

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

HARVEST FESTIVAL: Harvest '91 has come and gone and as a result of the collections, supper and produce sale £70 went to Shelter, £70 to Martin House and £70 to the Red Cross. Sincere thanks to everyone who helped in any way.

JAR OF GRACE SCHEME: We're participating again this year! All you need is a little yellow label (found on table in Church) and an empty jam jar. Stick label on jar and at every main meal you eat drop a coin(s) in the jar, wait 'til early January and then pass the contents to the Rector or me. Every little helps - just 75p will buy a spade for a school vegetable garden, or 35p will buy 30 vit A capsules to protect 30 children, for one year, against nutritionally caused blindness.

HANDBELL RINGERS: Yes, they're on the loose again this year! Starting in Latteridge on 17 December the itinerary has evolved over the years but if you'd like to request a specific date/time please let the Rector know. ALSO, if anyone is interested in joining the team (practices begin in early December) you'd be most welcome - contact the Rector or C/Wardens.

YOUNG PEOPLE AND THE CHURCH - WHAT ARE WE DOING??

Celebration Hymnal: We now have 50 copies of this new hymn book which, at present, are being used on the first Sunday of each month at the 9.30 service when the Brownies are with us. We're having a very interesting time learning the new hymns and the littlies are doing a great job teaching us how the new tunes go.

Each Diocese employs a grandly titled person called the "Diocesan Youth Worker" (or some similar title). Bristol is lucky in that our's is a Geordie, no-nonsense lady, with a terrific sense of humour and level of commitment to children and faith, called Diana Murrie. Diana came to talk to the PCC back in September and left us with a lot to think about, to discuss and to action. Subsequently Jill Bradshaw and I spent a gloriously messy evening at one of Diana's workshops (just don't ask us to show you our poster!) and out of this and further discussions there will be a

MEGA CHRISTINGLE WORKSHOP AND SERVICE ON 14/15 DECEMBER

WORKSHOP: Saturday, 14 December, 10.30 am, in the School. Diana will be in charge (she assures me it will be both fun and messy) and should last for about an hour and a half. Anyone of school age will be incredibly welcome and it won't be to just make the christingles! **Please come and keep us company!**

SERVICE: Sunday, 15 December, 6.30 pm, in the Church. Diana will be the guest speaker and the collection goes to the Children's Society. It really should be a lovely service with lots of participation from the children. Please, Please, Come!!

CHRISTMAS SERVICES: These follow the same pattern as last year and brief details can be found in the "Diary" towards the back of Focus, in fuller detail in the December Parish Magazine or, if the Rector and I can get our act together, we should have a little handout available for distribution at the Christingle Service - we're determined to get to you one way or the other!!

That's about it from me, although I've probably made a glaring omission which will suddenly hit me after this has gone off to the printers!

We wish you all a very happy Christmas and, of course, we look forward to seeing you at some time!

Lynne Blanchard
Churchwarden and Jill of All Trades!!

PS Knew I'd forget something, we're desparately trying to reform the Choir. I understand we've started small but perfectly formed! If you can help us in any way please contact the Rector or me.

IRON ACTON WI

By tradition, August is our month of rest and so September found us refreshed and raring to go! Our speaker came from the Leukaemia Trust. A gentle, quiet man who explained his subject with knowledge and compassion. October brought us the subject of "Great Gardens of the South West". I wasn't there (I was getting messy at an advent workshop) but I am reliably informed that the speaker brought oodles of beautiful photos that were crammed with wonderful and numerous plants - unfortunately he told everyone the full Latin name for every plant in every photo, so by the time I got back to the High Street (which was way past the usual time that finds our happy band ensconced in the R&C) they were only just attacking their coffee. Oh happy days! November saw us pushing aside the usual business and celebrating our WI's birthday. When you get a gaggle of 21 women together is it any wonder that many of you should have felt your ears burning!!! The year comes to an end with our December meeting which is our AGM and is followed by mince pies and sherry provided by the Committee.

On a more serious note, all WI's have been urged by the National Executive to write to their MP expressing concern at some of the proposals contained within the White Paper on Education as it raises serious concern about the way in which certain non vocational courses are funded. It is to be hoped that children's education and all forms of adult education can be treated as 2 separate entities. Only time will tell, but guess who volunteered to write the letter ... and has been kicking herself since!

Not content with this, the EC have now decided to have a dabble as well and interfere with the legislation concerning the sale of produce (both cakes and plants). Do these bureaucrats/technocrats/idiots (delete as applicable) realise that they face the unfettered wrath of the WI!

On the sociable side, we visited Dauphine's Costume Hire in September and, no, there isn't any truth in the rumour that we were responsible for them going into liquidation shortly afterwards. In all honesty, we had a wonderful evening being allowed to rummage amongst the costumes and then enjoying a guided tour around the costume museum and around the Dickensian street. This was one occasion when we thought that justice hadn't prevailed and we wished for a magic wand to allow them to continue trading.

Anyway, that's about it from us. It doesn't seem very much typed out but it took ages to write and looked a lot longer on A4! As we hurtle towards 1992 Iron Acton WI would like to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Lynne Blanchard

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN

THE FAT CONTROLLER MEETS A MOBILE PAIR OF BUTTOCKS!!!

It's all Anneka Rice's fault! She decided to set all BBC local areas a challenge for Children in Need and the challenge for the Bristol area was to create a Radio Lollypop (hospital radio) station at Frenchay Hospital. All okay so far but then Chris Vacher appealed for someone to make a Thomas the Tank Engine and this is where 3 local individuals with hearts as big as buckets decided to leap in.

