



Focus on Iron Acton

VOL. 2

NO. 6 SUMMER '84

The judging for the best kept village has commenced once more. Everyone can help by picking up small bits of paper etc which a few thoughtless or lazy types still drop immediately they have finished their crisps or unwrapped their chocolate bars. We should be proud of our village. It was pleasant to receive the following:-

"The tree planted on the green in recognition of being runner-up in the best-kept village competition in 1982 was in flower this year, but I wonder how many people saw it - it was a joy to me - I happen to live near - the next time you go to the Post Office for your pension, your childrens' allowance or even a stamp, don't turn round and go back - just carry on around the Green and up Park Street, stop and look at the lovely view - have a look at the Parish Meadow, it is lovely - this is your heritage, don't let it go unnoticed or un-appreciated - I must admit I didn't realise how lovely it is until I came down here to live."

'Grateful Admirer'.

KEEP IRON ACTON TIDY

Brian Burgess, Godfrey Cook, Pip Voss,
Joy Waker, Charles Wilkins.

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE REPORT.

How about joining the W.I. ?

Forget about the conventional image - we discarded our twin sets and brogues ages ago and you don't have to be an Ann Ladbury or a Delia Smith type to enjoy our meetings, which we try to make as varied as possible.

July will see us holding an American Supper at Lodge Farm, guaranteed to be an enjoyable evening and offering us the chance to meet members from other institutes in the Sodbury Vale W.I. Group.

August traditionally sees us without a meeting (but we'll probably need 2 months to recover from our July get together).

While September offers members a talk on vegetarianism.

A train outing to Norwich has been organised by Avon Federation of W.I.'s. This produces a sight to be seen when several hundred women, plus 2 or 3 brave (or henpecked?) husbands alight from a train at Norwich Station brandishing their sandwiches! and umbrellas!, and frightening the living daylight out of every self respecting B.R. male (not mail) employee.

Then in November, comes the 'piece de resistance', an outing to France, Belgium and Holland. I'm willing to wager that if someone could tip the wink to Mrs. T., our little group could solve all of her E.E.C., worries in one fell swoop. Mitterand and Co., are no match for our broolly brandishing brigade.!

The last few months have given us the opportunity to get out and be seen by the non-W.I., part of our little community.

We've organised a burpfully successful wine and cheese party and also provided good old A.A., with refreshments at their horse and dog show.

P.S. It is purely co-incidental that Acton Aid and Alcoholics Anon, have the same initials?.

Finally:- Interested in a trip to Betty Pratten's Midsomer Herbs? (at Midsomer Norton). The W.I., are organising a trip on Wednesday 18th July. Approximate time of departure 6.15 p.m.,

from the Rose and Crown. Cost will only consist of Coach fare, the entrance to Mrs. Pratten's FREE.

Ring Lynne, Sec., to Iron Acton W.I., on Rangeworthy 566.

D.B.

"Some new graffits spotted by a reader passing through Crewe Station the other day. " Why is there only one Monopolies Commission?"

NOT TO BE RECOMMENDED.

Richie Benaud recalls in his new book "On Reflection", the following incident.

The 1953 Australian Side having lunch in the grill room of the Park Lane Hotel. When the waiter brought the ice cream, he dropped the lot in the skipper's (Lindsay Hassett) lap. Benaud and the rest of the team waited in suspense to see what the waiter would do. He reached for a napkin and was about to mop up, when Hassett rose to his feet, removed his trousers, handed them to the "bulging eyed" waiter and said "Just have these sponged and dried for me please" and sat down again, "Oh, and I'll have another ice-cream thanks".

When the trousers returned, he stood up, put them on again and carried on drinking his coffee.

The promotion of Peter Ball, the Rev. Prebendary or St. Pauls, who will now be known as Canon Ball, has caused me to ponder the headline I would use, if heaven forbid, he was ever dismissed from the Church.

A reader suggests:- "Canon Ball fired".

THE PEOPLE WITH ONE OF THE HIGHEST JOBS IN THE CHURCH.

You cannot have failed to notice that the church-bells of Iron Acton have been ringing more often over the past year or so. This is because Brian Angell (the Tower Captain) has 'rounded-up' some new recruits:- (Naomi and James Angell, Stephen Wheeler and myself) and taught us about bell-ringing.

