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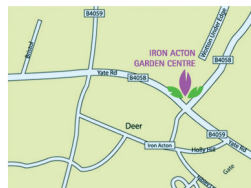


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**OPENING HOURS:**

**MON-FRI 9am-6pm**

**SAT 9am-5.30pm**

**SUN 10.30am-4.30pm**

## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

**LOCAL POYNTZ TEAM:** - Jon Aries, Caroline Haselhan, Nikki Johnson, Sarah Ridler, Amanda Scott, Jane Spare, Heather Tillotson, Laura Walters, John Wright, Marilyn Wright and myself, Pamela McCoy.

**LOCAL POYNTZ PHOTOGRAPHERS:** - Sally Aries, Gillian Otlet

**FORTHCOMING EVENTS IN IRON ACTON:** - There is a lot happening in our Parish over the next 2-3 months and I draw your attention to some of them:

1. **The 2<sup>nd</sup> COMMUNITY LUNCH** for our senior citizens. Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> March. Please see page 22.
2. **EASTER CHURCH SERVICES.** 2<sup>nd</sup>- 9<sup>th</sup> April. Please see pages 14/15.
3. **MAYDAY** on the Green. Monday 1<sup>st</sup> May. Please see page 21.
4. **CORONATION WEEKEND** 6/7<sup>TH</sup> May. There are a lot of plans, simmering on the stove, for this special weekend. On the Saturday there will be a wonderful event for our senior citizens, in the Parish Hall, to watch the Coronation live, on a big screen, (with friends and neighbours). Refreshments will be served. On the Sunday there will be a procession of school children, children's games in Parish Meadows and Street closures to enable "Street Parties". Please see page 19.
5. **MASH/PROMS** in the Meadows. Please see pages 24/25.
6. **POPPIES** For Remembrance Day. Please see P16.

**ADVERTISING/SPONSORS:** - We would welcome any new advertisers and sponsors. If you would like to place an advert, or know of anyone who might, please contact me and we can discuss terms, etc. My details are below. Please bear in mind that any advert will appear on our website for no extra cost.

**The deadline for the summer edition is 15<sup>th</sup> April 2023. We really need to have all articles by that date, PLEASE.**

**FRONT PAGE:** - The beautiful and peaceful image of lambs feeding, was taken by Sally Aries. A lovely spring photo.

**EDITOR-** Pamela McCoy 01454 228874, 07766074252  
Email [pam.localpoyntz@gmail.com](mailto:pam.localpoyntz@gmail.com).

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## IRON ACTON BIRD TALES

Spring is on the way but there is still a possibility of cold spells and frost, making it uncomfortable for birds to find enough food to get them in prime breeding condition for the months ahead. With the above in mind keep your feeders topped up, in fact I keep mine topped up all year, the birds will soon let you know when there is an abundance of wild food available as the feeders will only gradually empty. In recent years many finch species have declined due to an infection, trichomonosis, caused by a parasite which causes lethargy, difficulty in breathing and eventual death and has affected Greenfinches and now Chaffinches. To help stop the spread you should regularly clear all debris from bird tables and disinfect the surfaces. Also keeping feeders clean, I usually rotate my feeders every couple of weeks. Take the old one down replace with new one and disinfect and dry off the replaced feeder ready to exchange later. The disease is usually transmitted through the droppings so keeping surfaces clean is essential.

During the cold weather and snow in December I cut in half apples and put them on the ground around the feeders along with raisins, various seeds and crushed bird peanuts, actually I blitz them in a blender for 30 seconds until the bits are 2-3mm. At any one time I had over 10 Blackbirds squabbling over the food as well as a couple of Redwings, the odd Song Thrush along with Robins and Hedge Sparrows. I also made sure I emptied the frozen water trays every day and filled with fresh water for drinking and bathing, which although below zero birds still like to keep their plumage in tip top condition.

During this time I also had a Nuthatch taking sunflower hearts from the feeder and then flying to my cherry tree and hiding the seeds in any crevice or behind the bark for future use. They are lovely bluey grey on their backs and shoulders and white with rust colour breasts slightly smaller than a House Sparrow and is the only British bird that can walk head first down a branch or trunk.

Now is a good time of year to freshen up your bird boxes, empty any of last year's nesting materials – feathers, moss and the like and if you have some pesticide powder or spray put a little in the bottom of the nest box to kill off any little pests or fleas that may have survived the winter.

If you don't have any nest boxes then now is the time to either build some or buy one. There are any number of web sites showing how to build one and where to site it, you don't have to be an expert joiner as birds don't care what the box looks like as long as it is weather proof and in the right place. Robins like half open fronted boxes, while tits and even Wrens will nest in a box with a 25mm hole in the front or side. Just remember to put the box out of reach of cats and out of direct sunlight approx. 2-3 metres above ground level. As spring continues and you want to tidy your climbers and hedges remember to check for early nesting Robins, Blackbirds and the like – you don't want them to desert their nests.

