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.....

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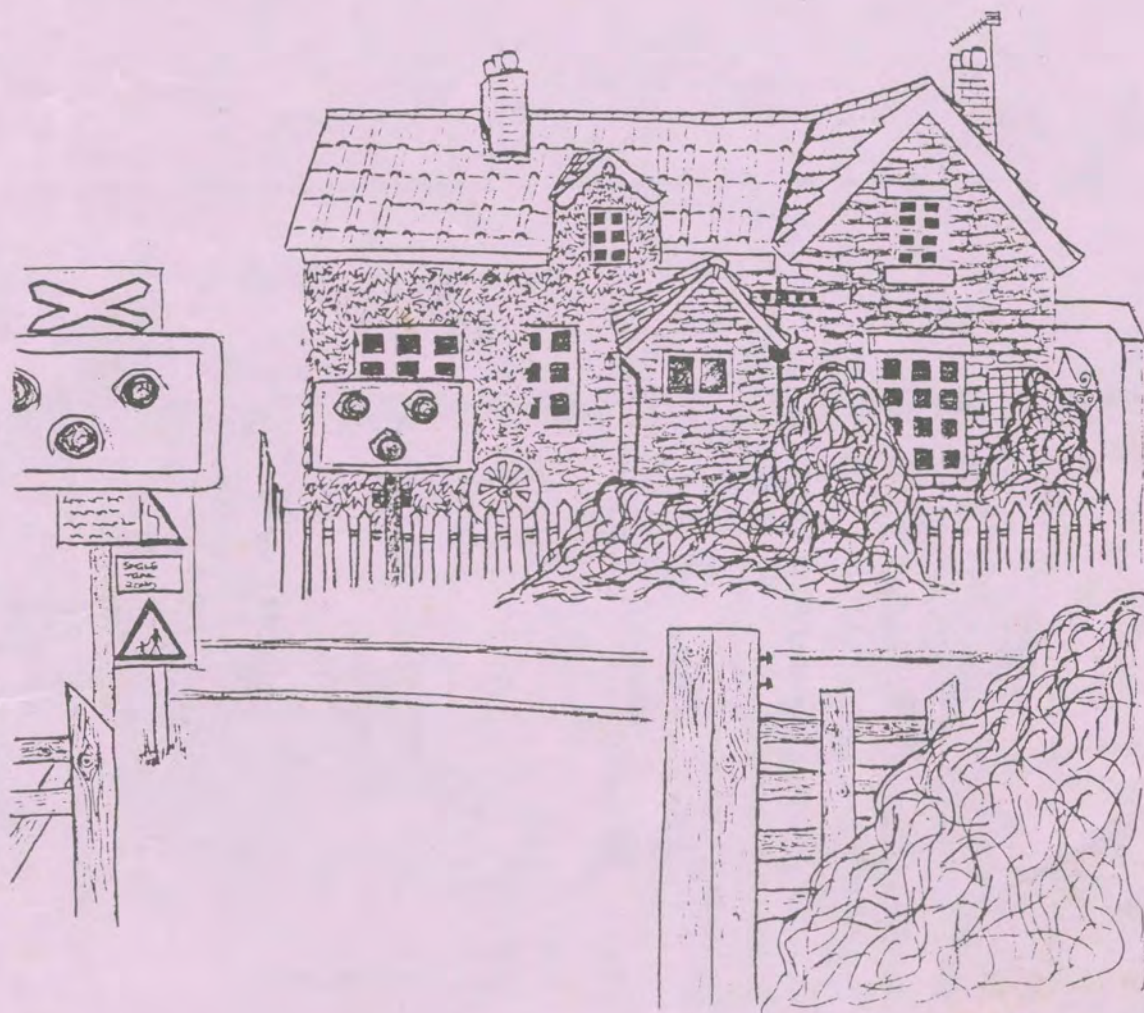
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Friday and Saturday	7.00 am to 11.00 pm
Sunday	8.00 am to 10.30 pm





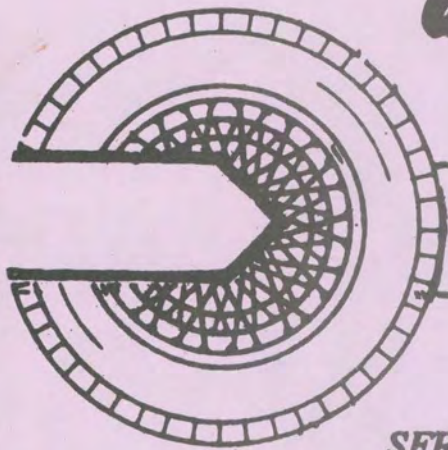
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INN**



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# No. 24

# SUMMER

## EDITORIAL

Summer has come with a vengeance! As we write this - mid-July - the temperature is well in the 80's and has been for several days. We hope that you have enjoyed this weather, whether on holiday or not!

A very big THANK YOU from FOCUS to all who came to the village green on May 7th to join in the festivities around the new maypole. A very pleasant hour or two "was had by all" (as the saying goes); and the generous way in which you supported the various stalls and collectors, as well as the splendid gift from the members of the Whist Drive, has made it possible for us to plan ahead for at least another year.



### IS THERE LIFE IN NORTH ROAD?

With every issue we invite news and articles from throughout the parish, especially from the folks in North Road. But seldom are we able to include in the magazine any of the interests from that part of the parish. Residents in North Road sometimes feel isolated from the rest of the village, even though we distribute FOCUS in every house.

So come on, Northroaders, lets hear from you of your hobbies, your holidays etc., as well as from the Chapel, the School, the Ladies, and the splendid charity efforts of the Cross Keys. Any of those named below would be glad to help.

Why not write a letter to the Editor?

Our next issue will be out about the end of November.

We are grateful to Sue Tovey of Algars Drive for our Cover picture of the Old Station House. And to Patricia Ashmead for again doing so much of the typing.

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Charles Wilkins  
Hillside  
254

John Percy  
Primrose Cottage  
339

Betty Cook  
Neksdore  
202

Jo Voss  
Church Cottage  
674

Pete Redman  
Lawn Cottage  
395

Lynne Blanchard  
Rose Cottage  
566

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## Alfred Strange

Alfred Strange has sent us a Further extract from his Pre War Diaries. We apologise for having referred to him as Arthur Strange on previous occasions.