During the time that I have been learning about bell-ringing, I have realised that it is a very complex and difficult-to-master art. Bell-ringing involves ringing 'methods' (tunes, if you like). This is when the bells ring in a different order each time they sound. It is quite difficult to understand when to pull your rope and how hard to pull it. There are lots of these 'methods', many of them are named after cities. There is even one called Bristol, for example.

As well as the practical side of bell-ringing, there is a social side. The Church Bell-Ringers' Association organises quarterly-meetings and mini-outings where you can meet other ringers.

A quarterly-meeting starts in the afternoon and goes on into the evening. There is one every three months. When you first arrive at the church that has been chosen for the meeting, you go up the tower and ring for a couple of hours. When the ringing has finished, there is a service in the church with hymns and prayers especially for bell-ringers. After the service, tea is provided in the church-hall or a nearby house of suitable size, and a meeting follows, in which various bell-ringing issues are discussed. Finally, you return to the church for another ring. In this session, a special feature is sometimes, on listening to bells or learning to conduct, for example.

At a mini-outing you spend a day visiting all the churches in a certain area and ringing at each one. I went on one recently to the Chew Valley area. We visited three churches in the morning and after lunch we went to the Chew Lake where we each ate an ice-cream while taking-in the stunning view of the mass of shimmering water and the majestic hills surrounding it. We rang at two more churches in the afternoon before having a picnic tea. In the evening, we went to four more,

making a grand total of nine towers in one day. It was an interesting day because before we started ringing at each church, we had a look round the village.

The most enjoyable bell-ringing occasion that I have been to was the (first) Iron Acton Bell-Ringers' Annual Dinner. Most of the Iron Acton bell-ringers went and also the ringers from other churches, who help out on practice (Thursday) evenings, and some even brought along their families.

The dinner took place at the Carriages Restaurant in Marshfield. The meal was marvellous and the setting totally unique. At Carriages, instead of just sitting at a table to eat your meal, you sit inside an old-fashioned carriage.!

When we arrived, we were asked if we had a celebration cake. This was because the Landlord had been mis-informed and thought that we were there to celebrate an engagement, He thought the Rector was there to bless the happy couple! Hearing this, one of the ringers (David Powell) promptly volunteered to become engaged to the Landlord's wife!, to David's great disappointment, though, the offer was refused.

I hope that this article has helped you to understand what bell-ringing involves, so on Thursday evenings, as you reach for your ear-plugs, you will know what it's all about!

If you would like to start learning how to ring, please contact either the Rector or Brian Angell.

Nicholas Williams.

Castle in the Air.

A Notice on the tower at Slade Castle, Co. Wexford, says:-
"This tall tower was possibly built by one of the Laffan family in the late 15th or early 16th century. The lower part was added in the late 16th century."

RINGING APPEAL.

The night was dark and stormy,
We couldn't see a thing,
As Dad dragged me up the tower,
And said 'Now learn to ring'.

Dad was following orders,
To keep the Rector sweet,
To form a band of ringers,
To fill the Church a treat.

There were four of us who started,
Trembling at the knees,
Instructions were given freely,
And we did our best to please.

The tower had been uncared for,
Although we found no bat,
We gave it a good spring cleaning,
And then we laid a mat.

The sound at first didn't matter,
The reason for this came clear,
Small birds in the tower stayed sleeping,
Tied Clappers you cannot hear.

We quickly progressed in silence,
In major leaps and bounds,
And when we untied the clappers,
The village could hear our sounds.

Now Thursday is our practice night,
And we dared not miss a week,
We struggled with our training,
To try and reach our peak.

Others helped us in our ringing,
The Rector played his part,
The object was to follow,
Our rounds became quite smart.

Now came the written instructions,
Upon the Belfry wall,
With many complexed numbers,
To tell us when to pull.

We have progressed to changes,
And 'O Boy' have we had troubles,
We're not too good, but not too bad,
At Grandsire and Bob Doubles.

There is a vandal in our group,
He often wears his cassock,
He pulled the rope until it snapped,
And landed on his Hassock.