Chris Boyce

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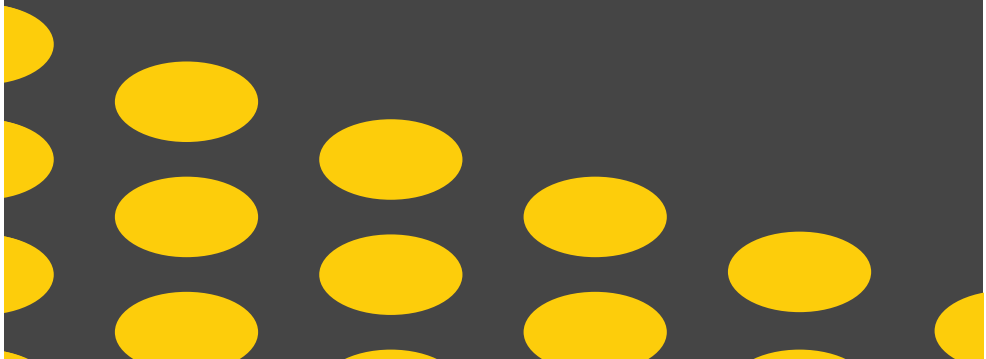
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## THE ACTONIANS NEWS

email: [actonians@outlook.com](mailto:actonians@outlook.com) Website: [www.actonians.co.uk](http://www.actonians.co.uk)

Follow us on: <https://www.facebook.com/Actonians>

### ***Our next production: London Suite runs from 18th - 20th May 2023***

Our production of *Oliver Twist* was a great success and a very enjoyable experience for both our Adult and Junior groups. It was amazing to have so many people working together. The set, the props and costumes were spectacular, enhanced by great special effects provided



by our backstage lighting and sound crew. The smoke machine that so successfully created the atmosphere of foggy Victorian streets, very effectively set the fire alarm off during the Friday night performance; which was an unexpected and rather unwelcome surprise!

### **London Suite 18th - 20th May 2023**

And now we are straight on to auditioning for the next production, which is **London Suite**, written by Neil Simon. Neil Simon is a well-known American playwright, screen-writer and author. London Suite is written in a similar style to his earlier works, Plaza Suite and California Suite.



Here you have four plays all for the price of one! All four plays take place in the same London Hotel Suite overlooking Hyde Park, but with four very different stories. There is a lot of humour but also some poignant moments.

We think this will be a very enjoyable evening and look forward to seeing you all in May.

## IRON ACTON WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

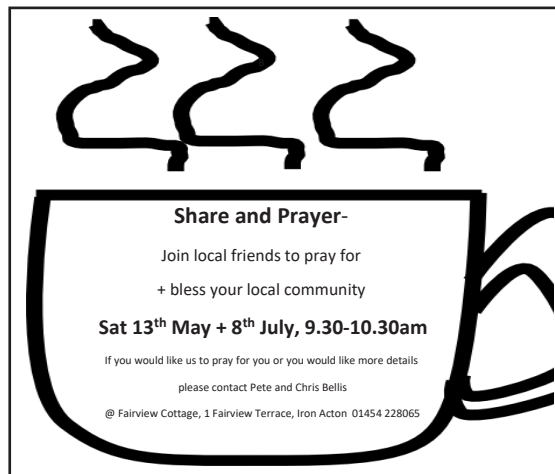
Our 103rd birthday meal was held in November at The Lamb and once again the team there did us proud. Everyone enjoyed both the food and the lovely atmosphere. In December we had our Christmas party in the Parish Hall and as usual there was a wonderful table full of food that each member had brought along. With mulled wine also on the menu, it was a lovely curtain raiser to Christmas celebrations. Jan tested us with a Christmas carol themed quiz and a Secret Santa rounded off the evening.

Our January speaker was a first for us. Tony Bryant from Raptorcare came along with five of his birds of prey. Tony has been pursuing his interest for around thirty years and it was apparent that a lot of knowledge is required to keep these beautiful birds safely and in good health. The first bird he introduced to us was a Harris Hawk, native to America, and although it appeared large to us, it was a male and therefore smaller than the female. Tony had him fly to a nearby perch and return to him for morsels of meat. Although fully controlled at all times, some ladies rather regretted sitting in the front row! A very sweet bird Tony introduced us to was a five month old Tawny Owl, who sat very quietly and didn't seem at all fazed by his audience. Other birds we viewed were a Kestrel and a Peregrine Falcon but by far the largest, which drew a few gasps, was a European Eagle Owl. It was amazing to see such a beautiful bird at close quarters. We learnt a lot from Tony about the history of keeping birds of prey and historically who was allowed to fly such birds. It was a terrific start to 2023 and the varied programme we can look forward to this year.

