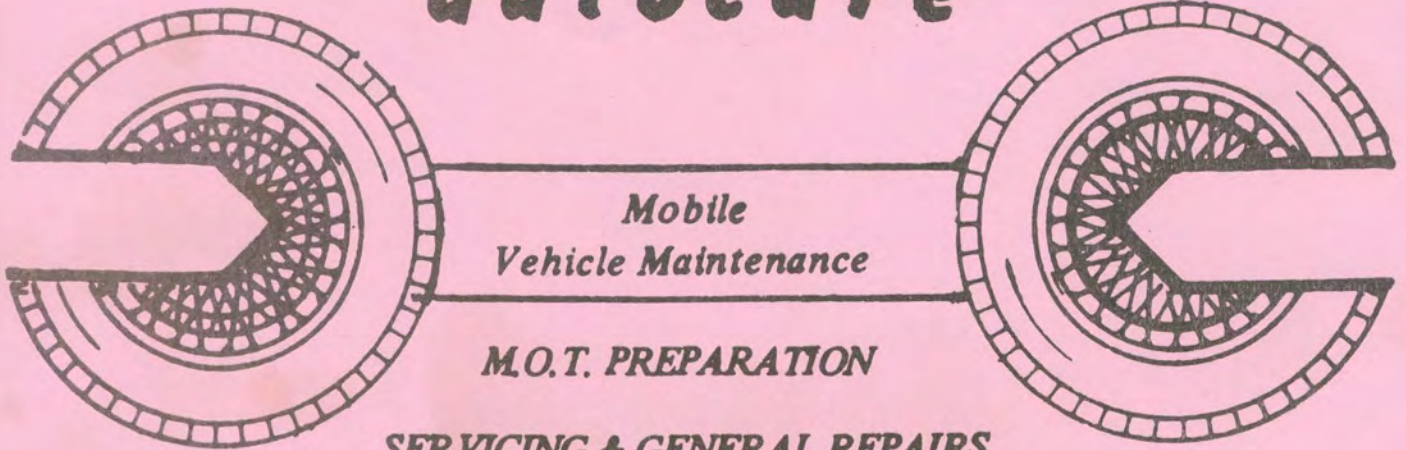


# FOCUS ON



# IRON ACTON

# roger's autocare



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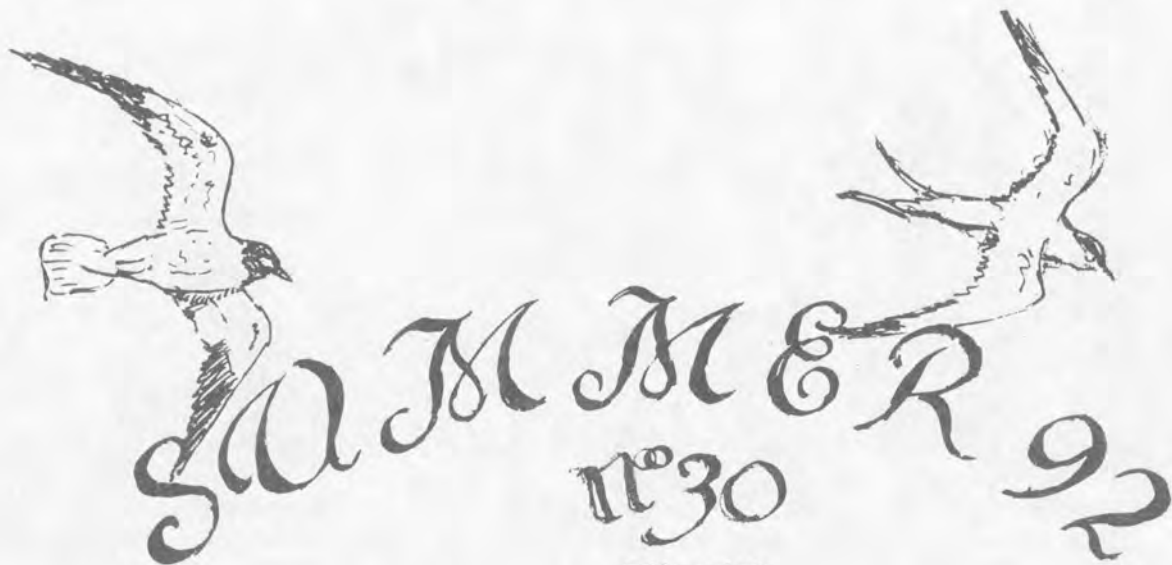
*Roger Marsh, 127, Cherington, Yate, Avon. TEL: (0454) 321631*

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*The home of the  
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Telephone  
Rangeworthy  
228*





# SUMMER

№30 92

Editorial

We are very sorry to lose Jo Voss from our little committee, and we wish her well in her new job and home down in Dorset. She has been involved in Focus since it started and has contributed many amusing and thought provoking articles: she is also a demon proof reader whose spelling is infallible so we will have to work hard to keep up her standards: her dining table has always been used for collating and stapling Focus. She has promised to write us an article for the next issue about the trauma of leaving us!



We welcome Jean Dickes to the committee and look forward to her contribution over future issues.

A big thank you to everyone who made May Day such a happy day, and at the same time generated sufficient money to keep Focus going for another year. We are grateful to you for good wishes for Focus and trust that we shall be able to go on entertaining and informing you about what goes on in your village. Remember that we can only print what we are given, so if that are events that we miss or organisations that we do not report, kick them to write to us.