Now there are only six in total,
To get the bells to sing,
At Christmas, Easter and New Year,
Please come and learn to ring.

You could learn to pull a bell,
The company is fun,
The White Hart is our water hole,
When all our work is done.

So come along, so come along,
And join our happy band,
You'll ring a bell and have a laugh,
And lend a helping hand.

Compiled by James Angel (with a lot of help
from his relations).

COOKING.

SCRIPTURE OR BIBLE CAKE.

One bottle of Moselle Wine will be presented to the first person (Rev. and Mrs. Waker excepted - they have a distinct advantage) to give a correct interpretation of the following recipe and baking the said cake.

The cake may be retained, but a sample would be appreciated.
The bottle awaits at "Neksdore" for the first arrival.

Ingredients.

1. $\frac{1}{2}$ lb Judges 5 v 25 (last part)
2. $\frac{1}{2}$ lb Jeremiah 6 v 20.
3. 1 Tablespoon 1 Samuel 14 v 25.
4. 3 of Jeremiah 17 v 11.
5. $\frac{1}{2}$ lb of 1 Samuel 30 v 12.
6. $\frac{1}{2}$ lb Nahum 3 v 12.
7. 2 oz Numbers 17 v 8.
8. 1 lb. Kings 4 v 22.
9. Season to taste with 11 Chronicles 9 v 9.
10. A pinch of Leviticus 2 v 13.
11. A level teaspoon of Amos 4.
12. 3 Tablespoons Judges 4 v 19. (last part).

Method.

Cream 1, 2 and 3, beat 4 and add gradually. Put in 5, 6 and 7, beating. Mix together 8, 9, 10 and 11 and beat them in, then 12.

For a good cake, follow Solomon's counsel in Proverbs 23, v 14.
"Thou shall beat him with the rod".

No instructions for baking perhaps because there are no verses that call for a moderate fire.

Instead try $1\frac{1}{2}$ - 2 hours at Gas 2 (150C) or (300F).

ELIZABETHAN CLUB.

Our first attempt at a Spring Bulb and Craft Show was I am pleased to say a very good show - everyone who came had a very enjoyable afternoon - it is a pity more people who belong to other organisations do not find it in their hearts to support us.

The children from Iron Acton School made a really good effort also Harry and Elsie Allen who came and put on such a wonderful display of Tapestry.

We would like to thank the Rector for printing the schedules and also Mrs. Cook for giving her time and keeping everything running so smoothly. The judges found it very difficult with such a selection of good entries especially with the childrens' section - I do hope if we have another one we can bank on your support.

We had a trip to Leyhill again on the 2nd April, a really funny show enjoyed by all. On the 9th April, we went through "Age Concern" to see "Brigadoon", a very good show, but somewhat marred by the fact that afterwards we were involved in an accident, but fortunately none of us were hurt.

On the 18th April, we had our Church Service, with our first trip of the summer to Swansea and the Gower Coast on May 8th, and followed by yet another enjoyable trip to Weymouth on the 29th.

The 6th June was a musical entertainment and Sunday 10th June, we were off to Ashton Court - we enjoy our club very much.

WHY DON'T YOU JOIN US, we still have room for a few more members.

Betty Hall (Hon Sec.).

How come it's never the cold girl who gets the fur coat?.

IRON ACTON F.C.

SUCCESSFUL SEASON FOR LOCAL SOCCER CLUB

Iron Acton Football Club have just completed their most successful season for years. Team Manager Bob Ford is quietly satisfied with the progress being made and is of the opinion that the club is not far away from winning a major honour.

The 1st X1 finished a very creditable third in the County of Avon Premier Combination, reached the final of the Premier Cup, and were narrowly defeated in the semi final of the Gloucestershire Senior Amateur Cup. These performances showed the value of strength in depth of the playing squad as serious injuries to senior players hindered progress.

The 2nd X1 had a traumatic season but thankfully preserved their District League Senior Division status and look forward with relish to better things next season. The tide of failure was turned when Bob Ford invited Brian Smith to return from nearby Rangeworthy and take over control of the reserves.