We are pleased that we are in a position to sponsor a handbell for the Iron Acton handbell ringers in memory of our late Queen Elizabeth. There will be an inscription to include EIIR, a crown and the WI logo. It was agreed that this would be a lovely way for our group to honour the Queen whilst at the same time supporting the handbell group which brings such pleasure in various ways to the village.

We meet on the second Monday of the month in the Parish Hall at 7.30pm and anyone who is interested in joining us would be very welcome. Our Secretary, Bridget, is always happy to give details of future speakers and events and is available on 01454 321741.

Sylvie Powell







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## IRON ACTON PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS



The excitement brought about by Christmas at primary school is behind us and the usual routines have been restored. We had a wonderful build up to this very special time of year and the usual events took place mostly as planned despite an unusually large amount of illness. The children and staff did their best to prepare and share this year's Nativity; we had a super Christingle service and our Christmas lunch was delicious as usual! Sadly the pantomime which our oldest children had been preparing for had to be moved to the summer term as too many characters were unwell but this will be something exciting to look forward to.

We welcome two new members of staff to our team this term. Mr Dexter Manning and Mrs Bobbie Allen join us in Golden Eagles Class to work alongside Ms Bagnall with our Year 5 and 6 children. They have already made a positive impression on the school with their knowledge and expertise and we look forward to working with them.

Falcons Class (Year 1 and 2) have just been on a visit to Bristol Cathedral where they spent the morning exploring the building as part of their current topic: Special Places and what makes them sacred. They took part in a range of activities and came back in awe of the size of it! They had the following things to say:

"We learnt all about special places. It was a really big! Everything looked gold." *Darcy, Year 2*

"We went to a cathedral and they rang a loud bell for us. It's a really big cathedral!" *Riley, Year 2*

In the next few weeks our oldest children will be off to Bristol University where they will spend time learning about the brain as part of Bristol Neuroscience Festival. We hope to continue to expand the number of meaningful visits such as these as we continue to emerge from the pandemic. We are also pleased to welcome a visiting music teacher to the school over the coming weeks; she will be working with Buzzards Class to teach them all to play the violin. This is part of our annual music programme whereby all children in Key Stage 2 spend 10 weeks each year learning a new instrument. Previous instruments learnt include: clarinet, ukulele, brass and cello.

We recently held a whole school art day focused on the theme 'Branching Out'. The children produced a range of fantastic pieces of art work on the theme to develop their skills of creativity. Children in Golden Eagles Class said:

"We made silver birch trees. First, we put masking tape on a piece of paper, then we chose colours to paint over it and then we removed the tape to reveal our trees." *Cara, Year 6*

"We used printing techniques to print leaves and trees onto different coloured backgrounds. We also used clay to make leaf ornaments." *Isla, Year 6*

Thank you all for your support of the school.

Mike Riches, Headteacher

[enquiries@ironactonprimaryschool.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@ironactonprimaryschool.co.uk)

01454 228322



## Can you help Iron Acton Primary School?

Our Governing Board is looking to recruit new Governors! Can you help?

Governors make a significant contribution to children's education, and being a school governor is a hugely rewarding role. The Governing Board needs a variety of skills – you do not need to be a parent of a child at the school, nor have in-depth knowledge of the education system. Full support and training will be given.

If you or someone you know would like to know more about becoming a Governor, please contact Clerk to the Governors, Kate Bashford, via email - [kate.bashford1@ironactonprimaryschool.co.uk](mailto:kate.bashford1@ironactonprimaryschool.co.uk), or via the school office.

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## FRIENDS OF NORTH ROAD SCHOOL

We all enjoyed having our Christmas Fayre back indoors and being altogether again this year. Due to Covid this wasn't possible for the last two years, so this made this year's fayre even more special. We enjoyed lots of stalls in the hall including tombola, lucky roll, pocket money toys, preloved uniform, home-made earrings, name the bunny, refreshments and raffle. Father Christmas visited us and had a grotto in school. The children enjoyed seeing Father Christmas and receiving a present. In Mars class we had face painting, tattoos, nail painting and colouring and in Pluto class we had drinks and cakes for sale. It was lovely to have older siblings return to the school to help at the fayre this year. It was great hearing how the children are getting on at their secondary schools. We raised £990.69 from the fayre which will be used to buy resources for the children.

Our next Bags2 School collection takes place on 22<sup>nd</sup> February. This is where good quality unwanted clothing can be bagged up and brought into school. The weight of the clothes is then converted into cash that is paid out. The more weight we have, the more money is received. There will be another collection on 9<sup>th</sup> June too. Bags of clothing can be placed over the wall of the school (by the main reception) on the evening before the collection, or bags can be brought to school by 9am on the morning of the collections. Many thanks to all our neighbours who have donated towards these collections. It is very much appreciated.

