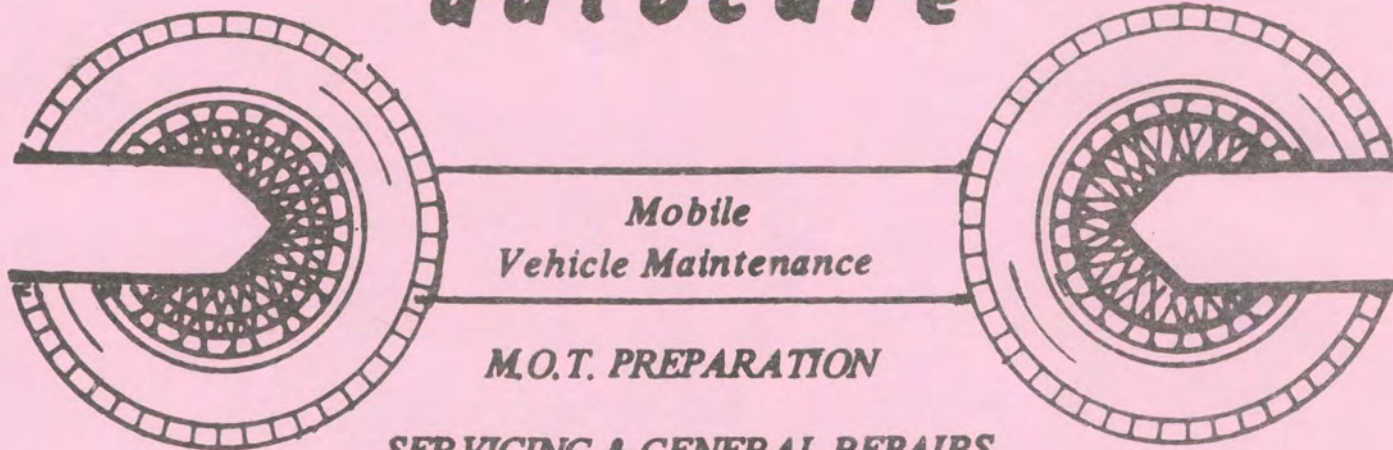


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 on  
**IRON ACTON**

*The Parish Meadow*



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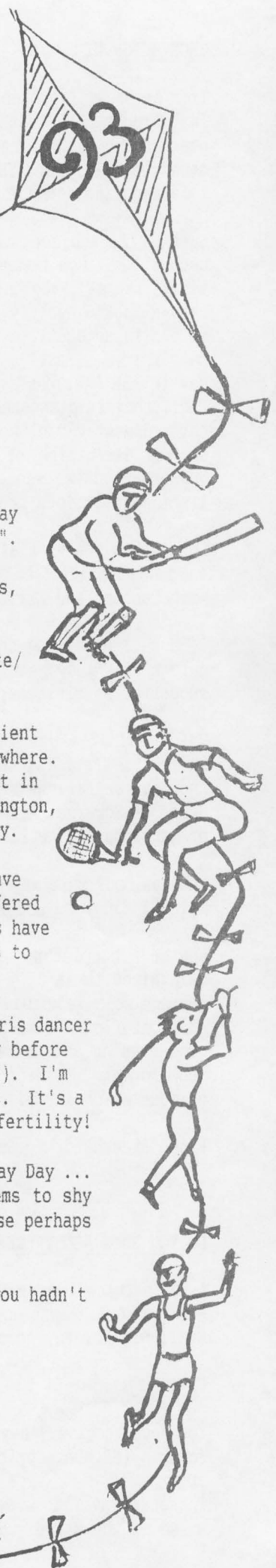
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Near Bristol.  
Telephone  
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# SUMMER



Rumour and news articles lead us to believe that May Day is to be "moved" to October and renamed "Trafalgar Day".

We live in a country where schools, hospitals, churches, essential charities and societies (local and national) have to hold fund raising events to continue their existence or to fulfil legislative standards. The State/Government does not or cannot find sufficient revenue.

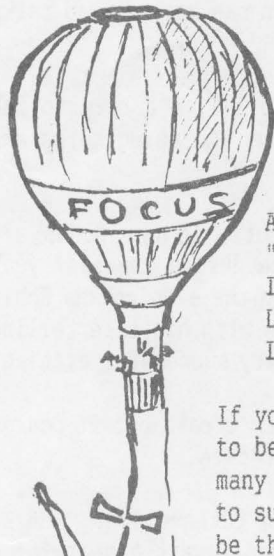
A glance through local papers for May Day '93 gives sufficient "ammunition" to prove this day's value to fund raisers everywhere. I can think of very few people who would willingly turn out in Late October for such events as Winterbourne Down, Tytherington, Iron Acton (and even Gatcombe Park) currently put on in May.

If you deprive fund raisers of even one day then all events have to be crammed into less time and this year Iron Acton has suffered many times when events clashed - which means our Organisations have to suffer from reduced revenue which, it has to be said, tends to be the main reason we behave like headless chicken!

What's all this rubbish about a "Communist" Day?? As an ex-morris dancer I can tell you the English People have celebrated May Day long before Lenin ever thought of throwing an ice pick (or was it Trotsky?). I'm proud to be English and May Day's been celebrated for centuries. It's a great reason for celebrating with its overtones of rebirth and fertility!

Let's hope 1994 isn't the last May Day ... but as our country so often seems to shy away from the use of common sense perhaps it will be!

(This issue's editorial, as if you hadn't guessed, is by Lynne Blanchard)





## IRON ACTON WI

Iron Acton will probably be hit by plagues, hurricanes and gales! Why? Because this is the first time in living memory that the WI report will be ready by the stipulated date and for once I won't have to peer around High Street corners or refuse to answer the telephone for fear of being asked "Haven't you done that WI report YET" by another intrepid member of the Focus Team. What's the point of belonging to a magazine and not having "some" leeway in deadlines!

Back to the subject in hand ..... Our April Meeting saw me spellbound when we had a demonstration of cake decoration. Don't some people make you sick? There was this woman with one left hand and one right hand (just like me), the only difference being that the things Jane made out of a stamen and some sugar paste leaves looked exactly like a real life rose, carnation and orchid whilst my own feeble attempts end up more like an abstract art form.