Publicity for the club took on a new angle when Team Manager Bob Ford and Commercial Manager Peter Mainstone were invited to participate in a 'live' interview on Bristol Hospitals Broadcast. The interview lasted for twenty minutes and we hope the listening audience felt a little better for hearing all about Iron Acton Football Club and its aspirations.

During the past twelve months alterations to the ground have taken place in readiness for progression into the County League. Hedges have been removed and fir trees been planted which, when fully grown, will make a picturesque setting. For the start of next season the playing area will be made larger in order to comply with minimum size requirements for higher grades of football.

Commercial Manager Pete Mainstone has proclaimed his intention to relinquish this post as the A.G.M. and he will be missed, as he has performed admirably in that position. He has, however, said he would like to remain on the Management Committee.

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One very important position where an appointment is of paramount importance is groundsman. Basil Taylor has given notice that he intends to 'give up' this task as the workload coupled with that of Secretary is too much. Therefore, if anybody wishes to join Iron Acton in this capacity would they please contact: Mr. L. Gale, Chairman, who resides at Iron Acton.

Optimism for next season is running high with the clubs chances of 'pulling off' a major honour being good. The strength of the current playing staff is very strong which, with two or three additions, will be in a position to challenge the best next term.

A TELEVISION APPEARANCE

The 'phone call came out of the blue one evening at the beginning of February. "This is the Assistant Producer of the children's Television programme "Blue Peter" speaking. I believe you have a Brittany Spaniel who is qualified for Crufts in two weeks time and it will be the first time they have appeared there, could you possibly bring her to the studio to appear on our programme on Monday, 6th February?"

I agreed and discovered that her sister Tania and newly-wed husband Ted would also be appearing. (Tansy had been mated on 25th January).

I thought about driving to London, but decided against this as parking is always a problem in London even at the BBC Studios. I decided to catch the train from Parkway Station and hope that Tansy would enjoy the experience and not annoy her fellow travellers.

Sunday evening dawned and I set about our preparations to make Tansy look beautiful. First a bath, accomplished without too much fuss, although I always finish up as wet as the dog. Then nail clipping, it would never do to scratch the pristine polished white surface of the studio floor. Tansy hates having her nails cut so we gave her a mild tranquiliser and waited for it to work. After 2 hours she was still leaping around and not at all sleepy so I tried hard to cut one nail at a time when she wasn't looking. Then the inevitable happened, Tansy pulled away and blood everywhere! I had cut into the "quick" of the nail. Oh dear, she could hardly appear as a Television Star with a bandaged foot. Luckily the bleeding soon stopped and that crisis was over, to be quickly

followed by another. I had left a one pound lump of suet to defrost on top of the freezer and someone had left the door open into the freezer room. The suet was to have been divided amongst four dogs, but Tansy thought otherwise and ate the lot! I now had a fat rotund inelegant spaniel and I dreaded to think how it would disrupt her bowel functions. She would probably disgorge the remains of the suet on the white studio floor, but never mind the elephant did, and no one has ever forgotten the elephant; I might achieve fame of some sort as the owner of the dog who "performed" on Blue Peter.

Monday morning, the car ready, and Tansy and I drove to the Station. We are very lucky to be only 10 minutes drive away from a main-line station. I bought 2 tickets and decided to walk Tansy up and down the platform to give her some exercise before the train journey. High-speed trains rushed through the station, frightening me, but Tansy was unperturbed, her mind obviously on "higher things". The "higher things" turned out to be suet - no, how could she? But she did - a large whoopsy on the platform and I had left her in the back garden for half an hour specifically to avoid just such an accident. Never mind, I was well armed with a bag full of mansize tissues and I would clear it all up. The platform luckily was quite empty and I bent over to perform my duty as a caring dog-owner, with Tansy trying to pull me in the opposite direction. When I felt I was being watched, I looked up to find a dozen bowler-hatted gentlemen on the opposite platform keenly watching my antics. I felt very foolish and was very relieved when the train arrived.