Barry Wright, Brian Angell and Chris Wright (alias BJW Pattern Making) decided to help out, initially just to make just the engine ... but guess who ended up making the whole train!

BJW did a superb job creating a train with the carriages constructed so that the children can sit inside at tables and with cupboard space created as well.

Vital statistics? 24 feet long, 4 feet high and 30 inches wide (these are for the train, for Anneka Rice's I suppose you could apply to the BBC!).

Having sung the praises of our 3 intrepid heroes, they would like to add their thanks to John Hollister and Lathems for help with providing materials, to Gene Thornell for the transport from here to Frenchay and to Roy Hubbard for the bell.

PS Don't worry Roy, everyone's been warned that if an article appears on Police Five about a disappearing bell no-one's going to let on about what you did - your secret's safe with us - honest!!

Lynne Blanchard

TO THE TOWER BUT NOT OFF WITH THEIR HEADS!!!

On 12 July Acton Aid organised a free coach trip for all retired people in Iron Acton Parish. The day was overcast as the coach was boarded but spirits were high. Don, the Winterbourne Pioneer driver, seemed to know everyone which made for a most relaxing drive to London and Acton Aid was represented by Brian Taylor (Courier) and Lionel Alsop (Special Effects).

As we reached Hammersmith the skies cleared (Lionel Alsop at his best) and then Brian started his spiel - with a Dad who was a London cabbie for 48 years many unusual facts and places were pointed out - ask those on the trip who was the model for Winston Churchill's statue, or why those in the know always wave to it and say "hello Fred" as they go past!

Suddenly, the traffic stopped and Don the Driver excitedly shouted "the Queen's coming". Sure enough, the Queen, dressed in a pale blue outfit, passed by on "our side" in her official car accompanied by motor cycle outriders. We're still trying to work out how Lionel arranged this one!

We struggled around Marble Arch and reached Eros. Our speed was now down to about 2 mph and even Bryan was having trouble keeping up a dialogue! However, just 2 minutes later than our ETA we were unloading at the Tower of London and everyone was receiving a superb packed lunch prepared in the small hours and quietly put onto the coach by Dusty Taylor. Don the Driver was also applauded with sincere admiration. What a driver! No aggro, no slamming of brakes, no shouting as a twerpish motor cycle courier cut him up. What a pro!

Stretching out on the seats at the Tower, Iron Acton seemed to have taken over the place from the usual foreign tourists. Some people visited the Tower - some for the first time and some to refresh memories (all were impressed by the new visual displays). Others journeyed on the Thames, enjoying a quick twirl under Tower Bridge, past HMS Belfast and on to the Houses of Parliament where, on seeing our elected representatives having a tea break on the terrace, one local councillor (who shall be nameless) shouted "get back to work you useless lot" (or something similar!). One lovely story is about the person who hadn't realised the boat had turned around and asked what time she could get a train from Southend to be back at the coach for 4 pm.

All too soon it was time to go and travelling past Earls Court we were treated to a flypast of helicopters from the Royal Tournament. All our modest "special effects" man would say was "nothing's too good for our special people".

Everyone on the coach received a raffle ticket which could be exchanged for a drink of their choice when the coach stopped a little closer to home.

What a day! London, the Queen of England, a flypast of helicopters, a superb lunch and time to explore but, most of all, a time to enjoy together, being part of Acton Aid who care very much about the Parish and its special people - who were happy to be sent to the Tower of London!

Bryan Taylor

Diary of Forthcoming Events

In the Village Hall:

Every Tuesday	Brownies	6.00 p.m.
Wednesday	Elizabethans	2.00
	Junior Actonians	6.00
	Actonians	7.30
2nd Monday in the month	Women's Institute	7.30
3rd Monday in the month	Parish Council	7.30
4th Monday in the month	Whist Drive	7.30
3rd Thursday in the month	Chip. Sod. Knitting Group	1.30
November 30th.	Church Christmas Sale	
30th	Acton Aid Social Evening	
December 6/7th	Actonians "Victorian" Evening	
13th	Elizabethans Christmas Party	
22nd	Acton Aid Children's Party	

In Iron Acton School:

December 10th	Christmas Concert Matinee	1.30 p.m.
11th	Christmas Concert	6.30
19th	Christmas Party.	

At the Rose & Crown:

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

At St James the Less:

December 15th	Christingle Service	6.30 p.m.
29th	Carol Service	6.30
24/25/26th	See page	

The Editors of FOCUS ON IRON ACTON wish to thank all of our readers who have sent in contributions for publication; and those who help us with the distribution.

Advertisers wishing to take space in Focus should contact either Mrs Cook (202) or Charles Wilkins (254).