May is the "serious" meeting when the Resolutions for the National General Meeting are discussed. In fact, they're discussed by each WI in the UK (there're 135 Institutes in Avon alone). This year topics cover domestic violence (it's suggested a review of the Homicide and Criminal Justice Acts takes place so the definition of "provocation" is extended to include prolonged domestic violence) and water conservation (we want the Government/Parliament to ensure protection of rivers, streams and ponds and limit abstractions from other sources).

So you can see that although we enjoy our time together there is a serious side to our activities. We can be "political" but not "party political" which is why our National Organisation has already had talks with Customs and Excise about VAT on fuel.

Because I'm writing this on time I can't tell you what our June meeting was like. It's a trip to the garden of a lady near Trowbridge who visited us last year to tell us about growing and using herbs and suggested we visit her ..... so we are.

This year it's our turn to host two meetings to which all the other 7 Institutes in our Group are invited. The first one took place in April when we discussed what's taken place during the last year and representatives from the County Federation are in attendance. Our speaker for the evening was Robin Bush, ex-Somerset Archivist and star of radio and TV, who soon had us in hysterics with his tale telling of extraordinary wills and colonial requests for family history data. It was a very successful evening.

The car boot sale was due to take place in April. You've heard the phrase it doesn't rain but it pours? Well it did .... and we had to cancel. We're hoping to re-stage this at a later date.

And on a happier note ... The long awaited skittles match against Acton Aid has taken place. The WI maintained their 100% record in all skittles matches ... and came second. We can't wait a year for a revenge so a return battle is planned for October! There's also been suggestions about darts and quiz confrontations (I suspect AA haven't seen the havoc I can reek with a set of darts!). Still, it was a good evening and we're looking forward to the next one although I hear that AA are trying to get Roy Hubbard into training so that he can hit 9 pins down with each 3 balls rather than just the once - an episode which surprised Roy ..... and staggered everyone else!!

Lynne Blanchard / Secretary

## DO YOU KNOW ABOUT KEEPSAKE???

A new service from Royal Mail (writes Lynne Blanchard) where ALL your post can be held for up to 2 months - while you're away on business or holiday - so no tell-tale signs of mail accumulating on your doormat/ Available for any domestic or business address, the following prices are for one address:

Up to 2 wks - £5.00                      3 wks - £7.50                      4 wks - £10.00                      2 mths - £14.50

You have to give 7 days notice before you wish the service to start and you MUST fill in an application form. (NB above prices were correct at time the leaflet I got the details from was printed!!)

These are available by telephoning 0272 212441 or by writing to Keepsafe, Freepost, Bristol, BS1 1AA - so if you write you don't even have to pay the price of a stamp.

## THE ELIZABETHAN CLUB

Spring was heralded with an Easter Bonnet Competition which was won by Mrs Pilbrow.

An outing to Moreton-in-the-Marsh and Evesham on 27 April was a great success and the Black Mountains our destination in May. Our Driver was very considerate and adjusted the schedule to suit the weather and so yet another enjoyable day was had. We're off on our travels again on 22 June when we go to Saundersfoot and our Birthday Outing will be to Swanage on 6 July.

Perhaps you've remembered that 1993 is our 40th Anniversary and on 7 July in the Village Hall we celebrate with Party Fare and Entertainment.

Two successful Whist Drives have been held so far this year: in March £30 was donated to Focus as our contribution to the Village Day and in May £50 was given to the Enterprise Bus (a bus which helps our members to attend various functions).

Our next Whist Drive is on 26 July when the proceeds will be divided between Headway House and Elizabethan Club funds. IF ANYONE FEELS ABLE TO DONATE A RAFFLE OR WHIST PRIZE FOR THIS EVENT WE REALLY WOULD BE GRATEFUL TO HEAR FROM THEM.

Mrs Worsley made a cake, and Mr and Mrs Worsley raffled this and other prizes on May Day. This resulted in £54 being donated to Village Day for Focus funds.

I finish on a sad note, in May Mrs Wills resigned from the Elizabethans' as ill health had necessitated a move to Yate to be nearer family. We shall all miss her, her wonderful sense of humour and her common sense and we wish her much happiness in her new home.

Elsie Blanchard / Secretary

## NORTH ROAD SCHOOL

There have been a few changes to North Road School since the last edition of Focus. The bike shed, so long a feature of the playground, has finally been removed. The staff are pleased with the extra space although I suspect there are many past and present children who will mourn its demise.

Mrs Hinder has some excellent ideas for a Conservation Area Project and we are awaiting a delegation from Avon House to discuss her plans in detail.

The Friends of the School have also completed a project begun some months ago by Brian Gallett and Andy Wybrow. Julia Amos' team of Committee Members has provided us with a first class food activities area in what used to be the old toilet block. Anyone who would like to see it, or indeed use it with a small group of children, would always be most welcome!

We are looking forward to our Teddy Bears' Picnic on 18 June to celebrate the "Grand Opening".

Lastly, I am sure that many of you will have noticed our smart school sign, a very expensive new feature.

We have been involved in many sporting activities this term. Mr James, Mr Rycroft and Mrs Smith's football and netball culminate in the Tournament at Leyhill on 3 July. We have been playing quick cricket with Mr Messenger and have outside coaching in short tennis from Andy Mulligan provided by the Sports Council. The local schools Sports Day is on 7 July at Iron Acton, while our own Sports Day is on 16 July.

Our 11 Year 6 children leaving at the end of this term will be facing new challenges in their various Secondary Schools. We will miss them, and their families, for the many contributions to life at North Road. I am sure they will all do well.

Looking to the future, all applications for new entries to school for September 1994 have to be obtained from school and returned to Avon House for the closing date of 30 September 1993.

Glenys Anderson / Head Teacher

## CLAUDE GOWEN

Most of you who read this will have known Claude Gowen personally as he had lived in Iron Acton since 1952. In 1961 he became the landlord at "The Lamb" where he was for 18 years before retiring. The number of friends and acquaintances he had become evident from all the cards and letters of condolence that mum has received and from the number of people who attended his funeral service.