Charles Wilkins  
228 254

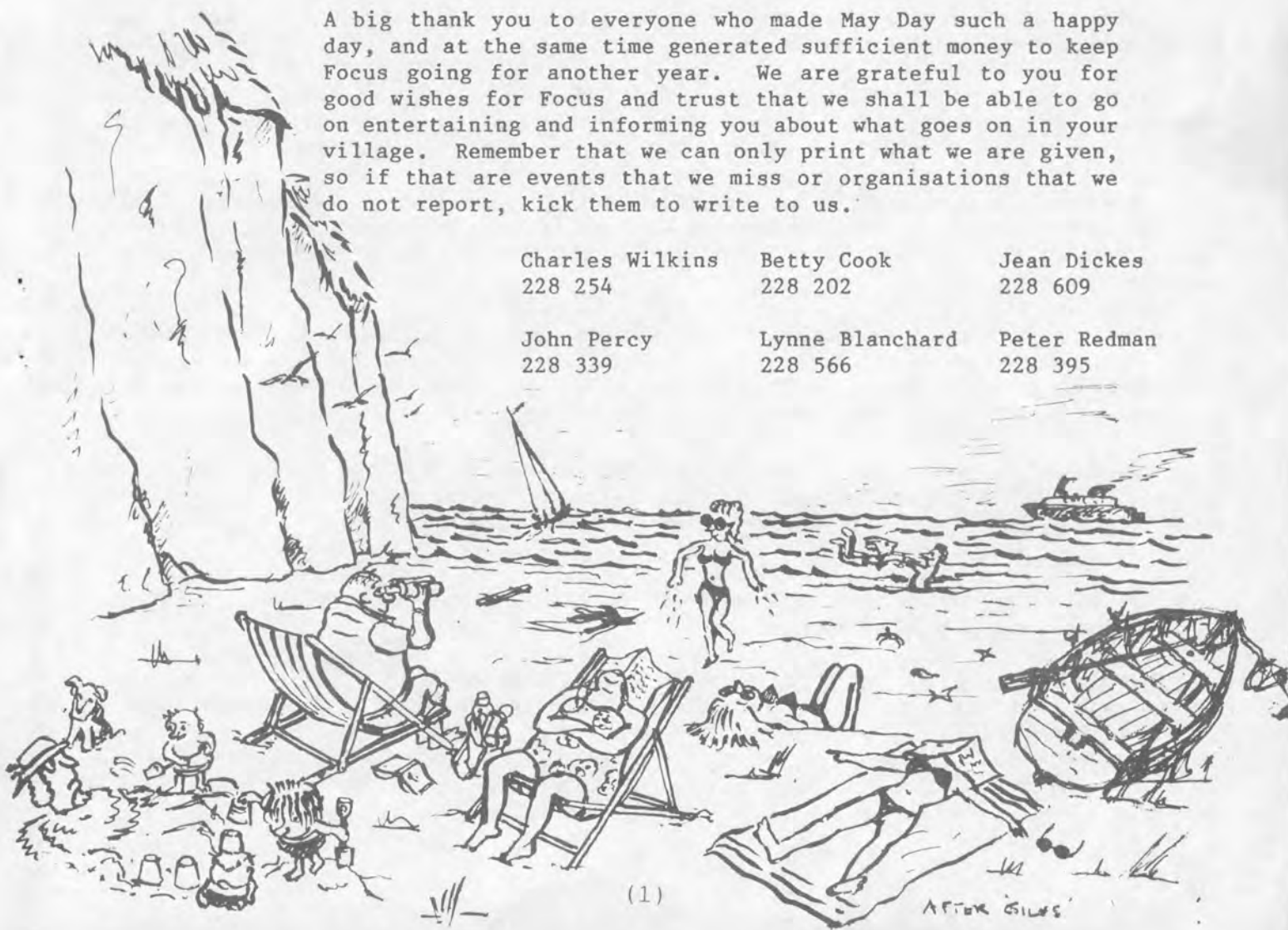
Betty Cook  
228 202

Jean Dickes  
228 609

John Percy  
228 339

Lynne Blanchard  
228 566

Peter Redman  
228 395



## COUNTY OF AVON



Telephone: Rangeworthy (0454 228) 322

Iron Acton CEVC Primary School  
Wotton Road  
Iron Acton  
Bristol BS17 1UZ

This summer has seen the usual round of very busy activities at Iron Acton School.

In the week before summer half-term, we had a School Book week, the events included... a Bookmark Competition (design something that will keep your place in a book), design a suitable cover for 'SNAP' Magazine - the prizes for this were kindly donated by Geoff Dickes, - visits by the authors Diana Hendry (who wrote the Smarties prize winner 'Harvey Angell') and Vivian French. Visits by Jackie Sherlock, the Diocesan Education Officer, who told a super story 'The Magic Pond' and the Yate children's librarian who told stories and explained how the library system works.

Finally, on the last day, the whole school - staff included! - dressed up as their favourite book character... everyone had to explain why they had chosen that character and the staff read extracts from their favourite books. During the day there was an infant/junior book-share (in costume).

The Sporting events started with the annual Small Schools Soccer and Netball tournaments. The girls' Netball team had a brilliant day winning 13 - 1, 9 - 0, and 3 - 0. This means that we are unbeaten in the last two years; many thanks to Mrs Edwards for her coaching. The very young (and physically small) boys' team lost their first two matches by the odd goal before succumbing to a much larger Cronhall team.

Next came School Sport Day - a fine afternoon, two keen teams and Algars winning to make it 4 - 2 in their favour. The Iron Acton team then pulled together to compete in the Inter-School Sports against North Road, Rangeworthy and St Andrews Cronhall.

During the second half of term, the years 5 and 6 spent a Field Studies weekend at Little Dean House Hotel. They spent their time visiting... Old Tintern Railway Station - ghostly Little Dean Hall Butterfly House - Goodrich Castle - Symonds Yat - Clearwell caves - Dean Heritage Centre.

A weekend like this included many of the features of the National Curriculum programme of study contained in the subjects of History and Geography - as well as the Social/Personal development - we are grateful to Acton Aid, Iron Acton Parish Council and the Friends of Iron Acton School who kindly helped out on the financial side.

Mrs Hatt and the year 2's tackled this year S.A.T.'s (Standard Attainment Tasks - the 7 year old tests) with great determination... whilst I still have a great deal of scepticism about the format and structure of the tests (their statistical validity and reliability), it was pleasing to see so many level 3's recorded (this is seen as 'above average' and is therefore quite difficult to obtain).

During the Summer Term the infants class have been learning about life in Britain since the end of the Second World War. Class 2 was turned into a 1950's classroom for one day and many souvenirs and mementoes were displayed - Bill Haley has been closely involved in teaching the time via 'Rock around the clock'.

Whilst looking at the houses in Iron Acton they uncovered a photograph of the Victorian Dame School that was situated in Park Street.

The years 5 and 6 took part in the Maths Fair at the Ridings High School in late June. The Theme for each of the six schools was 'Investigation from Fairy Stories'. We chose 'The Three Little Pigs'... working in groups, the children worked on building a model house of sticks, a house of straw, a house of bricks... they used a hair drier, a bicycle pump and a pair of bellows to test how easy it was to blow them down. They adapted 'Bat-the-Rat' into 'Bat-the-Wolf' to test reaction times... all of the experimental results were entered into the computer programme 'Our Facts' - a database.

The children also studied anything to do with the number 3... patterns in the 3 x table, tri-words, all sorts of triangles and how to draw them with a compass, plus the famous theorem of Pythagoras.

Each one wrote the story of 'The Three Little Pigs' in a different genre... a horror story... a soap 'opera'... a witness(for Crimewatch - read Pig Watch)... a comedy 'The Three Chubby Pigs'... a story told from the Wolf's point of view.

At the time of writing we are rehearsing for our summer Concert, the Infants singing and performing 1950's songs, the Junior production will be Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dream Coat.

A reminder that the Autumn Term restarts on **TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 8th 1992**, because the school is closed for INSERVICE TRAINING on Monday the 7th September. Also please note:- **the new intake of 4 year olds will commence school on WEDNESDAY 9th September.**

The half-term holiday is on Monday October 26th to Friday October 30th, 1992. The Autumn Term ends on Tuesday 22nd December 1992.

The Acting Head Teacher of Iron Acton School for that term will be Christine Bateman. The post of Head Teacher will be advertised in September 1992 with a view to the Governors appointing a new Head for 1st January 1993. I wish the Governors good luck in their deliberations and I sincerely hope that everyone in the local community will support Christine Bateman and the new Head when he/she takes office. All schools in the County of Avon (and in most L.E.A.'s countrywide) are finding financial problems with their delegated budgets. Unfortunately this has led to staff reductions at Iron Acton (and many other schools). However I know that the staff will do their very best to continue the fine tradition of academic excellence combined with enjoyment and imagination.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### Friends of Iron Acton School

The Spring and Summer months are a busy time for the Friends for fund raising. In March the Friends held another very successful Skittle Evening which raised a sum of £165. These evenings are very popular and are a most enjoyable way of raising funds.

Once again our Grand National Jumble Sale held in April was very successful raising a grand total of £225. The lucky Winner of the sweep stakes was Mrs P Shepperd.

For the second year running the Friends provided a refreshment stall at the Inter School Sports Day raising a very worthwhile £59.50.

We are now looking forward to our main fund raising event of the year, our Summer Fayre on 4 July - by the time this publication reaches you it will already have taken place so thank you once again for your support.

The Friends have continued to use the funds raised to purchase items for the school. Substantial amounts have been spent on new reading books, a BBC computer, a combi-comb binder, a colour printer for our new Nimbus computer as well as making donations to the Field Studies Weekend and visiting storytellers for the School Book Week.

We are very sorry to be losing our Chairman Mr Dowding. He founded the Friends 6 years ago when he came to the school and has put a lot of time and hard work raising funds to purchase much needed equipment for the school. We would like to take this opportunity of wishing him well in his new headship at Coalway School.