All issues of FOCUS ON IRON ACTON are printed for the Editors by:-



Offset Printing

Unit 1, EOS House,
Cassell Road,
Fishponds,
Bristol. BS16 5DG
Tel: 572566

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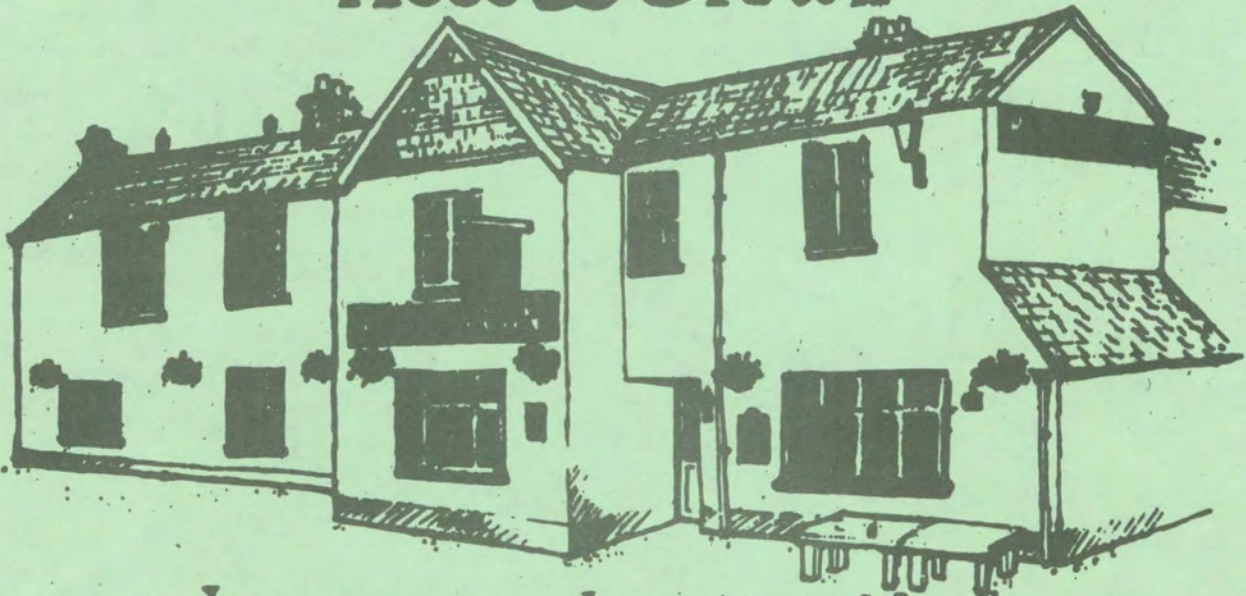
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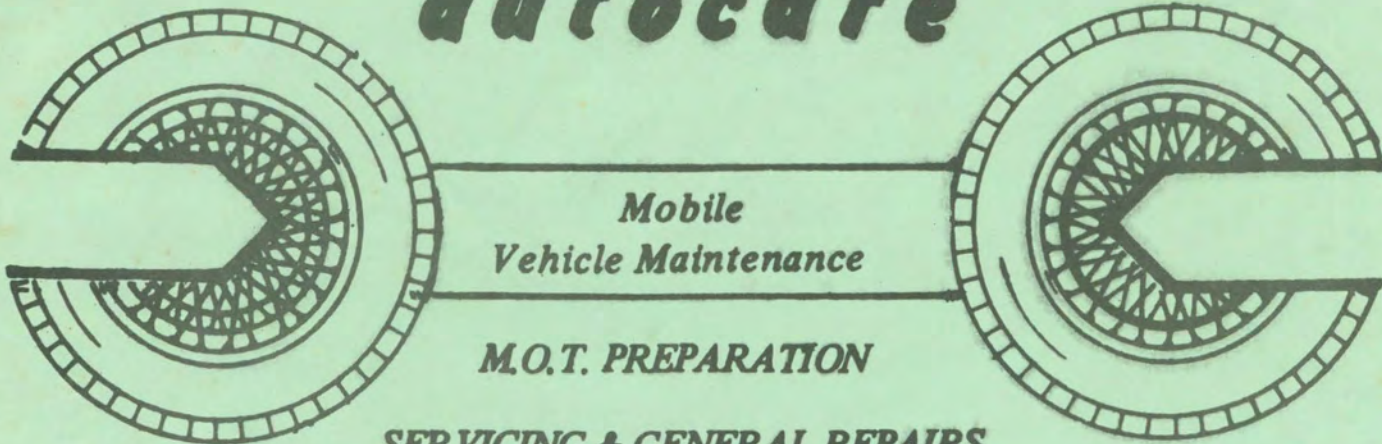
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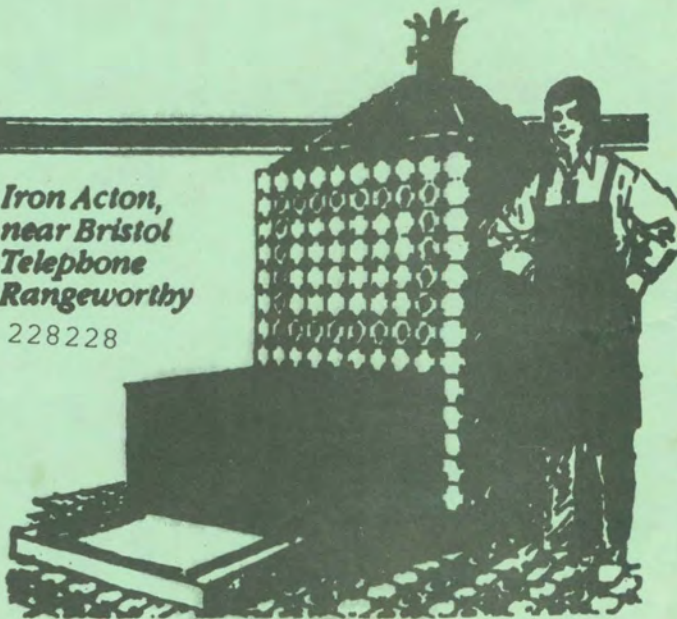
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Merry Christmas 1991

Dear Everyone

Thank you for supporting us through yet another year and for your comments and suggestions (none of which has, thankfully, stretched the editorial team biologically!!).