Dad was always quite an adventurer (sailing being his greatest love) but he was always game to try something new. He got talking once to some lads in the pub, learnt they had a glider and so he begged a flight with them at Nympsfield. On a sailing holiday with his pals from the Chew Valley Sailing Club he 'threaded the needles' off the Isle of Wight - which, I understand, is quite a thing to do. Another ambition was to go in a hot air balloon and so we arranged that for his 70th birthday. Up he went, leaving us with bated breath on the ground, and enjoyed every second of it so we thought it might keep him quiet for a little while. We were wrong! Next was a trip to South Africa with Mum. Whilst there they were spoilt rotten by their friends, Ann and Chris Hurst (who used to live in Iron Acton). They went on safari to the Mala Mala Game Reserve where he became a member of the 'Big Five Club' and also went on the Blue Train - which is similar to our Orient Express. We were dreading their return, stories, photographs, videos, it was endless!! But a holiday of a lifetime and plenty of adventure.

As I mentioned earlier sailing was his greatest love and hobby and he had many friends at Chew Valley Lake Sailing Club where he sailed regularly every Wednesday. Winter, summer, gales - you name it he still went - and he was made an honorary member.

Anyway, his final adventure was yet to come. It had always been a joke that he wanted his ashes scattered on Denny Island (Denny Island is an island in the centre of Chew Valley Lake which as well as being a wildlife sanctuary is also protected land). What a request!

His friends at the Sailing Club said it was not until they realised that Claude's days were coming to an end that they had better try and get things organised. So they contacted the Water Authority to ask permission, which to their amazement was granted. His last wish could be fulfilled.

What a day, Wednesday 30 June, sun shining, a slight breeze (just what you need when under sail power) and all his friends gathered to pay their last respects to their sailing pal. They had his boat ready to sail over to the Island. Sam and Fliss, two of his granddaughters, sailed with John across the lake with his ashes to the Island. The rest of us all travelled to the Island by motor power including Mum - Dad would have been so proud of her (for years he'd been trying to get her on that lake!).

There are a lot of people to thank for being able to have Dad's last wish granted, but we would like to say a special 'Thank You' to the Rev and Mrs Waker for making the journey to Chew Valley and the Rector for the ceremony he conducted on the Island for us. I just hope his cassock has dried out and that he's not going to get too addicted to sailing! It really was a special day for us.

Yvonne Bate

## GRANDAD

The following poem was written by Fliss Bate and she also read it at her Grandad, Claude Gowen's, funeral service. We asked if she would share it with Focus readers and Fliss and her Family have kindly agreed.

- |   |   |   |  |
|---|---|---|--|
| 1 | We have all come here today<br>To say "goodbye" to my Grandad.<br>Not only a husband and a friend,<br>But a hero and a dad.     | 4 | These words that I am speaking<br>Not only apply from me<br>But everyone who knew you<br>Including friends and family.           |
| 2 | He loved to sail all around<br>On that big blue boat of his<br>Although we all shall miss you<br>I would just like to say this: | 5 | You gained many qualities<br>With friends and family here<br>Now you start a new life<br>In heaven, with us still here.          |
| 3 | You saw fifty years of marriage<br>Which is very rare to see<br>I recall the celebration,<br>The life you led was happy.        | 6 | Before we say farewell to you,<br>There's something I'd like to add,<br>You will always be in my memory,<br>I love you, Grandad. |



## FRIENDS OF IRON ACTON SCHOOL

In May the friends held a very successful 'Promise Auction' at which we raised £570. We are indebted to Dave Desborough who did a wonderful job as our auctioneer. The 'Spring Bazaar' was another good fund raiser, producing £240. By the time you read this we will have had the annual 'Summer Fayre.' The 'White Hart Inn' very generously provided the first prize for our 'Grand Summer Draw.' We are grateful to all those in Iron Acton who have supported these events.

As usual, there has been plenty for us to spend these funds on. We will be contributing to the cost of a security system for the school. Shortly we will be buying workbooks to support the school reading scheme in the infants class, playmates and associated items, a new blackboard/easel and some reading books for the juniors. In the long term we intend to purchase sufficient gym mats to enable a large part of the school hall to be covered. To this end we will be buying three mats now to add to those already in school.

We are already planning events for the new school year. On Friday September 17th, a treasure hunt in the village, followed by a barbecue on the school field should be an enjoyable family social event. For October, we are planning a skittles evening. At the end of November we will be having a flower arranging demonstration which we hope will be well supported.

During the week 1st November to 5th November, there will be a 'Book Fair' at school at which we will be selling a range of children's books, earning commission for the school. If you would like to come and have a browse, and perhaps buy a few Christmas presents, you would be very welcome. We will be open for business at the beginning and end of each school day.

Once again, many thanks to all those who have supported us in the past. We hope that we can count on the continued support of the village in the future.

**Ann Bradley (228559)**

\* \* \* \* \*

## NORTH ROAD LADIES CLUB

After the Easter holidays, in April, we had a most amusing talk by Anne Francis about Jumble Sales, giving us an insight into how to beat everyone else in the queue to get the best bargains. She, of course, turned up wearing an ensemble bought at some of the 'classier' jumble sales, as she put it.

Our trip to Bath on a warm evening in May found us driving around Victoria Park several times searching for the large flower urn where we were to rendezvous with our Guide. We eventually found the elusive urn and set off with Brian Amesbury for our Walk Around Bath, which was enjoyed by everyone taking part.

At the May Day celebrations on the Green, Lin Angell and Ann Johnston had a successful day with their stall.

Our Barbecue was held in Lin Angell's garden on a blazing hot June evening and was well attended. Members enjoyed ploughman's suppers, hot dogs and plenty of thirst-quenching drinks.

We are now looking forward to our outing to the Packaging Museum at Gloucester Docks, and later on in October, the highlight of the year, to see the production of CATS at the Bristol Hippodrome.