Ann Bradley has kindly agreed to take on the chair for the remainder of the year and we are most grateful to her.

We hope to hold a coffee afternoon 50/50 sale in October/November and for more information on forthcoming events watch the school notice board.

Once again thank you for your continued support.

## ACTONIANS SUMMER NEWS

Following all the excitement of our spring successes, with the Junior Actonians sweeping the board at the Malmesbury Festival, best Technical for the seniors in Bristol, and an explosion of fun at the Village Hall "Blitz" evening, we are trying to return to a more sedate lifestyle, but with only limited success.

As we approach the July 1992 AGM which heralds the start of our Jubilee year, the Actonians are, as usual, frantically busy with a new production. This will be our first Jubilee production - 2 one-act farces from the Alan Ayckbourn "Confusions" collection. The two plays are linked in that they are both set in a small North of England hotel/restaurant - the first in the bar, the second in the restaurant. Mike Wills is the producer, supported by a plethora, nay, a superfluity of talented and good looking Actonians (such as YT).

In order to complete the picture, this will be a production in which "most of all, yourselves" will form the setting in that you, too, will be in the restaurant! Yes, at incredible cost to the Actonians, that intergalactically known caterer, Liz Aplin, will be providing a magnificent 3 (at least) course dinner to go with the plays. This will be (or was, depending on when you get your copy of Focus) a relaxed, enjoyable, fattening and thoroughly entertaining evening on the 17th and 18th July.

The main attraction of our Jubilee year will, of course be Lionel Bart's "Oliver" as our Winter production. Produced by Janet Lewis, auditions are now complete and the musical is cast. The Junior Actonians will, of course, play a major part - our only worry is that they will completely outshine the Seniors! Janet is still in the process of forming her technical and supporting crew - if you are interested in scenery, costumes, props, sound, lighting or administration - give me a ring.

We are, of course, always keen to welcome actors, or actresses into the Group - and even budding directors/producers! We have yet to decide on the Jubilee Spring production, so if you have a burning desire to see your favourite play performed in IAVH - submit it to the committee!

On a final note to those who simply come along and support our productions - thank you, and please continue to do so since, without an audience, a drama group has no existence. Don't be shy - follow the example of Iron Acton's leading drama critic (who shall be nameless, but is large, sells stones and used to wear blue suits a lot) who pulls no punches - if you don't like it, say so! (as the Yoga instructor said to the actress). See you at THE OLIVent of 1992.

Gerry Millward.  
Chairman.

\* \* \* \* \*

## THE DOG PROBLEM

The Parish Council frequently receives complaints about dog fouling of open spaces and discussions are going on about the possibility of bye-laws to ban dogs from Council-owned land - ie Parish Meadows, Village Greens, Cemetery.

Northavon are also wondering if they should make a bye-law to prosecute anyone who allows their dog to foul pavements etc.

The pavements are always a mess and a hazard to walk along.

Children are always getting their shoes and clothes filthy which is a danger to their health and makes extra, very unpleasant work for their parents.

So, dog owners, the message is clear! If you want the freedom to exercise your dogs where you wish, don't be anti-social.

**CLEAN UP AFTER THEM.**

## MAY DAY

Again we were lucky to have good weather, and many people came along to enjoy the festivities. A shame only three girls put their names in for May Queen, but at least it meant no-one was disappointed and they all enjoyed their special day.

As for the Fancy Dress - two little lots, the only entries for four classes - words fail me! Where is everyone's spirit of fun these days?

However it was a very successful day, the Maypole and Country Dancing by the schools was first class, and the Sword dancers were most professionals.

The girls of the Yate Dragoon Band were excellent and gave a very good display.

We are very grateful to everyone who helped in any way, and to Chris and Diane Heal of Latteridge who sponsored the Yate Dragoons, and the Parish Council who sponsored the Sword Dancers and the Steam Train.

Also to all those people who supported by giving donations, and to those who brought the great variety of cars which were on view.

Ice-cream	£ 20.00
Books	42.00
Plants	90.00
Friends of Iron Acton School	17.00
Acton Aid	27.10
Village Hall	100.00
Brownies	15.00
Hot Dogs	87.00
Soft Drinks	16.50
Pony Rides	24.50
W.I.	72.40
Raffle	110.00
Bouncy Castle	27.00
Actonians	20.00
Bucket Collection	34.00
Donations	190.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>892.55</b>
<b>Expenses:</b>	
Bouncy Castle	20.00
Photographs	50.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>70.00</b>

**Total**

**£822.55**

The Elizabethan Club also donated the proceeds of Whist Drive which came to £100, so "Focus" finance are pretty sound for quite a while.

Very, very many thanks to you all!.

\* \* \* \* \*

Betty Cook writes "At my plant stall on May Day, I promised to propagate a rock plant for someone - but have forgotten who! The plant is now ready, so if it was you, please contact me on 228202.

NORTH ROAD BAPTIST CHAPEL

Thank you for once more giving us the opportunity of proclaiming the news from North Road Baptist Chapel and expressing our thanks for past blessings.

Our numbers are keeping up despite a period when a number of our members had taken turns to visit hospitals. Mr Worsley has recovered well from two visits to hospital - one for an eye operation and one for a hernia operation. Mrs Meachin was lucky not to loose her fingertips and had to go to hospital outpatients. We are thankful that both are progressing well.

Mr Blick has just returned home from Winford and is slowly recovering from his hip operation. We pray that he will fully recover.

We can't afford to have men away from our services: there are just not enough of us to balance the ladies.

This glorious weather has given us the chance to use our new windows to full benefit. We express our thanks to Yate Windows who fitted them free of cost leaving us only to pay for the windows.

We have been fortunate to have visits from two male voice choirs this year. Whites Hill at Easter and Bristol Evangel Male Voice Choir in July. We are thus making good use of our new platform.

We have also enjoyed the musical services rendered by the Douglas family whenever one of them conducts an evening service.

It gives us great pleasure to proclaim the Gospel "Good News" and we are grateful to all those lay preachers who come Sunday by Sunday to lead us in worship.

We recognise how much we are indebted to God for His graciousness to us and would love to share with you the love of our Saviour. We would be pleased to see any of you at our services on Sundays at 6 pm. Communion Services follow the evening service on first Sunday of each month.

We express our thanks to Mr and Mrs Bob Sheppard who organised a Strawberry Tea in aid of our Chapel funds. A very happy and successful afternoon was enjoyed by all.

Looking forward we have our Harvest Festival Service on Sunday 27th September 1992 at 6 pm when a traditional Harvest Service will be led by Mr Jim Pullin who has for many years been connected with Muller Homes. Harvest gifts will again be sent to the Manor Home Frenchay. Come, ye thankful people come, raise the song of Harvest home.

JOHN MERRICK.

Pastor.

\* \* \* \* \*

**"Did you know?"**

....that there is a house in Bendigo, Victoria, Australia called 'Iron Acton'? It is owned by two sisters named Shipp whose ancestors came from Iron Acton.

The late Canon Browne mentioned in the parish magazine in April 1900 the death of Miss Hanah Shipp, aged 87 years who had, with her two sisters and three brothers, left Yate Court to live at Hill House in 1862. It would appear that a member of the family later emigrated to Australia."



## NORTH ROAD COUNTY PRIMARY SCHOOL. YATE.

Here we are, once again, at the end of another school year. Many people, young and old are looking towards new experiences in their lives. The 12 children leaving us are all going to Brimsham Green. Reading accounts of their thoughts after their Induction Day, many feel that their fears and uncertainties are unjustified. Most are now looking forward to the challenge of September 7th.