The journey to Paddington was uneventful except for Tansy's effort to climb over into the next seat - the attraction being a lady's fur hat which she would have loved to retrieve. We met Tansy's sister and her owner on the train and all took a taxi to the studios. We were recognised immediately at the studio entrance - no one else had dogs - and given a warm welcome. "Was there anything the dogs would like?" "Some grass please," we replied, "The dogs need to spend a penny!" "Oh the Blue Peter garden is just the place". Somehow it seemed a sacrilege to use the garden but there was no alternative so the 3 spaniels were taken for walks around the garden. Then it was time to look at the studio and to meet the Producer and Camera men. The studio is very large, no wonder whole bands and elephants have room to move! Goldie and our dogs sniffed each other and made friends, but the cat retired as usual to his basket.

After coffee we were to rehearse, at least the dogs were; we discovered we were not to appear, my aspiring hopes of stardom dashed! Why on earth had I worried about which dress to wear. The charming lady presenter held the two bitches whilst Simon held Ted and talked about Brittany Spaniels in general. The dogs appearance only lasted for about 2 minutes but was rehearsed 3 times. At the dress rehearsal a mini-car was to have driven onto the set after the cue "..... and let us see how the dogs react, it will be a good test for them". Unfortunately the driver had gone for a coffee and nothing happened - still that is what dress rehearsals are for!

We were given lunch in the BBC canteen which lived up to its reputation. Whilst we ate, the dogs were to our amusement given dressing rooms - with wash basins too! Initially we were given only one room, but Ted's amorous advances to Tansy, his erstwhile bride of 2 weeks precluded this suggestion and they were segregated.

Excitement mounted as the time approached for the programme to go out "live" - Blue Peter isn't recorded. We held the dogs at the back of the studio, trying to keep them interested to stop them barking at the wrong moment; and then handed them over at the appropriate cue. The car then roared almost up to the dogs who behaved like well-bred gundogs should - politely watching until told to do otherwise. The dogs were then handed back to us and we all tiptoed out of the studio to watch the rest of the programme on a television monitor set in a nearby room. An exhausting, but interesting day - the final result being 2 minutes viewing time on television.

But there was a happier ending Tansy and Ted were the proud parents of 6 bonny bouncing baby- spaniels.

Anon.

Increasing Odds.

"The likelihood of what appears to be a wise and impressive statement of fact being reversed by nature almost immediately it is made, is enhanced by the importance of the speaker"

IRON ACTON NEW VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE.

Chairman's Report for 1983-84.

Throughout the year the Hall has been well used by local groups meeting weekly, for annual events, for special fund-raising activities and for private parties. Some of the most notable occasions were the Lamb Folk Group Festival in August, the AMSA musical evening and, later, the farewell winding-up party for AMSA helpers in December, two Auctions to raise funds for the Village Hall extension, and several productions by the Actonians and Junior Actonians.

FINANCE.

Like all self-help groups the Village Hall has to generate enough funds to keep itself in good order and our charges, which are on the low side compared with other village halls in the locality, only barely keep us abreast of the heating, lighting, licensing and routine maintenance expenses. However, by diligent efforts on the part of the Treasurer, Bob Shortman, and his helpers, we are keeping abreast of the necessary maintenance. The foyer has been completely redecorated and carpet-squares laid, and Maureen Chapman is in the process of purchasing and fitting new curtains in the auditorium. We are also in the process of fitting new plastic fascia boards below the flat roof. The latter is causing concern because leaks may develop when there is a heavy storm after a spell of very hot weather. Clearly, to replace the whole of the flat roofing material would be an enormous expense and we are looking into a complete review of the roof when the new storeroom is completed.

NEW EXTENSION.

The Avon Community Building Project began work on the excavations for the new storeroom extension in early June. The building will take about five months to complete and during most of this time the Committee Room will be out of action. The cost of building materials and certain contract work such as roofing will be born by our Committee. We are extremely grateful to the Parish Council for an increased grant of £3000 payable at the commencement of the work, while our "36% of cost" grant from Northavon has been increased to £2,800 payable in instalments as the work is completed. Thus, with our own balances accumulated by enthusiastic fund-raising efforts, we should just be able to meet our obligations, though we shall probably be left with little or nothing for roof repairs. For this reason we

must continue our efforts to raise extra money, and to use voluntary help for minor repair work and maintenance. Hopefully, when the storeroom extension is complete, we can begin to redevelop the old storeroom as a bar servery and to make a connecting door into the kitchen. If the Community Building Project organisers are prepared to help us with this work, well and good, otherwise I believe that the work is simple enough for us to tackle it with volunteer labour.