Over the next few months, we are planning on having a Youth Club held afterschool for children to have fun and to meet up with their friends. We are also planning on making gifts with the children to give to mums for Mothering Sunday. Ideas have also been flowing for celebrating the coronation of our King. So lots of fun activities coming up.

Our Friends of North Road School meetings continue to take place on the second Wednesday of each month at 2.30pm at school. This has been a more popular time to hold meetings as it is just before our school pick up time. We are always keen to encourage new members, so if anyone is interested in becoming part of the group please contact me via the details below. It's a great way to meet others. All the money raised is used to buy additional resources for the children of the school.

Katharine Gray - Chair of Friends of North Road School

[katharinegray01454@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:katharinegray01454@yahoo.co.uk)



### **POPPIES FOR REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY**

**Calling all crafters or anyone who can knit, crochet, or make poppies from felt.**



There is a plan to hang some netting from the top of the Church tower to the ground. The netting will be decorated with poppies, of various sizes, secured to it to make a huge display. To this end we are asking for volunteers to make the poppies. They can be knitted, crocheted, or made of felt. Already we have the W.I., Craft Group and North Road Ladies on board, but we need more people. so, please, if you have some spare time start making!!

There will be more information in the summer magazine.

Thank you.  
Pam McCoy



## **ST JAMES THE LESS CHURCH**

**where you are always assured of a warm welcome and sometimes  
coffee and cake!**

What a joy to see snowdrops and hellebores poking their heads through after all the rain we've had in the last few weeks! A sure sign that Spring is on the way with the promise of renewal and hopefully brighter weather. I'm sure I'm not alone in thinking that there is more floodwater around this year than ever before. Thankfully today is very cold but bright and sunny. My eight year old Australian granddaughter was absolutely thrilled to see the specially ordered snow the day after they arrived from Melbourne in December. She had never seen snow before and was out at 3oclock in the morning due to jet lag making a snow person. An added bonus was the Enchanted Forest at Westonbirt with so much snow still on the ground to make it even more magical.

I hope you all had a good Christmas and New Year. Our services were certainly well attended and we seem to have settled into a popular pattern with our Midnight Mass happening around 10pm rather than later and the usual Crib and Carol services also very popular. Both of these services raise much needed funds for the Childrens' Society

We were lucky to have a wonderful lunch in the Village Hall on the 18<sup>th</sup> thanks to Fiona Bourns and an army of helpers. It was so lovely to see so many friends and neighbours after so long especially a good number from North Rd. We miss our local shops and have no real focal point to stand and chat these days. Far too cold and wet to be outside. Great to see fantastic Community Spirit in Iron Acton. Long may it continue!

In the church's calendar Christmas officially ends with Candlemas on February 2<sup>nd</sup> when we then begin the build up to the great Festival of Easter, one of the most important times of the church's year. This year we will be holding Lent groups at various venues and times. Please look on website, church notice board and notice sheets for further information.

Easter Services will follow the familiar pattern at St James

19<sup>th</sup> March is Mothering Sunday when posies are usually given to all carers of children

2<sup>nd</sup> April 9.15am Palm Sunday – Holy Communion and Blessing of Palms

7<sup>th</sup> April 9.15am Good Friday - Communion of the Cross

8<sup>th</sup> April 8.00pm Holy Saturday - Candlelit Easter Vigil

9<sup>th</sup> April 10.00am Easter Day - Family Communion

We will also be celebrating the installation of Fr David Jones in his new role at Coalpit Heath and Yate and the formation of the New Benefice at St Saviours Church on 2<sup>nd</sup> April at 6.00pm

Our services are now Wednesday 10.00am and Sunday 9.15am. Second Sunday Family Service 10.00am. Please look on noticeboard or website for any changes

Nessa Jarman (Administrator)

[www.fromesidechurches.org.uk](http://www.fromesidechurches.org.uk)

Tel. 01454 776518

Churchwardens:

Carol Groom 01454 228712 [carolgroom@hotmail.com](mailto:carolgroom@hotmail.com)

Annette Bishop 0751672250 [denisannette2020@outlook.com](mailto:denisannette2020@outlook.com)