We end the year wishing you ALL an incredibly Happy Christmas and New Year, and we look forward to 1992 when we're sure you're going to continue to write wonderful articles and to advertise your activities and services and to support our May Day Extravaganza for "Focus" funds.

From

Your lovable Focus Team
of Charles, Betty, John,
Jo, Pete and Lynne

XXXXXX



NOT ME!! - MUST BE A JOKE?

Yes this is just what came immediately to my mind when way back in March of this year - 1991 - I arrived at my office and on my desk was an envelope addressed to myself and marked Personal and Confidential.

On opening it I was absolutely, to use a current phrase - "Gob smacked" - Headed "Royal Garden Party" - your name has been put forward and has been accepted to represent the Min. of Agriculture at the above - Please ring H.O. in London to confirm if you are prepared to accept. Having realised by now it was not a "joke" I did so.



After furnishing them with details of "himself" who was to be my "Escort" I received a month before the event the Official Invitation from the Lord Chamberlain.

Guess what the next step was - yes you guessed a trip to the best dress shop in the area to purchase my outfit. (I am now available to open Fetes etc.) Broke I may be!!

Well the Great Day arrived - 18th July.

We awoke to, yes you guessed - Wet, wet and wet - never mind - undaunted we dressed ourselves up in all our finery and waited for friend Myra to come and take some photographs of himself all done up like a real gent (good ole Moss Bros.) and me like a Duchess - Fine feathers make fine birds.

What is that I hear "our taxi" 11.30 on the dot - He must have thought he was going to Ascot instead of to the Parkway Station in time for the 12.02 to Paddington.

At last we are on our way, dead on time. Quite a few glances from passengers. 12.30 feeling peckish - himself took a trip to the Buffet and came back with Ploughman Lunch and Coffee - Meanwhile a Lady on her own (Jill as we were later to know, asked me if I was going to the Garden Party (How could she tell!!) Anyway, we agreed to share the rest of the day with her.

Well here we are at Paddington - B.R. 5 mins. early. Soon grabbed a taxi and were whisked to Buckingham Palace where we found ourselves centre of attraction for photographers and tourists. We were second in the queue outside the main gate. Having said no to a number of official photographers we thought we had better say yes to one to mark the occasion (no cameras were allowed). Although by now a large queue had formed. We must have looked special because Germans, Italians, were all wanting to take photographs.

Time passed quickly and at 3.00 p.m. the Policeman opened the gates and we were all escorted across the courtyard under the archway and across another courtyard to the Palace steps - out stepped a soldier in scarlet tunic - sorry the Palace are not ready for you yet. Anyhow, we were all very excited by this time and time soon passed.

Once inside the Palace wow!! Wide carpeted corridors and the most beautiful sweeping staircase you could imagine. Through a picture gallery into a room with cabinets at least 12'0 high filled with complete sets of the most elaborate china, all around the room. This opened up on to the Palace gardens.

They were surrounded by three open fronted awnings with beautifully laid out tables of food and flowers - buffet style. Small tables and chairs were all set out and there we lounged and dined in glorious (would you believe it) sunshine - just trying to take in the magnificence of it all. It was still like a dream.

Although we were not privileged to speak to any of the Royals we were on several occasions only arms length from The Queen, who was dressed quite simply in a pretty floral dress, short plain pink jacket, french navy shoes, pink straw hat with a navy ribbon band. Television and photographs do her no justice - she is the sweetest little thing you could wish to meet. Her smile is so natural. Phillip looks nowhere near his 70 years - he could come to Nibley Lane any time.

We did take a walk around the garden - whether we did 1/3 or 1/10 we shall never know it is so large and beautiful. One of the things we shall always remember is the very large summer house - octagonal in shape - sun loungers etc. and the most elaborately carved table presented by Indonesia, on one of her tours, and to bring us right down to earth there was a bowl of water in the corner marked "DOG" - Quick glance behind (No Corgi's), Thank Goodness.

As we walked back towards the Palace lawn we saw the 'Beef Eaters' in their scarlet tunics getting into position, so we waited and along came the Queen and Prince Phillip.

Well time is now running out for us so we made our way back to our table and joined the rest of the 7,000 in standing for the National Anthem - This was quite a moment to actually have the Monarch standing there before us.

Now we bask in the sunshine for a little while longer and take it all in. Then we made our way through the Palace trying to take it all in. Down the steps and into the sunny evening - only to be stopped by a Policeman in the courtyard where we joined a crowd - all wondering what was happening - It was suggested perhaps the Queen Mum was going back to Kensington Palace - but not so. Suddenly the side gates were opened and Police cars swept in followed by 2 or 3 huge black Lada cars (black windows) who should step out but Gorbachev.

This was an exciting end to a fantastic day and I felt very humble but also honoured to have been given this opportunity.

Thank you Ma'am - it has been a pleasure to serve you. Long may you reign.

Patricia Jouxson (Leppard as was).

* * * * *

What's in a name?

Take your new Telephone Directory! Glance through it at your leisure. You'll find PLENTY of COOKS but no broth to stir or spoil. No egg but PLENTY of RACON. No bread for a sandwich but lots of HAM to fill it.

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You can also find a STEW, including BEANS, LEEKS, ONIONS & CARROTS.

Changing TACK, any CARPENTER can find a PLANK of WOOD to WORK, with SAW and HAMMER and NAIL, but no plane.

No dough, but quite a LITTLE MONEY to put in one of the many BANKS.