### January 1933.

- 1st Sunday. Very windy and wet ... To church with D. Gibbons, he gave me lift on his bike. Served at H. Communion with D. Clark. Got wet through going home ... floods out at Tonkins.
- 3rd. I heard that Australia won first Test. To Yate Sale with F. Ashford. Two bikes stolen. To Acton .. spoke to T. Keedwell, E. Morgan and A. Sheppard.
- 5th. Up early and up to Sodbury by 9. o'clock. Mr Waters (Headmaster) not up! Called back at 10 but had to return at 11. so went for ride round Horton, Little Sodbury. Returned to collect my reference from Mr.W.  
Met B. Dyer ... no vacancies at the quarry.  
To Rangeworthy in the afternoon ... had kick about in the Rec. with J. Taylor, E. Clark, C. Maggs, "Joe", A. Webb, M. Powell and - Richards. (all unemployed).  
Evening ... to the Institute .. With H. Wiggins reached final of whist tournament ... E. Strange and A. Sheppard beat us .. I gave game away!
- 4th. Over to North Rd, with N. Pinnell .. help to mark out football pitch. Velt Watkins, B. Aldom and Reg. Elson helped. Posted 75 flour coupons for towels at Acton P.O. Walked to choir practice .. heard of arrangements for trip to pantomime. Later over to North Rd, with R.E. ... stayed for while in clubroom. Lloyd Prout gave me lift home.
- 7th.Saturday. North Rd, Juniors 4 Wick Ath. Res. 0. Evening .. to Institute. H.H. V.V and J.E. tossed stone through the roof of the kitchen .. nearly hit Miss Dust on the head. G. Rowlands gave A. Shepherd a hiding outside.  
Glos. Minor Cup .. Iron Acton 5 (G. Hedges 3 F. Dyer 2) T.S. Hall & Co. 3.
- 8th.Sunday. Influenza sweeps Britain.  
Ready for church but couldn't go .. had no collection. Walked down as far as North End.
- 10th. To the Labour Exchange .. chaps told me I should have a N.H. Inst. Benefit Card. Later .. up to Sodbury with F. Axford. Got card from P. Office. Called at Tily's with D. Gibbons for our pantomime cards (tickets). The Rector's housekeeper fell down and broke her wrist yesterday.  
'Wicked Jack' Powell (Chaingate Lane) wife has left him .. she is staying with the P. family.
- 12th. Took my uncle's Insurance Card over to Mr. Fletcher (Nibley)  
D. Gibbons and M. Pinnell called for me too early .. Trip to the Pantomime. E.P. and D.W. in back of coach with chaps .. Jolly good pantomime at the Prince's. "Robinson Crusoe" Home at 11.30.  
  
There was trouble over at Crossey's.. Chap Curtis from Bagstone won't stay away. P.C. Young was there .. he caught my uncle C. arriving home with no lights on his bike.
- 14th.Saturday Very late when we got to Wick .. Wick Res. 1. North Road J. 2 (R. Elson H. Washbourne).  
Evening at Institute .. Won cigarettes with G. Rowlands. Iron Acton 2 (S. Dyer 2) Old Sodbury 0. Ref did not turn up. Emmanuel Unity 1 Rangeworthy 1.  
"Walsall Bombshell" ... Walsall 2 Arsenal 0 Gilbert Allsop (Frampton Cotterell) scored.
- Sunday 15th .. late for church. Vicar of All Hallows, Easton, preached. Afternoon .. read part of History of Tasmania'.
- 17th. Very cold .. met Max Young (ex grammar school lad) at Goosegreen. Called at Yate Sale but no market because of foot and mouth disease.



- 18th. Went down to sale at 'The Gables' (Chamberlains) Saw Les Bowyer (Frampton Cotterell) lent him my bike to fetch some petrol. I went inside the house for the sale with Bert Cook. Afternoon ... cycled over to Downend with C. Dyer, F. Dyer, B. Seymour, R. Bateman, A. Woolen, A Shepherd and H. Wiggins to watch match on Co-op ground. Co-op 2 Western D. Press 0.
- 19th. Filled cattle trough and saw to fowls... Down to the Meet at Acton. Poor start .. round Tytherington .. got in a fine mess .. along Bury Hill with the Acton 'gang' .. then to Wickwar and Cromhall.  
Institute ... knocked out of whist tournament with M. Rowlands by G.R. and F. Ralph.  
Iron Acton F.C. scorers to date: B. Seymour 14, S. Dyer 13, G. Hedges 12, G. Dyer 11, J. Richardson 4. A. Harmer 3, B. Taylor 2, R. Padfield 1, R. Smith 1, E. Padfield 1, A. May 1.
- 20th Jan. Met my uncle O. in Bowling Hill. He told me my auntie and all the children had flu .. I called round to see them (Yate). A girl named Townsend from Jubilee Terrace was there. Mrs Dyer (The British) and Olive (Mrs. Cryer) advised me to try or a job at Barn Hill Quarry. I went up to see Major Cleaver but he was not there. Evening in the Club Room, Codrington Arms .. B. Aldom won the Bagatelle tournament. He seemed to have the 'flu' too.
- 21st.Saturday R. Elson collected sawdust from Blakeney's ... Don. E. helped me mark out pitch. Afternoon ... North Rd. Juniors 2 (T. Curtis an own goal) Hollybrook Brickworks 1 'Ticker' Hicks missed penalty.  
North Rd. Juniors team : A. Strange, M. Broome, A. Mainstone, G. Smith, B. Dyer, L. Wookey, R. Elson, J. Powell, H. Thompson, D. Dickson, T. Curtis.
- Sunday 22nd. Very cold ... Mr Arthur Mainstone's sister died of 'flu' at Yatton. She was buried at Acton yesterday.
- 23rd. Up to Barn Hill ... saw Major Cleaver ... nothing doing. To the Rec. in afternoon... kick about with A. Webb, J. Taylor and some school kids. Rangeworthy School closed because of the 'flu' epidemic.
- 24th. To the Labour Exchange ... and then to Yate Produce Sale ... out onto the Common sliding with F. Axford, C. Horder and P. Gard. I met Bill Short who told me he now had a job at Barn Hill. Called round to Barrett's shop on the Green.
- 28th.Saturday Over to Filton with the 'gang' .. Glos. Minor Cup match. Featherby Flake 1, Iron Acton 1. (S. Dyer). Feathery Flake are in the 2nd Div. Iron Acton in the 4th. "Spark" Padfield was taken off unconscious in the first minute. F. Dyer also knocked out. They scored ... "Spark" came back on at centre forward ... S. Dyer scored from G. Wiggins corner ... great excitement!  
H. White and self knocked out of tournament at Institute by T. Fletcher and F. Ralph. Rangeworthy 2 De Veys 1.
- 31st. Called at Wallbank's shop .. met G. Rowlands who has poisoned heel. To Labour Exchange and Yate Sale with F. Axford. Bought some De Reiske Minor cigarettes. Outside the Sale "D. Vernon" used me as an example! (quack selling various cures) I saw some of the older lads sliding on Coach Pool.

\* \* \* \* \*

### BOASTING

A young man was loudly lamenting to everyone in the bar that his doctor had ordered him to give up half his sex life.

"Which half are you going to give up?" asked a bored listener. "Talking about it - or thinking about it?"

## "Home and Away" - Down Under

"G'day Mate, its that bonza Sheila again - well here I am in Townsville - yes, I'm here at last after 2 years planning - it's real! It's very much as I expected, very North Queensland, little, simple but everything is here. I knew they'd take life slowly but this is unbelievable, they really don't rush but then when the heat is hitting 36/37 every day why run? I staggered into the Uni on Sunday night still swaying from the boat and floating on Coral 9" .... yes, news still staggers up the hill to Latteridge regularly every week bringing sunshine and descriptions of wonderful experiences, so many it is difficult to know which ones to relate. The journey north from Brisbane and included a cruise of the Whitsunday Islands and a weeks course at the Mike Ball Dive School to gain a PADI Open Water certificate. Annalisa has settled in as a student at James Cook University, living on campus in a small hall known as the Cottage. It is very cosmopolitan, her neighbours being Chris, an Ozzie originally from Lebanon, Amelia from Fiji, Pricilla from Papua New Guinea. The first Friday night was a supper for overseas students, 200 of them with 180 being Asian or black. There are among them 4 Americans, 1 Norwegian, 1 German and of course a lot from the Pacific Islands who really stand out, their clothes are so basic yet bright and their outward character is very different, quiet yet charismatic, the girls with flowers in their hair and very bright clothes. A marvellous experience, all those nationalities in one room talking together, if only the leaders of the nations would follow suit. The timetable is very full and covers Plant Systematics and Ecology, Entomology, Fisheries Science and Plankton and Productivity. Much the same as Exeter only most of it is done in practical form with on site samples! The first project was a personal collection of 65 preserved, catalogued insects which seemed a daunting task until she looked down and saw 5 different insects in one step - and they are all coming home apparently with a special customs clearance.