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## **NIBLEY LANE**

**After a number of worrying road traffic accidents along Nibley Lane residents of Nibley approached Iron Acton Parish Council to raise their concerns about the significant risks to residents, walkers, cyclists, horse riders and drivers. There have been ongoing discussions between the parish council and South Gloucestershire Council about potentially closing Nibley Lane to motor vehicles in the vicinity of Robin Hood Overbridge. Officers at South Gloucestershire Council have asked the parish council to provide evidence of the views of residents, in Iron Acton and neighbouring parishes, for and against such a closure. The parish council has created a short online survey on the safety of Nibley Lane at <https://www.ironactonparishcouncil.co.uk/nibley-road-survey/> . Printed copies can be requested by contacting the clerk at [ironactonparishcouncil.co.uk](http://ironactonparishcouncil.co.uk)**

Regards,

Ms Donna Ford PSLCC

Clerk / Responsible Financial Officer

Iron Acton Parish Council

Email: [clerk@ironactonparishcouncil.co.uk](mailto:clerk@ironactonparishcouncil.co.uk)

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**LAVAZZA**

TORINO, ITALIA, 1895

## IRON ACTON'S AUTObiography – VEHICLES THAT HAVE SHAPED OUR LIVES



We are building a virtual fleet of vehicles that mean something special to people in the parish. So far we have a 1974 Lancia Beta, a Ford Transit, a VW Transporter, a 1976 Mini 850 and a 2006 MINI Cooper. In the last edition we asked for your ideas on what to include next. We received an avalanche of great suggestions which ranged from a 1977 Morris Marina through a 2007 Nissan Note to a bang up-to-date Ford Mustang Mach E. Again though there was one model which shone through – a blue collar performance machine which captured the imagination of anyone with the slightest interest in cars in the eighties and has continued to do so – the Ford Escort XR3. For many, it was the subject of youthful longing and a tantalisingly accessible slice of exotic motoring. I well remember the day in 1982 when our chemistry teacher turned up in a new, 'Y' reg, silver XR3 and the growing aura of respect which he seemed to acquire as a result.

Firstly, a brief history of the Ford Escort. It was introduced to replace the Anglia in 1967 as a mid-size family saloon. It was very popular and seven years later it was updated with the Mark 2 being launched in 1974. Both were fairly traditional cars – Ford found that simple mechanics clothed in stylish metal were a profitable recipe. By 1980, though, people were looking for the new and modern and the Mark 3, which was introduced that year, reflected this mood perfectly. It was a fresh design and offered novelty in the form of front wheel drive, a new overhead cam engine and a hatchback. Most importantly though, the Mark 3 brought an exciting sporty version, tweaked to produce 96 bhp and stake Ford's claim in the growing hot hatch market. Fast versions of the Escort had been around before, notably the Mark 1 and 2, RS2000 and Mexicos, but they were never available in large numbers, or at such reasonable prices as the XR3 – the new car's list price was £5,750. And it had a big rear spoiler and slinky alloy wheels. It was launched to an excited motoring press who were able to drive a fleet of them on a newly built but not yet opened stretch of the M4 near Bridgend.

The XR3 undoubtedly caused a stir. It appealed to driving enthusiasts as well as those who were enticed by its winning combination of looks and practicality. It was certainly a good car but in some people's eyes, not yet great. In particular, the rival VW Golf GTi remained faster and smoother so in 1983, the XR3 gained fuel injection and other upgrades which lifted power from 95 bhp to 105 bhp, with a new top speed of 120 mph (where speed limits allowed) and was reborn as the XR3i. This time Ford hit the nail exactly on the head and the XR3i is now widely

recognised as a model which helped to democratise performance and handling, previously only available in expensive sports and luxury cars. For much of the decade, the XR3i/XR3i accounted for one third of overall UK Escort sales. In 1986, the range was completed with the advent of the XR3i Cabriolet version, the car which helped mobilise a large swathe of Essex-based twentysomethings into the 1990s and beyond.

Looking back, the XR3i/XR3i embodied the spirit of its age. The car is as potent a symbol of the early 1980s as would be Margaret Thatcher in leg warmers riding in a Sinclair C5 to the tune of 'Don't You Want Me?' by the Human League. It reflects the excitement many felt as the eighties began; that technology was set to expand constantly and make everything in our lives modern and better. That transformation may not have happened as fully and as smoothly as we expected, but the car continues to strike a chord and remain in demand as a modern classic. It also appears in popular culture – there are several songs which mention the XR3i/XR3i, often referring to their use as shelter for young couples looking for privacy to develop their relationships. It will no doubt have played a key role in the lives of many parishioners and is a worthy addition to our virtual garage. I suggest that we add a bright red 1980 XR3i like those used for the M4 press trial. The fleet is growing – please play your part and suggest further models that we can add to the collection.

Austin Tesla

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## **CORONATION OF KING CHARLES III**



### Plans for the Celebrations During 6-7<sup>th</sup> May.

Several groups within Iron Acton are working together to plan celebrations for residents of Iron Acton Parish over the weekend of 6-7<sup>th</sup> May.

On Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> May, there will be a live television screening of the Coronation, in the Parish Hall, for senior citizens of Iron Acton Parish and refreshments will be served. When all the timings of the coronation day are known, we will send invitations containing the details of all food and drinks to be served.

On Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May, there will be a procession of the school children of Iron Acton and North Road Primary Schools starting about 10.30am, starting at Iron Acton Primary School and progressing along the High Street, Park Street and The Green. There will then be organised games for all children of the Parish in The Meadows.

On Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May, Iron Acton High Street will be closed from Cornerways Cottage to Bean Cottage and also Park Street and The Green from 10am on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May to 9am on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May. Residents of Iron Acton Parish are welcome to set up their own tables for a street party from 12pm onwards on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May.





**TO ALL ELECTORS OF  
IRON ACTON**

**PARISH MEETING**

You are invited to take part.  
It will be held at:

**THE PARISH HALL  
On Monday 6th March 2023 at 7.30pm**

Under the Chairmanship of  
Councillor C Spedding  
(CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL)

The following matters have so far been placed on the agenda:

1. MINUTES OF THE LAST PARISH MEETING
2. COUNCIL REPORT
3. REPORT FROM SOUTH  
GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNCILLORS
4. REPORTS FROM PARISH ASSOCIATIONS
5. QUESTIONS / REPRESENTATIONS  
SUBMITTED FROM PARISHIONERS

Signed: *Catherine Spedding*  
Chairman to the Parish Council.

Dated: 27.01.2023



**MONDAY 1<sup>st</sup> MAY 2023, 10.30am-4pm**

*'MAY DAY ON IRON ACTON GREEN'*



**COME AND SEE THE ENGAGING ARENA DISPLAYS  
INCLUDING TRADITIONAL MAYPOLE DANCING.**

**SAMPLE THE VARIOUS LOCAL FOODS AND PRODUCE.**

**PERUSE THE STALLS AND JOIN IN WITH ALL THE ACTIVITIES.**

**SEE OUR FACEBOOK PAGE ([Iron Acton May Day](#)) OR EMAIL  
[IronActonMayDay@outlook.com](mailto:IronActonMayDay@outlook.com) FOR MORE INFORMATION**

**WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU THERE**

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## **SECOND COMMUNITY LUNCH Wednesday 29th March!**

Following the inaugural community lunch held in the Parish Hall on 18th January and attended (and apparently enjoyed) by over 60 people, it's proposed to hold a further lunch on Wednesday 29th March at 12.30. Again everyone (over a certain age and you know who you are!) welcome. Many thanks to all who came last time - it's not the show but the folks who go! And very many thanks to all the volunteers who peeled and chopped and who helped on the day. We all had such a fun time!

Please RSVP to me on or before 20th March. 01454228993, 07935926175 or [r\\_bourns@hotmail.com](mailto:r_bourns@hotmail.com).

Thank you and see you there!  
Fiona Bourns



Autumn saw an incredibly successful and well attended Bonfire Night – as now seems to be becoming common, the weather in the preparation was once again wet in the extreme, but the rain cleared just in time for the fireworks! The winter period is quiet for events – but we supported the Christmas Window Trail again – as always, a lot of thought and effort applied throughout the Parish. We will be supporting the May Day and Coronation events in the Spring, and our main effort now is preparing for the Music in the Meadows events on the weekend of Friday 30 June/Saturday 01 July. The Friday Mash sees the return of Flash, the Queen tribute band, back by popular demand! The concert on the Saturday takes on a bit of a re-vamp, and we are delighted to welcome the excellent Russell Watson, who will be performing at the event; tickets are already on sale through the website, and selling well - so please follow the link below, and get them early. As more detail about the events is generated, we will be updating details on the web-site, so please keep an eye there.

Information about Acton Aid, our events and what we do can be found at our website at: [www.actonaid.org.uk](http://www.actonaid.org.uk)

If you have any comments or suggestions on our events or where we might be able to assist in the Parish, please contact us by e-mail to [secretary@actonaid.org.uk](mailto:secretary@actonaid.org.uk) or [chairman@actonaid.org.uk](mailto:chairman@actonaid.org.uk) or through the website

I now come to the end of my year as Chairman, and will hand on this baton in February – I would like to thank all those who have supported our events this last year as we have tried to navigate the return to some form of post-pandemic normality; whilst COVID is still with us, we have managed to put on our normal events, albeit with a few changes, and we look forward to another year of gradual return to normal, and seeing you at our events.