**Dorothy Denning (228442)**

## ALFRED STRANGE'S DIARY

October 1933

- 2nd. I helped Mr Gould sort out tenders .. it was Council Board Day. Brown and Mr Wall came to the office to select the tenders. Cashed my salary cheque for September £1.18.8.  
Down to Norman Lane to check my uncle's cattle and then in to Gregg's College.
- 5th. Reg Elson called for me .. rode on the back of his bike to Gregg's College - a rough ride! Jack(Elson) doing something to his car .. we gave him a push.
- 6th. Rode M. Pinnell down to Norman Lane to check on beasts. Choir practice. Paid Morris of Tytherington 5s.6d.!! for repairs to my shoes.
- 7th.Sat. Away to Clevedon. Clev. St. Andrews 9 North Rd. 1 (Wilcox). The pitch was right at the top of a hill. We stayed at Clevedon until 7.30. Griff Smith not very well. Home in Elson's car 8.40.
- 8th.Sun. To 8 a.m.service with D. Gibbons. Harvest Festival. Walked to the 11 a.m. communion service with M. Pinnell and F. Fortune. I served with H.White. Walked down to Acton in afternoon. In Wallbank's porch with J. Ellis, J. Lane and E. Morgan. Had a ring on the big bells for the evening service. Large congregation. Up to Yate with D. Gibbons and R. Elson .. we met Miss S off the train and walked back with her to Elson's.  
Crash outside Buckingham Palace - car runs into crowd - two killed.
- 9th. Into Greggs College on R.E's motor bike. When we returned found that Mr Elson had gone to meeting at the Institute on my bike .. I had to wait around .. Felt a bit of a fool!
- 10th. In lunch hour went with Mr Powell and H. Ovens to pick walnuts in the drive opposite office. I picked half my satchel full. Took basket for the Rector to King's (Two Pools Farm) and grapes for my grandmother from H. Festival.
- Evening .. to football meeting at Codrington Arms. Dick Canvin began abusing Mr Elson. There was a fight after which Mr Elson resigned .. much commotion! Later home with D.C. and B. Aldom. (Dick Canvin lived with Mr Tom Alexander in Patch Elm Lane. He was killed in a motor cycle accident just before war broke out).
- 11th. Tea time .. Mr Colbourne had called to say my U. Cecil's beasts had got out of the field in Norman Lane. R. Ballam came with me on my bike .. it was alright .. Charlie Colbourne had put the cattle in another ground. Over to North road with D.G. Mr Alexander is now the new chairman of the football club.
- 12th. Office .. I typed out summary of stone dug from Wick and Bury Hill Quarries. Kingsford Smith beats Scott's record flight to Australia in 7 days 4 hours. In a Percival Gull plane made at Yate Aerodrome.  
To Gregg's College .. R.E. bought a shirt and gloves in Castle St.  
Yate North Road team to play Wick Ath. A. Strange, A. Greenaway, A. Mainstone, F.Dickson, M. Broom, C. Prentagast, - Evans - Matthews, A. Powell, D. Canvin, R. Wilcox.
- 13th. Typed out particulars of stone dug at Bury Hill Quarry for the past 10 years. Mr. Greenaway (Quarry owner) and Mr Search called at office. Evening .. down to Norman Lane again with M. Pinnell. We couldn't find the cows in the darkness .. went down to Colbourne's where we could see them over a wall. Bellringing practice .. a fellow (Mr Brown) from Winterbourne came. Later over to a social at North Rd. School with D. Gibbons .. L. Wookey sang a song.



- 14th.Sat. Football away to Wick. Called at Sodbury for Evans who couldn't play so returned to North Rd. for R. Elson.  
Wick Ath. 2 Yate North Rd. 3 (R. Elson, A. Powell and f. Dickson) Greenaway played a good game.
- Evening .. up to Yate with L. Wookey, C. Prentagast and J. Mackney. P.c. Young called in at Haynes shop .. something to do with fireworks.
- St. Leonard's B. Class 3 Iron Acton 4 - St. Silas 5 Rangeworthy 1.
- 16th. Germany leaves the League (of Nations).
- 17th. Another football meeting. Mr Elson now on the committee .. argument about car expenses.  
J. Cobb, D. Emery and L. Harvey join the church choir.
- 18th. Delivered Brit. Legion letter to Townsend at Jubilee Terrace. Across to the clubroom at the Codrington Arms. Made a 139 break.
- 19th. To Greggs College on R.E's motor bike. I don't think I will go again on the back of the m. bike .. too risky!
- 26th. Raymond owned by Sir Abe Bailey ridden by Nichol won the Cambridgeshire 40 to 1. My uncle's cows now in a field belonging to Mr Roberts of Sheephouse Lane, Latteridge.
- 28th. Took 32 lbs. of onions round to Miss Ozeland's shop in Chaingate Lane. Paid 2s.6d.  
Football at Bedminster Down. T.S. Hall & Co. 8 Yate North Rd. 2 (R. Elson A. Greenaway) Foot and mouth disease broke out as we were playing .. notices up. We had to wash our shoes .. Concern to J. Elson and H. Washbourne who both had dairy cows.
- Mr C. Alsopp's funeral today.
- 29th. Typed 40 letters for Mr Gould (Yate churchwarden) re induction of new Rector at Yate on 9th Nov. My salary cheque now £2.17.6d.

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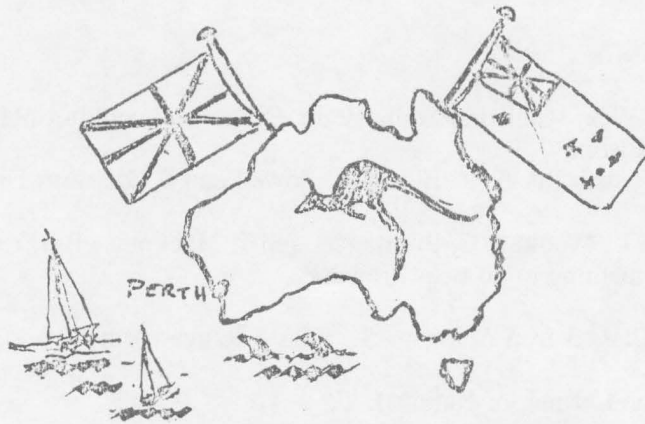
### NORTH ROAD BAPTIST CHAPEL

In April we left our own Church to join our friends at Evangel Mission Kingswood Bristol for a service of praise conducted by the Bristol Evangel Male Voice Choir. A thoroughly enjoyable and uplifting service was followed by refreshments which were eaten with relish by all who attended.