This date also sees the largest number of children (possibly ever) beginning their education with us at North Road. We have 23 Receptions and 3 Juniors which will make our school total exactly 100.

Mrs Cook, a school meals supervisory assistant at our school for 26 years, has just retired. The children, parents and staff gave her a garden chair to pass away the long, boring sunny lunchtimes she will experience!. Seriously, 26 years is a long time to be working in one place and she will be missed.

Mrs Child will be leaving us again, at the end of this term and anticipates rejoining us in February when her expected baby will be old enough to cope without her!.

We have had the usual busy Summer Terms packed with Assessment tests, sports days, school camp, day visits to enhance the learning in our topic work, Bar B.Q., Car Boot Sale, not to mention the Book Fair, Football and Netball Tournaments, Brass Ensemble and Parents Evening!.

We have not yet begun our project on equipment for the playground. The Friends of the School and the Parish Council have made financial contributions towards this venture but we will also need the hoped-for profit on this year's Bonfire Night celebrations to meet our estimated costs. Anyone who can help with transporting pallets or providing rubbish to burn will be most welcome. We meet every Sunday morning from the end of September.

The children, and staff, have their sights firmly set on July 17th and are looking forward to a sunny and relaxing 7 week holiday. (The School will of course, be open for the Holiday Play Scheme during the first two weeks) I do hope they get it.

Glenys Anderson.

### **MY THOUGHTS ABOUT GOING TO SECONDARY SCHOOL.**

I thought Brimsham Green was exiting.

The first lesson was Maths. It was fun and easy.

The second lesson was English. I found it a bit hard. It was vocabulary work. We went with our teacher to the English Block to have our next lesson which was P.S.E. - Personal Social Education. I found some of it funny because everybody was talking about having their head flushed down the loo and being thrown down the beetle bath, but it wasn't true!

The fourth lesson was the best of all. It was Science, I loved it. The last lesson was a bit boring, it was Humanities. We were listening to video tapes and we had to write down answers.

I think I will enjoy Brimsham Green. I even liked the food. I had chips, beans and a sausage and a drink.

Victoria Davis, 304, North Road.

I heard most of the stories about having your head stuffed down the toilet, but I don't think they are true. I thought the older kids would call us names, but when we walked past, they did not, but some older kids called us "little ones".

Firstly, we went to the lecture theatre. We were put in our Tutor groups.

I am in 7m room B26 with Stephen and Richard.

Our first lesson was maths: it was pretty easy; all we had to do was make letters out of squares and hexagons. I made an 'A' 'B' and 'Y' nearly, but we ran out of time.

We then went to our English lesson, we had a sheet to work on in pairs, then we had to write another sheet. Later in the morning we had P.S.E. Then we had dinner. After, we had Science and mixed chemicals. We had Humanities, but first we went into the lecture theatre.

At the end of the day, I was shattered, but it was fun, can't wait until I go to Brinsham.

At night I bought a calculator, an Atlas and Dictionary. Then I went to see my Tutor to get a book and have a chat.

Russel Wiltshire, 197, North Road.

## LIFE AS A BOY IN IRON ACTON

Having been born and spending the first seven to eight years in Yate, it was to my sister Alice and myself exciting news that my father, a railway worker on the Midland Railway was to move to the Thornbury Yate branch line to become a permanent way gauger, with responsibility for the railway line from Yate to Tytherington. We were to move house to Iron Acton.

It was to the house opposite the Crown Inn that we moved in the year 1923. The house belonged to two sisters by the name of Mainstone who at that time kept a shoe shop next door. Our new house had been re-furnished and was quite up to date for the period and had been before the home of a Mr Oliver Stiff, the village cobbler and newsagent and who was quite a character.

Our move to Iron Acton was all the more pleasant in so much as it was also the home of my grandparents Mr & Mrs John Cater, who lived at Pear Tree Cottage, Holloway (now known as Holly) Hill, and being in their old age were looked after by my auntie Miss Ada Cater, who had returned to England from the U.S.A. where she had been a ladies maid in Iowa and who I remember was an excellent cook and carried out in Pear Tree Cottage dress making for many people in the locality.

We had not been long in Iron Acton and had started school, where the head master was Gaffer Short, when the Rev. S.J. Handover called on my parents and almost demanded that I should become a member of the church choir. My mother who had always been a regular church goer agreed. I, therefore, found myself a member of what was quite a large choir for a village Church. I recall that being only eight years old we young boys in the choir were required to be able to take part in singing the Psalms and also to read all the lines. Looking around today I feel that this would be beyond the scope of lots of children in spite of the supposedly better educational standards. Gaffer Short believed in teaching his pupils the three R's.

I found as a school boy in Iron Acton the village to be more closely knit than Yate and I recall there was always something taking place in the community. My mother belonged to the Mother's Union, the Women's Institute and of course the Church. The Women's Institute put on plays and I well remember my mother on many evenings rehearsing her lines for some play they were putting on.

My father, meanwhile, had settled down in his new job and many Saturday mornings I would accompany him on his walk from Acton to Tytherington walking the length of the track ensuring that the line was in good repair and knocking a new key into the side of the rail chair holding the rail. We would often see a fox running along the hedgeway and also see the Berkley Hunt in the distance.

Our winters used to be very cold and we had lots of snow and I recall the very heavy rains we had when the road from the bottom of the railway bridge to Cog Mill would be impassable: indeed we took great delight in walking along the flooded road to watch the horse-and-carts coming through with the water up to the shafts of the cart. The Frampton lane at the Mill also became flooded, as did the road outside our school where we would watch the lorries coming from Wotton Under Edge getting through to the Lamb Inn to pick up parcels for Bristol.

The landlady of the Lamb Inn at this time was a Mrs Jistine Brown who had been in the pub for some years and whose husband, I believe, was a seaman who brought home a parrot which Mrs Brown kept in the bar on a table. Mrs Brown was a very nice lady and I recall that she kept a very old pony which had none too many teeth who wandered all around the school grounds and outside eating grass and dropping it all over the place because he could not chew it properly. I recall also a time when the children, who brought their dinner with them, having left their bags in the porch opened them only to find that the old pony had gone through their bags after their sandwiches. However, Gaffer Short made them go to the Lamb Inn where Mrs Brown gave them all cheese sandwiches.

Our school had about 75 to 85 pupils in classes which ran from class one to class seven. They were divided up into classes 1 and 2, 3 and 4 and 5, 6 and 7, the last three being with the headmaster. Mr Short was I remember very strict with the children's behaviour and many is the time I was sent, as were others to him for mis-conduct and nearly always it was one or two cuts with his cane which he kept in his desk.

Going up the road from the school towards what was Tonks Hill was the field where Mr Bob Howse had his poultry farm and running alongside of the little wall and roadway was a shallow stream and the boys, including myself, were in the habit of going along and trying from the road to jump the wall and little stream and many is the time we landed in the water. This soon came to the ears of Mr Short who then forbade us to do this. Some of us did not obey and were caught by Mr Short who duly marched 6 or 8 of us across to the Police Station where Mr Rowland the policeman told us if we did this again he would have us up to Sodbury Court. Imagine this today!

V.Cater

This interesting article will continue in our next issue of FOCUS

\* \* \* \* \*

### WELL DONE ROY ————— AND THANKS A MILLION

Compared to the total working population at any one time, it is comparatively few who work for the same firm for forty years, — and with redundancy and early retirement the order of the day, the percentage of folk who reach that milestone will go down further still.

Yet Councillor Roy Curtis has voluntarily served on Iron Acton Parish Council for forty consecutive years, and without his prior knowledge his Council colleagues decided to mark the occasion, and enlisted the help of his wife Betty and daughter Diane to that end.