This is my last report as Chairman. I am prepared to serve on the Committee and to help in practical ways, but I feel that four years as Chairman is enough. I am immensely grateful to all the officers and members of the Committee for their support and especially to John Smalley and John Percy who have formed a building sub-committee to oversee the new extension. I am hopeful that by this time next year we shall have a Hall to be proud of.

To err is human - to totally muck things up needs a computer.

The Iron Acton Sixth Annual Horse and Dog Show and Gymkhana organised by Acton Aid was held on Sunday, 10th June.

The event took place in brilliant sunshine, in contrast to last year when the Show was first postponed because of waterlogged ground, and when it finally went ahead it was on the only wet weekend for seven weeks. The perfect weather added to the enjoyment that this event obviously brings to many people in and around our village.

We were again indebted to Mr. Eric Harford of Green Lane Farm for providing the excellent venue. Excluding the Gymkhana, there were 19 Classes. For the first time this year, we included a Dressage Event which we hope will become a regular feature. The Class for the Best Turned Out Mare or Gelding, whose rider resides in the Parish of Iron Acton was won by Kathryn Lowe on Rob Roy, second was Jayne Meredith on Golden Fleece and third Louise Millward on Betina.

The Dog Show, organised by Mrs. Eileen Hughes was also busy and successful.

The entries in the Horse Show were slightly up on last year, and with the sponsorship of many local firms, this has meant an increase in the money raised for Acton Aid Charity Trust Fund.

The Show has, therefore, ensured that we have gone a long way to meet our normal charitable commitments, and a Clay Pigeon Shoot that we are planning to hold in the early autumn should also assist us financially.

If there is anyone in the Parish who would like to help us in our endeavours, could they please ring John Wright on Rangeworthy 373.

YOUNG COMMUNICANTS OF IRON ACTON.

Following Workshop Meetings, Research, and work at home, the young communicants staged a further exhibition showing the work of Christian Aid on Saturday and Sunday the 12th and 13th May.

The main theme was Water, its absence or presence in impure form in many of the undeveloped countries. There were photographs and Posters showing what Christian Aid is doing to help. Also we tried to show what TRANSAID is doing to help some of these countries help themselves. Above all we asked for your prayers and financial help.

Resulting from this, the P.C.C., were able to send a cheque for £53. 45., and I would like to thank all the young people who worked for this before and on the days, also to thank Father and Mrs. Waker who opened the Rectory for refreshments, and the mothers who gave and helped with them.

We were all very pleased when Joanna Lyons and Caroline Hughes, home for the weekend, came in to see it., also it is a joy to have Heather Alway amongst the congregation during her University vacation.

Barbara M. Sambels.

Overheard:- "My boss is a self-made man - he worships his creator".

THE GOWANS.

Claude and Eileen -- Eileen and Claude.

It will feel very strange to many Iron Actonians, next month, to realise that Claude and Eileen have at last left the Lamb Inn. To many of us they have been an integral part of our social life, and the knowledge of their being behind the bar of the Lamb has made it into a welcome meeting place.

Claude and Eileen were married in 1939, and while Claude was in the Far East with the Army, Eileen worked at the Leonards shoe shop in Kingswood.

In 1946 Claude returned to England and rejoined the Bristol Aeroplane Company, Eileen's parents, Trudy and Reg May took over the Licence of the Lamb in 1952 and in 1961, due to the illness of the Mays, Claude and Eileen took over the Licence. Claude and Eileen have two daughters, Heather and Yvonne. Heather and her husband Graham helped behind the bar until 1973, when Graham started business in Bath.

Yvonne, as she grew up, carried on the tradition, and now, with her husband David, has taken over the licence.

Now! - Claude and Eileen are moving to Yate where they can both carry on their hobbies, Claude - Sailing, and Eileen - Gardening.

Eileen is, of course, a member of our Women's Institute, and I doubt that many people know that she is one of the founder members of the Lawfords Gate ladies Auxillary.

Now, however, they say that having travelled in the past to most countries in Europe, they will be happy to lead a quieter life, although we can be sure that they will be reasonably regular visitors?, no!, customers to their old home, the Lamb Inn.

