to sail all day, arrive in port in time to visit the local hostelry and then off with the next tide - which always seemed to be perfect for leaving at around 3 a.m. They used to rave about what a fantastic sail I was missing as I lay down below nursing a bucket!

I soon learned to stop them however, I only ever bought enough food for one day then they had to stop to take on supplies. Once I mastered seasickness I started to discover the delights of sailing. The beauty of a sunrise in the solitude of the sea, isolated anchorages, the exhilaration of a fast passage and the sense of achievement on reaching a port under one's own efforts rather than by ferry or car.

After Neil realised he had a converted sailor, we got married. At this time we had a small amount of money in a building society which I fondly imagined was to go towards our first home, but Neil had other ideas - he wanted to buy a boat. Not a luxury yacht but an old hulk which had been lying in a local boat yard for many years. My heart sank when I saw the rotting timbers and peeling paintwork. However, I was persuaded that it would be a "marvellous investment" and a few weeks later I was the proud co-owner of a yacht.



For a year Neil and I worked on "Spoondrift" until she was transformed. We sailed her for about a month but Neil's original diagnosis that she was an investment rather than our ideal boat were soon confirmed. "Spoondrift" was built like a tank and sailed like a tea chest - great for sailing the Atlantic but not for tacking up the Solent. After the fateful 30 hours crossing from Alderney to the Needles even Neil remarked that he would give up sailing to buy a tent next year. Instead we sold her (the last we heard she was off to South Africa) and bought a 26 foot Contessa.

For the next 4 years the Contessa gave us hours of pleasure as we week-ended in the Solent and crossed to the Channel Islands and Brittany several times each summer. By now I had mastered enough sailing skills to leave the crew behind. The Contessa was a pretty boat but wet - she went through the waves rather than over them. We would arrive in port looking as if we had been through a hurricane while other yachts arrived with their crew sunbathing on the foredeck. I was certainly not up to "Howards Way" standards!

The living quarters were definitely rather down market and at times even squalid, and the sanitary arrangements would be considered by most people's standards to be basic! Still we thought ourselves rather superior to other larger yachts - as we sailed everywhere. The fact that the engine never worked unless Neil hung upside down in the bilges for 10 minutes was beside the point. We also could never understand why on a lovely sailing day when we happily drifted across the Channel at 3 knots, larger boats chugged past with their engines on. But that was before we had children! Richard, our son, took to sailing like a duck to water. He inherited the necessary genes for all sailors - a skin impervious to the cold and wet. We soon realised that one small baby plus nappies and toys meant a bigger boat, so we bought "Apprentice."

Jill Bradshaw

The second part of this article will appear in our next issue of Focus



IRON ACTON SCHOOL

The summer term finished with a flurry of activities. On our school sports day the two house teams Algars and Poyntz battled away on a very hot afternoon until finally Algars pulled away to build up a lead over the last two events.

They now lead Poyntz 2-1 in the challenge for the Cook shield. Inter-school sports was a 5-way competition this year, St. Andrews (Cromhall) and Rangeworthy joining North Road, Oldbury-on-Severn and Iron Acton. A thoroughly enjoyable afternoon was had by all, the Iron Acton team coming away with a good collection of 1st, 2nd, 3rd & 4th certificates.

The school athletics club enjoyed the sunny afternoons after school to work for the I.B.M. Ten Step Award Scheme. All of the children were successful in gaining an award and special congratulations go to Rebecca Parkhill and Michelle Davis for getting the Double Ten Award.

The final summer sporting event was the staff v. school rounders match. School batted first and found it difficult to score against Beryl Woodward's bowling. Mrs Hatt (backstop) and Janet Thorne (1st base) were a deadly combination and school were all out for 6 rounders. When the staff went in to bat they found it just as hard against the school's fielding which was outstanding. Eventually the Rector hit the winning rounder with a shot that should have had the England cricket selectors reaching for the phone!

Another hot day in July saw the whole school set off for our day trip to Cricket St. Thomas. A tour around the zoo, wildlife areas, the dairy, where we saw the icecream being made (and had a welcome cooling sample) and a ride on the mini steam engine brought the day to a close. The children certainly remembered the Victorian Carousel and romping around the adventure playground fort!

Our summer concert was a nostalgic look back to 1939 and the start of the World War 2. The first part of the programme looked at the hit songs of that era, everything from Booms-a-Daisy, Run Rabbit Run, The Lambeth Walk and I'll Be Seeing You, interspersed with quotes - Neville Chamberlain's declaration of war - to recreating scenes from everyday life - the evacuation of children, the blackout. The second part featured the best known musical of 1939, The Wizard of Oz with Juliet Spare as Dorothy, Lizzy Bidwell as the Scarecrow, Michelle Davis and Sarah Thorne as the Cowardly Lion, James Boyce as the Tin Man and Daniel Cook as the Wizard.

At the end of the summer term we said goodbye to Michelle Davis, Sarah Thorne, Daniel Cook (to the Ridings) Elizabeth Bidwell (Brimsham Green) Elizabeth Eastman (Red Maids) and at the start of the new term we welcomed Vicky Shepherd, Michael Mattravers, Aaron Tovey, Ross Kitching, Ben Averis, April Coulstring, Rebecca Tanner and Michelle Poole. Our numbers now stand at 42.

The Governors of the School have been reconstituted and are now:- Rev. Waker, Dr. Hughes (foundation governors), Mr G. Gale (Parish Council), Mrs S. Pullen, Mrs B. Reed (L.E.A.), Mrs J. Spare, Mrs. C. Harding (both re-elected parent governors), Mrs J. Hatt (teacher) and Mr R. Dowding (head teacher). The clerk to the Governors is still Mrs J. Blackmore.

We were sorry to say goodbye to Jo Voss who in her role as an L.E.A. governor has been a generous and kind friend to the school. However, she has assured us of her continued support from Church Cottage.

Our Harvest Festival produced a play by the infants about Johnny Appleseed, while the juniors acted out the story of the Green Scarecrow - all good conservationist stuff! The large number of Harvest gifts raised £163, a considerable increase on previous years.