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If you prefer FISH, you can choose DACE, SALMON, COD, one HADDOCK, three PLAICE, six TROUT, but no conger eels.

No meat but plenty of VEAL, and lots of GAMMON.

In Telecom's FOREST, there are ELMS, ASH, BEECH, OAKES, MAPLE, a MULBERRY, and a solitary SYCAMORE in Weston, but plenty of HAWIHORN.

In the GARDEN the GARDENER will find PLANTS like the ROSE, and other FLOWERS like the LILL(E)Y.

BIRDS include MARTIN, SWALLOW, RAVEN, WREN, THRUSH, CROW.

The B.T. Zoo includes many a FOX and a BEAR.

From an anonymous reader.

Alfred Strange's Diary

In the last issue of Focus we left Alfred Strange at Easter 1933. We continue now immediately after Easter, and at last, Mr Strange finds a job.

18. April To the Labour Exchange with Les Wookey. Later made marrow bed on top of dung heap at the bottom of the garden.
- Evening. Called in at the Codrington Arms and watched the chap playing bagatelle.
- 19th. Planted marrow seeds and weeded flower garden. Rode into Bristol to the Juvenile Employment Exchange, John Street. Stopped at Downend on my way home to watch the Co-op playing Lombardians in the Wednesday league.
- There was a letter waiting for me from Mr. Waters (headmaster) re job at the Surveyor's Office.
- I went straight to Winterbourne Down to see Capt. Henderson (Highways Surveyor) who told me I could have the job.
- Evening match. Iron Acton 1 Wadleys End 2.
- 21st. Took hay over to Latteridge for my uncle's beasts. Called at Huggins and Fursman's.
- Chaps asked me to play for Acton this afternoon so went home to collect my togs. We travelled to Crew's Hole to play two matches against Wm Butlers Ltd., We had to wait a while for Ron (my cousin) and B. Prior outside the Bull Inn.
- Wm. Butlers 4 Iron Acton 1 (Milton Sheppard scored)
- Wm. Butlers 5 Iron Acton 3 (R. Smith, A. Sheppard, G. Wiggins)
- We did over '50' in Stan Dyer's car on the way home!
- (It was unusual for father and son (Milton and Albert Sheppard) to play in the same village team ... and for both to score!)
- 24th. Up early to start my first job ... called at Watts (Yate) to buy a new shirt and then called at my auntie's to change .. did not get on exactly fine!
- Staff at the District Highway Surveyor's Office .. Capt. Colin K. Henderson (surveyor). Winterbourne Down. Mr John Gould (Assist. Surveyor) Goosegreen, Yate. Mr Eddie Powell (Clerk) Wickwar.
- 25th. Evening. Choir practice and then to the Institute. There was a large attendance as it was the last night of the season.
- Budget Day. cheaper beer!
- 27th. I had to deliver a letter to Shorts in Hatters Lane .. I saw a man knocked down by a car.
- 29th. To Iles shop (Sodbury) for a Wickwar Parish magazine for Mr. Powell.
- Afternoon - took rake down to Colbourn's Lane for my uncle and stayed to pick up hay. Called at Fursman's and later to Mr Hobbs for hair cut. Bert Hinkler's plane found in the Appenines.
- Cricket - Stinchcombe Stragglers 135 (Tom Goddard 6 for 15 runs) Gloucestershire 190.
- May 1st. Home and quick change to go to Greggs College, Park St. I left my bike at the Swan, Eastville and went by tram. I had interview with the Principal and was back at Acton by 8.30.
- 2nd. After work ... called at Standen's (Rangeworthy) to order barbed wire.
- 4th. Over to Nibley but Avery not there so rode on to Greggs College on my own. Got wet through .. paid fee for one year's course of studies (commercial course) £5.9.6d.

- May 6th As usual .. not much to do at the office.
 Sat. Afternoon I had to go with my uncle to Latteridge. I fetched nails and staples from Fursman's. There was a violent thunder storm and Alec England and his kids came into the shed to shelter. Afterwards we got to work putting up the barbed wire in the shards.
- Rosaires Circus at Sodbury this week. It was 6.30 when we got home. Up to Yate Station bridge where I saw M.G. and B.G. (two grammar school girls). Then to Sodbury with A. Sheppard .. later I left him talking to the two Blacker girls.
- 7th Sun. After evening service R. Elson and I walked to Goosegreen and across the field and over the brook by a tree. We met B. Dyer along North Road.
- 11th. At office .. I looked through last year's estimates. Received report that Brain's back wheel had come off (steam waggon) at Horton.
 Rode to evening class and came home with Avery.
- 12th Bell ringing practice .. brought up blisters on my hand. "Bonnie" Thomas came up to the belfry.
- 13th. Cricket .. Rangeworthy beat Tytherington.
- 17th. Bell ringing practice .. Mr Curtis, V. Cater, J. Ellis and self O.K.
- 20th. Left office early to deliver letter to Mr Pinnell re starting work with the council. Later helped my uncle plant kidney beans on rudge at the bottom of the garden and potatoes on the rudge by Gowens. Then off to Yate Rocks in Sammy Holder's car. Helped my uncle to drive 6 steers back home. I got ready to go out but then had to stay to dip about 100 gallons of water for the cattle.

* * * * *

Elizabethan Club.

On July 1st the members enjoyed the club's birthday dinner held in the Village Hall.

Also in July the children of the Iron Acton School came and sung to us songs about London which we all enjoyed.