So it was on April 28th at the occasion of the annual Parish Meeting a goodly company of parishioners gathered at the Village Hall, including many past and all present councillors. Any Other Business went on longer than had been hoped, but the deck was finally cleared for the Chairman to make the presentation.

It was obvious that Roy, though totally unprepared for what was to come, was both delighted and grateful for this surprise recognition of his faithful service, and received the clock (which had been suitably inscribed) with much warmth and candour. To say our presentation took the wind out of his sails would be true indeed!.

His wife and daughter both received beautiful bouquets with which they were equally delighted, and a wonderful cake was also produced.

I am a new comer to this Parish Council and can talk a donkey's hind legs off, but three things come second nature to Roy. First his great local knowledge is a big help, especially when showing us how things have developed over the years. Secondly, being a man of few words means that when he makes a contribution it is to the point and worth listening to. Thirdly, he is a great believer in, and practices, fairness to all, with quiet courtesy at all times.

We salute you, Roy, and thank you for the words of wise counsel so aptly spoken.

We look forward to seeing you and your wife in reasonable health for years to come, and hope you will complete your next milestone of 50 years as a Parish Councillor. If Queen Elizabeth is still on the throne we will let the nation celebrate her Golden Jubilee, while on our part we will be taken up with more important matters — celebrating yours!

Get to it Roy, you can do it, only another nine years of Agendas, Minutes, Matters Arising, Planning Applications, Correspondence, Accounts for Payment and Any Other Business, including your own favourite subject, Footpaths!.

F J Davis.

\* \* \* \* \*

### **125 YEARS AGO.**

"A proposition to allow women to vote was defeated by a large majority in the House of Commons. Logically the proposer may be right in his thoughts and deductions but common sense tells us that he is wrong, when he insists that women should equal men and be entitled to political power and privilege."

## SNAP

Snap means different things to different people. Some may say it is a card game which can get noisy. Others say it's the first of three sounds from a breakfast cereal. Others may say it's the sound of something breaking, and if you are from the North of England you may think it means something to eat.

But if you are a pupil at our local school you will know that SNAP! can mean only one thing - a new children's monthly magazine, full of colour and vitality, produced by one of the big names in children's book publishing - Walker Books. (Please read on - this is not a commercial).

This is the story.

At an age when I might be expected to be preparing myself to think about pensions and bus passes, I decided to take an 'A' Level examination - not just any 'A' Level but in one of the newest subjects - Communication Studies. This entailed, among other things, doing a project. Where would society be in the 1990's without people doing projects? This is indeed the current scenario (do you remember the perfectly good word 'scene' before scenario came on the scene - sorry, scenario).

I was waiting on Paddington Station to get the train back to Parkway, avidly reading the media page of the Independent (every good Communications Studies student reads all the media pages of all the daily newspapers), when I spotted an item about the launch of SNAP! magazine. No market research had been carried out by Walker Books, who were confident they could sell 175,000 total copies in October, November and December last year. Perhaps I could offer my services to the publishers to do a little market research for them and use the material as a basis for my project? Straight back into Menzies I went and purchased the first edition of SNAP! Instead of reading ghastly Government environmental legislation documents on the return train, I settle down and devoured the contents of SNAP!, pretending I was at primary school again (SNAP! is really aimed at 5 - 9 year olds). I was impressed - I had to be since it could save the embarrassment of being the only one of the class without a project. Others had chosen topics such as "How to find your way around the Frenchay Hospital", "Things for young people to do in Bradley Stoke", "New windows software packages for Hewlett Packard", "Publicity tape for helping the blind", "Nursery groups in Northavon" and "Constipation in the elderly". My constipated thoughts having been now relieved, I set about the next stage in the proceedings.

After discussion with the Tutor, I telephoned Walker Books and the publicity lady, Jane, seemed enthusiastic about the proposition I made, ie I would carry out the research provided the publishers provided me with free copies of SNAP! Having obtained written agreement, I was ready for the next stage. Where would I find 30 willing primary school children to answer a large number of questions on the November, December and January editions of SNAP!! Of course! Right on the doorstep, weren't they? A tentative telephone call to Ron Dowding, intended to last a couple of minutes, went on for three quarters of an hour, as Ron's lateral thinking went into overdrive.

The plan was then to use my questionnaires as part of the reading class material - Julia Edwards, the Teacher with special responsibility in this area, was equally enthusiastic (Julia had already written a book on primary school reading for the Local Education Authority). I was shown how the school introduced reading skills to the pupils and how these skills were developed in class and with the help of parents, using a booklet devised by Julia. No wonder our school has such a high standard, particularly in reading.

Needless to say, the children came up trumps with the handling of the questionnaires, which were made relatively easy in the first instance (mainly yes/no answers), but building up to more complex answers and opinions. This is where things got really interesting, culminating in a series of taped interviews I made with the children one afternoon. It took me a few days to recover from this experience. I had so much information given to me that afternoon, most of it relevant to the subject. The irrelevant bits I promised the children I would not divulge! Seriously though, the children were fantastic. The enthusiasm and dedication shown by the staff has transferred to the pupils in no uncertain measure and I could not have wished for a better response.

To cap everything, it was decided to get the children to give their artistic imaginations free rein and get them to design a front cover (or poster) for SNAP! All those who had responded to the questionnaires took part and I ultimately received thirty brilliant posters, which were passed on to the Art Department of Walker Books for judging. All entrants received something from Walker Books and I was proud to be a guest of honour on the opening day of the school's Book Week in May, to present eight special book prizes to the cover/poster winners.

What a gratifying sequence of events where we are all winners! Walker Books ended by obtaining some useful marketing information at very little cost. The school obtained a lot of kudos for taking part in the research of an international publishing house and their reading and interpretation skills (as well as artistic skills) will surely have benefited. Lastly, I produced an 'A' Level project which appeared to go down well with the adjudicators.

The comics around when I was a lad were BEANO, DANDY, HOTSPUR, FILM FUN, etc. When I finished delivering papers in my youth, the EAGLE comic had just hit the news stand. This signalled a revolution in children's comics for a variety of reasons, one of which was its vibrant colours. If colourful SNAP! becomes desirable, I shall want to fulfil sooner rather than later, a recent ambition to become a paper (old)boy again!

GJD

\* \* \* \* \*

### BROWNIES

I am sad to have to say this will be my last report, as we are moving to North Wales in July.

We celebrated Mothers Day and Easter by making cards and an Easter basket filled with sweets which the Brownies made themselves. We have covered several interest Badges, three new ones which were Thrift, Road Safety and Chess. Having reached the age limit of 10, three of our Brownies left us at Easter, but I am pleased to say they have all come back each week to help us. Liz and I would like to welcome Ali Pearce who has kindly come along to help us each week, we are hoping she will become a Young Leader eventually.

Four young men kindly ran a disco for us: not only did they do it free of charge they also supplied lemonade and crisps, and organised some games.

We are working for our Jester badge and having a concert for the parents just before we break up, and the last Tuesday once again we will finish with a Sport evening and Barb-b-cue.

I am pleased to say that we have a new Brown Owl coming along in September to carry on the Brownies, her name is Sue.

I would just like to take this opportunity to thank every one who has helped me in my three years I have been taking the Brownies.

Jenny Cheese (Brown Owl).