We decided to send the money to Save the Children with the express aim to sponsor the education of a primary aged child in India. Thanks also to everyone who sent in milk bottle tops for the Save the Children appeal, in the end we collected over 3000!

ADMISSIONS TO SCHOOL SEPTEMBER 1990.

If you have a child whose 4th birthday falls between September 1st 1989 and August 31st 1990 you may apply for a place at Iron Acton School in September 1990. An application form, further details and a tour of the school can be arranged through Mr Dowding either at school (R/W 322) or at Fern Cottage (R/W 340).

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY.

Christmas Concert Tuesday December 12th 7 p.m.

End of term Tuesday December 19th. Spring term begins Monday January 8th 1990.

Half term Monday 19th to Friday 23rd February. End of term Friday April 6th.

LES GALE - BORN TO IRON ACTON FOOTBALL CLUB

Les Gale, who has resided with his wife Heather, in the heart of Iron Acton for 40 years, has just celebrated his 50th anniversary as a member of the village Soccer Club.

World War II broke out on 3rd September 1939 and Les joined the Club as a player 4 days later. Even in those far off days, the football field was sited behind the Rose and Crown.

During the War years Les was on active service in the Royal Navy, and rejoined the Soccer Club following demobilisation in 1947, where he made the first team goalkeeping spot his own.

His playing career was cut short by a motor cycle accident in which he was involved. He then proceeded to take up an administrative role within the Club, and the year 1953 saw him appointed Secretary. Later on control of the money affairs came his way when he assumed responsibility of Treasurer.

During his spell as Club Secretary he never missed a League Meeting which were then held at the 'Pack Horse' Public House, Lawrence Hill, Bristol. Being one of the 'Bulldog Brigade', during inclement weather conditions, he would even walk the considerable distance to ensure the Club were represented at the meeting, and therefore did not incur a fine.

In 1978 Les became Chairman, and during this period the club enjoyed a relative time of success by gaining election into the Premier Division of the County of Avon Premier Combination. He held the post of Chairman for nine years, until being succeeded by his son Geoff, also an Iron Acton goalkeeping custodian in his playing hey-day.

Les has always been supported in his football 'work' by his wife Heather, who at one time was the official Assistant Secretary and member of the Club Management Committee. In fact all of the Gale family have been 'Iron Acton Football Club' orientated.

As well as son Geoff, his daughter Valerie is also football crazy, and is regularly seen on the line in all winds and weathers, supporting the cause of Iron Acton Football Club. Their respective partners, Beverley and Basil are also well into the local football swing. Naturally, Les and Heather's grandchildren are next on the production line into the Iron Acton Football Club indoctrination process.

As well as their own family, Les and Heather have been Mum and Dad to countless Iron Acton footballers, who have been welcomed into their home and provided with meals galore, plus hours of football chat.

Even now Les still has burning ambitions for the Football Club, the most prominent one being to gain entry into the Gloucestershire County League. Les and his family are as enthusiastic about the football business now as they ever were.

Les and Heather have both been Iron Acton Football Club pillars of strength for what seems like an eternity. They have been life members for some considerable time, and long may that membership continue and flourish.

Bob Ford.
Chairman Iron Acton F.C.

Dr Edward Jenner

We continue now with John Naish's interesting article about Dr. Edward Jenner that we started in our last issue. We apologise to you and particularly to John Naish for a number of typing errors which occurred in the previous instalment

Jenner remained fascinated by the whole subject of cow pox and he spent much time visiting infected herds of cows, drawing and describing the blisters on their teats and on the hands of the milkmaids who milked them. He had a great deal of difficulty as there were other diseases of the cow's udder which looked like Cow Pox but weren't. Jenner bombarded his medical colleagues with questionnaires about their experience of Cow Pox and whether it conferred immunity against Small Pox. He could never get a clear answer, so he patiently continued his own work. He and other bright doctors used to meet monthly at the Medico-convivial Club at Rodborough where they discussed their clinical experiences. Some had to travel 30 miles to get there. One colleague who always supported Jenner's ideas and became his lifelong friend was Dr. Caleb Parry of Bath, the first man in the world to describe the disease of the coronary arteries which causes angina and, sometimes, sudden death from coronary thrombosis. The very first case in which the diseased coronary arteries were examined was a patient of Jenner's, and Jenner did the post-mortem. Jenner wouldn't publish the case because his friend, Hunter, had symptoms of angina and Jenner didn't want to distress him.

Hunter, in fact, died of his coronary disease in 1793, just as Jenner was about to make his break-through with the Cow Pox. In 1794, he wrote to a close friend that he had successfully passed the **Vaccine Virus** from one human being to another. We are so used to the word vaccine today that it is easy to forget that Jenner was coining a totally new word, one which meant (literally) "an infected particle from a cow". The word vaccine comes from the Greek word for a cow. What Jenner had done was to transmit material from a pustule on the hand of a young woman newly infected from a cow called "Blossom" onto the arm of young Master Phipps, the 11 year old son of one of his devoted patients. "But now", wrote Jenner, .. "listen to the most delightful part of my story. The boy has since been inoculated for the Small Pox which, as I ventured to predict, produced no effect". This was a crucial experiment which proved that an attack of Cow Pox could produce immunity to Small Pox. Jenner had worked hard to establish the facts, but he was also lucky, for there are very few germs which can confer immunity to attack from a germ of a different species. Jenner was lucky because - as we now know - the structure of the Cow Pox virus is sufficiently close to that of Small Pox that the body is fooled into producing antibodies against Small Pox as well as Cow Pox.

Jenner had to wait two more years before he could find new cases of Cow Pox so that he could repeat his experiment in another four cases; then he called a meeting of his medical friends and put the facts in front of them. They were enthusiastic so he sent his paper describing his results to the Royal Society. They refused it! Undaunted, he had it privately printed as "An Enquiry into the Cause of Effects of the Variolae Vaccinae", Price 7s/6d.