We wish them well in their retirement.

LOCAL SNIPPETS.

WELCOME TO THE VILLAGE.

Mr. and Mrs. Mike Sutton and their four children who have moved into Prospect Cottage, and to Mr. and Mrs. Neil Bradshaw and their two children who now occupy the Coach House and also

Mr. and Mrs. Barrie Wright who now live in Eynesford Cottage with their family of two.

MRS. OLIVE GREEN.

On June 21st a small ceremony took place at Dinner Time in the School to mark the end of 21 years service as a Dinner Lady to Mrs. Olive Green. It is astonishing to realise that anyone in the village, who went to the school and is under 32 years of age must have been served at Dinner by Olive. To mark the retirement the Parents, Pupils, Staff and Governors gave Olive a Sun Lounger, and although this is what she asked for, it is difficult to imagine her lounging on it very often.

Very many thanks for your wonderful service Olive.

BEST KEPT VILLAGE.

We have just been advised that we are in the final of the Cup-winners - the top class - Final Judging begins on July 4th, and takes place for several weeks.

A particular thanks to Mr. Bert Green for the wonderful job he has done.

Thank you to all those public minded people who have helped to smarten up the village and make it that more pleasant to live in.

ACTONIANS.

We would dearly love a report from our superb Drama Group.

COOKERY CORNER.

Try this simple to make but thoroughly delicious sweet - everyone I have given it to has enjoyed it.

Whip 5 oz cream and then whip in 5 oz plain yoghurt. Stir in 2 roughly mashed bananas and 150 grams of Bourneville chocolate (melted carefully over hot water). Add a good dash of sweet sherry or brandy if you like.

Spoon into individual glasses and chill for an hour or two before serving.

This makes a very generous serving for four, but could be stretched to six.

THE LAMB INN FOLK CLUB.

In the clubroom of the Lamb Inn, Iron Acton every Friday,
8.15 to 11.15p.m.

Organiser: Gerry Aitchison. Tel: Winterbourne 776356.

Booking Sec.: Keith Davis - Tel: Bristol 570323.

Having had a successful spring programme with full houses for such artists as Fred Wedlock, Dougie MacLean and Graham and Eileen Pratt, we continue into the summer with some exciting performers who are new to the club.

On July 13th we have Tim Wood, a singer/songwriter from Leeds who has written some fine songs made famous by other performers and on the 27th we will see popular local singer Derek Taylor. August 3rd will be a visit from an up-and-coming semi-electric band from London, Hunter's Moon, which promises to be another full house.

The big event of the year follows over the weekend of the 17th - 19th August with our 5th Folk Festival which features such diverse talents as the Oyster Band, Dead Sea Surfers, Ian Woods and local blues duo Steve Payne and Keith Warmington, the latter now running a successful folk programme on Thursday nights for Radio Bristol. Let's hope the weather is fine yet again. We would like to say a special thank you to all the villagers whose support and good will makes this event possible.

Richard Benbow appears on August 31st, followed on September 14th by Ian Blake and Bill Martin of the well known band Pyewackett. September 28th we have harmony group Heritage and on the 12th of October we see the welcome return of Sam Stephens and Anne Lennox-Martin, who unfortunately could not fulfil their earlier booking in the year, due to illness. Robin Dransfield, famous for his work with brother Barry, visits on October 19th, and on November 2nd, we will be treated to a rare visit from senior citizen Packie Byrne, a great singer and well-known Irish lunatic, featuring

whistle duets with the aid of a shower fitting!!

Last, but not least, we should mention the production of "Larkrise", which is to be staged in the village hall on the 25th and 26th October, which will feature local singers from the club and ceillidh band 'Devil's Dream' in a saga of rural life in the 1890's. We are busy making costumes and learning songs and dances of the period, a lot of hard work but should prove most entertaining to everyone.

Tickets are available from Sue Wilson on Bristol 570323, (6 North Street, Downend, Bristol) and we hope the village hall will be packed to the doors for what should be a really enjoyable event and a showcase for our Folk Club.

GARDENERS PATCH.