### Alfred Strange's Diary

1933

- 1st. Sat. July Down to Rangeworthy to watch the cricket. Rangeworthy 129 runs (Peter Baldwin 45) beat Frampton II. Later across the fields and painted picture of The Lodge.
- 2nd Sun. Served at Holy Communion with H. White. Afternoon walked down to Acton with V. Crossey - we rested and laid down in the Avenue. Sid Coles, L.P.'s young man, in a rage. P.C. Young came to deal with him. Helped to ring big bells for evening service. Missionary preacher gave sermon. Two chaps from Thornbury came over to see J.P. and D.P. Dacre scored two centuries for Glos. v Worc. 119 and 125 n.out.
- 3rd. Very hot. Had game of cricket in Rangeworthy Rec. Daily Herald net sales exceed 2 million.
- 4th. Smash-up by Tillen's (Rangeworthy) between Singer saloon and Morris Oxford saloon: Old lady suffering from shock. Ronald Green (Frampton Cotterell) of Bristol Rovers goes to the Arsenal.
- 5th. Called in Forrest's yard to see Lomas (council lorry driver) and at Jack Lloyd's (Chaingate Lane). Evening - haymaking in field behind cottage. J. Seymour helping using Gowen's scythe. Heat wave 87°.
- 6th. To Rangeworthy. Garden Fete at Lucas's (The Court) Thornbury Gram. School to beat Rangeworthy Tennis Club. 'Tich' Freeman (Kent) took 5 wickets for 18 runs against Glos. 6 for 42 in 2nd.
- 7th. Evening went round to Howes' for my uncle C. to see if they were haymaking. Choir practice. Later I got M.P. to help me with shorthand practice.
- 8th.Sat. In afternoon went to Yate Station to meet my grandmother's sister Lizzie from Swindon. I walked back with her to help with her luggage. Later watched cricket. Rangeworthy 70 runs beat Old Sodbury. Crawford (Australia) Wimbledon singles champion. He beat Vines of U.S.A. Ames (Kent) scored 295 runs. Record for the county.
- 9th.Sun. D. Gibbons gave me lift to church on his bike. Long service about the Oxford Movement. We did not come out until 12.40. 24 Italian sea planes reach Iceland.
- 10th. Office - made out expenditure on tar-spraying for the first quarter. Evening along Wee Lane to Greggs College (Park St.). Wimbledon Tennis Singles Final. Mrs H. Wills-Moody beat Miss D. Round.
- 11th. Cricket. Rangeworthy 102 for 6 Peter Baldwin's XI 30.
- 12th. Office. Typed 40 letters for Mr. Gould about cake competition at Yate British Legion Fete. Boxing - Jack Peterson beat Jack Doyle (disqualified in 2nd round) at White City. 75000 there.
- 13th. Italian air armada reaches Labrador.
- 14th. Obtained form from Dyer's to join the Wiltshire Club (approved provident club). Bought pen nibs from Miss Oseland's (Chaingate Lane).
- 15th. Sat. Up to Yate and round North Rd. In Washbourne's club room. A Salvation Army woman came in collecting. My uncle gone on Wickwar Quarry outing to Southsea today.
- 16th.Sun. Late for church. Sat at back. Some ginger haired chap sat with me. Bellringing for evening service. Afterwards round Nibley and Yate with V. Cater. Government said to be forcing up food prices. Major Elliot agric. minister. Verity heads cricket bowling averages. 127 wickets at average 8.88 runs.

- 18th. Office. Letters to P.C. Mitchell of Acton Turville and the Lord Bishop of Gloucester. Delivered British Legion Fete bills to Morton's, Fursman's/Huggins and the Crown Inn. Helped my uncle C. turn the hay. After tea we put it up in cocks. Evening to Rangeworthy Pat Hull told me he was starting a scout troupe. Cricket. Rangeworthy 56 Pucklechurch 55. Down to Acton. I saw seven charabancs return from the day's outing to Weston. Found a hedgehog in the yard this evening.
- 19th. Evening - helped my uncle with haymaking.
- 20th. Office. Auditor came to enquire about royalties (quarry stone I believe.)
- 21st. Over to Tytherington with my uncle's boots for repairs. Round Latteridge choir practice - over to North Rd. game of cricket in Pearce's then to football meeting at the Codington Arms. I signed on with North Road for next season. To Yate with R. Elson and L. Wookey. Walked home with B. Aldom.
- 22nd.Sat. Afternoon - helped my uncle finish the hay rick. Tried out my new Germoline Shaving Soap. Took Club money to North Rd. I met Dick Worlock (old Grammar School lad) at Sodbury. I cycled round Horton, Wickwar, Kingswood and Charfield where there was a Fete. Jews in Sydney (Australia) riot over German goods.
- 23rd.Sun. Up too later for the 8 a.m. service. Walked to 11 a.m. service with M.P. In afternoon I went down into the field and read 'The People'. After the evening service round to the Rectory garden with V. Cater, B. Wilkins and H. White. We played Croquet and Bowls. V.C. sent one of the bowls into the fishpond. On my way home I met D. Gibbons and A. Emery. I think they were hoping to meet N.P. A.C. and her cousin. Amy Johnson and Jim Mollison leave Pendine Sands (S. Wales) to fly to America.
- 24th. Called at Mr Gould's (Goosegreen) to collect British Legion letters. He was keen to show me his onion bed - he had onions 14 ins. round. On the way home I delivered some letters including some to Acton. After tea I went down to the cemetery to tidy up my uncle's grave (George Smith who had die in October 1914. He had been a Sunday School teacher at the Wesleyan Chapel at Rangeworthy I believe). Later delivered letter to Jack Strange (New Rd.) I met T. Curtis and I. Batten.
- Amy and Jim are across! (the Atlantic) Wiley Post beats round-the-world record 7 days and 18 hrs. average speed 80 m.p.h.
- Golf - G. Britain beat the U.S.A. in the Ryder Cup in Paris.
- 25th. Amy & Jim crash at Bridgeport, Conn.
- 27th. Office - Capt. Henderson off for holiday at Woolacombe, Devon. Auditors at office this week (from Shire Hall). Took my medical card to my doctor. Dr. Grace, Chipping Sodbury.
- 28th. Office - Mr Powell went to Winterbourne to inspect a milkstand.
- 29th. Sat. Office - Mr Gould busy getting ready for the Brit. Legion Fate. Afternoon I attended the Fete at the Old Vicarage, Chipping Sodbury. Wickwar Quarry beat Sodbury Hauliers in the tug-of-war final. Charlie Lewis was in the winning team. Seemed all went over the 'The Cow' afterwards and had a good time! Called in at Holbrook's shop on the way home.
- 30th. Sun. After evening service I walked across the fields to Frampton Cotterell and Coalpit Heath with V. Cater, R. Elson and B. Wilkins. We called in at Minnie Wadley's shop at Nibley.
- 31st. Office - Mr Greenway (quarry owner) came in.  
Gt. Britain beat France in Davis Cup (F. Perry, M.W. Austin, G.P. Lee, N.G. Hughes).

## REMINISCING (DEFINITELY A SIGN OF OLD AGE)

My crew and I were posted to 147 Squadron in September 1944. This was a newly formed squadron consisting of experienced aircrews only, but of many nationalities - Australian, Poles, Czech, Dutch, Norwegian and ultimately two Russian crews, but the latter always remained aloof and took no part in any social activities.

The primary purpose of the new Squadron was to open the European air routes as and when the various venues were liberated. We were to operate from Croydon which, in spite of the fact that it was a busy pre-war passenger airport, was still a grass surface. However, the passenger terminus and Aerodrome Hotel were still intact. Heathrow was only a wooden shed with two men and a dog. Our Squadron Commander was an ex-Imperial Airways captain with extensive pre-war airline experience.

We were comfortably billeted in the Aerodrome Hotel (the bars were soon stocked and operational). Sleep was constantly interrupted by V.1s which favoured Croydon and the surrounding district as their target for many months. Provided you could hear their motors you knew you were alright - it was a long wait when you heard the motors cut - they were on their way down. V.2s followed in due course - these arrived without warning. The aerodrome and buildings themselves escaped damage.