What happened next is almost unbelievable. Jenner shot up as a star above an ugly world engaged in the bitter struggle of the Napoleonic Wars. His slender book of 60 pages was talked about as much as *The Satanic Verses*, and as seldom read. There were troubles of course. Fake vaccinators got hold of dud serum and tried to steal Jenner's fame. Serious epidemics occurred with deaths and much adverse publicity. No matter! By the turn of the Century Dr Jenner's name was as well known as that of Horatio Nelson, if not quite so famous as Napoleon Buonaparte. The latter was a great admirer of Jenner and was determined that France should not miss out on the passion for vaccination which was spreading like a bush fire across Europe, leaving Vaccine Institutes and Directors of Vaccination in its wake. Dr Waterhouse supervised the spread of vaccination to America and by 1802 vaccines were on their way - by Constantinople and Baghdad - to India. It was a World event recognised by its people, if not always by its doctors and scientists, as a wonderful boon to suffering mankind.

Jenner died in 1822 in the Chantry where he had lived the best years of his life. His remaining years were not always happy, surrounded as he was by controversy, envy, unwanted fame and notoriety. Despite being bidden to London to meet the Czar of Russia and the King of Prussia, Jenner received no national or international honour. His beloved wife died shortly after the Battle of Waterloo. Though friends, grateful patients and grateful letters from all over the world comforted his last years, he missed her much, and his life as a widower was hard.

Small Pox was eradicated from the world ten years ago by the efforts of the World Health Organisation in vaccinating susceptible people.

The Jenner Museum in The Chantry, Berkeley, is open from Easter to October. It is well worth a visit to see what a humble man can do for mankind.

* * * * *

ACTONIANS REPORT

The Actonians have done particularly well this year winning the Bristol Evening Post Rose Bowl Award with 'Dining Room' which was directed by Ann Aplin and involved several other residents of Iron Acton. This is the award all amateur groups in Avon would like to win so, for a relatively small group, we have particular reason to feel very proud!

Our next production will be 'Salad Days' which will be staged in the Village Hall in the New Year on January 3rd - 6th 1990. We will be putting quite a bit of new equipment we have purchased recently into effect. Tickets from PENNY PERCY (Rangeworthy 339) Adults £3. Children & O.A.P's £2.

Work has already started on a one-act play to be entered in the Avon One-Act Play Festival and the Kingswood Festival in the Spring. It is called 'The Laboratory' and arrangements are being made for it to be performed in the village as well.

As always we would welcome anyone who would like to get involved with the group in any way or would like to come and watch any of our productions. The Secretary is Liz Birch (Winterbourne 772718) or any other member of the Group you may know would be delighted to hear from you!!

Liz Birch.



FLYING HIGH

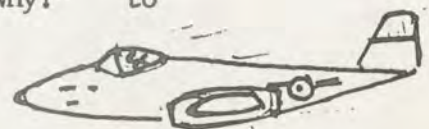
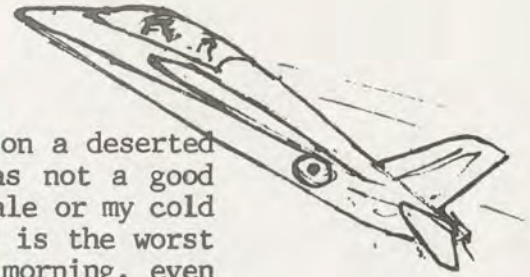
It all started on a drizzly day on a deserted airfield called Biggin Hill. It was not a good start and did nothing to help my morale or my cold as it's my view that a wet airfield is the worst place on earth to be at six in the morning, even if it does still retain some of the atmosphere of pride and camaraderie of a Spitfire base like Biggin Hill.

After signing in and depositing my case in my bare room, I sneezed my way to the briefing building for "selection." I was hoping to be selected out of the others to be given a Royal Air Force Flying Scholarship. Biggin Hill, not surprisingly, is not a Spitfire base any more but is the hiring and firing department of the Royal Air Force, as far as officers and aircrew are concerned. Here, they rip you apart mentally and physically and, if they like what they see, they give you a job or, in my case, some flying lessons.

Before this, however, they shatter any delusions you might have of being important, by putting you through the most humiliating and degrading process known to man - the RAF Medical. This is where you and twenty others walk around the building in a dressing gown, shoes and socks (and nothing else) and play some form of musical rooms as you are ushered from one to the other, being poked and prodded in a different region each time.

One room was for eyes, one for ears and so on. In one room we were each given a specimen bottle to fill and, judging by the size of the bottle, this must have been when the hand-eye co-ordination testing started!

After this came the maths tests, IQ tests and aptitude tests (no English test tut tut) and finally came the interview. This was held under SS interrogation conditions, with two officers who must have had extremely horrible childhoods! I thought at the time that they were not the sort of people you would like to chat to in the pub as they either cut you off in mid sentence to ask you an even harder question, or would constantly say "Why?" to everything you said.



And that was it. I don't know what I got so worked up about! After four days of hell, the RAF's final test of self constraint was to keep us all waiting for three hours before telling us whether we had passed or failed. Some did pass, most didn't and even those that had, had to wait a further month or so after leaving Biggin Hill to be told if the RAF would spend any money on us. And so after the promised month, and half of another one I received a rather insignificant postcard telling me that the RAF had seen fit to offer me a flying scholarship and details would be forwarded of when and where I was to begin learning to fly. And they were forwarded (late as usual) and I did start to fly. But that's a different story, as they say.

Matthew Taylor.

Cautionary Tale

In its story on the theft of the contents of a condom machine, the Banbury Post reports that - "Pubs have been told to take preventive measures."

WAITING FOR THE REAPER.

To my dentures I'm accustomed,
To my deafness I'm resigned,
I can manage my bi-focals,
But how I miss my mind.

John Hodge - Worcester.

Time, gentlemen.

From the West Country's Sunday Independent: "The historic George and Pilgrim in Glastonbury High Street has been serving thirty travellers for 500 years."