A trip to London's Tower made a good day out and thanks to Acton Aid for a nice lunch and a little tippie in Chipping Sodbury on the way home. Mr Pitt and members held a Whist Drive in aid of the Enterprise Coach and we made the grand total £91.15. Thanks to all who came or gave and could not attend.

To round off July members had a day out at Weston-Super-Mare.

In August members went to Sidmouth. Thanks to Mrs Riddle who came and demonstrated flower arranging and we hope to have her again for Christmas decorations etc.

In September we had a good day out at Southsea. Weather was good and we all had a good walk and the sun and sea looked beautiful.

Some of our members went to Torquay for a week's holiday at the end of September We enjoyed ourselves immensely at the Kintyre Hotel and hope we shall be able to repeat it next year.

In November we have booked to go to Weston-Super-Mare for the Carnival. If this paper is out in time, our Christmas Whist Drive is on Monday November 25 at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall, and the club dinner will be on Monday 2nd December.

Finally, the Chairman Mr Pitt and all members wish all your readers a Happy & Peaceful New Year.

Secretary - Susannah Russell.

IRON ACTON SCHOOL.

The new school year began in September with 54 children on roll - there are still three places for the Infant Reception (4 yr olds) next September. Any interested parents should contact Mr Dowding as soon as possible.

We welcome Claire and Craig Pritchard to our school and hope they will be very happy with us.

The playing field climbing apparatus has been installed and has been used with much enthusiasm by the whole school. Our thanks go to Acton Aid, Iron Acton Parish Council, Redland Plasterboard, Roland Evans, other anonymous donors and of course the Friends of Iron Acton School whose £1,750 made the whole venture possible. A special 'Thank you' must be said to Kevin Hillier who installed the apparatus during the summer holidays with the aid of other friends who provided diggers and cement. Thanks to all concerned.

Mrs Joan Davis is now wielding the school lollipop on Road Crossing Patrol, while Sue Parkhill and Chris Harding have joined Janet Thorne as our three dinner ladies.

We were pleased to welcome Andrew Townsend into our staff for two weeks at the start of the Autumn term as part of his P.G.C.E. course and we wish him well at Kings College, London for the rest of his teacher training. Andrew's considerable juggling skills (two open air performances in the school playground, complete with commentary and encores!) has left him a hard act to follow by future visitors.

Our Harvest Festival service and auction not only made the front page of the Evening Post - reference to Mr Dowding as the voice of God produced some wry comments, not only in Iron Acton School! - but also raised £155 for the Save the Children Fund, our continuing sponsorship of our Indian boy Srinavasa Rao and the Mother and Baby Unit at Bristol Maternity Hospital.

Well done to Sadie Pitman who has moved in from Iron Acton School gym club to Fromside elite squad. She came 6th in the Avon Schools Grade 7 Competition and thus qualified for the Avon team to the regional final held at Exeter. It is pleasing to report that she scored 39.30 and raised her position to 4th in the Avon team.

Dates for your diary.

Tuesday December 10th	Christmas Concert 1.30 p.m. matinee.
Wednesday December 11th	Christmas Concert 6.30 p.m. evening performance.
Wednesday December 18th	Singing to the Elizabethans 2.00 p.m. Village Hall.
Thursday December 19th	Christmas Party.
Friday December 20th	End of Term.
Monday January 6th 1992	Spring term re-starts.
Half Term Monday 17th Feb - Friday 21st Feb. 1992.	
End of Spring Term	Friday 10th April 1992.

PARISH COUNCIL.

We are sorry that John Riddle has finished his time with us, he did a great deal of very good work in the Village, and we wish him well in the future.

We hope to have someone else from Leyhill in time, but meanwhile we are planning to clean up the Parish Meadows and clear the stream for the winter.

Travellers still remain a problem from time to time, and until Avon provides proper sites there is little we can do. Let's hope the trenches keep them off the by-pass verges.

Although we got to the semi-final of the Best Kept Village competition, that was as far as we could manage. The judges comments were:-

"To get a place in the semi-final indicates a good performance. The general state of the village streets and 'amenities and public places' was reported as good. The maintenance of the churchyard cemetery and cultivated parts of the allotments had deteriorated between the first round and semi-final judging, and fell below the high standard of the rest."

If we are ever to win again we shall obviously have to make much more effort.

Poster winners were reported in our last issue, and garden winners were Mr & Mrs Gapper, Chilwood Close. First prize for hanging baskets went to Mr & Mrs Pullen, Brookby House, and for a container to Mr & Mrs Les Gale, High Street.

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THE LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR.

We are very happy to say that Michael Jouxon collected £71.39 for St. Joseph's Home play week. For anyone who may not know of the work of The Little Sisters of the Poor, we reprint the following:

The Little Sisters have been caring for the elderly in Bristol for more than 120 years. The Congregation of the Little Sisters was founded by Blessed Jeanne Jugan who began her ministry in 1839 by offering her own bed to a blind lady.

When the Little Sisters were about to open their first home in Bristol a man stopped them in the street and handed them a sovereign. It was their first gift of money in the city. When the home opened, a doctor offered his services free, a clockmaker gave a chiming clock, a greengrocer promised a weekly basket of vegetables. These are a few examples of the generosity of the people of Bristol and its surrounding area. This generosity is continued to the present time with people giving money and time to support the work of the Little Sisters of the Poor.

There are at present 43 residents in St. Joseph's Home at Cotham Hill and they belong to various religious denominations or indeed to none. The only criteria for entry are that a person must be elderly and in need of care. The Sisters have now embarked on a large project to ensure that each resident has his or her own room and to provide ancillary services, including a medical suite, physiotherapy and occupational therapy facilities.