As the venues for most of the proposed routes were still occupied by the Germans at this time or unuseable because of war damage, the squadron was called upon to do a great variety of different operations and it was sometime before our aircraft were fitted with passenger seats and we carried stewardesses.

After five years with a parachute, it took sometime to get used to flying without one (a ploy to ensure that passengers were not left to fend for themselves in the event of an emergency).

We were in the main using the old war-horse the DC3 (Dakota). Although it had been in general service for quite a long time, it was an extremely sound and useful aircraft capable of carrying a very heavy load and of being put down in a very limited space and taking off if necessary in a short distance.

We delivered howitzers, jeeps, and all kinds of military equipment to various strips throughout France. There was one trip I wasn't very keen on that entailed taking a plane load of hundreds of Jerry cans filled with petrol; (Definitely no smoking).

On a number of occasions we brought back 24 stretcher cases and later on some of the Arnhem Boys.

Just before Christmas we flew to Aldergrove on a "Training Trip" but were grounded for four days when the weather closed in after the aircraft had been loaded with dead turkeys which by coincidence had been waiting for us when we landed. They were somewhat ripe but still edible when we returned to Base.

My wife's brother was amongst the prisoners-of-war released from Stalag Luft 3 that we flew back from Reims.

Bordeaux was liberated by the local Resistance Group and as the number of English visitors during the war had been very few!! we were always made extremely welcome when we flew in their supplies. The people of Bordeaux were great devotees of Churchill and we always returned with a fair number of cases of best Bordeaux for the Prime Minister. It must have given him a great deal of pleasure to drink wine from bottles with the words "Reserved for the Wehrmacht only" printed across the label.



One visit to Bordeaux stands out - after an overnight stop, the Commandant of the Resistance group took us to Biscarosse where the French had hidden a 6 engined Flying Boat (capable of carrying 60 passengers) throughout the war. It was the second prototype of the Latecoere 631. The first prototype was not complete before the war and at the time of the French Collapse had no engines. Work was carried on by the Vichy Government and this aircraft eventually took off from Marigane only a few days before the invasion of the so called Free Zone in November 1942. The aircraft was confiscated by the Germans and flown to Lake Constance where it was destroyed by allied bombs in 1944. The second prototype was hidden safely by the French. It was almost unbelievable that an aircraft of this size could remain hidden for so long. We felt very privileged. It finally took off for the first time on March 19th 1945 and was transferred to Air France in July. The day after, it flew its first long range journey to Dakar with the French Air Minister Charles Tillon, one Admiral and 60 passengers on board. Unfortunately on the 31st October the propeller of the left internal engine broke and went through the fuselage killing two people. Three more of this type were constructed and delivered to Air France and after a chequered career were eventually grounded in 1955 and scrapped.

En route to inspect the seaplane we stopped at a small vineyard for a "glass". To our great surprise and delight the owner produced a bottle of Scotch which he had religiously kept unopened since 1939 to share with the first Englishmen he met after the war - we were the lucky ones.

As time went on more and more cities became available and most of our flights were concentrated on the new air routes and transporting Crown and other heads of State, V.I.Ps and the King's messenger to various parts of the continent (some times with a fighter escort, depending on the importance of the passenger and I felt mainly for show rather than necessity).

I see from my log book that in April we were dispatched to Lyneham and underwent a series of quick inoculations and then left for Celle (Germany) to fly displaced people from Belsen but we were recalled through bad weather and we at least were saved the distress of seeing the results of their imprisonment.

By July 1945 most of the air routes were fairly well established on a definite time table and life became fairly routine, although Europe immediately post war was very full of interest and amazing stories. Eventually many of my squadron colleagues had the opportunity to join BEA and various other continental airlines. I decided otherwise and finished serious flying at a Glider Snatch Unit - conducting trials snatching Horsa Gliders off the ground by means of a trailing hook catching a loop attached to the glider, but that's another story and not the kind of thing you wanted to do for fun.

G.J.C.

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### STOP PRESS

#### BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION RESULTS.

POSTERS:-      7 & Under      1st BEN AVERIS                      2nd SAMANTHA PARKHILL  
                    8 to 12            1st REBECCA PARKHILL      2nd CAMILLA SPARE

HANGING BASKET:-      ALBERT DAVIS, HIGH STREET

CONTAINER:-            IVOR DYER, NIBLEY LANE

GARDEN:-                MR & MRS WEAVER, SCHOOL HOUSE, THE BRITISH.

\* \* \* \* \*

## ELIZABETHAN CLUB

On Wednesday, 4 March (Ash Wednesday) several of our members attended a service in the Church and at our meeting that Day we heard that our Treasurer had broken her ankle - we all hope that she will be walking soon and minus her plaster.

Our first trip to the New Forest and Salisbury was a washout but we managed to make the best of it and started to dry out on the way home! Our next trip was to Lynton and Lynmouth; the sun shone all day and the scenery was beautiful - we all enjoyed ourselves. June's trip is to Teignmouth and July's to Paignton.

The recent Whist Drives have made £105 for the Youth Club and £100 for Focus. In addition to these Arthur Pitt organised one for St Peter's Hospice which raised £149. The Chairman and all members would like to thank all those who attend the Whist Drives and also all those who are so kind as to donate whist prizes and raffle prizes as without these our Whist would not be so successful. Behind the scenes a lot of people are involved with getting the hall ready, serving and making refreshments and clearing up afterwards. So, a big thank you to all concerned.

Mrs Fifield, one of our oldest members, was recently admitted to Frenchay Hospital and is now slowly recovering. All our members wish her well. Mr Worsley has had 2 short stays in hospital but is now much better and his eyesight has greatly improved.

In June our Chairman, Mr A Pitt, sadly passed away. He will be missed by all our members and the numerous friends he made through both our club activities and also through the whist drives.

Susannah Russell

## IRON ACTON WI

So what have the Wild Indians been up to of late? Our monthly speakers have imparted pearls of wisdom on the topics of diabetes, the use of herbs for both medicinal and culinary use, and what it's like to be part of a BBC outside broadcast team involved with the Antiques Roadshow, Songs of Praise and, for some reason which I'm still not too sure about, David Vine and a skeletal horse (no, don't ask me!!).

In common with many other organisations the amount of money needed to keep going continues to rise and in March we decided to "open up" our meeting to other WI's in the area and to our numerous friends in the Village. They were invited to watch Mr Hudson, an ex-lecturer at Brunel Tech, make "Savouries for Easter". Unfortunately a dreaded lurgy homed in on him like an exocet 2 days before our meeting. What could we do? Step forward Big M, otherwise known as Dusty Taylor, President Extraordinaire, and faster than you could say Loyd Groseman (there is only one 'l' in it) and raspberry coulis she'd arranged for Marcus Hobbs from Hobbs House Bakery to talk about yeast cookery and the inimitable Jenny Riddle to demonstrate flowers for Easter. A great evening was had by all and our funds benefitted to the tune of £102.19. Thanks to EVERYONE who supported us.

We, in turn, supported the Village Day for Focus by running a cake stall. We raised £72.00 and gave all of this towards Focus.

A well deserved rest in August is followed by speakers lined up for the Autumn on Remedial Masseur (14 Sept) and the Poisons in Your Pantry (12 Oct) - bet you won't try one of our cakes after this one! This latter talk had to be altered from one on Witchcraft as the speaker is being threatened with legal action over copyright - you'd have thought he'd have checked in his crystal ball, wouldn't you??