ACTON AID CHILDRENS CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Acton Aid Christmas Party for the children of the parish will be held this year on Sunday December 17th from 2.30 - 6.00 p.m. at the Village Hall. A conjuror will be present and tea is provided.

All children aged between 5 and 10 who are resident in the parish are invited, along with 4 year olds who have already started at Primary School and do not need parental supervision. Ron Dowding will collect the names of those children attending the village school who are coming. Would the parents of any other children who live in the parish please contact Neil Bradshaw (626) or Tim Spare (257) in early December so that we can have an idea of the numbers to cater for. We know the magic show is good, but please would parents not stay once their offspring are delivered as it disrupts the children!

WHEN MOTHER BOUGHT THE LITTLE SHOP.



I was in school in Chipping Sodbury, it was playtime, a friend came up to me and said your Mother is at the school gate. The school at that time was in the main street near the clock.

I ran from the yard thinking there must be something wrong. My father was an invalid suffering from chronic rheumatoid arthritis and the week before we had taken him to the Bath Mineral Water Hospital for six weeks treatment, we had taken him in his wheel chair by train occupying the guards van with the guard and the Royal Mail. The train went from Iron Acton to Yate where we changed for Mangotsfield and changed again for Bath and then we pushed him from the station to the hospital. The invalid chairs then were not comfortable and they had small hard wheels.

With some relief I heard Mother say "the little shop is for sale, shall we buy it for Father as an interest when he comes home?" I readily agreed thinking of sweets and chocolate and bananas and tomatoes in plenty.

She said she would only buy it if I would agree to help while she went off to milk the cows. I said I would as soon as I came home from school.

The little shop was situated at the lower end of the High Street, nearly opposite our house. It was small and a lock up, it was about 3rd grade as village shops went. She cycled off to North Road and paid a Mr Nicholls £40 for the shop lock stock and barrel and took possession immediately.

I cycled home from school that day feeling very excited, I changed school uniform for a dress and apron, went over to the shop and started shop keeping while Mother went off to milk the cows. The year was 1937 and I was 13 years old.

Prices then in old money were:

Cigarettes	2 pence for 5.
Sweets	2d a qtr.
Chocolate small bar	2d.
Boot laces	1 penny a pair.
Bananas	1 penny each.
Small bottle lemonade	1 penny each.
Hector Englands fancy cakes	1 penny each - or 7 for 6 pence.
Vinegar from the barrel	4 pence a pint.
(12 old pence = 1 shilling = 5 new pence)	

At that time in the vicinity of the High Street there were 14 shops including 4 sweet shops, 3 general stores, 1 craft shop, 1 boot shop, 1 butchers, 1 newsagent and shoe mender, 1 sewing lady, 1 baker, 1 garage. There were also two undertakers who were builders as well, 1 Post Office and 3 postmen. 2 Doctors and 1 Dentist held surgery once a week, and a dairy man who made the most delicious ice cream. There was a chapel, a church and a school and 3 pubs.

We now have 1 general store, the school, the Church and 3 pubs and about a dozen new houses have been built, apart from the council estate.

Mai Beasley (nee Dillon.)

FRIENDS OF IRON ACTON SCHOOL

The last few months have been very successful for the Friends with our two main events raising in excess of £800. In July our annual summer fete raised a new record £641 - a marvellous sum when related to the number of pupils at the school - 42. The raffle gave the day a good start raising over £300 before the stalls opened for business. Our first prize was kindly donated by the Rose and Crown - A meal for two, with wine - and I know the winner, Mrs Blackmore, had a thoroughly enjoyable meal. Our thanks to Allan and Gail. In September we again ran the refreshment tent at the Horse & Dog Show. Our supporters as usual came up trumps with donations of delicious cakes and gateaux, and despite the unappetising weather we took over £200 on the day.

As usual the money has not stayed long in the bank, with Mr Dowding finding many and various suggestions for spending it. The friends paid for the coach for the school trip to Cricket St. Thomas - a beautiful sunny day enjoyed by all the children. We have donated £175 to help buy new science equipment and another £300 for maths equipment to enable the school to implement the National Curriculum.

Until this term the infants have always been able to go swimming free, but unfortunately the Education Department are now only prepared to pay for the juniors' admission and coach, so the Friends have agreed to pay 15p per child towards the total cost of 35p, with the parents being asked to donate the difference. A number of times each year the school takes part in some inter-school sports afternoon. Often the other schools are dressed in school colours and the Friends decided that it would be useful for Iron Acton to have a School Strip to be worn on such occasions. Finally, we are continually trying to update the reference library at school - books are very expensive and a comprehensive range is needed to cover the demands of the National Curriculum.

We are now entering the quiet time of year in our fund raising - the children and staff are so busy with school activities and preparations for Christmas. We will be holding coffee afternoons and selling Studio Christmas Cards but our next main fund-raiser will be our annual Jumble Sale on Grand National day. We also hope to run a social skittles evening for our supporters in the Spring term.

On behalf of the Friends of Iron Acton School may I wish you all a very merry Christmas and thank all of our supporters for their generosity during 1989.

Jill Bradshaw.

* * * * *

GUIDE AND BROWNIE SUPPORTERS GROUP.

The Brownies and many of their friends (and even brothers) had great fun at the evening of games at the end of the summer term, and all finished up with hot dogs and orange squash. Still no-one has come forward to run the Guides or to join the supporters group committee.

Unfortunately we had to postpone the bingo evening, but the Coffee and Gateaux party is definitely on for the half term week in February. Posters will be out nearer the time to remind you, so diet off the extra pounds put on over Christmas, then you can indulge yourselves on our lovely creamy gateaux.

FURTHER EXTRACTS FROM THE DIARIES FOR 1932 OF MR ARTHUR STRANGE
OF NORTHAMPTON, FORMERLY OF WOTTON ROAD.