The first of many interesting meetings organised by Rotary was a visit to a huge refinery worked in conjunction with the Mount Isa Copper Mines, after all the theory and diagrams at school it was great to see it a million times bigger in practice. Then on to The Australian Institute of Marine Science, any researchers dream and what a library! During a discussion with a man working on the Crown of Thorns Starfish he happened to mention that the American Cancer Institute is based there, hence an introduction to Martin Riddle who is researching for them and comes from Yate - attended Chipping Sodbury school and frequented the watering holes of C.S. High Street - what a small world ....Let's move on to Easter and a trip north to Port Douglas with Hakon (Norway) Cindy (USA) Soren (Sweden) Aileen (Oz) Yoshi (Japanese) Mauricio (Mexico) Celia (Mozambique) and Sue (Oz) to stay in a Hostel. Good Friday was a trip to Mossman and the Daintree River to look for crocodiles and a look at the Mangrove Boardwalk, a very special ecosystem which links sea to land and protects the shores from erosion, cyclones etc. It was an interesting lecture/walk describing plants and systems while 2 million bird size mosquitos hovered ready to kill anyone without repellent. On to an environmental centre set up by a professional Rainforest Botanist in conjunction with the government to learn that because of the split of Australia from the rest of the world the Daintree Forest is actually 110 million years old, twice as old as the Amazon Forest, with species extremely primitive and diverse - WOW.

On to Cape Tribulation, a point south of Cooktown where the Rainforest and the Reef actually meet, the 2 wonders of the tropics together. On to the Beach of the Bouncing Stones, a place of Aboriginal Culture where the pebbles really do bounce as they are made from a freak flint compression so they are really dense, but its fun to think of the Aborigines wondering at them! Next a visit to Hartleys Creek Crocodile Farm and a talk on how the crocs have such a tiny brain that every move is at one instinctive, consequently the keeper could never control them and at one point even she began to look worried. It was a shock to learn that it is legal to breed crocodiles for their meat and skin! People still get killed by them by the hundred every year despite there being warning signs everywhere. Easter Sunday was spent on The Reef with two snorkel stops in water crystal clear and full of the greatest diversity of fish you can possibly imagine, iridescent blue to yellow and black stripes to purple spots and white, all feeding and interacting - oh well, Easter was fairly warm here too!

One of the duties of a Rotary Scholar is to attend the Rotary Conference - even if the journey did take 12 hours along a straight flat road. There was a stop for coffee with friends of her Rotary hosts in a huge white airy home where every wall is made of slats. They farm 85,000 acres with 18,000 sheep and 10,000 cattle. The farmer has a plane and flies the station every morning while the wife does The School of the Air with a 6 year old son from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. every day. Imagine trying to clean the house, cook for numerous station jackaroos, do the garden, control the toddlers and then teach non-stop all day, no wonder the two older children are weekly boarders. A friend arrived for the coffee party, just 1 hours drive! In true Aussie style the men of the party sat round a fridge full of Fosters just like on the telly. Each member of the family has two rooms, a summer room around the perimeter for the cool breeze and an enclosed room in the middle for the winter. In summer they get 47°C and that's HOT. After the break and lots of Fosters a chance to drive, a new experience in the outback with the automatic cruise control set at 106km/hr and look no feet! The road as straight as a board, flat as a pancake and another car or roadtrain truck every 20 minutes. Destination Mount Isa, host Michael a mines inspector and a trip out to do just that with Michael and his Kiwi assistant, the dog, the billy and canvas water bags in a 4 wheel drive. 40km down the road then into the bush and an hour later the site of an old mining town, so there she was, surrounded by red dust, termite pillars, rocky mountains, the odd scrub bush and 2 thousand million flies - "no wonder they squint and mumble!" The only sign of previous life was the undegradable bin rubbish and an old tin match box from Bell & Co. 1832 London. On, following a vague old map down a "bad road" suddenly out of nowhere a grave, complete with cross, for - Tom Tame died 1912 in a mine accident. On to "Wee McGregor" the destination - just like a set from the early prospecting days, only the miner had done a runner. It was a really eerie place and after negotiating 2 huge bull terrier x bush dogs came across 2 men who looked like they'd been there since last century, long white beards and brown as berries, they did however have a Caterpillar and bucket and had a good copper find so things were good. What a job, digging out rock all day in that heat with all those flies! On to find a spot to "boil the billy", another hour to Fountain Spring a place in a rocky ridge where a lovely spring emerges with water as clean and fresh as it comes and wood to make the fire - back then to prepare for the conference dinner, wash out the red dust even from under the finger nails.

A Biology field trip takes a different form - off to Cardwell, 2 hours north and once again off the road up a single track of gravel cum mud cum creek cum landslide into the rainforest mountains where they found a green wooden hut with 4 bare rooms and a veranda. A leanto out the back with a sink and open fire. Good job they had taken gas lamps, food and a generator for the microscopes. First job was to set up the traps for insects and what an ideal spot out in the forest with the laugh of the trip, the million dollar "dunny" - 2 corrugated walls, a wooden box, a very deep pit and a loo with a view!

And so on it goes - pages and pages of tales with even more to follow. We have already received into our home one set of visitors sent from "Down Under". It seemed funny to think that they had seen our daughter more recently than we have! Jack and Nell Shaw from Melbourne were only too pleased to come and tell us that everything was "fair dinkum" (you know they really do say these things). Catherine has joined her sister for the three week break from Uni and they have set off with other students for Darwin and then down to Aryes Rock, travelling by coach a journey of approximately 5,000 miles with various stops enroute - I bet there will be some tales to tell after that ... in the meantime, yes you're right first time, keep sending the postman up to Latteridge and there'll be no worries mate .... G'day!

Di Heal

\* \* \* \* \*

The beautiful young girl was lying naked on the roof of expensive hotel, sunbathing. Suddenly the manager came up to her, coughed slightly, then said: "Excuse me, Madam, but this is hardly the place for nudity."

"Why not?" asked the girl. "I can't see anyone."

"That may be so," replied the manager, "but you are lying on the skylight over the dining room and it is now lunch time".



## SCHOOL REPORT

1990 got off to a Dickensian start for Mr Dowding's class. Class 1 went to the Bristol Old Vic production of Oliver Twist and also visited the SS, Great Britain, the masterpiece of that Victorian Engineer/Designer, Isambard Kingdom Brunel 'Oliver Twist' opened with a blood curdling scream and proceeded to vividly recreate the realities of life (both high and low) in Victorian times. As we were sitting well to the front of the stalls it was quite a theatrical and historical experience! The juniors followed this by enjoying 'Christmas Carol' presented by the Rangeworthy Players. We saw this on the day of the great storm, Thursday January 25th. This succeeded in demolishing two chimney stacks, blowing in the front door of the school house, and removing a number of tiles!