James Rickard  
2022 Chairman of Acton Aid



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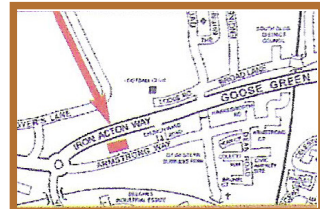
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## MEMORIES OF IRON ACTON VILLAGE SHOPS

Following on from the last article on shopping in the village below is a look at how some of the history project interviewees had remembered these. To quote one resident it was "hard to believe now...how many shops it actually had" and another, "if you did any shopping you did it in the village because we didn't have transport into Yate [and] there were no buses to Yate ever".

People remember the post office at Street Farm (run by May Beasley) and then from 1982 in the stores opposite (run by her sister Chrissie Colquhoun), a tearoom and shop run by Mrs Bodie (where the children could get home-made lollipops) at the Clove Hitch and a shop run by Mrs Wallbanks and her daughter Becky at Cornerways. There was a sweet shop (run by Gerty Nichols in the 1930s) and Tom Ford ran Ford & Son's cobblers near Holly Hill when he came out of the army after World War Two. There were even small shops on Chaingate Lane where, during the war, you could get "cigarettes...Oxo cubes and ...sweets".

Mr Huggins was one of two butchers in the village and one interviewee remembered how "they used to kill their own cattle, they had an abattoir at the back, it wouldn't be allowed today, but in those days the butcher used to wheel the barrow-fuls of offal and stuff up through the street past our cottages up the little lane opposite and tip it out on the ground at the back, oh it was horrible, it wouldn't be allowed anymore." There were two ladies who used to make faggots which you could order and call in on your way home from school to collect and there was another who used to do chittelings (the small intestines of domestic animals).

Hector England ran a bakery from Hillside where you could get stale buns after school, who would "have a pan of boiling oil which he put the doughnuts in and then you sugared them" and where "the boys in the a school were allowed to go and get a basket of buns". The same person also remembers going there "one night and dark [sic] and in the bakehouse .... there was cockroaches everywhere cos that's what you'd used to get years ago."

"Mr Watts, the paperman, had a little newsagents .... just above where the hall used to be." All the newspapers were delivered from Iron Acton on Sundays by Bert Taylor and during the week by Jim Wockey from Dyers Lane and Mr Watts from Iron Acton. Mr Tiley was the milkman in the late 1950s



*Figure 1 "One of Mrs Dillon's daughters outside the sweetshop"*

The doctors was in Chipping Sodbury and if you got ill "you paid 2s 6d to get Kelly Dyer to get his car out and take you to Sodbury to the doctor."

There was a fish and chip shop on The Green by the bypass and a weekly fish and chip van. Drayes, the oil people, would come round with oil and oil hardware and there was a coalman delivering coal. Surprisingly, after the war there was even an undertaker just for Iron Acton

There was a lady who did the sewing in the village called Sarah Williams who had a small place on the corner of the street. There was a saddler on the corner of Park Street but "when all the cars came in horses were no longer required." The Blanchard family had a blacksmiths on the village green.





Figure 1 Mrs Warbanks shop at The Clove Hitch and the saddlery



Figure 3 High Street looking west showing the butchers shop on the left (with Frys sign) and Pullins Cycle Makers and another shop / cafe (? Bodie's) on the right.



Figure 4 Fursman's general store which also sold groceries, haberdashery and ladies' clothes.



Figure 1 Alice Hodges "the chimney sweep [who] would also work on the fish stall in Yate on Tuesdays" and whose "language was very colourful!"



*Figure 6 Shop at Cornerways.*

Gradually, as Yate grew, the shops dwindled away - "Mrs Warbanks had gone cos her husband died and .... Her life changed and that shop went completely, the baker died and...there was no more bakery in Iron Acton, the shoe man moved from there to down into the village , Bodies sold up and went...Fursman's he eventually died and that shop closed down...."

So far the history project has interviewed 12 people, but I am sure there is much more to find out. So, if any readers have anything to add (or any corrections to make!) or would like to be interviewed please contact the project on [ironactonmemories@gmail.com](mailto:ironactonmemories@gmail.com) or 07786 067336.

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(Details taken from interviews with Nadine Peters (by Yate History Centre), Doris King, Mervyn Evans, Rosemary Conlon, Chrissie Colquhoun & Richard Keedwell.)

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<p>Military &amp; Family History Research</p>	<p><b>Would you like to create your family tree or explore your relative's military service?</b></p>
	<p><b>Contact Chillwood Research</b></p> <p><b>Experienced family history researcher and historian</b></p> <p><b>Tim Grubb</b> <b>07786 067336</b> <b>chillwood.research@gmail.com</b></p>

# CHRISTMAS WINDOWS 2022



Hi Everybody,

Santa and I want to thank everybody for their wonderful windows for '22. We had a great Windows Trail again this year and our winners of the competition are:-

Joint 1<sup>st</sup> Prize:-

Gillian Otlet and The Wright Family,

2<sup>nd</sup> - Miss M. Mosley

3<sup>rd</sup> - Abigail and Lisa Hatherell

Well done to everybody who entered, despite the weather!