- 17th Nov. The Hunt meets at Iron Acton. I went down and met the followers. One rider got thrown off by the Lodge ... went down Dolls Lane .. back to Acton.. they killed a fox in the field opposite the Crown .. over to Tytherington .. great number of people following .. came back with D. Gibbons and Alf Webb.
- 19th.Sat. down to Acton .. we rode our bikes over to Hortham Colony .. I left with E. Morgan and A. Sheppard .. the others caught us up. Hortham Colony 3 Codrington Arms Juniors 3 (A. Mainstone, H. Cryer and M. Broome scored) home 5.45.
... to the Institute in the evening .. M. Rowlands and self knocked out of the whist tournament by D. Bateman and A. Lane.
Football .. Iron Acton 2 Park Athelic 2, 2nd. replay - Glos. Minor Cup. North Road School 8 Iron Acton School 1.
- 22nd Nov. .. Bill Short suggested I went up to Wilson & Turner' Quarries for job in the office .. I called there .. but nothing doing. Got carbide and new burner for my cycle lamp from Hobbs.
- 23rd " Saw Bill Short .. told me I ought to try for a job at Chipping Sodbury Station with the G.W.R. Over to North Road, H. Cryer told me there might be a chance of a job at the pit offices .. Coalpit Heath.
- 24th " Evening service .. confirmation.
- 28th " Down to Rangeworthy Rec. Had a kick around with 'Nippy' Marklove, A. Webb, D. Powell and E. Clarke .. we made up a side with the school kids. R. Elson told me there was going to be a row at North End School. I went over there in the evening. Alic Hodges causing a lot of amusement telling things to P.C. Young. a meeting of ratepayers (parents?) was being held at the school .. something to do with Mr Shaw (Headmaster) leaving (we were not allowed in).
- 1st Dec. Mr Gibbons called for the cockerels .. I had to catch them. 5 for 3/6d. each.
- 2nd " Reg Bignell and Joe Batten called with some stone dust and 2 cwt. cement. The Revd. Handover gave me a form to complete for a position at Thornbury L.M.S. Station (under porter).
Rangeworthy team to play Littleton on Severn - J. Gleed, H. Marklove, R. White, M. Potter, C. Woodall, I. Marklove, - Wilson, A. Webb, - Tovey, N. Dyer.
- 4th " Up early and went to Dr. Sarafian's at Sodbury for Miss Maskell (Mr Maskell has bronchitis). Found doctor not up so left bottle. Served at 11 o'clock Communion with D. Clarke - after Church went to Sodbury to collect medicine.

- 6th " Registered at Labour Exchange with Frank Axford. We called in at the Yate Christmas Fat Stock Sale. In afternoon cycled into Bristol. Left 2.30 p.m. round Filton, the Downs and arrived by the Victoria Rooms at 3.50. Found the Bristol G. School Hall in Elton Rd. I made acquaintance with some chap who had attended a grammar school at Dalton in Furness, Lancs .. went to lecture on "Aeroplane Building" .. after I came out - got lost - arrived home 7.45 p.m.
- 7th " To Dr. Sarafian's Surgery at Sodbury for Mr Maskell. Miss Maskell gave me 3d., a bottle of wine and some magazines.
- 10th "Sat. We were late leaving North Road. With only 10 men - V. Baker had to work. Through Westerleigh to Cadbury Heath. Parkwall Villa 2 Codrington Arms Juniors 2 (B. Dyer and R. Elson scored). They scored in last minute .. Jack Elson nipped along in his car coming back.

* * * * *

Iron Acton WI.

Our fund raising efforts for our 70th Birthday Celebrations have been a great success. The barbeque at Parker's Garden Centre was a very happy evening and a big "thank you" to Viv and David for their hospitality. Everyone had a really wonderful time. This was followed by a Clothes Party in September which also provided a generous donation to our funds. It's quite likely that by the time you read this report our 70th Birthday Celebrations (on 13th November) will be over but one thing I think we can be certain of, in advance, is that everyone will enjoy themselves - as we always do!

Our visit to Sheppey's Cider Factory at Taunton coincided with a lovely summer's evening which was beautifully "finished off" with an enjoyable supper and "tastes" of cider.

Future events include a Home Economics Rally at Nailsea on 27th November and the Carol Festival in Bristol Cathedral on 5th & 6th of December for WI Members, families and friends.

And so to 1990 Our 1990 Programme is almost complete with a variety of speakers and activities - but more of this in the Spring issue. We're off on our travels again at the end of April; this time to the Rhine and Moselle Valleys. Apparently there's an "optional" wine tasting - their phrase not ours because no-one who knows Iron Acton WI would even dare to suggest making it an option - (they'll be there and probably near the front of the queue)!

To finish, I must say how proud all WI Members must be of Ruth Mott, the WI Member who's currently the star of the BBC2 series "The Victorian Kitchen."

Elsie Blanchard.

* * * * *

Reason For Being Here

Teacher "How is it you cannot answer any of my questions?"
 Pupil "If I could, what would be the use of my coming here?"

ODE ON FINDING TWO LARGE SEA FISH IN NIBLEY LANE.

When time was autumn, in the air a nip
I passed the English unofficial tip,
I mean the one in Nibley Lane of course
Frequented most by those with dog or horse.

Except at night when, reader, as you know,
The dumpers come with bags of waste in tow
Of builders' rubble, mattresses and tins
Too tired to take it to the council bins.

That day, with springy step and cheerful face,
I stumbled on a cod and then a plaice,
Not cooked, dear reader, not with peas or fries,
But raw and dead and of tremendous size.

Full three foot long the cod, the plaice as wide,
As thick with flies they stared up glassy-eyed.
I looked, bemused, into a sad, dead face,
How came the mighty cod here? How the plaice?

A week ago they swam in icy main,
What were they doing dead in Nibley Lane?
In roads around the shires, sad to relate
Crisp bags and lager cans proliferate.

But cod and plaice are rare (almost unknown),
Who put them there and why? I asked alone,
The answer came at last and crystal clear,
It was no litter lout, no vandal drear.