For our Easter Service, class 2 (Mrs Hatt's infants) performed a mixture of action songs and poems about spring and eggs.

Class 1 continued their annual re-telling of the Easter Story. This is done by a different episode each year - in 1990 we had reached the Trial of Jesus and the appearance before Pilate. The sight of various characters in Class 1 moving around the Church in their New Testament robes and costumes, acting out the Passion Play always brings home the message in a very effective and moving way.

Betty Cook asked the school if we would take in the task of providing a may pole dancing team for the Village Green Day on May 7th. Mrs Emma Gay came from Chipping Sodbury to train the team (even bringing her our indoor, practical may pole!). After a final rehearsal on the new gleaming may pole, when we all watched with admiration Bob Sheppard's gymnastics routine on the parallel scaffolding bars, it was time for the great day! In front of a large crowd, the young team wove patterns in and out, with the ribbons finishing off with the spectacular spider's web.

The Small School's Soccer and Netball Tournaments were held at Iron Acton and North Road respectively on Tuesday May 15th. The Iron Acton and North Road boys joined forces to form Acton United and remained unbeaten in their matches, beating Kingswood, St. Andrews, Cromhall, and having an exciting draw with Trinity (Acton Turville).

In netball, the girls fielded a very young team as we do not have any 4th year girls. Nevertheless, the girls put up a spirited performance to win 2 out of their 5 matches. Next year we should have a more experienced older team!

The week after May half term saw the arrival of the School Book Fair. This allowed parents and children to choose from a wide range of fiction and reference books. A date for your diary ... the Book Fair will return to Iron Acton during the week 13th-20th May 1991. Everyone in the village is invited to come and have a look!

Our next main event in the Summer Term was the Field Studies week at Maypool Youth Hostel in South Devon for Class 1 juniors. We shared the week with the juniors from Tortworth School. This provided a good chance for the Iron Acton children to mix with others of similar age for a whole week.

After a couple of cancellations, School Sports day took place on Tuesday 26th June. On a warm, sultry afternoon Poyntz House took an early lead which they never gave up despite Algar's House trying their hardest. Certainly the final two events, the relays, were two of the closest races you could imagine! I think we shall need a photographic finish next year!

Final result Algar's 239 Poyntz 258 This means that the score stands at 2 wins each for the Cook Shield.

Our thanks go to Brian Burgess, Betty Cook, Kathy Twomey and Beryl Woodward who judged all the races.

Congratulations to

1) SADIE .. "Over the past year I have been attending Fromeside Gym club. In April this year I entered the club competition and came second overall and won a silver medal. On June the 10th this year, I received a cup for the progress I have made throughout the year .. this I received from James May the British Gymnast. I am now in the Novice group." Sadie Pitman.

2) These children who have gained the following swimming awards ..  
Carla Tovey, Camilla Spare, Jonathan Kitching 25 metres. Bianca Thomas, Rebecca Parkhill 200 metres. Ben Averis, Martine Pool 10 metres.

Dates for your diary.

Start of Autumn Term	-	Tuesday September 4th 1990
Half Term	-	October 22nd - 26th 1990
End of Term	-	Friday 21st December 1990

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**GUIDE & BROWNIE SUPPORTERS GROUP.**

After eight years of fund raising to pay capitation fees and rent of the hall for guides and brownies, and lately just for brownies, some members of the group had hoped to retire and hand over to new members.

Unfortunately, no-one came along to volunteer at the A.G.A. After some discussion it was decided to disband.

We shall still help whenever we can, but meanwhile subs have had to be increased to cover these expenses.

From the following report you will see how much time and energy Brown Owl puts in for the girls.

**BROWNIES.**

It has been just over a year now since Wendy left and I took over the Brownies. Liz Woodman has become Tawny Owl and has been a great help.

Last year we covered a number of things including several badges; Conservation, Agility, Hostess, Safety in the Home and Swimmer.

The Brownies celebrated 75 years and we all went on a trip to the Zoo. We had a nice Sports Day to end the summer term. We had a fun evening on Halloween Night and a Christmas Party.

After the New Year we had Mother's Day when the Brownies made posies and at Easter we made caskets filled with eggs.

We had a lovely Coffee and Gateaux evening in February organised by the Friends of the Brownies which was enjoyed by all. May Day we had a sweet stall on the Village Green which was quite successful. We have welcomed 16 new Brownies in the past year and said goodbye to 9. Liz and I went on a one night course at Yate Library where we learnt some new games which we enjoyed. I went on a 10 week First Aid course run by the St. John Ambulance and I am pleased to say I passed and I now hold a card for three years.

I still have not yet been warranted so I cannot enrol my Brownies but I have Wendy from 1st Coalpit Heath who has kindly agreed to do it for me.

I would like to thank Wendy and Val who have been most helpful over the past year.

Jenny Cheese

\* \* \* \* \*

Man: "My dog has no tale."

Friend: "How do you know when it's happy?"

Man: "When it stops biting me."



### ACTON AID REGRETS

Acton Aid regrets that due to a lack of funds at the moment we are not able to organise a coach trip (the mystery one) for our retired persons of the Parish - a nice way of saying thank you to people we all love and respect.

Acton Aid regrets that for the same lack of finances we cannot fix up, and pay for, the Youth Club members to go to Alton Towers, a letter of thanks has been received by Alton Towers Ltd., only joking!

Why?, not I assure you through a lack of effort, with Robert Taylor, Andy Tillotson and all the rest of the team the work rate has never ever been higher, or more determined.

The 1989 Horse and Dog Show was a wipe out, due to lousy weather, water polo could have earned us more money, and the running costs, printing, cups, tents and national facilities do not come cheap.

To date we have run a sporting evening and a Barbecue to raise a few bob. Our next effort will be to support the Village Day with one or two stalls to increase our buying power.

If you care about us, as much as we care about you, and the ones you love and respect, please support us in our efforts either at the Village Day, or with donations, or with the Horse and Dog show (Behind Dyers Garage) Sunday, September the 9th.

Bryan Taylor - Chairman.

\* \* \* \* \*

### Friends of Iron Acton School

The Spring and Summer months are a busy time for the friends fund raising. The Jumble Sale held on April 7th - Grand National day was as successful as usual with good support and raised £225.00. Beryl Woodward was the lucky winner of £5 in the Grand National.

Good weather on May 7th on the Village Green made it a pleasant day for everyone. The Friends raised £61 on the White Elephant stall - £31 of which was donated to Focus Magazine.

The Skittles evening held at the Half Moon, our first social event was very enjoyable and a good time was had by all, because of this we have decided to hold another later in the year. Tickets will be on sale so why don't you come and join us.

As usual the funds have been used to pay for the running of the photocopier and to subsidise infant swimming with a small amount going towards the Field Studies week. There are plans to raise enough money to purchase the first stages of an adventure playground possibly next year - a very costly item but hopefully this will be realised with your continued support.

Future events include running the refreshments tent at the Horse & Dog show in September (let's hope the weather will be better than last year). Also our usual coffee afternoon 50/50 sale in October - watch the notice board for further details.

Finally, thank you to all our supporters for their continuing help and generosity.

Karen Hillier.

\* \* \* \* \*

Hedgehog, on finding itself on top of a scrubbing brush; "We all make mistakes, don't we?"