Schedules for the Flower Show on September 8th are now being printed and should be available at the Post Office, the Lamb, the Crown and the White Hart by the time you read this.

Details of the Garden News Top Tray class have been received and are printed in full in the schedule. As well as winning a very handsome medallion, the first three will have their names entered for a national draw for valuable travel club vouchers.

The warm dry weather is very enjoyable, but does make vegetable growing more difficult and a great deal of time has to be spent watering. But don't let it depress you, we are all in the same boat --- hopefully we shall all manage to scrape up some entries for the show as usual.

GUIDE AND BROWNIE SUPPORTERS GROUP.

On June 7th, we held a Coffee and Gateau evening at the Village Hall, which made a welcome profit for the funds. The array of mouth-watering confections made it very difficult for people to choose their favourite, but most came back for a second (or even third) helping, and the evening ended with all the plates empty.

We are very grateful to Mrs. Sharon Petela who has volunteered to take over as guider in September. We would also like to express our thanks to Diana Cater for all she has done for the Guides.

OUR CHURCH AND PARISH III

When our church was restored in 1879 the burial chamber beneath the Poyntz Chapel was opened and there lay the coffins of Sir Robert and his wives and of many generations past and gone. And so they lay on still in the church they loved, all of that was mortal of them, reverently covered. Sir Nicholas Poyntz succeeded his father in 1439. It is recorded of him that in troublesome times he lived a quiet life. Of his heir John, not much is known, he is chiefly remarkable as the father of some notable children. His eldest son aged 17 succeeded and became a great favourite of Henry VII and he was appointed "Sheriff of Gloucestershire, Steward of the Hundred of Barton with the great Court, beside the town of Bristol, Steward of Sodbury". In 1486 King Henry VII dined with Sir Robert at his great Hall at Acton Court, on his way to Bristol, and the next year his host was granted £50 by way of a reward. As we look at the remains of that noble mansion it is possible to picture to ourselves the scene of gaiety and splendour which the inhabitants of this village on that and on at least one other occasion, enjoyed.

In the same year Sir Robert Poyntz was one of the Knights Batchelor present at the Coronation of Elizabeth of York, Queen of Henry VII. Many other honours were heaped upon him by this King and by his son Henry VIII. He was Chancellor and Privy Councillor to Queen Katherine and he and his Son Sir Anthony Poyntz were among the knights summoned from Gloucestershire to attend upon Henry VIII when he met the French King Francis at the Field of the Cloth of Gold. Sir Robert died on November 5th, 1520 and in his Will, he directed that he should be buried in the Church of the Gaunts (the present Mayor's Chapel). He was one of our great men, but great in a different sense than his namesake, the first Sir Robert, he is known chiefly as a man of affairs, a soldier, a courtier, a statesman; as such he occupied no doubt the greater position in the eyes of his countrymen. But while nearly all he did is forgotten here, the memory of the first Sir Robert lives on in the church which he caused to be built to the glory of God, and in the noble memorial cross which he raised hard by.

He lived and died among his people and his grave is with us unto this day.

CONTRIBUTIONS PLEASE.

IF YOU CAN SCRIBBLE A LINE OR TWO, A PAGE OR SO ON ANY SUBJECT - RECIPES, HOBBIES, HOLIDAYS, GARDENING, SPORTS, USEFUL TIPS ETC: - PLEASE SEND IT ALONG.

WE DO NOT LIKE HAVING TO ASK FOR CONTRIBUTIONS AND A FRESH OUTLOOK IS ALWAYS WELCOME.

AT A PARTICULARLY BUSY AND DIFFICULT TIME MRS DIANA DAVIS AND MRS JEAN BLACKMORE HAVE DONE STERLING WORK ONCE MORE IN PRODUCING THIS EDITION - WE ARE VERY APPRECIATIVE FOR THEIR WONDERFUL CO-OPERATION. OUR THOUGHTS TOO ARE VERY MUCH WITH BRIAN AND PEARL AND ONLY WISH THERE WAS SOMETHING WE COULD DO TO HELP. THANKS ONCE MORE TO RON LUFFMAN - WHO IN SPITE OF THE DIFFICULTIES CREATED BY US CONTINUES HIS FINE WORK.

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