The earth, it seems is heating up with speed,
It's all to do with car fumes it's agreed,
The level of the seas will shortly rise
and one day give us all a big surprise.

The cod and plaice a friendly early warner,
Of what for us may be just round the corner,
When skate and turbot swim in Nibley Lane
And nothing of the Nibley dumps remain.



Anon.

* *

Footnote

To those of you who don't believe in the cod and the plaice, - you are quite right - in fact, they were a skate and a conger eel,

* * * * *

A man of six foot eight inches tall applied for a jod as a life guard.

"Can you swim?" said the official.

"No, but I can wade pretty far out."

Elizabethans.

On July 4th we had a coach trip to Dartmouth and many members had a boat trip up the River Dart. It was a beautiful day and we all enjoyed it.

On the last week of term the children of Iron Acton school came to the hall and sang to us. The theme was 1939, the year war broke out, also tunes from the Wizard of Oz. The children sang their hearts out although one little lady nodded off. We all enjoyed the afternoon and the songs brought many happy and sad memories of that year. They are coming again on the 13th of December.

On August 1st the Club had a coach trip to Teignmouth. The weather was good and we all had a good day. In August we also had a trip to Windsor. We took the coach to Maidenhead then took a boat up the river to Windsor where we had several hours then the coach picked us up to take us home. Also in September our members and friends went on a coach outing to the Elan Valley. The sun shone again for us and everybody enjoyed themselves.

Our Harvest sale was on Wednesday 20th September and members and friends supplied a good selection of home made jams etc. vegetables, fruit, flowers and groceries. It was disappointing to find that only approximately 6 outsiders of the village were there. However, all goods were sold and thanks to the members of the Club and friends and people who sent things and did not attend. Thanks to you all.

Between now and Christmas we hope to have a coach trip to Weston-super-Mare to see the Carnival and also one to see the lights of Bristol and Bath plus a supper. On December 4th we are holding our Christmas Dinner, cooked and served by the members with help from a few good friends. On December 6th we are holding a Christmas Whist Drive in the afternoon in the Yate Football Club at Lodge Road and we are hoping that Rangeworthy and Yate clubs may join us.

We have now booked the Community bus to take members to club and if anyone would like to join the club, transport is now available at a small charge for the use of the community bus. We hope to start 1990 with a trip to Bristol to see the pantomime (in January).

That's all for this time. On behalf of all the members we wish all you readers a Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.

Susannah Russell.

* * * * *

No matter how grouchy you're feeling,
You'll find a smile more or less healing,
It grows in a wreath
All around the front teeth
Thus preventing the face from congealing.

Sign on a Scottish golf course: Members will refrain from picking up lost balls until they have stopped rolling.

Nothing gives you quite the thrill of treading in the darkness on a step that isn't there.

PARISH COUNCIL.

The Mudgedown Quarry inquiry is over and now comes the long wait for the result. Rangeworthy and Cromhall Action Group put a very good case for the opposition, and many local people put forward their views. Apart from objections to the noise, dirt and increased traffic problems one of the main worries was the effect on the level of the water table. If this fell it would cause problems with wells, ponds and streams in the area. So let us hope that our new "Green" Environment Minister will see things our way.

Avon County have asked us for locations where dropped kerbs would be of help to handicapped pedestrians or wheelchair users when crossing roads. Councillors have suggested several places but if anyone has difficulty at any particular place please let the clerk, Mr Norman Carter (R/W 563) know as soon as possible.

Badgerline and Cityline buses have now changed the fare stages so that fares at all stops in the High Street will be the same i.e. 52p to Cranleigh Court (78p return) and £1.26 (single) to Bristol.

In January, Frampton End Road and the Frome walkway from the bridge back to the dam at Tubb's Bottom will be closed for about three months due to work on the sewer. Sorry for all the people and dogs who regularly use this route!

After the unfortunate accident in Frampton End Road when a horse had to be shot (fortunately the rider was not seriously hurt) the authorities have agreed to put warning notices - road narrows, pedestrians etc. - so we hope drivers will obey them as this is part of the Frome Walkway.

At the September meeting, Mr Bob Sheppard of North Road was co-opted to fill the vacancy left by Mr M Wheeler's resignation.

BEST KEPT VILLAGE.

Not a very good result this year, we ended 15th out of 25 entries. Do we keep entering and make more effort or do we give it all up?

The report was:-

"A good clear plan. There was untidiness in the churchyard and the allotments but otherwise next to no litter. The gardens we saw were excellent - many of course are behind walls. The village was pleasant to visit - we liked your posters but could only find one competition poster."

We were only sent one official poster so the last remark was not surprising. So it seems we need more volunteers to help in the churchyard, but our usual litter problem appears to have improved.

* * * * *

ACTON AID.

During the summer months we had a Mid-summer evening at Bob Sheppard's in North Road, for which we thank Bob very much indeed - it was a wonderful evening and Bob had put in a lot of hard work to make it a success.

Our next social event was the summer Barbeque once again hosted by our master chef, the King of the Kebab, Barrie Wright. The evening started early to allow the children first chance at the grub and luckily the threatening clouds kept far enough away to allow everyone to stay on as late as they wished!

Lionel Alsop chose Stourhead as the venue for this years summer trip for the O.A.P's, so on a sunny Thursday in August two coach loads set off from Iron Acton and spent a pleasant afternoon wandering around the grounds and gardens at Stourhead, admiring the grotto and the original Bristol High Cross, plus enjoying a delicious cream tea. Then it was back to the coach, off to Warminster and the pub! We arrived back to Iron Acton at 8.30 p.m. with a vote of thanks to Lionel for organising everything.

Our main fund raising event, the Horse and Dog Show was scheduled for Sunday 18th September at Mudgetown Farm by kind permission of Alan Powell. A tremendous amount of time and effort went into the preparation, notably from Gerry Millward (working parties) John Percy (site organiser) Patrick Murphy (show secretary) and Hazel Dron (dog show). It was unfortunate therefore that the weather turned against us on the Saturday and the Sunday morning. The rain meant that by 10.30 a.m. there were almost as many officials as competitors!! Things did improve after lunch, especially when the dog show started but it does look as if the receipts will be down by about a third. Our thanks go to all the helpers and members who turned out on the preparation days (especially that very wet Saturday) and the actual show day, including the Air Cadets who fetched and carried all day. We are also indebted to the judges and recorders without whom the show could not take place.