We would like to give huge thanks to Acton Aid for funding this event again.

The Windows Trail for '23 will be extended by popular demand from:-

**Sun 10<sup>th</sup> - Sun 24<sup>th</sup> Dec**

With the continued Theme- "Your Choice" of either Christmas Films, Pantomimes or Music.

Go to [www.ironacton.info](http://www.ironacton.info) to see the photos by Sally.

Happy 2023

Alabaster Snowball



## UKRAINE.

### The fifth (and final?) trip.

The van was not ready in time to transport the Maternity Scanner to Odessa; it being delivered by another driver working for 'From Bristol With Love'. Instead, we were loaded with the usual mix of non-perishable foods, fruit juice, camping equipment, medical supplies, wheelchairs, and generators.

We followed much the same route as the previous trip using a free channel tunnel passage (complimentary one-way only for some reason). We were delayed at the tunnel terminal as they insisted on a commercial GMR form. After much discussion and a few telephone calls to the offices in France, they finally conceded and accepted the usual Self Declaration Form.

The run to Romania was largely uneventful, for a change. The only real point of note was passing a convoy of dozens of army tank transporter trucks in East Germany, presumably en route to Poland.

The off-load was again in Galati but this time with a new group of contacts that Dr Razvan was now using. Everything was unloaded into a storage container for later collection by the Ukrainian army representatives.

On the return run we decided to take a short cut through the Carpathian Mountains on side roads mainly used by logging trucks. These roads were quiet with steep ascents and descents, many hairpin bends and spectacular scenery. Half a day on these side roads saved a few hundred miles.

The rest of the journey went well until a few miles from Dunkirk when a propellor shaft support bearing and bracket disintegrated. The remainder of the drive was completed at lower speeds with a fiercely vibrating prop shaft but the van did manage to complete the trip without the need of recovery.

Once home, we had the prop shaft repaired and the van was now running better than ever. However, it was now time to part company. We sold A19 XDP on eBay to a chap called Gareth from South Wales. He plans to remove the Luton box and it will start a new working life as a recovery truck. He said that he intends to keep the Ukrainian flag stickers on the doors as a nod to it's past.

Many thanks to all who helped with this endeavour. It's been challenging, sometimes stressful, but ultimately rewarding and, hopefully, worthwhile.

What next? I've been contacted by Henry from 'Aid for Ukraine'. He's one of the group lads that I met on the very first trip to Poland. They are still using their Transit van minibus to deliver aid into Ukraine and CasEvac out. ([https://youtu.be/M-s\\_i3AXMRU](https://youtu.be/M-s_i3AXMRU)). They are planning to purchase 5 Pickups in the UK on behalf of the National Guard and deliver them to Kiev. I have volunteered as a delivery driver, if Angie lets me!

Two other youtube clips from people I've met along the way:

A short film by James (the photojournalist) from 'Wakefield for Ukraine' (<https://www.yorkshirepost.co.uk/news/people/the-diary-of-a-yorkshire-volunteer-taking-aid-to-ukraine-31718851>)

## NEW YEAR SQUASHED SENTENCES

Start at the shaded letter on each grid and draw a line from one letter to the next to complete a sentence inspired by the new year.

The letters must be in adjacent squares and you can move up, down, left or right but not diagonally. Each grid contains a new sentence.

R	N	R	E	S
O	E	W	L	O
F	T	I	U	T
E	I	S	O	I
M	I	T	N	S

A	U	S	I	S
L	G	H	W	H
D	N	G	N	I
H	A	Y	O	U
T	L	A	E	H

H	T	O	T	O
E	M	T	A	G
G	Y	E	N	D
E	D	I	A	T
H	T	T	R	S

G	I	M	E	R
H	N	B	M	E
T	S	E	R	T
R	N	S	A	O
U	B	T	O	T

E	Y	O	T	S
T	A	U	N	E
B	R	R	A	M
E	C	H	C	E
L	E	I	E	V

N	W	I	T	H
I	W	E	H	T
D	E	N	U	T
L	H	T	O	W
O	E	H	T	I

E	C	A	B	T
H	H	R	B	I
T	I	E	F	O
E	N	H	T	R
S	E	Y	E	A

L	P	M	O	N
I	M	O	S	A
N	E	C	S	E
T	F	T	W	E
S	O	H	E	N

Answers below:

1 It is time for new resolutions.

3 Start the diet and go to the gym.

5 Celebrate your achievements.

7 The Chinese year of the rabbit.

2 Wishing you health and laughs.

4 Remember to toast Burns Night.

6 Out with the old; in with the new.

8 Compliments of the new season.

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