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MAY DAY.

Last year's event made it possible for us to continue publishing "Focus" for this year, and we hope to have a similar day next May 4th. If you have any ideas for new features or can offer practical help on the day, or beforehand, please contact any member of the Focus team.

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ANY EXCUSE.

She said "I'll be 80 next year" "Eighty" we said "Never!" Our youngest Aunt who was always one of us - who rode the donkeys with us at Weston - picked strawberries with us until she felt sick. If she's to be 80 that makes us - it doesn't bear thinking about!!

She was on the phone to tell us she was coming to stay, she had booked her flight with Aer Lingus and her bag was packed. Her son would put her on the plane in CORK and we would pick her up at Lulsgate.

It was late September and I had the feeling, this will not be a short visit; the year was getting on, the nights were drawing in and it was getting colder and soon Christmas would be upon us.

However, it was not to be. The evening before her departure the phone rang - she had had a fall and broken her arm in two places.

We were all disappointed - there would be no visit now - and the Aunt was really in the doldrums - she didn't appreciate the comfort of her home in the annexe of her son's bungalow: - her idea of life was not way out in the country - no people no shops, it was very lonely - she preferred town.

Chris and I decided we would go over and cheer her up for her 80th and her son and family would arrange a party with some friends. The thought of having visitors put new life into her, but the party was a secret, she knew nothing of the preparations.

We took the boat from Swansea and when we arrived in CORK we hired a car - a Fiat and we were well away. The man at the garage looked a little apprehensive as he handed us the keys of the car after a test run around the forecourt. His last words were "Have a good holiday ladies and just remember - there isn't a single mark on this car, at this moment!" He had a great sense of humour but we could see at the same time that he was very nervous for his brand new car. The only advantage in hiring a car is that after bumping over 1,000 miles of pot holes your own car is at home having a rest.



Maybe I was a bit neurotic but I was the passenger and could see the pot holes long before we got to them. The tune 'slow down, slow down - we're going too fast', is still buzzing in my mind - 60 seemed to be the going rate for the car - it wasn't until our last day in Ireland that someone said the speed limit on all roads is 55 m.p.h.

We decided to do some visiting in Co. Kerry while we were over, so we made our way to Kenmare. We found the Riverside Hotel where we had stayed before and decided to do ourselves well. Many famous film stars had stayed there and we remembered seeing their autographed photographs at reception.

They say 'never go back'. True, it was a terrible disappointment, the charming entrance had been modernised - the atmosphere was dreary and very quiet. The film stars no longer had pride of place - they were still there decorating a piece of white pegboard - the low beamed ceiling had gone. The two young receptionists had no interest in 'Fred Astaire' and what was more, the Hotel was full - with 3 coachloads of visitors from Germany. We were told to try Foleys - but that was a bar and not quite what we had in mind.

Several of the other Hotels were full, there were lots of coaches in town. We eventually settled in at The Park Hotel, very grand in a beautiful setting. The tariff quoted seemed very reasonable for such luxury. After a superb dinner - served with great care and attention, we went to bed feeling maybe we hadn't heard right.

Anyway we slept soundly and after enjoying a leisurely breakfast overlooking the lake and mountains, we were pleasantly surprised to find we were on 'winter break' terms - about ½ rate.

We made our way towards Sneem on the 'Ring of Kerry', a beautiful ride and very little traffic except for the odd coach.

With some difficulty we found a coral beach - down a lonely track - the local postman said its over there - after clambering over rocks - there it was a little cove with a boat tied up and not a soul in sight and the little beach was white with coral. The isolated small farms were scattered over the rocky country side and had superb views over the sea.

We came to Sneem, a delightful small village totally unspoilt. We stopped for a drink at Murphy's bar: it was warm enough to sit outside in the sun. Across the square there were racks of goods for tourists, Aran sweaters, linen, local pottery and cards. The little shops were busy as 2 or 3 coaches had pulled in. The accents around were mainly American. The atmosphere was peaceful and very easy going; the coastline cottages were really picturesque - they were all different colours - bright red, blue, green, yellow white - our local planners would burst a blood vessel, but in their situation the cottages looked wonderful and all in very good condition - they get an allowance from the Irish Tourist Board.

We drove on after crossing over McGillicuddy Reeks and descending to a floor of miles and miles of peat bogs to Listowel, where our cousins were anxiously waiting for us.

After several days of eating, drinking, talking, looking at all the improvements, and having a good night with everyone at a bar in Ballybunion with music and singing we made our way back to CORK.

The Birthday Party was ready and guests had arrived. The children were bursting with excitement and it was still 'secret'. The 80 year old had decked herself up for her day and we took her to the dining room - it was like 'This is your life' she was surrounded by old friends and all her family, the room was full of flowers and there was a huge birthday cake, there were tears, she was quite overcome.

As she gave her 'thank you' speech she looked 10 years younger.

Before we came home we took her to some of her favourite places for lunch at COBH, Garrison and we stayed in Youghal - memorable for 'Ahernes Fish Restaurant' a superb meal and top class service.

We got the car back without a scratch and we left Ireland feeling very full of good food, good fun, and good cheer.

Mae Beesley.

Builders Language - A Guide to Interpretation.

You wouldn't believe the price of materials. - You won't believe what I'm going to charge you.

I need to pop back to the yard for some tools. - I'm off to the pub.

I'll have to charge you for extras. - Like turning up.

We can start right away.- We'll turn your place into a bomb site and then go off and start another job.