Future events include the adults and childrens Christmas parties. Peter Kitching will advise about the adults party, and Tim Spare and Neil Bradshaw the childrens. Lionel Alsop will be arranging the distribution of the O.A.P. Christmas parcels.

After Christmas we shall be looking forward to the annual dinner - we are considering using William's Kitchen at Nailsworth for the catering and having it at Rangeworthy Village Hall.

The A.G.M. will be held in February when items for discussion will include Ted Poole's fund, (one idea has been to site a wooden bench at the bottom of Holly Hill at the junction with Wotton Road, - any other ideas?), the future of the Horse Show (is it time for a different event? or a different time of the year? - which could mean a new site). I have a feeling that there will be some vacancies among the officers to fill - so please come along to the A.G.M.

DIARY OF FORTHCOMING EVENTS

At The Village Hall:

Every Tuesday	Brownies	6.00 pm
Every Wednesday	Elizabethans	2.00 pm
Every Thursday	Youth Club	7.30 pm
2nd Monday in Month	Women's Institute	7.30 pm
3rd Monday in Month	Parish Council	7.30 pm
4th Monday in Month	Whist Drive	7.30 pm
3rd Thursday in Month	Chipping Sodbury Knitting Group	1.30 pm
17 December 1989	Acton Aid Children's Party	2.30 pm
3-6 January 1990	The Actonians Present SALAD DAYS	
February (exact dates to be announced)	Brownie Supporters Group Gateaux Evening Hall Committee Entertainment	

At The School

12 December	Christmas Concert	7.00 pm
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At The Rose and Crown

1st Thursday in Month	Acton Aid	8.00 pm
Alternate Mondays	Darts Club	

At Rangeworthy Village Hall

Monday, Wednesday, Friday	Play Group (during term time)	Mornings
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+ * + * + * + * + * + * + * + *

CHURCH SERVICES - CHRISTMAS

| | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------|----------|
| <u>Sunday, 24 December</u> | Holy Communion | 8.00 am |
| | Holy Communion | 9.30 am |
| | Evensong (Said) | 6.00 pm |
| | Crib Service | 6.30 pm |
| | Mattins at Christmas | 11.15 pm |
| <u>Monday, 25 December</u> | Midnight Mass | Midnight |
| <u>CHRISTMAS DAY</u> | Holy Communion | 8.00 am |
| | Family Service) | |
| | Sung Eucharist) | 9.30 am |
| | Evensong (Said) | 4.00 pm |

PS The Hand Bell Ringers will again be "out and about". All proceeds from their collection will be divided between Cancer Research and St James the Less. Please give generously!

IRON ACTON YOUTH CLUB - AN APPEAL

ADULTS PLEASE READ ON!

Have you an interest, hobby or sporting skill?

Chess, Darts, Table Tennis, Photography, Dance, Cooking, Pool - Anything

Why not share it with the Youth Club Members? Girls and boys from 8-13 upwards. We would welcome your support to diversify the activities on offer every Thursday evening at the Village Hall. Spare an hour or so when you can, to stimulate a new pastime in a receptive youngster.

Interested? Please contact a Management Committee Member:

Tim Spare (Rangeworthy 257) Lynne Blanchard (Rangeworthy 566)
Pam Hillier (Rangeworthy 323) Chris Harding (Rangeworthy 772)
Sue Sellick (Rangeworthy 277)

Or contact the Youth Club Leader, Clive Washbourn, on Thornbury 414809

LYNNE'S WHIMS

A change of title this time but I'm sure you'll understand that being a fickle female I get bored easily. But stand by your beds 'cos from now on I'll be putting in little observations, etc so watch what you're up to!!! However, I'll start with 'thank yous' and a brief resume of 2 events I was involved with back in September.

HORTICULTURAL SHOW Firstly I apologise (well, sort of) that we don't have room for the prize winners but in a way I'm glad 'cos it forces me to adopt the 'Olympic Ideal' and say thank you to everyone who participated. The response was wonderful and we raised a useful £125 for Village Hall Funds - not bad when you consider fund raising isn't the day's major aim, or that a smile was brought to Tony Pullen's face! The only cloud on the horizon was a shortage of bidders at the Auction - especially so as Dennis Wheeler did a tremendous job in auctioning the produce (people bought things they didn't realise they'd bid for!). Perhaps it might be an idea to auction the produce at 4.30 pm just prior to the cups being handed out? What do you think?

CRAFT AND FLOWER FESTIVAL Again, a huge "thank you" to everyone who helped in any way. I think everyone enjoyed themselves and I know the photographs fascinated, the crafts surprised (did you know what your next door neighbour was up to behind closed doors???) and the flowers delighted ... but, Chris Wright, did you have to say I hadn't changed a bit - even though I was only 11 in the photo and what fibbers Jane Spare, Jill Bradshaw and Mrs Waker are, daring to say they're not at all artistic and they displaying the items so well! I suppose you could call them crafty! Moneywise, £151.27 was put into the donation jars, £70 came from those brave enough to climb the tower, £25 came from teas, £50.40 from the raffle and £68.60 from the Wine and Cheese Party. We also remembered other people in need and all of the Harvest Collections (£60) was sent to the Royal Commonwealth Society for the Blind and all of the money raised at the Harvest Sale (£79.90) went to Martin House - a hospice for children. I know we could have done more on the publicity angle but it was a first attempt and, as such, I hope you will agree that a small pat on the back of the people involved won't be construed as too over the top.