In May we were joined by Michael Turner who brought with him the Sodbury Young Peoples Musical Group conducted by Rachel and friends and relatives from Chipping Sodbury Baptist Church. It was good to see the Church virtually full and the result was a great encouragement to those who worship Sunday by Sunday.

Our Harvest Service will be held on September 26th when our Preacher will be Mr Bert Saunders of Bitton and we are looking forward to a blessed time.

We get a great variety of preachers who bring their own inimitable styles but all of whom preach the same Gospel and proclaim the amazing Grace secured for us by God's Son death resurrection and ascension. We would extend a warm welcome to anyone who would care to join us on Sunday evenings at 6 p.m. and our ladies would also welcome any ladies who would care to join them at their services on alternate Tuesdays at 2.30 p.m.



## BRYAN'S BIT II

To understand Australia is to first of all realise that, like Africa or America, it is not a country but a continent, just like Europe, but, like America, with no real history or culture; everything is either second hand or imported, so if my bit is shallow it is because that is all there was to find in the tiny bit that I was able to see of Australia, in fact, Western Australia and the City of Perth.

Entry into Australia through Perth Airport (about the same size as Lulsgate) is not easy. It's the usual rugby game for the luggage, 2 cases arrive quite quickly and then what seems a 2 hour wait for the last one, but then to immigration - officiaos imported from Mother Russia before the collapse.

Seated on a high seat behind a screen, what might have been female in a past life, looked through at me as I waited behind a white line, before being given the Rcyal nod to approach 'her' bench.

Checking my immigration declaration form for lies she cross-examined me about the intended visit to 'her' country. "Was there any insanity in my family?" "Yes," I replied, "My Sister lives here." I was made to wait in a corner whilst this was digested, and then I was called for a further chat, having watched the complete complement of another flight pass through without problem. Returning to the bench I was asked "Do you have, or have you ever had a criminal record?" Hedging my bets, I said "Do I still need one to get into Australia?" That must have earned me the further 20 minute wait.



At last we were through and out to arrivals, and there was my niece waving to me, only she now looked 20 stones. As it turned out she wasn't my niece but some fat bird waving to someone behind me - the brain was much softened after 22 hours flying and a litre of duty free. Sister and Brother in Law were there to greet us and it was great trying to catch up on everything, their kids, our kids and their grandchildren we were soon to meet, all this whilst I was pushing a piggin great trolley of luggage to their cars, waiting at the furthest point of the car park.

I was soon to learn that the Australian way to park a car is either as far away from an entrance door as possible, or anywhere that will get the car as hot as possible whilst awaiting your return.

You have never seen as many old banger cars in your life as I saw during my stay, old Cortinas, Avengers even Mk 1 Granadas, it was like a parade to a scrap yard. I decided there and then not to try selling new cars to this place.



I won't bore you with my family visit because, after all, that is my business and not yours; all I will say is that it was fabulous, and my Mother seeing her great grandchildren in the flesh for the first time and at Christmas, the magic time for little ones was well worth every effort.

25 years before I had been in Freemantle. Freemantle is the sea port to Perth as Bristol is the entrance to the sea for Bath. I hadn't enjoyed Freemantle on that visit about the same as people on a day out to Reading find that City to be naff.

First impression was that the tie shop would go broke in a month, but a vest shop or a string of them (get the pun) would do a bomb.

The surprise was how green everything was. Perth was coming out of its winter and it had been a record wet one, but it was so green, and all colours were so vivid that if a plant was yellow, it was a bright yellow, and if it was orange, it was such a pure colour. We spent the first few days just looking at the surroundings and admiring all that we saw.

No shortage of water: sprinklers hitting us on all sides as we walked through their beautiful parks and all with no vandalism. We soon learnt that the Aussie youngster is in fear of the police and the more mature person hates and distrusts them as bent. A policeman's lot in W.A., cannot be a happy one - even the police headquarters building is curved to confirm how bent the force is.

Built on the banks of a wide blue shallow S shaped river, Perth is beautiful - even Wimpey or Heron couldn't get it wrong - but that's all it is, about 7 or 8 Sky Scrapers most with a history of fraud during the recent Bond days.

I declined a visit to the oldest house on the river: it was 154 years old: I explained that the Nook in our village that we had moved from was about 381 years old and I didn't enjoy 'modern buildings!'

Funny place W.A. It is almost like a labour controlled City with excellent services, free inner city gleaming buses, gardeners busy all day in the parks, all local employees with a guarantee of work with a 3 months holiday after 55 years of age, and council buildings everywhere (instead of Council read State, for the same amount of people). The truth is they are skint and how long this carnival can continue for is anyone's guess.

You have all heard about the Barbi on the beach for Christmas day, while we all freeze and shiver. Well, it is true, but the reason for it being on the beach is because of the heat, about 100F; you cannot cook in the house as it causes too much heat. On our Christmas Day, my sister being a great traditionalist, it was all cooked out in the garden and then brought into the house for eating, and it was great, just the same as I hope you all enjoyed.

The funniest thing I saw, in a holiday town down the coast, was a Father Christmas in all the kit but wearing sandals, giving out sweets to all the kids with the sweat running off his nose while he did it, it didn't seem right somehow.

The Bush is frightening. Millions of miles of knarled dead wood and scrub on a gravel soil just waiting to catch light into an inferno, and people build holiday homes there, just to have a place in the Bush, with local towns that are right back to the thirties and roads that lead off to nowhere, a difficult place for me to understand, but as a guest I did try to be polite if only so that immigration would let me out.

Leaving Australia was no problem; leaving the family was not so easy; we had grown together over the weeks so it was a sudden "Bye" and a dash through departure before the tears fell.

## PARISH COUNCIL

The dry stone walling course attracted quite a good number of people and we hope you all learned how to keep your garden walls in repair.

Avon County have turned down any idea of traffic calming measures in the High Street because:-

- a) Iron Acton has the best record of any village for accidents (or rather lack of them!)
- b) Any obstacles they introduced would spoil a conservation area.
- c) The street lighting would have to be increased to the same power as that on the bye-pass.
- d) It would cost too much.