### What's in a Name?

Do you like your name? When you sign your name on a birthday card do you think, thank you mother, father, for choosing such a nice name. Or have you always had a hankering to be something or someone else?

As a pony crazed eleven year old I longed to be called Phillipa, when I discovered it meant lover of horses. It wasn't just that I wanted the world to know I supported the horse, but if you were a Phillipa, I thought, you were probably captain of the girls' netball team, won cups at the swimming gala, played principal boy in the school pantomime and rescued little children stuck half way down cliffs on your Sunday afternoon walk (and later refused the generous reward of tearful parents).

But it takes courage to change your name. My sister did it though. One day on her way out to junior school she calmly announced that from henceforth she would be known not as Sheila but Virginia. She simply never replied to the name Sheila ever again. She never said why, or what made Virginia seem a better name than Sheila. Wrong choice of names seems to run in my family. I remember my son, at the age of eight staring gloomily into the depths of the Frome at Stapleton:

"I despise my name."

Rather too self righteously I said:

"Oh well the other side of the family wanted it. It wasn't my choice you know. I wanted to call you Thomas."

I was obviously desperately trying to curry favour. He stared up with an expression that would have crushed multi-storey car parks at fifty yards.

"That would have been even more horrible. Cats and Tank Engines!"

He dabbled with Chuck and Chas for a few years, but Charlie seemed to hang around and so does parental guilt at calling him the wrong name.

What's the answer? Call a child a letter of the alphabet till it's ten and then let it choose? But the right name at twenty doesn't always stay suitable. As a teenager, I remember Elsie Smith, pretty with gorgeous green eyes and a mane of gold hair but totally undermined by her name. As Elsie Smith she stayed bottom of the class and spent each night at home washing her hair. She later married a man called Duval, and simultaneously changed her name to Tiger. Tiger Duval suited her admirably and she sprang into life, bought clothes to go with the name, was promoted from typist to junior executive. Only trouble is that Tiger Duval is now a grandmother twice over, who knits a lot and likes coach trips. A grandma called Tiger takes some explaining.

But of course the grandparents of the future will be the Traceys and Jasons of today, though these names are now sounding positively quaint compared with the stick-a-pin-on-any-printed-page names that have become popular. Sky is the height of fashion, and now I've heard of River. Can we soon expect Fog or Canal or Balance of Payments to figure strongly in the Times Births' Column?

But I detect a hint that fashion in names is going full circle: A friend who runs a doctors' practice in London tells me of an eighteen year old mother who has twin babies called Nellie and Gwen! So what do they all mean, these problems that we're saddled with at birth, and do we become like our names? If you believe that and would like your son to be strong as a wild boar, then you must call him Everard. With a name like that he will not, of course, be able go to to secondary school, or into pubs, but then some sacrifices have to be made. Did you know that Basil means Kingly and Royal. Michael, it seems, means Who is like God? Yes, with that strange question mark after it. But casting my mind around the Michaels of my acquaintance I can perhaps see the relevance of that. Penelopes of Iron Acton, I hope you like weaving. Camilla means "a girl attendant at a sacrifice." A little too pagan for the today's tastes, I would have thought. It is also of some concern that Gerald or Gerard means "The spear wielder." I counsel anyone venturing past Cornerways to bob down below the wall or carry a dustbin lid. It may not be only bean poles he's wielding in there.

Phoebe (shining) Amelia (industrious) Voss.

\* \* \* \* \*



### PARISH COUNCIL

Discussions are going on at the moment about closing Broad Lane and banning right turns at the North Road/PDR Traffic lights. Not everyone is in favour of this, we know, but the object is greater safety on the roads and this must take priority.

Weight restriction on lorries will soon come into force in North Road, but unfortunately this doesn't get rid of the lorries, it just means they have to find other routes. How nice it would be if we could clear them off the roads, driving would be a pleasure again!

The Frome Walkway will soon be extended to Yate, and it will be possible to walk right through from Eastville.

Very poor attendance at the Annual Parish Meeting again, amazing that so few people care what we do or even how we spend our money!

We have entered the Best Kept Village again and the children have sent in their lovely crop of posters as usual. We are sorry to have none from North Road School this year but they were busy with other projects and just couldn't fit it in.

Winners are:-

Infants	Thomas Pullen	2nd	April Coulstring
Juniors	Bradley Hillier	2nd	James Boyce.

\* \* \* \* \*

### BEST KEPT VILLAGE

We had no success at all this year, though we have not yet received the judges comments. But our hanging baskets, containers and gardens were good as always. On a scorching hot afternoon in July I waited for Ray and Beatrice Davey, who were going to judge them.

We started walking round the village at 2 o'clock and Ray was obviously prepared to make a professional job of it. He is actually a national vegetable judge and has also had experience judging the more decorative gardens.

He had made out a chart of the gardens according to Royal Horticultural Society Methods—this gives marks for different aspects of the garden with a possible total of 150. Baskets and containers were given marks out of 20 for each. It was very interesting though tiring afternoon and I learned a great deal listening to their comments as we walked around. We also met those people who were at home and stopped for a friendly chat.

When we got back to the house at 4.30 we had seen 30 baskets and as many containers. There was a clear winner in each class, the White Hart having 18 points for their baskets and Albert Davis having 18 points for the containers in the centre of his hall. We had also looked at 6 gardens and as one had 148 points it seemed to be the obvious winner. We still had three more to visit but just had to stop for a cup of tea before we could go any further.

At 5 o'clock we set off again and at North Road we found another garden with 148 points, so the prize of £10 was shared between Bob Sheppard and Mr and Mrs Gapper of 11 Chilwood Close. A pity only nine gardens were entered—probably my fault for not getting the publicity out in time. Must try harder next year.

\* \* \* \* \*

## MAY DAY FAIR

Casting around for ideas on how to raise some money for Focus that would not be too painful for our supporters, we hit on the notion of combining with the first use of the new may pole and holding a May Day Fair.

Other organisations agreed to join in and the Austin Seven Club volunteered to come as they were in the village that weekend. We are all grateful to Bob Sheppard who worked so hard during the previous week to get the maypole finished in time. Everything was arranged in quite a short time, but by May 7th all was ready. The school children had been practising hard for their dancing, and the Junior Actonians for their play. We had chosen a May Queen and attendants by drawing volunteers names from a hat.

The morning proved to be a little cooler than we had grown used to but by 11 a.m. when Sally, Duchess of Westminster arrived to open the proceedings there was a good crowd on the green.

Sadly, we heard only a few weeks later that the Duchess had died, but we were glad that the children had performed their dances so well as she had never seen Maypole Dancing before. Also that the tug-of-war had revived memories of her childhood.

Everyone seemed to enjoy the day, and hopefully it will become an annual event. We know some mistakes were made but with more time to organise they could all be improved upon. So put on your thinking caps and see what you could do next year - Fancy Dress? - Children's races? - more tug-of-war teams? - a band? - Morris Dancers?

If you have any ideas or useful connections please let us know.

Financially the day was a great success for Focus funds and we sincerely thank all those who helped so much. All the takings are listed below.