DOGS! Lovable little (or big) things with a leg at each corner, a tail at one end and a woof or bark at the other. The legs are fine when all 4 stay on the ground or when the tail stays in the down position. This is not always the case. Why, oh why, dog lovers do some of you allow your pets to behave in such an unsociable and foul way on the pavements and on other people's doorsteps - especially in the High Street? At the very least it's a downright inconvenience (no pun intended), whilst at the other end of the scale life threatening diseases can be passed on, especially to small children.

CRIB SERVICE Yes folks, it's happening again at 6.30 pm on Christmass Eve. For those new to the Village this is a lovely traditional service for children of all ages. We all troop along to the Church and just like the 3 Kings we all clutch a present, process around the Church, leave the present by the crib, sing away in a manger, listen to the handbells and go home! The presents are then delivered to Barnardoes. It's a lovely way to prepare for Christmass and, of course, we look forward to seeing all of you again in Church sometime on Christmass Day!

CHURCH CHRISTMASS COLLECTIONS Just so you know! All of the money collected will, again, be divided between 2 charities - this year it's the Julian Trust (who provide help and support for the homeless in Bristol throughout the year, and not just at Christmas) and to the Sudan Appeal organised by Christian Aid. On top of this 50% of the money raised by the Hand Bell Ringers will be given to Cancer Research.

CHRISTINGLE SERVICE This will take place on Sunday, 21 January at 6.30 pm (this is the service with the orange with the ribbon around it, the sweets stuck into the orange and a candle stuck in the top!). Again, it's a lovely service for the younger ones with the collection being given to the Chrch of England Children's Society. It would be wonderful if we didn't have a need for a charity like this but until every child in this country is well cared for, safe and loved we must continue to help. Sp please make every effort to be in Church on Sunday, 21 January 199C.

CLAUDE AND EILEEN GOWEN'S RUBY WEDDING CELEBRATION What a nice article the Gazette wrote ... and a lovely photo too. The biggest surprise was saved for 3 November when they arrived at Fromside Community Centre to listen to Fliss play in a concert, walked into a darkened hall and found 100 plus "old faithfuls" determined to "muscle in" on the happy event. I hope they enjoyed themselves as much as their guests did. Good landlords (and landladies), like good wines, are few and far between. Claude and Eileen you really did come from a vintage crop!

BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION COMMENT Initially I was angry and then I was dismayed with the judges' comments about the Churchyard. Assuming that they do, in fact, mean the Churchyard and not the Cemetery (they've made that mistake before) perhaps you will allow a little space to answer their criticisms. The PCC (Parochial Church Council) was approached both by an ecology group and also by the Diocese asking for flowers and grasses to be encouraged rather than torn up in the Churchyard. We've been very successful with several unusual and one very rare plant growing there! It's not bowling green standard of grass but we don't want that. Perhaps my reply is best summed up poetically with a quote kindly provided by Penny Percy (who repeated it time after time until, I hope, I've got it right. It's by G Manley Hopkins.

"What would the world be once bereft
Of wetlands and wildness, so let them be left
Let them be left, wildness and wet
LONG LIVE THE WEEDS AND THE WILDERNESS YET"

THINKING, OF BUYING MAKE UP, BUBBLE BATH, ETC, FOR CHRISTMAS PRESENTS? Why not buy products with the words "not tested on animals" or "contains no animal products" on them? If items don't have these words on them they've probably either been cruelly tested or contain unmentionable bits of animals in them! It's so cruel and so unnecessary.

IN LIGHTER VEIN! I chuckled wildly at the story which appeared in the National WI Magazine "Home and Country". The Annual Convergence, when the Royal Albert Hall is filled to overflowing, co-incided with a day of industrial action on London Transport. Taxi queues stretched for ever so a group of WI Delegates (from different areas) decided to hitch! Up screamed a cream transit van, complete with drive with gold earring in left ear! They all clambered in. Nicknaming their saviour "St George" they drove off with the good natured cheers of the remainder of the queue ringing in their ears. "St George" not only delivered them to the Albert Hall on time but also gave them a guided tour, culminating in a loud, noisy rendition of "Jerusalem" as they all drove down The Mall. The Duchess of Kent was just elegantly stepping out of her limousine at the Albert Hall as our 6 heroines tumbled out of the transit van. Different modes of transport, but I bet I know who had the most fun and, come to think of it, I don't think any of us have to look very far for a WI who'd probably end up doing something very similar, with the same good spirit and having a whale of a time all the while !!! HAPPY 70TH BIRTHDAY IRON ACTON WI!!!

HAPPY
XMAS
MUMS
&
DADS

Christmas is

Christmas is loving
Christmas is presents
Christmas is crackers
Christmas is a wood fire
Christmas is snow
Christmas is white
Christmas is travelling
Christmas is happiness
Christmas is sledging.

Bryonie Cook.

Christmas is fun
Christmas is good
Christmas is everything
I know Christmas is very near
I know Christmas is always there
I care about Christmas all the time..

Rebecca Parkhill

Christmas is....
...opening presents and seeing relations
...watching my kitten play with the wrapping paper
...building snowmen
...looking at icicles hanging from the gutter
...throwing snowballs
...decorating christmas trees - and my bedroom
Christmas is Christmas dinner and pulling crackers
by the fireside.

Juliet Spare.

Christmas is lots of snow like white icing on a cake
Christmas is Christmas dinner with turkey breast
Christmas is Christmas Eve when Father Christmas comes
Christmas is snow on the tree tops
Christmas is lots of Christmas crackers go off with a bang.

Sadie Pitman.

Christmas is cold snow on the roof
Christmas is Mum and Dad selling Christmas trees
Christmas is Christmas cards on the T.V.
Christmas is no school, no work
Christmas is a happy time and christmas crackers
Christmas is very nice because Father Christmas brings new toys.

Carly Mattravers.



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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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Childrens portions available.

Your Hosts Dave & Yvonne



Large Garden - Covered Patio

Enjoy your meal on our patio, while the children play in a safe lawned garden area, or have a game of crazy golf

.....

For your convenience tables may be booked in advance.

.....

The Menu is available every day:-

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.....

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