But we shall carry on trying to get some improvements and extra signs in Nibley Lane and on the green. They have at least agreed to provide road markings and plainer warnings at the school.

More stiles are now in hand and all footpaths should soon be completely free of obstructions. Councillors will be walking them during the summer, but if you find any problems meanwhile please report them to the clerk.

It seems many people are using the tennis courts without paying. We feel 50p each per game is little enough and does provide a sum to cover repairs, so play fair and pay up to the clerk. Children of course, still play free.

There has been much mention in the press recently about pensions and Post Offices, but don't be persuaded into having your pensions paid into a bank. Support your local Post Office, USE IT OR LOSE IT!

Chairman, Bob Sheppard, 200 North Road;

Vice Chairman, Sue Gawler, Shale Cottage, Wotton Road;

Councillors, E. Blanchard, B. Cook, R. Curtis, F. Davis, G. Gale, D. Hancock, C. Heal.

Clerk, N. Carter, 9, Chilwood Close.

\* \* \* \* \*

## TREE WARDEN SCHEME

Do you have a little time to spare? Are you interested in trees?

The District Council is looking for Tree Wardens in local areas in support of the Tree Wardens Scheme. With the proposed Community Forest this will be very important and interesting work. There will be an introductory training day at Woodhouse Park, Almondsbury, in October, and further training courses will be given.

Tree Wardens do not need to be experts, only enthusiasts who care for the environment. The course will cover such subjects as surveying woodland and non-woodland trees, summer and winter tree identification, tree planting and after care, woodland ecology and management, seed collection and setting up a tree nursery, and tree law.

A number of trees have been planted through the parish over the last few years, and it would be good to know that someone was watching over them.

So if you think this is for you **PLEASE** give your name to the clerk or contact any councillor, and you will earn the gratitude of the whole village and the posterity.



## MAY DAY

Once again the weather man was good to us and the day was fine and dry, but I, for one, had a wind-burnt face. Entries for May Queen were much better, nine in all. We were only sorry they couldn't all be Queen, but as before we thought the fairest way was to put the names in a hat, and the lucky ones to be drawn were Sadie Pitman for Queen and Ami Gardener and April Coulstring for her attendants.

Financially the day was very successful. This year all organisations taking part kept 50% of their takings for their own funds, so everyone benefited.

Results were as follows:-

	£
Sale of programmes	14.00
Bucket Collection	18.05
N. Road Ladies	17.00
N. Road School	5.00
Book stall	7.49
Barry's stall	5.00
Acton Aid Welly Wanging	15.00
Hot Dogs etc.	132.04
Mrs Worsley's Raffle	54.00
Ponies	50.00
Plants	100.00
Icecream	25.00
Victoria's toys and books	25.00
Mrs Jobbin's cake	40.00
Village Hall Tombola	122.00
Elizabethan Whist Drive	30.00
Women's Institute	30.00
Brownies	2.89
Bouncy Castle	61.00
Shakespeare Group	40.00
Actonians	25.00
Friends of I.A. School	30.00
Railway Train	23.75
Total	872.22
Less expenses	199.15
	673.07
Plus donations and sponsorships	476.00
	1149.07

We hope everyone enjoyed the day, and hope to see you all again next year, when we plan to put on even more entertainments.

We are very grateful to all our sponsors, who are:-

Express Dairies (Yate);	Pinker's Game Farm;	Gawler Tapes & Plastics;
Parker's Garden Centre;	H & T. Proctor (Fertilisers);	Video West;
Iron Acton Parish Council;	Mr & Mrs Worsley;	Stanshaws Service Station;
Dando Motors;	King Eggs;	Dr. & Mrs Naish;
R.S. Motors;	Godfrey Cook;	Mr & Mrs R. Hubbard;
Imperial Interiors;	Westwood Finance;	Dr. & Mrs Hughes;
Manor Tyres;	Westwood Developments;	White Hart;
Jeffrey Cook;	Dyer Bros;	Halifax Property Services;
P & H Motors;	BJW Woodworking.	

## IRON ACTON SCHOOL

The school has had many more systems to teach me since my arrival here in January. The events which colour the later Spring and the following Summer term are wide ranging.

However, the most interesting and potentially dynamic event to impact on the school is the acquisition of the school house building. Here we have a great potential for further expansion of teaching and storage space, which, as those of you who are familiar with the school know, is in short supply!

Coupled with this, the Governors saw fit to increase the staffing in the school, enabling further groups to be taught. These groups will in the future be able to use teaching space in the school house, instead of using the hall as they do at the moment. When all legalities are completed, we will need to attend to the house as it is in need of some renovation.

With the continuing support of the Friends association, the school has been able to start investing in a new and up-to-date maths scheme, further resources for the children's topics and teacher resources, of which the school had very few.

It was nice to see the school so actively participating in the May Day celebrations and lovely to see the children dancing around the Maypole on the village green, a new experience for me.

The School has been hosts for the annual Cluster School's Football tournament; the day was overcast but fine and all the children from the participating schools enjoyed their afternoon. At the same time Netball tournaments were held at North Road School, Yate, in which the girls from Iron Acton had considerable success, winning all their matches.

The Cluster School Sports will be held the first week in July.

The school has arranged an outing to the Westonbirt Arboretum later on in the term and all concerned are looking forward to this as it coincides with all the children's topic works as well as being a fun day out.

A light-hearted note to finish on - I hope many of you saw in the local Gazette Newspaper the "Class of The Week" just before half-term; this was our Infant Class with Mrs J. Hatt, their teacher.

**Headteacher: R.H. Larter.**

\* \* \* \* \*

## CENTRE SQUARES, Winterbourne.

Centre Squares is a Modern American Square Dance Club which meets weekly at Winterbourne Community Centre. We are starting a new class for Beginners on Tuesday 5th October and will be having Introductory Fun Nights on Tuesday 21st and 28th September (7.30 - 9.00 p.m.)

Square Dancing is "Fun and Friendship set to music" As long as you can walk (and can count to four) you can Square Dance as no dancing skills are needed. So, get yourself a partner and come along and see for yourself. Contact Margaret Nash on Winterbourne (0454) 773370.