Friends of the School white elephant stall	£31.50
Womens Institute Cake stall	£31.00
Brownie Sweet Stall	£8.00
Village Hall tombola	£75.00
Plant stall	£60.00
Raffle for Mrs Riddle's dolls	£19.00
Junior Actonians collection	£38.03
Collecting boxes (Jo Voss & Rachel Tillotson)	£54.05
Elizabethan Club Whist Drive and Raffle	£105.50
 This gives an amazing total of	 £441.58

We are very grateful to you all for helping to raise enough to keep Focus going for another year.

\* \* \* \* \*

Some members help their clubs along  
While others join and just belong.  
Some dig right in, some serve with pride  
Some are there 'just for the ride".

Some volunteer to do their share,  
While some lie back and just don't care,  
On meeting nights some always show,  
While there are those who never go.

Some always pay their dues ahead,  
Some lag behind for months instead.  
Some do their best, some build, some make,  
Some never give but always take.

Some lag behind, some let things go,  
Some never help their Club to grow.  
some drag, some pull, some don't, some do.  
CONSIDER - WHICH OF THESE ARE YOU?



# HORTICULTURAL SHOW

\*\*\*\*\*

This year's event takes place on SATURDAY, 8 SEPTEMBER.

Listed below are the classes. Schedules are available at various shops and pubs in Iron Acton and North Road. There's got to be something you can enter! - and it's the people and the entries who make the day. The opening times for the staging of the exhibits are from 9.00 am to 11.30 am.

There is one departure from previous Shows - THIS YEAR'S AUCTION WILL TAKE PLACE AT 5 PM. In other words, at 4.30 pm the prizes are given out and any exhibitor wishing to remove entries can do so. Then at 5.00 pm the Auction starts.

The reasons for this are that attendance at the evening Auctions has been quite poor, it stretches the day out for those helping and our Auctioneer (a lovely guy by the name of Den Wheeler) suggested trying this out - so that's what we're going to do!

ALLOTMENT TROPHY - Best Collection of Vegetables grown on an Allotment.

ASTER TROPHY CLASS - Best Entry, by Iron Acton Parish Resident of 6 Double and 6 Single Asters.

## GENERAL SECTION

1	Collection of Vegetables	24	6 Tomatoes
2	Collection of Salads	25	3 Parsnips
3	Collection of Fruit	26	3 Beetroot
4	4 Potatoes (Any 1 Variety)	27	3 Pot Leeks
5	7 lbs Potatoes (Any 1 Variety)	28	3 Blanch Leeks
6	3 Carrots (Long)	29	2 Sticks Celery
7	3 Carrots (Short)	30	4 Apples (Dessert)
8	2 Cobs Sweet Corn	31	4 Apples (Culinary)
9	3 Onions (From Seed, Trimmed)	32	4 Pears (Dessert)
10	3 Onions (From Sets, Trimmed)	33	4 Plums (Dessert)
11	6 Shallots	34	4 Plums (Culinary)
12	6 Runner Beans	35	6 Roses
13	The Longest Runner Bean	36	1 Specimen Rose (Named)
14	2 Peppers	37	Vase of Flowers (Quality)
15	2 Stems of Calabrese	38	3 Chrysanthemums
16	2 Cabbages (Any 1 Variety)	39	6 Pom-Pom Dahlias (Not Over 2½")
17	2 Cauliflowers	40	3 Cactus Dahlias
18	2 Marrows	41	3 Decorative Dahlias
19	The Heaviest Marrow	42	3 Spikes Gladioli
20	3 Courgettes	43	9 Sweet Peas
21	2 Lettuce (Cabbage)	44	Best Pot Plant (Foliage)
22	2 Cucumbers (Frame or Greenhouse)	45	Best Pot Plant (Flowering)
23	2 Cucumbers (Ridge)		

## HEMECRAFT SECTION

46	6 Chicken Eggs	57	A Loaf of Tea Bread
47	6 Eggs (Any Other Variety)	58	A Plate of Biscuits
48	A Pot of Honey	59	A Fruit Pie
49	A Pot of Jam	60	A Savoury Dip
50	A Pot of Jelly	61	A Bottle of Red Wine
51	A Pot of Marmalade	62	A Bottle of White Wine
52	A Jar of Chutney	63	A Hand Knitted Article
53	A Decorated Victoria Sandwich	64	An Embroidered Article
54	A Savoury Flan	65	A Handicraft Article
55	A Rich Fruit Cake	66	A machine Sewn Article
56	A Cherry Cake	67	A Painting, Sketch or Drawing; Framed or Unframed; Any Subject

## FLOWER ARRANGING SECTION

68	An Arrangement in a Candlestick
69	An Arrangement in an Unusual Container
70	An Arrangement in a Miniature Basket

PHOTOGRAPHY SECTION

- 71 Photograph of a Village Event or Outing
- 72 Photograph Depicting Wildlife (!)

BROWNIE CLASS

- 73 A Picture of Brown Owl

CHILDREN'S SECTION

Under 7 Years

- 74 A Picture Showing My Favourite Nursery Rhyme

7-11 Years

- 75 A Picture Illustrating My Favourite Record or Piece of Music

The remaining classes are open to everyone up to 16 years. Age will be taken into consideration. Therefore, please put your age somewhere on the item where it can easily be seen by the Judge (but not your name).

- 76 A Miniature Garden
- 77 A Design of a Car, Lorry or Method of Transport of the Future
- 78 3 Small Decorated Cakes
- 79 A Vegetable Animal
- 80 A Model of an Aeroplane made from Junk Material, Card or Paper
- 81 A Flower Arrangement in Shades of not more than 2 Colours
- 82 A Craft Article made within the last 12 months.

BETTY COOK AND LYNNE BLANCHARD

**THE ELIZABETHANS**

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Our trip to the Zoo was very good and I'm happy to say that we were all let out at 4.30 pm! The morning started with a lunch at The Hawthorns, the coach then took us to the Zoo (where we had about 2 hours to ourselves) and at 3.30 pm we all had a Cream Tea in the Restaurant and two of our members won prizes in the Easter Bonnet competition. This trip cost us £6.50 plus coachfare and the Zoo Spokesman said they are hoping to arrange another day for Senior Citizens in the Autumn.

We have recently held Whist Drives for North Road Baptist Chapel, Focus and for our own Club Funds. We would like to thank all members, friends, etc, who support these Drives and also say "thank you" to all who gave but could not come.

Our trips to Evesham and Dartmouth went off well and we all enjoyed ourselves. Our next trip is to Teignmouth - when, yet again, we have a full coach!

Mrs Wall has also shown us slides on her holidays in America. These were most interesting and we say a big "thank you" to her. In September the Frampton Cotterell Choir will be coming to sing to us and our Christmas Dinner is on 7 December when we shall be having a caterer - this will enable all our hard working members to have a rest.

Well, after a dry spring the weather has certainly changed. Much needed rain has come and our gardens could look better but we hope that with the coming of more "summery" weather things will look up. My Sister from Australia has recently been staying with me and she said that we had their summer last year and they had ours. She thought Iron Acton was lovely and when she arrived in London after taking a 32 day trip to the Continent she admitted she felt like kissing the ground! Although they saw some beautiful things they thought that England was best, and always will be.

Well, I hope all Focus Readers have a happy holiday and that they coincide with the better weather. I would also like to thank Mr Pitt, the Chairman of the Elizabethans, and all Members who have helped me in my first year as Secretary - without them it would not have gone so smoothly.

Finally, I asked our Members for comments to put into Focus. They said they would like to see more Senior Citizens from the Village joining us. Our meetings are held in the Village Hall, each Wednesday, at 2.30 pm.