On 22 July we've arranged a Woodlands Walk through Rocks East Woodlands at Marshfield where we hope to find a hidden Victorian ornamental garden, and our Christmas Season starts early on Thursday, 26 November with a trip to Penhow Castle (twixt Chepstow and Newport) for a tour of the castle, followed by carols, mince pies and mulled wine.

I finish on a sad note and I wish with all my heart that there was no need to write what follows. At the end of June the WI learnt with immense sadness of the sudden death of Molly Smalley. Molly had been "one of us" for many years and it was always a joy to see her. We obviously valued her intelligent, sensible and methodical approach to everything, and her culinary skills will also be sorely missed, but the irreplaceable attributes are the wonderful sense of humour and her incredible thoughtfulness and compassion. I can only sum it up by saying that Molly was the sort of person I would dearly love to be. We were privileged to know and love her, and we only wish that we could have had the joy of her company for much, much longer. Our loss is the angels' gain.

Lynne Blanchard

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July has been a sad month for "farewells". You will read in the WI report about Molly Smalley and it hardly seemed that that awful news had sunk in before being quickly followed by the death of Nobby Pitt. I write the following because the Elizabethans' asked if I could put something in Focus about him (and also because I wanted to).

#### **NOBBY PITT**

Although I'd grown up knowing "Mr Pitt" it was only in the last 4-5 years that I'd got to know "Nobby". I admired and respected the way he ran the Whist Drives and appreciated the large amounts of money he made for numerous charities. I never knew him to be angry, even on the odd occasion when fate took a hand and threw a spanner in the works, he would chuckle, shrug his shoulders and soldier on. I was lucky enough to become an "honorary OAP" last Summer when the Elizabethans let me go on their trip to Sidmouth. Nobby was the life and soul of the party, caring for his charges and managing to get things organised without making it appear so. He could take a joke against himself too. Last Winter he put 'The Hat' on a night storage heater in the Hall not realising it was hot, and then stood smiling ruefully as he later tried to put it on only to find the heat had made the stiffening contract and it sat perched on his head, like a boil on a bum as he put it, while the rest of us roared with laughter. Whenever you saw that familiar red car you could almost guarantee it would be full. How often did we all see Nobby smiling broadly and the rest of the car filled with a variety of ladies going off on one of their jolly jaunts? But perhaps the most lasting impression is of Nobby, who together with Messrs Shepherd and Dyer, made up Iron Acton's answer to Last of the Summer Wine. They proved that life after retirement can be fun and fruitful - they enjoyed themselves, and we enjoyed watching them too!

#### **BROWN OWN AND HEAD TEACHER!**

In a slightly different way we say "farewell" this month to our Head Teacher and Brown Owl! Ron Dowding is becoming Head Master of Coalway School in Gloucestershire and Jenny Cheese (and her husband) are having to move to Wrexham because of work commitments.

Both have applied themselves to their chosen tasks with diligence and I think the whole Village has cause to say "thank you" for the hard work they've done. I suppose it's stating the obvious to say that I tend to get myself involved in all sorts of Village events! Throughout everything I've done I've always had a tremendous amount of support from Jenny and Ron. Many of the successes I've enjoyed would have been impossible without them. It's been a team effort and I'm terribly sorry it will be no more. They've always supported other Village Organisations, giving freely of their precious time and, more often than not, being supportive so quietly that we don't get to hear about it. I only hope that Jenny hasn't decided to move so she doesn't get roped in to another of my Christingle Workshops - she's a demon with an apple corer, but that's another story!

Finally, on behalf of all those of us who have cause to be grateful to you, I say "thank you and good luck in the future for everything you do" (you won't need luck tho' cos talent will see you through!).

Lynne Blanchard

**!!!!!!!!!!!!!!WE NEED YOUR HELP!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

We have decided to have another try to be AVON'S BEST KEPT VILLAGE and we are appealing to you all to do your best to make sure we are successful.

Judging starts later this year, on JULY 1ST and carries on to mid-August. This means we have to expect the judges to come round at any time without notice, so one tidy-up just won't do, we have to keep on top of it for the whole time.

To quote from the organisers blurb:...

"The architectural attractiveness (or otherwise) of the village buildings and their setting will not be a consideration. The winners will be those who have been most successful in making the best of the village. Absence of litter and unsightly refuse counts for twenty points, and evidence of communal effort indicating the pride of the community in the appearance of their village can win ten points".

We shall have the usual classes for hanging baskets and containers, prizes £5 each, and if you would like to enter your garden for a possible prize of £10 give your name to Betty Cook, Neksdore, High Street (228202) by July 1st.

SO COME ON EVERYONE, LET'S ALL MAKE A SPECIAL EFFORT

AND WIN THIS YEAR

As I write the children's posters are being judged and will soon be on display. Unfortunately we have none from North Road School this time because entry forms from the CPRE came very late this year and did not give them time to fit poster making into their busy programme.

Hanging baskets, containers and gardens will have been judged by the time you receive this issue so if possible we will add a "Stop Press" or report winners in the next issue.

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**FORTY YEARS AGO**

I have just been reading an old copy of the Balance Sheet of the "IRON ACTON CORONATION FUND. 1952/3".

"So what? you say "just a lot of stuffy figures".

But wait. Read between the lines and imagine what a lot of work and energy went into that collection of £176.0.4d, and what enthusiasm and communal effort is conjured up.

Apart from a donation of £33 from the Parish rates, all the rest was raised by volunteers, with each of the four pubs vying to outdo the others. It took six Sales and five Raffles to make Forty Four Pounds Eighteen Shillings and Seven pence. An entertainment by The Girls Friendly Society (local girls?) collected another £56.0.3d, and there were many other fund raising events - sale of teas, entry fees for sports etc, whist drives, and a very intriguing "Anonymous Donation for Special Purposes" of £10. I wonder what that was for? And last but not least "Sale of Cake 12/6d".

And how was it all spent on the Great Day?

Well, from the expenditure side of the Accounts it seems that there must have been a Thanksgiving in the Church for the Service Sheets cost £7, and transport was arranged for the elderly costing £4.10.0d. Then we can imagine how many Coronation Mugs were bought for the sum of £40.17.6d, and what a grand sight the £22. spent on fireworks created. The Gymkhana cost £15.3.0d, the Village Teas £21.14.2d, and the street decorations accounted for another £8.2.6d. What a day! And there's more .. There were £2 prizes for the Best Decorated House, the Best Illuminated House, the Most Colourful Garden, and £11.6 0d, in prizes for the Children's Fancy Dress and Sports. There were Darts Competitions, Handicraft Exhibitions, and a Skittles Match, (for which the customary prize was a pig, but, this time the winner, Mr. Gifford, won £5.) And so on. Guess what "goings-on" went on behind the simple item "Payment for lost tea towels - 6/-d." What a celebration it must have been? I do hope it was a sunny day. And I wonder what happened to the surplus of £16.0.5d?

C.R.W.

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
August 5th.	Village Hall Committee AGM.	
September 12th.	ANNUAL HORTICULTURAL SHOW	
September 26th.	Church Harvest Supper	

In the Parish Church:

September 27th.	Harvest Festival	9.30 a.m.
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In North Road Baptist Church:

September 27th.	Harvest Festival	6.00 p.m.
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At the Rose & Crown:

1st Thursday in the month	Acton Aid	8.00
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At Iron Acton School:

September 8th.	Autumn Term starts	
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FOCUS ON IRON ACTON is produced three times a year, usually at the end of March, July and September; and is distributed to every house in the Parish. Contributions for publication are always welcome and should be given to any of the persons named on the Editorial page, who will be ready to help with advice if needed. Items ought to be submitted about four weeks before date of issue.

Advertisers wishing to take space in FOCUS should contact either Mrs. B. Cook (228202) or Mr. C. Wilkins (228254).

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