\* \* \* \* \*

## HORTICULTURAL SHOW

The Iron Acton Horticultural Show, organised by the Village Hall Committee, will take place on 11th September, in the Village Hall. Schedules will be available in the village shops and all the usual places. Please come along and bring all your best produce. As usual, there will be an auction after the show



## THE ACTONIANS DRAMA GROUP

The Actonians have been extremely active since the last Focus in this, our Jubilee year. In fact, these days we never seem to be anything other than at least very active.

Ann Aplin directed, with considerable help from daughter Liz, a very successful production of the comedy "Cold Comfort Farm", which received an excellent write-up in the Gazette by Bernard Wolfe. Apart from some very familiar faces (albeit well disguised in some cases!) in the cast, we were also pleased to see some new young members playing their roles so well. The scenery, props, lighting and sound were also up to the Actonians usual high standard. However, the main accolade must go to Rachel Tillotson for a super performance in the enormously demanding role of Flora Post - on stage for almost the whole play.

Following closely on the performance of the play came the Actonians' Silver Jubilee celebration evening. This was organised entirely by a sub-committee led by Bob Allen who also prepared all the excellent food. A magnificent exhibition was prepared by Ray Bulmer, showing photographs, programmes, and other information on all the plays performed by the Actonians over the last 25 years. Information was also presented on the earlier plays performed by the WI, from which the Actonians Drama Group was formed by Margaret and Gerald Green. Of the past members of the Actonians who attended, it was particularly pleasing to have Margaret and Gerald present; a presentation was made to them of an engraved glass vase to commemorate the occasion, which also received coverage in the Gazette. It must also be mentioned that the Sodbury Players generously supported us by putting on a very amusing Melodrama as part of the evening's entertainment. The evening was completed by dancing to an excellent band: a marvellous evening, to be long remembered.

We are now in the throes of rehearsing the "Wild West Show", an evening of entertainment to rival that of last year's "Blitz" evening in its music and comedy. The show is being produced by Mike Wills, on the 16th and 17th July, with a cast of thousands. Make sure you book a ticket early to avoid disappointment.

The next play will be the Bristolean comedy "Born in the Garden", produced by Janet Lewis, in September; readings/auditions are now in progress.

If you would like to take part in the above shows in any capacity, either acting or technical/administrative roles, please contact Gerry Millward on 228704. If you are interested in joining or helping with the Junior Actonians, contact Gerry also.

Please note also that the Actonians Annual General Meeting will be held in the Village Hall on 14 July 1993 - all are welcome to attend. Nominations for officers should be given to Rona Wright, Eynesford Cottage, Wotton Road, Iron Acton.

\* \* \* \* \*

## UPWARDLY MOBILE

Ten ways to go up in the world without really trying.

- Call your diary a personal organiser.
- Put your allotment shed keys on a Porsche key ring.
- Take Harrods carrier bags with you when you go to Tesco.
- Rent out your garage to someone with a Rolls Royce.
- Ask the Council to put you in a higher property band.
- Always travel by taxi for the last 100 yds of any journey.
- Change your name to match your car number plate.
- Buy a tent and call it your weekend retreat.
- Paste your own entry into "Who's Who."
- Sew designer labels into all your old clothes.

## DOGS AND OPEN SPACES

Again we appeal to dog owners to take care where they exercise their dogs. Pavements, play areas and open spaces fouled by dogs are very unpleasant for everyone, and a threat to health, particularly to children.

Control your dogs and clean up after them.

## BIRD NEWS.



In the spring we had a rather uncommon visitor. Though I have seen these birds occasionally passing through on migration, it is the first time I have known one to stay any time.

Every evening when the street lamp came on he perched in a nearby tree and sang a most beautiful song, which he kept up for hours and was usually still singing when we went to bed.

We couldn't manage to see him among the twigs so at first we didn't know what he was. Could it be a nightingale? Surely not in a built up area. Eventually we decided by a process of elimination that it must be a black-cap. I have since heard a recording of a nightingale, and the black-cap's song is much, much more melodious.

He stayed for about a week and then left as suddenly as he came - I suppose he decided there was no chance of finding a mate here and went off to search elsewhere, but I hope he calls on us again next year.

B.C.

## THE HIGHWAY CODE?

Visitors to Britain might appreciate a leaflet giving tips on how to adjust to British ways of interpreting the Highway Code before setting out in a hire car. Such as:-

- a. Never use the inside lane of a motorway if there is room in the middle or in the outside lane, otherwise there is a serious risk that someone might overtake you.
- b. When you want to turn right at traffic lights, wait until the green appears before signalling with your indicator. Some advanced practitioners consider it a sign of weakness to use indicators at all.
- d. Those yellow box criss-cross markings at junctions look pretty but are not intended to be taken seriously. The same goes for double yellow no-parking lines, which you can neutralise by switching on your hazard lights.
- e. When coming up to a round-about, it is considered bad form to filter in smoothly, especially when there is no other traffic in sight. It is essential to stop and stay stopped for at least 30 seconds--- with any luck another car may have come along by then, enabling you to hold everyone up a bit longer.
- f. Don't overtake unless you can see a blind bend, hill or another car approaching. You need something to aim at.
- g. On frosty mornings, never scrape the ice off your windows before setting off, otherwise the neighbours may think your car lacks de-misters.

Can you think of any more?



## ACTON AID

I am writing this report while sitting in the garden, enjoying the glorious sunshine and a cup of coffee. Whilst enjoying this time, I am reflecting on what has happened over the past three months or so in Acton Aid. The meetings held on the first Thursday of each month at the Rose and Crown at 8pm have been well-attended, with 12 or more members making regular attendance, and indeed making valid contributions to the work of Acton Aid, with ideas and valuable guidance towards our fund-raising events and the other activities with which we get involved.

The membership of Acton Aid is substantially more than our 12 or so regulars, so there are some members who can't or don't wish to attend our meetings: I would appeal to those existing members who have not come along for some time to consider joining us again at the Rose and Crown; I can assure them of a very warm welcome.

Indeed, if there are any other men who are not members who would like to join us, or who would like to come to a meeting or two to "see what makes us tick", to them I would also extend a warm invitation.