SUSANNAH RUSSELL  
SECRETARY



## LYNNE'S BITS AND PIECES

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As anyone on the Focus Committee will tell you, my reports and typing are always the last to be submitted. Before each issue I vow that things will be different this time - but they aren't. It's okay once I actually force myself to sit down and write but the effort this takes! This time, because our printing man had to go into hospital I've had an extra 3 weeks so here's a real hotch potch of bits and pieces written over a 6 week span and covering some of the committees and whatsits that I'm involved in, and some of the things I've seen and heard .....

It's summer (or so Michael Fish would have me believe) and here I sit in arran jumper and thick jeans trying to write in light flowerery tone while I shiver and think that CFC's and the ozone layer have a lot to answer for!

I've just returned (give or take an hour or two of thawing out) from the

### FOOTBALL CLUB'S MAJORETTE DAY

Trying to choose a day to hold an event appears to be akin to Russian Roulette as far as weather conditions are concerned. It's soul destroying to work hard at something only to have the elements kick you where it hurts. HOWEVER, the stoic British spirit was thoroughly in evidence, and people were enjoying themselves.

If anyone's wanting a "tea boy" I hear (and have observed!) that Keith Mainstone is Iron Acton Football Club's hidden weapon. Extremely willing and quick (we won't say anything about the cup of coffee Bev Gale was trying to make when Keith, quick as a flash, poured tea on top of the coffee granules - is there no holding him back???) and I'm sure competitive hiring rates can be negotiated with Carol, Keith's wife!

On a less flippant note, I hope the day ends up a financial success. Variety, especially where village events are concerned, are the spice of life ..... and there's only so many jumble sales a village can take!

### NEWS FROM THE VILLAGE HALL

Spring and Summer bring with them a spate of fund raising events where the money raised is used to supplement the lettings income and put towards improvements. If any of you have felt the benefits of the new heaters in the Main Hall I'm sure you will agree that they are a great improvement over the previous system (or, if you're a cynic like me, you could be saying "what previous system?") but if I also add that the cost of heaters and installation was just over £900 you'll see how important the Hall's fund raising activities are for everyone. The clock at the back of the Main Hall has now been replaced with a working model and the ceiling in the Kitchen has been revamped so that the urn can be used without those in the kitchen thinking they'll have to buy a large bottle of Head and Shoulders!

In the immediate future the Hall Committee is looking towards a newer cooker, the possibility of acquiring a fridge, the refurbishment of the kitchen units from the wall where the sink is around to the cooker and also improvements to the loos (much needed, we agree).

So apart from hirings/lettings where has the money come from? Firstly did you know that on two of the dates when Algars Manor is open the Hall Committee are invited to provide refreshments and can keep the profits? This year the profit from the two days was £235.90 and our grateful thanks go to: Dr and Mrs Naish, those who served and washed up, those who made the cakes and, of course, to those who scoffed the lot!

We also held an Auction Sale in April and the final profit on this was £353.17 - thanks go to Tony Townsend who was the brain and guiding light behind this event and he's not too bad on a push bike at 8.45 in the morning either!!

Finally, what's looming up? The only event on the horizon is the one and only Horticultural Show on Saturday, 8 September (see separate section in this Focus) ..... and you'd all love to make an exhibitor of yourselves, wouldn't you?

## SLIGHTLY LIGHT RELIEF!

Some of you will already know that the Company I work for is American. They compile a magazine, copies of which are sent to us. One thing that never ceases to amaze me is the American love of dedicating entire months to slightly odd causes. For example, July (we haven't had the August issue yet) is:

Antiboredom Month  
National Picnic Month  
National Baked Bean Month - I promise not to make any comments  
National Hot Dog Month

and my complete and utter favourite .....

National July Belongs to Blueberries Month (!!!!!)

I have to admit to getting slightly concerned that they've gone over the top on the ecology front - what with a "bush" and a "quayle" in the White House, where will it ever end?

However, once in a while they do come out with a gem of a phrase, the latest favourite of mine is "The only difference between stumbling blocks and stepping stones is the way you use them". I liked that one!

## YOUTH CLUB

There appears to have been a little bit of confusion surrounding when children can start attending the Youth Club. The ruling is that children have to be attending the Junior Class at the School. In other words, children who are due to go into the Junior Class in September cannot attend the Youth Club until after the Autumn Term has started.

I hope this clears up any doubts, sorry for the confusion, but thank you to those parents who asked me about this - as Youth Club Management Committee Secretary I'd rather people spoke up so that we can get any gremlins sorted out quickly and properly.

## IRON ACTON WI

I'm sitting here looking at the jottings I've made about what to include in this report and frankly I'm worried! The politest thing to say about our activities over the last few months is that there's a decidedly alcoholic bias!

The first bits are "typically WI" in that we had a talk by a member of the Mary Rose Trust in April (to which family and friends were coerced) and then in May we had our resolutions meeting. This is when we discuss and vote on the Resolutions which will be proposed at the AGM in June when the WI descends on the Royal Albert Hall. Our delegate is then aware of our feelings on the various topics and can act accordingly.

This year our first resolution proposed the dragging of the organisational side of the WI into the current century. This had something to do with the accountants for National WI threatening to disown us if we didn't alter some of our more archaic practices and what was behind some of the scaremongering newspaper articles which appeared a few months ago.

Our second resolution urged that the use of bovine somatotrophin be banned. This is, I believe, a substance which is injected into milk cattle to increase the amount of milk produced (it also increases the fat content in the milk too). The overwhelming feeling was that this sort of interference is just not needed - we've got farmers who have to pour milk away because they've produced over their quota;



If these substances are injected in levels which are higher than naturally produced in the body how does the animal dispose of them, or does the body just store them and then we eat them when the animals get into the food chain; and finally in these days when we have a swing back to natural methods and an attitude of "if it ain't broke don't mend it", do we really need BSP?

Our final resolution referred to the Antarctic. Towards the end of the decade the treaty which controls the exploitation of Antarctica will lapse and a free-for-all will probably ensue among all those countries who have staked claims to the area. The WI will be lobbying for military and industrial exploitation to be banned, especially as it is so important in areas of climatic control.

-I'm writing all this without access to the official WI notes so it's all coming straight out of my head. I'm sure someone will tell me if I've got my facts wrong, but at least it gives you some idea that we don't just stop at jam and cake making. Now, back to the booze .....

The alcoholic haze started on Friday, 29 June at another lovely barbeque, held at Viv and David Parker's (as this is the second one we've had I'm hoping it will become an annual event!). It really was an enjoyable evening - with good food, good drink (that cider was a dream!) and good friends, what more could you want?

Last Friday (13 July) a coach full of happy wanderers went to the Winery at Newent. I chickened out, deciding that an evening at the Folk Club held fewer terrors! At least, for once, my judgement didn't let me down. I arrived back home at twenty to midnight to find our house doing a remarkable impression of the Marie Celeste! Suddenly conscience got the better of me and I decided to get the car out and go and collect my merry wanderers who, I was convinced, would surely be found in the Rose and Crown. Wrong again! Not a sighting all night. Suddenly the roar of a coach could be heard coming down the High Street. It's a miracle the clanking of bottles didn't wake up all decent folk firmly ensconced in their beds. I am led to believe that a good time was had by all - and judging by the shell-shocked look on the driver's face I don't think he'd seen an evening like it in a long time - I shall say no more!!