We should be finished by October. - But I can't guarantee which year.

PERFECT PRIMARY EDUCATION.

INGREDIENTS:

- 84 receptive children
- 6 energetic teaching staff
- 2 sympathetic non-teaching staff
- 8 interested Governors
- 1 supportive adviser
- 8 National curriculum SATS folders
- A good measure of involved parents
- 1 knowledgeable Minister of State for Education.

PREPARATION TIME:

0 - 7 years

METHOD:

- 1 Combine the children and the staff in a stimulating and caring atmosphere.
- 2 Surround by good examples of interesting work in Mathematics, English, Science, History, Geography and Technology. Expose to Music, Art and Physical Education (all taken from the National Curriculum folders).
- 3 Sprinkle with visits to places of interest e.g. 'The Big Pit' and the Hippodrome, swimming, recorders and clubs. Add a touch of excitement from a camp week in Wales accompanied by Rangeworthy School pupils (all provided by involved parents).
- 4 Add extra spices e.g. SATS at the appropriate time.
- 5 The mixture needs to be treated in the correct way to obtain the best results. Trim off rough edges e.g. bullying and bad language (all supervised by the supportive adviser in the school's Institutional Development Plan).
- 6 Make sure that the mixture is suitable for the container for which you are preparing e.g. Brimsham Green, Chipping Sodbury or King Edmund.
- 7 Leave for 7 years, but keep a watchful eye to ensure a perfect product is being produced. A good final presentation is a priority. (Supervised by the Governors).

Recipe supplied by:
North Road School.

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HEALTH - Quotes about taking care of yourself.

The only reason I would take up jogging is so that I could hear heavy breathing again. Erma Bombeck.

Exercise is bunk. If you are healthy you don't need it. If you are sick you shouldn't take it.

Henry Ford.

I like long walks, especially when they are taken by people who annoy me - Fred Allen.

DON'T THROW A SPANNER IN THE SCANNER.

Somebody once said that going into a Scanner was like fitting a good cigar into a metal tube! Our local Scanner, at Frenchay Hospital, can be used to examine and send out pictures of any or all parts of the human body from finger nails to toes to unborn babies. Rona Wright is the Secretary and Administrator of the Scanner and as such she is the Front Line when patients come to be scanned. She has to ask some odd questions!

"Have you been in the Scanner before? We use a large magnet to collect the pictures, so you cannot take anything metal into the machine with you!"

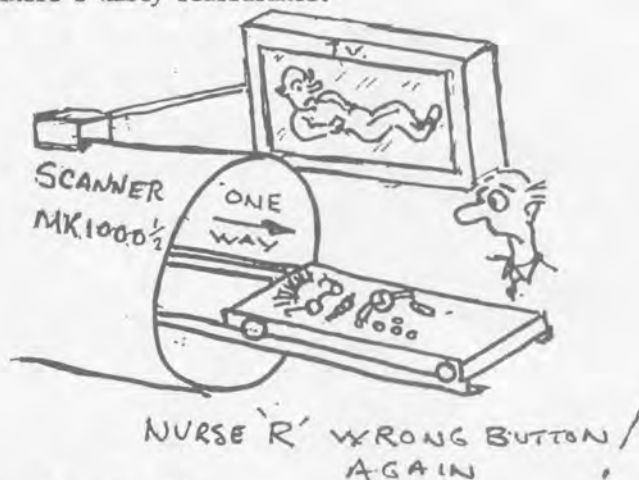
And so the examination begins when a patient comes for a Magnetic Resonance Scan. Have you ever stopped to think how many metal items you have on your person in a normal day? So the questions continue:

"Have you brought something to change into? Hooks, eyes, zippers and press studs are not allowed in the machine."

By this time the patient is feeling rather apprehensive.

"What have I let myself in for? Oh dear!" There's hasty reassurance.

"Don't worry - there's nothing to harm you. Just a few questions now about any metal you may have inside your body! For instance, have you got a cardiac pacemaker or aneurysm clips from previous head surgery? Have you had any hip operations or other surgery which has left any metal rods, clips, screws or mesh inside? Have you had any metal in your eyes? If so, when? And was it removed in hospital?" This is very important as metal in the eyes, cardiac pacemakers or aneurysm clips may mean that MRI scanning is not advised.



"Have you ever had any shrapnel or bullet wounds?" As this question most people manage a smile; most have a good laugh, but once again it is very important that we have the correct answer. For example we once had a patient who had a piece of shrapnel lodged close to his lung from the last war. The surgeons in the field hospital had decided it was too near the heart and major blood vessels to remove it and as it was doing no harm they left it where it was. The patient told us about this and said: "It'll be all right. It's been there for years!" But we had to seek our radiologists' advice to make sure the magnet would not move the shrapnel. In this case all was well.

Some of the remarks people make are quite funny. They imagine all sorts of things: Perhaps the fillings will come out of their teeth. Pins and plates in the hips will be moved. In fact, dental metal is fine, as are most types of surgical metal, but as they do affect the way the machine works, it is necessary that we find out about them. One lady whom I asked: "Have you any metal rods, plates, screws or mesh inside?" said quite casually:

"No I think this is plastic," and proceeded to remove her left arm. I watched in amazement!

Another lady came into the centre with an immaculate hairdo which left me thinking: I wish I could get my hair to look like that. However, upon concluding the questioning I said: "You are completely clear of metal?" she answered:

"Well, I don't think there's anything in this!" And promptly removed her wonderful head of hair, which of course was a wig!