Further information can be obtained from:-

Lionel Alsop (Chairman)	228400
Robert Bourns (Secretary)	228993
Chris Wiggins (Vice Chairman)	228696

By the time this magazine is distributed, the Barn Dance will have taken place. The work towards the Barn Dance is going on at present at full steam ahead and include getting the barn ship shape and all the other aspects that need to slot into place.

This is often a very enjoyable part of our efforts - good comradeship, hard work and plenty of laughs. Depending on the results of the Barn Dance, and if all goes well financially, hopefully, we will be arranging an event for the Senior Citizens of the Parish later in the summer.

To this end, if you are of Senior Citizen status and wish to add you name to our list or to check you are still listed, please contact:

R. Taylor - 228417  
B. Taylor - 228172

As mentioned in the last edition of Focus, we are anxious to keep our lists up to date.

The reports coming back from the trip to Alton Towers for the teenagers of the Parish on 17th April certainly give the impression that all who went had a jolly good day. Thanks to the organisers of this day out.

Remember that Iron Acton Aid was founded as an organisation to help the Parish of Iron Acton and its people - we are striving to do that.

L.A.

\* \* \* \* \*

## MOBILE LIBRARY

Starting from June 21st the library will call fortnightly on Mondays at the following places:-

Lamb Inn	12.00 - 12.15
White Hart	12.20 - 12.30
Ash Cottage	12.35 - 12.40

## FOCUS - A CHANGE OF NAME?

The Focus Team is aware that "our" Focus is still, on occasions, being confused with the Lib/Dem publication with a similar name and so we want to ask our readers -

Is it time for us to have a name change?

Any suggestions?

Ring, shout at, or write to, any of the Focus team (The Iron Acton one not the other one!!).

\* \* \* \* \*

## WANTED

Is there anyone who has, or knows of anyone who has, small off-cuts of wood they don't need? Lynne Blanchard has heard of a young teenager living in the Focus circulation area who, although suffering from a serious illness has found happiness in wood working. The problem is a shortage of wood.

So, if anyone can help, please ring Lynne on 228566.

\* \* \* \* \*

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DIARY OF FORTHCOMING EVENTS

In the Village Hall

Every Monday	Fun Francais - for Children with Fiona Harold Term Time Only commencing 6 Sept	3.30pm
Every Mon & Thurs	Nursery School	9.00am
Tues	Brownies	6.00pm
Weds	Elizabethans	2.00pm
	Junior Actonians	6.00pm
	Actonians	7.30pm
2nd Mon in Month	Womens' Institute	7.30pm
3rd Mon in Month	Parish Council	7.30pm
4th Mon in Month	Whist Drive	7.30pm
3rd Thurs in Month	Knitting Group	1.30pm
Aug 7	Northavon Auctions	
Sept 4	Northavon Auctions	
Sept 6	Nursery School Commences following Summer Break	
Sept 16,17,18	Actonians "Born in a Garden"	
Oct 2	Northavon Auction	

In the Parish Church

Sept 25 - 27 Harvest Festival

At Iron Acton School

Sept 6	Autumn Term Begins
Oct 25 - 29 incl	Half Term
Dec 21	Autumn Term Ends

At North Road School

1st Mon in Month	North Road Ladies	7.15pm
School dates as Iron Acton School		

At the Rose and Crown

1st Thurs in Month	Acton Aid	8.00pm
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FOCUS ON IRON ACTON is produced three times a year usually at end of March, July and November and is distributed to every house in the Parish. Contributions for publication are always welcome and can be sent to Mr John Percey, Primrose Cottage, The High Street, Iron Acton. Advice will be given if required. 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 L Alsop (228400).





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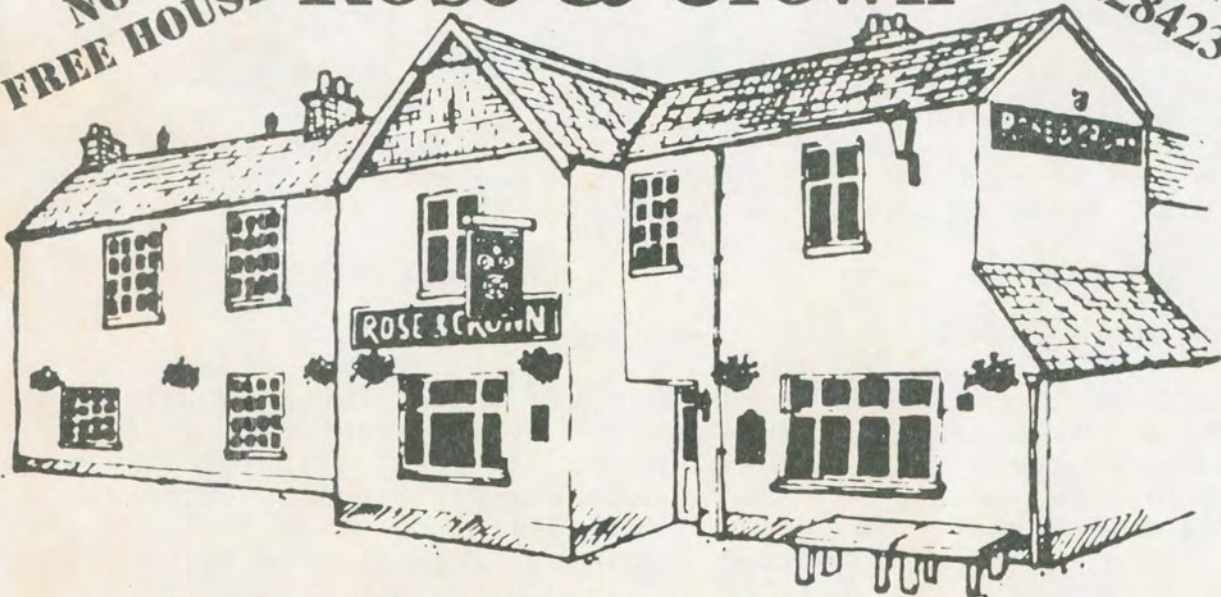
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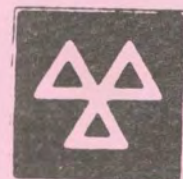
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2.5kg Pedigree Chum Complete	£ 2.95

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