Looking to the future, Harvey's in Bristol will be our next "port of call" for a port tasting evening which we have planned for late September. Having already been on an Iron Acton WI sherry tasting evening there (and spending the next 24 hours wishing I hadn't) I think a few practise runs will have to be the order of the day. There are quite a lot of things I'd like to change about myself and one of them would be that I could drink like a fish and not change into a newt!

Now we get on to our speakers for the next few months. On 10 September our topic will be Port Wine and Old Masters and on 8 October French Connection is the title. This is followed by our Birthday Party in November. So the alcoholic trend continues!!

Towards the end of October 6 of us from the WI are going on a 4 day trip to France, I think we're based in Reims (but it could be Rouen - I've forgotten!) organised by Avon Federation. I hear that in Rona's absence Barrie's hoping to sign up for some sumo wrestling classes (the things I hear about when I'm in the Rose and Crown!!) - it's to do with the appearance of a strange ring like structure on his lawn. The least said the better! One thing though Barrie, if you carry on eating between now and October you should at least have the right physique!

That's about it on the WI front. I bet you'll be glad to hear that the WI report in the next edition of Focus will be back to the more refined reporting methods of mum!

#### **ANYONE FOR TENNIS?**

Maybe you've been inspired by the recent events featured on your screens, not from Italy but a little closer to home. If anyone is interested in a game of tennis please contact DI HEAL on RANGEWORTHY 498. Di says she's no expert (a likely story, I bet) but it would be a good idea to make more use of the superb facility offered to the parish. So, don't be hesitant, go on and pick up the phone and give her a call.

## CHURCH NEWS

I'll start this section off with big "thank you's". Firstly to everyone who purchased plants at the April Plant Sale when £136 was raised for the Tower Fund (ie, our beloved bells and pinnacles!) and secondly to those who braved the wind (nothing to do with National Baked Bean Month in the US) and came to our Summer Fayre, where the grand total raised was £339.07. There were also plenty of wonderful entries in the Fancy Dress Competition (glad they didn't ask me to judge it) and eventually the prizes were given to:

First: Ben Averis                      Second: Rebecca Woodman                      Third: Richard Desborough

Mrs Waker organised the house-to-house collection for Barnardo's which raised £180.19. Thank you to the collectors: Mrs Powell, Mrs Angell, Mrs Lewington, Mrs Lovell and Mrs Waker; and to all of those who supported this worthwhile cause.

2 Dates for your Diaries:

HARVEST FESTIVAL is planned for 30 September. Any donations of produce will be gratefully received and we'd love to see you at Church for any of the services or at the auction of produce which we plan to have on Monday, 1 October at 7.30 pm in the Rose and Crown.

CHRISTMAS FAYRE will take place on Saturday, 1 December at 3 pm in the Village Hall.

As with many other village organisations, we're always trying to find different ways of raising funds and, at the same time, hoping that we don't encroach on someone else's territory. As regular readers of the Church Magazine will know, one scheme that has successfully operated for many years is with Webb Ivory Catalogues. I can guarantee that everyone will find something in the current catalogue (and Christmas is just around the corner!!) so, if you're interested in seeing a catalogue (no obligation to buy, you can just look through), either contact me or collect one from the Rectory.

## TRIP TO SALISBURY

I think I'm right in saying that everyone enjoyed their trip to Salisbury to see the Flower Festival in the Cathedral on 7th July. Personally, I don't think I'll ever see so many flowers again - and I certainly hadn't seen so many before! It was a lovely day with good company and good weather and, as a result of a raffle on the way home, we raised £53.61 for our own Church's Tower Fund. The question now arises, do we do another trip next year? .. and if so, to where?

## NORTH ROAD TRAFFIC ACTION GROUP

I'd attended the meeting held on Tuesday, 19 June expressly so that I could write a report for this Focus. Unfortunately, because this edition is much later than usual, to put in a report now doesn't seem to be a good idea because so much time has elapsed and much of what was said at the meeting will be out-of-date. I'm keeping my beady little eyes on what's happening and if it seems appropriate I would like to put something in next time - or is there someone else who could write an objective report for us? All my good intentions seem to go flying out of the window - I'd seen this as a good opportunity to include something about North Road so that not all Focus articles refer to the "Iron Acton" end, but I'm thwarted again. What is it they say about the best laid plans of mice and men ...?

## THANK YOU ROSE HOLDING AT LATTERIDGE

I'd like to say a big "thank you" to the occupants of a house called Rose Holding at Latteridge. Lately they've been plagued with a lot of mail they didn't ask for - mine! They kindly redirected it back to me. Your kindness is appreciated.



### MAYPOOL POEM.

Waiting at school.  
Suitcases packed.  
Excited, nervous,  
looking forward to enjoying ourselves!  
Coach vroom! vroom!  
All the way to Exeter,  
Chinese Junk, gondola, tugboat,  
Brunel's boat Bertha,  
Rowing boats that challenged the Atlantic  
Then ... big moths, butterflies,  
caterpillars, cocoons.  
Rebecca's badge falling into the  
Otter pen.  
Arriving at the Youth Hostel,  
More like a mansion!  
Unpack, settle in, FOOD ...  
Walk down to the beach.  
Finally-BED TIME!

Tuesday ... onto Totnes  
Elizabethen market,  
Juliet and Lara in the stocks  
with James and Bradley,  
The dancer on the High Street  
He danced with Mrs Dowding!  
Totnes Castle, Motte and bailey,  
Shell keep and moat.  
Babbacombe Model Village,  
Everything to scale ...  
Horses jumping, Wembley stadium,  
A cottage on fire!  
Torquay beach and lots of eerie  
Jellyfish ...  
Sculling through murky waters.

Wednesday to Kents Cavern,  
Sadie the cave lady!  
Stalactites go down,  
stalagnites grow up.  
Golden Hind  
Ship of Sir Francis Drake.  
Broadsands Beach ... sandcastles,  
Sand turtles, sand jungles, sand towns,  
Alex, our ace shell collector!

Thursday off to Dartmoor,  
Jagged, fierce, grey granite stones of  
Hound tor,  
Tiny houses of the derelict, ghostly  
Medieval Village.  
Uncle Tom Cobleigh and all at  
Widecombe.  
Sliding down the Anacanda Run at the  
River Dart Country Park,  
Climbing all over the Adventure  
Playground,  
Riding on the ponies,  
Ben falling in the lake,  
Back to the Youth Hostel for our  
barbecue.

Friday Pack up, tidy, up clean up,  
Time to leave,  
Coach to Buckfast Abbey ...  
Colourful, blue and purple stained  
glass,  
Corona of candles,  
The buzzing beehives ...  
Then home at last!

Class 1 Iron Acton School.

\* \* \* \* \*

### WANT A NEW HOBBY?

Why not try flower try flower arranging? There are two clubs in Thornbury, one in Chipping Sodbury and my own favourite (being a founder member) in Winterbourne. All of them welcome new members and the years programme starts in September.

No, we aren't all blue rinsed ladies with fancy hats, huge gardens and income to match. It need not be an expensive hobby as you learn to make the most of your flowers. It also gives you a new interest in your garden and leads to other hobbies— pottery, painting and pressed flower picture making.

Why not give it a go?